

Southern Arizona, USA

January 2019

My annual spotting trip to the southwestern United States in November was cancelled due to health issues. Fortunately I got a new opportunity two months later. Because I wanted to avoid driving long distances and possible snow/icing conditions, I decided to abandon my initial plan which comprised of Las Vegas and northern Arizona. In stead, I went to Phoenix, a place known for its many airports in a relatively small area. Even in this dry desert region there are extended periods of cloudy conditions this time of the year, so I waited for a positive weather forecast before I booked my airline ticket. Thanks to Expedia this could be done just a few days in advance for a reasonable price of about €600 including luggage and meals.

Since I had already explored the Phoenix area in November 2017, this trip required very little preparation, whilst still offering plenty of new and interesting stuff to see. The main targets would be photographing military fighters at Luke AFB, bizjets at Scottsdale, a little bit of both at Mesa Gateway and several other bits and pieces at the various other airports. Most nights I would stay in a hotel on the south side of Phoenix, near Chandler. Because of its central location and quick access to the I-10 freeway, I could reach all airports in the Phoenix area within 75 minutes, even during rush hour.

As usual, writing down tail numbers was a secondary priority, so most logs below are not complete. Besides, all aircraft that I logged on my previous trips (November 2017 and January 2018) are omitted, unless noted at a different airport. Finally, all mm's mentioned in this article apply to a 1.5x crop camera.

On 18 January I flew with British Airways from Amsterdam via London to Phoenix-Sky Harbor. I spent the night at the Crowne Plaza near the airport, which was also included in my Expedia reservation. The next morning I went to the rental car center and picked up a Nissan Sentra from Avis. I rented a TravelTab as well, which is a small mobile device that includes a.o. a navigation system and a secure WiFi hotspot anywhere you go. This would be very helpful out in the field to check the weather, track aircraft movements on FlightAware, make/change last-minute hotel bookings, etc. The price for the TravelTab mentioned in my online reservation was significantly lower than the price that Avis was charging me at the rental desk, so it took some arguing before I got the price I wanted. Then it was off to Home Depot to buy a 3-step ladder and a small step-stool and then to Target to buy some refreshments.

19 January 2019 Coolidge KP08

C-FKMX	AS350B3 Ecureuil	Questral Helicopters
N1817Z	Beech 58P	Burnips Equipment
N789WW	Short C-23C Sherpa	Win Aviation
N862MB/4	AS350B3 Ecureuil	Med-Trans/Arizona Lifeline

Win Aviation operates both Sherpas and Skyvans (the latter were already logged on my previous visits) for skydive training at this quiet and remote airport. Based on photos I found on the web, military aircraft are occasionally using this airport for similar purposes as well, such as a German C-160 or a Mexican C-27. The red-and-blue Arizona Lifeline chopper has been based here since October last year.

19 January 2019 Phoenix-Mesa Gateway KIWA

163631/B-231	T-45C Goshawk	US Navy
167088/B-240	T-45C Goshawk	US Navy
168024/YW-07	MV-22B Osprey	US Marine Corps
N129DG	Cessna 525B	Dutra Group
N147AZ/"223518"	Douglas DC-3C	Commemorative Air Force - Arizona

N202CF + N608CF	Agusta A119	Air Methods/Tri State Care Flight
N225AS	Embraer 500 Phenom 100	JetSuite
N257JQ	Embraer 145LR	Delta Connection
N2828B	Cessna 750+	F8 Leasing
N508CF	Agusta A109E	Air Methods
N544AM	AS350B3 Ecureuil	Air Methods/Native Air
N578FX	CL-350	Flexjet
N649JR	Cessna 510	
N817BF	Cessna 525	Cooper Companies

Plus Allegiant Air A320 N248NV / N255NV / N259NV.

For military spotters, a (weekend) visit to Mesa Gateway can be a hit or a miss. In January 2018 I logged about 30 military aircraft on a Saturday, but this year my visits resulted in only a fraction of that. Apparently the Osprey broke down as it remained parked on the apron at least until the end of the month.

On the airline side, the airport has recently become a little more interesting with new services from the Canadian carriers Swoop and Flair Air. California Pacific used to fly to the airport as well, but the company (temporarily?) ceased operations. Furthermore the main carrier Allegiant Air replaced most of their based A319s with larger A320s and Swift Air is still operating B737s for the U.S. government on a frequent basis.

20 January 2019 Eloy KE60

N223LH	Beech A100	Skydive Arizona
N82LH	DHC-6-200 Twin Otter	Skydive Arizona

On this partly cloudy Sunday I explored the various small airports south of Phoenix. Nothing of interest was seen at Casa Grande, but at Eloy I caught another gem: a sixty-year-old Lockheed Lodestar. I logged this one on my previous visit when it was parked in a hangar for maintenance, but today it could be photographed out in the sun. The Dakota, which I caught flying on my previous visit, was now mothballed in a corner next to one of the hangars.

