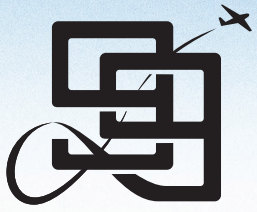


January/February 2024



Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929

THE NINETY-NINES
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
AND CAREER EXPO

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

p. 18

plus

FIRST WINGS AWARDS

UP, UP, AND AWAY

2024 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
AND CAREER EXPO

Ninety-Nines Magazine

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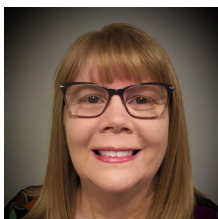
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The Ninety-Nines®
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education, scholarships, and mutual support
while honoring our unique history and sharing
our passion for flight.

Let's Get Social



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Hot Air Balloon Pilot

By Rebecca Burghy, *Intermountain Chapter*

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July 3-7, 2024 | Vancouver, British Columbia

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- New Horizons
- Our Sponsors
- Friends of The 99s

ON THE COVER

Aerial view of Vancouver, British Columbia.





2024

JAN

- 1 **Deadline:** Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Applications to Chapter AE Chair
- 2 **Registration Opens:**
47th Air Race Classic
Carbondale, Illinois to Loveland, Colorado
airraceclassic.org
- 15 **Deadline:** Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) Application for Mentoring Spring Session
ninety-nines.org/resources.htm
mentoring@ninety-nines.org
- 15 **Deadline:** AE Scholarship Application Forms to Section Chairs
- 27 **Southwest Section Winter Workshop**
Sacramento, California
sws99s.org

FEB

- 5 **Deadline:** AE Application Forms from Section to AE Scholarship Trustees

MAR

- 1-2 **International Board of Directors Spring Meeting**
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
info@ninety-nines.org

APR

- 5-7 **South Central Section Spring Meeting**
Atchison, Kansas
Northeast Kansas Chapter
[Laura Burnham](#)
- 9-14 **Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo**
Lakeland, Florida
- 15 **AE Scholarship Awards Results Available**
- 19 **Southeast Section Spring Meeting**
Lafayette, Louisiana
[Marilyn Shafer](#)
- 19-20 **New England Section Spring Meeting**
Windsor Locks, Connecticut
Eastern New England Chapter
[Beth Young](#)
- 26-28 **North Central Section Spring Meeting**
Kansas City, Missouri
Greater Kansas City Chapter
[Laura MacAllister](#)

MAY

- 31 **Registration Closes:**
47th Air Race Classic
airraceclassic.org

JUN

- 1 **New York-New Jersey Spring Section Meeting**
Long Island, New York
- 14-16 **German Section Annual General Meeting**
Hildesheim, Germany
- 18-21 **47th Air Race Classic**
Carbondale, Illinois, to Loveland, Colorado
airraceclassic.org

JUL

- 3-7 **Ninety-Nines International Conference**
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- 15 **Deadline:** Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) Application for Mentoring Autumn Session
ninety-nines.org/resources.htm
mentoring@ninety-nines.org

SEP

- 27-29 **South Central Section Fall Meeting**
League City, Texas
Houston Chapter

NOV

- 1-2 **International Board of Directors Fall Meeting**
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
info@ninety-nines.org

2025

JUL

- 8-13 **Ninety-Nines International Conference**
Burlington, Vermont

MAGAZINE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

are one month prior to issue date.
MAR/APR issue deadline: Feb 1.

Check the online calendar for the latest information.
ninety-nines.org/calendar.htm

The President's Message



Robin Hadfield

President
The Ninety-Nines, Inc.
president@ninety-nines.org

Soaring into the Future

As we bid farewell to the past and eagerly embrace the beginning of a new year, The Ninety-Nines stand at the threshold of exciting possibilities. The air is abuzz with the hum of propellers and the vibrant energy of change, and we are delighted to welcome 2024 with open arms and soaring spirits.

One of the most exciting aspects of our collective journey is the remarkable increase in membership that has unfolded over the past year. Our skies are becoming more inclusive, diverse, and dynamic than ever before, thanks to the rising number of women who have taken flight and joined our organization. It's a testament to the changing landscape of aviation, breaking through traditional barriers, and fostering an environment where passion, skill, and determination know no gender.

The aviation world has long been associated with tales of daring female pioneers and intrepid adventurers, but the narrative is evolving. Today, women are not just part of the story; we are shaping its future.

Our organization is proud to be at the forefront of this transformative era, where the sky is no longer the limit for women in aviation. The increasing number of female pilots in our midst reflect the aviation industry's commitment to continue dismantling stereotypes and creating a space where every aspiring aviator, regardless of gender, can spread their wings and reach new heights.

The benefits of a diverse and inclusive aviation community are far reaching. Beyond the cockpit, it resonates in our shared passion for flight, the exchange of knowledge, and the camaraderie that transcends the boundaries of the ground below. Each new member adds a unique dimension to our organization, enriching our experiences and broadening our horizons.

As we embark on this new year, let us celebrate the achievements of the past and look forward to the countless adventures that await us in the coming year. The skies are clearer, the winds are more favorable, and our community is stronger than ever. Together, we are propelling aviation into a future where diversity is not just acknowledged but embraced, and where the thrill of flying knows no gender.

I extend a warm welcome to all our new members — the inspiring women who have chosen to make the sky their own. May the wings of progress carry us higher, the bonds of friendship grow stronger, and the horizon of possibilities expand as we navigate the vast expanse of aviation together.

Here's to a soaring 2024!

We are The Ninety-Nines! All Women! All Pilots!

I hope our Chapter Chairs, Vice Chairs, Governors, and Section Executives have read about our new initiative in the Straight & Level newsletter and will join us for our next bi-monthly Zoom get-together: sharing ideas, solving problems together, inspiring one another, and creating bonds with your sister Ninety-Nines.

Section Governors & Executives — Save the date:

Tuesday, January 9 at 8:00 p.m.
Eastern Time (7:00 Central, 6:00 Mountain, 5:00 Pacific).

The zoom link will be sent a few days prior to the meeting.

Holly Blunk, Teacher of the Year



Oklahoma Chapter member, **Holly Blunk**, and her husband own the Route 66 Flight School. Holly also teaches French II, French II honors, and is the captain of the aviation program at Deer Creek High School in Oklahoma. She was named the Teacher of the Year at Deer Creek High School. Holly joined The 99s as a student pilot and has advanced her ratings through the years since she joined.

Kathy Fox Recognized for Aviation Contributions

Air Transport Association of Canada (ATAC) honors Transportation Safety Board (TSB) Chair **Kathy Fox** for her outstanding contributions to aviation. Kathy was presented the award by John McKenna, President and CEO of ATAC.

Chair Fox's impressive career spans over 50 years in the aviation industry, including her 16 plus years promoting transportation safety at the TSB, 50 plus years of experience as a pilot, flight instructor, former parachutist, and air traffic controller. She is a member of the Eastern Ontario Chapter.



Gosling Receives Master Pilot Award

– Judi Oswald, *Spaceport Chapter*

Carol Gosling (shown above, seated center), a very active member of the Spaceport Chapter in Florida, received a Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award on November 15 at a ceremony held at Spruce Creek Fly-in Community. Carol also celebrated being a 50-year member of The 99s as of April 1, 2023.



Janice McWilliams Receives Master Pilot Award

– Mary Fletcher, *Florida Suncoast Chapter*

Janice McWilliams received her FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award last September with over 50 years (55 to be exact) of incident-free flying. Presenting the award from the FAA was Michael Minner.

Janice is an exceptional member of the Florida Suncoast Chapter. She would sign up for chapter activities, getting up at the crack of dawn to be at the airport for a chapter seminar, pancake breakfast, or just driving and picking up as many 99s to go with her to chapter meetings. She is a friend to all who need her mentoring or help taking on the scholarship reviews, the bylaws, and eventually the Chapter Chair of Florida Suncoast.

Janice was the Southeast Section Secretary. She dove right in, taking the best minutes the section has had in quite some time.

Time and time again, Janice has given her time, talent, and her own money to be a 99, promoting the organization and student pilots. For this, the chapter is forever grateful.

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Wyvema Startz

– Janice Pelletti, *Appalachian Aviatrixes Chapter*



Wyvema Startz, Oklahoma Chapter, has received recognition few pilots can claim. Oklahoma Governor, Kevin Stitt, honored her with a citation of congratulations in honor of her 91st birthday.

The award was initiated when Sandra Shelton, fellow chapter member and an employee of the Oklahoma Department of Aviation and Aerospace, wanted to see Wyvema honored.

Wyvema, affectionately known as Wy by her chapter, also received the Pearl Carter Scott Award in 2021. She was selected for her dedication to aviation and for helping other women attain their aviation goals. Additionally, she is an inductee into the International Forest of Friendship.

Wy set her mind on becoming a pilot in 1988 at age 55. She joined The Ninety-Nines that same year as a student pilot. Since becoming a pilot, she has found two passions in aviation: air racing and introducing women interested in aviation to the fellowship and aviation activities that are so much a part of The Ninety-Nines.

She has flown in both the Air Race Classic and the Okie Derby where she took fourth place in a Beech Sundowner. “It was a thrill!” she exclaims. In 2000, she served as navigator for Dianah Cummins Harrod; the team placed 18th out of 48 racers.

Wy has served the Oklahoma Chapter as Treasurer, Airmarking Chair, Okie Derby Chair, and Membership Chair. As Airmarking Chair, she made history for the Oklahoma Chapter by receiving National Airmarking Honors for organizing 18 air markings in seven years.

According to Wy, The Ninety-Nines are her support and her best friends in life. Her motto in life is, “If it’s not fun, I don’t want to do it!”

Wy is a native of Oklahoma. She married her high school sweetheart. She has two sons and two grandchildren.



THE 99S MUSEUM OF WOMEN PILOTS NEEDS YOU!

