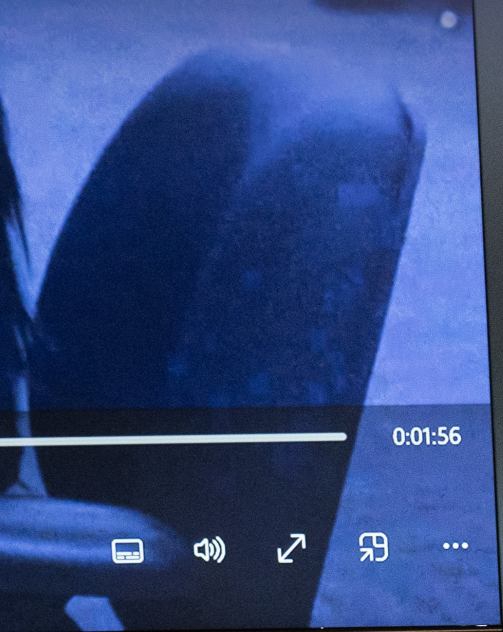




Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929



NINETY-NINES CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

**BEVERLEY D. SHARP
AVIATION DIVERSITY
AWARD LAUNCH EVENT**

p. 12



plus

**JIMMIE KOLP HISTORICAL
MARKER DEDICATION**

**2024 SPRING
FIRST WINGS AWARDS**



Ninety-Nines Magazine

Published by The Ninety-Nines, Inc.®
International Organization of Women Pilots®

A Delaware Nonprofit Corporation
Organized November 2, 1929 (ISSN 1548-565X)

Publications Committee

Lori Plourd, *Chairperson*

Jacque Boyd, Corbi Bulluck, Rebecca Burghy,
Jann Clark, Diane Earhart, Lu Hollander,
Linda Horn, Susan Larson, Donna Miller,
Shannon Osborne, Julie Paasch, Janice Pelletti,
Kate Scott, Sara Tompson

Kirn Creative, *Creative Direction*

International Headquarters/ Ninety-Nines magazine

4300 Amelia Earhart Dr, Suite A
Oklahoma City, OK 73159-1140 USA

Mail: PO Box 950374
Oklahoma City, OK 73195-0374
Phone: 405-685-7969
or toll free 844-994-1929
Fax: 405-685-7985
Email: 99s@ninety-nines.org
Website: ninety-nines.org

Article Submissions

Visit www.ninety-nines.org for info
or email news@ninety-nines.org

Advertise with Us

Email: advertisingmgr@ninety-nines.org

Editorial Policy

The opinions expressed in the articles presented
in this magazine are those of the authors and
shall not be construed to represent the policies
or opinions of The Ninety-Nines, Inc.®

The Ninety-Nines magazine is published
bimonthly by The Ninety-Nines, Inc.®,
International Organization of Women Pilots, at
4300 Amelia Earhart Drive, Suite A, Oklahoma
City, Oklahoma, 73159-1140.

The subscription is included in the annual
Ninety-Nines membership dues and Friends
of The 99s dues. Periodicals postage paid at
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and other additional
mailing offices. Neither The Ninety-Nines, Inc.
nor the Publisher can accept any responsibility
for the correctness or accuracy of the matters
printed herein.

The Ninety-Nines, Inc. does not warrant,
guarantee or endorse any specific product or
service that is advertised in its printed or online
catalog or magazine.

The Publications Committee and the Publisher
reserve the right to reject any material
submitted for publication. Copy submitted for
publication will become the property of The
Ninety-Nines, Inc. and will not be returned.

Annual Dues

U.S. – 65 USD; Canada and the Caribbean – 57
USD; Overseas – 44 USD; Student Member – 35
USD (65 USD after first two years).

Non-member subscription rates: U.S. – 20 USD;
Canada and other countries – 30 USD

Address Changes

Send to: The Ninety-Nines, Inc.®
International Organization of Women Pilots®
4300 Amelia Earhart Dr., Suite A
Oklahoma City, OK 73159-1140 USA

International Board of Directors



Robin Hadfield
President



Minnetta Gardinier
Vice President



Debi Dreyfuss
Secretary



Aileen Coverdell
Treasurer



Nivedita Bhasin
Director



Janet Patton
Director



Mary Build
Director



Pat Chan
Director



MISSION STATEMENT

The Ninety-Nines®
International Organization of Women Pilots®
promotes advancement of aviation through
education, scholarships, and mutual support
while honoring our unique history and sharing
our passion for flight.