20 January 2019 Marana-Pinal Airpark KMZJ

B-2060 + B-2065	Boeing 777-200	Air China
HC-CMO + HC-COF	Airbus A319-100	TAME
N126DL	Boeing 767-300	Delta Air Lines
N217RJ	Boeing 747-200BSF	
N24089	Boeing 737-200	Logistic Air
N467CS + N495CS	CASA C212-200	Rampart Aviation
N497CA	CASA C212-200	Rampart Aviation
N594HA	Boeing 767-300	Hawaiian Airlines
N600NC	DHC-4 Caribou	Rampart Aviation
N672BC	Embraer 190AR	
N672US + N673US	Boeing 747-400	Delta Air Lines

Without airside access, spotting conditions at this airline graveyard are far from ideal. A quick drive along the fence resulted in some tail numbers but not in any decent photo opportunities. Rampart Aviation is based here and conducts skydive training for the U.S. military.

20 January 2019 Avra Valley-Marana Regional KAVQ

N120SP	Beech B60	
N1379G	Cessna 340A	
N18280	Beech 58P	
N27563	Piper PA.31	
N523MB	Cessna 310J	private
N985AB	Beech C90B	Safford Aviation Services

At the "other Marana" airport you will need airside access as well, but thanks to the friendly airport manager and FBO this was not a problem at all. Not much has changed since my previous visit in 2017. Two stored Skyhawks that I logged earlier are now

parked at the main tie-down apron: 149550 (A-4C) and 147671 (A-4L). These can be photographed best in the (late) afternoon, although they could certainly use some new paint. The northwest storage corner is still cluttered with propliners, making it difficult to photograph any of them in a decent manner. There was supposed to be a skydiving exercise for the Navy Seals at this airport before and during my trip, but the participating Navy Greyhound broke down and departed back to NAS North Island the day before my arrival. A replacement aircraft was not flown in because a Rampart Aviation C212 was going to take over its task. Unfortunately I did not see any indications of the skydiving exercise during this or my next visit the following day.

20 January 2019 Tucson-Ryan Field KRYN

N310WW	Cessna 310H	
N7605Y	Piper PA.30	private
N765LT	Cessna 340	private
N8449T	Piper PA.34-220T	private

After a scenic drive to though the Saguaro National Park (home to many distinctive large cacti) I ended up just west of Tucson. I logged a few twin props at this General Aviation airport before continuing to the International airport. According to FlightAware, Ryan Field is frequently visited by U.S. Army Lakotas from Silverbell AHP (but obviously not on this Sunday).

20 January 2019 Tucson KTUS

HC-BVT	Boeing 727-200	Ecuatoriana
N421LA	Cessna 421C	private
OB-1547	Boeing 727-22	Aero Peru
VP-BGA	Boeing 737-800	Yakutia Air

A Ford Tri-Motor was operating sightseeing flights out of the Pima Community College apron on the west side of the field. While I generally don't care for airplanes older than WW2, this event gave me a good opportunity to photograph the stored Aero Peru B727.

21 January 2019 Maricopa-Ak Chin Regional KA39

N7441S	Piper Aerostar 601B	
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Martin Luther King Jr. Day began cloudy, but blue skies were slowly approaching from the west. I started the day at this small airport southeast of the town of Maricopa. It is owned and operated by the Ak-Chin Indian Community. The Aerostar was parked at the small main apron. For photography, light is best in the morning, although I had to wait a while before the sun came out. Because of the public holiday, the terminal building was closed. Nevertheless I was able to open the gate next to the building with the help of the FAA A/FD guide and get airside access anyway. There is also a compound with about 17 Huey fuselages which remained unidentified.

21 January 2019 Gila Bend KE63

56-0112	RF-101C Voodoo	USAF
56-0130	RF-101C Voodoo	USAF
N777FS	Piper PA.39	private

The small municipal airport of Gila Bend is located just east of the town. Apart from the two gate guards (which are difficult to photograph in a decent manner) there is not much to see.

21 January 2019 Gila Bend

N203CF	Agusta A119	Air Methods/Tri State Care Flight
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On the west side of town (near the intersection of W. Pima Street and Gila Avenue) there is a helipad behind the Adelante Healthcare building where this beautiful red-and-white A119 could be photographed.

21 January 2019 Casa Grande KCGZ

N134FA/ Beech B45 Mentor

"CG021/MD-E"

N228QS CL-650 Netjets

N501MT/"501" Embraer 312F Tucano Valkyrie Aero

A brief visit to Casa Grande resulted in three nice aircraft. All were photographed from the airside patio just outside the terminal building, where the sun will be in your back all day.

