

7-17-2019.
Time 3:23 p.m.

This is an eye witness account of a fatal accident that occurred on this date at approximately 12:30 p.m. Dave Kibby was being auto launched behind a 4000' wire to the south east. His ground seemed fine as I just happen to look in that direction. As he became airborne instead of gradually climbing to 200' for a more aggressive climb at that altitude the glider kited up steeply stalling to the left as the left wing dropped and the glider spun almost inverted hitting the ground nose first. Upon impact the glider shattered into many pieces. The glider was probably 50-60' feet in the air when this occurred. We called 911 and I went with my first aid bag to the crash zone but Dave already gone!

John Bradford

7/17/19 3:30pm

We idled the cable forward to take up the slack very slowly, per normal tow procedures. At the pilot's signal, "Go-go, Go-go, go-go," we started a smooth steady acceleration. The spotter yelled stop stop stop just as the vehicle's odometer showed 55 mph. We stopped. We took off the cable. We turned around. The glider was in pieces on the ground.

Christina Larson

Wednesday, July 17, 2019 Location, Alvord Desert, southeast Oregon.

I witnessed a fatal accident in a glider in which Dave Kibby was piloting. He was being auto towed in a glider off the Alvord desert using a 4,000 ft. line. He had just become airborne when I noticed that he was not climbing, and the parachute used to slow the descent of the line after release, opened and closed a few times. This is not unusual, especially under windy conditions, which it was.

The normal procedure is to put a little more tension on the line by increasing the angle of attack. This appeared to be what he was doing. Suddenly, the pitch angle increased and the right wing rose as if he was doing a wing over maneuver. The aircraft kitted up and rotated to the left where it impacted in a near vertical position on the desert floor. He was probably at a height of 100 to 150 feet.

I knew as I watched this unfold that it was not survivable.

Ron Poe