

# FLIGHT OVER KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK, SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK AND MT. WHITNEY

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In August 2010 I flew over Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks in Skylane N51732 (a non-turbo fixed-gear 182T) to photograph Mt. Whitney from an angle that I believe is not usually seen.

Just because I've wanted to for a long time.

The scenery was fantastic and the flight was exciting and fun. So I did this short writeup because other people might be interested in seeing the pictures.

My general route of flight is in red below. I returned along the same route. The letters A-D refer to the approximate locations where I took pictures. (I took Picture D on the way back.)



Here are some flying details for those who might (or might not) be interested:

- Before making the flight I of course made sure that Foothill 1 and Owens Military Operations Areas (MOA's) were scheduled to be inactive, and that the weather was forecast to be good.
- I flew over the area around 8:30-9:00am before the typical summertime daily turbulence could develop.
- The cruise altitude was 16,500 MSL, so at all times I was more than 2000 feet above all terrain.
- The density altitude was 18,400 MSL. ([Cessna](#) states the 182T ceiling is 18,100 MSL.)
- The cruise speed was around 78 KIAS (about 104 KTAS).
- Because I had to keep the cowl flaps open a little to keep the oil temperature from rising to the top of the green I could close the flaps, gain a few knots for a few

minutes till the temperature began rising, then open the flaps to cool the oil (and losing those few knots). So, since the throttle was pushed in all the way, the cowl flap handle became sort of a temporary throttle. An odd way to fly.

- With the mixture leaned to about 75 degrees rich of peak and a fuel flow of around 7 or 8 gal/hour the mixture control was sticking so far out that it seemed like the knob was in the back seat.
- I used a portable oxygen system, adjusting the flow to maintain about 90% oxygen saturation using a small battery-operated pulse oximeter which I checked every few minutes. For me, 90% seems to be a good compromise between a higher flow which wastes oxygen and a lower flow which might allow the onset of hypoxia.

I took most of the pictures with a zoom lens, making it seem like I was closer and lower to the mountains than I really was.

***Flimsy excuse:*** Because I was mostly taking pictures through the propeller arc, the pictures are not of the highest quality.



**Picture A: View looking South at the Kings-Kern Divide, the boundary between the Kings River watershed in Kings Canyon National Park on the North and Sequoia National Park (containing the Kern River headwaters) on the South.**



**Picture B: View looking South along the Sierra Crest.**



**Picture C: Summit of Mt. Whitney (left end of brightly lit slope in foreground). Highest point in 48 states at 14,491 ft. Summit hut is just visible as a bright block with its shadow extending to the right. Background terrain is actually 1000-1500 ft lower than summit.**



**Picture D: View North into canyon of the Kings River in Kings Canyon National Park.**