21 January 2019 Avra Valley-Marana Regional KAVQ

N119AB Beech 95-C55 Safford Aviation Services

N888FG Cessna 550

22 January 2019 Luke AFB KLUF

MM7333/32-02	F-35A	Italian AF
5111 + 5147	F-35A	Norwegian AF
18-003 + 18-004	F-35A	South-Korean AF
18-005	F-35A	South-Korean AF
18-0002	F-35A	Turkish AF
09-5004/LF	F-35A	USAF
10-5009/LF	F-35A	USAF
11-5035/LF	F-35A	USAF
11-5037/LF	F-35A	USAF
12-5042/LF	F-35A	USAF
12-5043/LF	F-35A	USAF
12-5045/LF	F-35A	USAF
12-5050/LF	F-35A	USAF
12-5055/LF	F-35A	USAF
13-5065/LF	F-35A	USAF
13-5076/LF	F-35A	USAF
14-5092/LF	F-35A	USAF
14-5095/LF	F-35A	USAF
14-5103/LF	F-35A	USAF
14-5107/LF	F-35A	USAF
15-5135/LF	F-35A	USAF
15-5161/LF	F-35A	USAF
15-5164/LF	F-35A	USAF
15-5174/LF	F-35A	USAF
15-5179/LF	F-35A	USAF
15-5185/LF	F-35A	USAF
15-5189/LF	F-35A	USAF
15-5191/LF	F-35A	USAF
83-1158/LF	F-16C	USAF
84-1216/LF	F-16C	USAF
84-1284/LF	F-16C	USAF
84-1294/LF	F-16C	USAF
84-1318/LF	F-16C	USAF
84-1331/LF	F-16D	USAF
84-1387/LF	F-16C	USAF
87-0358/LF	F-16CM	USAF
88-0163/LF	F-16DM	USAF
89-2159/LF	F-16DM	USAF
90-0759/LF	F-16CM	USAF
90-0778/LF	F-16D	USAF
90-0793/LF	F-16DM	USAF
93-0703/LF	F-16A	USAF
93-0704/LF	F-16A	USAF

93-0708/LF	F-16A	USAF
93-0721	F-16A	USAF
93-0816/LF	F-16A	USAF
93-0825/LF	F-16B	USAF

I spent two beautiful mornings at this busy superbase. Flying started before 8 AM and with most aircraft departing and arriving in groups of 2-4, there were hardly any quiet moments. Only runway 3L-21R was in use because the other runway was closed for maintenance. In this situation Scramble AFG spot 1, on the south side of the base, was the place to be, regardless of the runway direction. There is an unpaved dirt road between the base perimeter and the farmlands that runs eastward from this spot. Near the end of this road you can stand relatively close to the taxiway (near the taxiway corner). The sun is in your back most of the day and you will need approximately 150-300 mm for the fighters (beware of heathaze though). A ladder is not necessary because you can stand on the black drain pipe that runs directly along the fence. Nearly all aircraft passed by this spot: either after landing on runway 21R or before taking off from runway 3L. To my surprise, I could conduct my hobby here the entire two mornings in peace & quiet since neither the farmer nor the base security bothered me at all. When runway 3L is in use, it is also possible to photograph the aircraft in the approach near spot 1 of the AFG. Light is best from sunrise to mid-morning and you will need approximately 200-300 mm. I recommend choosing either a spot in the approach or along the taxiway. Frequently driving up and down the dirt road from one spot to the other and back might attract unwanted attention since the dirt road could be considered private property (although this is up for debate).

22 January 2019 Goodyear KGYR

AP-BNN	Airbus A319-100	Shaheen Air International
N11LX	Sabreliner 60	Lockheed Martin
N1839H	Piper PA.34-200T	
N414JC	Cessna 414A	private
N581HA	Boeing 767-300ER	Hawaiian Airlines
N587AE	AS350B3 Ecureuil	PHI Air Medical
N590CL	Falcon 900EX	N-Jet/Celebrate Life
N630TG	Piper PA.46R-350T	private
N7072Y	Piper PA.30	Arizona Air Salvage
N723AC	Boeing 737-700	Xiamen Airlines
N84CW	Gulfstream G280	Costco Wholesale
N962CE	MD-83SF	Everts Air Cargo

In the afternoon I remained in the western part of the Phoenix area. A brief visit to Buckeye airport did not result in any new aircraft. At Goodyear, things did not work out the way I hoped either. I was planning to photograph the stored airliners on the west side of the runway. However, the unpaved road along the fence was covered with green bushes that emerged from the ground due to the recent rainfall. I considered a drive along the stored aircraft in my sedan too risky; an SUV would be more suitable in this case. So I merely ended up with photographing a couple of bizjets at the main apron on the east side. The best spot is the Galaxy International parking lot, south of the Lux Air FBO (turn right at the end of Corsair Circle). The sun will be in your back for most of the day. Especially during a NASCAR event (usually in November) a lot of bizjet traffic can be expected. Unfortunately I missed the beautiful Sabreliner as it was just being towed inside a hangar. Apparently it had arrived while I was on my way to/from Buckeye.