The 99s Museum of Women Pilots at Headquarters in Oklahoma City, has been undergoing a lengthy renovation and expansion for many months. A generous benefactor has pledged a five-to-one fundraising challenge. For every dollar donated toward the \$75,000 goal, specifically for Museum floor repair and refinishing, our generous donor will donate five dollars! That means only a \$15,000 goal needs to be raised by our members. “What’s in it for me,” you may ask? In addition to knowing you’re contributing to a worthy cause, all donations of \$1,000 or more will also be listed on a donor’s plaque to be displayed permanently in the museum. Thank you for your support! Please send your donations, no later than January 31, 2024, to:

The 99s Museum of Women Pilots
4300 Amelia Earhart Ln
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

or call for more information (405) 685-9990

ARE YOU READY TO VOTE IN THE NEXT NINETY-NINES ELECTIONS?

– Kathy Fox, *Chair, Election Procedures Committee*

The next election for Officers, Directors, Committee members, and Trustees will be held from March 15 - May 1, 2024.



VOTING ONLINE

is easy, efficient, secure, and cost effective.

Make sure that you have opted in for **online voting** (which is much less expensive than voting by mail).

If you aren’t sure of your status, please log in to The Ninety-Nines website and go to “Update Information.” Look for this section (below) and select yes, then make sure that you’ve listed your most current email address.

Online Voting

Online Voting: *Would you like to vote online (versus physical mail)?

Yes No

Voting online, rather than requesting a paper ballot, can really lower the voting costs to The Ninety-Nines.

Should you still wish to receive a paper ballot, please make sure that we have your correct mailing address on file.

The choice is yours, thank you!



What We Really Learn From Flying

By Donna Miller

When I decided to learn to fly, I was excited about all the things I'd learn that would come together to create flight. I compared it to all the instruments you hear practicing on their own, which doesn't make any sense until you hear them all playing together at the symphony. Bravo! I got my first private pilot books in the mail and skimmed through them to see what was in store for me: the four forces acting on an airplane, stability and control, systems, instruments, flight maneuvers, FAR/AIM, NOTAMS, flight physiology, weather, decision making, airport operations, communications, airspace, using a flight computer, navigation. Holy smokes! This was going to be like a Tchaikovsky violin concerto from piccolo to tuba!

What the private pilot syllabus (or any other syllabus that I've used up to and including the Boeing 787 aircraft operating manual) doesn't include is how much you're going to learn about yourself. Nowhere in any of them does it tell you how far you can go when you think you can't go any farther. It doesn't tell you which path to take to reach your aviation goals when there are so many to choose from (and some you didn't even know existed). How do you handle the disappointment of a failed check ride? Where is the chapter on imposter syndrome? Or the one on sacrifice? Where is the guidance on handling the financial burden or the worry that it somehow

won't work out? Somewhere out there must be a big fat chapter on fear: fear of failure, fear of not knowing the answers, fear of the unknown, fear of pushing your comfort zone. I felt like I was missing an entire volume of knowledge that should've been included in the neatly packaged cellophane wrapper. But it wasn't.

In learning how to fly, the journey unfolds. As you acquire the knowledge to fly, you also overcome fear and push your comfort zone. At each stage, things that you didn't know about yourself emerge. Yes, you can do hard things. You have what it takes to overcome adversity. You make good decisions, and the sacrifice is worth it. I remember when I made the decision to leave my cushy desk job to take my first aviation job flying car parts to Mexico out of El Paso, Texas. Part of my decision was from this thought, "When I'm ninety years old, sitting in my rocking chair, I don't want to wonder what would have happened if I'd pursued a career in aviation." Even if it was a colossal failure, at least the question would be answered. That was worth taking the leap of faith. I had no idea the lessons I would learn about myself. What I know now is why there is no volume or chapter included with the manuals: It would be enormous and different for every single one of us. What an amazing bonus it is that they don't tell you what is not included. Bravo!

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MAGAZINE & SOCIAL NETWORK

AviNation magazine is designed to generate excitement and interest in aviation by focusing on aviation students, programs and events that appeal to youth and promote the growth of the aviation industry.

By celebrating the industry and encouraging youth to pursue aviation career paths, AviNation magazine works to shape the future of the industry by cultivating the next generation of aviation leaders, business owners, service personnel, mechanics and pilots.

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JORDAN 99s

A CONFERENCE AND TOUR
LIKE NO OTHER

by Minnetta Gardinier, 99s Vice President



Our Jordan Conference was originally scheduled for 2021, but the COVID pandemic required a significant rearrangement of our conference schedule — delaying Jordan for two years. Events in Israel and unrest in much of the Middle East nearly derailed our planning for Jordan 2023. But Jordan is long known as a very safe and stable country in this region, and as The 99s IBOD liaison and co-lead with 99s Arabian Section Governor Alia Al Twal, all indicators recommended that we stay the course.

A small group of 99s landed at Queen Alia International Airport (AMM) on Tuesday, October 24 and met a few more 99s already at the Dead Sea Marriott Resort & Spa. We enjoyed dinner and drinks at a new restaurant on site — The Oak Tree Kitchen — and began to familiarize ourselves with Jordanian cuisine. After a tour of our hotel, we began setting up for our conference attendees and tour adventurers. Nearly two-thirds of our original registrants made the trip, and by Friday, we were 200-strong (153 99s/Friends and 47 guests). All were excited to be together in Jordan and even more excited for our upcoming travel around Jordan.

To maximize our opportunity to explore Jordan, our conference was condensed into two days. Thursday and Friday were busy with member/guest arrivals, conference check-ins, and finalizing their tour options with Governor Twal’s Arabian Section team. Many went down to the Dead Sea to float in the water, mud up, and rinse off again in the Dead Sea. Our Governors and Presidents (26 current and past) gathered for a luncheon, and the Council of Governors (12), led by Deb McGee (Governor, North Central Section), met afterwards for discussion. Friday evening, there was a great welcome reception outdoors at the Fishing Club Beach Bar under the stars and overlooking the Dead Sea. We all wished President Hadfield and Past President Susan Larson a hearty happy birthday!



Saturday morning, Louise Cullinan (First Officer, Frontier Airlines; Past Chair, ALPA Critical Incident Response Program Committee) joined us to present a great talk — “Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and What It’s All About” — relating it to not only aviation, but also other areas in our daily lives. Life Members (32) gathered for a lively luncheon afterwards, graciously hosted by an anonymous donor.

Our usual 9 a.m. Annual Meeting was shifted to 4 p.m., to better accommodate online attendees in North America and elsewhere — 100 plus logged in! With those present in person, we easily met our quorum requirement to conduct business. President Hadfield ran a highly efficient meeting with various reports provided by Secretary Blackwell, Treasurer Coverdell, and various Trust Chairs.

A few hours later, we came back together for our combined Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship and 99s International Awards Banquet. AEMSF Trustees Berthelet and Norkus honored their First Wings awardees and AE scholarship winners. President Hadfield recognized our 2023 Annual Awards: Awards of Achievement (Joy Parker Blackwood, Mary Build, and JoAnn Prater), Award of Merit (Francois Leh), Award of Inspiration (Col. Nicole Malachowski, USAF ret.), and the President’s Award (Jan McKenzie).

To finally cap off the evening, we announced four members — student pilots and first-time conference attendees — who shared the member donations made to help a student pilot attend our conference: Andrea Johnson, Diane Lambert, Linda Newland, and Sandra Phenning.



POST-CONFERENCE TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Four 50-passenger buses loaded up on Sunday morning and hit the highway with our escorts (Jordan Tourism Board official, ambulance, and local police) to facilitate our travel.
- Petra (Sunday): Lunch at the Mövenpick Petra and a welcome from the mayor of Petra, followed by a hike down to The Treasury with our guides.
- Wadi Rum (Sunday-Tuesday): We arrived after sunset and split up into one of three locations — Bait Ali Camp, Captain’s Desert Camp, or Camp Sinam. We explored the area by camel rides, jeep rides, stargazing, and trail hiking. The Hijazi train ride highlight was a reenactment of the Arab Revolt during WWI. Due to weather, the hot air balloon rides were delayed until early Wednesday morning, when a cohort of over 80 99s left the Hyatt Regency Aqaba at 4 a.m. to return to Wadi Rum and make their balloon ascents over the desert.
- Aqaba (Tuesday-Thursday): Tuesday afternoon we arrived in Aqaba and enjoyed a welcome reception and sponsored raffle where everyone was a winner, receiving a gift bag from our generous sponsors. Wednesday was spent by many boating on the beautiful blue water of the Gulf of Aqaba — swimming, snorkeling, diving, and just floating along onboard and relaxing. Our adventure drew to a close that night at our farewell ceremony.
- Return to Amman (Thursday): Some members departed from Aqaba, but the rest loaded one last time on to our buses for the trip to Amman. Many enjoyed a day or two in Amman to explore the city — its shops, restaurants, and museums. Several members hired drivers to head north to Jerash, inhabited since the Bronze Age with its walled Greco-Roman settlement ruins and today’s modern city.

It was a conference and tour that will be remembered for years.

THANK YOU to Anna Echols Lawlor and AKA Travel for their exceptional conference support and assistance to our members! Many thanks to Cathy Prudhomme, Jan McKenzie, and Kris Irvin-Herron for their input as I organized and coordinated the International Conference at the Dead Sea Marriott.

THANK YOU to Arabian Section Governor Alia Al Tawal for her tireless efforts to put together a truly memorable post-conference tour to some of Jordan’s most historic sites! She secured great accommodations and generous support to subsidize our tour from the Jordan Tourism Board, Aqaba Air Cargo Terminal, Aqaba Tourist Information Center, DHL, Petra Development & Tourism Region Authority, and Zain (mobile service).

Our 2024 International Conference and Career Expo (ICCE) plans in Vancouver, British Columbia, are locked in for July 3-7, 2024, and conference registration is open! Visit www.99sConference.org. For questions and additional information, contact ICCE committee chair Cathy Prudhomme (cgprudhomme@gmail.com).



2023 Fall

First Wings Awards

Congratulations to the 18 student pilot members named recipients of the Fall 2023 First Wings Awards. Those women represent 15 different chapters in five separate sections.

They represent the United States, Canada, Afghanistan, China, and India.

The First Wings award is a progressive scholarship of up to \$6,000 towards an initial pilot certificate. Awarded each spring and fall, First Wings payments are based on specific flight training milestone achievements, which are:

- WRITTEN EXAM \$500
- SOLO \$2,500
- LONG CROSS-COUNTRY \$2,000
- PRIVATE \$1,000

For the Fall 2023 cycle, the AEMSF Trustees were able to fund these awards in the amount of \$85,500. One winner has already made claim on her milestone awards.

