

Skyraider Sentinel

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Skyraider Aviation Welcomes New Club Members!

- Karie Daniel
- Jim Fox
- Bob McGill
- Paul Rice

This Month in Aviation History



Wright Flyer

December 17th, 1903...
On this date, the Wright brothers conducted the world's first controlled, powered and sustained heavier-than-air human flight. Three days prior, Wilbur had made the first attempt at flight, but stalled right after take-off, causing minor damage to the Flyer. After conducting the necessary repairs, the Wrights finally took to the air, making two flights each into a gusty 23 knot headwind. The first flight (by Orville) of 120 feet in 12 seconds, at a speed of only 6.8 mph over the ground, was recorded in the famous photograph shown above.

“The Wright Brothers created the single greatest cultural force since the invention of writing. The airplane became the first World Wide Web, bringing people, languages, ideas, and values together.”

— Bill Gates, CEO, Microsoft Corporation.

Winter Flying

Winter is a great time to fly in Colorado! Cold temperatures mean greater aircraft performance. The clear, crisp air allows for stunning views of snow-covered mountains. And without the uneven heating of the ground commonly found in warmer months, winter flying can often be completely free of turbulence.

Unfortunately winter brings with it a unique set of problems. Fast moving fronts, strong gusty winds, blowing and drifting snow, and ice-covered surfaces are some of the challenges facing the winter aviator. If, however, you are aware of these challenges, you can safely enjoy the many benefits of winter flying. Here are some things to consider before your next flight:

Pre-Flight Inspection – When it's cold outside, there is a natural tendency to rush through the pre-flight inspection. Don't give in to the temptation. Cold temperatures, snow, and ice present special problems to aircraft operations. Under these conditions it is more important than ever to conduct a thorough pre-flight inspection.

Snow, Ice, Frost Removal – It goes without saying that all snow and ice must be removed from the airplane before departing. What some people may overlook is frost. A thin layer of frost may be enough to disrupt airflow over the wings, thereby degrading performance to a dangerous level. Do not attempt to fly with frost on the airplane.

Blowing Snow - If an aircraft is parked in an area of blowing snow, special attention should be given to openings in the aircraft where snow can enter, freeze solid, and obstruct operation.

Taxiing - Keep in mind that braking action on ice or snow is generally poor. Short turns and quick stops should be avoided. Do not taxi through small snowdrifts or snow banks along the edge of the runway. Often there is solid ice under the snow.

For more information concerning winter flying, visit the FAA's website at:

<http://www.faa.gov/ats/afss/newyork/winter-t.htm>

SportStar Update

After tracking down spare parts from the Czech Republic and various locations across the US, Beegles Aircraft Service of Greeley, CO has begun repairing our Evektor SportStar, N617EV. While it is still too early to know just how long it will take to complete the repairs, we have been given assurance from Beegles that this job will be given high priority.