

LAX/Community Noise Roundtable

Work Program A13 – North Downwind Arrival Study Results

June 8, 2016



- Background
- Study Roles
- Study Design
- Study Elements
- Study Results
- Questions and Answers



- 2012 LAWA begins receiving complaints about low, loud, frequent aircraft noise events over Culver City
 - Culver City lies beneath the North Downwind Arrival course into LAX, which has been in use for decades
- 2014 LAWA examines aircraft altitudes over Culver City and finds no obvious changes in aircraft altitudes or flight track locations
 - Culver City becomes a member of the LAX/Community Noise Roundtable and Culver City residents frequently attend Roundtable meetings to express concerns about low, loud, and frequent aircraft noise events



- October 2015 Residents north and south of the North Downwind Arrival course perceive aircraft are lower, louder, and more frequent
- November 2015 LAWA examines flights over Pacific Palisades and finds no obvious changes in aircraft altitudes and flight track locations
- January 2016 FAA SoCal TRACON Staff Present on the North Downwind Arrivals to the LAX Roundtable; finds no obvious changes in aircraft flight track locations



- March 2016 LAWA authorizes ESA and HMMH to begin the North Downwind Arrival Study
- May 2016 The LAX/Community Noise Roundtable adopts Work Program Item A13 - North Downwind Arrival Study
- June 2016 The LAX/Community Noise Roundtable holds a special meeting to review and discuss the North Downwind Arrival Study results



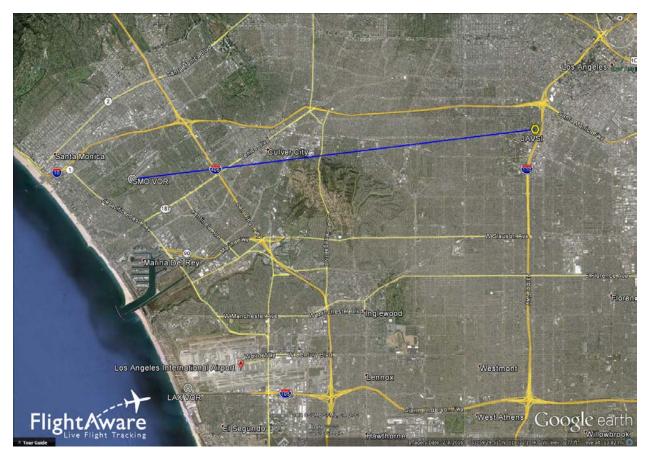
- North Downwind Arrival The standard arrival course for aircraft arriving from the north and west of LAX
- Santa Monica VOR A navigational aid on the southwest edge of Santa Monica Airport (SMO)
- **Radial** An electronic signal with a specific heading to or from a VOR
- **Fix/Waypoint** A named coordinate in the airspace that aircraft fly to/over



- National Airspace System (NAS) The navigable airspace that is controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration
- Area Navigation (RNAV) Permits navigation on any desired flight path
- **Vectors** Directions provided by the air traffic controllers to pilots to navigate from point to point

Background – Key Terms





- SMO VOR
- 068^o Radial
- JAVSI Fix

Source: Google Earth, ESA 2016

Background – Key Terms



SMO VOR



Source: Google Earth, ESA 2016



- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) The federal agency responsible for the safe and efficient use of the NAS
- Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Owner/operator of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)
- Airlines/aircraft operators Schedule aircraft arrivals and departures and make aircraft purchases to meet passenger demands
- **Passengers** Create the travel demand that drives when and how frequently the airlines schedule flights; fund research and development for newer/quieter aircraft through ticket taxes



- LAWA Initiate and fund the study effort and review the study results
- **ESA** Develop the scope of work for the Study, review HMMH's work, and present the Study Results
- **HMMH** Serve as an independent consultant analyzing large amounts of flight track and altitude data over several years
- **Roundtable** Provide a forum for the Study results to be reviewed and discussed



- Look at flight track and altitude data in new ways; focused on visual images and data trends
- Analyze the data in a fine-grain manner on a month-overmonth, year-over-year basis to identify any changes
- See if the data reveal any new insights into the origin of the community's aircraft noise complaints

Study Elements



- Identify up to ten locations for data analysis
 - Generally associated with areas of increased noise complaints or navigational fixes
- Analyze data from 2010 through 2015 on a monthly basis
- Assess Changes in Slant Distance
- Prepare Altitude Distribution Graphs
- Analyze Time of Day Distribution
- Prepare Flight Track Density Plots

Study Elements



- Review Historic Arrival Procedures and Fixes
- Compare Average Sound Exposure Levels
- Analyze Changes in Aircraft Fleet Mix
- Prepare a Technical Memorandum
- Present the Study Results at a Special LAX/Community Noise Roundtable Meeting

Study Elements



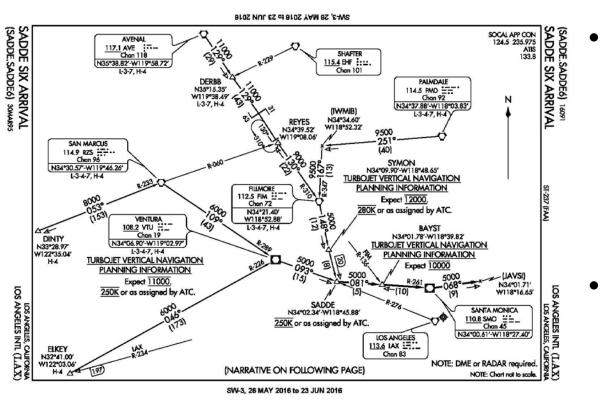
- LAWA staff also performed extensive additional analyses including:
 - Analyzing the timing and geographic distribution of aircraft noise complaints
 - Comparing the timing of notable events (e.g., major runway closures) to the increase in aircraft noise complaints in the vicinity of the North Downwind Arrival
- The net result of this effort was a comprehensive, detailed, and thorough examination of aircraft operations, flight tracks, altitudes, slant distances, fleet mix, aircraft noise levels, and noise complaints related to the North Downwind Arrival from 2010 through 2015

Study Results



- Due to the quantity of data analyzed, we are providing examples from several representative locations during tonight's meeting
- The representative examples are indicative of the changes we saw in the other data sets for the other locations along the length of the North Downwind Arrival course

Study Results – Review Arrival Procedures



- There is only one published arrival procedure associated with the North Downwind; a Standard Terminal Arrival Route (STAR) called SADDE SIX
- SADDE SIX was published as early as 2004 and continues to be used through today



Study Results – Review Arrival Procedures

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(SYMON, SYMON1) 1226

LOS ANGELES INTL (LAX)

- FAA published a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) indicating the procedure was not available for use
 Both procedures were removed from publication by the FAA on August 19, 2015
 - Since these procedures were not available for use, they do not appear to have contributed to the increase in the noise complaints associated with the North Downwind Arrival

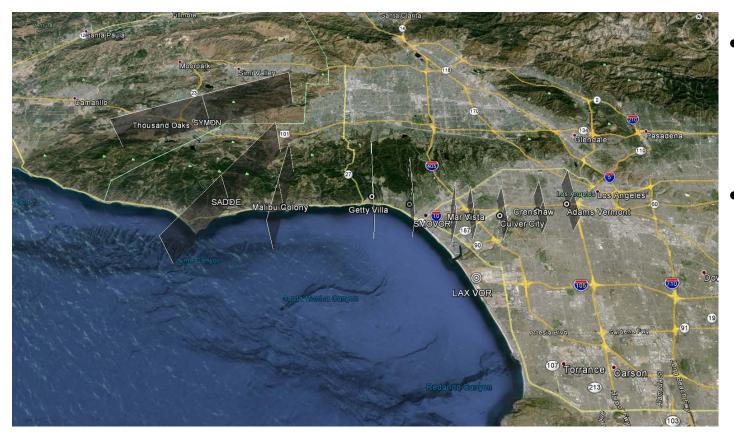
On September 20, 2012, the FAA published two

KEACH. However, on September 19, 2012, the

RNAV STAR arrival procedures; SYMON and

Study Results – Data Analysis Locations





Seven (7) Communitybased locations

Three (3) Navigational fixes

Source: Google Earth, HMMH 2016

Study Results – Gate Configuration and Locations

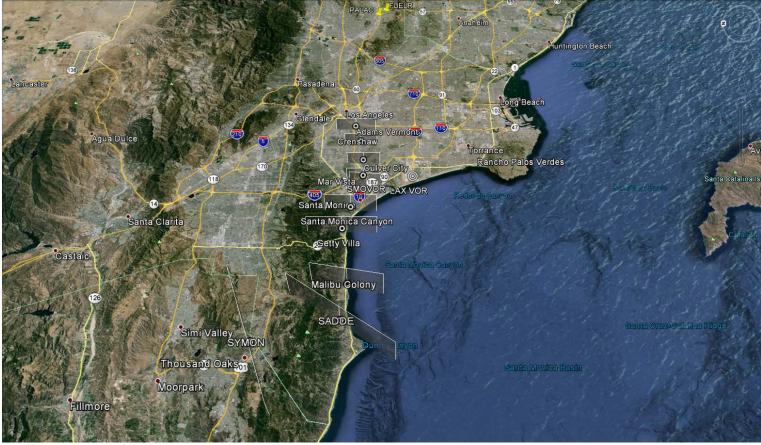


Analysis Points/Gates	Latitude	Longitude	Geographic Reference	Elevation (ft)	Heading (deg)	L/R - Width (ft)	Floor (ft)	Ceiling (ft)
SYMON	34.165	-118.811	Thousand Oaks Blvd & Via Merida	1,141	160	40,000	1,141	20,000
SADDE	34.039	-118.765	Latigo Canyon Rd & Willmott Ln	571	125	35,000	571	20,000
Malibu Colony	34.032	-118.689	Malibu Rd & Malibu Colony Rd	1	100	20,000	1	20,000
Getty Villa	34.045	-118.565	Pacific Coast Hwy & Getty Villa Dr	177	90	20,000	177	15,000
Santa Monica Canyon	34.034	-118.512	Attilla Rd & E. Channel Rd	90	90	15,000	90	15,000
SMOVOR	34.010	-118.457	Dewey St & 23rd St	117	95	10,000	117	15,000
Mar Vista	34.016	-118.430	Palms Blvd & McLaughlin Ave	102	90	10,000	102	10,000
Culver City	34.017	-118.388	Jefferson Blvd & Duquesne Ave	83	90	10,000	83	10,000
Crenshaw	34.023	-118.335	W. Exposition Blvd & Crenshaw Blvd	112	90	10,000	90	10,000
Adams-Vermont	34.033	-118.292	W. Adams Blvd & S. Vermont Ave	194	90	12,500	194	10,000

Source: LAWA, HMMH 2016

Study Results – Data Analysis Locations





Source: Google Earth, HMMH 2016

Study Results – Data Analysis Locations

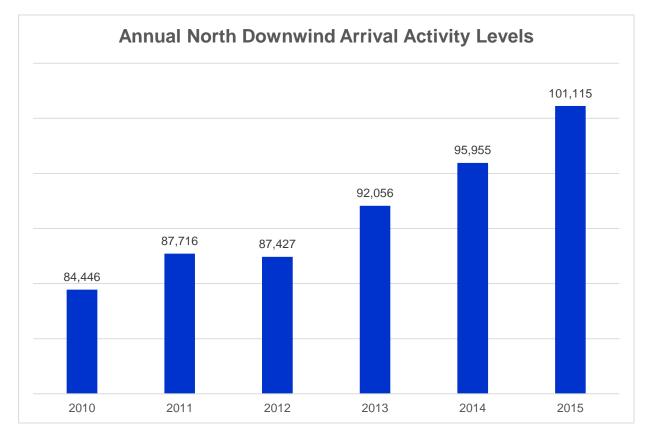




Source: Google Earth, HMMH 2016

Study Results – Activity Levels





Aircraft operations increased 22% on the North Downwind Arrival over the six-year analysis period

 This increase is consistent with the growth in overall traffic at LAX

Source: HMMH 2016

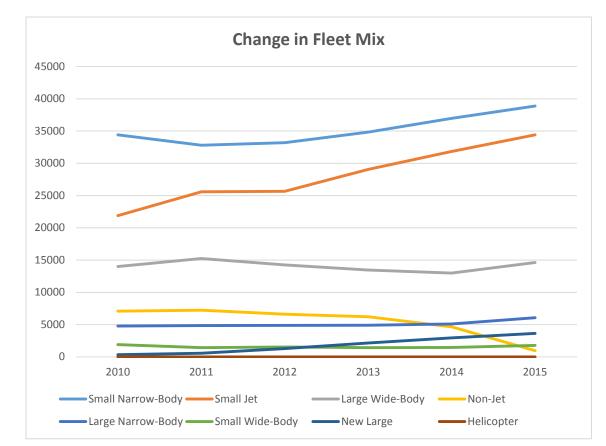


Group	Sample Aircraft Type				
Large Narrow-Body	B727, B757, B787				
Large Wide-Body	A330, A340, B747, B777, MD11				
New Large Aircraft	A380, B748				
Small Jet	B717, CRJ, E145, Business Jets				
Small Narrow-Body	A320, B737, MD80, MD88, MD90				
Small Wide-Body	A300, A310, B767				
Non-Jet	Wide Range of Piston-Driven Aircraft				

Source: HMMH 2016

Study Results – Change in Fleet Mix by Category





The Small Narrow-Body, Small Jet, Large Narrow-Body, and New Large Aircraft categories have grown steadily since 2012

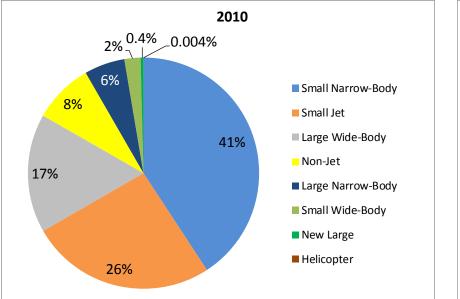
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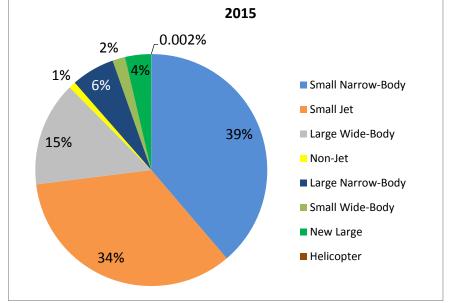
 The Non-Jet aircraft steadily declined over the six-year study period

Source: HMMH 2016

Study Results – Change in Fleet Mix by Category



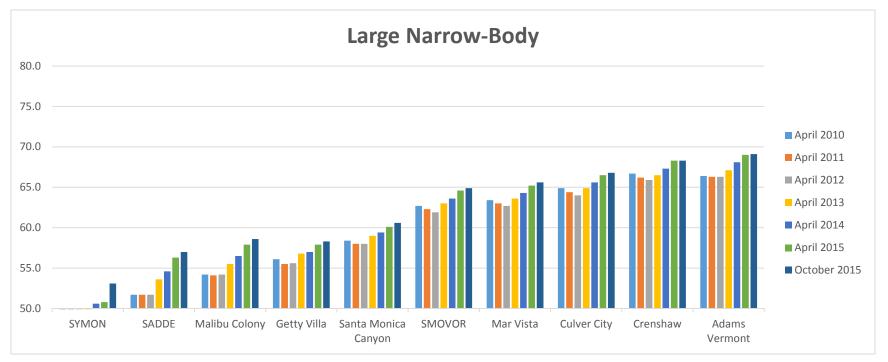




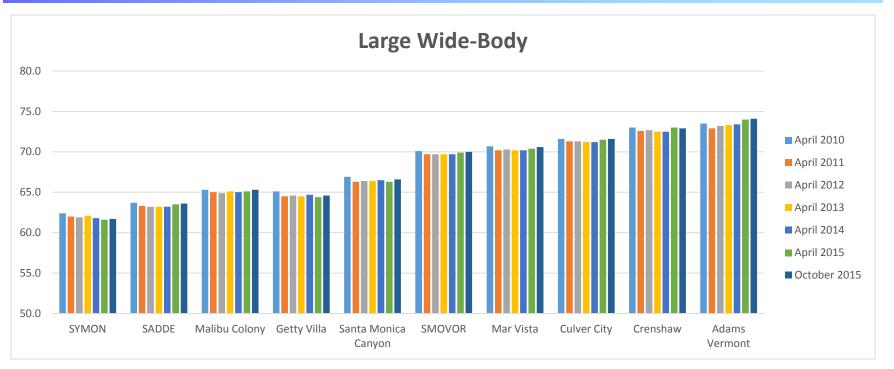


- Sound exposure levels (SEL) for each gate location were modeled using the Standard Grid calculation feature of the FAA's Integrated Noise Model (INM) Version 7.0d
- HMMH used a proprietary software system called RealContours[™] that turned each radar flight track into a modeled track for use in the INM to calculate the daily SELs for each aircraft group/category for each gate
- The daily SELs were then averaged to compute an average monthly SEL value for each aircraft group or category at each key location
- Monthly SELs were calculated for the month of April from 2010 through 2015 as well as October 2014 and October 2015



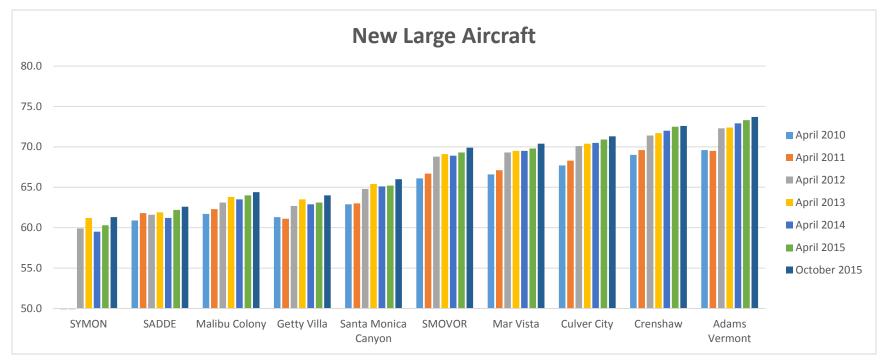


• The Large Narrow-Body group is showing a slight upward trend in average SEL values



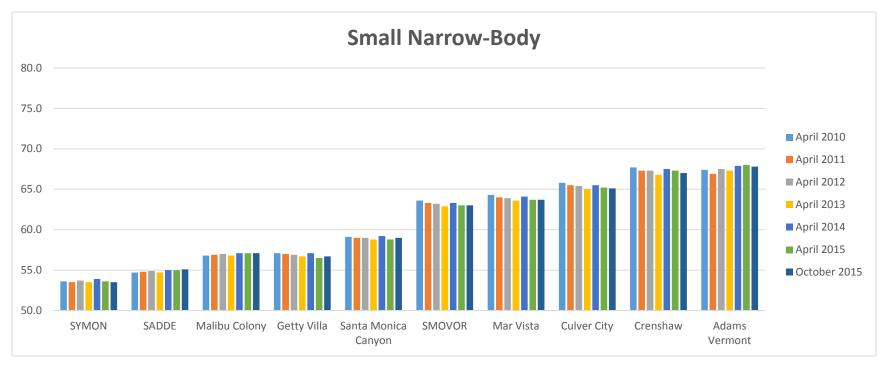
 The Large Wide-Body group is showing virtually no change in average SEL values during the six-year study period



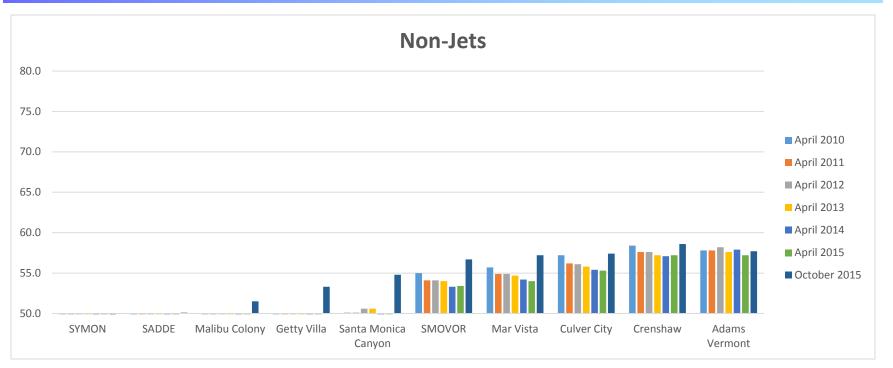


• Since 2012, the New Large Aircraft group is showing a slight increase in average SEL values



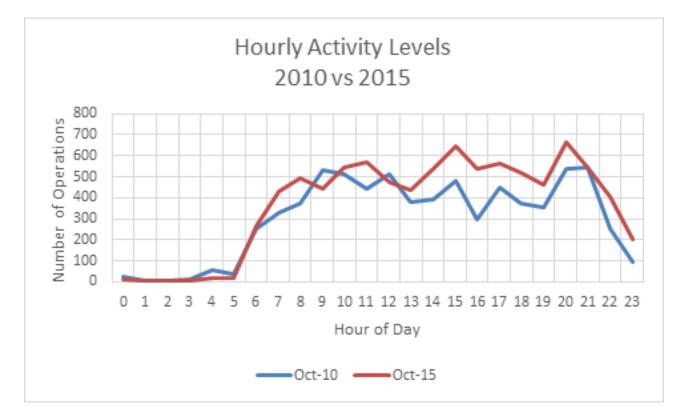


 The Small Narrow-Body group is showing virtually no change in average SEL values over the six-year study period



 With the exception of October 2015, the Non-Jet group is generally showing a slight decrease in average SEL values over the six-year study period



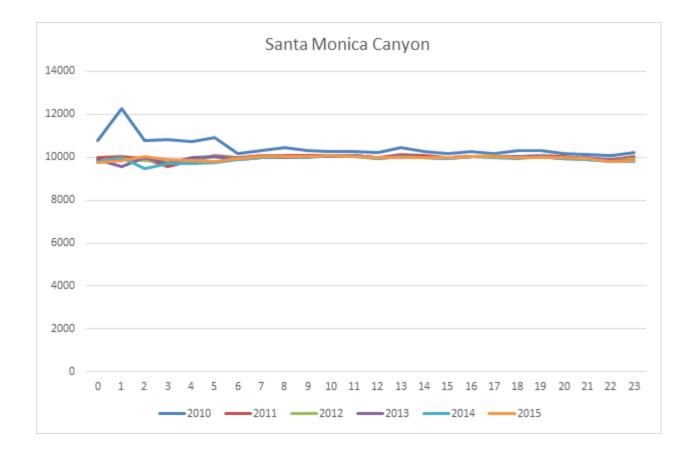




- Altitude and slant distances graphs were prepared for each aircraft category for each gate for the six-year study period
- The graphs for each gate were compared on a month-to-month basis to identify any changes that may have occurred over the six-year period
- With the exception of the non-jet aircraft category, the month over month results were relatively consistent
- The following slides offer a sample slant distance graph for Santa Monica Canyon and for sample altitudes for 2014 and 2015 for four representative gate locations

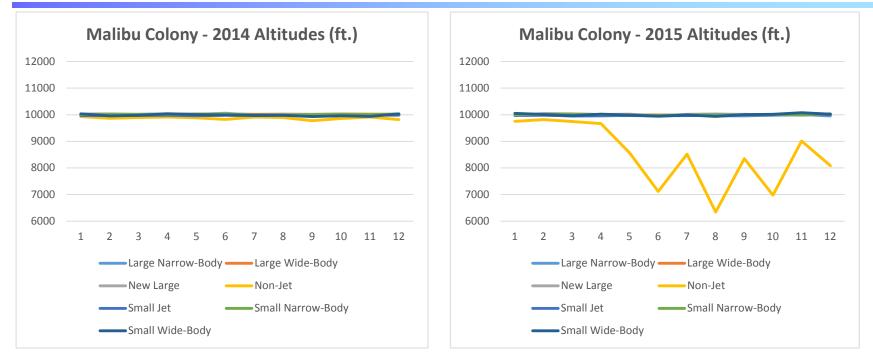
Study Results – Slant Distances by Year





Study Results – Average Altitudes by Aircraft Category

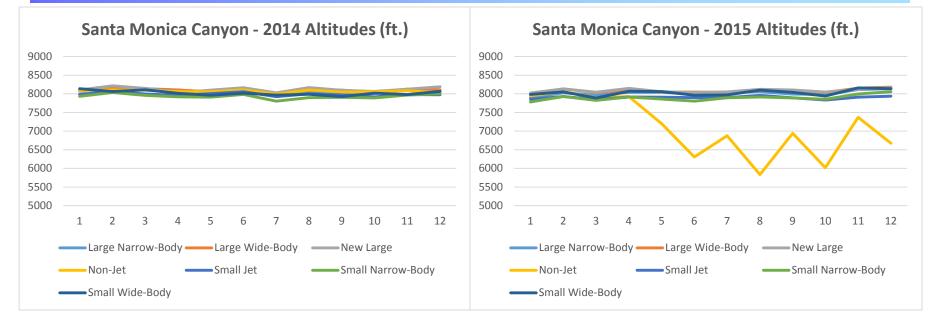




• With the exception of non-jet aircraft, the altitudes are consistent across aircraft categories from 2014 to 2015

Study Results – Average Altitudes by Aircraft Category

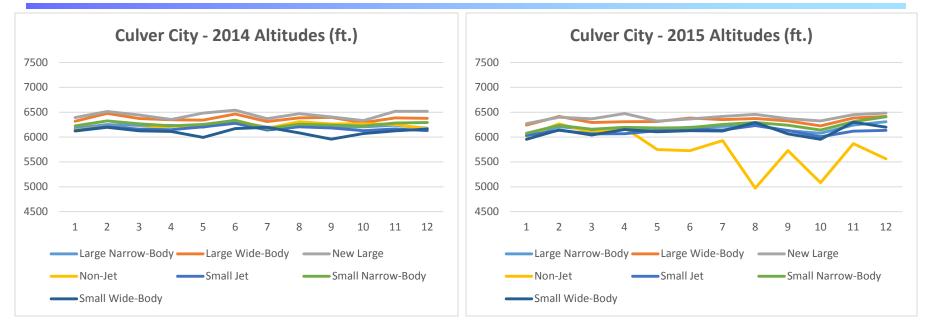




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Study Results – Average Altitudes by Aircraft Category

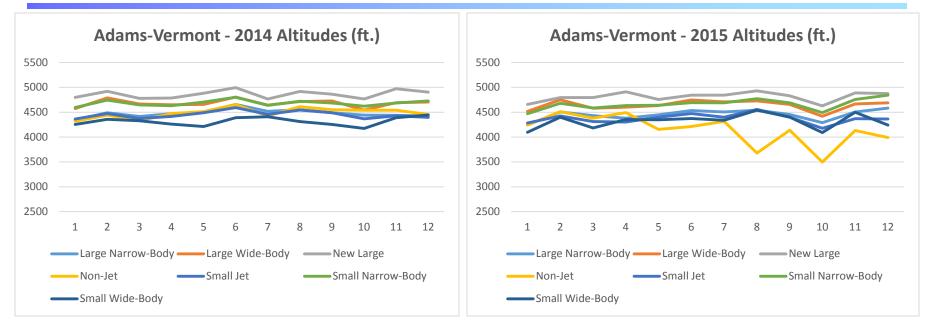




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Study Results – Average Altitudes by Aircraft Category

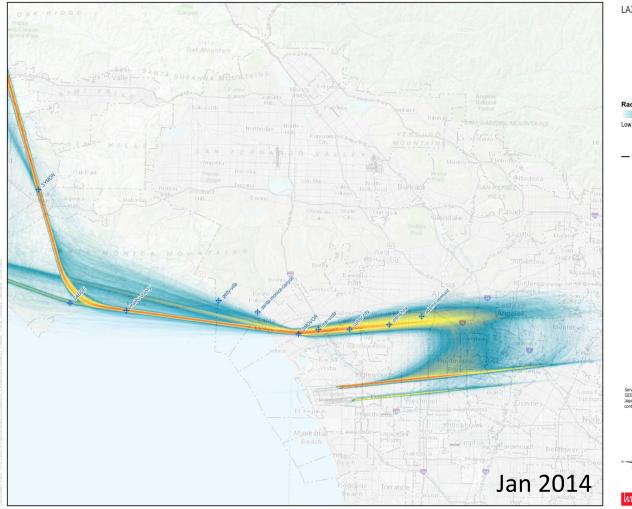




• With the exception of non-jet aircraft, the altitudes are consistent across aircraft categories from 2014 to 2015



- Flight track density maps were developed for each month over the sixyear analysis period
- As a result, 72 Flight track density maps were prepared, which were individually examined for noticeable changes throughout the six-year period
- The data are generally consistent until the summer of 2014, remain changed for approximately 12 months, and then return to the patterns of the previous four years
- The following images illustrate these recent changes

