



Erik Lindbergh

President, VerdeGo Aero

Erik Lindbergh's lifelong quest to Escape From Gravity has ranged from aviation to sports, a second chance at life, dreams of spaceflight and beyond...

An avid pilot, Erik holds commercial, instrument, flight instructor, and glider ratings. In 1996, he helped launch the XPRIZE Foundation in St. Louis. In 2002 Erik retraced his grandfathers epic 1927 New York to Paris solo flight - raising over a million dollars and 500 million pre-social media impressions for XPRIZE. This 9-year “overnight success” story helped to jump-start the private spaceflight industry and is detailed in the NY times bestselling book: *How to Make a Space Ship* by Julian Guthrie

In 2011 Erik awarded the Lindbergh Prize for Quietest Aircraft at the NASA Green Flight Challenge and inspired by the potential for aviation, created *Powering Imagination* to help accelerate the development of the electric aircraft industry and inspire the next generation of innovators. After nearly a decade working on this industry Erik and his partners have started a new company called VerdeGo Aero to build electric vertical

take-off and landing (eVTOL) Personal Air Taxi's which will transform the way people move around the planet.

Erik's story is one of triumph over adversity. He won the Washington state gymnastics championship at age 11 and excelled in water-skiing, and alpine and telemark ski racing during his teens. After climbing and skiing Mount Rainier at age 21, he was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and by age 30 was completely disabled. Total knee replacements and a breakthrough biotechnology drug gave him a second chance at living a physically active life. Inspired by nature, he is an expert mountain biker and backcountry skier and has been creating unique furniture and sculpture designs for over 25 years.

Committed to a life of service to future generations, Erik is a passionate public speaker and serves on the Board of Trustees of the [XPRIZE Foundation](#), the Board of Directors of [NatureBridge - Olympic National Park](#), [The Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation](#), and served as a Founding Director of the [Aviation High School](#) in Seattle which is now ranked the #1 school in the state.

Escape From Gravity is about practicing resistance to the things that hold us down. Gravity may win in the long run, but with enough practice we can fly!