Originally, the scholarship was not milestone based. The awards for our student pilot members began in 2001 as the New Pilot Award of \$1,500, which was increased to \$2,000 in 2012. In 2013, the award was renamed the Fly Now and was worth up to \$3,000 based upon specific milestone completion. Soon after, the award amount was doubled, increasing the value to the current \$6,000, and most recently, it became the First Wings Award.

Our grassroots approach within the organization begins at the chapter level. One of the biggest changes leading to the most success was the addition of a mentoring process. The follow-through and open exchange between the recipient and her mentor are hugely important. Many of the mentors in this award cycle are past winners of the New Pilot, Fly Now, First Wings, and AE Flight Training Awards. Once again, the Trustees would like to extend a special thank you to the mentors of our winners who have a special means of giving back to The Ninety-Nines, Inc.



Zohrah Amiri

Minnesota Chapter, North Central Section
Mentor: Alyse Higgins

My name is Zohrah Amiri. My family moved to the United States in September 2016 from Pakistan. Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamt of becoming a pilot. I would wave at planes passing by envisioning my own future. Upon arrival to America, I promised myself to achieve my dream no matter how hard I had to work.

In June 2023, I started my flight training and proudly joined The 99s, an amazing group of women pilots. Receiving the First Wings Scholarship is a significant milestone in my journey. Thank you for investing in my future. I feel truly honored.



Alyssa Christian

San Diego Chapter, Southwest Section
Mentor: Kim Olson

My name is Alyssa Christian, and I'm honored as a student pilot to receive the First Wings Award. I've 21 hours of flight training at Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport (KMYF). In elementary school, I reported on Amelia Earhart and ever since, her leadership and bravery have become my inspiration. My love for aviation led to my current job as a flight attendant. I'm finding new joy in growing my knowledge and technical understanding of what it takes to become a pilot. I would love to inspire young women to pursue their dreams of learning to fly without limitations.



Brenna D'Arcy

Atlantic Chapter, East Canada Section
Mentor: Elizabeth Walker

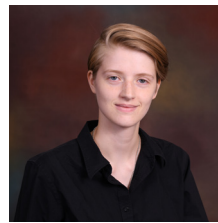
I've always wanted to fly. When I was a young adult, the stars did not align for me to pursue flight training. Instead, I completed a degree in linguistics and became a mom. Now established in my career as a Sign Language Interpreter and with a daughter who is now 11, I've more time and resources to devote to flight training. Every time I'm in an airplane I look outside and experience a moment of joy and gratitude. Thank you to my mentor and The 99s for the support and encouragement.



Jennifer Davis

Colorado Chapter, South Central Section
Mentor: Amanda Wilson

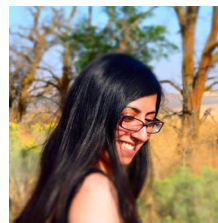
My name is Jenn Davis and I'm thrilled to be a First Wings scholar. I've always been excited about aviation. I took my first flight at six weeks old and started flight training when I was 16 years old. Although I couldn't finish training back then before I could get my wings, I never gave up on my dream of learning to fly and picked back up flight training this year while also working on my PhD in planetary geology. I'm extremely excited that The 99s are helping me along on my journey as I become a certificated private pilot.



Emma Franklin

Indiana Chapter, North Central Section
Mentor: Megan Dukes

I began flying earlier than most, as I'm currently 18 and a senior in high school. I've been accepted to my college of choice, Indiana State University, where I will pursue a bachelor's degree in Professional Flight Aviation Technology. I began my training young because I've had my eyes set on my final goal of entering the airlines to fly internationally because of my passion for both flying and traveling. I hope that by entering the airline industry, I will inspire more young women to achieve their dreams and to not be afraid of entering a male-dominated industry.



Mahroo Hamedani

Columbia Cascade Chapter,
Northwest Section
Mentor: Linda Worden

Mahroo Hamedani is a professional classical pianist and piano teacher living in Wilsonville, Oregon. After meeting and connecting with a few experienced pilots, she developed a true passion and interest for flight training. She is currently working on her private pilot license and has a goal to finish her certificate in 2024.

"Joining The 99s has been the best decision. I've met so many great friends and people. I wanted to thank the Columbia Cascade Chapter for their ongoing support. I feel honored and grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the First Wings Award Scholarship."



Rachel Huff-Wagenborg

Aloha Chapter, Southwest Section
Mentor: Megan Albright

I'm elated and honored to receive a First Wings Scholarship for my Private Pilot Certificate. I feel so fortunate to have the support of the Aloha Chapter and am grateful for this investment in my aviation goals. I have a master's degree in Public Administration and an extensive background in nonprofit management. Chasing my ambitions and seizing a career change opportunity, I'm working to become a commercial pilot. I'm so excited to see what lies ahead as I explore ways to combine mission-driven work and my dream of flying. Thanks to the AEMSf for generously propelling me forward.



Rebecca Iancic

Waterloo on the Grand Chapter,
East Canada Section
Mentor: Contessa Bishop

Rebecca Iancic is grateful to be a recipient of the Fall First Wings Scholarship! Her first flight was at five years old with her father, a former aerospace engineer. At 14 years old, her first lesson was in a SNJ-Texan (T-6), being her first entry in her logbook. At 15, she started flight lessons at St. Catharines Flying Club and on April 6, she completed her first solo. With the help of this scholarship, she will be able to complete her Private Pilot License and continue her training towards her goal of becoming a commercial pilot!



Mary-Ann Kalotai

First Canadian Chapter,
East Canada Section
Mentor: Lesley Page

Everything came together for me at the 2022 99s' Girls Take Flight event at the Oshawa Executive Airport (CYOO). I won a discovery flight and immediately volunteered to be on the planning team for the next year. I loved doing public outreach with my local amateur astronomy club and look forward to sharing the skies in aviation, too. By learning to fly and volunteering with The 99s, I hope to show that it's never too late to learn something new. The AEMSf First Wings Award is incredibly generous, and I'm grateful for the support.



Anupama Kar

Michigan Chapter, North Central Section
Mentor: Linda Langrill

Anupama "Sigma" Kar is a student pilot, training for her Private Pilot Certificate. She wants to be a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force. On the side, she works as a mechanical engineer at the University of Michigan. "Life has not been fair or easy so far, but my mother has taught me to fight for my dream. When you choose you, so many around you will be upset and try to harass you and pull you down. Two options: either give up and regret, or stand up for yourself and dare," says Sigma. Fly high: sky high.



Mackenzie Lake

Mt. Shasta Chapter, Southwest Section
Mentor: Barbara Boot

On this journey to becoming a pilot, I'm empowered, encouraged, and surrounded by the many incredible women in The 99s aviation community! I'm 34 years old and have always loved flying, adventure, and exploring, but it wasn't until last year that I had the bright idea that I could be the one flying the plane! The obvious first goal is a Private Pilot Certificate. After that, Commercial and CFI. Some fun goals for the future will be to fly my family, future kids and grandkids, fly missions somewhere remote, and get a Seaplane Rating to fly in Alaska! Wahoo!



Danette Lewis

San Fernando Valley Chapter,
Southwest Section
Mentor: Emma Baker

Danette Christine is a poet, producer, musician, and fourth generation Angeleno. She founded Soundtrack Marketing, a music-based branding firm that provides award-winning inflight entertainment for prestigious airlines around the world. She earned her associate degree in Aviation from Orange Coast College long ago but is now able to pursue her piloting aspiration: to pilot private charter jets. She made her first solo through Glendale Community College Aviation at KWHP where she served as secretary of the GCC Aviators Club and is finishing her Private Pilot training with First Take Aviation at Van Nuys Airport (KVNY). She is most proud of raising two thoughtful, empowered daughters.



Yi Li

Santa Clara Chapter, Southwest Section
Mentor: Patricia Gregory

I started private pilot training when I was three months pregnant. Despite many challenges, I completed solo, written exams, and dual cross country before labor. I continued the training with my baby. Now, I've met all the requirements and am getting ready for the check ride. Eventually, I will work toward my CFI Certificate and teach the next generation. Also, as a software engineer, I will combine my passions and create a cutting-edge transportation software platform for pilots one day.



Shanley Olson

Phoenix Chapter, Southwest Section
Mentor: Ginger Rowley

I grew up a little bit of everywhere but spent the most living on a small farm in Littlerock, Washington. My first flight was with my dad at 12 years old. On September 17, 2023, and eight years later, I had my first solo. My dream is to fly for a major airline and to fly as pilot in command with my dad. I currently work for an aviation insurance company. My two favorite things to do are fly planes and volunteer at aviation events. I'm so grateful for this scholarship and for the wonderful people I've met from The 99s.



Anais Rodriguez

Aloha Chapter, Southwest Section
Mentor: Riata Ready

My interest in aviation blossomed from my desire to travel the world and have a more fulfilling career. In 2022, I took a discovery flight and I fell in love with seeing my beautiful home of Oahu, Hawaii from a different perspective and quickly knew this was the career for me. I immediately dove into training and haven't looked back since. I'm eternally grateful to be chosen for this award and for the support of my local chapter. My dream is to one day encourage and inspire future women in aviation to achieve their goals and break through barriers.



Vanessa Schultz

Midnight Sun Chapter, Northwest Section
Mentor: Ute Kaden

My name is Vanessa Schultz and I live in Fairbanks, Alaska. I currently guide tours in the Arctic, exploring icy landscapes and sharing my passion for the outdoors. Without the help of the aviation community here in Alaska, especially the women in aviation, I wouldn't believe that my dreams could become reality. This scholarship enables me to fly consistently and achieve my goals. My ultimate dream is to fly float and ski planes, taking my love for exploration to the skies. I'm thrilled and honored to share in the camaraderie and legacy established by The 99s.



Krystle Stasik

Michigan Chapter, North Central Section
Mentor: Morgan Duling

I'm deeply connected to the aviation community. I'm active in EAA Chapter 113, Yankee Ladies Chapter, and the Michigan 99s. Previously in the hospitality industry, I recently spread my wings as an air charter specialist based at Willow Run Airport (KYIP): My passion taking flight both professionally and personally. Last year brought challenges and profound loss, yet amidst the turbulence, it became a catalyst for renewed fervor in flying and personal growth. Beyond the skies, I'm a devoted fur-mom to my kitties (Harper and Zulu) and enjoy reading, playing video games, music, and concerts. I'm honored to receive the First Wings Award.