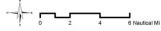


LAX Northerly Arrivals for January 2014

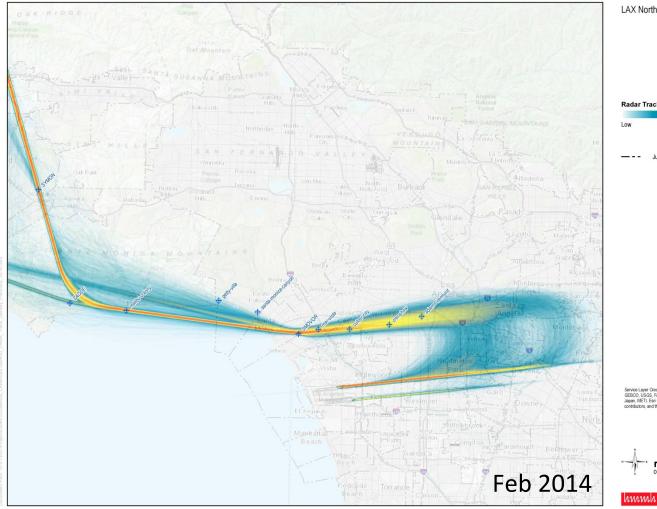


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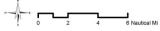
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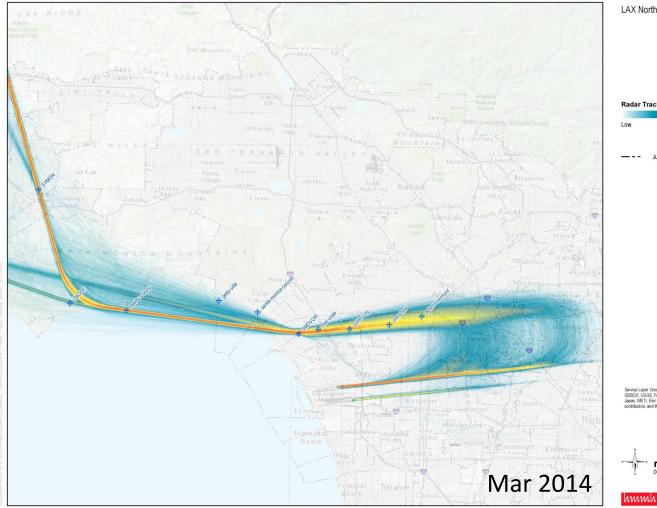


LAX Northerly Arrivals for February 2014



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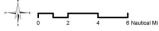


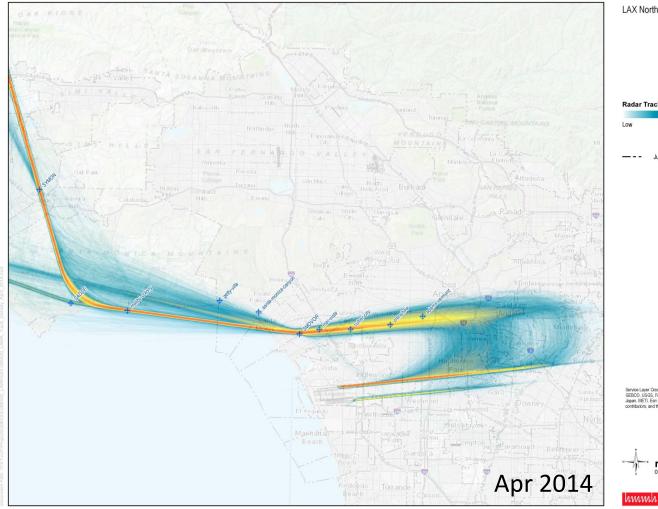
LAX Northerly Arrivals for March 2014



Low Medium High

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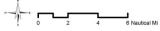


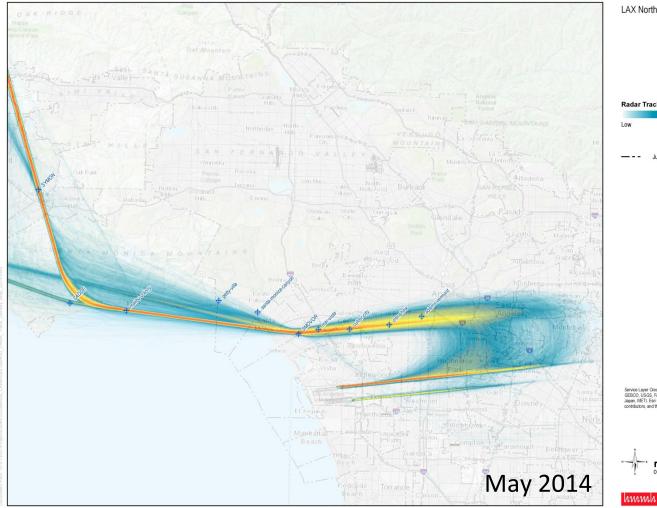
LAX Northerly Arrivals for April 2014



Low Medium High

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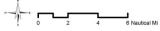


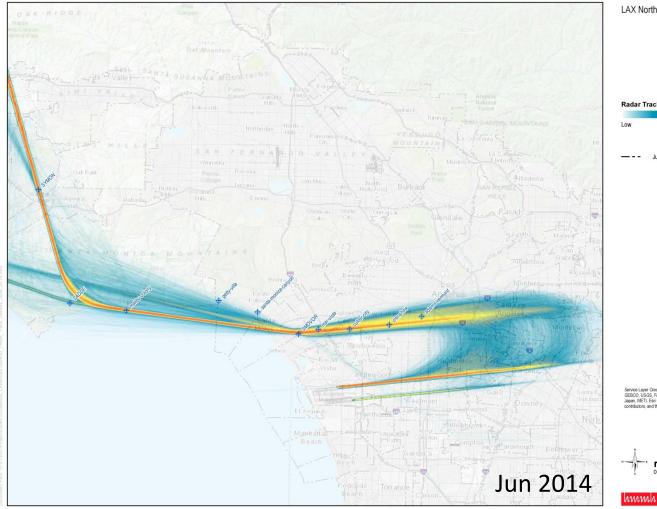
LAX Northerly Arrivals for May 2014

Radar Track Density (8,244 Radar Tracks)

Low Medium High

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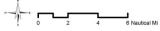


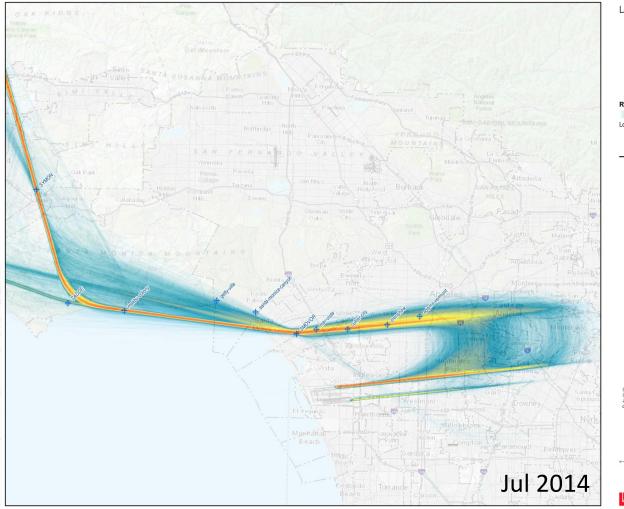
LAX Northerly Arrivals for June 2014



Low Medium High

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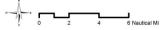


LAX Northerly Arrivals for July 2014

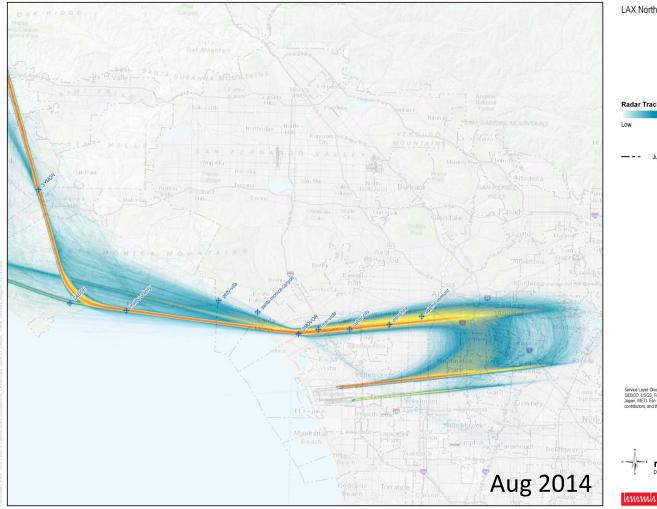


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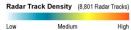
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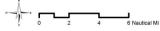
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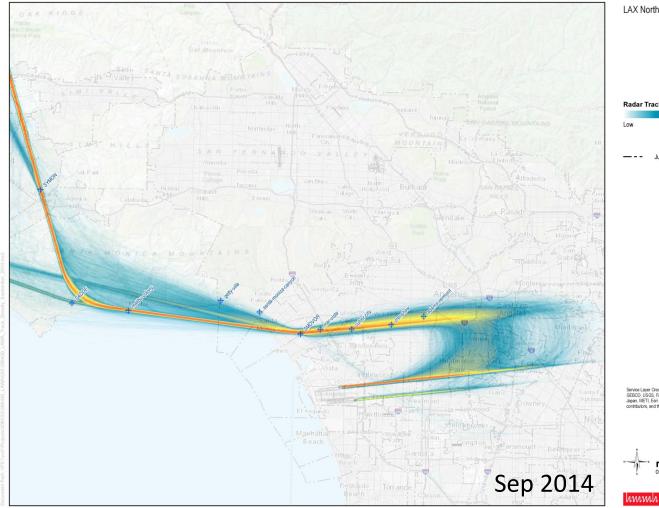


LAX Northerly Arrivals for August 2014

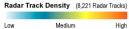


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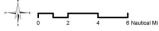


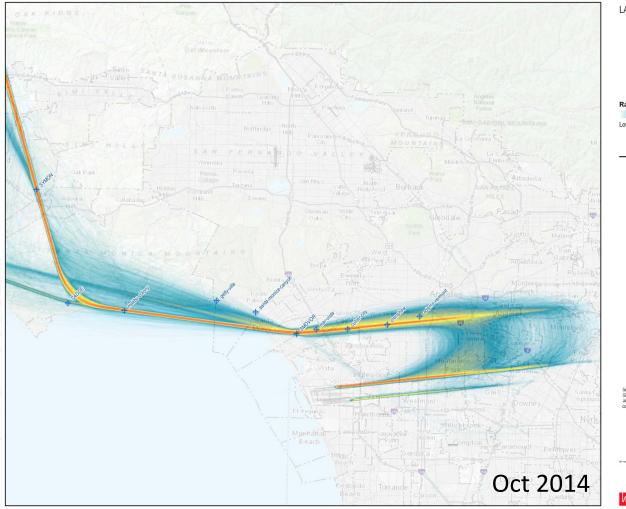


LAX Northerly Arrivals for September 2014



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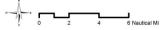


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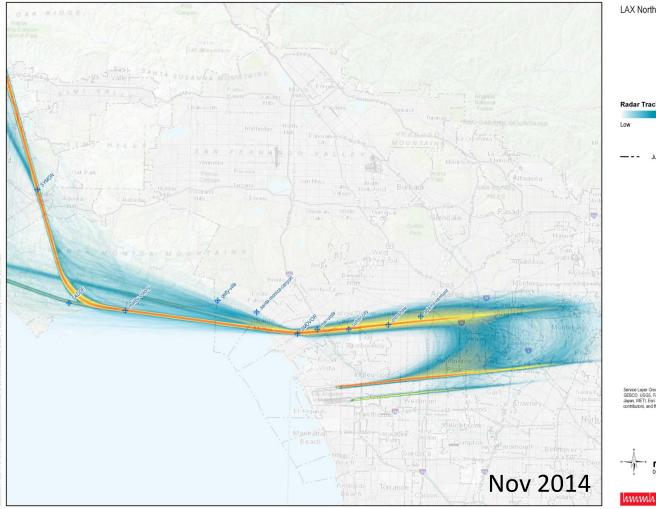


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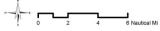


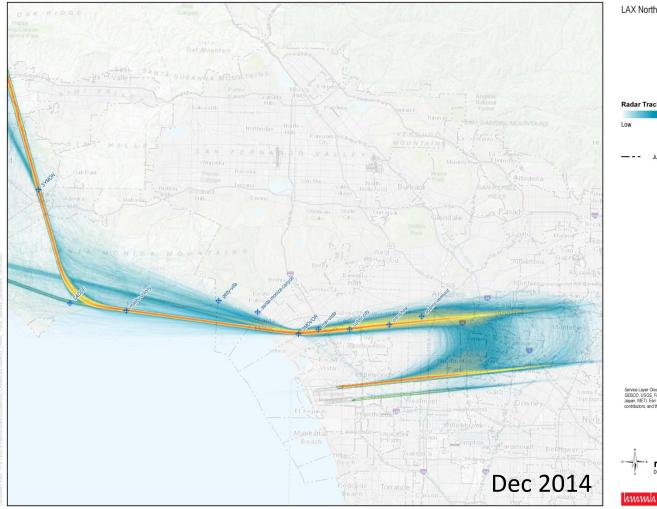
LAX Northerly Arrivals for November 2014



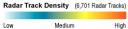
Low Medium High

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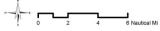


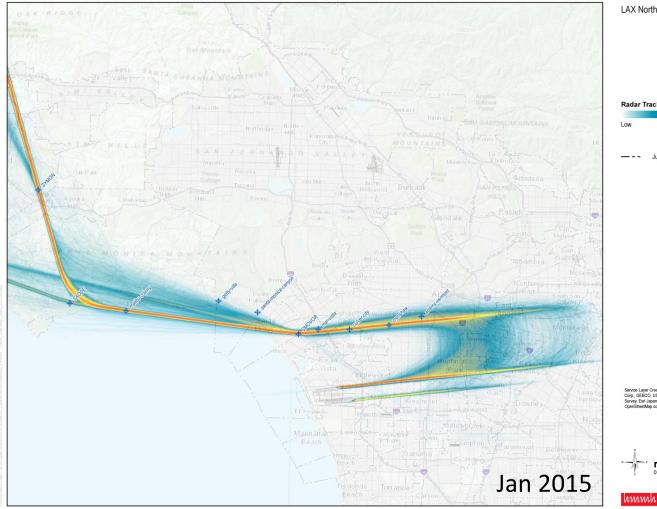


LAX Northerly Arrivals for December 2014



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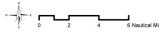


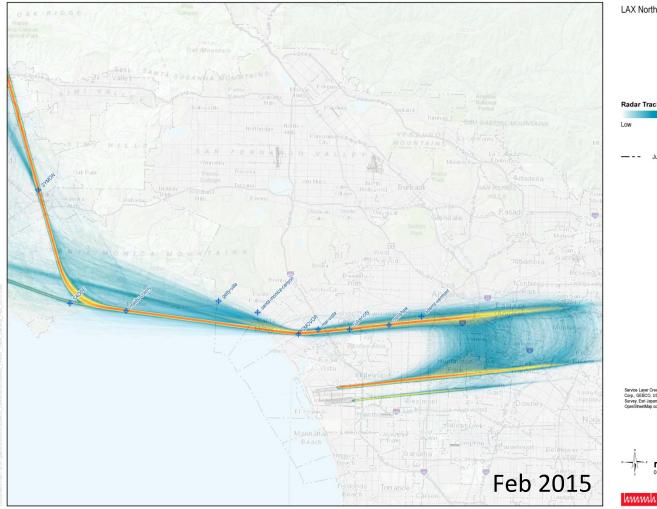
LAX Northerly Arrivals for January 2015



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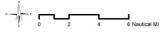


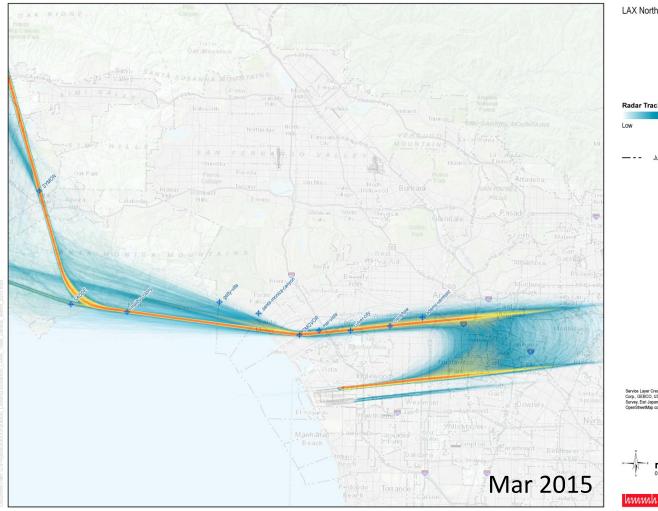
LAX Northerly Arrivals for February 2015



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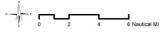


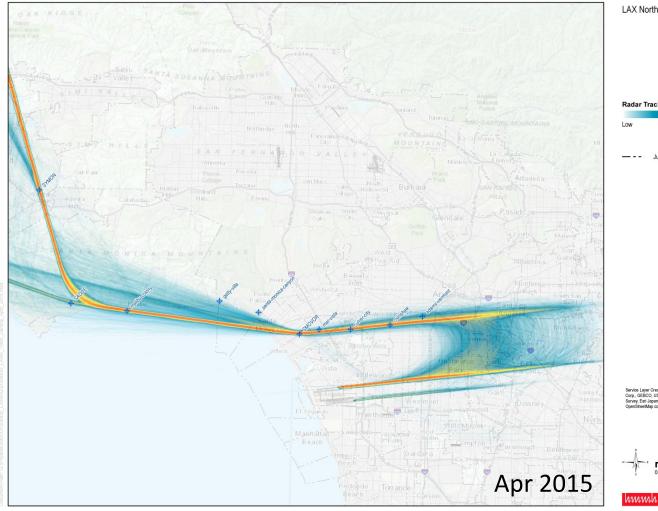
LAX Northerly Arrivals for March 2015



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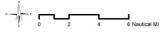


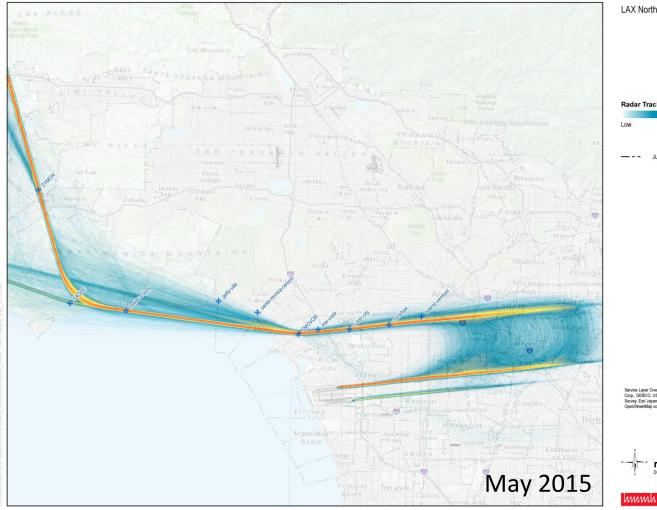
LAX Northerly Arrivals for April 2015



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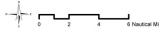


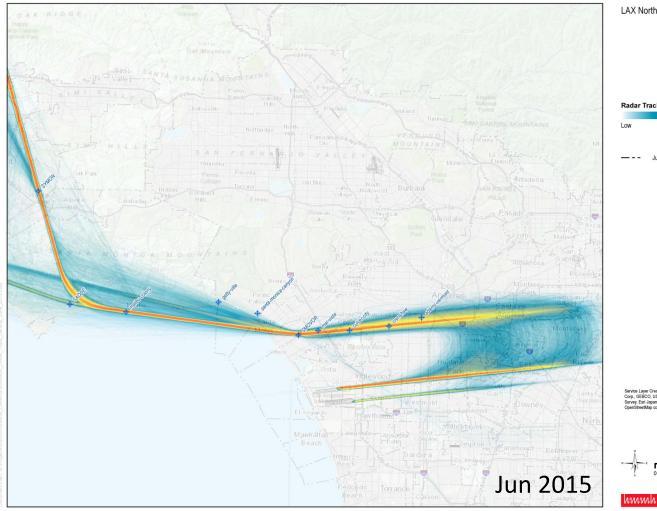
LAX Northerly Arrivals for May 2015



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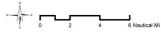


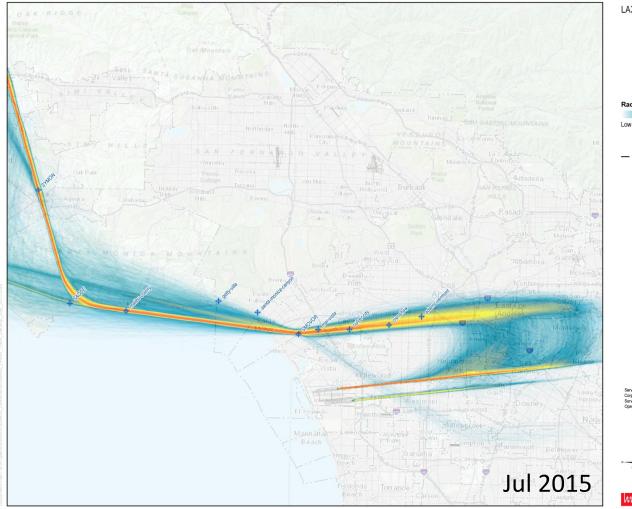
LAX Northerly Arrivals for June 2015



w Medium High

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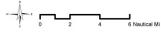
LAX Northerly Arrivals for July 2015



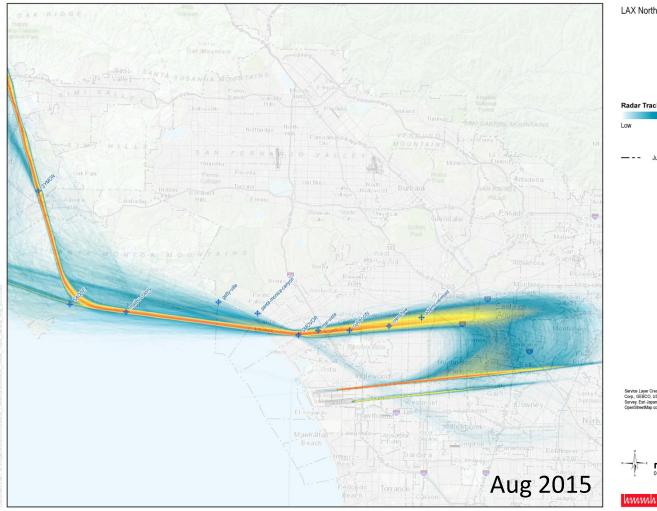
.ow Medium High

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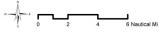


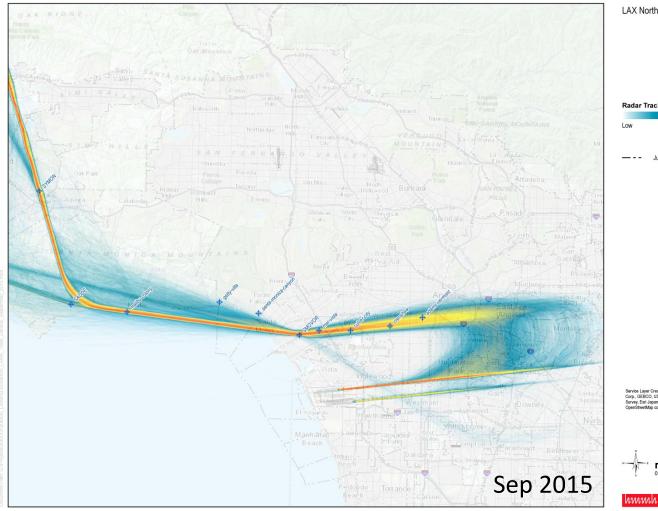
LAX Northerly Arrivals for August 2015



w Medium High

— – – Jurisdictional Boundary



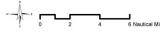


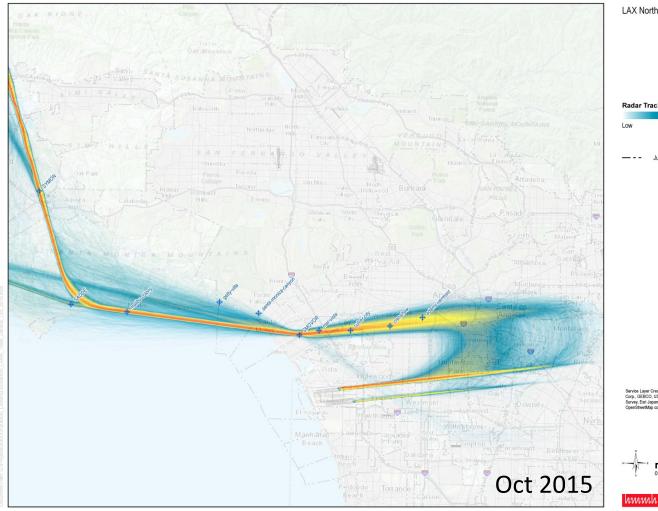
LAX Northerly Arrivals for September 2015



w Medium High

— – – Jurisdictional Boundary



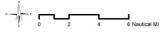


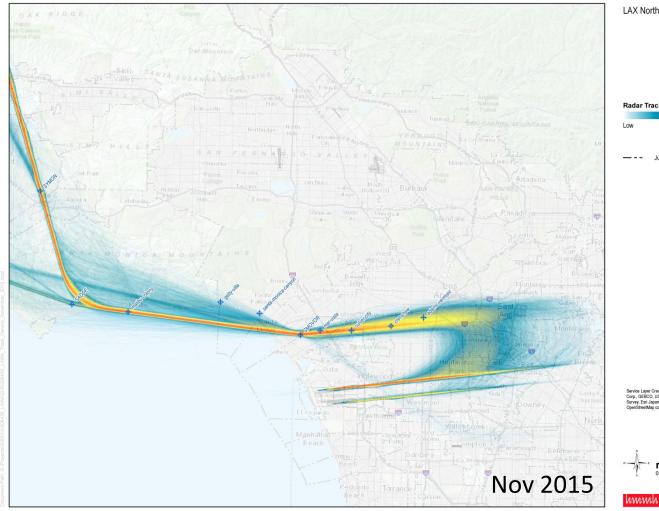
LAX Northerly Arrivals for October 2015



w Medium High

— – – Jurisdictional Boundary



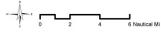


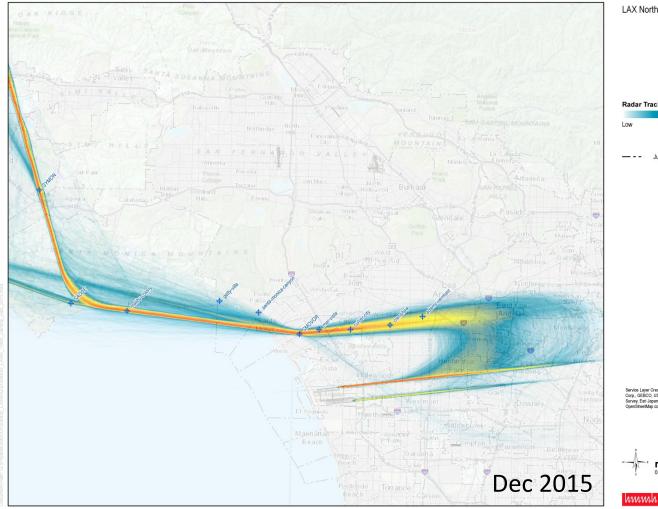
LAX Northerly Arrivals for November 2015



w Medium High

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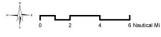


LAX Northerly Arrivals for December 2015



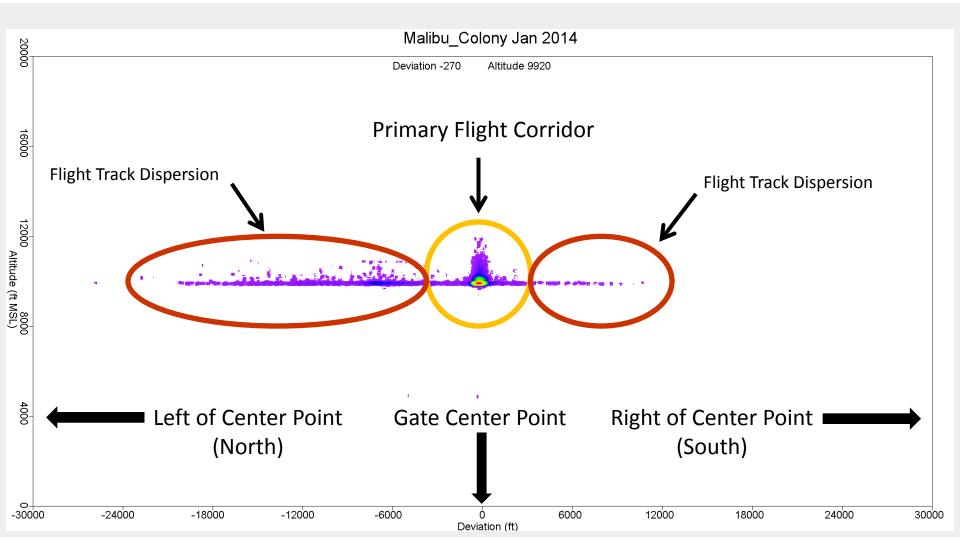
.ow Medium High

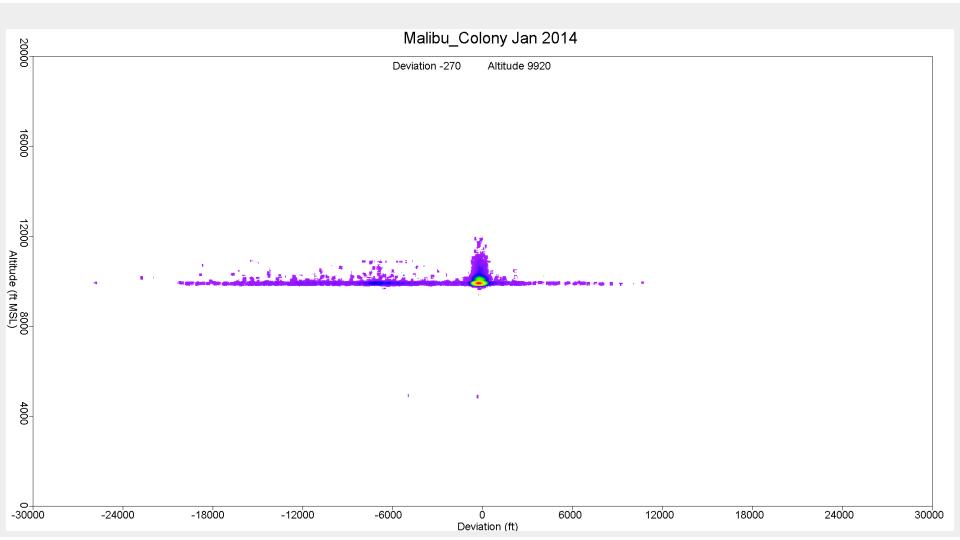
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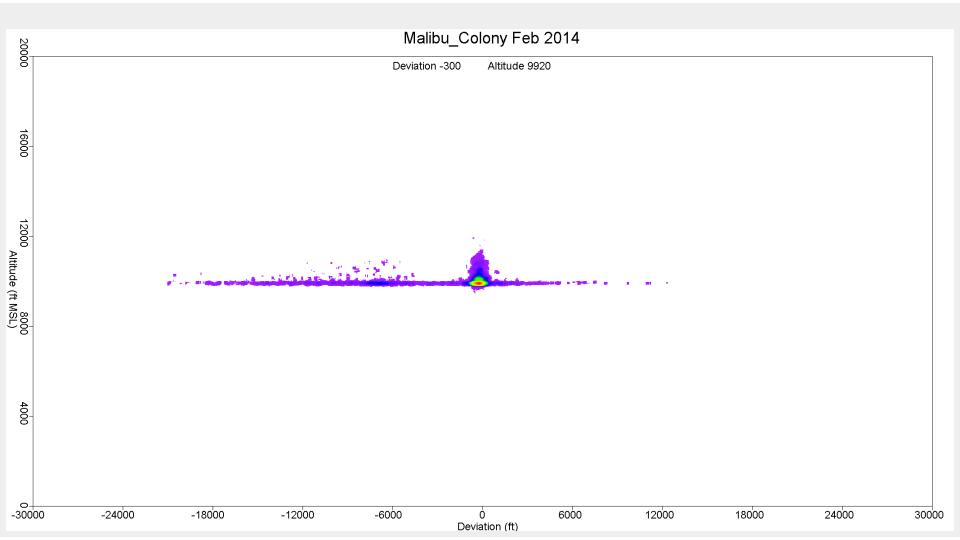