23 January 2019 Scottsdale KSDL

C-FSJY	CL-605	Shaw
N115LF	CL-300	private
N133NM	Falcon 900EX	private
N210PM	Cessna 510	Natron Wood Products
N247SS	Eclipse 500	OakRidge Homes
N270JH	CL-300	Executive Jet Management

N317TT	Learjet 35A	Aero Jet Services
N325PE	CL-350	Phillips Edison & Company
N325QS + N422QS	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	Netjets
N347BD	Falcon 7X	Becton Dickinson
N360JE	Hawker 4000	Talon Air/The Setai Aviation
N390JV	Raytheon 390 Premier 1	Pinnacle Aviation
N402FB + N54FB	Beech 400A	Farm Bureau Financial Services
N415HD	Raytheon 390 Premier 1	Jet Pros
N441MN	Cessna 441	private
N4917A	Piper PA.44-180	ATP Flight School
N501DB	Falcon 900C	Discount Tire
N5340G	Cessna 340A	
N534CC	Cessna 560XLS+	Kroger/Harris Teeter
N550LG	Embraer 550	
N567MC	Cessna 560XL	Mach One Air Charters
N586AT	Pilatus PC-12/47E	Avondale Toyota
N600VG	Piper PA.46-600TP	
N603QS	Cessna 680A	Netjets
N604M	CL-604	McDonough
N605RT	CL-605	Landmark Aviation/Ray Thurston
N612HT	Falcon 2000EX	Healthcare Trust of America
N65CA	Cessna 560 Ultra	
N66ZB	BAe 125-800XP	American Capital Group
N702SJ	CL-850	MAC Air Group/Set Jet
N711SR	Pilatus PC-12/47E	Roberts Resorts
N712AG	CL-605	Audax Group
N74706	Robinson R44	Universal Helicopters
N74GG	Gulfstream IV-SP	ACI Jet
N74TD	Falcon 900B	Threshold Ventures
N769EB	Pilatus PC-12/47	Vernon Aviation
N782BJ	CL-300	Landmark Aviation
N805JL	BAe 125-800A	
N806GJ	BAe 125-800XP2	Critical Care Medflight
N808VS	Robinson R66	VS Helicopters
N830RR	Pilatus PC-12/47E	Resolute Investments
N880WC	Cessna 525B	The Wolff Company
N888JS	Cessna 425	
N899AK	Hawker 4000	
N902UP	Cessna 750	Gama Aviation/Wheels Up
N90Z	Cessna 550	
N946JJ	Pilatus PC-12	
N979AZ	Cessna 560XLS	

I spent two other beautiful mornings at one of the busiest single-runway airports in the country. Traffic consists mainly of business aviation and flight training. With northerly winds, runway 3 was in use, which provides the best photo opportunities. I stayed at the abandoned taxiway near the runway threshold (7600 E Redfield Road) where all arriving and departing aircraft could be photographed on or just above the runway. Light is best from sunrise till late morning. The fence is relatively low, so I only used a small foldable step-stool in order to avoid unwanted attention from airport security (as I experienced during my trip in 2017).

23 January 2019 Phoenix-Deer Valley KDVT

C-GNWM	Cessna 550	
N125HD	AS350B2 Ecureuil	US Helicopters
N425WY	Cessna 550	
N450PH	Bell 407	PHI Air Medical
N45FG	Learjet 36	Jet Logistics

N553V	Learjet 35A	
N576SC	Cessna 525A	
N5AF	Cessna 510	
N71SC	Cessna 208B	Westwind Aviation
N7441S	Piper Aerostar 601B	
N7BX	Beech E55	Honeywell
N911CX	Beech C90	Centr. Virginia Avia./TriState CareFlight

Plus AeroGuard Flight Training Center (f.k.a. TransPac) PA.44 N286PA / N292PA / N303PA / N316PA / N971PA.

After Scottsdale I paid a brief visit to the other busy General Aviation airport on the north side of Phoenix. Driving along the hangars on the south side and a walk to the observation deck on top of the terminal resulted in the above aircraft. The observation deck can be reached by walking straight through the terminal building, going outside towards the main apron, turning right and then taking the stairs at the end.

23 January 2019 Phoenix-Mesa Gateway KIWA

N212UT	SIAI S211	Aviation Performance Solutions
N24QA	Cessna 560 Encore+	Mid American Apartments
N501CA	BAe 125-800XP	
N59	Learjet 60	FAA Federal Aviation Administration

Plus ATP Flight School PA.44 N253AT / N6865A / N832AT.

Traffic was very slow on this Wednesday afternoon with no sign of any military visitors. The FAA Learjet was performing calibration flights. After a couple of hours I decided to try my luck elsewhere.

23 January 2019 Coolidge KP08

N555EW	Pilatus PC-12/45	private
N567WW	Short C-23C Sherpa	Win Aviation

A late afternoon visit resulted in perfect light conditions on the stored C-130s and DC-7 (logged on my previous trip) and the aforementioned Arizona Lifeline helicopter. Unfortunately the DC-7 was blocked by the new Sherpa, so I was unable to photograph it the way I wanted.