Gina Wilke

Columbia Cascade Chapter,
Northwest Section
Mentor: Turi Abbott

After both teaching English abroad and working as a scuba instructor, I landed a job as a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines. Working in aviation has expanded my vision. A few years ago, while enjoying a flight deck observation opportunity, I realized that working as a pilot would be my destiny. I'm joyfully taking steps toward my dream: to pilot wide-body aircraft for an international carrier. I began my flight training in Oregon last April. As a proud member of The 99s since 2022, I delight in organizing events for my chapter and find the camaraderie very fulfilling. 🌩️



Up, Up and Away

The (Uplifting) Life of Kathy Lester-Ross,
Hot Air Balloon Pilot

By Rebecca Burghy, *Intermountain Chapter*

When you ask Kathy Lester-Ross about her life, she'll say it's nothing unusual adding, "I'm just a private pilot" and a "typical 99." Kathy is undoubtedly correct about being a typical 99: A woman pilot quietly going about her business, working, earning a new rating or repairing a garden tractor, volunteering on aviation committees, and planning community events (often simultaneously and without fanfare) all the while enjoying a very full life of family, friends, and flying.

What is unusual is Kathy's pilot certificate, which reads: Private Pilot – LTA with Airborne Heater. Lighter Than Air is the description for balloon aircraft, and that makes Kathy a rare woman pilot indeed, one of only a few hundred women balloon pilots worldwide.

By profession, Kathy is a respiratory therapist and sells high-tech respiratory equipment.

During a medical convention in 1984, she was intrigued by a colorful balloon offering tethered rides. When she stepped into the basket, Kathy knew this would be in her future. She began attending balloon events, joined the Balloon Federation of America (BFA), and searched out balloon-related activities. In 1989, Kathy purchased her balloon, aptly named "Inspiration." Upon earning her LTA Pilot Certification in 1991, she became only the 75th woman balloon pilot listed in the BFA records. Over the course of numerous ballooning events and competitions, Kathy became an internationally ranked FAI-CIA official.

Representing the USA as an event observer, scorer, or official, Kathy has attended regional and International Category 1 ballooning events in the United States and around the world.

These included lighter-than-air hydrogen and helium gas balloon competitions, which took Kathy and 49 1/2 David on numerous trips to Europe and stints officiating at the World Championships in Leipzig, Germany, and Seville, Spain.



Top: Kathy assigned to Japanese hot air balloon team 2012 World Championships, Motegi, Japan. Middle left: Kathy instructing student hot air balloon pilot. Middle right: Kathy's first balloon N6052M, "Inspiration." Bottom: Kathy at the 2016 Fall North Central Section Meeting with 99 Maria Lamia.

The Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) is the World Air Sports Federation, founded in 1905, which ratifies world and continental aeronautical records, and coordinates international competitions. The Ballooning Commission (CIA) is a category within the FAI.

Kathy met Canadian David Ross at the 1991 World Championships in Battle Creek, Michigan, where they both served as observers. Their shared ballooning passion led to long distance, balloon-event dating. The couple married in 1993 and honeymooned in Luxembourg at the World Hot Air Ballooning Championships. Flying balloons together ever since, their officiating duties often required rising before the crack of dawn and working well into the night. Kathy quips, "Until I started ballooning, I didn't know there were two four-o'clocks in each day. All joking aside, a successful marriage would have been very difficult if we both hadn't been into ballooning, and not just officiating, but flying as well. It can be tiring, but very challenging and invigorating too." The Balloon Federation of America honored the Rosses' dedication to the sport in 2006 with the prestigious Director's Award, and Kathy individually as the year's Outstanding Observer.

Kathy's all-encompassing passion for ballooning radiates with every word. "You can't fly balloons without a support system, as a balloon rarely lands and takes off from the same place. Inflating and launching into flight, then deflating and packing the balloon into the trailer and hauling it home are all necessary jobs. It takes a crew, and the camaraderie and sense of family are wonderful aspects of ballooning. You work hard together to make it happen, cheering success, dealing with problems, always there for one another."

Typical of aviation, Kathy and David have made dear friends around the world, with Japan holding a special place in their hearts. "After 28 trips, we've spent so much time there and love the country and the people," Kathy says fondly. "We will never forget their kindness and support when David was hit by a car, requiring over five weeks in hospital. The Japanese Balloon Federation sent a translator to be with me at the hospital 16 hours a day." Honoring the legend and tradition of making 1,000 paper cranes to help a person heal, their Japanese friends did just that, making 800 cranes by the time David left the hospital, with the other 200 cranes arriving by mail soon after their return home.

Kathy encourages every pilot to take a balloon flight at least once, to enjoy the sensation of total freedom aloft with no power, no rudder, no ailerons. "You have nothing except 'WWW' – that is weather, wind, and your wits," Kathy explains. "Balloons need near perfect conditions to launch, fly, and land so you become adept at micro meteorology. The focus is weather from the surface to 3,000-5,000 feet, where the air mixes the most. The weather checks are constant, like a rocket launch countdown: 36 hours, 24 hours, 12 hours, then 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, leading to a safe, smart go or no go decision." She continues, "Since it can take from 20 seconds to two minutes to get a response from the burner's hot air rising to the crown and creating lift, you must plan for delayed responses to the pilot's actions. Letting heat out to descend is also a well-considered action. It's a very touchy-feely thing and quite different from powered flying."

Kathy and David live on six acres in rural southeastern Wisconsin, having deliberately purchased their home in order to fly their balloon from the backyard. Ballooning friends know the welcome sign is out and the Ross backyard is always open for launches and landings.

For the Rosses, support and involvement in their local community is interwoven with their aviation community. In 2010, while having a dent repaired on their balloon retrieval vehicle (license plate IFLYLTA), they met Jim, owner of the auto shop and local Chamber of Commerce President. When

Jim learned what the plate meant, he excitedly proposed a new balloon event for the rural community of Waterford, Wisconsin, (population 5,000). Planning immediately commenced, and the trio kicked off the first Waterford Balloon Festival in 2011. The hugely successful weekend event ran for eight years, peaking with 21 balloons and 22,000 visitors, making a tremendous economic impact on the small community while creating excitement and interest in ballooning and aviation.

Each year Kathy and David volunteer at EAA AirVenture as roving public relations ambassadors for ballooning, cruising about on their scooters, engaging with people, answering questions, and sharing their love of ballooning. It was at AirVenture 2013 where Kathy discovered The 99s. Meandering through Building B, a balloon picture on The 99s banner caught her eye and she joined on the spot. Soon after, she attended the International Conference in New Orleans and was immediately absorbed into The 99s sisterhood. Kathy hasn't missed an International Conference or Section Meeting since.

Since 2014, Kathy has been a fixture at The 99s AirVenture booth, talking to veteran 99s and prospects alike, making friends, and signing up new members. Her appreciation and passion for our organization shines like a beacon. "Everyone has a story, how she got to be a 99, the challenges and obstacles she has overcome in getting and maintaining her license," Kathy reflects. "The most amazing aspect of The 99s is that you are surrounded by women who truly want you to succeed. In business or anywhere else, it is rare to find ladies really interested in another woman being successful, in living her best life and fulfilling her dreams. In the medical field, I see compassion, but I don't see the in-depth caring that 99s have for one another. The 99s organization is an amazing gift, encouraging members to support one another in our shared aviation passion. If you're a 99 and involved, you understand."

Kathy has held numerous positions over the past decade and currently serves as North Central Section Secretary, and Membership Chair, as well as Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Scholarship Committee Member for the Wisconsin Chapter. In 2021, Kathy was inducted into the International Forest of Friendship in recognition of her many years supporting ballooning.

Should you happen to meet this typical 99 at a balloon event or Section Meeting near you, introduce yourself and let Kathy's unwavering passion and dedication to ballooning, and to The 99s, inspire you and give you renewed buoyancy to rise to new heights in your own aviation journey. 🌈



Daga, Japan, 2006 FAI Observers from eight countries.



THE NINETY-NINES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND CAREER EXPO

JULY 3-7, 2024 | VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Minnetta Gardinier,
99s Vice President

The Ninety-Nines International Conference Committee and the West Canada Section invite you to Vancouver, British Columbia for the 2024 International Conference! Join Ninety-Nines sisters from all over the world at the Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront in downtown Vancouver for friendship, networking, support, and fun!

Things To Know About Vancouver

- The city of Vancouver is on the unceded Indigenous territories of the *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam), *Skwxwú7mesh* (Squamish), and *Selílwitlh* (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.
- Vancouver is nestled between snow-capped mountains and an ocean inlet – sometimes you can swim and ski on the same day!
- The city is named after George Vancouver, a British captain, who explored the Burrard Inlet in 1792.
- Vancouver is the largest city in the province of British Columbia.
- Vancouver is not located on Vancouver Island – but Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, is.
- Vancouver's cruise ship terminal is the fourth largest in the world.
- Vancouver is considered one of the world's best cities for foodies.
- Vancouver boasts some great shopping opportunities, especially for active wear – Lululemon began here!

Conference Registration

Conference information and registration forms may be found on the conference website. Go to www.ninety-nines.org and click on the conference logo.

Full registration for Ninety-Nines, guests, and Friends of The Ninety-Nines includes: conference materials, access to the hospitality suite and fly mart, Thursday's keynote breakfast and keynote address, Thursday's welcome reception, the first-timers' meet and greet, seminars, Saturday's breakfast, Saturday's PM career panel, Saturday's AE Scholarship and International Awards Banquet, and options to purchase tours.

Deadlines and Fees

Early Registration by March 31, 2024 – \$319 USD

On-Time Registration by May 31, 2024 – \$349 USD

Late Registration after May 31, 2024 – \$369 USD

One-day registration is also available; consult the conference website.

Conference Hotel

The Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront, 1133 West Hastings Street, is located within easy walking distance of the waterfront, Harbour Air seaplane base, shops, and restaurants. Hotel amenities

include a gym with a wide range of equipment and an indoor swimming pool featuring a spectacular view of the harbor. The P2B Bistro & Bar offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with both indoor and outdoor seating. For those who would like to explore the area on two wheels, e-bikes are available for rental onsite.