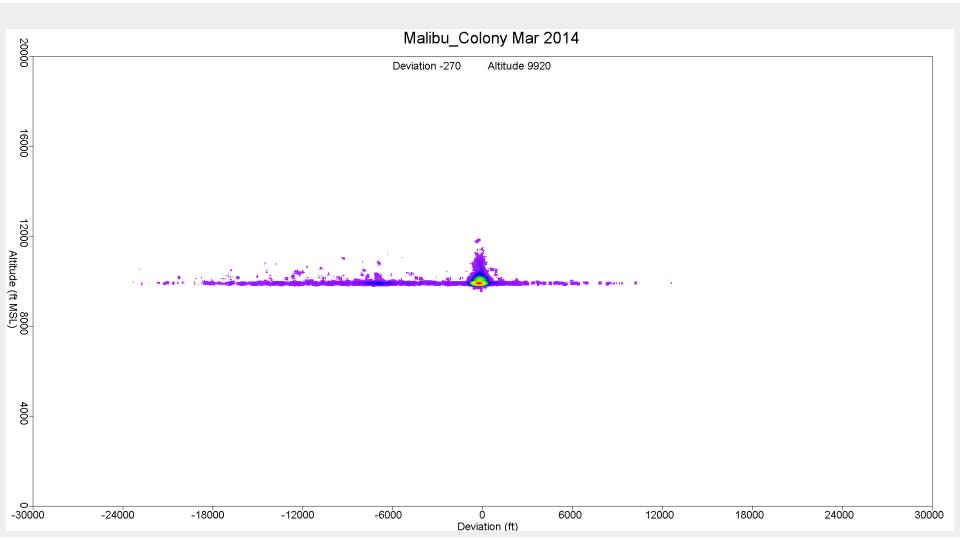


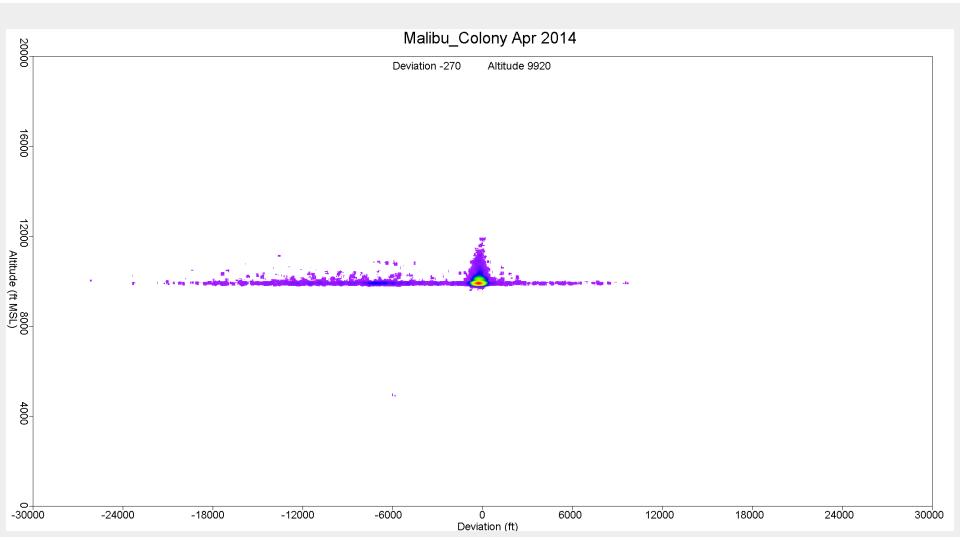
- Altitude distribution graphs were developed for all ten gates, each month over the six-year analysis period
- As a result, 720 altitude distribution graphs were prepared (i.e., 72 for each gate), which were examined for noticeable changes throughout the six-year period
- As with the flight track density graphs, the data are generally consistent until the summer of 2014, remain changed for approximately 12 months, and then return to the patterns of the previous four years
- The following images illustrate these recent changes