Let's Get Social    

ON THE COVER

Senator Tammy Duckworth and Seturah Foxx, Director, Culture and Engagement,
Airbus Americas, at the Beverly D. Sharp Aviation Diversity Award Launch Event.

Photo by Nicholas Morris

- 4 Calendar
- 5 President's Message
- 6 Holding Short
- 7 Careers
- 8 Ask a DPE

10 Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony

In Honor of Aviator Jimmie Hudson Kolp

By Elizabeth B. Hawley, *Wichita Falls Chapter*



12 Ninety-Nines Celebrate Diversity

Beverly D. Sharp Aviation Diversity Award
Launch Event

By Rebecca Burghy, *Intermountain Chapter*



14 2024 Spring First Wings Awards



17 Gene Nora Jessen

By Minnetta Gardinier, *Iowa Chapter*

- 18 Essays
- 21 Places to Go & Things to Do
- 22 Book Reviews
- 23 Milestones
- 24 Reports
- 25 Grass Roots
- 30 Life Members
 - Friends of The 99s
 - New Horizons



Thank You to Our Sponsors



2024

JUL

3-7 Ninety-Nines International Conference and Career Expo
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
☐ [Registration and information: 99sconference.org](https://99sconference.org)

15 Deadline: Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) Application for Mentoring Autumn Session
☐ ninety-nines.org/resources.htm
mentoring@ninety-nines.org

22-28 EAA AirVenture Oshkosh
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

23 99s Annual Aviation Appreciation Dinner
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

SEP

6-8 Southeast Section Meeting
Atlanta, GA
✈ [Marilyn Shafer, probbmom@gmail.com](mailto:Marilyn.Shafer@probbmom@gmail.com)

12-15 Northwest Section Annual Meeting
Olympia, Washington
Mount Tahoma Chapter
✈ [Theresa White, Magicmom444@hotmail.com](mailto:Theresa.White@magicmom444@hotmail.com)

13-15 North Central Section Fall Meeting
Bloomington, Minnesota
Minnesota Chapter
✈ [Cheryl Daml, cdaml@msn.com](mailto:Cheryl.Daml@msn.com)

16-21 Rock the Falls Air Tour
Frederick, Maryland – Niagara Falls, New York
✈ [Terry Carbonell, godusty@hotmail.com](mailto:Terry.Carbonell@godusty@hotmail.com)

20-21 International Forest of Friendship Induction Ceremony
☐ ifof.org

27-29 South Central Section Fall Meeting
League City, Texas
Houston Chapter
✈ [LuAnn Pfeifer-Cotton, luannpfeifer@hotmail.com](mailto:LuAnn.Pfeifer-Cotton@luannpfeifer@hotmail.com)

OCT

1 Deadline: First Wings Applications
☐ Ninety-nines.org/scholarships.htm

4-5 Mid-Atlantic Section Fall Meeting
College Park, Maryland
Washington DC Chapter
✈ [Lucia Mencia, archlm@msn.com](mailto:Lucia.Mencia@archlm@msn.com)

18-19 New England Section Fall Meeting
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
New England Chapter
✈ Mary.Build@gmail.com

NOV

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

DEC

1-9 India Section Aviation Conclave
New Delhi, India
✈ Indiasection99s@gmail.com

31 Deadline: Intent to Seek Election
✈ VirginieRollin85@gmail.com

2025

JUL

8-13 Ninety-Nines International Conference and Career Expo
Burlington, Vermont

MAGAZINE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

are one month prior to issue date.
SEP/OCT issue deadline: Aug 1.

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



Robin Hadfield

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

AirVenture Oshkosh to say hello. We have an exciting lineup at the WomenVenture Pavilion, with seminars on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. Come and listen to our members Jenny Beatty, Donna Miller, Peggy Doyle, Susan Passmore, and more as panelists during the seminars. I always look forward to these events, as they offer us a chance to showcase the incredible work our members are doing and to inspire future generations of women pilots.

