

## Tips on Launching/Recovering at Bong

Richard Bong State Recreational Area is a unique and technical launch site. Tripoli Wisconsin has been flying here for 28 years and during that time we've learned what it takes to fly successfully at Bong. Below are some tips to make your flights more enjoyable:

1. It is strongly suggested that a dual deployment recovery system be used with flights over 4,000 feet and winds exceeding 8 mph. This will help avoid a long search into the Bong brush and tree lines. Single deploy rockets can emulate a dual deployment recovery system by using a chute release.
2. Using a locating device in your rocket is also strongly suggested. Bong is a managed prairie and tall foliage may make finding your rocket difficult. A "Personal Safety Alarm" ([see example](#)) connected to the shock cord is an inexpensive device to help you locate your rocket.
3. When you launch your rocket, keep it in sight until it lands. With the landing spot as a reference, you now have a line to follow to your rocket. A smart phone with a GPS program can help keep you on track while you navigate through the field.
4. Write your information on the rocket (name, phone number) to help getting a lost rocket back to you.
5. When recovering your rocket, it's a good idea to wear the proper clothes no matter how warm it is. To avoid scraps and cuts, wear long pants, shoes suitable for hiking (not flip flops) on your trek. Bring a friend to assist in the search.
6. If your rocket lands in a tree or in the water, do not attempt recovery by climbing trees or entering the water. TWA will try to provide the necessary equipment and assistance so you can safely recover your rocket.
7. Yes, Richard Bong Recreational Park has ticks. Please do a tick check regularly after recovering your rocket. Use EPA registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. ([Additional Information](#))
8. We share the special use area at Bong with a number of other groups. If your rocket lands in an area where other events are being conducted, approach with the intent to ask if it's ok to enter the area.
9. Certification levels – TWA recommends that, certification flights are a better experience and recovery easier if you perform a slow and low flight at this event.
10. For the enjoyment of all at this event, please keep pets leashed at all times during event hours