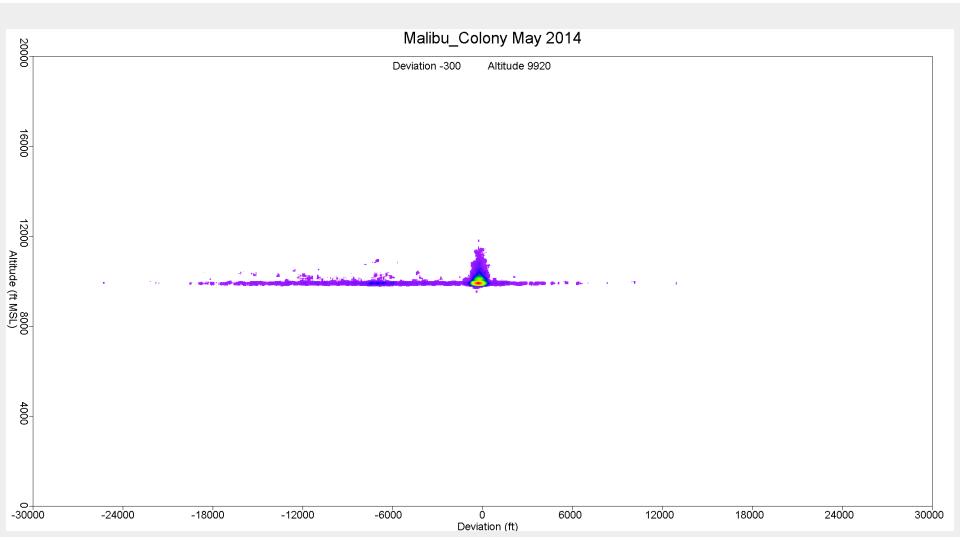


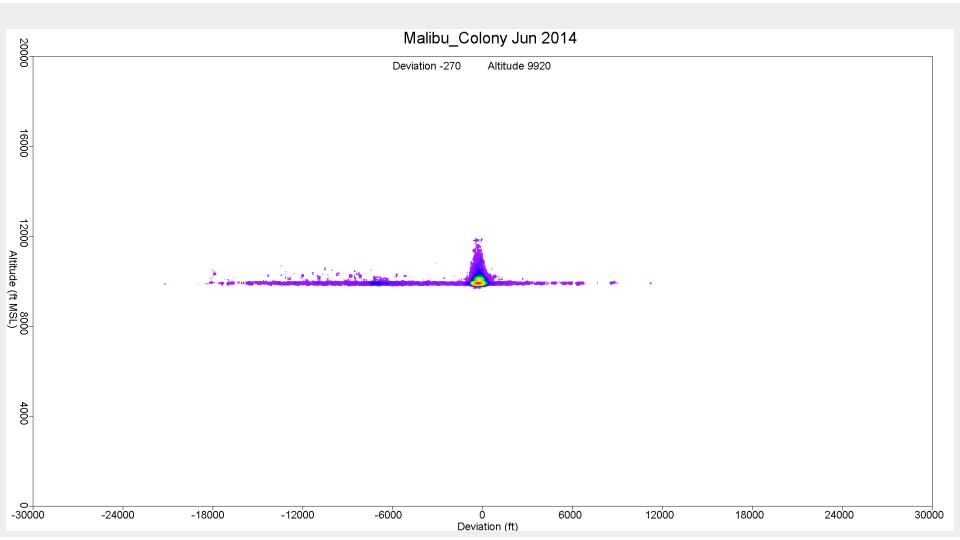


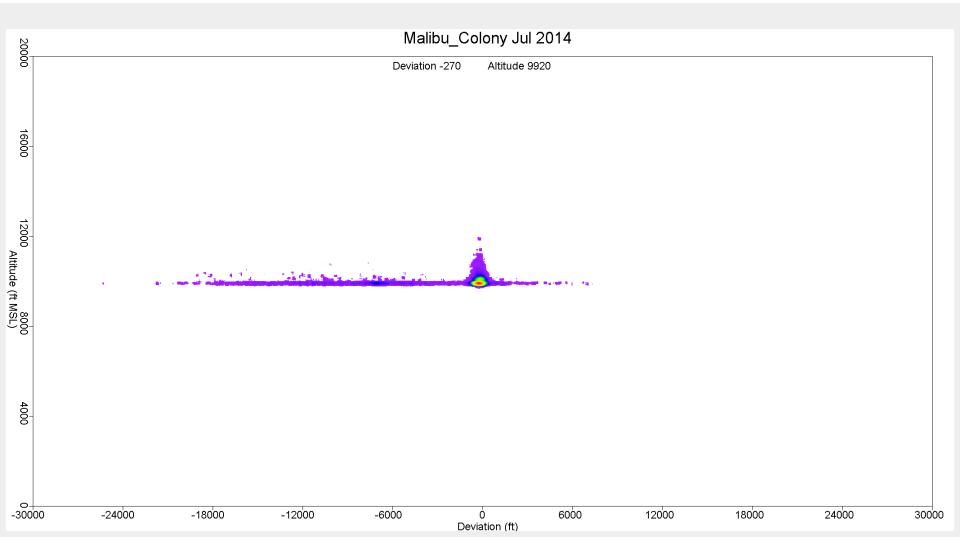


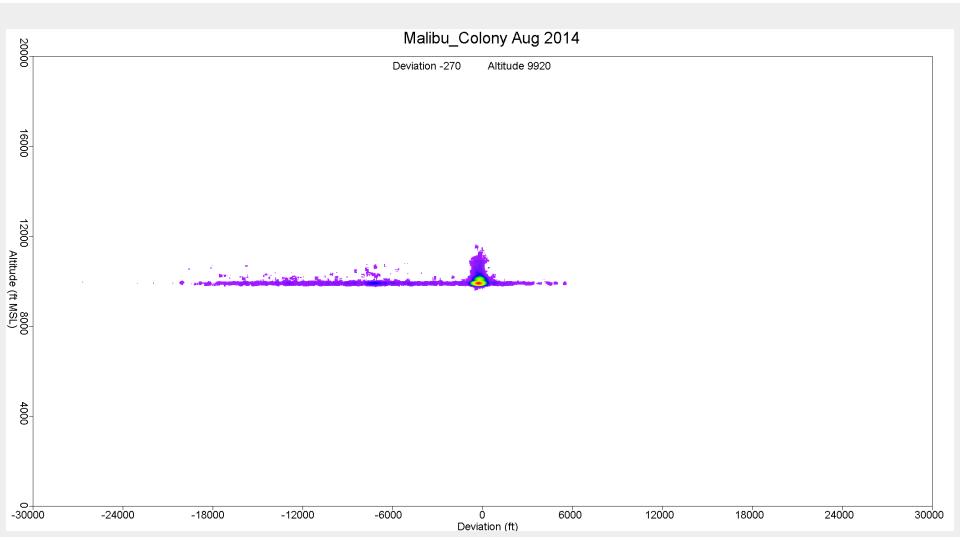


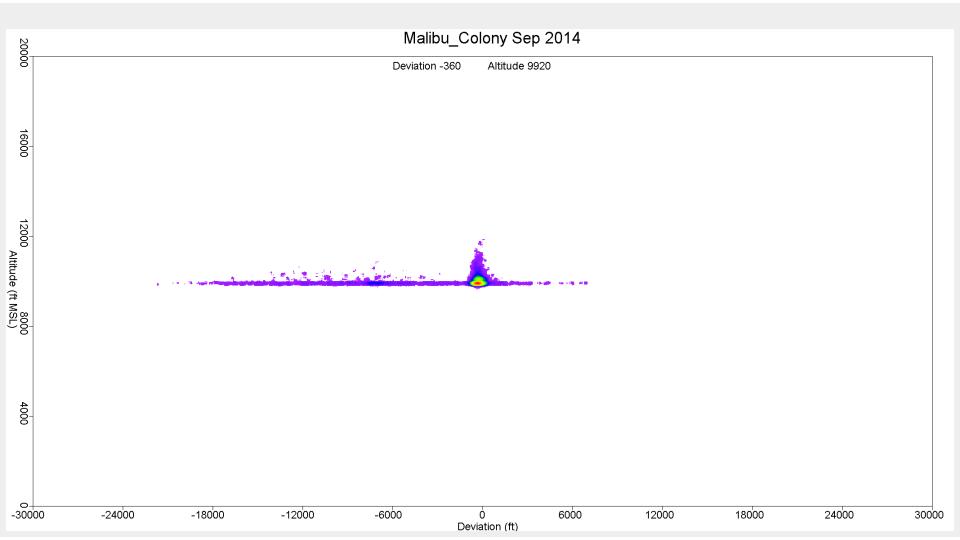


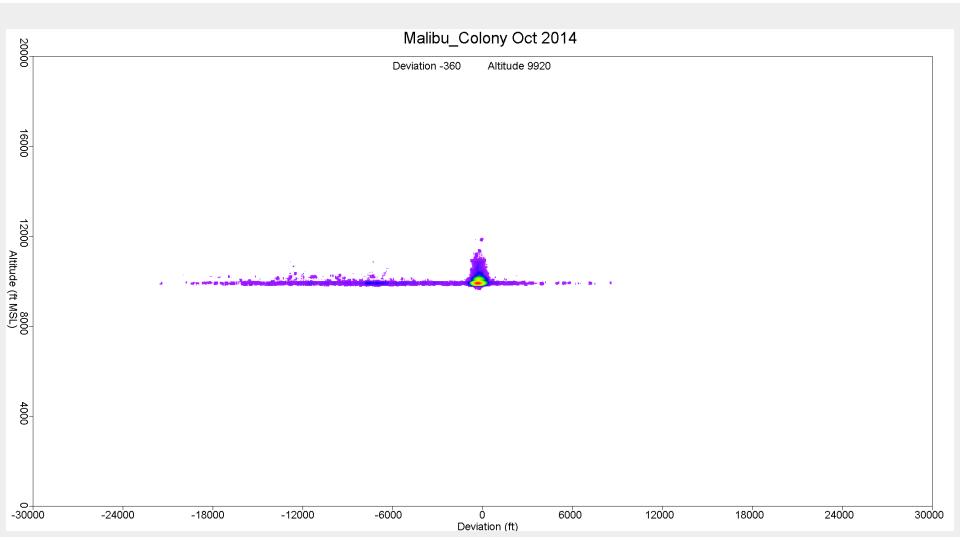


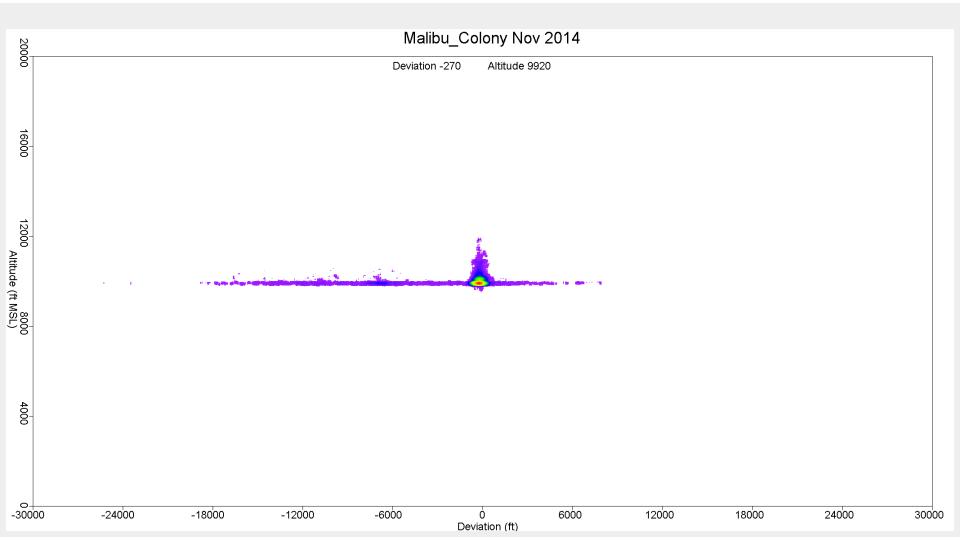


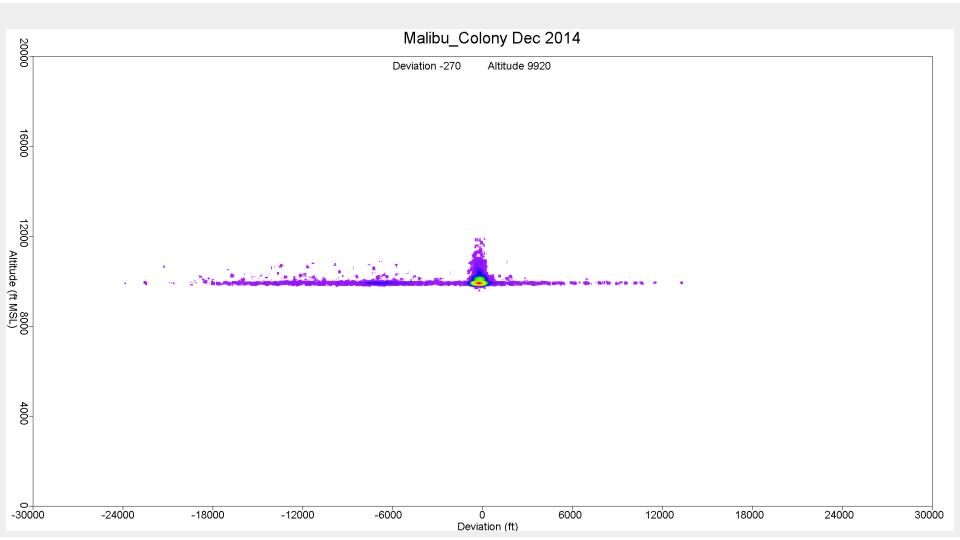


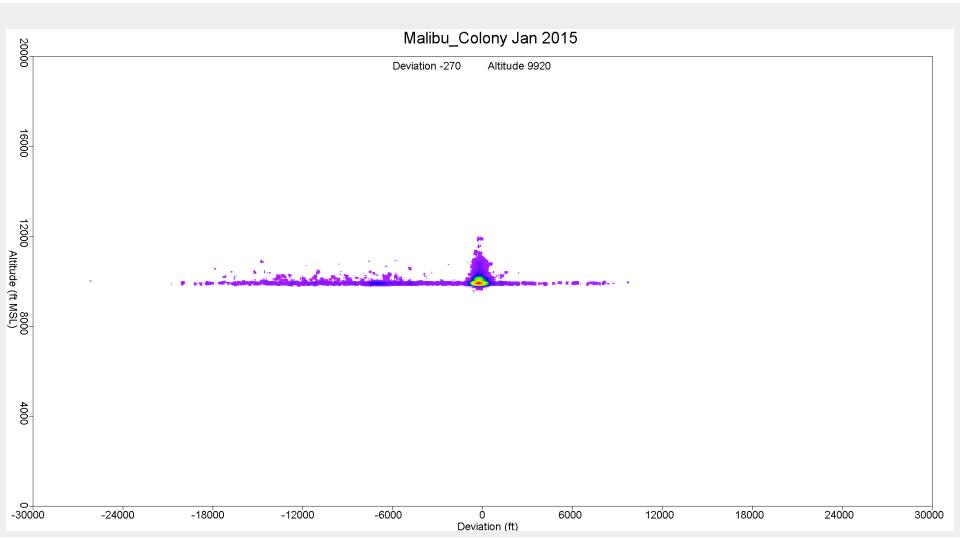


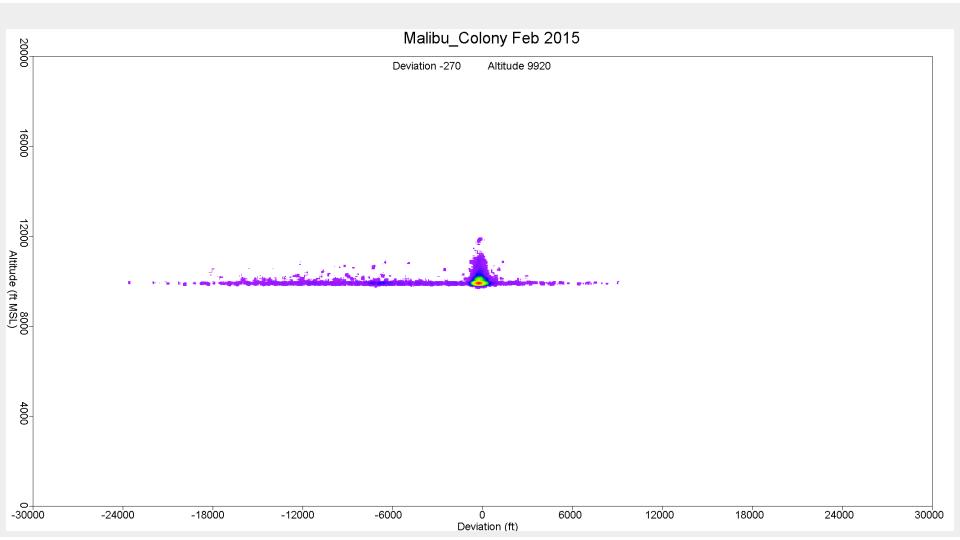


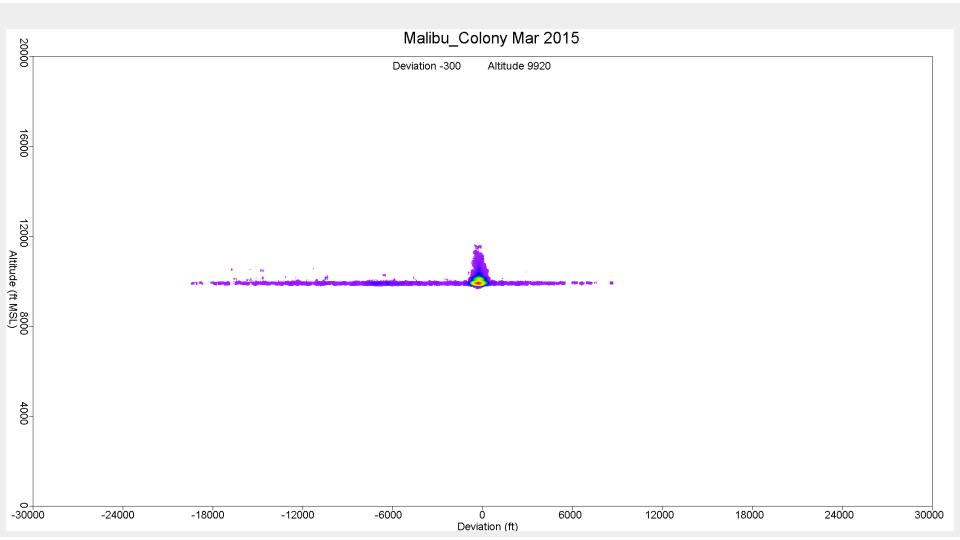


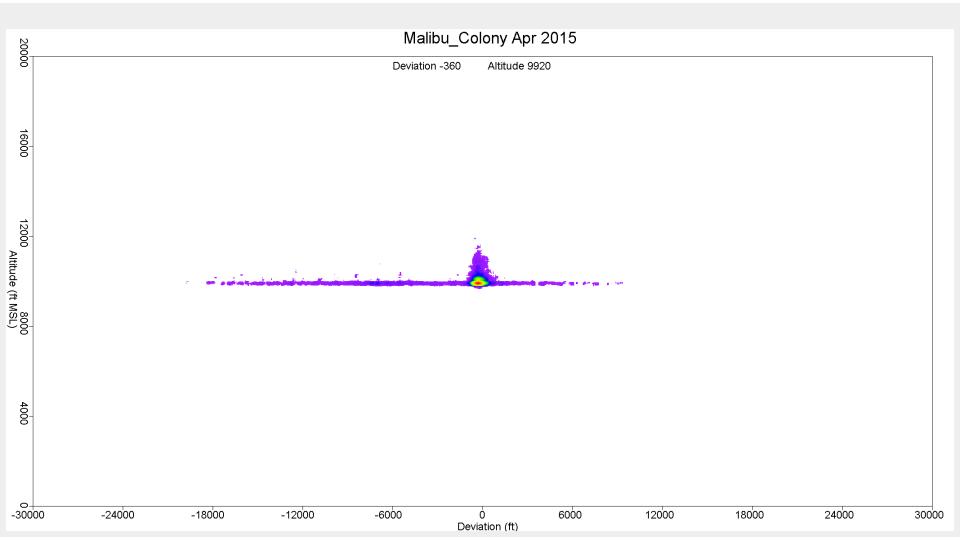


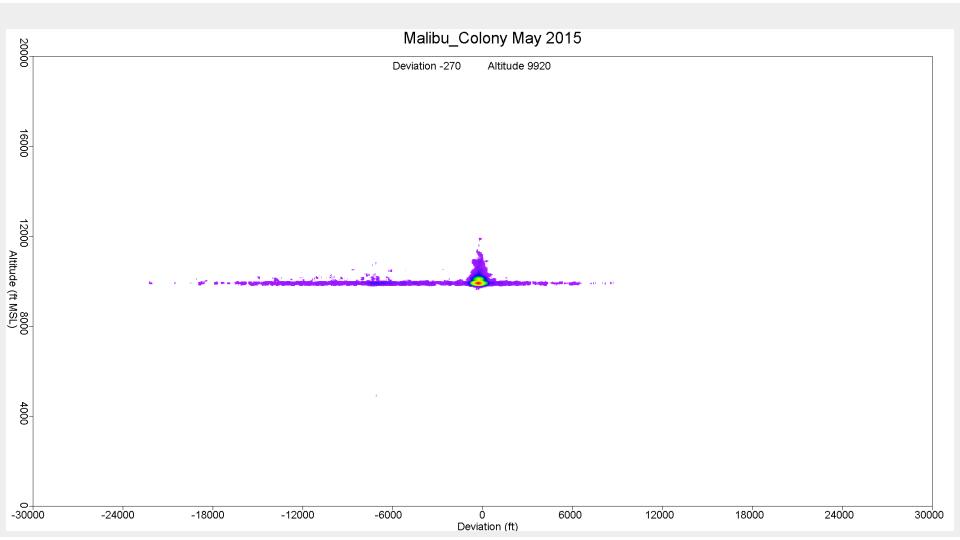


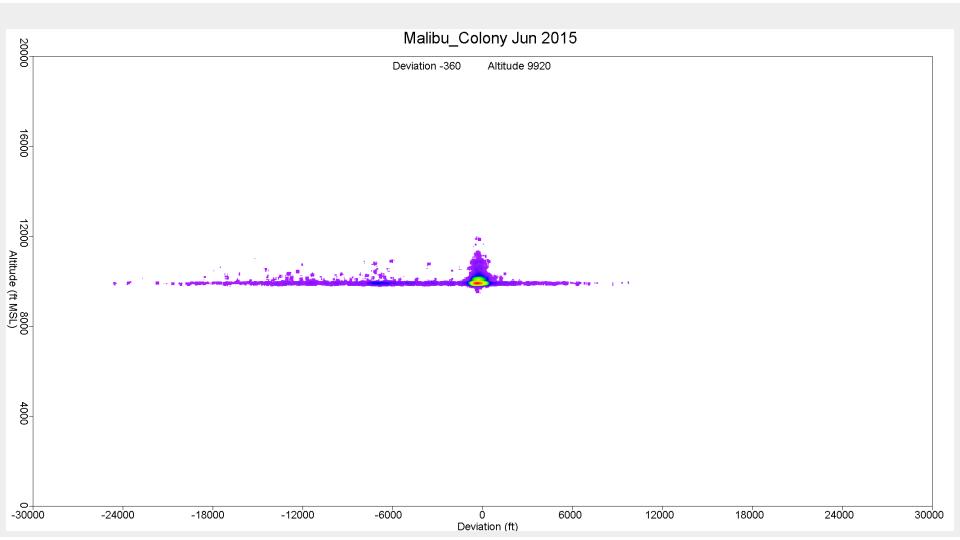


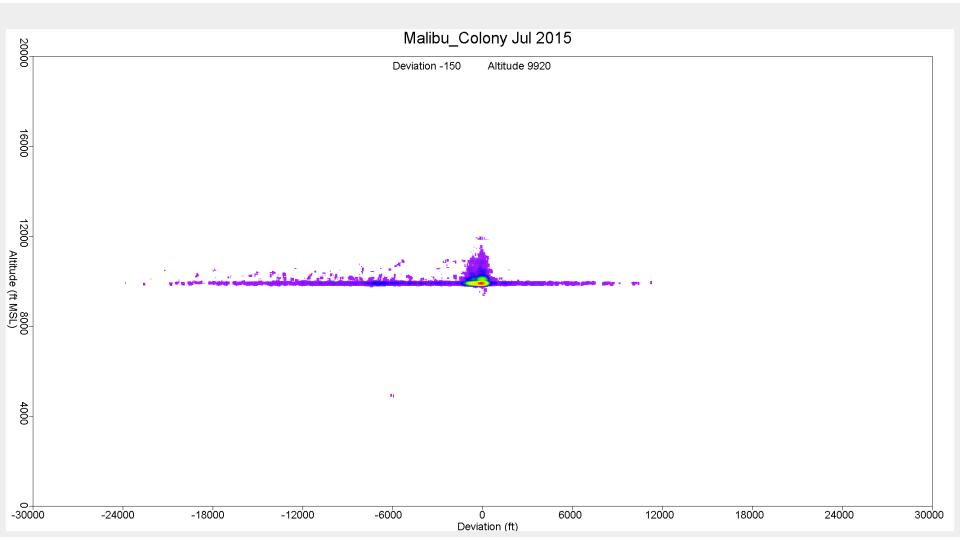


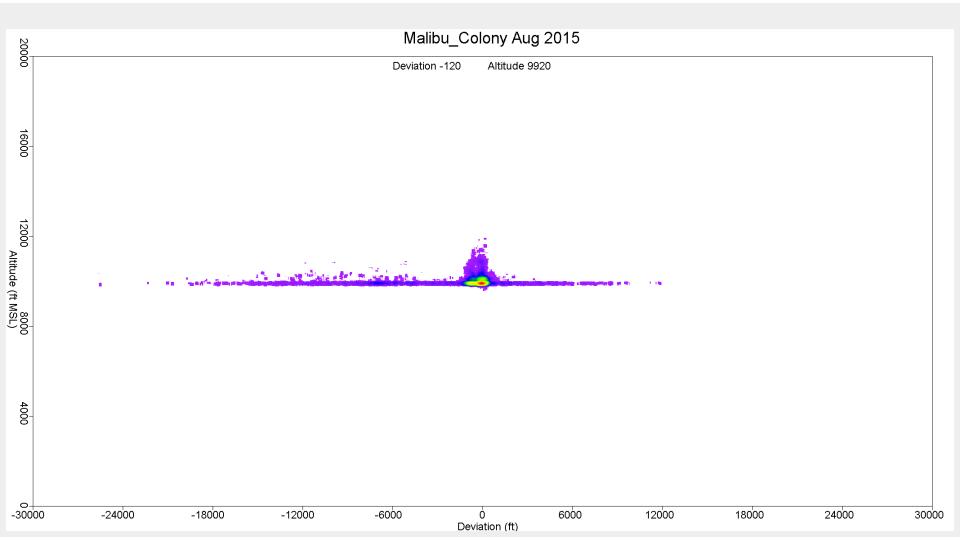


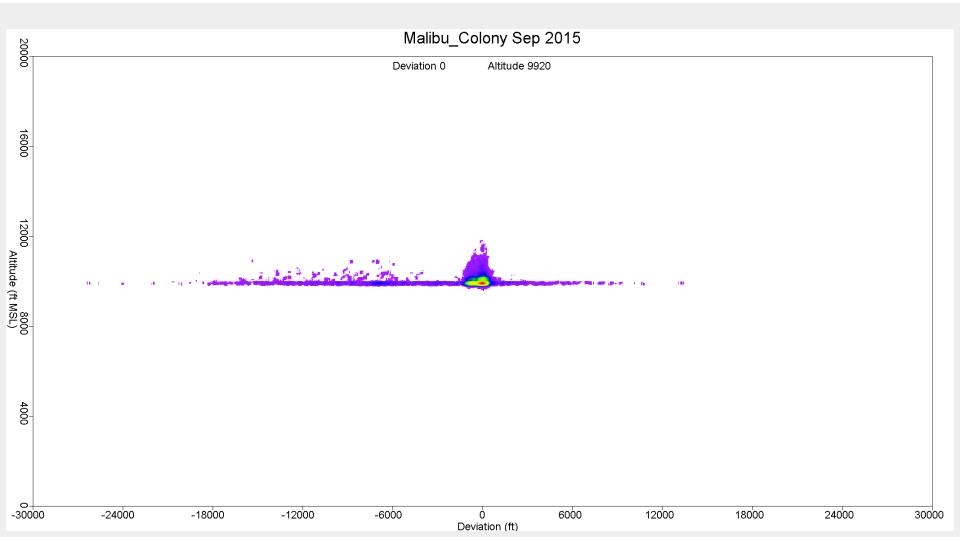


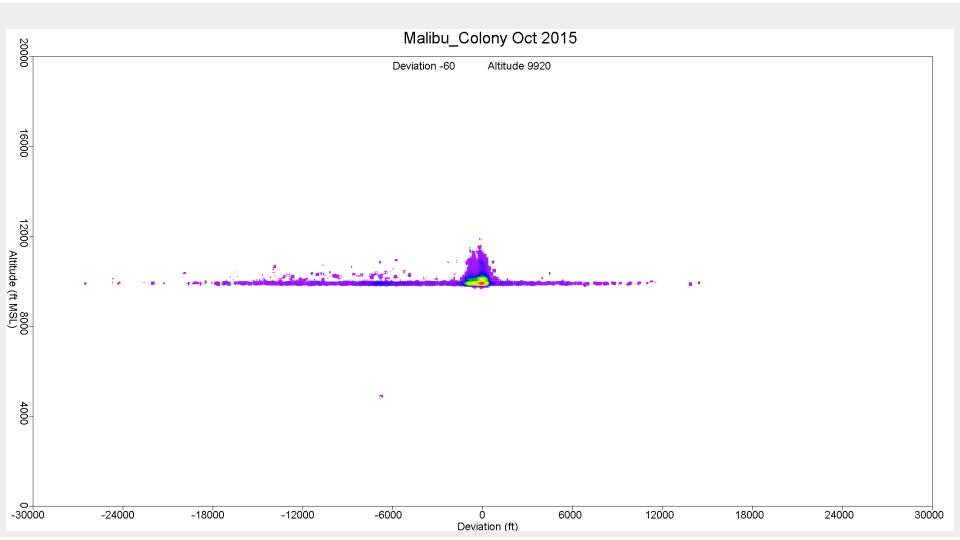


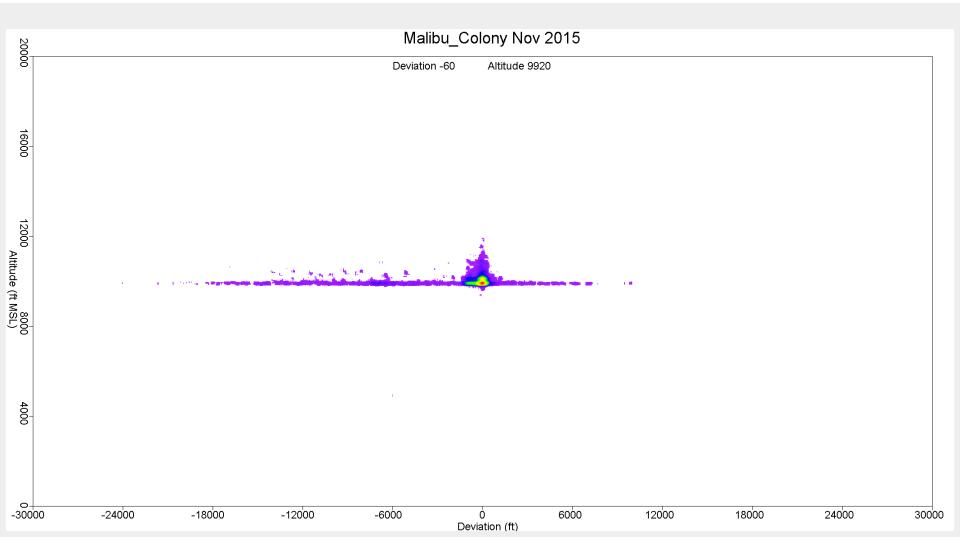


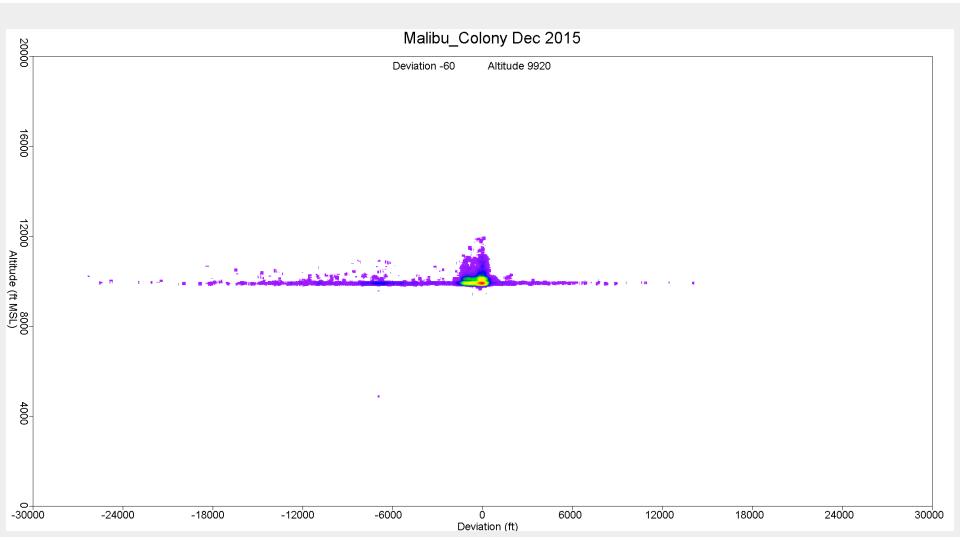


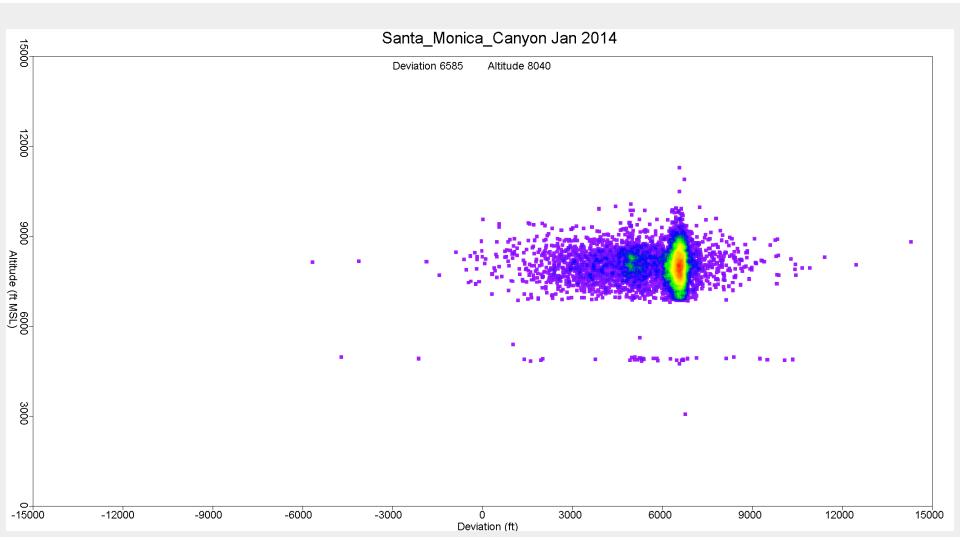


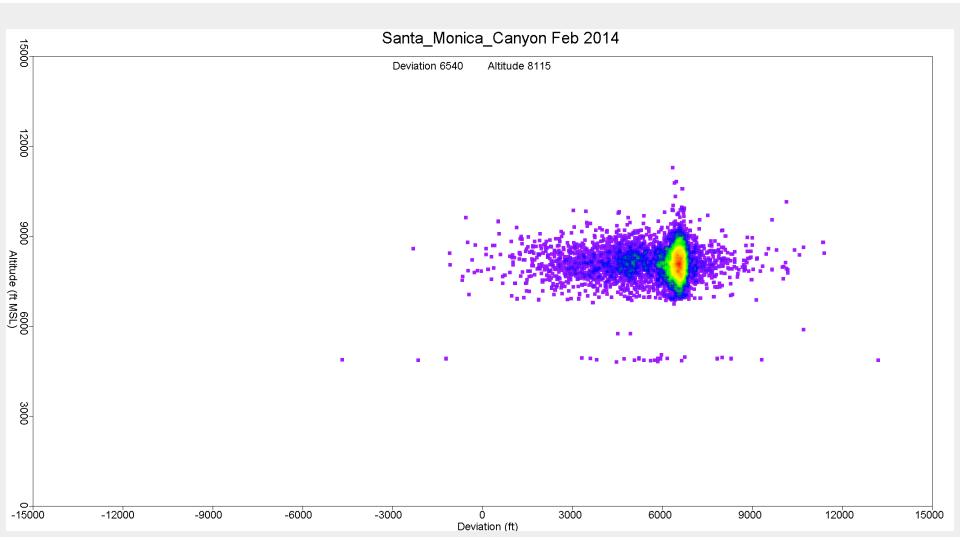


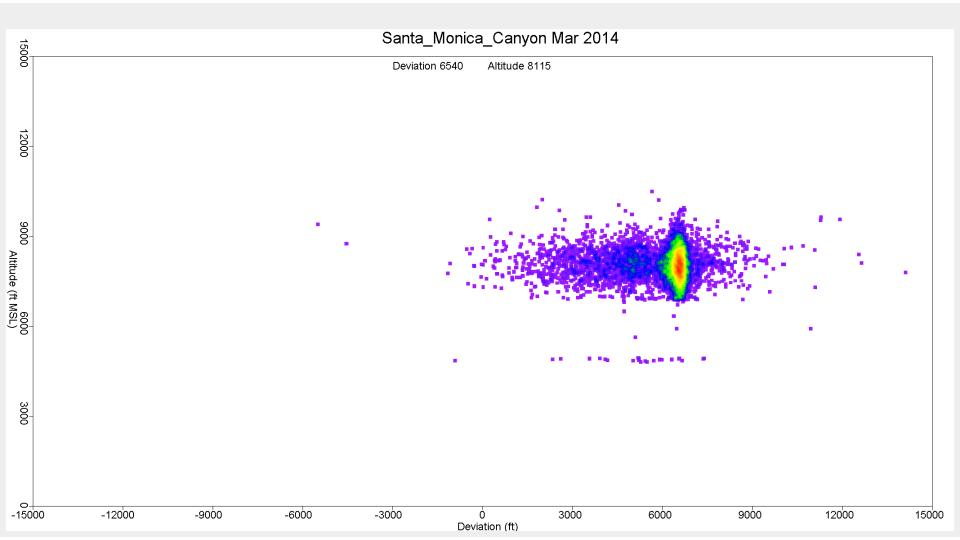


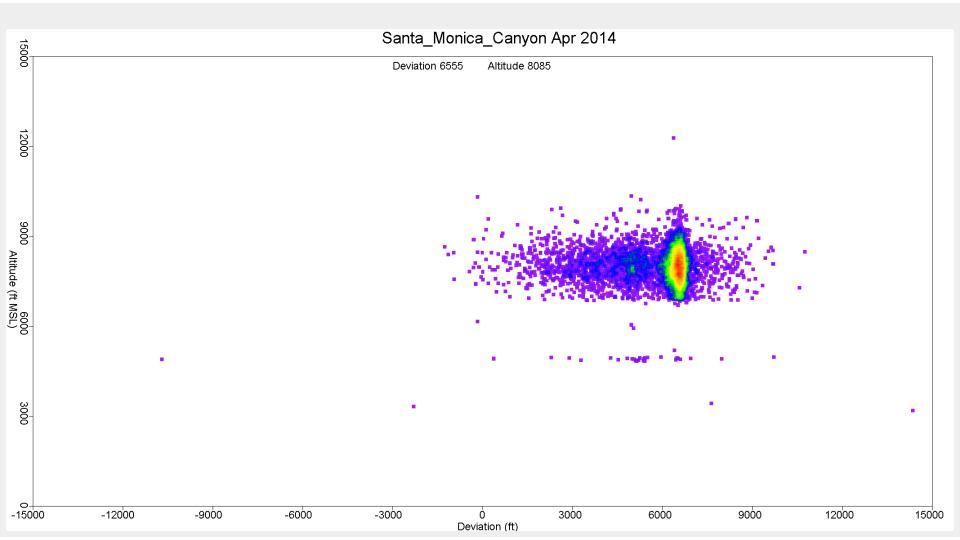


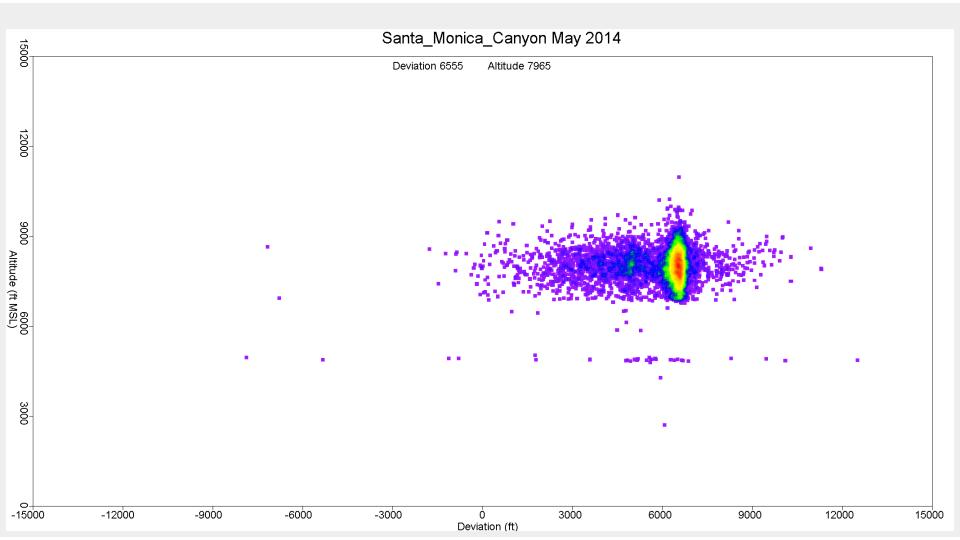


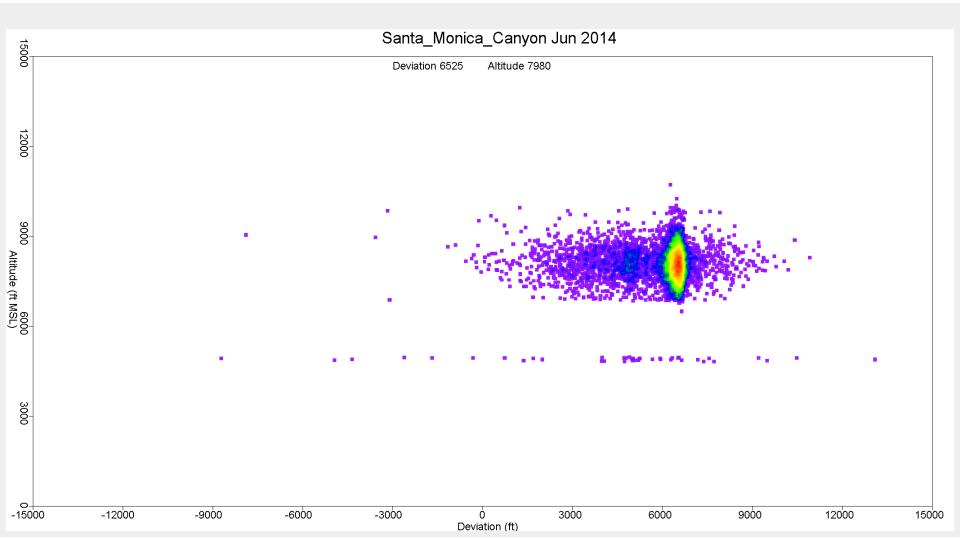


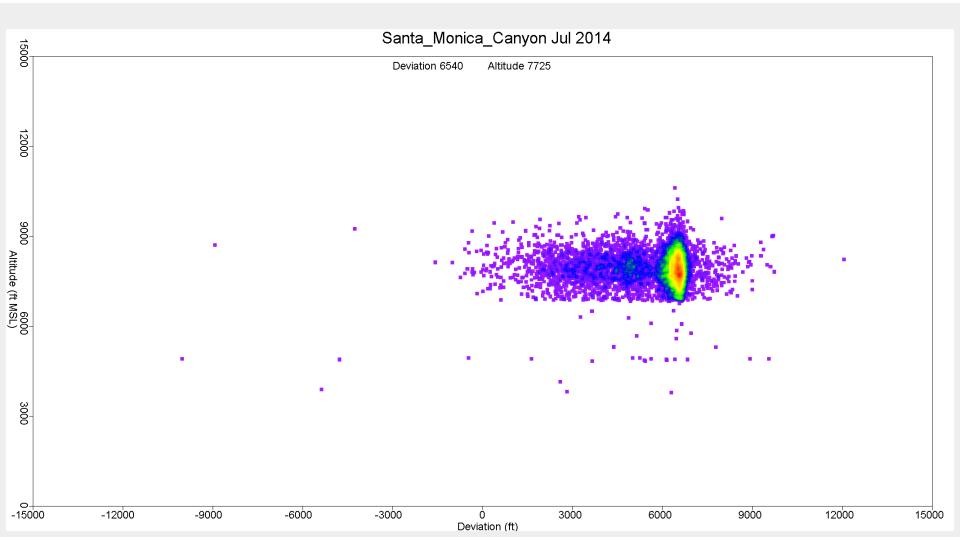


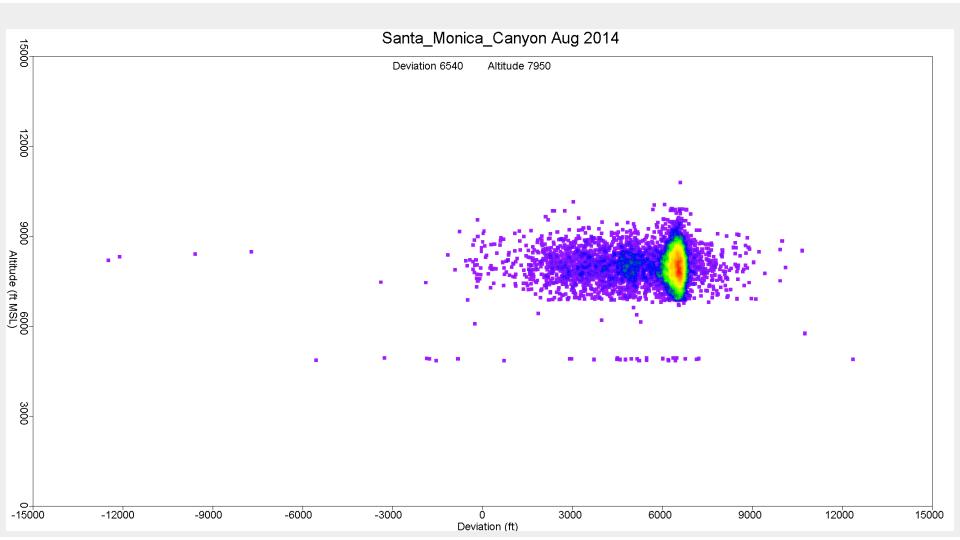


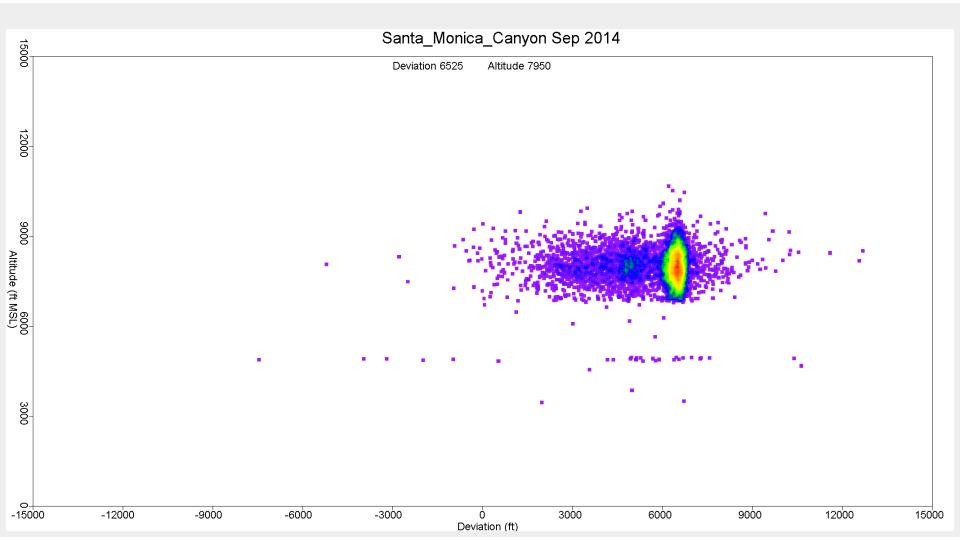


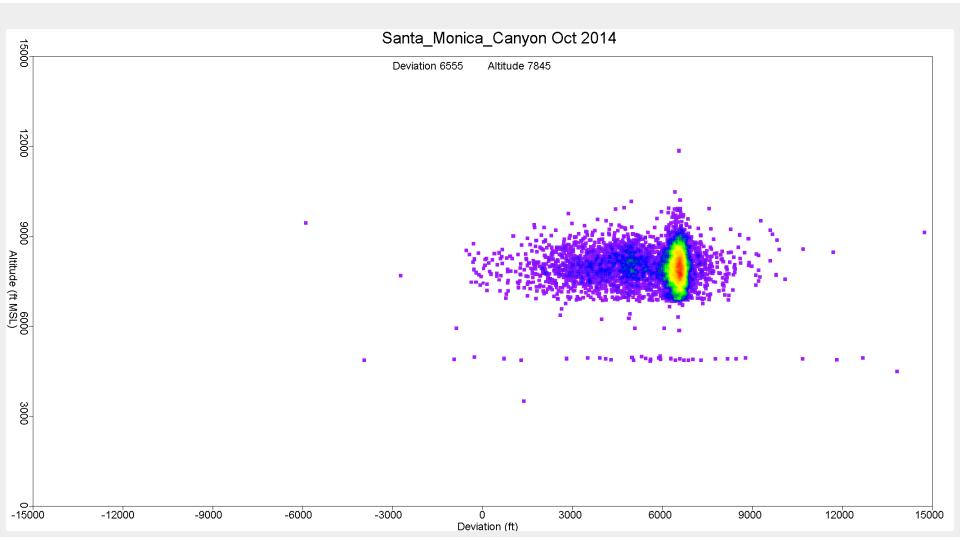


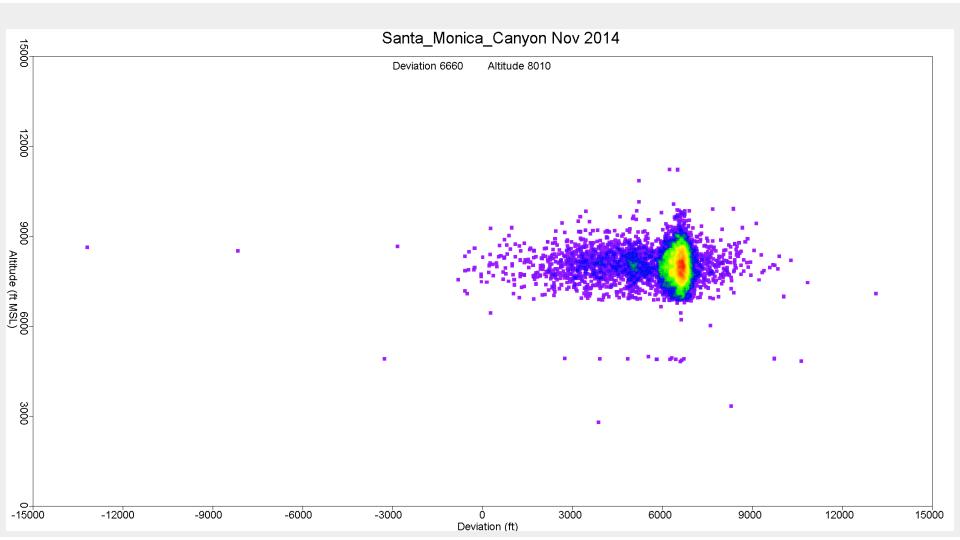


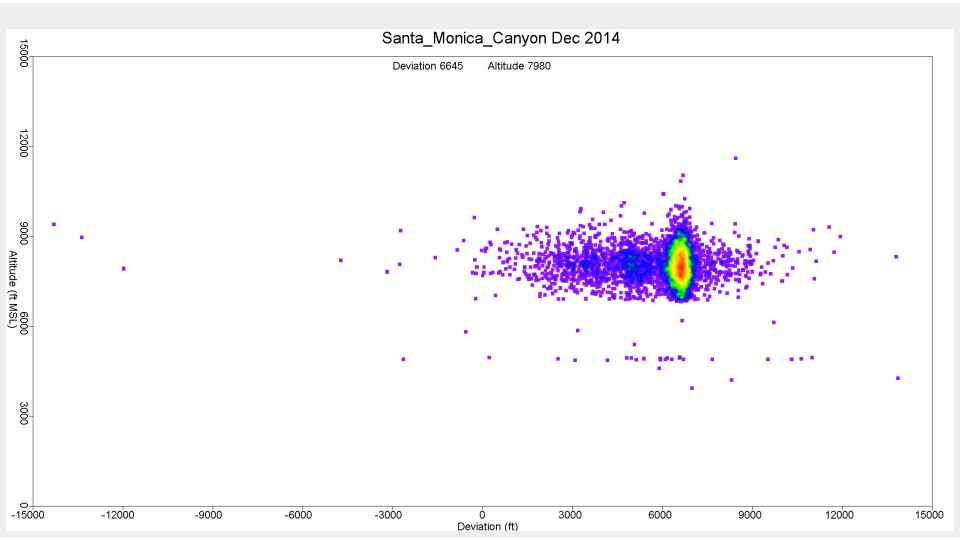


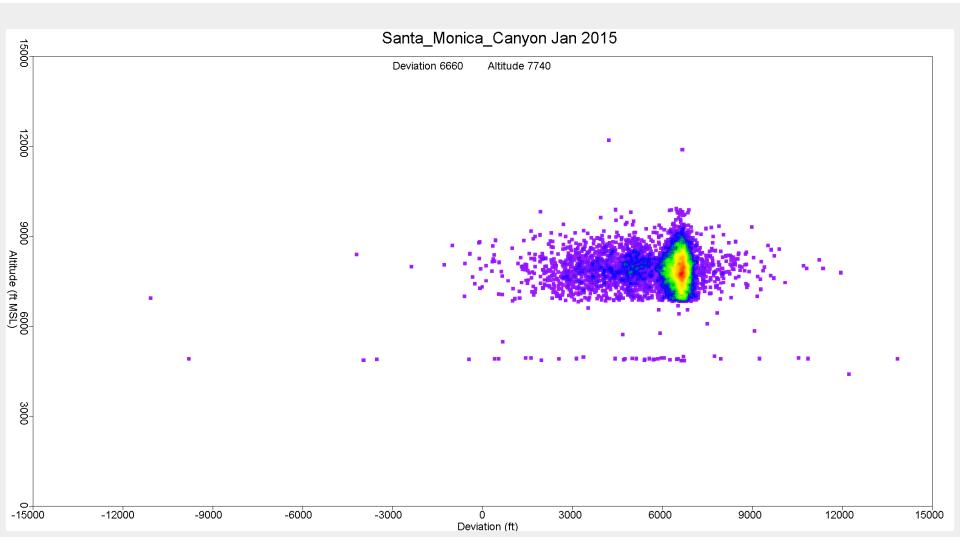


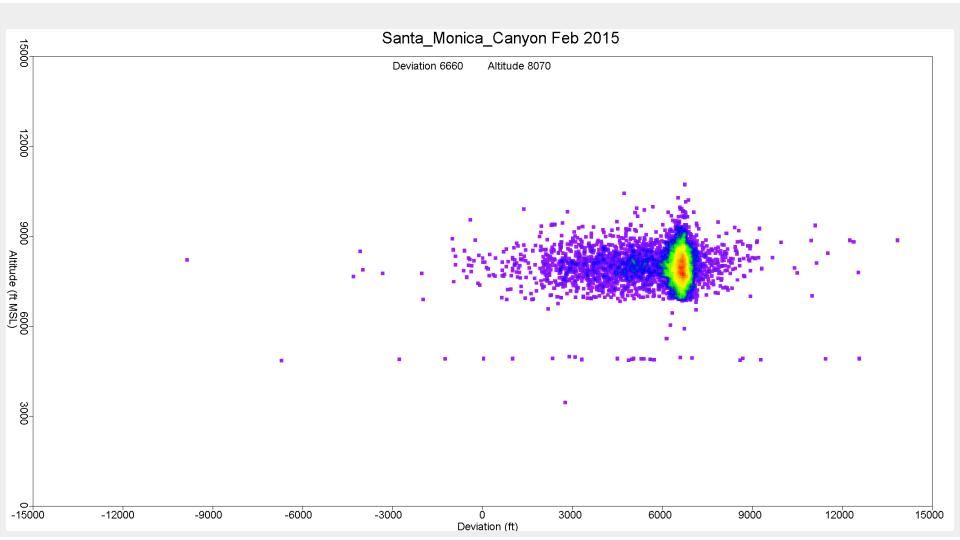


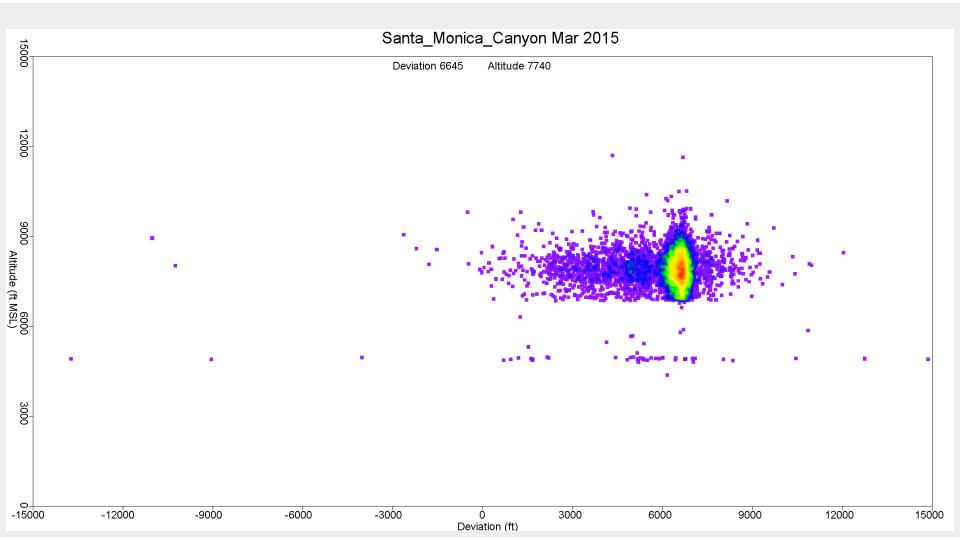


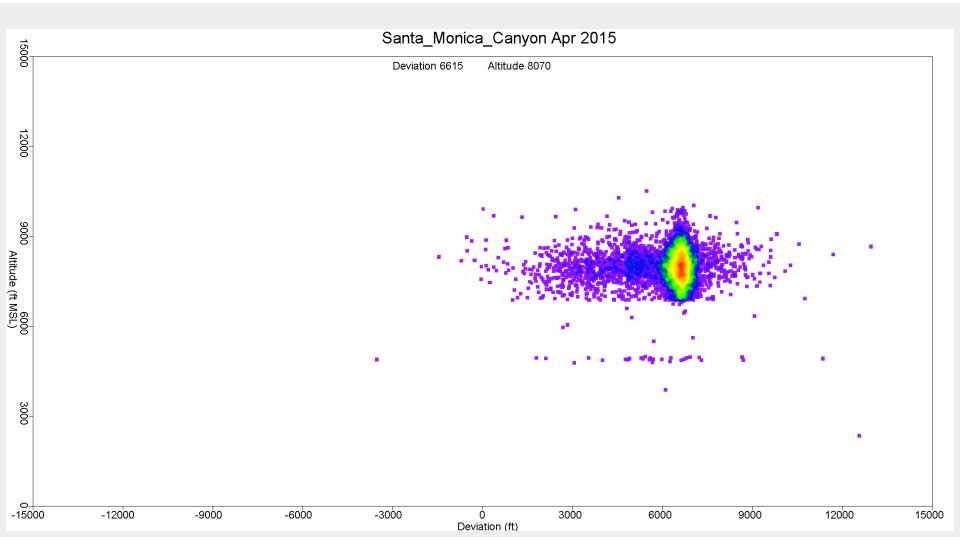


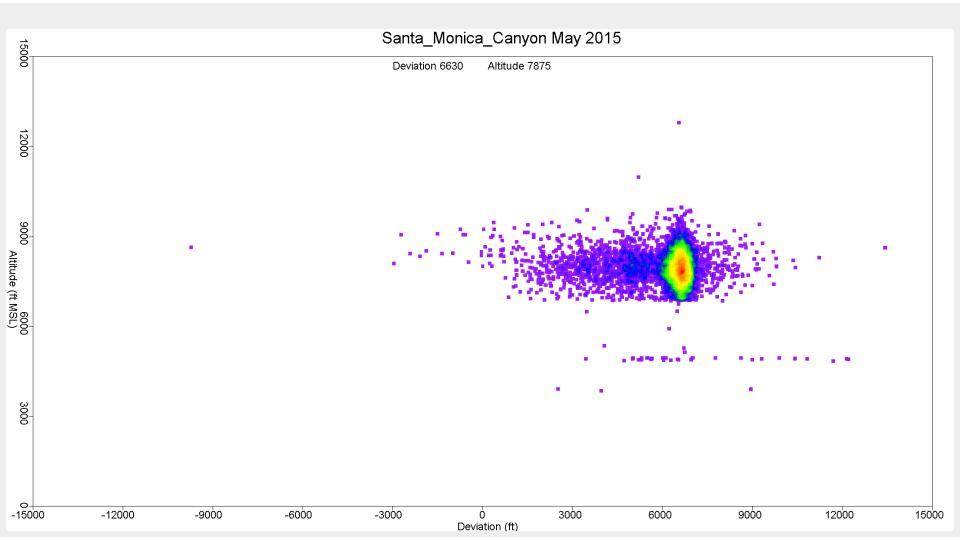


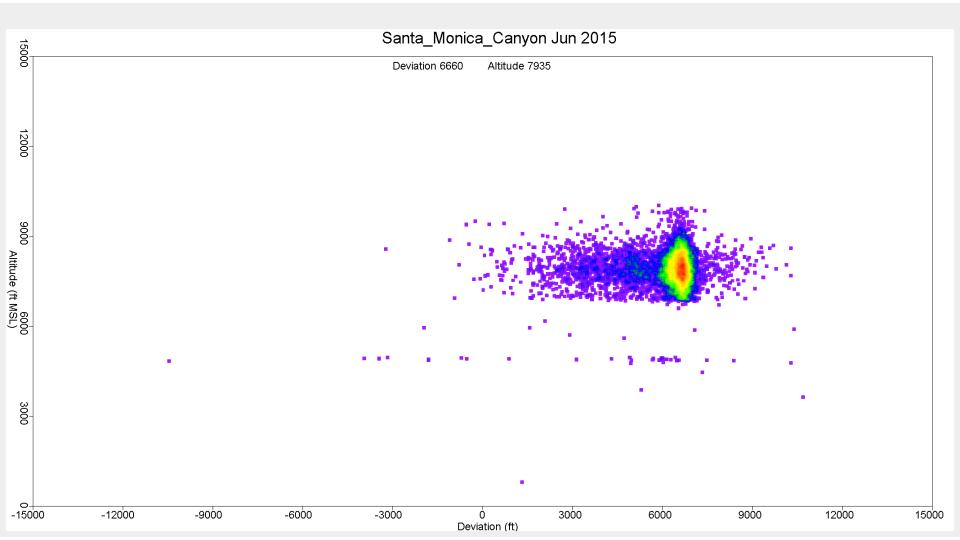


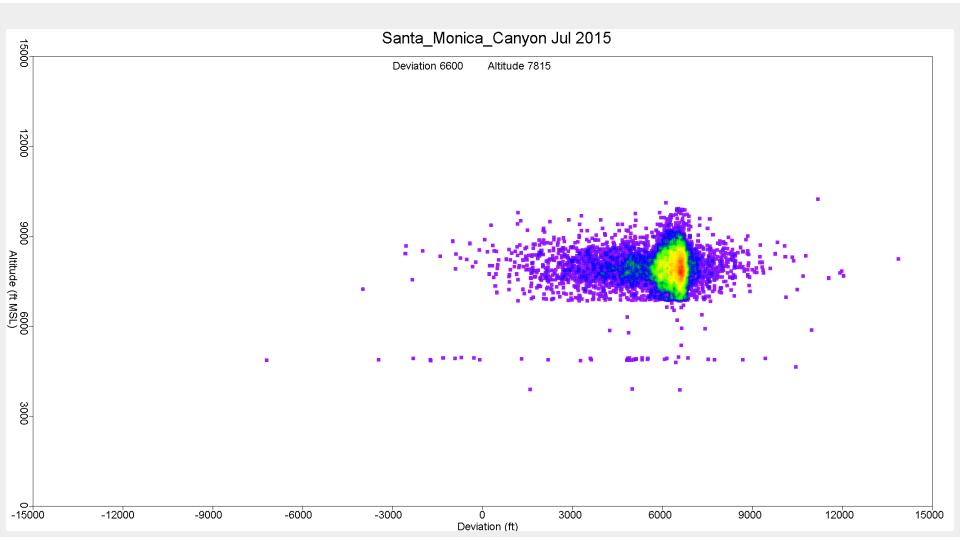


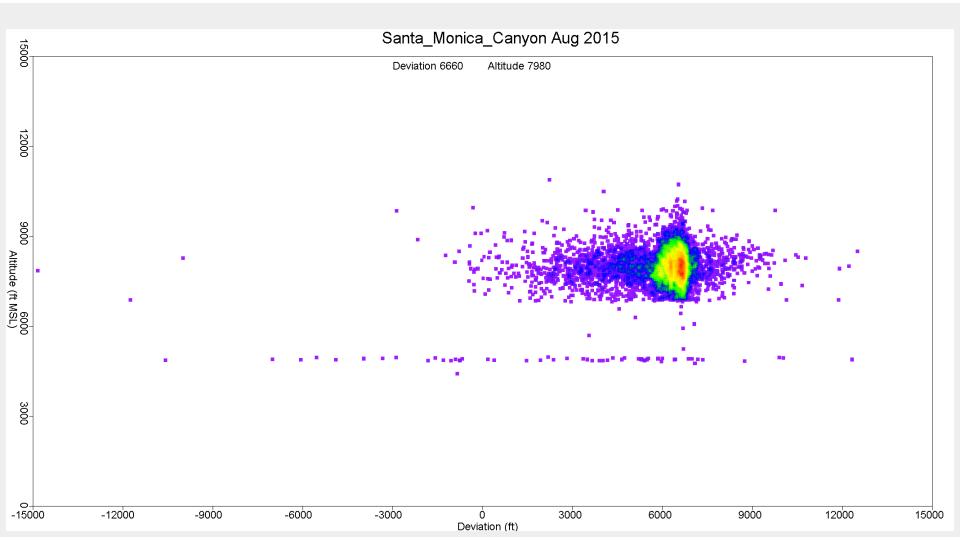


