

Glider Buddies...

Well today (Friday 19 May) was a bust. Things were looking OK coming over the Tejon Pass, but as the temp was picking up (good) so was the wind (bad). By the time I got to the gliderport, it was **howling**.

This is the “10-kt sock”, straight out.



The “20-kt sock” was hardly better...



I notice “safety rules” tend to get bent when there is a line-up awaiting takeoff...



...and so Great Western launched an instructor-only flight “to show the day was soarable”...

Well, so-far, so-good...



Uh-oh... Note the glider is already blown off the runway, pulling the tow-plane tail right (nose-left, toward the trees). Check the tow-plane wing-down ("all he could do").



It all worked out OK. Well, "OK" in that there was no takeoff accident. At this point, I respectfully cancelled my slot and headed for home.

This meant I had completely wasted a Friday. Not the first time, doubtful the last.

Note the mobile-home park peeking through the trees in the above pic. A trailer (single-wide, \$29K asking) is coming on the market in a month. I have a verbal offer in for \$25K (it needs work). But wow this is a real find as I can now have the equivalent of a "kid's tree house" right at the gliderport. I

can do-whatever there while waiting for perfect soaring conditions.

Here's an aerial shot of the trailerpark, looking east (note it actually touches the gliderport property)...



Another shot, looking southeast...



On the upper-right side of the pic is the Crystalaire golf course, where homes appreciated 25% per year for the past 2 years (Palmdale desert property went essentially nowhere). The green irrigated/cultivated fields on the right are pistachio groves (your tax dollars at work; this is a federal “farm subsidy” program. Doubtful any pistachios will ever get picked).

That’s it for Friday... Nap time!

Paul P.