24 January 2019 Luke AFB KLUF

A35-005 + A35-006	F-35A	Australian AF
A35-007 + A35-008	F-35A	Australian AF
18-002 + 18-006	F-35A	South-Korean AF
18-0001	F-35A	Turkish AF
10-5010/LF	F-35A	USAF
11-5038/LF	F-35A	USAF
11-5039/LF	F-35A	USAF
15-5169/LF	F-35A	USAF
15-5182/LF	F-35A	USAF
15-5193/LF	F-35A	USAF
61-0277	KC-135R Stratotanker	USAF
84-1308/LF	F-16C	USAF
84-1327/LF	F-16D	USAF
85-1439/LF	F-16C	USAF
93-0707/LF	F-16A	USAF
93-0722/LF	F-16A	USAF
93-0817/LF	F-16A	USAF

24 January 2019 Goodyear KGYR

N615WA	Piper PA.46-500TP	
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24 January 2019 Glendale KGEU

N12LA	Beech E90	Central Virginia Aviation
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N208BH	Learjet 60	Cirrus Aviation Service
N36TG	Beech C90	
N450MM	Cessna 560	
N4904P/"149069"	Piper PA.23-250	
N52PD	Enstrom F-28F	Airwest Helicopters
N754TW	Beech C90	
N8502V	Piper PA.34-200	Angel Aviation
N889CA	Learjet 45	
N901CR	Cessna 560XL	

Not much was going on at Goodyear, so I spent the remainder of the afternoon at the General Aviation airport of Glendale. All bizjets were parked on the apron between the Glendale Aero Services FBO building and the main terminal building. The sun will be in your back during the (late) afternoon.

25 January 2019 Scottsdale KSDL

C-FASV	Embraer 545	Airsprint
C-FASW	Cessna 525A	Airsprint
C-GPPI	BD-700-1A11 Global 5000	Skyservice Business Aviation
N100RC	Cessna 525C	Rydell
N114SN	IAI 1125SPX	Smith & Howard
N177CN	Beech B200	Retinal Consultants of Arizona
N196JH	Cessna 525B	Pinnacle Aviation
N1AZ	Gulfstream IV-SP	Delta Private Jets
N1CC	Gulfstream IV-SP	Executive Jet Management
N200FT	Cessna 525A	Shufeldt Consulting
N219MA	Mitsubishi MU-2B-40	
N23FR	CL-350	
N365AV + N611AV	CL-350	Pinnacle Aviation
N372FX	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	Flight Options
N427QS	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	Netjets
N43HF	Cessna 560XLS	Jet Linx
N441LT	Cessna 441	Gemini Air Group
N458WB	Hawker 4000	
N529FX	CL-300	Flexjet
N530DL	IAI 1124 Westwind	
N552HV	Cessna 560 Encore	
N556QS	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets
N567QS	Cessna 680A	Netjets
N581FX	CL-350	Flexjet
N600HR	Cessna 525	Sawyer Aviation
N60SB	CL-300	Silicone Specialties
N636SD	Embraer 500 Phenom 100	Baldwin & Baldwin
N781MM	Embraer 550	MGM Resorts International
N823SB	Aero Commander 690A	San Bernardino County Sheriff
N825SA	CL-605	Rural Media Group
N844GT	Pilatus PC-12/47E	Groendyke Transport
N844UP	Falcon 2000LXS	Union Pacific
N86NP	CL-605	Nationwide
N906CM	Falcon 900	Martin Aerospace
N914QS	Cessna 750	Netjets
N965M	Piper PA.46-500TP	
N9CN	Cessna 560 Encore	Jet Linx

25 January 2019 Phoenix-Mesa Gateway KIWA

162442/VW-01	F/A-18A++ Hornet	US Marine Corps
163991/VW-22	F/A-18D Hornet	US Marine Corps
164043/VW-23	F/A-18D Hornet	US Marine Corps

N163M	Cessna 525C	private
N203CF + N604CF	Agusta A119	Air Methods / Tri State Care Flight
N249NV + N250NV	Airbus A320-200	Allegiant Air
N286SJ	Embraer 145XR	Intel Air Shuttle Aircraft
N313XA	Boeing 737-400	Swift Air
N317NV	Airbus A319-100	Allegiant Air
N365LP	Learjet 45XR	Pinnacle Aviation
N447DB	Beech C90B	Guardian Flight
N508UP	Cessna 560XLS	Gama Aviation/Wheels Up
N621QS	Cessna 680A	Netjets
N689ND + N785ND	Piper PA.44-180	University of North Dakota
N75EB	Cessna 560XL	Robert Weed
N835AT	Piper PA.44-180	ATP Flight School/Arizona State Univ.
N991NP	Cessna 525B	Northland Products
XA-UPZ	Cessna 525A	Aerotaxis Alfe

The VMFA-314 aircraft made a fuel stop on their way from MCAS Miramar to Texas (and perhaps beyond).

