

The Retrievers Guide To Get Your Glider Home.

Planning a Retrieval of a glider takes some preparation.

Here is a list of items that you will need before you go on a retrieve. This is not in its entirety. You may take more.

1. Take a cell phone and car charger with you.
2. Have a GPS device in the retrieve vehicle that is not cellular based. A Tom- Tom or a Garmin. Any kind that is self contained and does not require any cellular input.
3. A FULL TANK OF GAS in the retrieve vehicle. You do not want to run out of gas on some back road somewhere while trying to retrieve the glider.
4. A detailed Road Atlas for the area you will be driving in. Plot the coordinates of the retrieval location, if known.
5. An Aviation Sectional Chart for the area the glider is at. Plot the coordinates of the retrieval location, if known.
6. An aviation frequency handheld radio. Have a coordinated frequency to attempt contact with your pilot—this is normally 123.3 or 123.5. Set the radio up on the dash if possible, if not connected to an external antenna—your reception range will be several times greater than if the handheld is sitting down in a console cup holder.
7. Have a cooler full of water on hand.
8. Make sure you have at least two long duration flashlights with you. (Generally retrieves can go late into the night).
9. At least two 1/2" X6" wide by 6 feet long boards of wood. (In case the retrieve is in a soggy irrigation field or somewhere there is a muddy field. You just never know)
10. A pair of Bolt Cutters
11. Ceremonial beer or drink of choice for your glider pilot.
12. Load the glider tow out gear and the wing stands in the trailer before departing the airport.
13. If you have never gone on a retrieve, take someone experienced with you. Two people should be a minimum on a retrieve.
14. Talk to someone about road conditions and routes before you leave.
15. Know what time local sunset is. Try to arrive at the glider before sunset if you can do so safely. Daylight helps to both find the glider and get it into the box.

Have a plan in place. You must know the location of the glider that you are trying to retrieve. Hopefully you were given the coordinates by the use of a Personal Locator Beacon(PLB). SPOT is the cheapest one out there and it is reliable. Talk to others that are familiar with the area before you go as to the best way to get to your glider pilot. A retrieve can be a short distance or a very long distance. It depends. Do not be in a hurry. If you have to trespass on private property, attempt to gain permission first. Leave any gate or fence exactly as you found it. Be financially prepared to offer a land owner compensation for damage that may have been incurred during the retrieve **Beware**, that travelling on rural roads can be dangerous; there may be livestock on the roads. There are stories of guys driving their trailers on the roads and hitting cattle. They are true. Be safe and stay alive. Your glider pilot will only be inconvenienced by the time.