

Hello Adventure Co-pilots!

Today was an eventful day, “interesting developments” ...

1) Gliders ☹️

2) Buffet ☹️

3) Exploring 😊

Part-1: I did get airborne today in the Blanik, here I am!



But the day was once-again “marginal” meaning the super-gliders could “stay up” (in 100 foot-per-minute lift which is very weak lift indeed) and the low-performance Blanik was doomed to an early glide-back and landing.

A nice side-shot of the Blanik, showing the neat forward-swept-wing...



That's my instructor Monique in the picture.

What I was trying to accomplish was "check out" in this particular glider. This because it is a stalwart of the rental/club glider fleets across the country. Having Blanik flight-time is good!

Alas, I have abandoned this quest, due to a quirk in this club...

Their Blanik “must” be secured with a tail-stand as shown below...



The pipe you see goes completely through both the stand and glider.

The problem (for me) is that “someone” must bend over and literally lift the glider so the pipe can be pulled, the stand removed, and then set (not drop!) the glider on the ground. The lift-weight is at least 100-lbs, you cannot “bend at the knees”, and is a ***back injury waiting to happen***. Worse, this must be done *twice* for every flight (prior to launch, and after landing).

Thursday, I strained my back. **Friday, I hurt my back.**

I'm done. I simply do not care “why” this-glider requires this-contraption.

A truly evil device...



Tomorrow at the glider-bash I'll meet the Silverado Club guys. No Blanik <sniff> but they have 3 high-performance gliders here at Truckee <yes!>

Part-2: Food!

Since Truckee is very close to Nevada (20 miles approx) and the Reno casinos, “all-u-can-eat buffets” are everywhere. WooHoo!

I decided to try the Boomtown Casino lobster feast. \$28 (includes tax, not tip). Mostly because Boomtown is right on the state line i.e. close.

Yum-mee...



Lobster is “pretty much it” for the main-course. You get one per trip-through-the-line, plus whatever else you want. ***I had 4 lobsters!***

The “other stuff” was mediocre at best... Steak/ribs etc...



So... Was Boomtown Buffet worth it?

- 1) In absolute terms **yes!** \$28 for 4 lobsters!
- 2) In relative terms **no** because the seafood buffets at the **Nugget** and **Atlantis** casino's are far superior for the same price!

Note that Truckee itself is a sort of “hippie chic” and “reasonably-priced” food is hard to come by. But... Here's my selections...

Dragonfly: Upscale on Main St., excellent (“asian fusion”), pretty-expensive (one step under “expensive”), great ambience, lunch on the upstairs patio is a neato experience...



As for “reasonably priced, good food” well here’s my take, I’ve eaten at all of them in the past 14 months, “satisfied” at least...

Pacific Crest (on Main)...



And here's their lunch menu...



At the "upscale coffee shop" end of the eating-place-scale...

Coffee and... on Main...



Two Mexican places, El Toro Bravo on the west-end of Main...



...and a “cheap, pretty good” place, Casa Baeza on the east end (not on Main, but you can see it from Main)...



My closing comment is this... Truckee is a **touristy-place** and so for small-towners may seem a bit tacky/expensive. For big-city-people who “know their town” it is likely Truckee also will seem to “lack value”. But Truckee is-indeed a beautiful area, **very much worth visiting.**

Part-3: Exploring!

Every day, via glider or car, I see awesome scenery. Vast mountains, deep canyons, fast-flowing rivers. I must explore!

Here's a panoramic pic (Autostitch; full-size-pic came as a separate attachment)...



Logging roads run all through the area (logging done in **your** National Forests).

My current daily record for all-dirt roads/trails is **61 miles**. Saturday, my goal is 75+ and I know I'll get 28 miles right here (I scouted the entry via PT Cruiser)...

Verdi Peak... 14 miles one-way, all-dirt-road! Can't wait!



Then down to Boca Dam...



Which, because it has a public-access road across the dam, must have **blast gates** to deter terrorists...



And as you can see, the water level in the reservoir is less than half (should be full at this time of year)...



But across the dam and up the hill lies... Many roads like this...



Where do these roads go? I will know on Saturday!

Totally stoked, I prepped the bike/car tonight...

Ready to launch!



Saturday night is the **Glider Bash** and so I'll likely wait until Sunday to file The Great Off-Road Adventure but hey... ***Wish me luck!***

Paul P.

ps: In response to those who have asked, each story takes a half-hour to download the pics and post-process them, 2 hours to write/.pdf the story. Total = approx 3-hours start/finish.