Kobo/XCSoar Emergency Location Procedures - www.50k-or-bust.com

<u>N.B. These notes apply to XCSoar 6.8 and later. Earlier versions are very different.</u>

These notes relate to the use of a Kobo ebook reader modified to run XCSoar. They are my best shot at the time of writing. I cannot guarantee they are correct or represent ideal solutions but will correct and update them as and when I can. Please inform me of any errors or better solutions you may find. The index for other Kobo/XCSoar notes can be found at:

http://www.50k-or-bust.com/Kobo XCSoar/Kobo XCSoar.htm

XCSoar is very complicated and these procedures are intended to be step by step instructions for use under pressure in emergencies. They are intended to be as straightforward and reliable as possible and I keep a copy of them in my flight deck. Test them out before you need to use them for real. If you find any errors please contact me so they can be corrected. It could save a life.

<u>Finding The Coordinates Of Your Current Location To Transmit To Rescuers</u>

1) Check the GPS is receiving and locked.

2) Gesture "P" for "Pan".

The coordinates at the cursor in the centre will be displayed at the top right of the screen. As long as the GPS is locked and you do not pan the map this will be your current location. The coordinate units will be the units set in Menu/Config1/System/Setup/Units (Lat/Long). When transmitting coordinates to rescuers make sure they understand which units you are using. If necessary change the units in XCSoar setup so the rescuers have coordinates in a format they can use easily.

<u>Finding A Lost Pilot From Coordinates</u>

This procedure is used to locate a downed pilot from coordinates transmitted to rescuers.

1) Check the coordinate units set on XCSoar are the same as the units of the coordinates you wish to locate. Menu/Config1/System/Setup/Units/ Lat/Long .

2) Open the waypoints editor for a new waypoint. Menu/Config2/Waypoints Editor/New .

3) Select "Name" and create a name for the location of the pilot to be rescued. In a rescue it is crucial not to mix up waypoints. I often prefix a waypoint name with AAA to bring it to the top of an alphabetical list.

4) Select "Location" and enter the coordinates using the "Up" and "Down" arrows for each digit.

N.B. There is a bug in XCSoar. If you use the "Up" arrow to change a digit from "9" to "0" it will increment the digit to the left. Similarly using the "Down" arrow to change a digit from "0" to "9" will cause the next digit to decrement. This can easily cause errors so double check the numbers are correct before hitting the "OK" button.

5) When the waypoint name and location coordinates are displayed correctly hit "OK" and the waypoint should be displayed in a list.

6) Hit "Close" and "Yes" to "Save changes to the waypoint file?"

7) On the map screen gesture "L" to bring up a list of waypoints. Select the rescue waypoint (which should be at the top if you prefixed its' name with "AA") and select "GoTo".

The map should show the waypoint and an arrow towards it from your location. If you have an InfoBox selected as "Next Distance" it will show the name of the rescue waypoint and its' distance from your location.

Creating A Waypoint At Your Current Location

This may help re-locate something or someone, or to make a rendezvous.

1) Check the GPS is locked.

2) Select Menu/Config 2/Waypoints Editor .

3) Select "New" from the boxes at the bottom. The waypoint editor box should appear with your current coordinates displayed.

4) Select the name box and use the keypad to create a name for your location. Again I might use a name prefixed "AA" .

5) Select "OK" on the keypad, "OK" on the Waypoint Editor box,"Close" from the boxes at the bottom and "Yes" "Save changes to the waypoint file?".