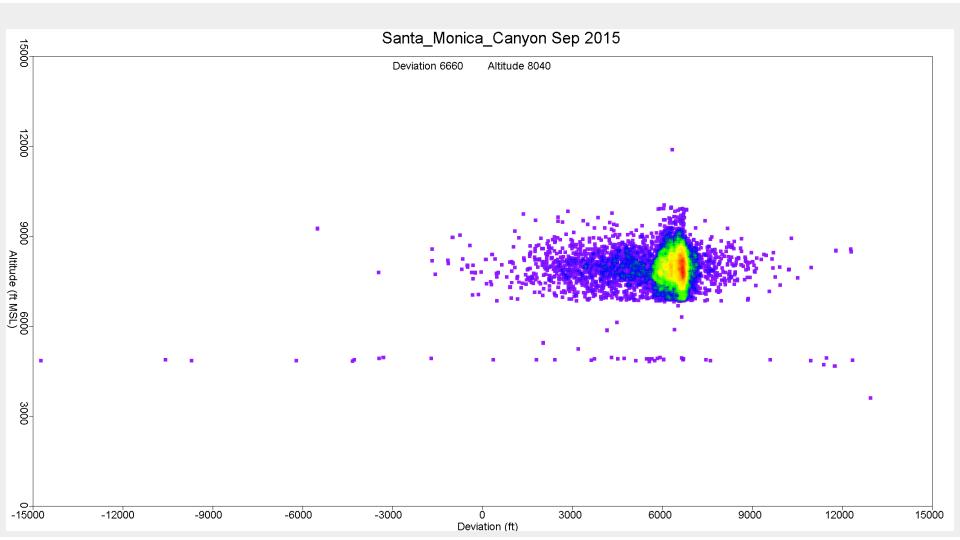


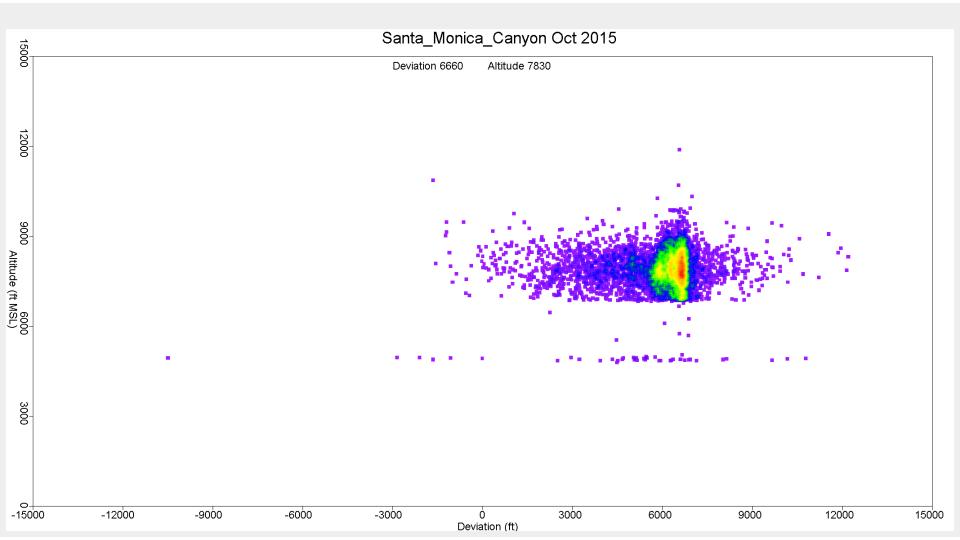


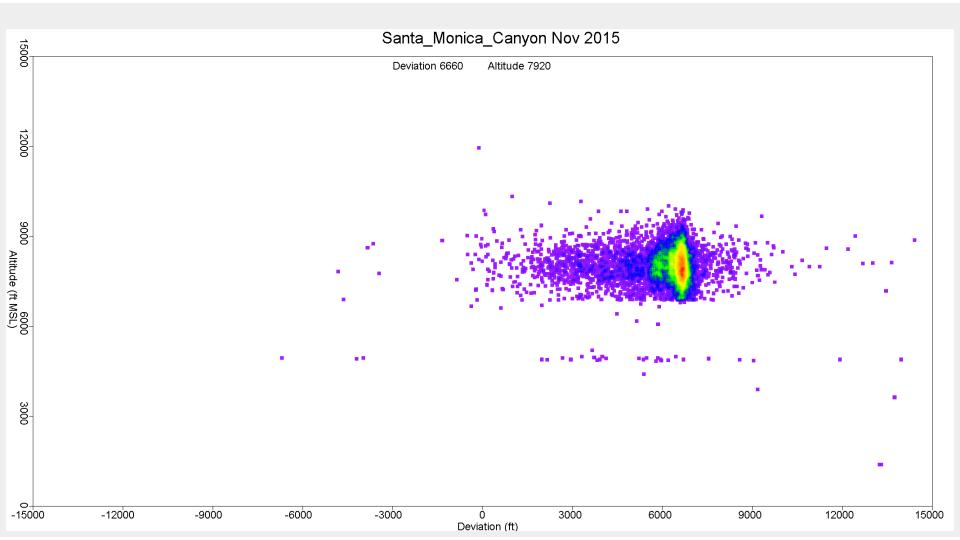


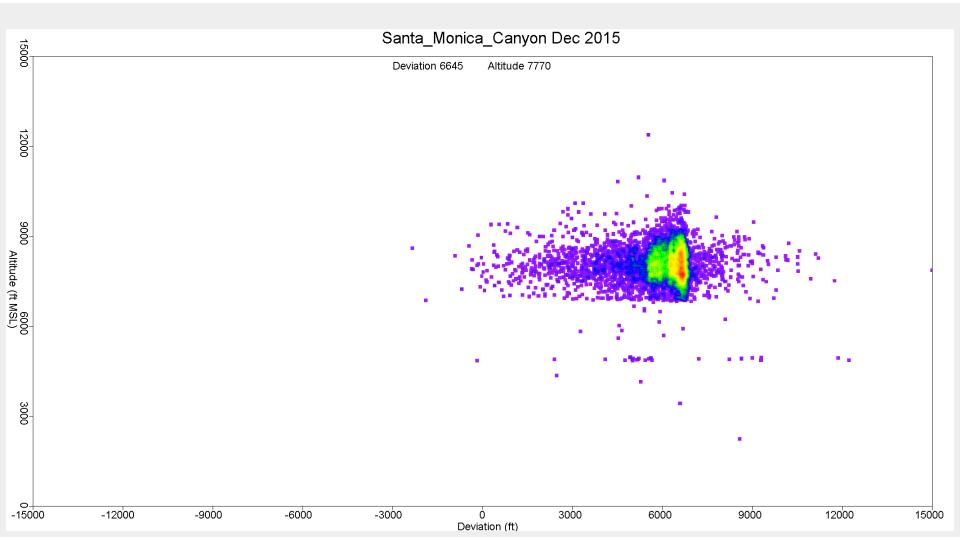


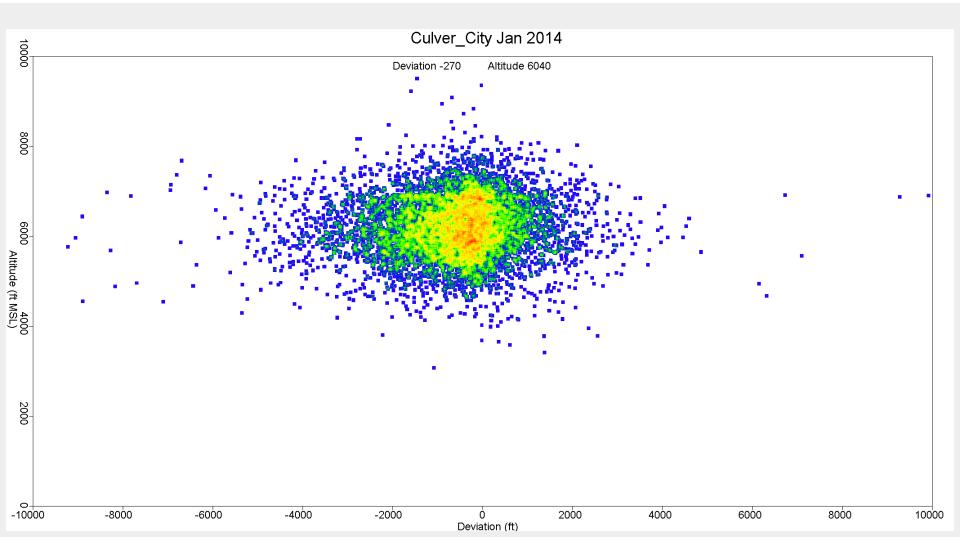


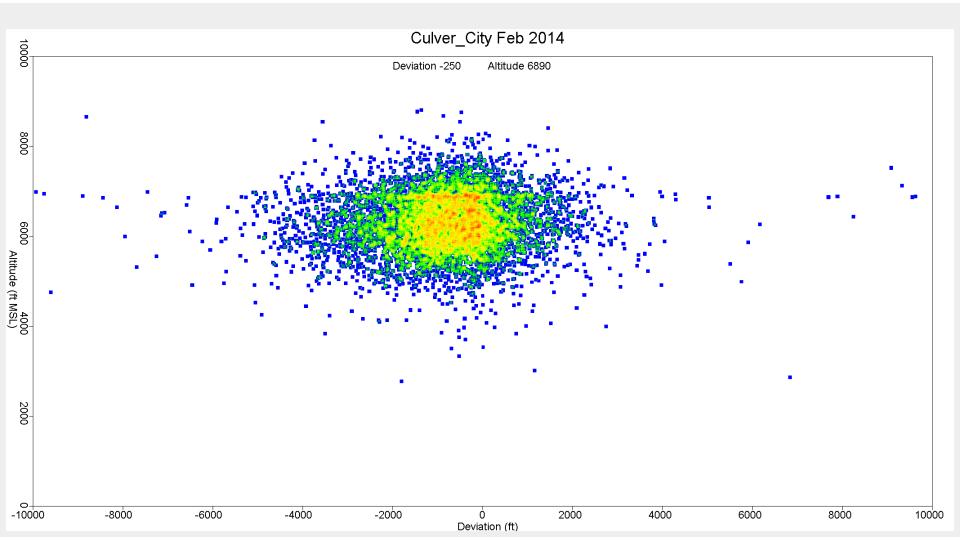


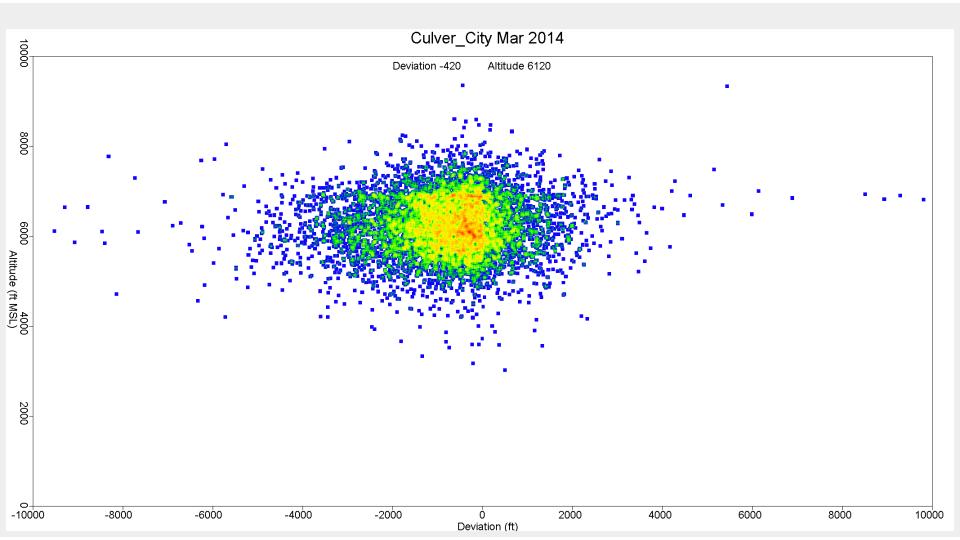


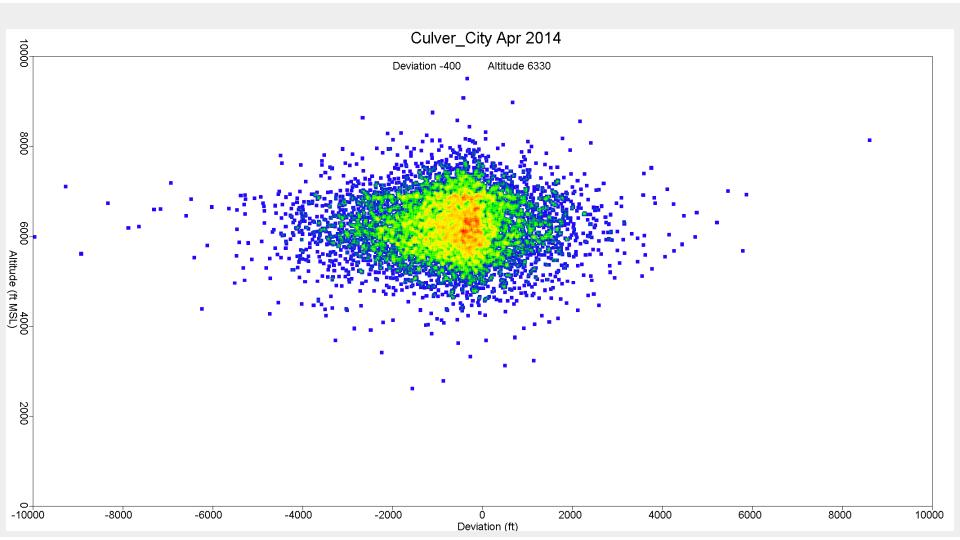


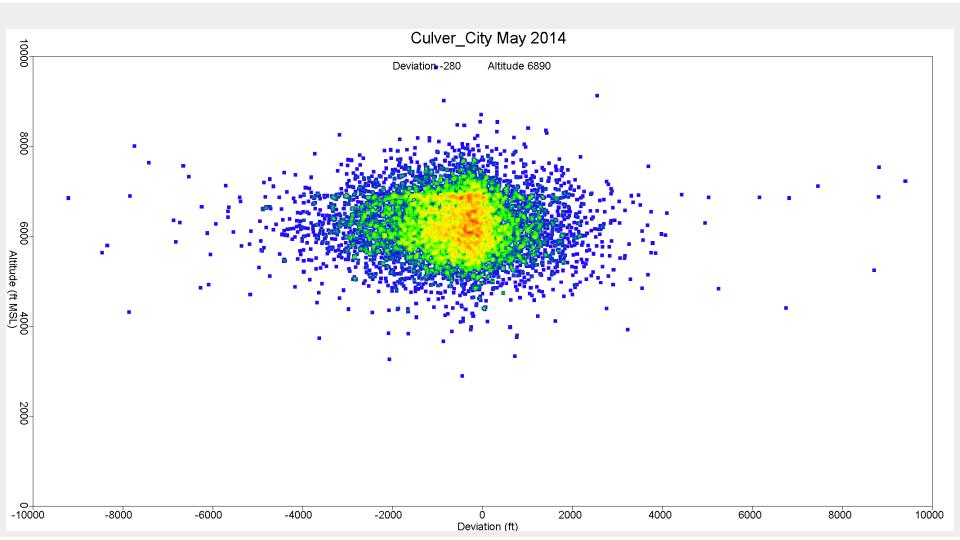


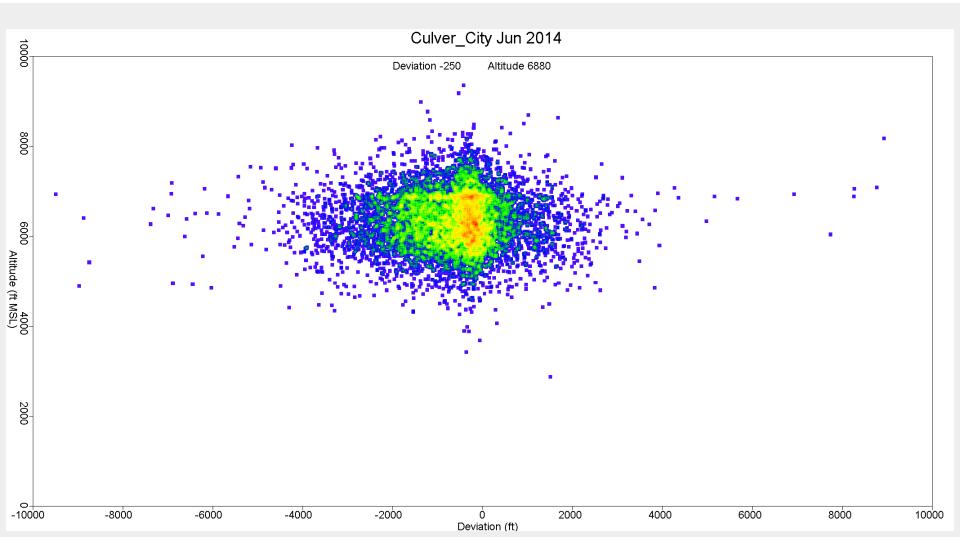


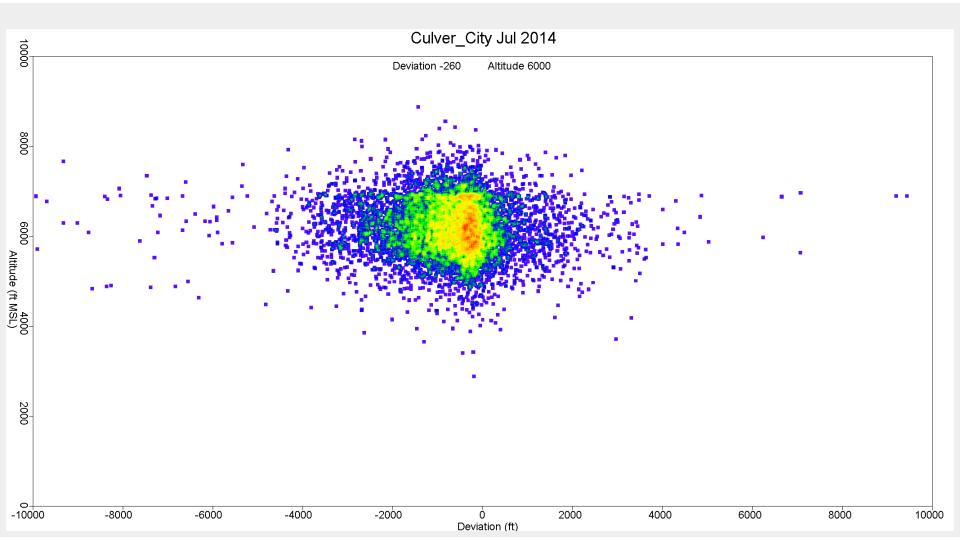


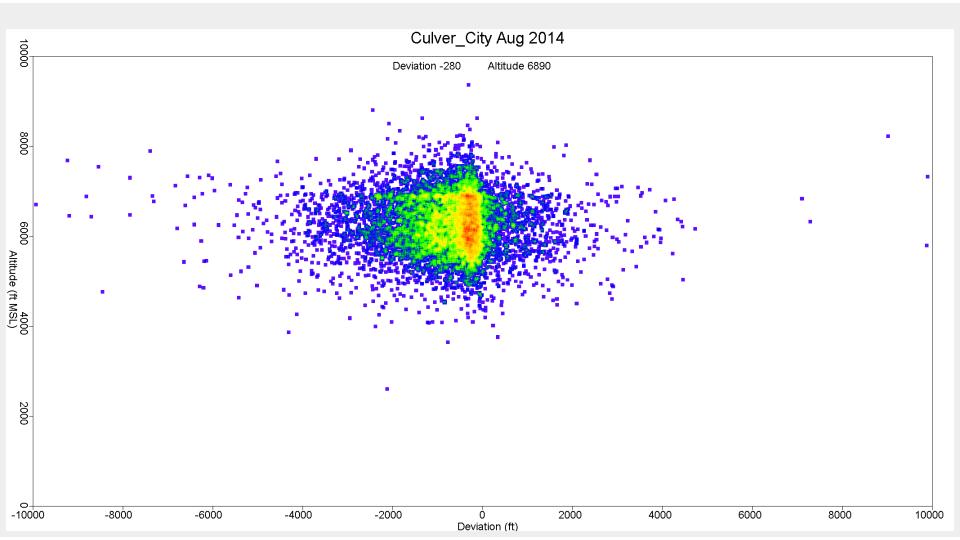


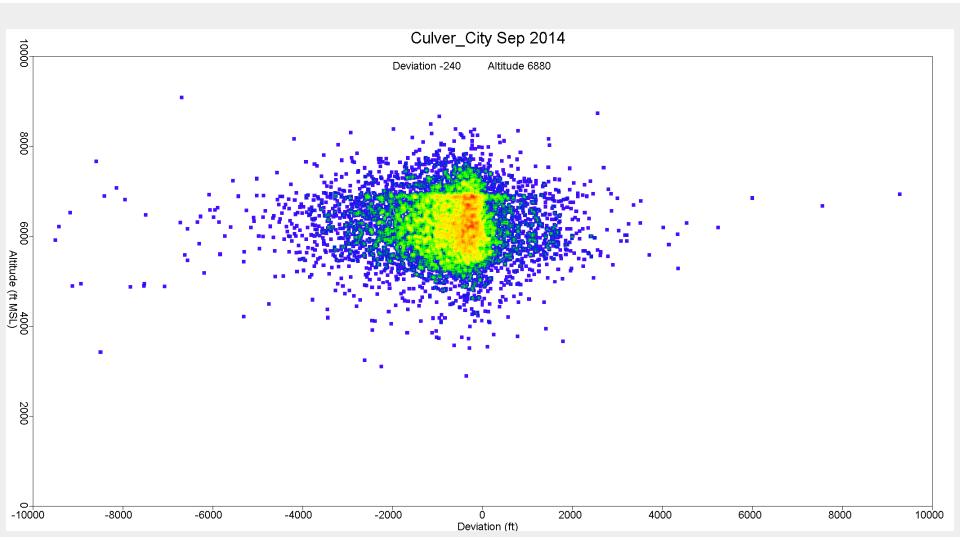


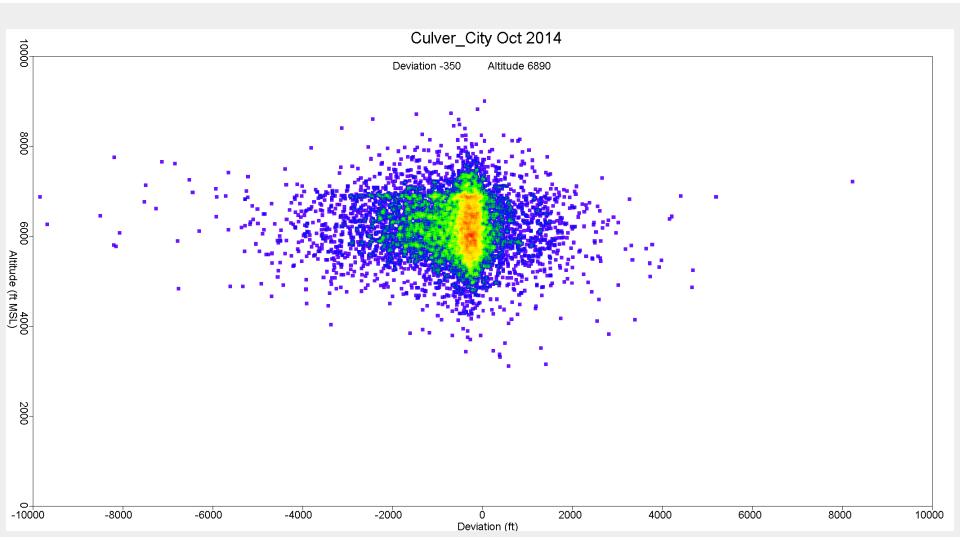


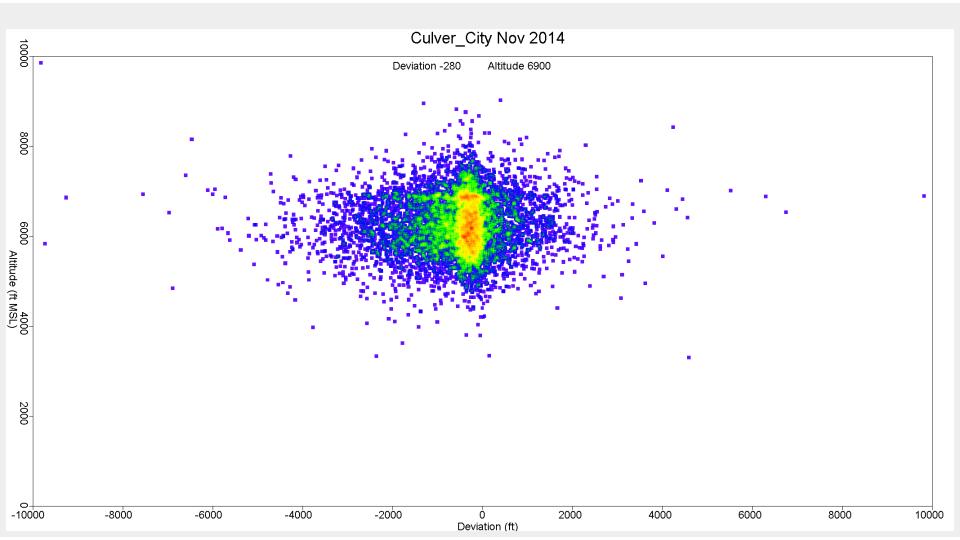


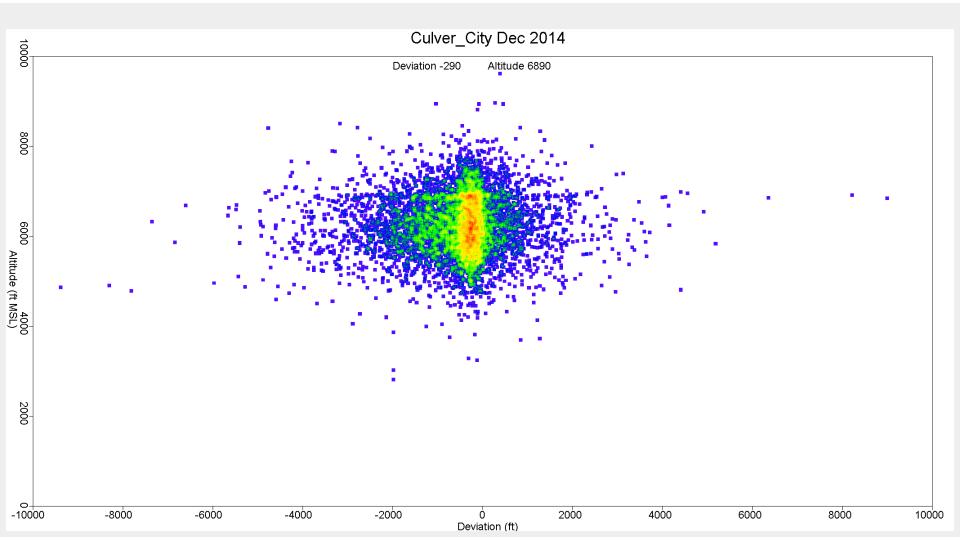


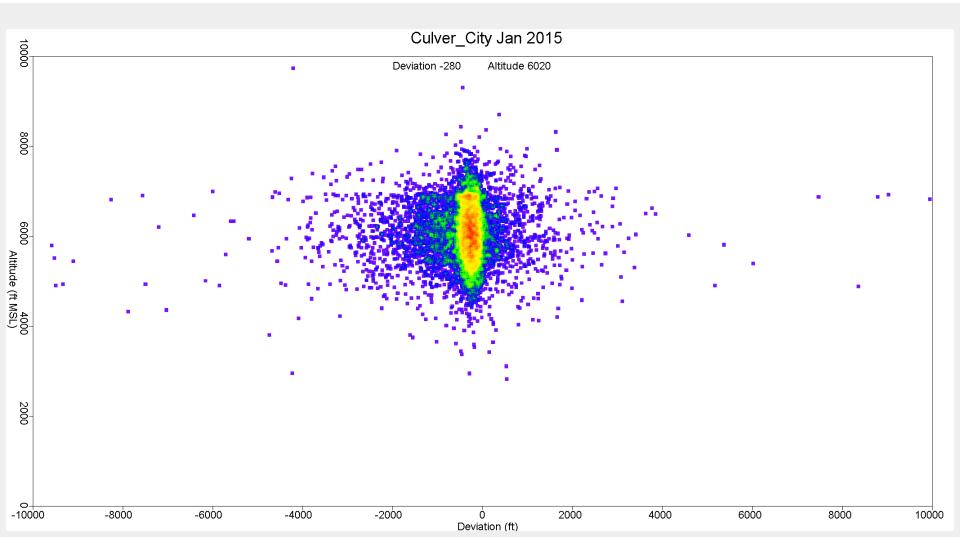


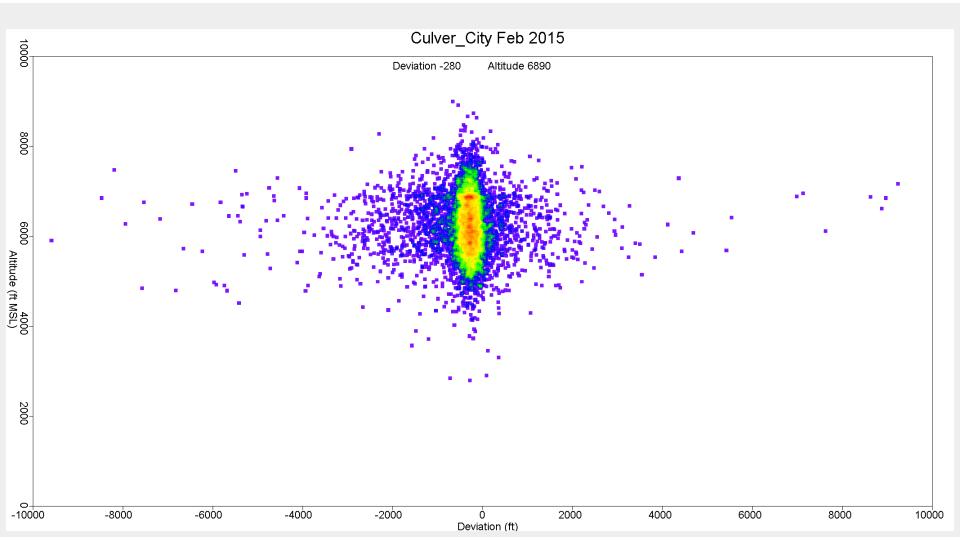


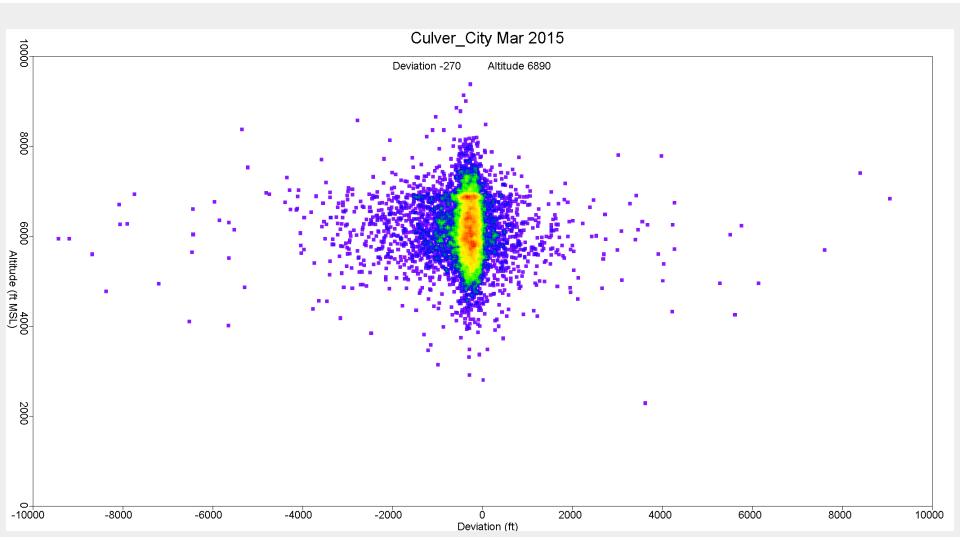


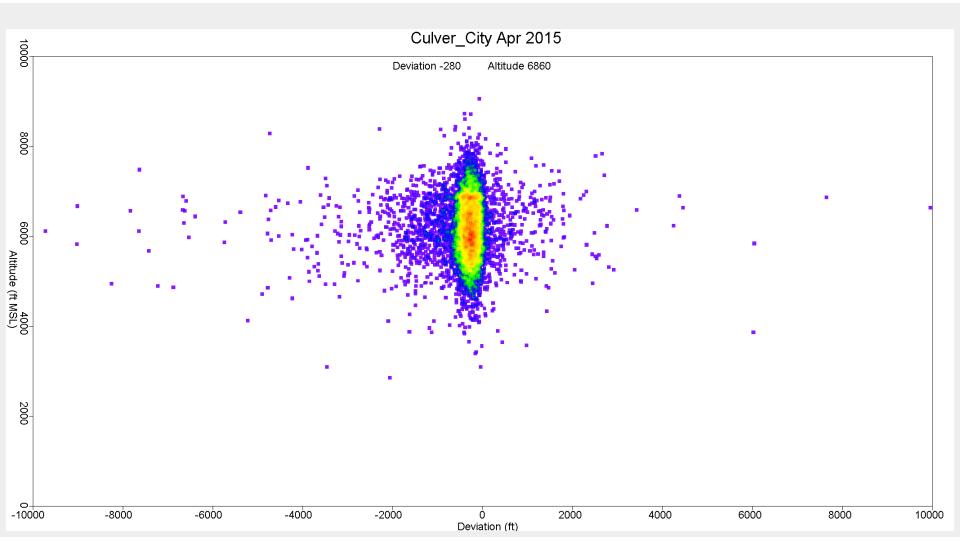


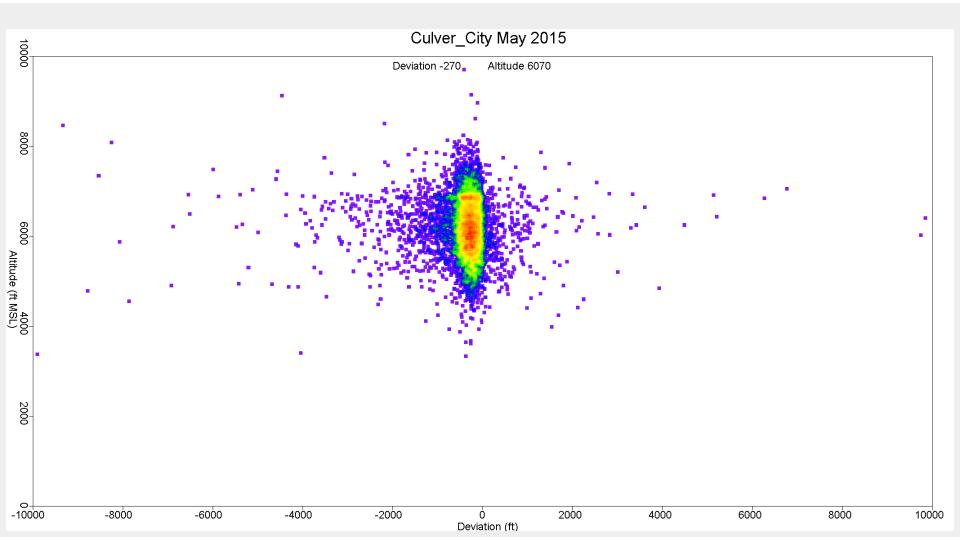


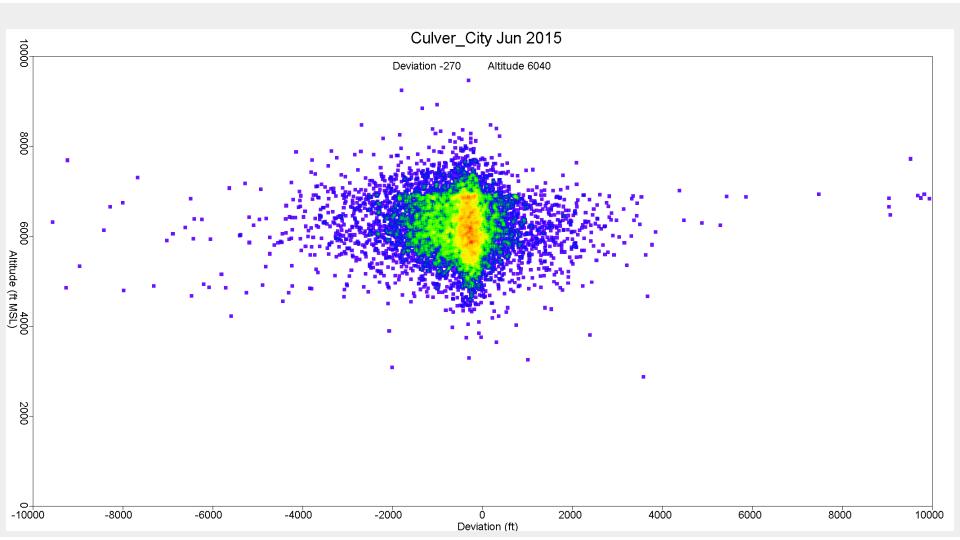


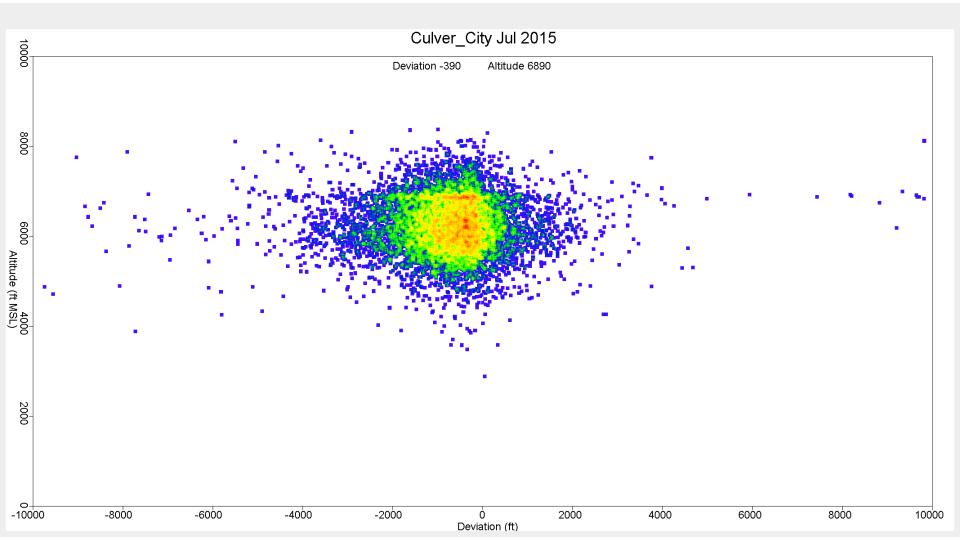


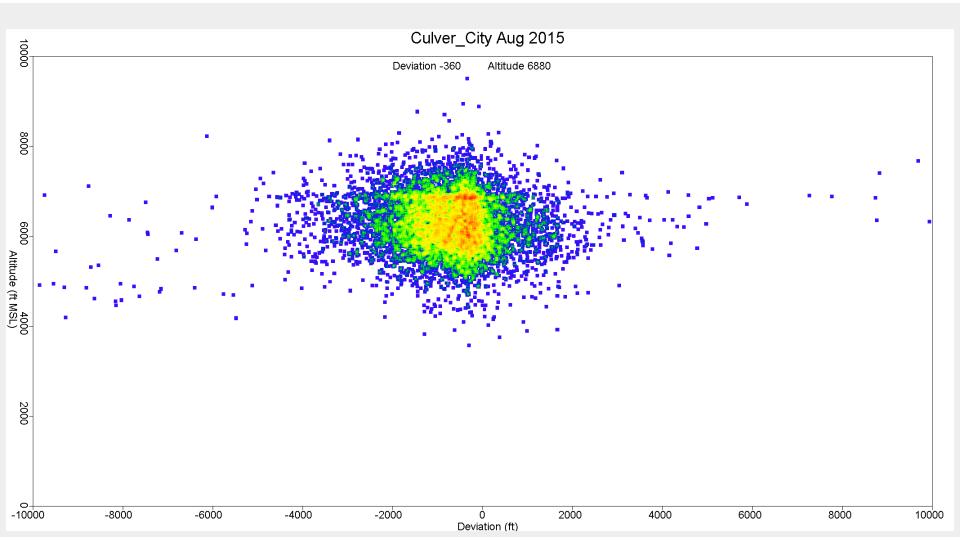


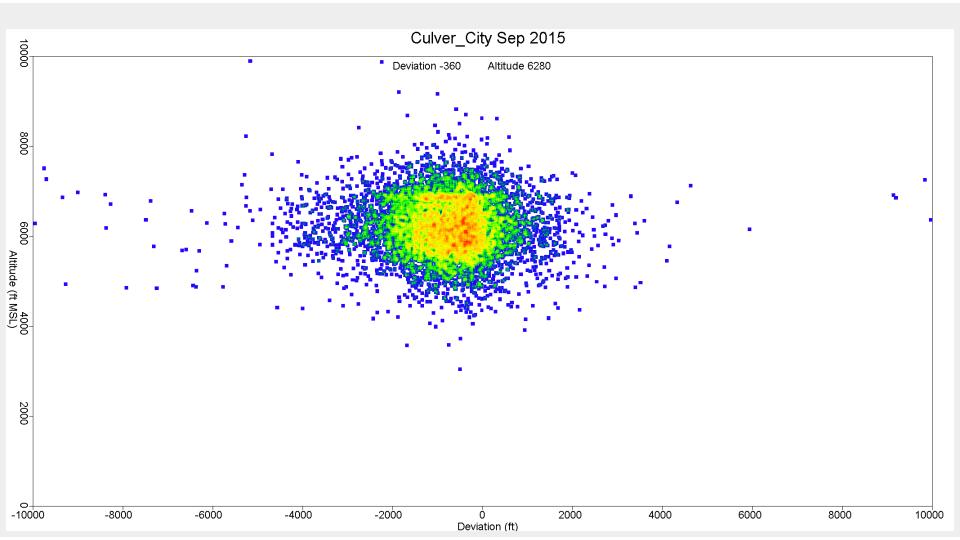


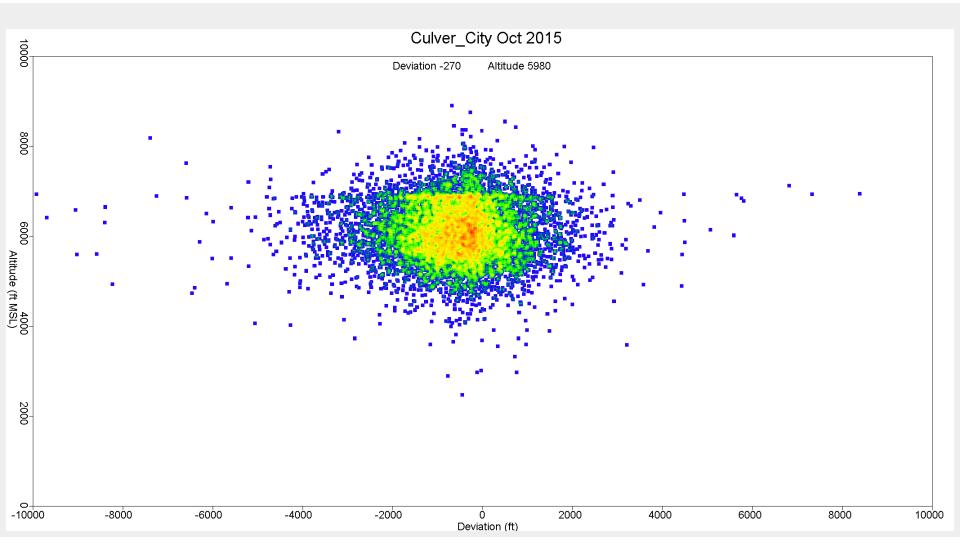


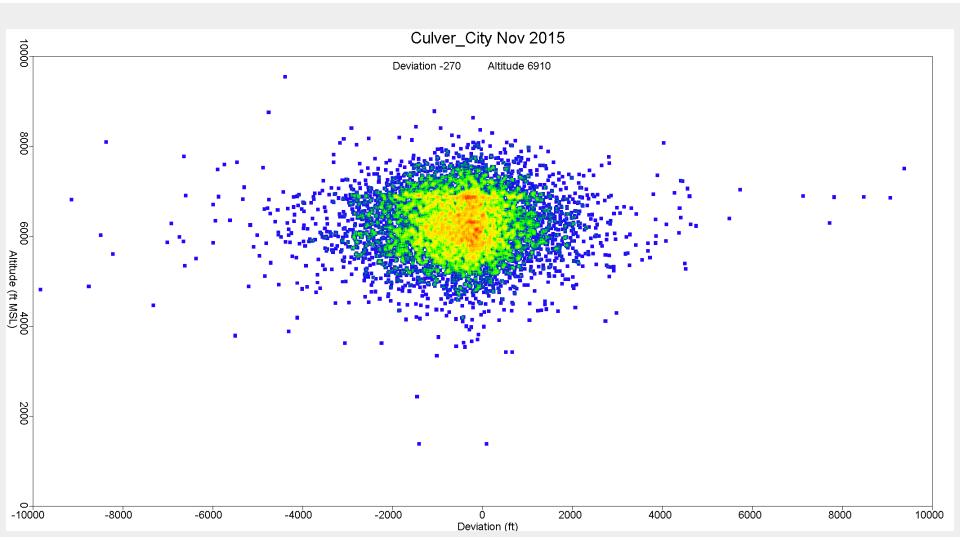


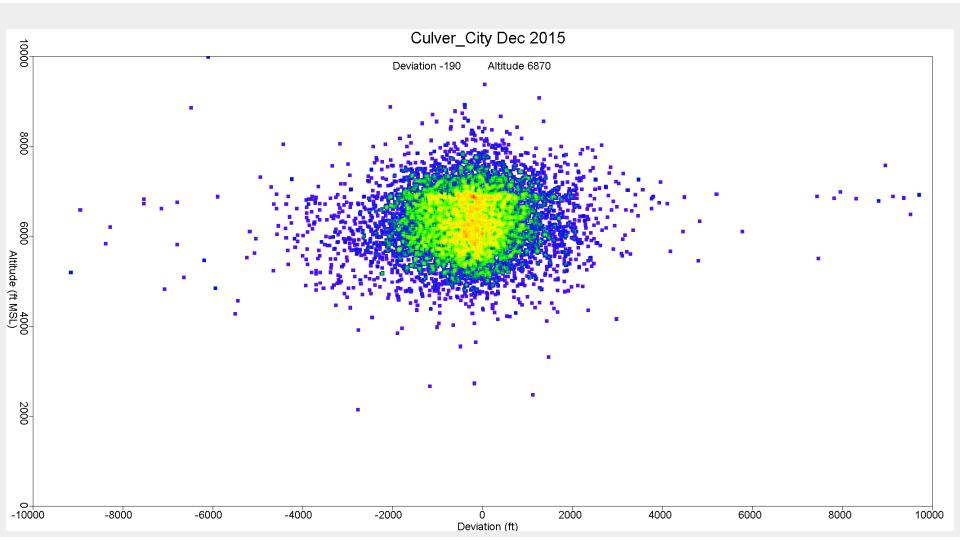


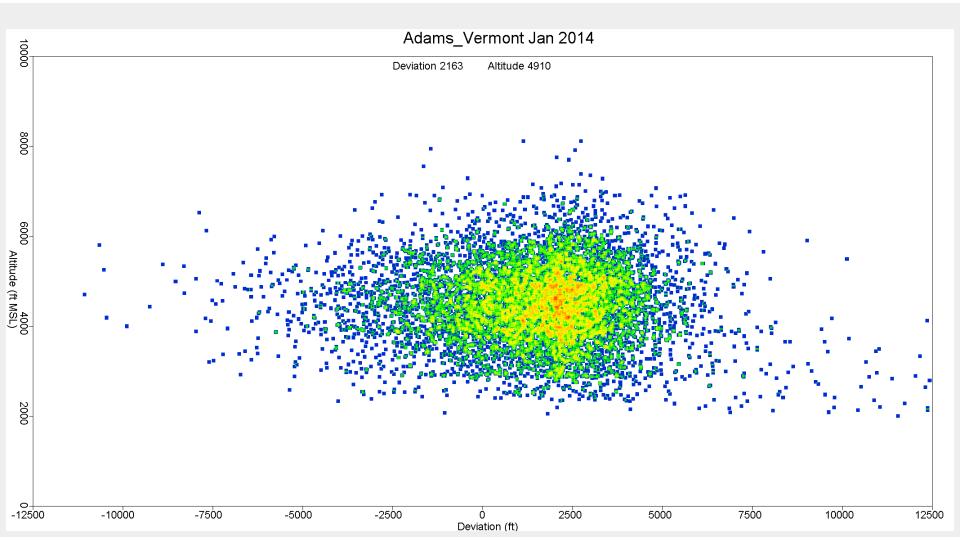


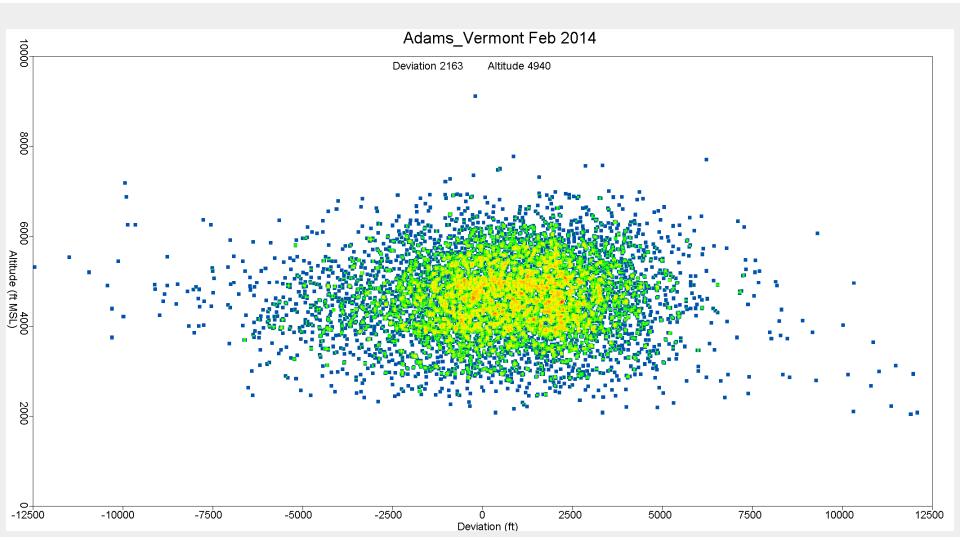


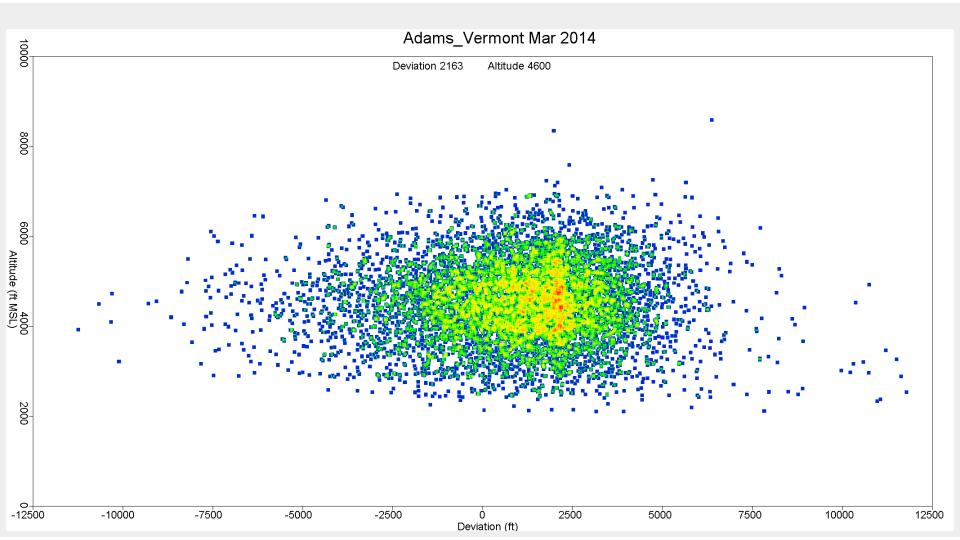


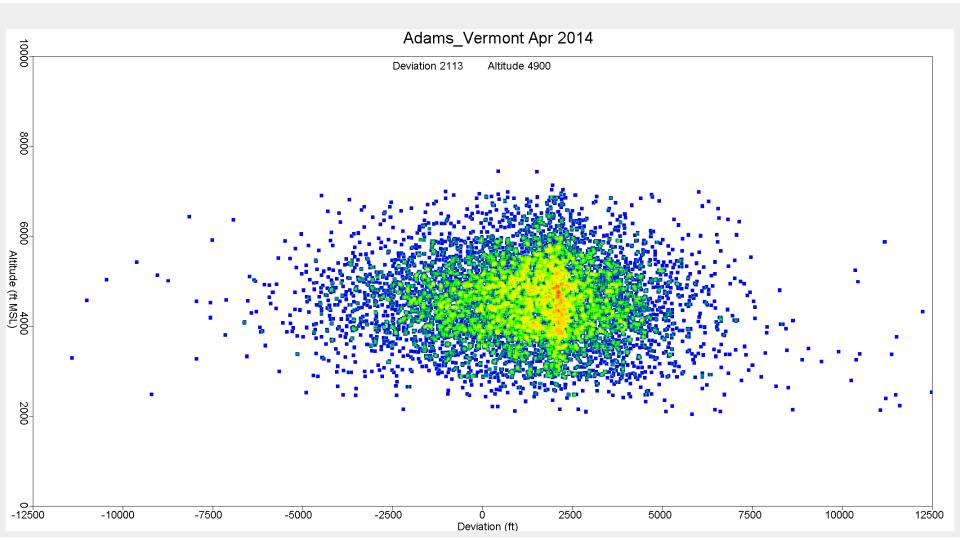


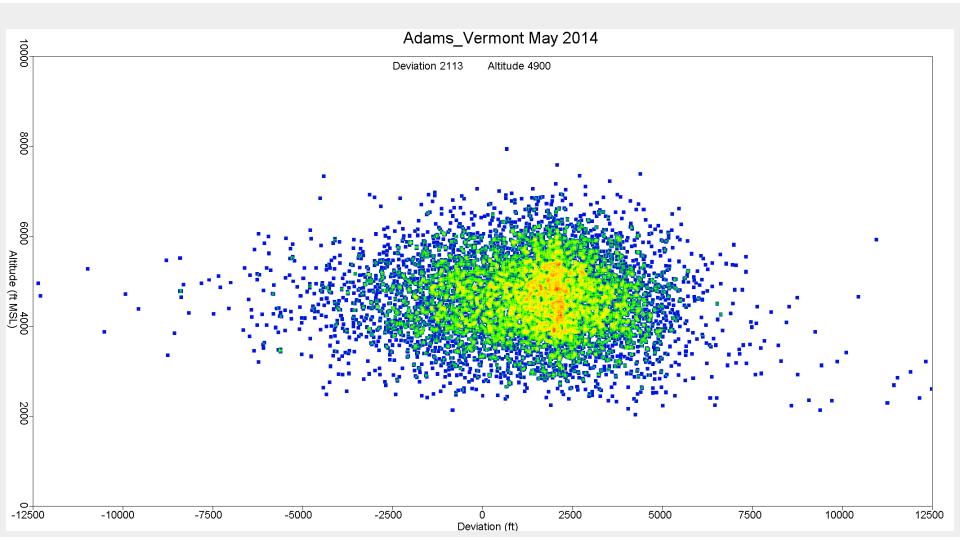


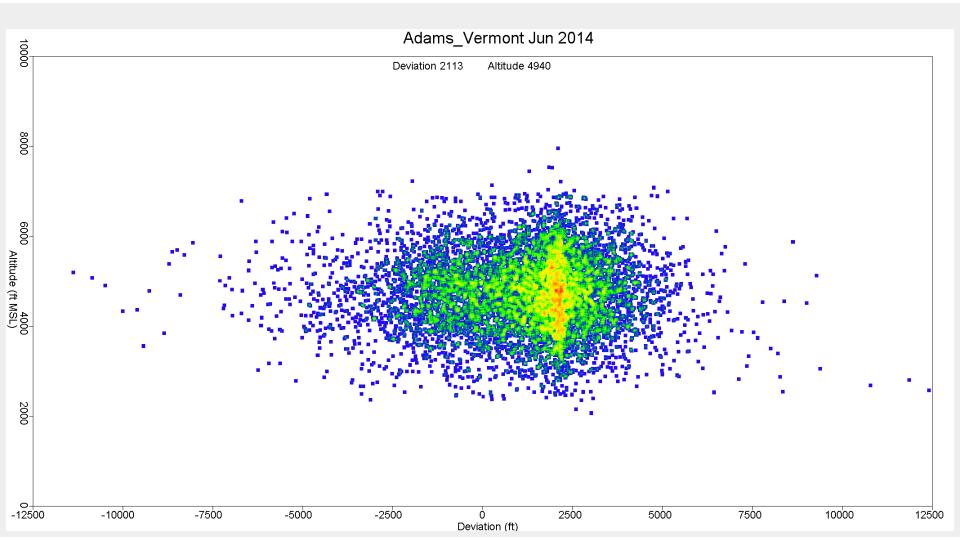


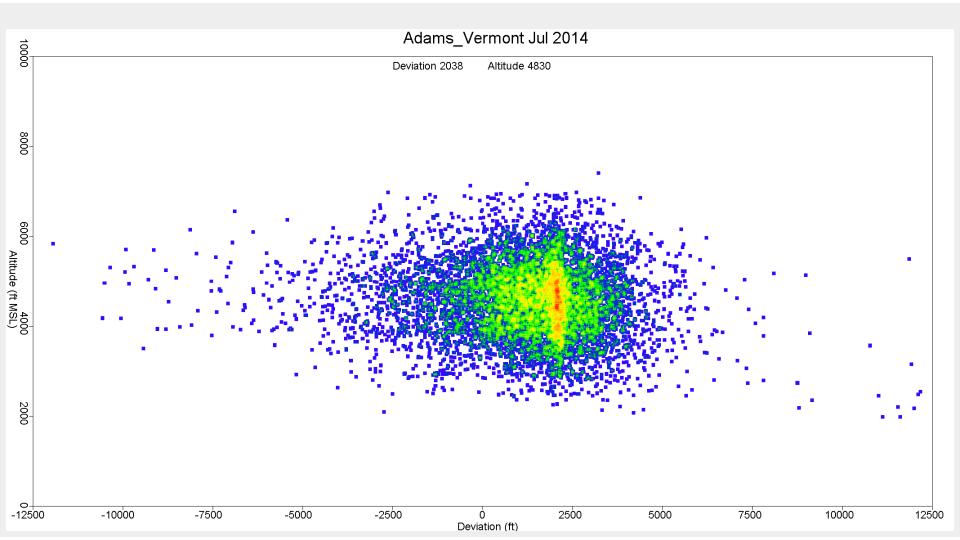


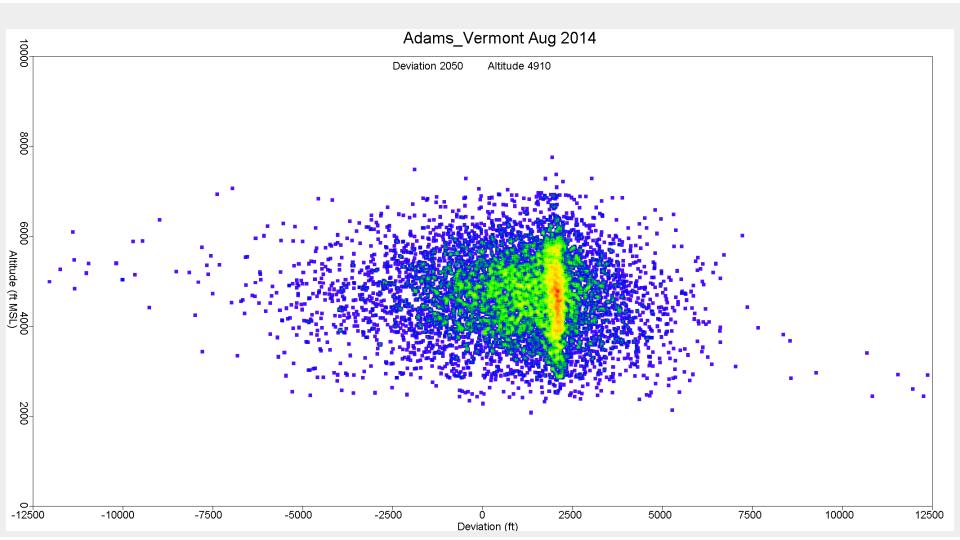


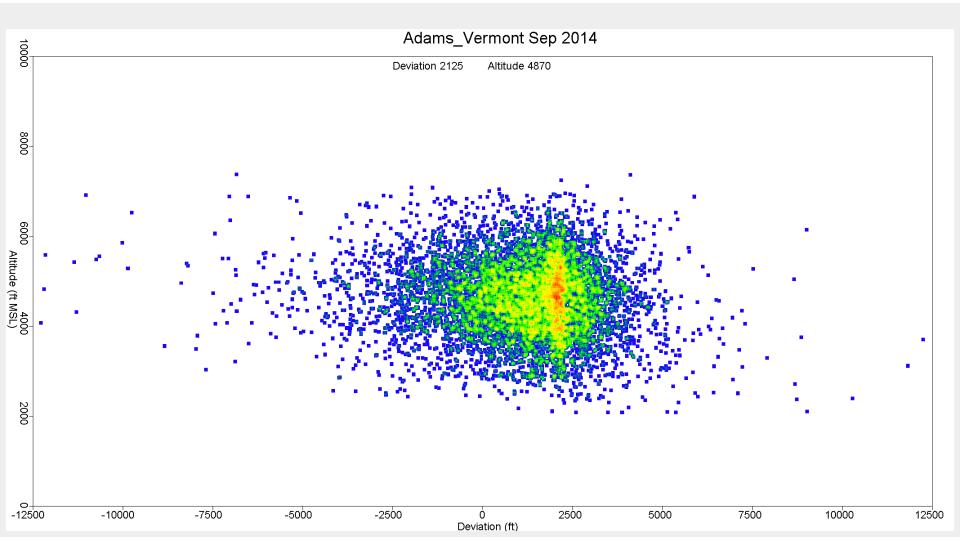


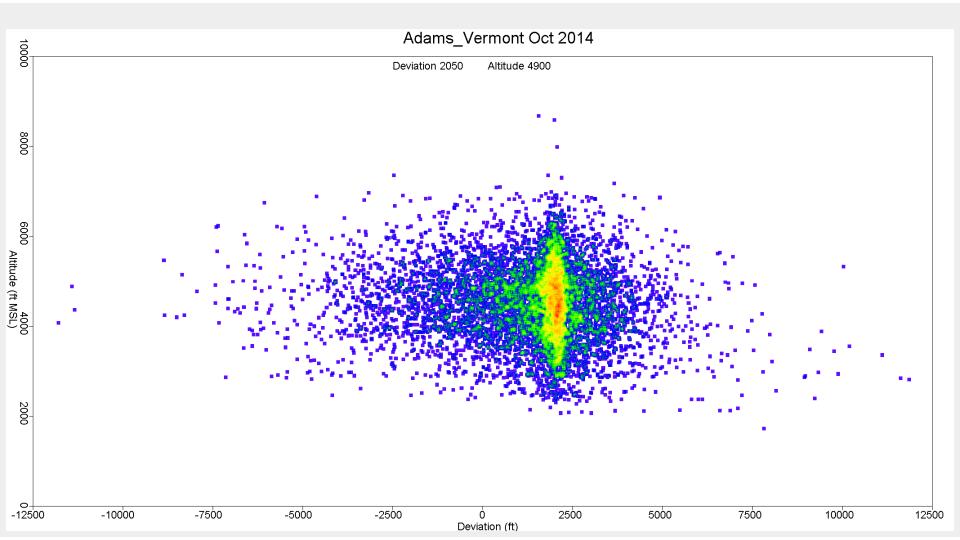


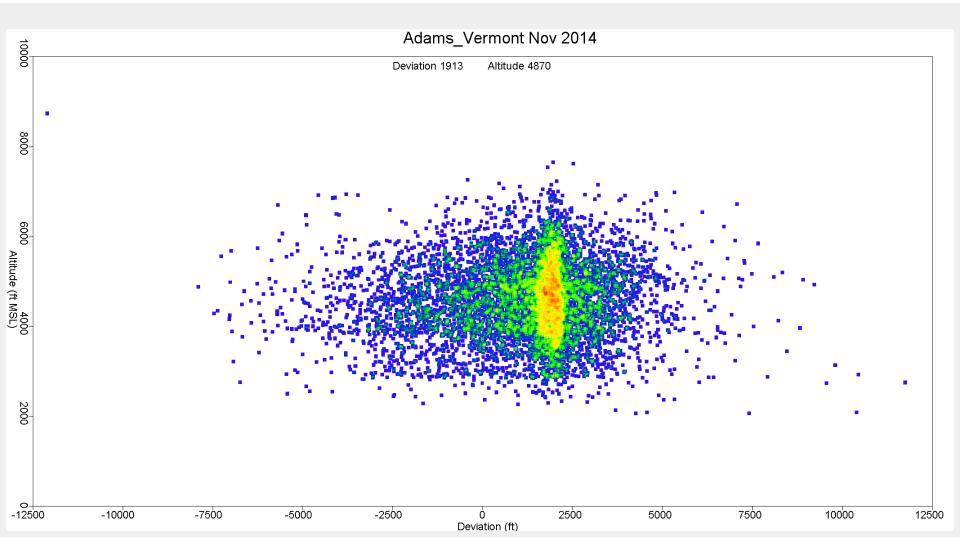


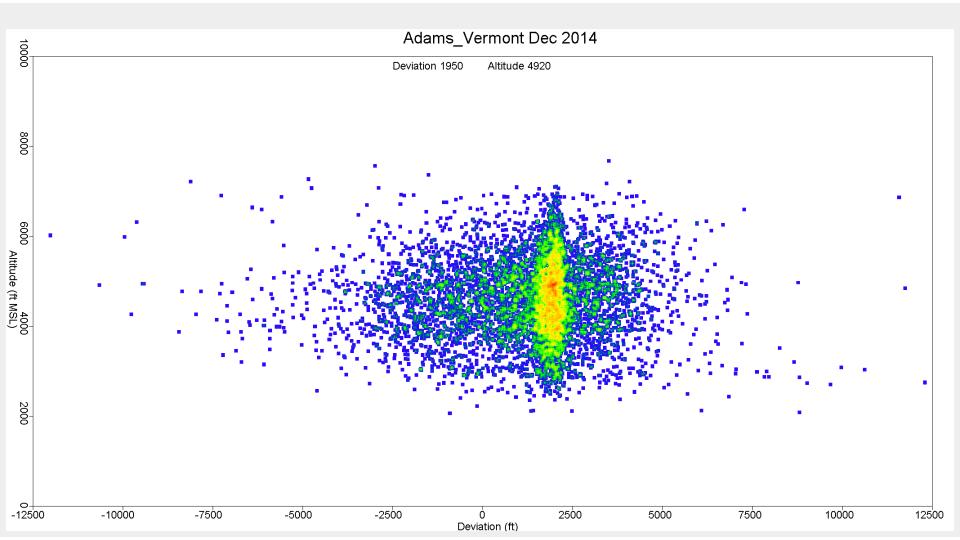


