

Restoration of a 1920s Airway Beacon - Part 9

THE BIG DAY!!!

On a cold and overcast New Year's Eve 2014, I attached a new 8ft windsock and its spindle assembly to the tower and went over the entire top tower/platform assembly with the proverbial fine-toothed comb to make sure everything was ready because in a couple of hours, most of it would be very difficult to get to! Five of my friends showed up on-time at 7am and the rented 400 ton crane showed up promptly at 8. I was a "climber" and the crane company provided one too. Two of my friends were assigned to man stabilizing ropes and the other two friends were assigned to be safety observers and everybody had the authority to bring everything to an immediate halt should they see something they didn't like. (Is my military training showing?) My wife and my 88 year old ex-scoutmaster were my two photographers. After rigging up the top section, the company's rigger and I climbed to the wooden platform I installed on the tower the day before, armed with wrenches, alignment tools, and pockets full of new galvanized tower-grade nuts and bolts. Two hours later, the top section was up, the crane crew was packed up, and I retired for the day to a giant-sized bottle of Maalox!!!





NEXT: Finishing The Tower and Pulling wires