

Hello Adventure Travelers!

Today's story is "getting there"... Los Angeles to Mammoth and on to Truckee.

The goal is to camp for a week at the Truckee gliderport. And trailer-up my dirt bike as well...

Hmmm first of all, "camping" means "full load"...



And I mean ***full load!***



Yes that's the gas-container for my dirt-bike, the big-brown-box is my riding gear.

No space wasted! Even the passenger-seat was taken...



Note the health food! Here's breakfast... Awesome!



Gas up!



My first stop was the store at Jawbone Canyon...

I had seen this place a zillion times, suspected “dirt bike heaven” but I had no idea of the scope of the area...

Here's the store...



Yes “hot” but not excessive... 80F at 10am...

So you could (in theory) do 3 hours of riding before the heat was unbearable. Then again, what would you do with the other 21 hours in the day?

Well, the place looked deserted (it wasn't) and I wandered into a shop... Yes... I found the home of the **Sikk 125** which is a custom dirt-bike, all top-quality components, new Honda 125cc engine, for \$1800 ***absolutely a terrific value!***



This bike gets rave reviews in the bike magazines, and cost less than any Japanese 125cc dirt bike (likely much better power/handling).

Hey I can dream! And this bike would suffice for a 12yo kid to a full adult rider. Wow!

Moving next-door, I came to the Jawbone Station, gateway to the Federal BLM (Bureau of Land Management) off-road riding area...



Oh yes I liked the part...

"...off-highway-vehicle funds at work...". Yes!

Inside was a terrifically friendly and knowledgeable couple... So nice to see hospitality "in the middle of no-where"...



Lots of books/maps/info inside, and great a/c too!

Amazingly, Jawbone is the smallest BLM riding area in SoCal,  
**134,000 acres!**



And...



Well needless to say, this wasn't my zippiest trip L.A. to Mammoth!

But while overnighiting at my Mammoth apartment, I had a healthy dinner (the New Me!) of chicken, cucumbers, and salad dressing...

***Total Yum 😊***



The next day (not exactly "bright and early") I headed north, up Rt.395... Passing Mono Lake...



And I saw fire trucks “at the ready” as fire danger was high...



Note the clouds in the above picture... perfect gliding weather!

At a road-construction stop, a street-rider pulled-up to say hello, he was a Kawasaki “development rider” and saw my green Kawasaki dirt bike on the trailer... A neato guy!



An hour ahead, I came to the CA-NV state line... Wow! Talk about a nice welcome, cheap gas... **\$3.02/gallon!**

Note: All the way through Reno and on to Truckee, I never saw gas this cheap again!



I made it to Truckee, to find the weather very cold (65F and dropping), overcast, and howling-wind. No flying today!

Here's a good spot to explain "what I'm up to". I'm going to join two (2) clubs. This assures me of always having a glider to fly, week-day or week-end, throughout the season.

The clubs are "low cost, moderate performance" and moderate-cost, high-performance". I'm joining the moderate-performance club first, because (other than low-cost) they fly the **Blanik** glider, a 60's design (built in the 70's and early 80's). Indestructable, with terrific flying qualities, it is an all-metal 2-seater.

Common, they are flown at Truckee CA, my "home gliderport" Crystal (Palmdale CA), Warner Springs CA, and my August destination, Driggs Idaho. So... "Blanik check-out" is a Very Good Thing...

Here's the club instructor, Monique, standing next to the club Blanik...



This club also flies the 1970's technology all-fiberglass Grob-103...



Since the wind was howling, we postponed flying until Thursday morning. So...

I then went exploring the local area on my dirt-bike...



This is actually on the grounds of the Truckee/Tahoe airport.

Note in the below pic I'm closer to the lake and...

In the background you see birds...



...which are... Pelicans!



Cruising the airport... The wind sock...



OK, here's the closing picture. **It's not pretty.** I took the poor instructors to dinner. Their choice. *Mexican!*



Well, that was my day, and the end of the first-half of my Truckee-trip...

Stay tuned!

***Paul P.***