This year is particularly special for me. As the airshow coordinator for a collection of WWII warbirds in Canada, it's an exciting year. In celebration of the Royal Canadian Air Force's (RCAF) 100th anniversary, my husband will be flying the iconic WWII Spitfire to Oshkosh. The Spitfire will be on display on the Boeing Plaza, alongside the Hurricane, P-51 Mustang, RCAF Hornet F-18, and Snowbirds. Flying in a formation Victory Flight of the Spitfire, Hurricane, P-51 Mustang, and the RCAF Hornet F-18 will be a spectacular sight, and I hope many of you will be there to witness this historic moment.

Thank you to all who have reached out in congratulations on my being re-elected President of The Ninety-Nines. It is an honor, and I am deeply grateful for your vote of confidence. I wish that each of you could walk a day in my shoes to truly understand how fabulous being a member of The Ninety-Nines truly is! This is our 95th anniversary year, and I imagine that all 44 presidents before me have been just as inspired by the remarkable achievements of our members, chapters, and sections, in promoting aviation and supporting each other in reaching our aviation goals. It is an honor to devote my time and energy to such an extraordinary organization.

The Ninety-Nines' history is rich with stories of innovation, leadership, and mutual support. Over the past year alone, we have welcomed over a thousand new members, a testament to the enduring appeal and purpose of The Ninety-Nines. However, we sadly continue to lose too many newer members due to a lack of engagement at the chapter level. Addressing this issue is crucial to our continued success and growth.

While recruiting new members is important, retaining our current members is equally crucial. This collective effort requires the involvement of all of us — members, chapters, sections, and the International Board. We must work together to welcome new members and ensure that all members feel included and valued. Building a supportive and inclusive community takes commitment from everyone.

Honoring Our Legacy and Embracing Our Future

As we approach the summer months — at least for those who live in the northern hemisphere — I wish everyone a great summer flying season. I am especially excited to reconnect with many of you during the first week of July at our annual conference in Vancouver. This year's conference promises to be an exhilarating event, full of learning, networking, and shared passion for aviation.

One of my favorite parts of this role as your president is meeting so many inspiring women who share our love for flying. I hope you'll stop by our two booths at EAA

How can we foster a sense of belonging and involvement?

- ✓ Regular in-person or even virtual meetings are important for maintaining connection and enthusiasm. Additional social events, such as picnics, holiday parties, or installation dinners, add variety and keep members engaged. Whether a member is a younger pilot with limited time and funds or a more experienced pilot with easy access to a plane, listening to the needs and preferences of our members is crucial.
- ✓ Scholarships and financial help are great ways to keep members engaged. By supporting student pilots with scholarships, we assist their aviation journeys and build lasting relationships in our community. Many of our chapter and section leaders were once scholarship recipients, showing the long-term benefits of these programs.
- ✓ Participating in local airport activities and working with other aviation groups can boost our visibility and connections. Building relationships with FBOs, flight schools, and their flight instructors is crucial, leading to referrals of female pilots and student pilots who could benefit from The Ninety-Nines' opportunities.
- ✓ Social media is essential for interaction, friendship, mentorship, and camaraderie among our members. Many pilots join our Facebook groups, TikTok, and Instagram seeking these connections. Your chapter may need to enhance its online presence and engagement. Encouraging members to share their experiences, successes, and challenges on these platforms can foster a sense of community.

Speaking of social media — our social media team could use a few more volunteers. As some of the social media team members start university or internships, they need extra help. If you're interested, please email me at president@ninety-nines.org.

To all members, your continuous support and dedication are the pillars of our organization. I am deeply grateful for each of you and the unique contributions you make. As we approach our 95th anniversary this November, let us embrace the spirit of The Ninety-Nines, Inc., which has brought us to this remarkable milestone, and as we continue to build on our legacy and inspire future generations of women pilots.

Can you help? — We are also currently seeking a member to assist on our committee as our Public Relations person. This role is crucial in creating press releases that highlight members' achievements and share interesting stories about The Ninety-Nines with aviation magazines and our website. If you have a talent for storytelling and a passion for promoting our members' accomplishments, we would love to hear from you. We have one member who has volunteered, but ideally a committee is more than one person — we need a second member who has a knack for writing.

I offer congratulations to the newly elected International Board of Directors, Trusts, and Committee winners. I'm looking forward to working together over the next two years! All the results are found in this issue of the magazine.

Looking forward to seeing many of you during July or August and sharing time together.

