

Adventurers! Please join me today for Part-2 of my north-adventure, **Yreka!**

Passing through beautiful springtime northern California...



...look at the clarity of these mountain streams...



My goal is to travel from Vancouver WA, south to Yreka CA, to where my glider is located. Here's the route...

[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s\\_d&saddr=vancouver+wa&daddr=Yreka,+CA&geocode=FUhkuAldkIWw-Cn5FFnIY6-VVDHz45EsEdVWhA%3BFvUfAldGb-w-CmDOtLQIxTOVDFdQCwzZkC7xA&hl=en&mra=ls&sl=43.22191,-123.429805&sspn=8.484223,19.02832&ie=UTF8&ll=43.834527,-121.92627&spn=4.200129,9.51416&t=p&z=7](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=vancouver+wa&daddr=Yreka,+CA&geocode=FUhkuAldkIWw-Cn5FFnIY6-VVDHz45EsEdVWhA%3BFvUfAldGb-w-CmDOtLQIxTOVDFdQCwzZkC7xA&hl=en&mra=ls&sl=43.22191,-123.429805&sspn=8.484223,19.02832&ie=UTF8&ll=43.834527,-121.92627&spn=4.200129,9.51416&t=p&z=7)

My glider needs a transponder, a transmitter that talks to “air traffic control” and tells

the airliners that a glider (me) is in the sky. How transponders work...

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transponder#Aviation>

First stop... Gas at the CA-line... Met by a tulip farm!



...incredible terrain leading to the airport...



The weather has turned bleak, my 4wd Dodge pickup truck (and my KTM collector-bike) are below and...



...take me to my destination. A beautiful hangar owned by a terrific fellow whose name is **Dean**. Originally, the plan was to work on my glider outside if necessary, but it is pouring-down rain. Dean's hangar saved us!



Beautiful! This hangar is at the Siskiyou County airport...

[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s\\_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=Siskiyou+County+Airport,+Montague,+CA&sl=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=36.863178,76.113281&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Siskiyou+County+Airport,+Montague,+Siskiyou,+California+96064&ll=41.781041,-122.529488&spn=0.135688,0.297318&t=h&z=12](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=Siskiyou+County+Airport,+Montague,+CA&sl=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=36.863178,76.113281&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Siskiyou+County+Airport,+Montague,+Siskiyou,+California+96064&ll=41.781041,-122.529488&spn=0.135688,0.297318&t=h&z=12)

Below, the interior of my glider trailer, showing the wings inside...



...and my glider fuselage, on its' roll-out dolly, in Dean's hangar...



In the background is Deans amazing glider-fleet. Below my glider (front cockpit) in its original configuration...



At the bottom of the above pic (on the floor!) is the old radio, a soviet-era (1970's technology) 3-channel radio. This was a discovery that horrified us, as this radio will not "do the job" in Reno airspace (where lies my home gliderport, Soar Truckee).

