

Sports+Outdoors

» Paraglider Ari DeLashmutt flies after taking off from Pine Mountain in Central Oregon July 27, on his way to breaking an Oregon state record for distance traveled in a single flight.

Ben Horton/Submitted photo

More Information

The full 25-minute interview with DeLashmutt can be found on The Bulletin's YouTube channel and at bendbulletin.com/sports.

To learn more about paragliding, DeLashmutt hosts a podcast on the sport called Ari in the Air. He also has instructional videos on his YouTube channel under the same name.



Redmond's Ari DeLashmutt sets state paragliding distance record

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
CO Media Group

At 11:46 a.m. on July 27, Ari DeLashmutt took flight in his Ozone Zeno paraglider from Pine Mountain, Central Oregon's popular paragliding spot. He climbed to 9,000 feet in the air, crossed into Christmas Valley, then to Summer Valley, then flew across the entire Warner Mountain Range in Southern Oregon and Northern California.

When he finally landed 65 miles south of Alturas, California, on U.S. Highway 395 nine hours after takeoff, he had traveled 230 miles — breaking Reavis Sutphin-Gray's June 2018 Oregon state record of 198.2 miles for a single flight.

According to the unofficial USA Paragliding distance records, the 33-year-old DeLashmutt's state-record flight ranks in the top five in the country.

"It is the pinnacle of adventure," said DeLashmutt, known online as Ari in the Air. "The size and the scope of the game that we are playing — it is hard for me to explain that. Literally, I crossed multiple mountain ranges. I went from the center of Oregon and down very far into California."

Paragliding is an adventure sport in which the pilot is harnessed into a canopy-like para-



Ben Horton/Submitted photo

» Paraglider Ari DeLashmutt prepares to take off from Pine Mountain in Central Oregon July 27, on his way to breaking an Oregon state record for distance traveled.

chute and uses the wind and air pressure to fly and maneuver.

What makes breaking the record so special is that so many variables have to fall into place. On DeLashmutt's July 27 flight, they all fell into place for him to smash the record by 32 miles.

"I have to work with nature," he said. "I have to forecast the right day, then once the day comes, I have to work with the day. I have to fly the weather. I have to fly the environment."

"I have to fly the landscape. I have to fly the sky that day."

The game that cross-country paragliders are playing while in the air, DeLashmutt said, is a game of chess that can sometimes be deadly. During last

week's flight, he reached 16,500 feet of altitude in a "bed sheet with nylon strings." Throughout the flight, there is no time to eat, go to the bathroom, or take a break while thousands of feet in the air.

There are multiple layers to having a successful flight. The first layer is handling the glider — making it turn left and right, up and down. Then there is the challenge of flying the correct route to land at the right location. One miscalculation can land a paraglider in the middle of nowhere.

"My brain is doing these complex probabilities," DeLashmutt said. "Based on where the thermal is going to

be, based on the direction of the sun, the direction of the wind, shape of terrain, size and shape of the cloud."

While all those calculations are happening throughout the flight, the final challenge is to make a concerted effort to enjoy the views from above, he said.

"I'm trying my best to take in what I am doing," DeLashmutt said. "And just try and come back to being present and observant and grateful that I have the opportunity and skills and equipment and experience to allow for this kind of thing."

ROCKET SHIP RIDE

Born in Bend and raised in Redmond, DeLashmutt was bitten by the adventure bug at a young age when he was skiing off cliffs and trees with his two brothers. The former professional freestyle skier did his first backflip at Mount Bachelor when he was 12. Then he got into highlining — slacklining between cliffs hundreds of feet above the ground — to scratch the adventure itch.

But paragliding is a new adventure for DeLashmutt, who discovered it in 2015 while shooting a stunt with Bend filmmaker Wes Coughlin. The stunt included two paragliders — DeLashmutt was a passenger in a tandem paraglider — and a base jumper. The base jumper launched off a rope swing be-



Ben Horton/Submitted photo

» Paraglider Ari DeLashmutt prepares to take off from Pine Mountain in Central Oregon July 27, on his way to breaking an Oregon state record for distance traveled.

tween the two paragliders, then fell 1,000 feet before deploying his parachute.