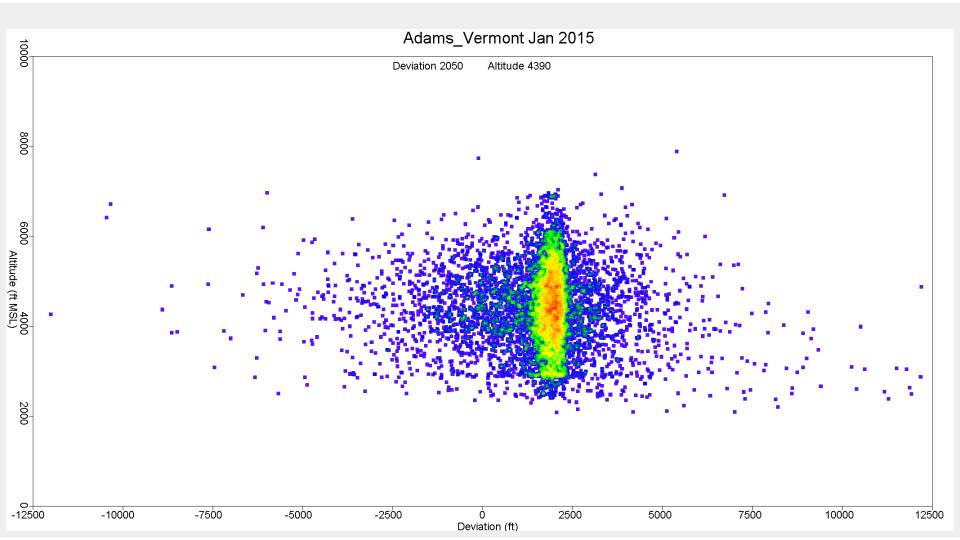


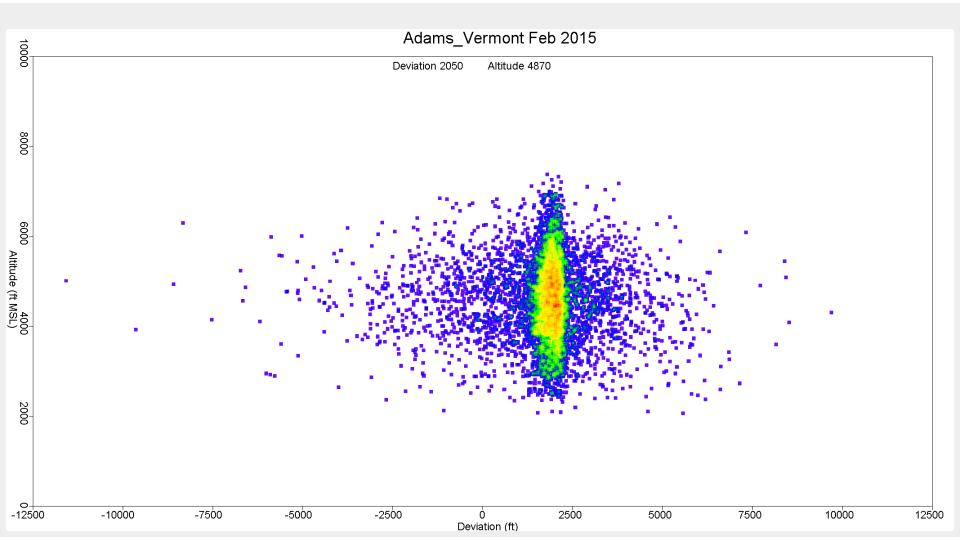


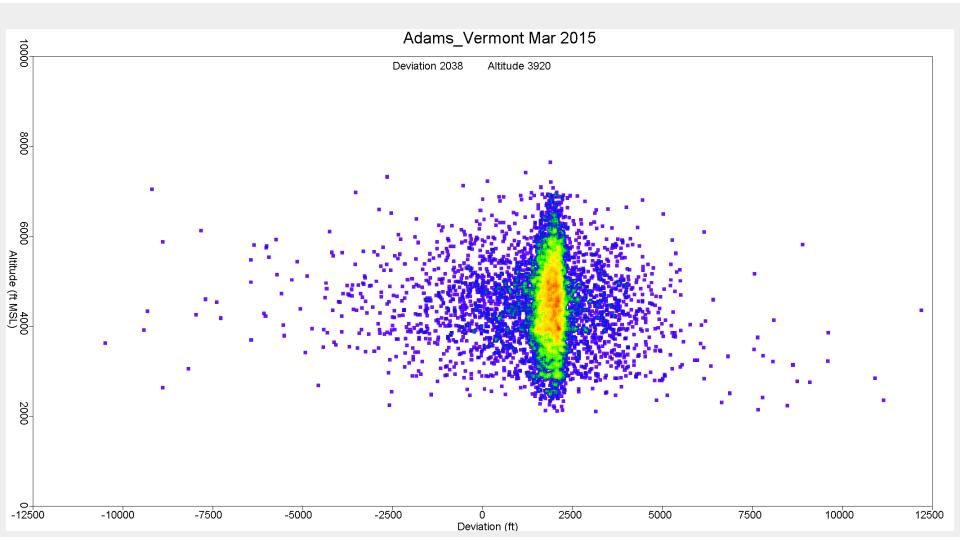


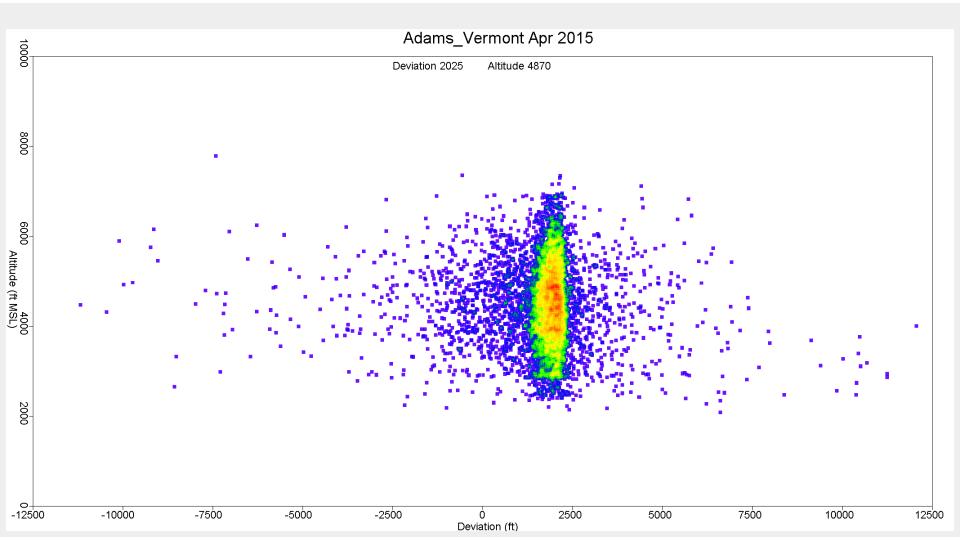


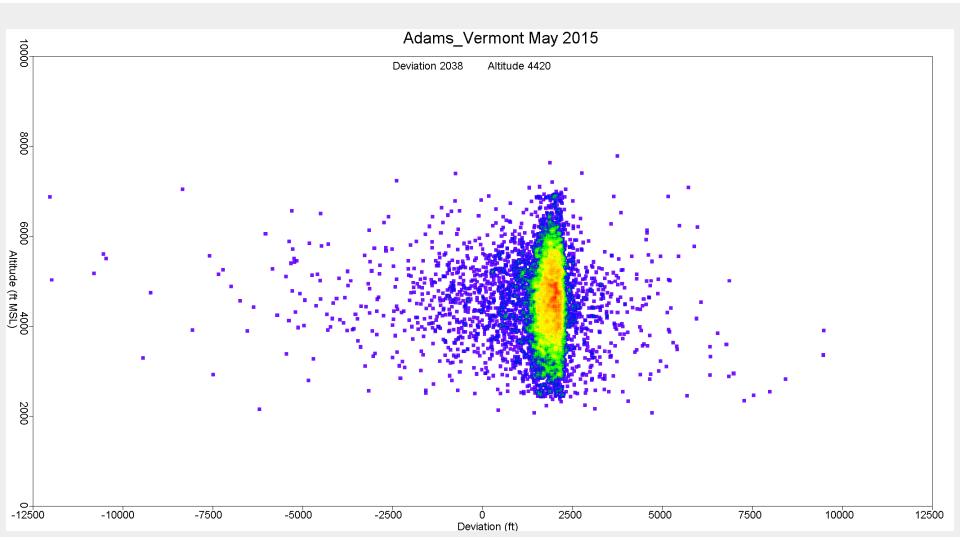


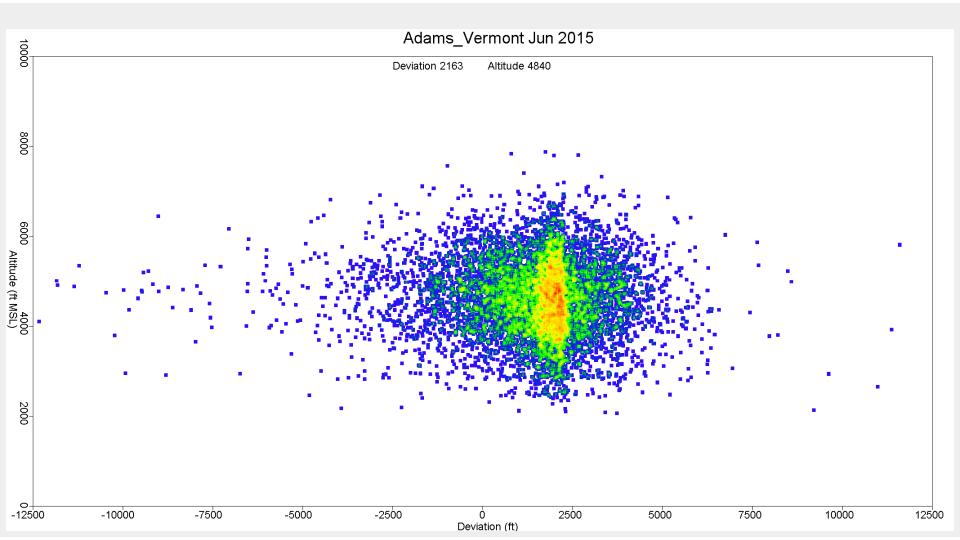


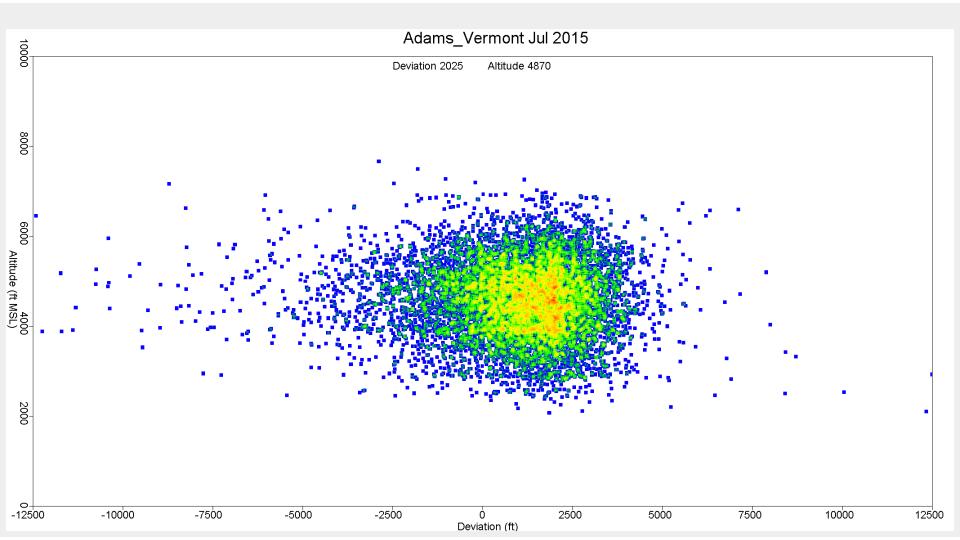


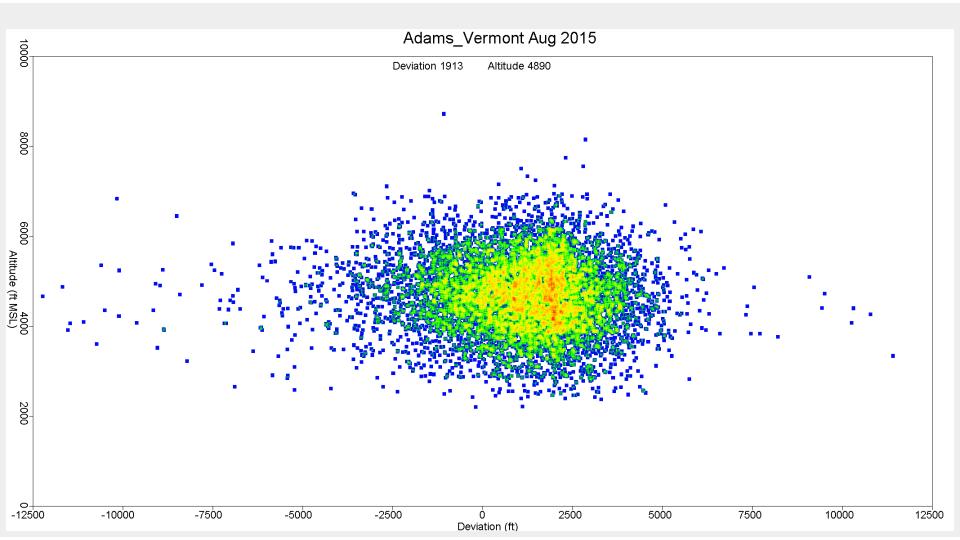


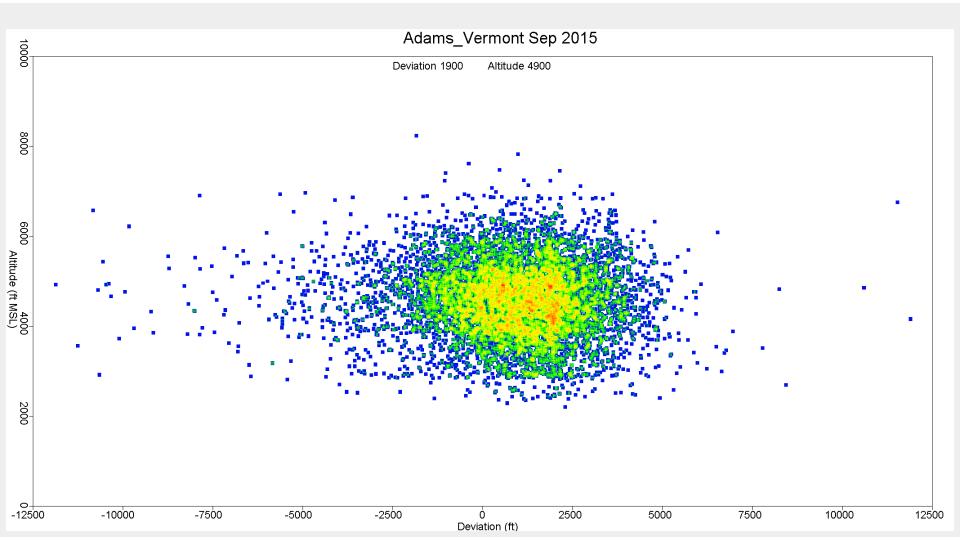


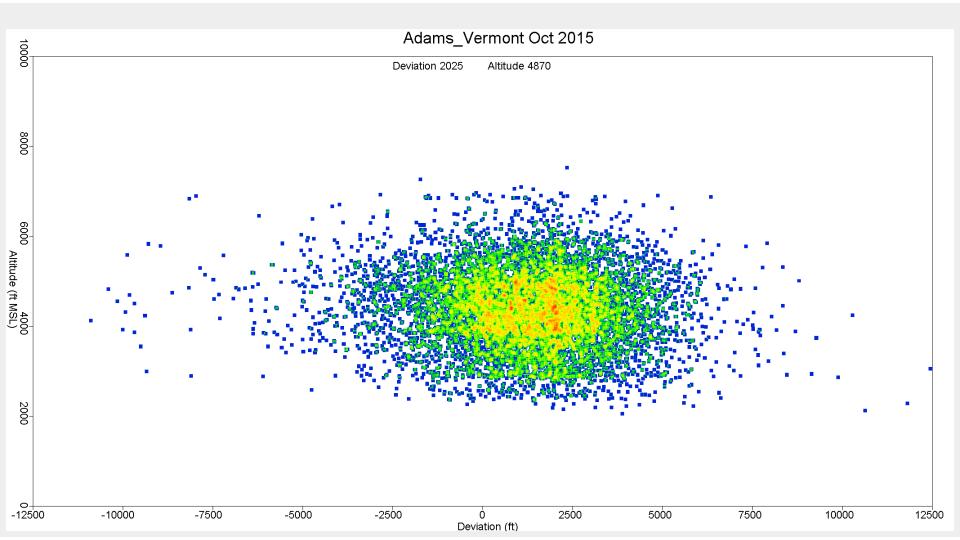


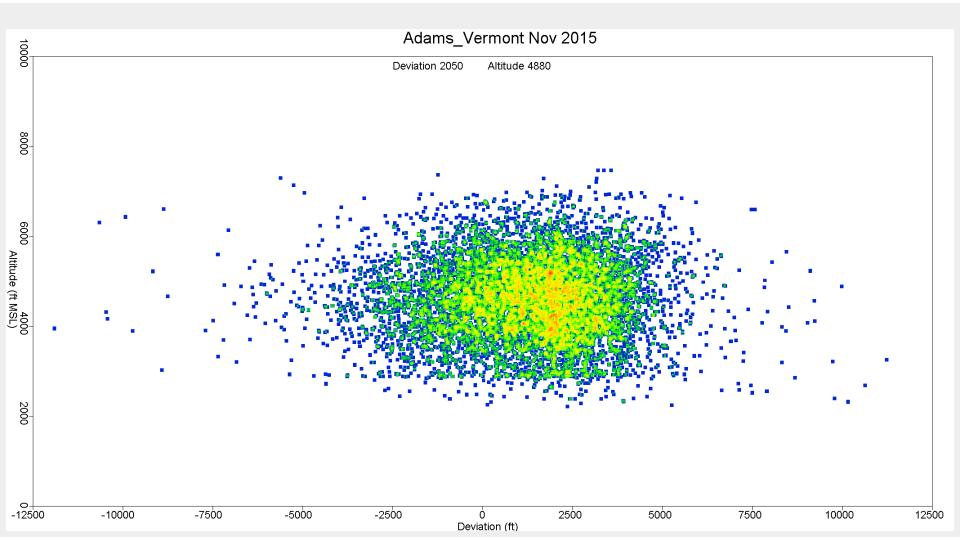


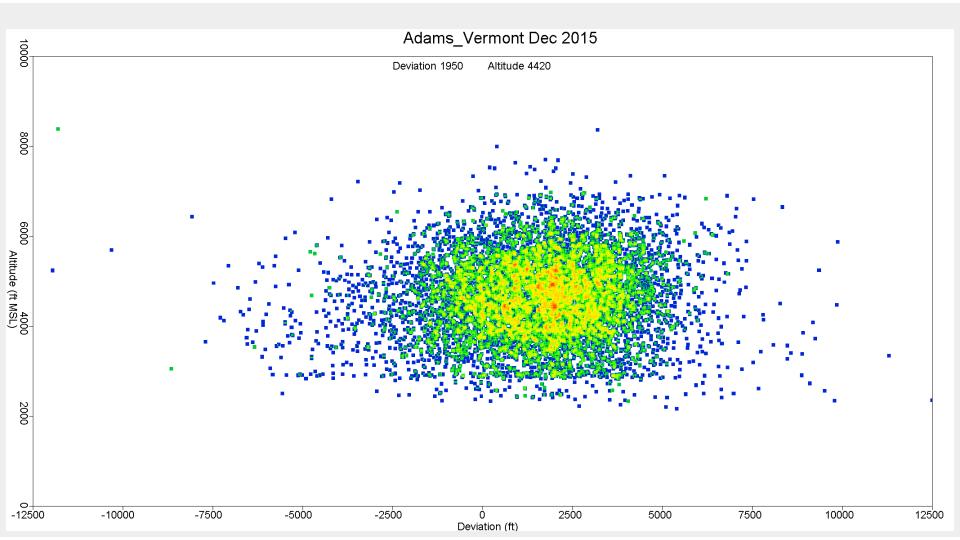






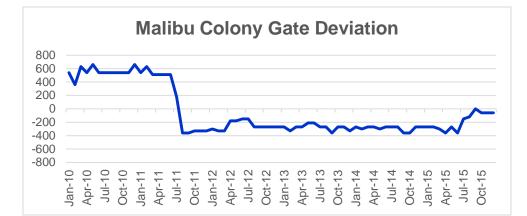




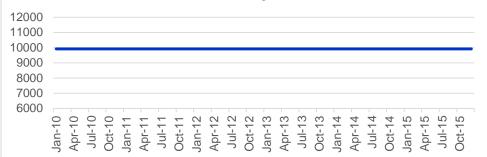




- For each altitude distribution graph, a histogram was created for the range of altitudes and relative gate location for each month for each gate
- The histogram peak altitude depicts where the most concentrated altitudes occurred, while the histogram deviation plot indicates changes in gate crossing locations
- These values were compared on a month-to-month basis for each gate to determine whether any changes occurred over the six-year period
- Two changes in the nominal location of flight tracks were revealed
 - One west of the SMO VOR in approximately July 2011
 - One east of the of the SMO VOR in approximately June of 2014



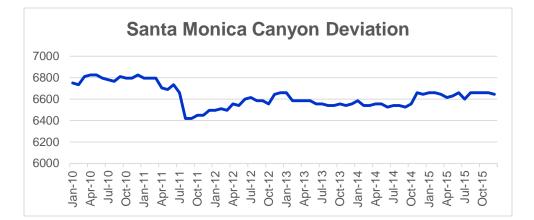
Malibu Colony Altitude



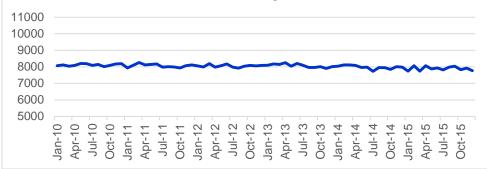
 The gate deviation graph reflects a change in gate crossing location in approximately July 2011

• The altitude graph reflects a consistent histogram peak altitudes throughout the six-year study period

Source: HMMH 2016



Santa Monica Canyon Altitude

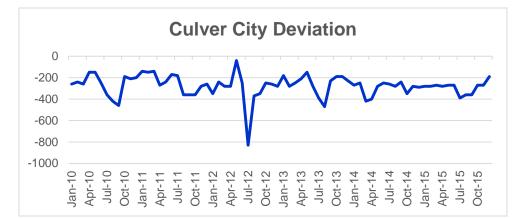


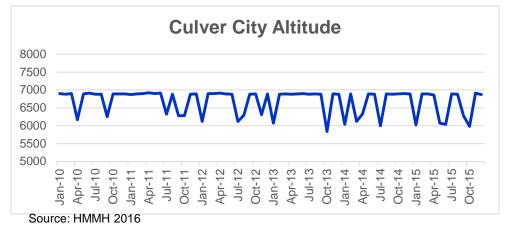
