

Winch Operators Lesson Learned 25 Sept 2020

From: "Joe Rizzo"

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Hi guys,

Thanks again for coming out today. That was an enjoyable experience.

Here are some observations from operating the winch. Feel free to cut and paste as needed. Forward to others as needed. Modify as needed.

There is a sticker adjacent to the throttle numbered 1-8. 1 being idle, and 8 being wide open. Reference these numbers for power settings for winch operation.

1. A slow three second roll in on the throttle seemed to work well for the initial launch of the glider. Power setting 7 used for initial launch of the 2-33.
2. After the glider is airborne and stabilized in the climb, a Power reduction to 5 worked well and allowed a good climb pitch attitude.
3. Continue at 5 power until the glider is at a 70-80 degree angle above you. At that point, reduce the power to idle.
4. At this point the chute will deploy. Continue to drive the chute toward the winch as necessary to keep it off of obstacles on the perimeter. Apply hand brake as necessary.

Lessons learned.

1. Any time you loose sight of the parachute over head, apply full brake.
2. As the glider flys overhead, reduce power to idle.
3. Winching with a tailwind should be avoided.
4. Ensure you have adequate radio communication.
5. A aviation headset, Handled radio and push to talk is necessary to be used while operating the winch.
6. While taking up slack, observe the speed of the drum through the window looking for the fluorescent paint on the drum.