

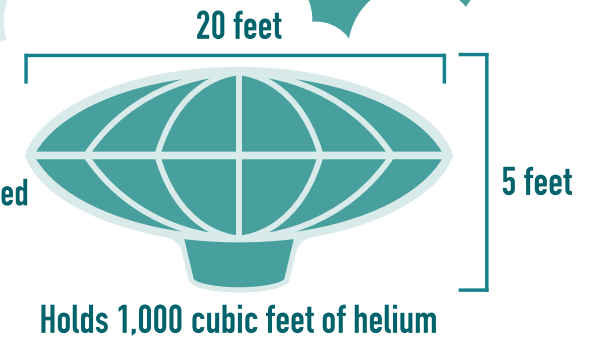


10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Relive the shocking events as they unfolded on Oct. 15, 2009 ...

THE EXPERIMENTAL LOW-ALTITUDE COMMUTER VEHICLE PROTOTYPE

Constructed from plastic tarps, aluminum foil, cardboard and duct tape. Heene claimed it emitted "one million volts every five minutes in order to move left, right or horizontally." Its remnants were sold at charity auction in 2011 for \$2,500.



25+ mph winds

7,000 feet max altitude

11:04am START

"Amateur scientist" and storm chaser Richard Heene calls the FAA to report he has accidentally launched a "flying saucer" which may have his son inside.

11:12am

Heene then calls a Denver TV station urging them to launch a copter to track his flying saucer. The call is initially dismissed as a hoax.

11:22am

Richard's wife, Mayumi, finally calls 911. Richard tells the operator his 6-year-old son Falcon has flown off in a homemade flying saucer which is electrified with over 1 million volts on its outer skin. He says the boy cannot control the craft and may be electrocuted.

12:10pm

The Larimer County Sheriff's Office issues a media alert stating that a runaway flying saucer with a small child inside is traveling east and could rise as high as 10,000 feet.

12:30pm

Colorado Air National Guard launches the first pursuit copter from Buckley Air Force Base.

12:33pm

A Weld County Sheriff's deputy reports seeing a small object fall from the bottom of the saucer near Platteville, CO

12:35pm

Denver news copters intercept the saucer and send back live images that are broadcast worldwide. The Heenes are quickly recognized from their appearances on TV's "Wife Swap."

1:13 - 1:25pm

Denver International Airport air traffic controllers halt all north-bound plane takeoffs to avoid hitting the saucer.

Local 911 is overwhelmed with callers offering suggestions on how to rescue the boy. Twitter slows to a crawl.

As the saucer reaches a height of 7,000 feet, officials announce they may have to shoot it down to save the boy from hypothermia.

1:28pm

The flimsy saucer begins to deflate on its own and descends south of Keenesburg, CO

1:34pm

Saucer lands in a field 12 miles northeast of DIA. Emergency personnel and paramedics swarm the wreckage. Larimer County Fire Dispatch reports "It's empty! It's empty!"

2:08 - 4:00pm

The Weld County Coroner along with Search and Rescue teams conduct a "body recovery" operation over 27 square miles to discover if Falcon fell from the saucer.

4:05pm

The Larimer County Sheriff, speaking about the ongoing body recovery efforts to the press, is told that Falcon has been found hiding in the attic of the Heene home.

More than 2 hours in the air and more than 50 miles traveled.

Sources: ABC 7 News Denver, The Coloradoan, The Museum of Hoaxes | Design and illustration © 2019 Clay Pot Creative