



## Lost Aircraft Retrieval Guide

A guide for the safe retrieval of aircraft lost amongst the crops adjoining our flying field.

Every year, we face the challenge of retrieving lost aircraft in the surrounding corn, soybeans and wheat. Through trial and error, we have developed safe and effective guidelines to increase the probability of finding a lost aircraft, minimize the damage to the farmer's crops and diminish the potential for a serious health risk to those trying to retrieve their downed aircraft. Here are our recommended suggestions:

### Your aircraft crashes!

- As Samuel Jackson said in the movie "Pulp Fiction": **"Be Cool"** (your aircraft isn't going anywhere). **Do not take your eyes off your aircraft's last position.** Announce to other pilots, you have lost an aircraft.
- **Establish a fixed point** in the distance (Building, tree, telephone pole, etc.), along the "Line of Sight" of the last position sighted of your downed aircraft. Have someone use Don Fitch's "Lost Plane Finder" (located atop the "Pilot's Station Fence"), and sight down or through the tube in the direction and/or last fixed position of the aircraft. Notify everyone not to move the "Lost Plane Finder" (**VERY IMPORTANT**).
- **Do not turn off your transmitter.** Hopefully you have installed a "corn horn", "low voltage beeper" or "Tile" in your aircraft to assist in locating the crashed aircraft.

### Don't go into the field by yourself!

- If possible, find a friend or friends with an aircraft using FPV or a camera. (If you have marked your line of sight to the general crash area, it maybe easier and quicker for them to find it.)

### You have decided to retrieve the aircraft.

#### *(Refer to images at bottom of page)*

- Do not go into the crops if you are the only one at the field, and if it is late into the evening.
- Contact a Board Member or Club Officer and get three "Walkie-Talkies" from the pavilion table.
- Give one to both your "Spotters" and you keep one. One "Spotter" will stand at your last position on the flight line and note your line of sight crash position with the "Lost Plane Finder", and the other will stand at a different position fixating on your lost aircraft reference point.
- You will then take a "Walkie-Talkie" and the "Retriever's Position Pole" with a flag on the end (located at West end of the pavilion with the Pylon Racing Poles). The "Retriever's Position Pole" will mark your position in the fields to your "Spotters" and help direct you down the "Line of Sight" with verbal directions towards Amrein Road, the Levee, Spirits Field or Greens Bottom Road (Hill).
- Take a large trash bag, because it is easier to carry all the pieces. Don't forget any.
- **Beware! Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke can happen quickly.**
  1. Stay in contact with your "Spotters".
  2. Drink plenty of water.
  3. Wear a hat.
  4. And if you start feeling bad or get over heated, notify your "Spotters" and get out quickly.

### Rules when amongst the crops. *(Note: You are responsible for any crop damage.)*

- To prevent crop damage, try to walk between the rows, not across them. Watch out for animals!
- **Corn** – Grows very high, resulting in the perfect conditions for Heat Exhaustion and Stroke. Stalks are planted 6 inches apart, which makes it hard to pass between rows, and they can be broken easily. Wear a long sleeve shirt, for their leaves can cut. And to help you breathe during pollination, wear a mask. Your view of the ground is limited to a couple of rows on either side.
- **Soybeans** – Grows 4 feet high and can easily trip you, and can easily shroud a downed aircraft.
- **Wheat** – Grows 4-5 feet high and can be easily knocked-over and damaged. It is also a trip hazard. Like Soybeans, a downed aircraft can be easily covered from view.

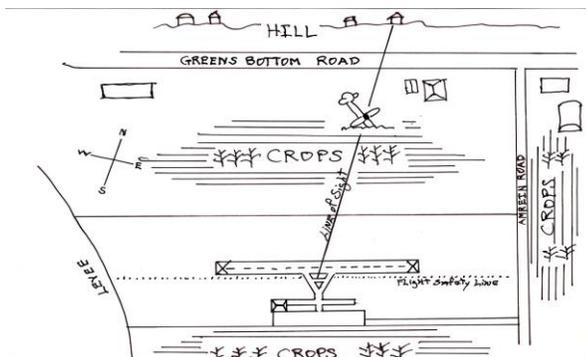
### Your aircraft has been FOUND.

- Notify your “Spotters” that your aircraft has been found and recovered.
- Turn off the power to your aircraft receiver (RX).
- Pick up all the pieces, place them in the plastic trash bag brought and take home.
- Get directions from your “Spotters” on the quickest direction to exit the crops. Leave as fast and safely as possible.
- Return the “Walkie-Talkies” and “Retriever’s Position Pole” to their storage locations.
- If you have damaged any crops. Assess the damage (we can help), and inform the farmer at the end of Amrein Road of the damage, and present your compensation as soon as possible.

**Your aircraft is NOT FOUND.**

- Notify pilots at the field that the aircraft is still missing.
- Post a photo or description of your aircraft and approximate crash direction/location on the Bulletin Board. Leave your name and telephone number.
- Repeat the procedure on another day.
- If your aircraft is not found, there is hope the farmer will see it when the crop is harvested, and return it (or pieces) to the pavilion.

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