Holding Short



17-Year-Old Pilot Flies in AOPA 85th Anniversary Flight

Madelyn Baltrosky graduated from high school only days after she became the youngest pilot flying an airplane in the AOPA's Anniversary flight over the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and only one of six female pilots who participated in the event. Her grandparents weren't even alive 85 years ago when the AOPA was established! The pilots departed from Frederick Municipal Airport (KFDK) at 11 a.m. on May 11.

Maddie didn't realize it at the time, but her flight journey began in 2014 when she was just seven years old. Her family attended the Women in Aviation's Women Fly it Forward Event at the Frederick Municipal Airport, where Maddie (7) and her younger sister, Olivia (5), flew to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, with two generous women who donated their time and aircraft to promote women in aviation. Fast forward to age 15, when she took a Discovery Flight, which sealed the deal for her career path in aviation. She set a goal to earn her private certificate on her 17th birthday, which she accomplished with flying colors. Maddie's dad, Mike, also fulfilled his lifelong dream and earned his private certificate a few weeks before Maddie earned hers, but Maddie beat him at getting her Instrument Rating first! Maddie is a member of the Sugarloaf Chapter and will be attending Purdue University in the fall, where she plans to major in Aeronautical Engineering and Naval ROTC. Her ultimate goal is to become an astronaut with NASA.



Kathy Powell, Chapter Chair (left) and Eileen Hamby at The 99s Headquarters

Aerial Tour of U.S. Sights

Alabama Chapter member **Eileen Hamby** took her sister and niece along on an aviation adventure to get the unique aerial view of some U.S. national treasures: Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, the Statue of Liberty, Niagara Falls, and St. Louis Arch. Chapter Chair Kathy Powell joined Eileen after her family returned home, and they continued to Albuquerque to see some petroglyphs, Oklahoma City for a visit to The Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots and Headquarters, and Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, for the WASP Museum, before returning home to Alabama.

– Kathy Powell, *Alabama Chapter*



Left: Zoey with Lynne Hsia (left) and Carol Reukauf (right). Right: Sarah Haskett and a Cessna 172 at Jack Barstow Airport (KIKW), Midland, Michigan.

Scholarship Announcements

The Antelope Valley 99s awarded its annual scholarship to **Zoey Lee**, an aeronautical engineering student at Antelope Valley College.

Michigan Chapter member **Sarah Haslett** was featured in an article in the *Midland Daily News* on Thursday, May 23, 2024. The article highlighted her being awarded an Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship and her plans with fellow 99s member Timber Dawson (Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter) to participate as a first-time racer in the 2024 Air Race Classic. Their team's name is SkyMoms, and they are Team #9.



Ninety Percent

By Donna Miller, *Colorado Chapter*

*“Shoot for the moon.
If you miss, you’ll land among the stars”*

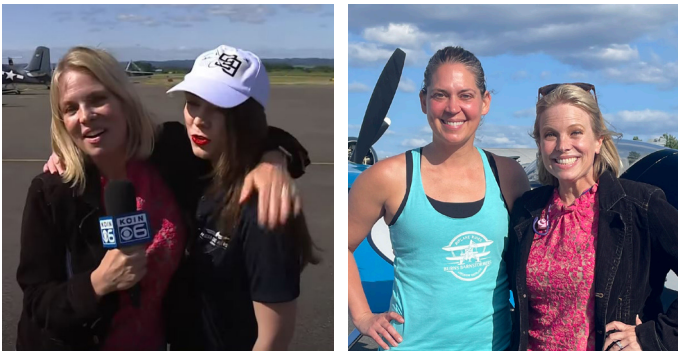
– Norman Vincent Peale

1. It started with stickers. You know, the kind that you put on your water bottle? I had 100 of them made to give to my fellow runners at an upcoming marathon. My friend designed them, and I was excited to get them back from the print company that I had used for this exact thing two years ago. They came back not quite right, but close enough, and there weren’t 100 of them. I called customer service and was told that 10% plus or minus was acceptable. I hadn’t even gotten to the design and material problems.
2. The next day, I went to a well-known coffee shop to get gift cards for friends. I was told that they didn’t have envelopes that they normally go in. No apology, no explanation, no trying to make it right. Just a blank stare that told me she was waiting for me to tap my credit card.
3. I lived on the third floor of an apartment building in South Korea, where I learned to fly, and there were six sets of stairs with a landing between each set. Somehow, there was a miscalculation in the engineering, and the first step of the final flight of stairs was about two inches taller than all of the others. (About 90% right.) It took me months of bruised shins and broken eggs to remember to step high. When friends came to visit, if I forgot to mention it, I knew when they were almost to the door by the sound of the fall, usually followed by an audible gasp. Or worse.