 The gate deviation graph reflects a change in gate crossing location in approximately July 2011

• The altitude graph reflects a consistent histogram peak altitudes throughout the six-year study period

Source: HMMH 2016



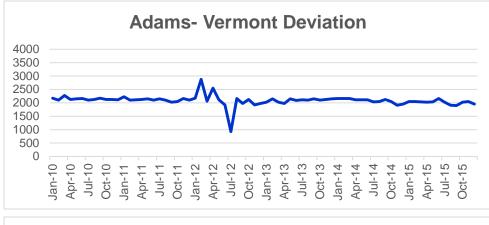


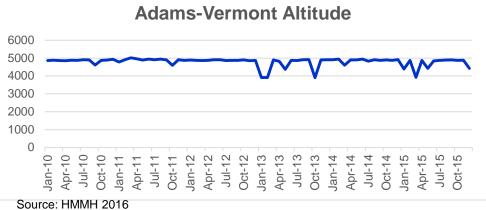


 The gate deviation graph reflects changes in gate crossing locations from April through October 2012

The altitude graph reflects

 a range from approximately
 6,900 feet to 6,000 feet
 over the six-year study
 period





 The gate deviation graph reflects a couple of changes in gate crossing locations from January through August 2012

The altitude graph reflects

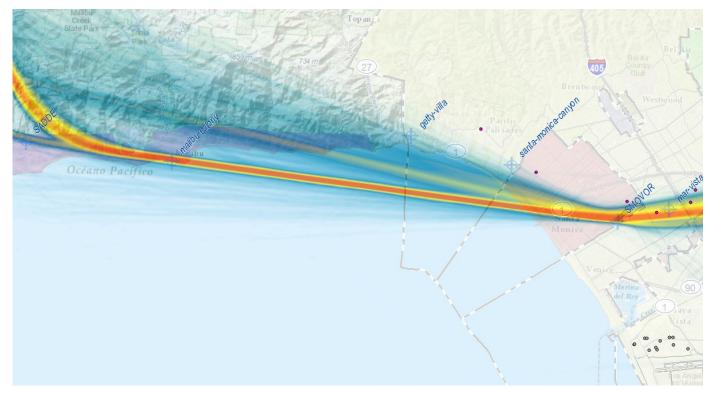
 a range from approximately
 4,900 feet to 3,900 feet
 over the six-year study
 period





- To examine whether there was a correlation between the changes in aircraft flight tracks and noise complaints, LAWA staff plotted noise complainant locations over representative flight tracks
- The complainant locations were grouped into four six-month periods during 2014 and 2015
- For clarity, the complainant distribution plots are presented in two groups:
 - One for the areas to the west of the SMO VOR
 - One for the areas east of the SMO VOR



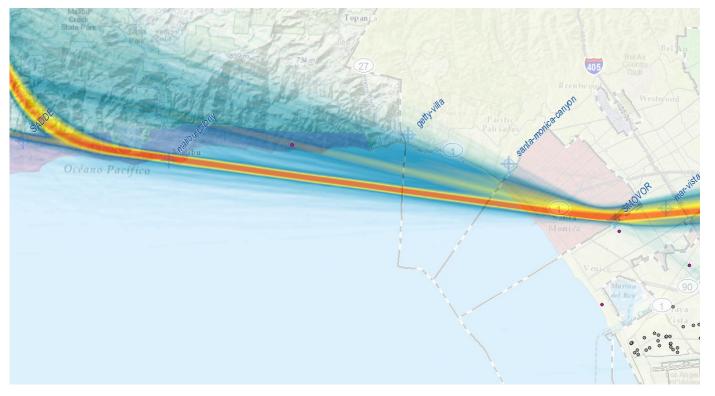


Complainant Data: January – June 2014

Flight Track Data: April 2014

• Complainant Location



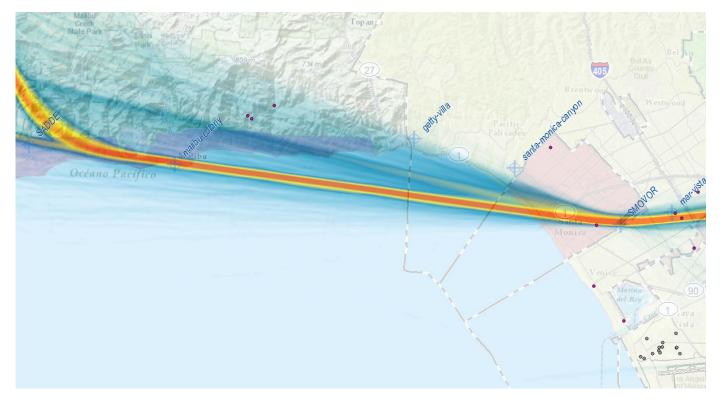


Complainant Data: July – December 2014

Flight Track Data: October 2014

• Complainant Location



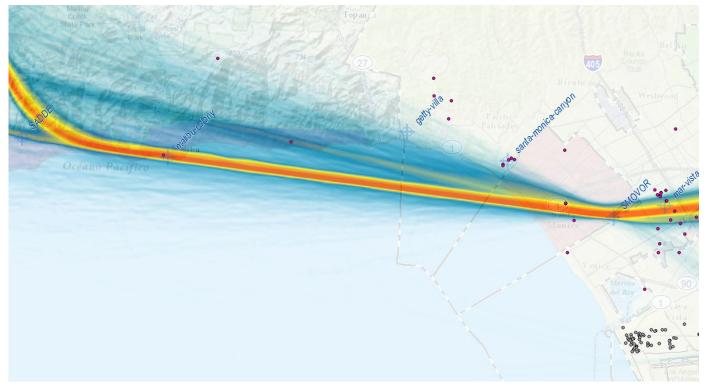


Complainant Data: January – June 2015

Flight Track Data: April 2015

• Complainant Location



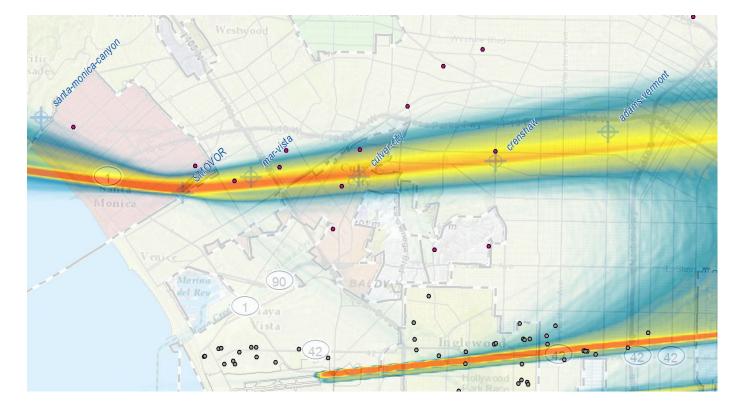


Complainant Data: July – December 2015