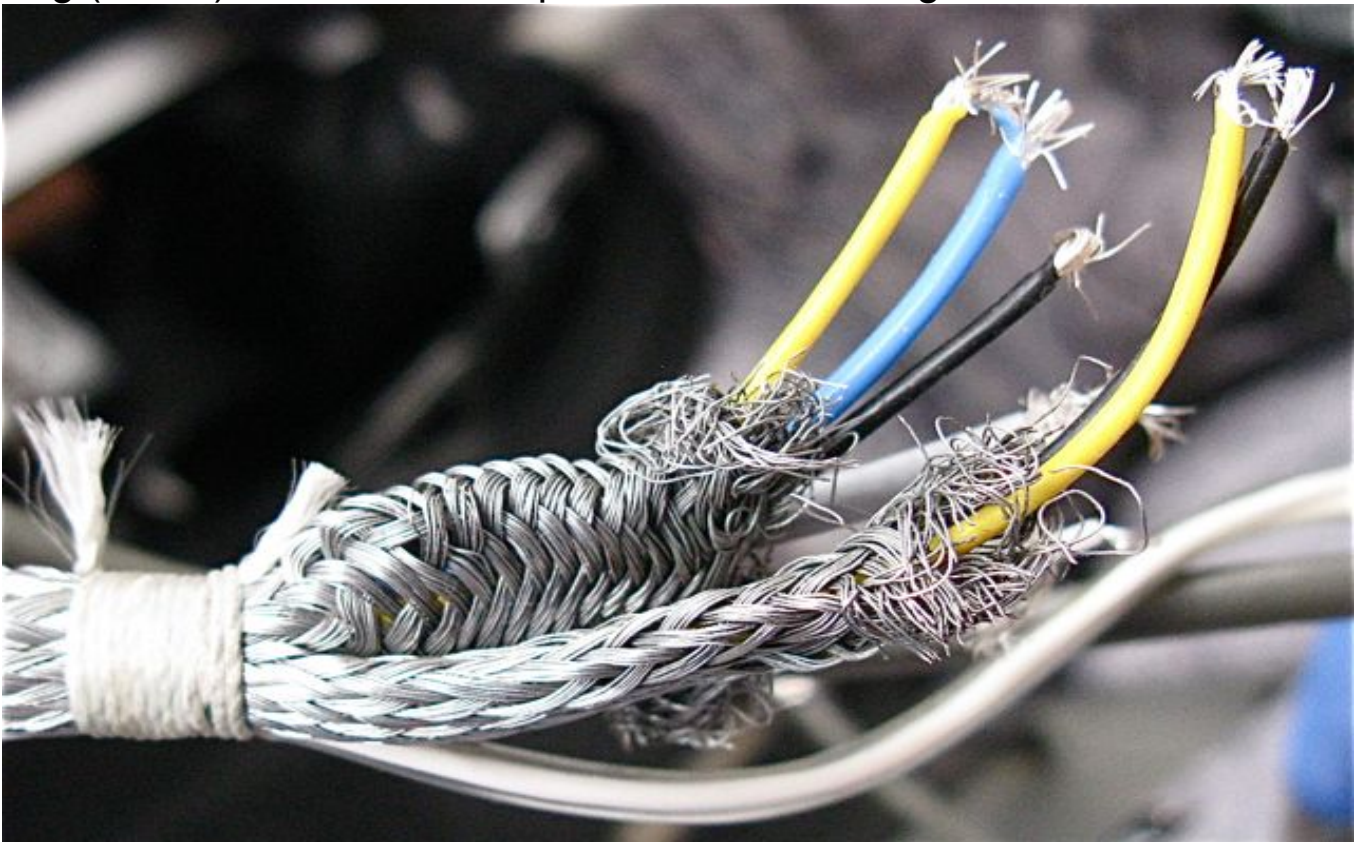


Day-1: Chilly in the hangar! We shall prevail!

Below: Close-up of the old radio. Not to be scrapped, it will live forever as “base station” in my kitchen!



Old wiring (below) needed to be replaced. A new “wiring loom” needed to be built...



The avionics-technician in charge of the upgrade-task is Richard of Craggy Aero...

<http://www.craggyaero.com/>

...and below is a pictorial of Richards many services...












# Craggy Aero



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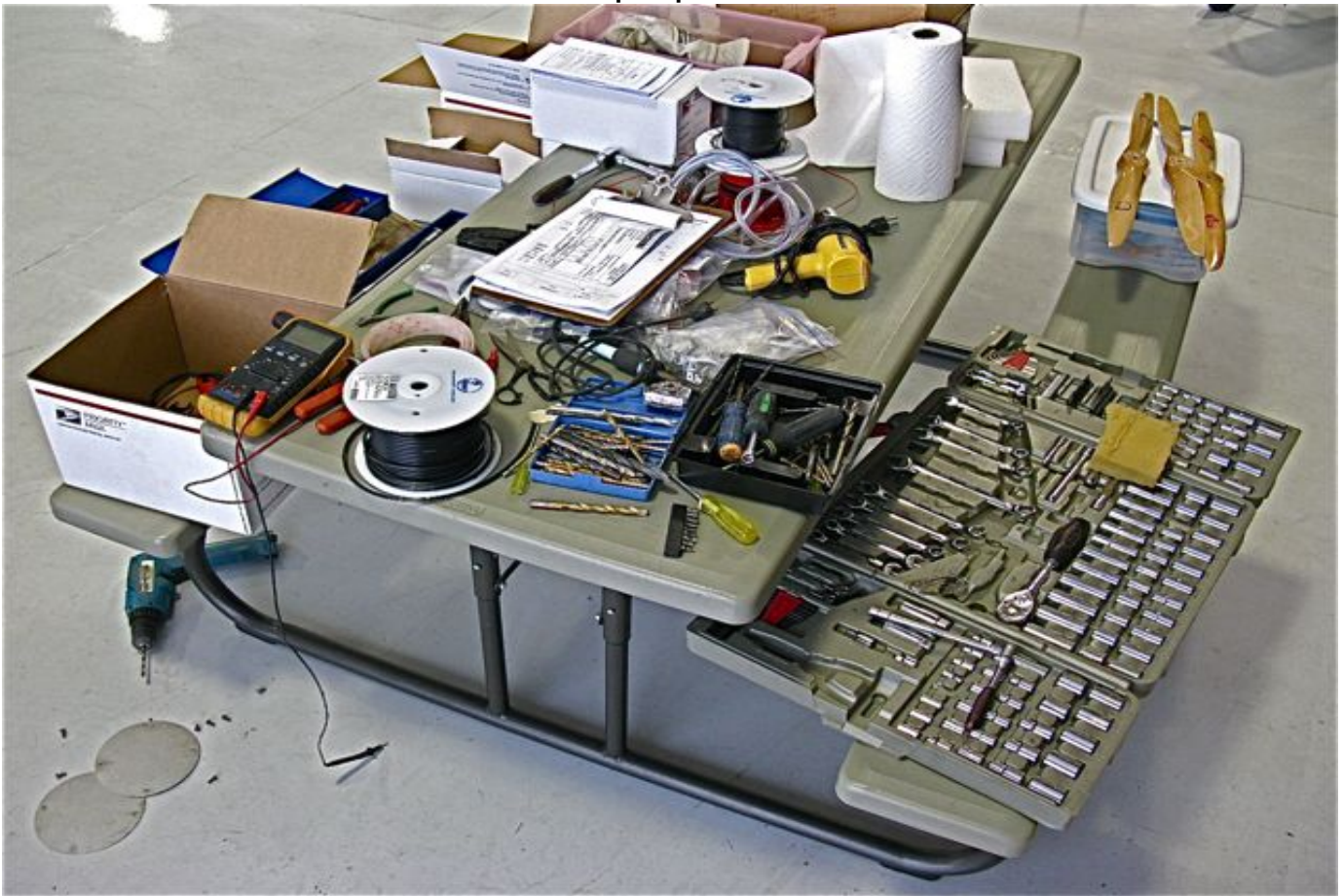
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<p><b>Borgelt Instruments</b></p>	<p><b>Naviter</b></p>	<p><b>WinPilot</b></p>	<p><b>Installation Supplies</b></p> <p><b>Gap Seals</b></p> <p><b>Tape</b></p>	<p><b>VHF Transceivers</b></p> <p><b>Transponders,</b></p> <p><b>Headsets</b></p>