The conference rate for rooms with one king or two doubles is \$289 CAD, a significant discount from the public rate. If you're not from Canada, check your country's exchange rate to estimate your cost. Hotel rooms at the conference rate are available only to conference registrants and must be reserved through the conference registration site.

Getting There

Vancouver Airport (YVR), located about seven miles southwest of downtown, is served by many international and regional airlines and is a hub for Air Canada, Pacific Coastal Airlines, and WestJet. Taxis are readily available and easy to find outside the terminal.

The designated airport for general aviation arrivals is Boundary Bay Airport (CZBB), located about 20 miles south of the conference hotel. The airport website, www.czzb.com, provides helpful information for pilots arriving from the U.S.

For those arriving by car, underground parking is available at the hotel. Register your vehicle at hotel check-in to receive the hotel rate (currently \$7.50 CAD per night).



Fun Things To Do In Vancouver

PRE-CONFERENCE OPTIONS

Discover Victoria and Butchart Gardens

Wednesday, July 3, 7a.m. – 8 p.m.

- Scenic round trip ferry ride on British Columbia Ferries across the Strait of Georgia and through the Gulf Islands (food service available on board)
- Sightseeing tour of downtown Victoria including Oak Bay, Ogden Point, Fisherman’s Wharf, Inner Harbour, the Fairmont Empress Hotel, Mile 0, and historic Chinatown
- Free time for exploring, dining, and shopping in downtown Victoria
- Visit the beautiful Butchart Gardens, a national historic site covering 55 acres

Discover Vancouver

Thursday, July 4, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

- See the highlights of Vancouver on a comfortable touring coach
- Visit Vancouver Tower, Canada Place, Gastown, Stanley Park, and Granville Island

Discover North Vancouver and Capilano Suspension Bridge

Friday, July 5, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

- Cross the iconic Lions Gate Bridge in a comfortable touring coach
- Stroll Shipbuilders’ Pier in the Shipyard District
- Visit the Lonsdale Quay Market
- Explore the Capilano Suspension Bridge

Gastown Walking Food Tour

Friday, July 5, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- Stroll the historic cobblestone streets of the Gastown District
- Experience six food tastings and three beverage tastings

POST-CONFERENCE OPTIONS

Alaska Dawes Glacier Cruise on Celebrity Solstice

Bon voyage on Sunday, July 7! Set sail with your 99s friends on the beautiful Celebrity Solstice for a seven-day round-trip cruise with stops at Icy Strait Point, Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan – including several hours of up-close viewing of the Dawes Glacier. Consult the conference website for itinerary details and booking information.

Rocky Mountaineer – 2-Day Rail Trip from Vancouver to Banff

All aboard for a two-day, one-night trip through the Canadian Rockies! Depart Vancouver on Sunday, July 7, spend one night in Kamloops, and arrive in Banff on Monday evening (with options to add additional days). Contact AKA Travel Team, 99s@akatravelteam.com, for information and reservations.

Consult the conference website for updates and additions to the list of optional tours!

ON YOUR OWN

Visit Stanley Park

Stanley Park is North America’s third-largest park and a hugely popular destination. Explore the park on foot, on rental bicycles, or in a horse-drawn carriage.

Distance from hotel – 1.4 km (.87 miles).

Book a Float Plane Tour

View the beauty of the Vancouver area by air! Harbour Air, North America’s largest seaplane airline, offers a variety of tours. See www.harbourair.com for tour information and booking.

Distance from hotel – 210 m (.13 miles).

Experience “Flyover Canada”

Using advanced technology, this ride simulates experiencing British Columbia’s most beautiful locations as if you were really there. See www.flyovercanada.com for ticket information.

Distance from hotel – 700 m (.44 miles).

Shop at Granville Island Public Market

This former industrial site is now an artsy neighborhood anchored by the huge Public Market, where you can purchase produce, artisanal foods, and hand-crafted items.

Distance from hotel – 4.5 km (2.80 miles).

Stroll Around Gastown

Gastown is the oldest commercial center in Vancouver, known for its beautiful Victorian-style architecture. Stroll its cobble streets, stop at one of the microbreweries, and explore unique boutiques.

Distance from hotel - 1.2 km (.75 miles).

Go Whale Watching

Several providers offer whale watching excursions; some offer hotel pick-up.



PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Pre-Conference Option -
Discover Victoria
and Butchart Gardens

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Exhibitor Set-Up

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Registration

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Exhibits/Fly Mart

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
International
Board of Directors
Meeting

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Hospitality

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Option TBD

THURSDAY, JULY 4

7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Keynote Continental
Breakfast

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Registration

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Opening
Keynote Address -

**"Elevating the Skies:
Changing the Face of the
Aviation Industry"**

Kendra Kincade

*Air Traffic Controller,
Honorary Colonel of RCAF
417 Helicopter Squadron,
Director/Executive Producer
of the documentary Only Up,
Founder and President of
Elevate Aviation*

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Exhibits/Fly Mart

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Seminar -

"This Girl's On 'Fires'"

Angela Tanton
C130 Tanker Pilot

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Seminar -

**"Improving General
Aviation Safety: Learning
From the Mistakes of
Others"**

Kathy Fox

*Previous VP of Operations at
NAV CANADA, Current Chair
of Canada's TSB; Canadian
Aviation Hall of Fame, WAI
Pioneer Hall of Fame*

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Hospitality

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Seminar -

"From Grade 4 to CEO"

Catherine Press

*First Canadian Female
Helicopter Instructor,
Airline Transport Licence
(Helicopters and Airplanes),
Pilot Examiner (Helicopters
and Airplanes), Owner
and CEO of Chinook
Helicopters, LTD*

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Seminar -

**"Back in the Air,
After a Scare"**

Colette Morin

*Owner, Chief Pilot, Chief
Flight Instructor Glacier Air,
Squamish, British Columbia*

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Optional Tour -
Discover Vancouver

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Trust Meetings

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Council of Governors
Meeting

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
First-Time Conference
Attendees Meet
and Greet

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Welcome Reception
(Cash Bar)

FRIDAY, JULY 5

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Registration

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Seminar -

**"Things She Sees
as a DPE"**

Judy Phelps

*Designated Pilot Examiner,
Gold Seal Flight Instructor
and Master CFII-Aerobatic,
2011 National Certified Flight
Instructor of the Year,
Co-Owner of CP Aviation,
Santa Paula, California*

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Seminar -

"Flying for a Cause"

Triple Feature!

**"Taking Flight
for Volunteer
Organizations"**

Eve Lopez

*Angel Flight West, Pilots N
Paws, Young Eagles*

"Hope Is In The Air"

Lisa Ashe

*Hope Air National
Advisory Board*

**"Amelia Air: Flying
Shelter Pets to Freedom"**

Petra Janney

*Founder, Amelia Air
Animal Rescue*

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Exhibits/Fly Mart

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Hospitality

9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Seminar -

"Laugh, Learn, Lead"

*Round table discussions to
inspire and energize Chapters
and Sections
- All members encouraged
to attend!*

1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Optional Tour -
Discover North Vancouver
& Capilano Suspension
Bridge

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Optional Tour -
Historic Gastown
Walking Food Tour

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pre-Annual Meeting
Communication Session

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Governors/Presidents
Reception

*Option for Past/Current
Governors and International
Presidents*

SATURDAY, JULY 6

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Registration

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Breakfast Buffet

8:30 p.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Ninety-Nines International
Annual Meeting

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Luncheon for Ninety-Nines
Life Members

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Exhibits/Fly Mart

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Hospitality

12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Pilot Career Expo

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
International Board of
Directors Meeting

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Career Pilot Networking

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Cocktail Hour
(Cash Bar)

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Awards Banquet

Amelia Earhart
Memorial Scholarships

Ninety-Nines
International Awards

SUNDAY, JULY 7

12:00 p.m.
Post Conference Option -
Alaska Dawes Glacier Tour
on Celebrity Solstice



2024 FEATURED CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND SEMINARS

OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

ELEVATING THE SKIES: CHANGING THE FACE OF THE AVIATION INDUSTRY

Kendra Kincade

Thursday, July 4, 8:00 a.m.



Sharing her own journey of overcoming fear and helping others do the same through aviation, Kendra Kincade is rooted in positivity and empowerment. Kendra has a talent for inspiring and motivating audiences as she shares her journey from homelessness to controlling the skies. She captivates her audiences with her contagious enthusiasm, leaving them impassioned to proactively embrace change and soar through their own challenges.

Kendra Kincade is an accomplished Canadian air traffic controller, Honorary Colonel of the RCAF 417 Helicopter Squadron, and Director/Executive Producer of the documentary *Only Up*. As founder and President of Elevate Aviation, she created the groundbreaking Elevate Aviation Learning Centre: fostering inclusivity in aviation for women and historically underrepresented individuals. Recently appointed Chair of the Alberta Aviation Council, Kendra is the first woman to hold this position in its 60-year history. Her remarkable achievements epitomize her commitment to advancing the aviation industry and promoting diversity.

THIS GIRL'S ON 'FIRES'



Angela Tanton

Thursday, July 4, 9:15 a.m.

Wildfires in the Northern Hemisphere are growing in frequency and intensity, and can quickly endanger people's lives, homes, and livestock. Fighting these fires is an orchestra of movement and coordination. Ground teams, helicopters, bird dogs, and tankers all need to work together quickly and safely. As a C130 tanker pilot, Angela

works as a part of an amazing fire-fighting team dropping retardant in support of the ground crews. Join Angela as she takes you into the world of aerial firefighting!

Angela has been flying for 30 years in a variety of roles that have taken her all over the world, from Canada to Saudi Arabia, the Maldives, Burma, Chile, Australia, Africa, and the U.S.

IMPROVING GENERAL AVIATION SAFETY: LEARNING FROM THE MISTAKES OF OTHERS



Kathy Fox

Thursday, July 4, 9:15 a.m.

Kathy will outline the common types of general aviation accidents and the factors leading to such accidents using information gathered from Transport Canada (the Canadian equivalent of the FAA) and case studies based on investigations conducted by Canada's Transportation Safety Board (equivalent to the U.S. NTSB). Participants

will be encouraged to share practices they've adopted to reduce the risk of accident and recommendations based on safety lessons they've learned.