It was the first time DeLashmutt had been in a paraglider, and he was hooked. A few short months later, after filming the stunt, DeLashmutt was on the Oregon Coast learning to paraglide. Since starting,

he teaches the art of paragliding and has flown in 15 countries on five continents.

"It has been a rocket ship ride in paragliding ever since it instantly took over my life," DeLashmutt said. "It has excited me in really profound ways."

■ Reporter: 541-383-0307, brathbone@bendbulletin.com

ANGLING REOPENS

Good steelhead returns on Lower Deschutes

Spokesman staff report

Improved conditions in Oregon fisheries this year will allow salmon, steelhead, trout, and bass fishing to open Aug. 15 on the lower Deschutes River, according to a release from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Fishing will open under normal permanent regulations on the Deschutes from Moody Rapids upstream to Pelton

Dam, thanks to improved summer steelhead returns.

Following last year's critically low returns in steelhead — fish that would have spawned in spring 2022 — ODFW announced a new Deschutes River steelhead fishery plan to take conservation action during low returns.

The plan closes the lower Deschutes River fishery until passage thresholds at Bonneville

Dam are met to assure ODFW managers that the sport fishery will not have population impacts.

In May, the department announced that the usual summertime steelhead fishing season on the Deschutes would be closed from June 1 to Aug. 15 due to the new plan. Early returns of A-run steelhead — steelhead that spend less time in the ocean — are sufficient to

warrant re-opening on the Deschutes to angling on Aug. 15, according to an ODFW release.

The department needed to surpass 9,900 unmarked steelhead over Bonneville Dam during the month of July to open the fishery on Aug. 15 to get above conservation concern levels, according to Jason Seals, district fish biologist with ODFW.

Seals added that the depart-

ment is expecting modest returns based on run projections to the Deschutes "but within

abundance levels that the fishery won't have population impact."

dish BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

\$69.99 MO. for 12 Mos. America's Top 120 Package 190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100

1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 4/13/22. **dish** ALL TV'S

All offers require credit qualification. 24-month commitment with early termination fee and eAutuPay. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper Duo or Hopper 3 \$25/mo. more. Lightbulb fees may apply based on credit qualification.

AT&T internet

FEEL THE SPEED, EVEN AT PEAK TIMES.

Get strong, fast Wi-Fi to work and play throughout your home.*

No annual contract.

Power multiple devices at once—everyone can enjoy their own screen. Number of devices depends on screen resolution.

Over 99% reliability. Excludes 5G. Based on network availability.

Contact your local DIRECTV dealer. **888-486-0359**

INTERNET OFFER: Sale, no charge and may be discontinued at any time. Price for internet 100 for new residential customers. 5 after 50mm average 8 quarter 100 discount. Pricing for first 12 months only. After 12 mos., then available for specific. Requires 30 month 100 discount. Discount of the monthly price when account is in good standing. For full details see www.att.com. *Based on network availability. Not available in all areas. See www.att.com for details. Restrictions: 100% available for 12 mos. only. Not available in all areas. Promotion subject to change. Sale is limited to one offer per customer. ©2022 AT&T Knowledge Ventures. All rights reserved. DIRECTV, DISH, and ALL TV'S are trademarks of AT&T Knowledge Ventures. All other marks are trademarks of their respective owners. ©2022 DIRECTV. DIRECTV and all other DIRECTV marks are trademarks of DIRECTV LLC. DIRECTV and All TV's are trademarks of AT&T Knowledge Ventures.

State Farm

Joe A Lochner Ins Acy Inc
Joe A Lochner, Agent
www.joelochner.com
Redmond, OR 97756
Bus: 541-548-6023

Get great service & great rates.