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# Skyraider Sentinel

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## Skyraider Aviation Welcomes New Club Member!

- Tomas Aguirre

## This Month in Aviation History



Boeing 747

**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1993...**  
On this date, Boeing finished production of its 1,000th 747 airplane, 26 years after the 747 program was launched. The 747 was expected to become obsolete after 400 were sold because of the development of supersonic airliners, but it far exceeded its critics' expectations. As of June 2008, 1,405 aircraft had been built, with 118 more in various configurations remaining on order.

The 747-400, the latest version in service, is among the fastest airliners in service with a high-subsonic cruise speed of Mach 0.85 (567 mph). It has an intercontinental range of 7,260 nautical miles. The 747-400 passenger version can accommodate 416 passengers in a typical three-class layout or 524 passengers in a typical two-class layout.

"Buddy of mine once told me that he'd rather fly a jet than kiss his girl. Said it gave him more of a kick."

— Jerry Connell, in the 1951 movie 'Air Cadet'

## New Sport Pilots

I thought that September saw the addition of two new Sport Pilots to the Skyraider ranks... but I goofed. **Jim Fox** earned his Sport Pilot certificate in August, and by all rights should have been basking alone in the glory of the Skyraider Sentinel's "New Sport Pilot" column *last* month. But since I forgot to put a "New Sport Pilot" column in last month's newsletter, Jim has to share the spotlight with this month's new addition, **Eric Baker**. Both Jim and Eric worked hard to earn their certificates. They went into their practical tests extremely well prepared, and both guys impressed the heck out of their examiner. Congratulations to both (and Jim, sorry for forgetting about you!)



New Sport Pilot, Eric Baker sporting his Skyraider Aviation "Pilot" mug

## Upcoming Events

- October 15<sup>th</sup>, AOPA Air Safety Foundation Seminar, "Mastering Takeoffs and Landings". Ramada Plaza Hotel, Northglenn, CO.
- October 25<sup>th</sup>, Skyraider Aviation Open House: Sport Pilot/Light Sport Aircraft Exhibition & Info Session

[www.skyraideraviation.com/openhouse.html](http://www.skyraideraviation.com/openhouse.html)

## "Free Food"

Few phrases in the English language can incite such a powerful response. But on September 20<sup>th</sup> the promise of "Free Food" for pilots inspired a group of six Skyriders to fly 115 nautical miles for breakfast. Departing around 7:00am from Erie Municipal, we flew our three Light Sport Aircraft in a loose (ok... extremely loose) trail formation to Sidney, Nebraska, arriving a little over an hour later. The friendly folks of Sidney seemed genuinely grateful to have visitors from so far away. We were welcomed warmly, and were fed heartily.

The fly-in breakfast was held to raise funds for the local aviation college, and while the breakfast was in fact free, I think we all felt a little guilty accepting free food at a fund raiser. So we all bought raffle tickets! While none of us flew away with the grand prize (a shotgun), we all had fun at the event, and we were able to brag to our friends and families later that day that we had breakfast in Nebraska.