Flight Track Data: October 2015

• Complainant Location



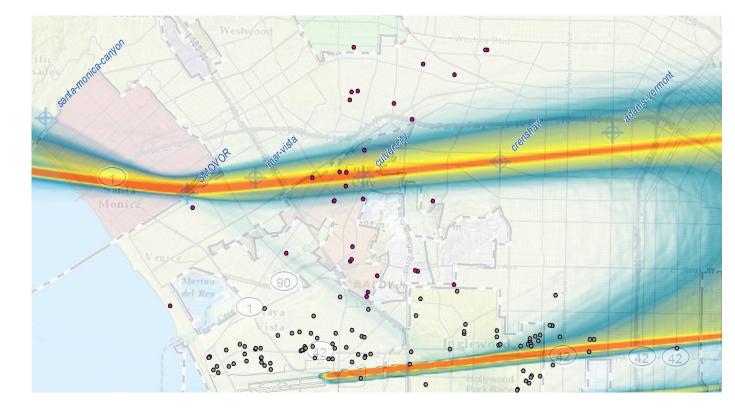


Complainant Data: January – June 2014

Flight Track Data: April 2014

• Complainant Location



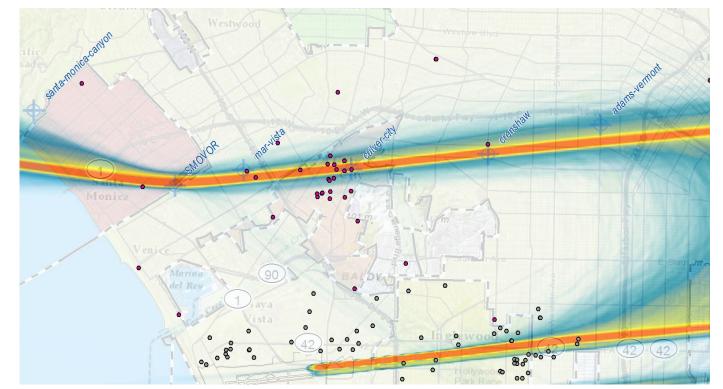


Complainant Data: July – December 2014

Flight Track Data: October 2014

• Complainant Location



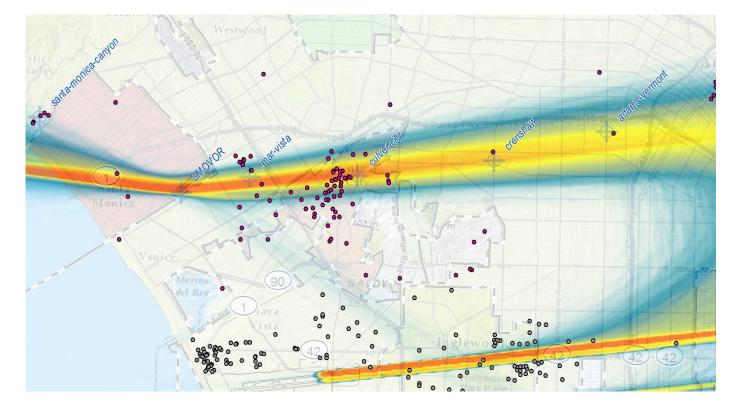


Complainant Data: January – June 2015

Flight Track Data: April 2015

• Complainant Location





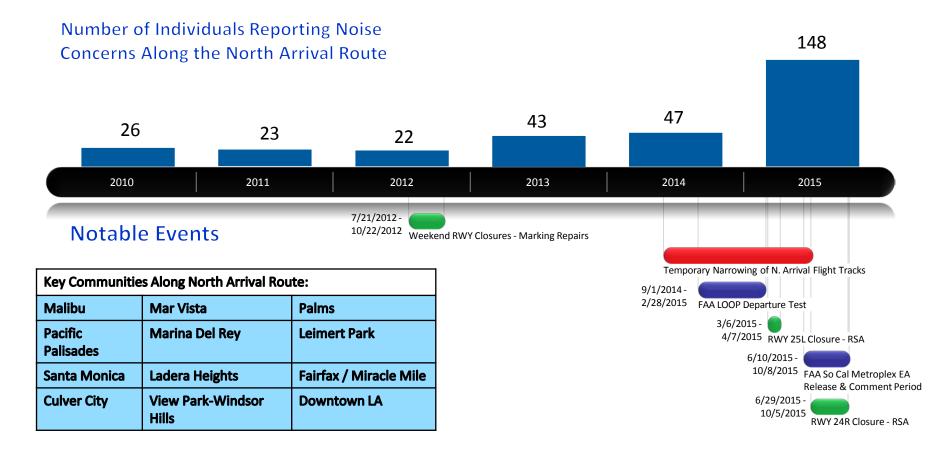
Complainant Data: July – December 2015

Flight Track Data: October 2015

• Complainant Location

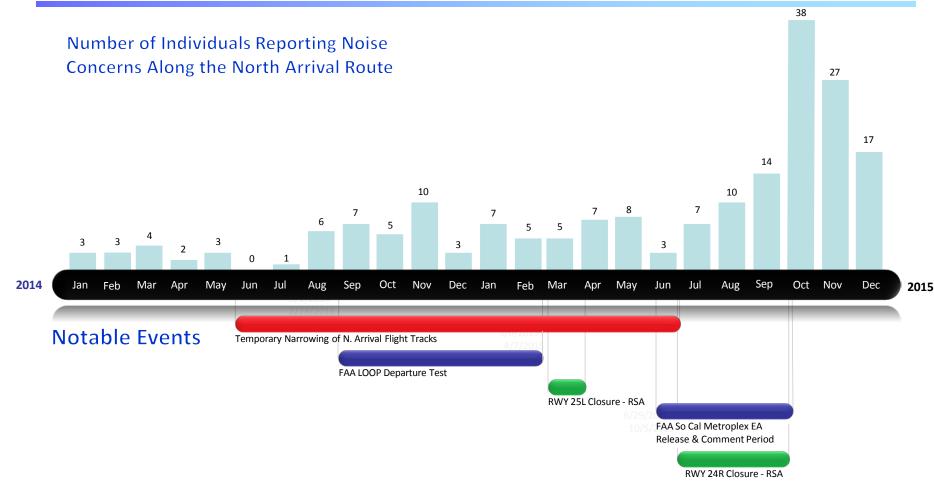
Study Results – Timeline 2010 - 2015





Study Results – Timeline 2014 - 2015





Summary



- Increases in Operations from 2010 to 2015 22%
 - All aircraft types except non-jet aircraft
- Changing Fleet
 - More regional jets
 - Ten-fold increase in New Large Aircraft (A380 and B748)
 - Large two-engine aircraft (B777 and B787) replacing large four-engine aircraft (B747)
 - Fewer non-jet aircraft
- SEL "trends" reflect the changing fleet mix within each category
- Altitudes and slant distances remain largely unchanged

Summary



- Noticeable temporary change in flight track density from Summer 2014 through Summer 2015 in Mar Vista, Culver City, Crenshaw, and Adams-Vermont gates
- Slight change in the flight track centroid at Malibu-Colony, Santa Monica Canyon, and Getty Villa gates in July of 2011
- Various events have resulted in increased awareness of the traffic flow, and resulted in increasing numbers on individuals submitting complaints, but there is no one explanation for this increase

Questions



Thank you for your attention!