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Hard Landing



After 17 years of trouble-free flying, I had my first significant mishap on Sunday, August 16th. More accurately, it would be called pilot error. I allowed myself to get too low on the downwind leg of my approach and broke the cardinal rule: *ALWAYS* launch and land *INTO* the wind. Conditions were light at Funston and none of us were getting very high. When I turned in to top land, I should have began my turn back into the wind right away, but didn't. I was in a low, left hand turn and almost pointed back into the wind when I ran out of usable air speed. I came down on the control frame going sort of sideways and my right knee impacted a jagged rock. The glider bounced sideways and only suffered a bent down-tube. This might have only been a scuff if I were not flying in shorts and had the rock not been there. I'm sharing so that other pilots may not make the same mistake. Jeff was there also, flying his new wing and bagged my glider for me while my wife drove me to the hospital for stitches. Thanks again, Jeff, for securing my gear. The stitches are out now and I should be back in flying condition by Labor Day weekend.

- Brian

New Club Member

Please welcome our newest club member, Justin Miller. Justin is a H3/P4 and has been flying 10 plus years. Justin lives just 40 minutes from me in the wine country and will probably remember selling me the XC last year. Thanks for the donation, Justin, and welcome to the club!

- editor

Labor Day Weekend

This weekend is Labor Day Weekend. There is still room at Hereford Ranch Campground, space #59 for anyone wanting/needing camp space while flying Hat Creek Rim over the last big weekend of the season. RSVP to 530-355-2081. See you there...

Newsletter Submissions

Please send newsletter submissions to:
flyingbrian17@hotmail.com
or 29 Arlington Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952.

Would like to publish any flying stories, upcoming road trips, safety tips, and anything else that might be newsworthy. Any photos sent in will be returned promptly.

Still For Sale

This glider is in great shape. Doesn't land well at higher altitudes or for Hat Creek-type flying, but lands good at sea-level or with a good head wind. I'll consider any reasonable offers. Brian @ 530-355-2081.