Kathy Fox has jumped out of airplanes, controlled airplanes, and flown airplanes as a flight instructor and charter pilot. With over 50 years' experience in the aviation sector, Kathy has flown more than 5,000 hours; previously served as Vice President of Operations at NAV CANADA; and currently serves as Chair of Canada's TSB. Amongst many accolades, Kathy was inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame (2016) and the Women in Aviation International Pioneer Hall of Fame (2018).

FROM GRADE 4 TO CEO



Catherine Press

Thursday, July 4, 10:45 a.m.

Cathy's journey defied convention and took her to great heights. Having left school after grade four to pursue flying lessons, Cathy's determination and entrepreneurial spirit led her to become the CEO of a large and thriving flight school. Join Cathy as she tells her story of passion and focus to achieve her aviation goals when the odds were against her.

At only 19 years old, Cathy achieved a rare milestone, becoming the first-ever female helicopter flight instructor in Canada. Her passion for aviation and unwavering dedication have shaped her life and inspired countless others to reach for the skies. Cathy's story is a testament to the power of resilience and the pursuit of one's dreams.

BACK IN THE AIR, AFTER A SCARE



Colette Morin

Thursday, July 4, 10:45 a.m.

Colette's biggest fears as a pilot were: having an aviation accident, losing a friend in an accident, or having a medical issue that affected her aviation medical. If one of those occurs, how do you cope and get back in the air again? Colette will share her story and anecdotes from others who have faced these challenges, fought through them, and

learned once again to spread their wings and fly!

Colette began flying at 26 for fun, but her hobby soon turned into a lifestyle and full-time business venture. She is the sole owner, chief pilot, and chief flight instructor of Glacier Air in Squamish, British Columbia. Over the past 30 years, Colette has flown over 5,000 hours: primarily single engine, VFR mountain flying throughout Western Canada, and has also flown across the USA, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, and Jamaica. As a volunteer Civil Air Search and Rescue Association search pilot, she takes great pleasure in introducing females to the aviation industry and enjoys encouraging and mentoring pilots of all ages.

THINGS SHE SEES AS A DPE



Judy Phelps

Friday, July 5, 8:30 a.m.

Have you ever wanted to ask a DPE a question and not be judged? This is your opportunity! A designated pilot examiner, flight instructor, and flight school owner, Judy will discuss the process of preparing for a flight test. She will share hurdles that can be encountered during the process and give

suggestions on how to address them. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Judy Phelps is a designated pilot examiner, Gold Seal flight instructor and master CFII-Aerobatic. She is the co-owner of CP Aviation, a flight school in Santa Paula, California. She was the 2011 National Certified Flight Instructor of the Year and has flown over 12,000 hours. She has been an active member of the Ventura County Chapter since 1999.

FLYING FOR A CAUSE – TRIPLE FEATURE!

Friday, July 5, 8:30 a.m.

Discover the transformative power of flying for a purpose. Join these three presenters as they explore the dynamic intersection of aviation and altruism: Showcasing the innovative ways in which new horizons are unlocked by flying for nonprofit organizations. From rescue animals to non-urgent medical transportation, learn how they impact humanitarian efforts. Through captivating narratives, they will demonstrate how collaborations with nonprofit organizations make a lasting difference for those in need. Whether you're passionate about aviation, philanthropy, or both, this presentation will illuminate the boundless potential of taking flight for the greater good.

FLYING FOR A CAUSE – TAKING FLIGHT FOR VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS



Eve Lopez

Eve Lopez is a CFI/CFII and an attorney. She is a member of the Los Angeles 99s and flies for three organizations that support aviation and philanthropy: Angel Flight West, Pilots N Paws, and Young Eagles.

FLYING FOR A CAUSE – HOPE IS IN THE AIR



Lisa Ashe

In Canada, healthcare is universal, but access is not. For the 30% of Canadians who live outside of urban centers, medical care can be difficult or impossible to access. With a background in nursing and a love of aviation, Lisa is passionate about marrying

these two worlds. Learn how Hope Air provides access to the healthcare Canadians need regardless of where they live or their financial status.

Lisa is a member of Hope Air's National Advisory Board and flies her Cessna 182 Amphibian in their annual fundraising expeditions, raising much-needed funds and recruiting other pilots to give back in the same way.

FLYING FOR A CAUSE – AMELIA AIR: FLYING SHELTER PETS TO FREEDOM



Petra Janney

Petra always dreamt of learning to fly, but she never had a mission until 2019, when pilot Dean Heistad shared how he had rescued their family dog, Amelia, in a Cessna. Petra saw a chance to leverage the aviation community to help more at-risk animals, and Amelia Air was born. Five years and thousands of rescued animals later, Petra shares her story to help others take to the skies, reimagine their potential, and find a purpose that powers their lives.

Petra Janney is a pilot, nonprofit leader, and entrepreneur from Los Angeles. Her charity, Amelia Air, has flown thousands of pets to freedom in the U.S. and Mexico since its inception in 2019. Petra is currently developing a software platform to remove barriers to pet adoption.

LAUGH, LEARN, LEAD – NEW FOR 2024!

Friday, July 5, 9:45 a.m.

This is the seminar that every member should attend! Are you ready for a fun, interactive experience? Join your fellow 99s for laughter, learning, and leadership! Are you interested in having more fun at your meetings? Come get some great ideas and share what works for you! Are you interested in learning more about resources to support your chapter? Come see what is available and how others are using these great resources. Are you in a leadership position in your chapter or soon to be? Yes, you are because you're attending the conference! Even if you are certain you would rather have someone else in charge, this seminar will be well worth your time. Make sure that your chapter and section are represented!



Professional Pilot Career Panel

Saturday, July 6, 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Presented by The Ninety-Nines Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI)

The Ninety-Nines Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) aims to accelerate the advancement of women in all pilot professions, facilitate dynamic mentoring, and enhance our leadership role in the aviation community. The program provides highly motivated Ninety-Nines with the tools to develop their careers and leadership abilities. Are you seeking a pathway to a professional pilot career? Are you curious about how to fund and accomplish training, perhaps in unconventional ways? Do you need some tips on how to overcome training and career challenges? PPLI is proud to present this half-day session just for you!



PRESENTERS:

Laura Matheson, *MedEvac Pilot*

Laura Matheson works as a First Officer for a MedEvac operator in Winnipeg, Manitoba (Treaty 1 Territory) and is a 2022 PPLI graduate.

On her own time, she hosts, writes, and researches for the Holding Short Podcast – an aviation podcast aimed at promoting diversity in aviation.

She's previously been the co-administrator and social media coordinator for the Webster Memorial Trophy Competition – Canada's Top General Aviation Pilot Competition – and as the community events lead and Ontario ambassador for Elevate Aviation, a women in aviation mentorship organization.


Ella Stersky, *KingAir Captain for Air Inuit*

Ella works for Air Inuit, a Montreal, Canada, based company that helps connect Nunavik and northern Quebec communities in the safest possible ways. She graduated from the PPLI in 2020 and still contributes to this day.

Past instructor and MedEvac pilot, she enjoys exploring new sights while serving the country's northernmost communities.

Alana Erickson, *MedEvac Captain and Backcountry Charter Pilot*

Flying is Alana's second career, and as a result, she pursued commercial aviation in a non-traditional way. She has flown in a variety of industry sectors such as fire, MedEvac, Essential Air Service, jet charter, and bush/backcountry charter. A recent charter trip took her to Tofino, British Columbia. She's been a member of The Ninety-Nines for over 10 years. She is an Amelia Earhart Scholarship winner and a former Chapter Scholarship Chair. She has participated in the PPLI in various roles for several years. She enjoys sharing her journey to hopefully inspire more women to fly at a later age and to open eyes about career options outside the airlines.

The afternoon will conclude with hospitality and an informal networking session. This session is included with full registration or may be purchased as a stand-alone session. 



Visit our Conference Page
www.ninety-nines.org/conference.htm

Milestones

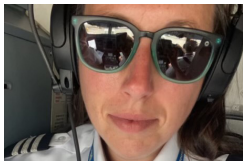


Sable Abitbol
BE20 Type Rating
– British Columbia Coast

Carly Anderson
Commercial;
Multi-engine
– Colorado



Allison Atkinson
Private
– Air Capital



Addison Barbeau
ATR-42
and ATR-72 Type Rating
– Alabama



Patty Barrera
Boeing 777 Type Rating
– Bay Cities



Samy-Rae Brain
Multi-engine Instructor
– Alabama

Lindsey Chen
Commercial
Multi-engine
– Orange County

Michaela Chroustova
BE20 Type Rating
– British Columbia Coast

Amy Crider
SF340 Type Rating
– British Columbia Coast

Tanille DeLair
Commercial
Multi-engine
– Treasure Coast

Adrienne Detwiler
Private
– Scioto



Megan Dukes
PPLI graduate
– All-Ohio

Kyra Duncan
Multi-engine
– Orange County



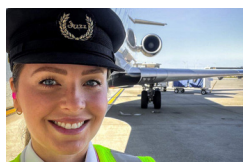
Rebecca Erb
Commercial
Multi-engine
– Bay Cities
Photo courtesy of
AeroDynamic Aviation at RHV



Gillian Evans
Commercial
– British Columbia Coast



Kim Farwick
Commercial;
Multi-engine
– Tennessee



Jenna Forseth
CRJ-900 Type Rating
– British Columbia Coast

Danai Fury
Citation Rating
– All-Ohio



Vicki Harris
Private
– All-Ohio

Dhriti Kabra
Commercial
– British Columbia Coast



Miranda Keller
Commercial
– Orange County

Darcie Kolomay
Commercial
– British Columbia Coast



Esther Kotyk
Instrument
– All-Ohio



Zaydie Ladner
Private
– Air Capital



Mandi Neumann
Multi-engine
– Wisconsin



Jun Oikawa
Private
– All-Ohio



Mia Petruso
Private
– Greater St. Louis

Sarah Power
Solo
– British Columbia Coast



Allison Ranzau
Private
– Kentucky Bluegrass



Karlie Reed
Solo
– Antelope Valley

Terra Samson
Commercial Aeroplane
& Rotary, Bell 206
Type Rating
– British Columbia Coast



Naysa Marrero Santiago
Private
– Kentucky Bluegrass



Michele Springer
Private
– Air Capital

Amanda Stahl
Commercial
– New York
Capital Region



Sarah Stanley
Private
– Tennessee



Jackie Stokes
Instrument
– Orange County

Denise Terpstra
Gold Seal CFI
– Southwest Section



Kira Thompson
Solo
– Tennessee

Stacy Uebelhor
Commercial
Multi-engine
– Greater Seattle



Madeline Ungurain
Dash 8 Q-400
Type Rating
– British Columbia Coast



Liz von Sternberg
Private
– Orange County

Dakota Wagner
Private
– All-Ohio

Grass Roots



Photo by Mark Gronbeck.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

The New Jersey Chapter sponsored its Fall Flyout Challenge 2023, a month-long event during October, challenging pilots to fly the six-pack.

