

LAPD



Paul Ricchiazzi, LAPD, at Cable Airport in Upland, site of his new aviation business.

# Ricchiazzi Aviation Takes Off

Police Officer has grand opening of his aviation business.

Story and photos by Club Staff

“I’ve always had a fascination for aviation for as long as I can remember,” says Officer Paul Ricchiazzi. Now the Command Post Specialist in the Emergency Operations Division has opened his own aviation business. And in keeping with the Club – there’s a Club discount!

With family and friends – and *Alive!* – Paul celebrated the grand opening of Ricchiazzi Aviation on the airport grounds at Cable Airport in Upland in November. His business offers aviation art, aerial photography, aviation novelty items, pilot supplies, scenic flights, custom picture framing, poster mounting, aviation themed interior design, and other services. Paul’s new

store is a pilot’s and airplane enthusiast’s dream. In addition to aviation art, he has flight jackets, watches, toy airplanes and helicopters and airplane novelties.

His love of aviation started when he took his first commercial flight when he was eight, from Buffalo, N.Y. to Los Angeles. “I don’t think I had seen the sun in almost a month [in Buffalo], and we were only in flight for 15 minutes, at the most, before we were through the clouds! I knew that I had some future in aviation at that point.”

He took flight lessons as soon as he could. He became a flight instructor before flying scenic tours and then for Chataqua Airlines, a small passenger line affiliated with U.S. Air. He made it to captain, but 9/11 put him on furlough and derailed his pilot career. He then joined the

LAPD; being a police officer was another lifelong dream.

“In a post 9/11 world, airports are becoming less and less appealing for people and families to watch airport activities since there is so much more restricted access. Luckily, Cable Airport has a fantastic viewing area right next to the approach end of the main runway, and they have a good cafe that has outdoor seating that faces the runway and my store with the San Gabriel Mountain Range for a background. Bring the family for breakfast!”

And don’t forget to visit his shop for memorabilia, or to schedule your own sightseeing flight. Don’t forget

to ask for your Club discount.

“I am very excited to have the opportunity to open this business and promote general aviation in a positive light,” he says.

Visit the Ricchiazzi Aviation Website – [www.ricchiazziaviation.com](http://www.ricchiazziaviation.com) – for directions and more information. And tell him we sent you!



ABOVE: Paul Ricchiazzi explains his history in aviation.



LEFT: Paul Ricchiazzi in front of his new Ricchiazzi Aviation.



BELOW: Paul Ricchiazzi at Cable Airport in Upland.




Paul Ricchiazzi (left) explains the cockpit to Isiah Hawkins, son of Club CEO John Hawkins.

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