26 January 2019 Scottsdale KSDL

C-FHRL	CL-605	Jetport/Fox Harb'r
N358P	Learjet 60XR	MAC Air Group
N525CD	Cessna 525	Sawyer Aviation
N601FM	Cessna 680A	Sprouts Farmers Market
N672SC	Learjet 40	Seneca Companies
N794SD	Beech C90GTx	Syracuse Diary
N7MR	Falcon 7X	
N800BD	CL-300	Discount Tire
N9943R	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	Oskar Blues

Starting at sunrise, I spent about 1.5 hrs along the runway, but bizjet traffic was considerably less than on weekdays.

26 January 2019 Phoenix-Deer Valley KDVT

C-GFVG	Beech B60	private
N117VK	Pilatus PC-24	
N216TM	Cessna 525B	
N292ME	Learjet 35A	ASI
N323EZ	Cessna 525	
N525AC	Learjet 36A	AirCare1 Int'l/Critical Air Response
N566GL	Pilatus PC-12/47E	Western Aircraft
N700VM	Socata TBM-700A	
N790CA	Socata TBM-700C2	
N795JK	Cessna 550	

I paid another brief visit to the observation deck to log and photograph a few new bizzers.

26 January 2019 Hidden Valley AZ43

N750SD	PAC 750XL	Skydive Milwaukee
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Besides the well-know Skydive Arizona (at Eloy), I found out that there is another skydiving organization called Skydive Phoenix. On this Saturday I went to their home base, a small airport between Maricopa and Gila Bend south of SR-238. The PAC 750XL with Skydive Milwaukee titles was conducting para drops, but photo opportunities were not ideal. According to their Facebook-page, Skydive Phoenix occasionally uses a Cessna Caravan as well.

Little did I know that less than a mile to the east, there is another small airport (Millar Airport) with several warbirds or preserved aircraft from the Vietnam War. Perhaps one for a next time...

26 January 2019 Phoenix-Mesa Gateway KIWA

C-FBVS	Boeing 737-800	Flair Air
N23ND	Beech C90GTi	University of North Dakota
N252NV + N260NV	Airbus A320-200	Allegiant Air
N3117L + N686AT	Piper PA.44-180	ATP Flight School
N314BB	Cessna T310R	
N700WY	BAe 125-900XP	Business Aviators
N787JS	Cessna 750	Executive Jet Management
N78900/"4077"	Bell 47D1	
N909BK	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	
N9943R	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	Oskar Blues

A Saturday afternoon with zero military visitors... Fortunately the civil traffic was not too bad with a few departing bizjets and a Smartwings/Flair Air hybrid.

27 January 2019 Tucson KTUS

N121FE	Boeing 767-300FER	FedEx
N1285Z	Beech 95-55	NextGen Flight Academy
N576QS	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets
N936AF	Cessna 421C	Davis Kitchens
XB-MLX	Cessna 414A	
XB-RJA	Cessna 340A	

With pretty much all airports in the Phoenix area ticked off and a partly cloudy to mostly cloudy weather forecast for the remaining period, I decided to spend the final days of my trip in the Tucson area. On this Sunday I made a scenic road trip to several small airports in the area between Tucson and the Mexican border. First of all I briefly visited the graveyards at Davis-Monthan (nothing new was logged), Tucson International and Ryan Field (nothing was logged here either). Then I took the I-19 highway southbound towards the border town of Nogales.

27 January 2019 Nogales KOLS

N11TJ	Cessna 310R	private
N2958U	Piper PA.34-200T	
N41960	Piper PA.34-200	Tiffin Aviation Services
N51B	Beech 400A	Sky Quest

Nogales airport is located northeast of the town along SR-82. The aprons and hangars are located on the northwest side of the runway. The many intimidating warning signs and patrolling CBP vehicles made me feel a little uncomfortable, but the folks at the Tiffin Aviation Services FBO were very friendly and allowed me airside access. Besides the usual general aviation traffic, the airport is frequently used by military and border patrol helicopters. Ameriflight is operating cargo flights from Phoenix with various aircraft types including their relatively rare Embraer 120. Flight schedules may vary, so it is best to check FlightAware.

27 January 2019 Fort Huachuca-Sierra Vista KFHU

N257AS	Embraer 120ERF	Ameriflight
N932DM	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	Tobin James Cellars

Just like last year there wasn't too much to see at this airport, so I quickly continued my trip eastward.

27 January 2019 Douglas-Cochise College KP03

N4815B	Cessna 310	Cochise College
N9430	Beech 95-B55	Cochise College

Near the small border towns of Bisbee and Douglas there are no less than four airports: Bisbee Municipal, Douglas-Cochise College, Douglas Municipal and Bisbee-Douglas International. Except at Cochise College there was nothing to log at any of them on this Sunday afternoon. The Cessna 310 is preserved near the main gate. Due to their remote

location and limited amount of traffic, I wouldn't consider any of them worth a second visit.

27 January 2019 St. David

N519MT/1 Bell 407 Med-Trans/Arizona Lifeline

On my way back to Tucson I noticed this helicopter along the road SR-80, just south of the town of St. David at the intersection with E 1st Avenue. I returned the next day to photograph it in better light conditions. After some research on the internet I found out that there is an exact copy of this helicopter (except for the tail number of course) based at Douglas Municipal airport.

