

Cawthra Joshua

From: bruce roberts <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 9:42 AM
To: Cawthra Joshua
Subject: Fwd: Re: [NCSABoard] Tow rope
Attachments: IMG_2548.jpg; IMG_2547.jpg; IMG_2541.jpg; Glider_End_Tow_Rope.jpeg

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Josh,
We found the tow rope yesterday The email below is from one of the club members that found the rope. Im sending you his email directly to capture his comments unedited. Ive removed his name, but he can be brought into the discussion if needed. Ive included a 4th photo (of the glider end of the tow rope), that was not included in the email below. Any questions, just ask me.

Im trying to email a single email, but I may have to break up the attachments.

Bruce Roberts

Three pictures of the rope.

2541 shows how it was found in as compact, coiled up pile as opposed to stretched out.
2547 and 2548 show the towplane end. The inner core fibers are all the same length and are not obviously inconsistent with being cut. The outer sheath also is all the same length.

Measured length of rope is about 202', close to the nominal rope length we use.

It took us less than a minute to find the tow rope. It piled up 50 feet or so off the end of the runway, 100 feet or so past 16Y resting place. We marked the exact coordinates and took photos of the ropes and each end. The whole pile was 10 feet or so long, which tells me the rope dropped pretty much vertically which means the glider was pretty much above 16Y.
The tow rings were attached intact so either Claus simultaneously released or it back released.
The full length of the tow rope was recovered with the other end cleanly cut which tells me the guillotine was activated. Steve also confirmed that they noticed the giliotine was activated when they examined the wreckage and the emergency release handle was pulled back.
So I suspect that John did not have room to recover.
The airport has surveillance cameras which captured the whole tow in details. The description matches what we suspected, the glider kited while 16Y never got much above the ground maybe 100 feet or so but managed to maintain level flight until the last second when it abruptly pitched down.

XXXX Name removed

