

WALSTON RETRIEVER CAUTION

By Mike Myers

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I helped a fellow find a lost model at Lost Hills—and learned a lesson in the process. He'd had an OOS flight but lost the Walston tracker signal and couldn't find the model. We went looking along the line of flight and finally found it. Upon landing, it had flipped over on its back. The antenna was touching the ground, effectively killing the signal. We found it only by eyesight—he wasn't getting a signal on his receiver—until he lifted the model (and the antenna) off the ground.

Since then I've tried to keep the antenna inside the model (either building an antenna "tube" using a plastic drinking straw inside the fuselage, or inside the wing) or at least tape the end of the antenna to the side of the fuselage, or along the TE of the wing. I think that's a worthwhile precaution.