

April 2009

Volume 4, Issue 4

# Skyraider Sentinel

Skyraider Aviation, Inc • 303-926-0114 • info@skyraideraviation.com • www.skyraideraviation.com

## Skyraider Aviation Welcomes New Club Members!

- Chuck Clemen
- Barbara Marx
- Darin Vande Lune

## This Month in Aviation History



Westland Wallace Bi-Plane

**April 3rd, 1933...** On this date the Marquis of Clydesdale and Donald McIntyre became the first pilots to fly over Mount Everest. The adventurers flew two specially modified Westland Wallace bi-planes. They wore oxygen masks and heated flying suits during the mission. Taking off at 8:25am from Purnea, India, the two aircraft broke through thick haze at 19,000 feet and had to contend with severe up and downdrafts as they flew some 5,000 feet above the world's tallest peak.

Although flying at such altitudes is now commonplace, at the time, the achievement attracted press attention comparable with the early space shots.

*"The fascination of flight can't be expressed with words. But it really lies beyond the capabilities of human endeavor. Once you've experienced it, you'll never be able to forget it."*

— Friedrich Oblessor, 127 victories WWII

## Gobosh Flies to Snowbuster Fly-In

There's nothing quite like springtime in Colorado... trees budding, flowers blooming, birds chirping, and of course... snow falling. The weather on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, the date slated for EAA Chapter 43's annual *Snowbuster Fly-in* at Erie Municipal Airport was therefore no big surprise. With a slushy mixture of precipitation falling throughout the day Friday and well into Saturday, the fly-in had to be postponed to the following weekend.

While the conditions the following Saturday were considerably better, we still did not have good fly-in weather. A fourteen hundred foot overcast of dark, threatening clouds kept would-be fly-in traffic away. Still, a crowd of about 30 diehards gathered in the cold dreary morning hours for the traditional pancake breakfast.

But this was supposed to be a fly-in! It just wasn't right that the only people there had driven in. So I went down to our hangar, hopped in our Gobosh 700, taxied to runway 33, took off, flew around the pattern, landed, and taxied over to the site of the pancake breakfast. After a hearty breakfast of pancakes, eggs, and sausage, I had planned to "fly-out", but by then the ceiling had descended to below limits, and a steady drizzle had begun falling. The *Snowbuster Fly-in* ended with me taxiing our Gobosh back to the hangar.

## Calendar of Events

Come see Skyraider Aviation at these upcoming events:

- May 16<sup>th</sup> – Erie Town Fair/Airport Open House, Erie, CO (KEIK)
- June 20<sup>th</sup> – Boulder Airport Open House, Boulder, CO (KBDU)
- August 22-23<sup>rd</sup> - Colorado Sport International Air Show and 30th Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Fly-In, Broomfield, CO (KBJC)
- September 5-6<sup>th</sup> - 5th Annual Wild West Air Fest and Labor Day Weekend Celebration, Steamboat Springs, CO (KSBS)

## Aerovations

On the evening of Tuesday, April 21st, *Skyraider Aviation* welcomed special guest speaker, Ed Babovec of *Aerovations Unlimited/ Light Sport Maintenance* to our monthly club meeting. Ed removed the engine cowlings from all three airplanes, and guided our club members on a tour of the Rotax 912 engine. He pointed out the differences in installations, and explained some of the operational considerations of the engine. Ed also identified the items to which we should pay particular attention on pre-flight inspections.

With fine weather, the club meeting provided the perfect opportunity to grill up some burgers, kick back with some beers, and talk "airplane" with fellow club members. As usual, the meeting was both entertaining and informative.

## Welcome Fellow Aviators

The Erie Municipal Airport recently began playing host to a family of Great Horned Owls. I caught my first glimpse of the owls a couple months ago, when I observed a large adult sitting on top of the flag pole. It wasn't, however, until mid to late April that the fledglings arrived on scene, causing quite a stir. It seems mother owls do not take kindly to humans getting close to their babies. And with the little ones taking up refuge near the entrance to our building, we were forced to seek alternate means of ingress and egress for a few days.

It seems for now the fledglings have found quieter places to hang out, but with a veritable smorgasbord of rabbits, prairie dogs, and other small critters on which to dine, it's likely we'll see more of them in the future.



Fledgling Great Horned Owl

### Great Horned Owl Facts:

**Diet:** Carnivore

**Lifespan:** 5 to 15 years

**Size:** Body 18 to 25 inches

**Wingspan:** 3 to 5 feet

**Weight:** 2 to 5.5 lbs

**Habits:** Activity generally begins at dusk, but in some regions, may be seen in late afternoon or early morning. Both sexes may be very aggressive towards intruders when nesting.

**Habitat:** Great Horned Owls have adapted to many different places and climates. They occur in habitats from dense forests, deserts and plains to city parks.



## Clip and Save with Skyraider Aviation

Free club initiation in the month of May

**\$35 value**

Come fly with us before May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009, join the club, and your initiation fee will be waived.

Offer valid only when accompanied by this coupon.