

The Flying Gourmet The Waffle Shop

I think that we all know that you can get some pretty phenomenal climb rates from a light aircraft when the air temperature is cool. However the down side to flying during cool weather is that the morning dew may have turned to ice crystals and cover pretty much the entire air frame. This is a recent situation I faced during an early morning preflight of a non-hangared aircraft. Luckily for me I carry a little used credit card in my wallet which works just fine as an ice scraper. It also helps to have a pair of gloves since your fingers can go numb in a very short period of time while removing frost. I've read that an aircraft can fly with frost on the wings as long as it has been smoothed out; the suggestion was to pass a rope over the wing and around the leading edges to smooth the surface. I, personally, do not want to tempt fate, so I subscribe to the theory that it all has to be removed before



flight. This makes the preflight a little longer but it's better than a smoking hole at the end of the runway.

How rewarding to be the first aircraft off in the predawn light soaring into the sky at 1,200 ft/min and 85 knots. A weather front had moved through the area the week before and dumped some snow in the Sierra's, which made a

pretty sight from the air. I called for traffic advisories about ten miles out from Placerville and got a reply that the wind was calm but the field was covered with ice and snow. I had to think it over since I had never landed on ice & snow before! I decided that since there wasn't any wind as long as I landed at the proper speed and stayed off the brakes I should be all right. I was correct and the landing didn't seem any different than any other I have ever made. Upon takeoff I was mindful to not retract the landing gear immediately, allowing the slush to blow off first.

I decided not to stay in Placerville for breakfast since my experience in getting a cab there hasn't been a good one. Jackson is just down the road so I landed at Westover and had a cab within ten minutes. I left it to the cab driver to suggest a place and she took me to **The Waffle Shop**. It wasn't more than a ten minute cab ride and we arrived at a building which looks like a hundred other buildings that were purposely built to house a breakfast/ sandwich shop. The only visible identification was a banner along one side of the building. The only other way you would know that it was a restaurant would be by following the smell of bacon and coffee to its place of origin.

Since it's called the Waffle Shop, I had to order a waffle with bacon and eggs. The breakfast was great and the bacon was a "bacon lovers" dream come true - thick, lean, and crispy. If you find yourself kicking around the Jackson area and want a nice, inexpensive breakfast try The Waffle Shop. I highly recommend the bacon!