The six-pack included six airports in six states with a northern route [Sky Acres, New York (44N); Goodspeed, Connecticut (42B); Block Island, Rhode Island (BID)] and a southern route [Wildwood, New Jersey (WWD); Delaware Coastal, Delaware (GED); Ocean City, Maryland (OXB)]. Challenges on our routes included: various flights over water, a small-island landing, presidential TFRs, a short field landing over a swinging truss-bridge, congested New York Class Bravo airspace, and airports that provided approaches and departures over the Atlantic Ocean and Long Island Sound.

Work went into including lesser-known, unique, or engaging airports that had communities and local businesses that we could highlight. Our dynamic airport webpage kept pilots updated and provided information, including landing fee waivers, cafe discounts, bike and moped availability, and suggestions encouraging participants to explore. Pilots were required to document each landing; many submissions were imaginative and clever, and 127 landings were verified at our six airports.

Our hybrid Awards Event, held on November 4 at Lincoln Park Airport (N07), was kazoo-celebratory with a finale that revealed the contents of our unspecified, plain-brown-box six-pack award package. To everyone's amusement, items fulfilling their expectations of what a six-pack conveys: abs, beer, and (for the true pilot) six-pack steam gauges were manifested in unexpected, delightful ways.

Go to the NJ99s.org gallery to view our video montage of participant verification submissions, a creative video from our Spirit Award winner documenting the entire route, and pictures of our awards event.

– The New Jersey Flyout Team



Back row: Angela Robinson (Reno High Sierra Chapter), Christine Koenigsecker (2023 Scholarship Recipient and Reno High Sierra Chapter), Crystal Garcia (Treasurer), Laura van Hoorn, Karrilee Nathan, Alexis Vincent, Tara Jasper, Arianna Hanson, guest Sienna Jasper

Front row: Val Suberg (Chairman), Barbara Shubel, Rosie Pongracz (Vice Chairman), Kristen Stimpert (Secretary), Sophia Chiapellone (Bay Cities Chapter)

SANTA ROSA CHAPTER

Celebrating Success at Santa Rosa
99s Inaugural P51 Poker Night!

The Santa Rosa Chapter took flight on November 10, hosting our very first P51 Poker Night, and it was a soaring success that we're excited to share with fellow chapters!

With tremendous support from our aviation community and friends, we sold over 120 tickets, drawing poker players of all skill levels who bought in at \$99 and non-players at \$25 per ticket. We exceeded our fundraising target, raising more than \$10,000 for our scholarship fund to support the next generation of women aviators to reach for the skies.

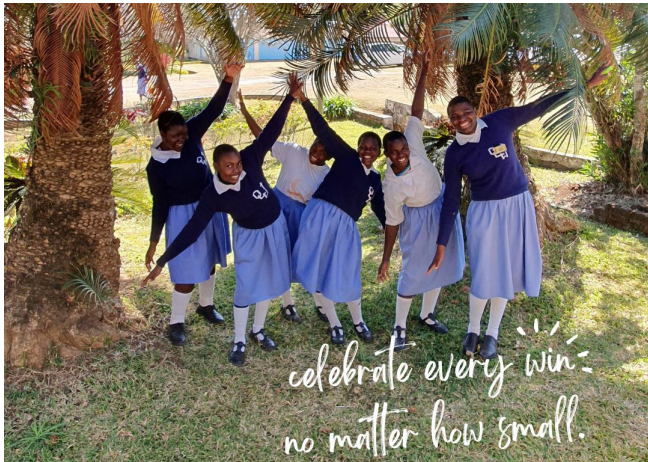
Our event found its wings at the historic Redwood Hangar, graciously provided by Sonoma Jet Center. It's worth noting that the Center's owner, Julia Hochberg, is a 99. This gathering took place at our home field, the Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport (KSTS).

The tournament had 12 poker tables, each accommodating eight players. A professional company ensured an authentic poker experience with dealers, tables, and poker chips. Attendees enjoyed a pay bar (including 99 Tara Jasper's Sipsong Spirits), amazing tacos from a local taco truck, delectable treats from 99 Jen Demarest of Baker and Cook, and a silent auction with dozens of incredible items from local sponsors (including Aviatrix label wine from 99 Heidi Barrett). We were honored to have Santa Rosa 99s Charter member Jeannie Schulz contribute Snoopy auction items from the Charles M. Schulz Museum. Many thanks to Dane Jasper for contributing the ride in his P51 for the poker tournament winner.

Our 2023 Chapter scholarship recipient, Christine Koenigsecker, added to the celebration by flying in to accept her award for her Multi-Engine Land rating. The overwhelming enthusiasm from attendees has us planning for the future. Many have inquired about the event becoming a yearly tradition, and we're excited to confirm that it will be!

We invite fellow chapters to join us in celebrating this remarkable evening and exploring how such an event could benefit your scholarship fund. Thank you for your ongoing support, and together, let's continue to uplift and inspire aspiring aviators.

– Rosie Pongracz



AFRICAN SECTION

This year has been a dynamic and impactful one for the African Section. Our journey began with a notable visit from the Airbus Foundation to Malawi, marking the commencement of our mission to inspire and educate through aviation, robotics, and drones.

Throughout the year, we actively engaged with schools by conducting sessions on aviation, robotics, and drones. The novelty of these programs in Malawi was evident, as it marked the first time such initiatives were introduced as extracurricular activities in schools.

Our efforts reached a remarkable 1,000 students across nine schools, creating a positive and lasting impact on youth. Witnessing the enthusiasm and joy among the students as they explored the world of robotics and drones has made this year exceptionally rewarding.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we express our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of our mission. Looking ahead, we are excited and motivated to continue our journey in the coming year, anticipating another year of success and inspiration. The African Section is committed to fostering a passion for aviation and technology, paving the way for a brighter future for the youth.

– Ivana Alvares-Marshall

ALL-OHIO CHAPTER



Peg Ballou (pictured) hosted a FAASeminar and presented her historical re-enactment of Loretta Schimmoler – a founding member of The 99s, personal friend of Amelia Earhart, and the first U.S. woman airport manager. This was at Port Bucyrus Airport (17G), Ohio Airport Day in October.

Debra Henrichs, All-Ohio Chair, and her 49 1/2, Randy, attended the International Conference in Jordan in October. Erin Walling participated in a USAF Half Marathon in Dayton, Ohio. Libby Vale was accepted to the Bowling Green State University NIFA Team. Captain Lisa Blair participated in Civil Air Patrol exercises. Vickie Harris was awarded the All-Ohio Chapter Check Ride Scholarship in November. This scholarship pays for the check ride for a rating. Contact Scholarship Chair, Betty Huck, for applications.

– Margaret Hazlett



ALABAMA CHAPTER

The Alabama Chapter was pleased to host the Fall Southeast Section Meeting in October. The event was attended by 55 99s, 18 49 1/2s and guests, and one International Board representative. Friday dinner was held at Pryor Field Regional Airport (KDCU) and Tara Sweeney, Alabama 99, spoke of her recent three-month scientific expedition to Antarctica. Tara was part of TIME, a Twaites Glacier interdisciplinary field team. Sarah Lincoln, Friend of The 99s, spoke on “Artemis: Exploration Is in Our Nature” at the Saturday luncheon. Sarah is a consultant at Jacobs Technology and an engineering contractor at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, translating technological accomplishments into presentations for the average consumer.

Forty attendees toured the Decatur, Alabama, manufacturing facility of United Launch Alliance (ULA). ULA is the nation’s most experienced space launch company with more than 150 consecutive launches with a 100% mission success rate. A cool October evening was spent experiencing a taste of bluegrass at the 56th annual Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention through music, crafts, and food. Those not departing early Sunday were able to explore Huntsville Space and Rocket Center.

– Kathy Powell



Chapter members include (left to right): Olivia Burd, visitor Mary Theurer, Valerie Sheldon, Lynne Hsia, visitor Candy Rodio, Helida Vanhoy, Katerina Johnson, Air Traffic Controller Lindsay Plein.

ANTELOPE VALLEY

The Antelope Valley Chapter toured the Los Angeles Center led by Air Traffic Controller and Chapter Member Lindsay Plein. Ten members attended, including two new members. Members enjoyed sitting with controllers to hear transmissions with pilots.

– Lynne Hsia

Grass Roots



Eva Murray, Mary Build, Twyla Rogers, Karissa Davan, and Lori Plourd.

KATAHDIN WINGS CHAPTER

Lori Plourd received the New England Section Award of Merit for exemplifying the spirit of adventure and unselfish service in the field of aviation and for demonstrating tremendous loyalty to The Ninety-Nines organization.

The Katahdin Wings staffed a booth at the Greenville International Seaplane Fly-In. The chapter has participated in this amazing aviation event for several decades. The event is held each year on the weekend after Labor Day and hosts thousands of aviation enthusiasts in one of the most beautiful places in Maine's northern woods. At the Fly-In, the Katahdin Wings reconnected with old friends and met many new ones, with some interested in beginning their aviation journey.

On November 30, 2023, members enjoyed a night of holiday lights and hot chocolate at the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden. Close to a million lights fill the trees and gardens, and this has become an annual chapter adventure.

- Karissa Davan



Tammy Willits and her Cessna Corvalis and the Girl Scouts at KOJC on a beautiful Fall day.

