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# Skyraider Sentinel

## Skyraider Aviation Welcomes New Club Member!

- Mark McHugh

## This Month in Aviation History



*Dornier Wal Seaplane*

### November 9th, 1932...

On this date, Wolfgang von Gronau and his three-man crew completed the first around the world flight in a seaplane. They departed Germany's North Sea island of Sylt on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Heading westward, they stopped off in Iceland, Greenland, Canada, the United States, Siberia, Japan, China, the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies, Malacca, Burma, India, Iran, Iraq, Cyprus, Greece, and Italy, before finally touching down in Friedrichshafen, Germany. Gronau and his crew completed the 111 day journey in a Dornier Wal seaplane like the one pictured above.

The trip was not without incident. En route from Ottawa, Canada to Detroit, Michigan, the Dornier Wal had mechanical trouble and had to land on Lake Saint Clair. The plane made it to Detroit, albeit at the end of a tug boat's tow rope.

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“We returned home, after these experiments, with the conviction that sailing flight was not the exclusive prerogative of birds.”

— Otto Lilienthal, 1874

## Happy Anniversary!

Two years ago on November 18<sup>th</sup>, after having taken delivery of our first aircraft a week prior, Skyraider Aviation rocketed onto the aviation scene with an Open House. Not knowing if anyone would show up for our kick-off event, a group of instructors and nervous business owners stood by. As the clock struck the appointed hour, the crowd started to trickle in. Before long, nearly 50 people were crammed into our compact office area. Several signed up immediately. The very next day, our first club members took to the air!



Right from the beginning, our mission was simple... use the many advantages afforded by the Sport Pilot/Light Sport Aircraft regulations to bring the thrill of aviation to the masses. In the two years since, we've given countless "discovery flights" to would-be pilots, seen over 100 people join the club, and watched our fleet grow from one airplane to three. Those aircraft have flown almost 2,000 combined hours.

While there is still a long way to go before the Colorado skies are darkened with swarms of light sport aircraft, the road ahead looks promising. A recent report from the Airplane Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) shows that nationwide, there were 61% more sport pilots at the end of the first quarter of 2008 as compared to the same period 2007. So while most categories of general aviation appear to be on the decline, Sport Pilot/Light Sport Aircraft continues to grow. With a bit of luck, and the continued support of our club members, Skyraider Aviation will do its part to make sure that growth trend continues.

## Mall Rats

With the holiday gift giving season nearly upon us, many are scrambling to find that perfect gift. For the last minute shopper perusing the stores of the *Flatiron Crossing* shopping mall, we'll have just the ticket! Skyraider Aviation will be there pitching gift cards on the weekend of December 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. For the truly motivated gift buyer, we'll be happy to sell a Gobosh Luxury Sport Aircraft!

So, if you (or the person who buys your presents) happen to be at the mall on that weekend, stop by and see us. Our kiosk will be between *Dick's Sporting Goods* and *Victoria's Secret*. Of course, you can always buy a gift card through our website or at the airport.

Happy Holidays!