27 January 2019 Benson KE95

N388SP Cessna 340 private
N409JB Piper Aerostar 600

Around sunset I arrived at the airport of Benson. The stored Dakota hasn't moved an inch compared to my visit last year.

28 January 2019 Safford KSAD

N1165Z Aero Commander 500B Ponderosa Aviation
N920RC Cessna 404 South Aero
N9QY Aero Commander 500S

On Monday morning the weather looked fine, so I decided to drive to Safford and photograph some bizprops. South Aero Inc apparently took over Ameriflight's cargo service from Phoenix as the latter phased out their PA.31s.

After a quick look at the local hospital (no helicopter present) I drove to Willcox-Cochise County airport where I found an empty apron. According to FlightAware, a bizjet/bizprop visitor is not uncommon here and with its close proximity to the I-10 freeway (take exit 336 and turn north), it could be worth a brief detour. Light is probably best in the morning.

28 January 2019 Tucson KTUS

1608 + 1633	F-16C	Iraqi AF
J-004/AZ	F-16AM	Netherlands AF
99-02055	AH-64D Apache	Singapore AF
83-1174/AZ	F-16D	USAF
86-0214/AZ	F-16C	USAF
86-0256/AZ	F-16C	USAF
86-0285/AZ	F-16C	USAF
87-0299/AZ	F-16C	USAF
87-0317/AZ	F-16C	USAF
88-0447/AZ	F-16CM	USAF
89-2012/AZ	F-16CM	USAF
89-2123/AZ	F-16CM	USAF
90-0720/AZ	F-16CM	USAF
N110SY	Embraer 175LR	United Express
N182SY	Embraer 175LR	Alaska Skywest
N25TN	Aero Commander 695	Truly Nolen Pest Control
N301NB	Airbus A319-100	Delta Air Lines
N429QX	Dash 8-400	Alaska Horizon
N441WN + N7823A	Boeing 737-700	Southwest Airlines
N495UA	Airbus A320-200	United Airlines
N54JC	CL-604	Jim Click
N63DB	Cessna 414A	
N744SK	CRJ 701ER	American Eagle
N806UA	Airbus A319-100	United Airlines
N875CA	Learjet 60	Corwin Automotive Group
N926DH	MD-90-30	Delta Air Lines

N954AN + N965AN	Boeing 737-800	American Airlines
N987ST	Beech 350i	
XA-UXT	Boeing 737-300	Magni Charters

I spent the afternoon at spot 8 of the Scramble AFG. The sun was shining right until the Iraqi F-16s returned for landing... On the remaining three days the sun would only appear for some brief moments as it was mostly covered by thick high clouds.

29 January 2019 Tucson KTUS

1622 + 1636	F-16C	Iraqi AF
73-1584/DM	EC-130H Hercules	USAF
82-0056	C-130H Hercules	USAF
86-0241/AT	F-16C	USAF
N189SY	Embraer 175LR	Alaska Skywest
N302NB	Airbus A319-100	Delta Air Lines
N31RM	Socata TBM-900	private
N420WN + N474WN	Boeing 737-700	Southwest Airlines
N479UA	Airbus A320-200	United Airlines
N505R	CL-650	Raytheon
N566SW	Embraer 120ER	Ameriflight
N707GB	Cessna 310R	private
N726XJ + N793XJ	Cessna 750	XOJet
N732SK	CRJ 701ER	American Eagle
N752SK	CRJ 701ER	SkyWest Airlines
N764JR	Shorts 360-300	Air Cargo Carriers
N7856A	Boeing 737-700	Southwest Airlines
N810NN	Boeing 737-800	American Airlines
N888HH	Gulfstream G450	Executive Jet Management
N895UA	Airbus A319-100	United Airlines
N952DN	MD-90-30	Delta Air Lines

The C-130s were performing several low approaches in the afternoon.

30 January 2019 Tucson KTUS

C-FVMW	Falcon 2000LX	Blackcomb Aviation
N139FE	Boeing 767-300F	FedEx
N304QS	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	Netjets
N321SM	Cessna 525B	Alante Air Charter
N89WA	BAe 125-800XP2	Pinnacle Aviation
N934SW	CRJ 200LR	United Express

30 January 2019 Chandler KCHD

N2TC	Robinson R66	Gust Rosenfeld
N388MJ	Robinson R22	
N43PT	Piper PA.23-250	
N442HH	Robinson R44	
N443BB	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	Head Inc.
N464HP	Piper PA.46-500TP	Orion Integration Group
N523KC	Robinson R22	
N54TF	Robinson R44	
N690AR	Aero Commander 690A	Ponderosa Aviation
TI-BAR	Robinson R44	private

Quantum Helicopters

*[R22](#): N1118N / N19VH / N20430 / N412TL / N424SF / N7041X / N70562 / N7087K / N7098P / N7190C / N7193U / N724JH / N7514V;

*[R44](#): N744ME;

*[R66](#): N4043X.