NORTHEAST KANSAS

99s Continue Girl Scout Events

In October, our Northeast Kansas Chapter Girl Scouts Liaison Tammy Willits worked with the new FBO at Johnson County Executive Airport (KOJC) in Olathe, Kansas, to introduce some more Scouts to aviation! The troop leader, Kelsie, sent a thank you note: "Thank you again for a wonderful afternoon! The girls had a great time; I know because they're still talking about it."

- Sara Tompson



COLORADO CHAPTER

In November, Colorado Chapter members enjoyed an informative and engaging presentation on mountain flying and aviation safety at high altitude with Bill Dunn. Bill has been a part of the renowned Mountain Flying courses through the Colorado Pilots Association for many years. Much appreciation to Bill for sharing his expertise and cautionary learning.

Upcoming chapter events include a program focused on the Air Race Classic as well as planning for an airmarking event in the Spring.

- Lydia H. Baldwin



Chapter Chair and Mid-Atlantic Governor, Lin Caywood, served as Mrs. Claus. Her husband, Carlo, was Santa.

SUGARLOAF CHAPTER

The Sugarloaf 99s hosted "Santa at the Airport" at Frederick Municipal Airport (KFDK) on Sunday, December 3, 2023. This is the third time we've held a Santa Day and we were thrilled to share a little aviation along with the magic of the holiday season. Using a Citation as our backdrop, Santa and Mrs. Claus welcomed several hundred families to the AOPA National Aviation Community Center. Children were able to have quality time with Santa, fly a drone in the FAA portable Drone Cage, color holiday pictures, ride on an airplane "simulator", drink hot chocolate and cider, and scoot their mini planes down fabric runways. The first hour was a quiet hour reserved for children with sensory needs. We raised over \$1,000 for our scholarship fund and over \$100 for the Van Kirk Aviation Museum. A potluck and gift exchange was held after the event for the chapter and friends. Approximately 25 people volunteered to make the day a success.

- Lin Caywood



Left, Pilot/Owner Tom Karr speaks to 99s.
Right, 99 Deb Meznarsic, tries out one of Gambit's planes.

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

A recent Chicago Area Chapter meeting had us gather at the J.A. Air Center at West Chicago's Aurora Municipal Airport (KARR), for a tour of Gambit Aviation. Our guest speaker was Gambit pilot/owner Todd Karr. It was very interesting to hear the Gambit story and see their aircraft. Thank you to 99 hosts Lisa Mitchell and Ceci Strom for making the arrangements. We had a short business meeting, and on the way there and back, we enjoyed viewing the great fall colors!

The following month's meeting was a "Swap Meet" held at Northwest Chicago's Schaumburg Regional Airport (O6C). We were encouraged to bring our garage-sale-type items: books, clothes, decor, jewelry, and any aviation items (no money exchanged). Many treasures found new homes. What was left was donated to Women in Need Growing Stronger (WINGS). WINGS provides a pathway to independence for adults and children who are escaping domestic violence and abuse. The guest speaker from WINGS was Shelly Welch. Their goal is to provide the tools and support necessary to ensure that survivors can escape their abusers and begin building new, violence-free lives. Our generous donations will help them achieve their mission to provide housing, integrated services, education, and advocacy to end domestic violence.

- Diane M. Cozzi



BRITISH COLUMBIA COAST CHAPTER

We are proud to announce the British Columbia Coast Chapter has painted a compass rose at the Pitt Meadows Airport (CYPK) in Pitt Meadows, British Columbia, Canada. It's for decorative purposes only and marked accordingly. The coordinates are: 49.2111 N, 122.7088 W. It's 25 feet in diameter and has four coats of paint in white and Handicap Blue.

The project was first organized by 99 Cynthia Prescott, who passed away after a short illness in August, 2022. We had 15 volunteers. Painting commenced on September 15 and was completed on September 17. Members on hand included: Judy Shaw, Clare Brooks Higgins, Cindy Pang, Diana Jeliaskova, Rani Tolton, Marcia Strang, Navjot Bahga, Sarah Power, Simran Gandhi, as well as friends and potential members.

- Cindy Pang



Reno Chapter's Kathy Walton, Houston Chapter members Carol Brackley, Rose Lepore, LuAnn Pfeifer Cotton, Susan Haass gathered at the Reno Air Races Ninety-Nines tent.

HOUSTON CHAPTER

In July, Debby Rihn-Harvey thrilled her fellow 99s with an aerobatic performance while speaking during her in-air aerobatic routine to the girls from all over the United States attending Girl Venture. The Houston Chapter was also represented at Oshkosh's AirVenture by Michelle Trobaugh, LuAnn Pfeifer Cotton, Vickie Croston, and Debby Rihn-Harvey (to name a few).

The September Reno Air Races welcomed 99s from all around the United States. Houston attendees included: Rose Lepore, Susan Haass, Carol Brackley, and LuAnn Pfeifer Cotton.

The Wings Over Houston Airshow in October was happily attended by: Carol Brackley, Rose Lepore, Susan Haass, and LuAnn Pfeifer Cotton at the Eagle Nest Squadron. Also in attendance was: Jenna Gorup, Skye Nowlin, Michelle Trobaugh, and Darlene Woelfel.

Elizabeth Frankowski and Carol Brackley represented our Houston Chapter at the International Conference in Jordan.

2024 will usher in the Houston 99s planning:

- "Let's Fly Now" at the new Chennault Airfield (25TX) in Cut And Shoot, Texas, in March 2024.
- Atchison, Kansas, will welcome many new faces from our Houston Chapter as we learn, by example, how to host an awesome South Central Section Meeting. Houston will host the South Central Section Meeting on September 27-29, 2024, in Clear Lake, Texas.
- Texas Gulf Coast Regional Airport (KLBX) Fly-In in Angleton, Texas, will include a booth with The Ninety-Nines represented by the Houston Chapter on Saturday, April 20, 2024.
- Eagle Lake Airport (KELA) requested their compass rose be repainted in the Spring of 2024.

- LuAnn Pfeifer Cotton

Grass Roots



Left: The Kentucky Bluegrass 99s November 11, 2023, meeting was breakfast and a tour of Thoroughbred Aviation (family business of hostess Lindsey Case, at Lexington Blue Grass Airport (KLEX), Lexington, Kentucky).

Right: Thanks to Terri Donner, pictured with conference organizer and Royal Jordanian Airline Pilot Alia Al Tawal at the International Ninety-Nines Conference in Jordan, for representing the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter.

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS CHAPTER

Kentucky Bluegrass member Terri Donner, retired UPS Captain; Kathy Osborne, current UPS Captain; and Kaye Combs Moore, FAA Master Pilot Award winner; related their aviation experiences to students at a Women in Aviation meeting at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky.

– Sue Glisson



Top: Girls in Aviation Day participants watching a demonstration of the firefighters gearing up for duty at the Kahului Airport fire station. Bottom: Girls in Aviation Day participants tour Maui Air One with Windward Aviation at Kahului Airport.

Photos by Kaiave Christensen.

MAUI CHAPTER

The annual Girls in Aviation Day event reached new heights this year in Maui with 28 eager future aviators in attendance. We kicked off the event with a helicopter tour hosted by Windward Aviation. Windward serves the island of Maui by conducting environmental research, rescue missions to remote locations, and firefighting. The girls were excited to learn about such a unique niche of aviation. Our next stop was the airport fire station, which did not disappoint. The girls enjoyed exploring the station, asking great questions, and learning how to spray a powerful fire hose. After a quick lunch, we transitioned into a round robin of engaging small group activities that included: pre-flying and hands on time in a Cessna 172, an engaging lesson on the forces of flight and Bernoulli's principle, a biplane popsicle stick magnet craft, and an air show conducted with foam gliders and hula hoops. A huge shout out to Maui aviators for graciously volunteering their time and space to make Girls in Aviation Day 2023 one to remember. The event had something for everyone and provided a fun environment for the Girl Scouts of Maui to explore the infinite opportunities aviation has to offer.

– Laura Bobzin



Left: Monterey Bay members at Women in Aviation 2023 included (left to right:) Nikki Fryn, Bridgett Higgins, and Sophia Taylor-Home (portraying Amelia Earhart). Right, Monterey Bay members also enjoyed a tour of Joby Aviation operations at Marina Municipal Airport. Right: Group shot.

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

In September, for Women in Aviation 2023, the Monterey Bay Chapter participated at the Marina Municipal Airport (KOAR) in Marina, California. The event was hosted at Joby Aviation Operations. Member Sophia Taylor-Home dressed as Amelia Earhart and attracted lots of attention to our booth.

– Alice Talnack

Our newest
Life Members

Judith Bergman
Old Dominion Chapter

Barbara Goodwin
Michigan Chapter

Mary Kohn
Indiana Dunes Chapter

Morgen Reeb
Old Dominion Chapter

New Horizons

This space is dedicated to our members and 49½s who have passed on to New Horizons. We will miss them, and thank these 99s for all of their contributions to our organization.

Tom Hawks
49½ of Ruthie Hawks
February 6, 2023
All-Ohio Chapter

Alicia D'souza
August 28, 2023
Manitoba Chapter

James Gorman
49½ of the late
Marjorie Gorman
Father of
Gayle Gorman Green
September 21, 2023
All-Ohio Chapter

Edith Baugh Upson Smith
October 11, 2023
Tucson Chapter

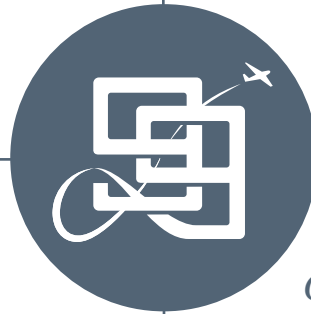
Dolores Mathews
October 28, 2023
San Fernando Valley Chapter

Deanna Robertson
November 8, 2023
South Central Section

Barbara Yeninas
November 8, 2023
Florida Suncoast Chapter

Linda A. Moody
November 25, 2023
Eastern New England Chapter

Louise Wicks
Life Member
December 7, 2023
Oregon Pines Chapter



Thank You to
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Our most recently enlisted
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Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Carson Cross
Centralia, Kansas

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Tanner, Alabama

Trish Guerrieri
Watsonville, California

Nidhi Mitta
Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, India

David Vidovich
Olmsted Twp, Ohio

David Vidovich D.F.
Olmsted Twp, Ohio



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