			<b>Electrical , Wax</b>	<b>Antennas</b>
 <p><b>B400VE &amp; B500 VE</b></p> <p><i>Special Pricing B2000</i></p>	 <p><b>Oudie PNA</b></p>  	 <p><b>PRO, ADV, VFR, 3D, PNA</b></p>  	 	 <p><b>MicroAir</b></p>   <p><b>VHF Transceivers Transponders</b></p> <p><i>Special Pricing Microair</i></p>
<p><b>LX Navigation Colibri LX166 LX7007 PRO IGC LX8000</b></p>	<p><b>Connection Kits &amp; PDA Cradles Cables &amp; Power Converters</b></p>	<p><b>Used Equipment</b></p>	<p><b>Handheld Tranceivers &amp; Basestations</b></p>	<p><b>MGL Avionics</b></p>
 <p><b>LX 8000</b></p>   <p><b>LX166</b></p>	 	 	  	 
<p><b>ELT &amp; PLB</b></p>	<p><b>Instruments</b></p>	<p><b>Safety Harness</b></p>	<p><b>PDA Handhelds</b></p>	<p><b>Parachutes by Para-Pernalia</b></p>

Pretty awesome eh? Richard was well-prepared for the task....



Take it from me: Richard needed every tool to complete my task!  
Here I am in the biggie front-cockpit...



...and the not-so-biggie rear cockpit...



The wonderful flying qualities come from the massive airfoil...



Lunch break! Oops! No food-pic! But this is small-town-America, no “burger-chains” here! Food = awesome!

And so was the “lunch scenery”. I'd seen the below antique-car out at the airport, under a plastic tarp. The sun came out, and here it is...



Mission complete! Below, note my new transponder (lower right) and new 720-channel radio (upper center).



Wow! Get this...

Since my glider has the proper radio and transponder, and a battery-powered “Turn & Bank” indicator (below)...



...I can fly “on instruments” where the big-boys fly! That's right, LAX, JFK, and (if I get enough lift as I am, after all, a glider) Hong Kong & Paris. Impressive!

Dean keeps his “secret hi-tech” gliders “under wraps”.



I peeked. Wow. I have never seen technology like this, even though (for years) I worked on the B-2 Stealth Bomber during my career with Northrop Grumman Corp.



Departing, past the memorial to the cowboys who created the west...



My oxygen system is ordered. Therefore “all we can do” is done (for now). I departed for home on I-5, uh-oh...



...traffic is stopped, as an 18-wheeler has flipped, blocking all lanes. Rats. Home I go the next day, through the sunshine and scenery...



Dear readers, so ends this chapter. My glider-upgrades are complete. But the glider is still in Yreka, awaiting “one more trip” to get it to its' summer home.

Thanks for reading along!

**Paul P.**

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