On Wednesday morning I drove back towards Phoenix. Around lunchtime I visited Chandler airport. Airside access to the northern tie-down apron was denied due to

ongoing construction works, which resulted in too much taxiing traffic. So then I went to the facilities of Quantum Helicopters located at the northeast corner of the field. Besides flight training the company also offers Robinson maintenance to other customers. I was permitted to photograph the flight training activities from the edge of the apron and meanwhile I took the opportunity to write down all the tail numbers inside the hangar. Photography from outside the fence is possible as well as long as you bring a ladder. The sun will be in your back from noon onwards.

30 January 2019 Phoenix-Mesa Gateway KIWA

167108/QB	KC-130J Hercules	US Marine Corps
N428QS	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	Netjets
N47LM	Cessna 525B	Alante Air Charter
N525CW	Cessna 525B	
N61DT	Eclipse 500	National American University
N808LF	AS350B3 Ecureuil	Air Methods/Life Net
N820UP	Beech 350i	Gama Aviation/Wheels Up
N910SS	Cessna 525C	

31 January 2019 Phoenix-Sky Harbor KPHX

G-CIVJ	Boeing 747-400	British Airways
N10SL	BD-700-1A11 Global 5000	Skechers
N153AE	AS350B3 Ecureuil	PHI Air Medical
N157UW	Airbus A321-200	American Airlines
N175RD	Cessna 525B	
N242CK	CL-601-3R	Kalitta Charters
N249TG	Cessna 208	
N24ZD	IAI 1125SPX	N-Jet
N329CH	CL-300	MedImpact
N339NW	Airbus A320-200	Delta Air Lines
N341P + N384P	AS350B3 Ecureuil	PHI Air Medical
N354DN + N365DN	Airbus A321-200	Delta Air Lines
N36987	Beech B200	Pasquinelli Produce
N422UA	Airbus A320-200	United Airlines
N428PH	Bell 407	PHI Air Medical
N5254C	Cessna 525C	Midwest Jet Charter
N571PC	Pilatus PC-12/45	Aerolynx
N686TW	Cessna 680A	Schubach Aviation
N709BR	CRJ 200ER	SkyWest Airlines
N714AX	Boeing 767-200BDSF	ATI Air Transport International
N744SK + N755SK	CRJ 701ER	American Eagle
N750WS	Cessna 750	
N767SK	CRJ 701ER	SkyWest Airlines
N7705A	Boeing 737-700	Southwest Airlines
N783NG	Pilatus PC-12/47E	Cutter Flight Management
N797QS	CL-350	Netjets
N819AP	Gulfstream G200	Sky Partners
N855MW	BAe 125-800SP	NXT Jet
N8564Z	Boeing 737-800	Southwest Airlines
N873NN + N896NN	Boeing 737-800	American Airlines
N938LR	CRJ 900ER	American Eagle
N991AL	Learjet 35A	Reva
PH-HXC	Boeing 737-800	Sun Country
XA-DLA	CL-300	Apoyo Logistico Aereo

I spent the final morning in the approach of runway 8 and near the General Aviation apron on the south side.

31 January 2019 Phoenix-Deer Valley KDVT

N106KH	Beech 400A	Landmark Aviation
N1129G	Cessna 208B	Westwind Aviation
N207NX	Pilatus PC-12/47E	
N340DF	Cessna 340	
N359FB	AS350B3 Ecureuil	Phoenix Police
N400CP	Cessna 560XLS	Jet Linx
N404BF	Pilatus PC-12/45	
N4282	AS350B3 Ecureuil	Air Methods/Native Air
N4391E	Piper PA.46-310P	
N4917A	Piper PA.44-180	ATP Flight School
N507BE	Beech 200	
N58AH	Sikorsky S-58ET	
N626MT	Pilatus PC-12/47	Retamco
N640MY	Pilatus PC-12/45	
N73DP	Bell 206B3	
N804TB	BAe 125-800XP	Private Jets
N975QS	Cessna 750	Netjets
N977MS	Bell 407	Maricopa County Sheriff

Plus AeroGuard Flight Training Center (f.k.a. TransPac) PA.44 N302PA / N317PA / N433PA.

This spotting trip was concluded with a few hours of relaxing at the observation deck of Deer Valley. Traffic seemed even busier than on my previous (short) visits, so it could be worthwhile to spend an entire day here on a future trip.

In the afternoon I returned the rental car at Sky Harbor. Once again I had to argue with Avis over the price of the aforementioned TravelTab. Fortunately I had plenty of spare time before my flight, so I was able to settle this before I left the rental car center. Paying close attention when picking up and returning the rental car saved me quite some money.

Although the cloudy weather spoiled the last few days of the trip, I was all in all very satisfied with the end result. Despite the fact that this was my third trip to the same area in less than 1.5 years, I still returned home with many new photos. A huge variety of airports and aircraft combined with lots of sunshine makes southern Arizona one of the premier spotting locations in the United States.