

A map of the western United States, including California, Nevada, and Utah, with various geographical features and cities labeled. Overlaid on the map are numerous colorful lines (red, yellow, green, blue, purple, orange) representing flight paths. The paths are most dense in the California region, particularly around the San Francisco Bay Area and the Central Valley, and extend across the state and into Nevada and Utah. Major cities like San Francisco, Sacramento, Reno, and Salt Lake City are visible. National Parks and Reserves such as Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Grand Canyon are also marked. A scale bar in the bottom left corner indicates 100 km. The Bing logo is visible in the bottom center.

# Soaring For Distance

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Nov 2012

# Agenda

- What “soaring for distance” means?
- 2012 Statistics
- What does it take?
  - Planning
  - Crewing
  - Unusual flights
  - Photos and video




# 2012 statistics

- 31,891 KM (most km flown in the US in 2012)
- 362 hours
- 60 flights (530km avg)
- Spanning 6 states (CA, NV, UT, ID, OR,AZ)
- Visited Lake Tahoe, Death Valley, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Zion Canyon, Cedar Breaks, Escalante, Lake Powell, Canyonlands, Arches National Park (Moab), Golden Gate Bridge, Big Sur.
- Visited 10 airports
- 4 unplanned Landouts (**all in airports within 30 miles from home**)
- **44% (14,000km) from local gliderports (Bay Area)**



# What does it take?

- No need to be the best or fast pilot
  - Commitment, flexibility and priority
  - Desire and will to push the boundary
  - Thinking outside the box
  - Having your own glider
  - Good instruments, modern flight computer
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# What does it take?

- Flexible job
- Understanding wife
- Good understanding of soaring weather forecast
- Willing to land out
- Willing to drive far
- Willing to spend significant time planning and monitoring weather
- Stamina to fly 8-9 hours





# Planning

- Check the forecast carefully and frequently
- Plan new routes based on forecast and landing options
- Look for unusual soaring conditions to plan unusual flights
- Do some research



# Planning

- Consider buddy flying
- Contingency planning
- Be flexible.
- Be prepared for landout, carry spot
- Plan according to forecast, fly according to weather



# Crewing

- Is crew required?
- Can wife crew?
- Buddy crewing
- Crewless and Clueless?
- Motorgliders





An aerial view from the cockpit of a high-altitude aircraft. The view shows a vast bay with a city grid visible on the left, a bridge crossing the water, and a coastline with hills. The sky is clear blue with some light clouds. The aircraft's nose and cockpit instruments are visible in the foreground.

# Unusual Flights

## Bay Tour in north wind wave

- 15K-18K altitude
- Well above class bravo
- SF, GG Bridge, Mt Tam, Point Reyes, Half Moon Bay
- Within glide to Byron nearly the whole time



Point Reyes National Seashore

San Rafael

Mill Valley

Richmond

Berkeley

San Francisco

Day City

Pacifica

San Carlos

Palo Alto

Mountain View

San Jose

Campbell

Los Gatos

Boulder

Pinole

Martinez

Concord

Walnut Creek

Danville

San Ramon

Hayward

Fremont

680

Milpitas

85

Vallejo

Antioch

Brentwood

Mt. Diablo State Park

205

Tracy

Stockton

French Camp

Ma

Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary

Alameda

Livermore

Henry W. Coe


# Truckee to Byron x2

- Why drive if you can fly back home?
- Requires 16-18K over the Sierras with 40:1 ship
- Spectacular yet easy and safe flight
- 100+ miles final glide
- Plenty of landout options if you don't make it all the way





# Other notable flights

- Jean to Truckee to capture the egg
  - Ely Safari – 5 flights 1000-1250km including FAI triangles and flights to Idaho
  - Parowan Safari – Sight seeing flights to Lake Powell, Zion, Canyonlands, Moab (Arches)
  - Truckee O&R to Oregon (east of Lakeview)
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# Other notable flights

- Byron – 4 flights across the delta to Williams area and back
- Hollister/Panoche to:
  - Big Sur coast
  - Western Sierras
  - Tehachapi area
  - 800km round trip to near LA Basin



# Thanks

Thanks to my crew this year:

- My wife Katia
- Jim Alton

Also in previous years:

- Joy Pierce
- Buzz Graves
- Eric Rupp
- David Anisman
- And more...

