

TREX06: 20060331a
IOP-8: Flt-1

Flight notes: System Scientist (3rd seat)

Crew:

Pilot: Kevin Fagerstrom
Flt Scientist: Vanda Grubisic
System Scientist: Jeff French
4th Seat: Ron Calhoun

Pre-flight:

Radar down. Repairs on the modulator being done at ProSensing.
No other instrument issues

Weather Conditions at Bishop: Clear, wind: 150 @ 22 kts, gusting to 31, T=14C, DewPt=-1C

Flight:

2159: takeoff

upto 2220: climb to FL210 towards east end point for sounding, sounding indicates well mixed fr/ sfc to 750 mb, small cap with sig. drying above. Convectively unstable to 650 mb w/ another inversion at this level, wspd increases at 650 mb and above to 15-20 m s⁻¹.

2223: note fuel coming out of area around filler cap on left (outboard) main, decision is made to RTB to investigate problem.

2234: land at Bishop

Post-flight/impressions

Left main (outboard) tank pressurized at altitude and remained pressurized after landing. Fuel cap apparently well seated. Testing on the ground indicate that left main pressurizes causing fuel to spill when aux tank is not empty.