

# Skyraider Sentinel

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## Skyraider Aviation Welcomes New Club Member!

- Doug Krenzer
- Allen Sugg

## This Month in Aviation History



Flying Saucer

**December 17th, 1969...** On this date, the United States Air Force closed *Project Blue Book*, its 22-year investigation into sightings of unidentified flying objects, or UFOs. *Project Blue Book* had two goals: to determine if UFOs were a threat to national security, and to scientifically analyze UFO-related data. Thousands of UFO reports were collected, analyzed and filed. By the time *Project Blue Book* ended, it had collected 12,618 UFO reports, and concluded that most of them were misidentifications of natural phenomena (clouds, stars, et cetera) or conventional aircraft. A few were considered hoaxes. 701 of the reports (about six percent) were classified as unknowns, defying detailed analysis.

"Sometimes, flying feels too godlike to be attained by man. Sometimes, the world from above seems too beautiful, too wonderful, too distant for human eyes to see ..."

— Charles A. Lindbergh, *The Spirit of St. Louis*, 1953

## The Gift of Flight

I'm not one to frequent shopping malls. In fact prior to working Skyraider Aviation's "Gift of Flight" kiosk in the *Flatirons Crossing* mall from December 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>, I cannot remember my last time in a mall. Apparently my lack of interest in shopping in general, and malls in particular is not shared by the rest of the population... especially around Christmas. The place was a mob scene!

As the crowds hustled and bustled by, many stopped to watch our video (professionally produced by Reggie Paulk, [www.reggiepaulk.com](http://www.reggiepaulk.com)), talk about flying, and in some cases... to actually buy a gift card!

While three full days in a mall is a lot to handle, our time was well spent. Not only

did we educate a large number of people about the joys of sport aviation, but we also helped a lot of shoppers figure out what to get for that impossible person on their gift list. Hopefully we will be welcoming many of those gift card recipients as club members in the coming months.



Skyraider Aviation owners Chris Dillis & Jacquie Seabert manning their post

## New Neighbors

After a three year search, the *Spirit of Flight Center* has made Erie Municipal Airport its home. Located in a 6,000 square foot facility on the west side of the airport, the *Spirit of Flight Center* offers a truly unique environment intended to promote the love of flight.

The mission of the center is to save and display aircraft and flight memorabilia, to honor all veterans, and to educate the general public on the significance of aviation and aviation history. Hundreds of rare aviation items and artifacts are on display in the center's *Hall of Honor* representing the past, present and future of flight.

One of the first public events to be held at

the *Spirit of Flight Center* will be on **Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**. The center will be celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Amelia Earhart's historic solo flight from Hawaii to the US mainland. Chilled during her 2,408-mile flight, Earhart unpacked a thermos of hot chocolate. "Indeed", she later said, "that was the most interesting cup of chocolate I have ever had, sitting up eight thousand feet over the middle of the Pacific Ocean, quite alone". To commemorate the flight, the *Spirit of Flight Center* will be serving up Starbucks hot chocolate (and coffee) from 10am until 2pm that day.

More information about the *Spirit of Flight Center* and the Amelia Earhart event can be found on the center's website: [www.spiritofflight.com](http://www.spiritofflight.com)