I started thinking about how it would look if I took that approach in my career as a pilot. “Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Baltimore. I know your ticket says Philadelphia, but we have determined that plus or minus ten percent is acceptable.” Really? Of course, there are times when you don’t make it to your destination for reasons that are out of your control, like weather that causes you to divert to your alternate.

I do my best to show up to work, ready to give it my very best effort. I strive to be well-rested and to keep up with the safety bulletins. Of course, we are going to make mistakes, but giving it our best is a good start to a successful flight. Have you practiced your PA announcements and Flight Attendant briefings? Even as a private pilot, a professional passenger brief is a good idea. It instills confidence, both in you and in the people who are trusting their lives to you. I’ve also noticed that some of the best landings can be in the most challenging conditions. We are concentrating more than we might if the skies were clear and the winds were calm.

I challenge you to strive for 100%. Go above and beyond. Shoot for the moon.



99s at the Oregon International Air Show

Columbia Cascades Chapter represented The Ninety-Nines at the Oregon International Air Show held May 17-19, 2024, at Hillsboro Airport (KHIO). Co-Vice Chair Natasha Stenbock, chief meteorologist at KOIN 6 TV in Portland, Oregon, was on hand for the weekend, interviewing Columbia Cascades Chapter Treasurer Chloe Martin, airshow pilot Melissa Burns, and aerobatic pilot Renny Price, including footage from an aerobatic flight with him. Follow the links below for the videos:

Natasha interviews Columbia Cascades Chapter member/treasurer Chloe Martin: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSod7ZzHEmg

Natasha interviews inspirational air show pilot Melissa Burns: www.youtube.com/watch?v=afEgfwcMag

Natasha shares her aerobatic flight with local air show pilot Renny Price: www.youtube.com/watch?v=j92Van8Rsok

– Natasha Stenbock, *Co-Vice Chair
Columbia Cascades Chapter*



Julie Paasch
Mount Tahoma Chapter

Do you have a question that you've always wanted to ask a Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE)?

Email Julie Paasch at askadpe99@gmail.com

Your question may be answered in the next issue!

Airmen Certification Standards (ACS) Update

I heard that there were updates and new Airmen Certification Standards (ACS); what are the changes I can expect? Are they changing drastically?

As of May 31, 2024, there are updates and new ACS that will be effective. This includes the long-awaited CFI Airplane, Helicopter, and Power-Lift ACS. In addition, there are updates to many of the other ACS including the Private, Instrument, and Commercial Airplane. All of these updates can be found on the FAA website.


The FAA also added a companion guide. A huge change is the ACS are incorporated by reference into 14 CFR part 61, therefore, the material contained in the ACS is regulatory. The Companion Guide gives additional information to facilitate airman testing, test preparatory information for an applicant seeking a certificate or rating, and a list of references and abbreviations/acronyms used in any ACS, and, lastly, a practical test checklist for use by an applicant. I have also found it helpful to see what information has been removed from the various ACS.

The Flight Instructor ACS has a lot of changes from the Practical Test Standards (PTS), including the Fundamentals of Instruction (FOI) section. The two required areas that must be covered are Elements of Effective Teaching That Include Risk Management and Accident Prevention, and Elements of Effective Teaching in the Professional Environment. Then, the examiner will pick a minimum of one additional FOI area. Thankfully, it is all geared toward scenario-based training (SBT). This really helps the examiner evaluate the applicants at a higher level of learning.

If you are wondering what specific codes have changed for each test, there is a page at the beginning of each ACS that lists the major enhancements. For example, in the Private Pilot ACS, under the weather information, the weather forecasts, reports, and advisories are broken down, where in the previous ACS, it was more general. I would recommend looking through each knowledge, risk management, and skill and feeling confident about your knowledge in these areas. Also, it's important to remember that the examiner is required to cover the codes you got wrong on the written test. It's in your best interest to try to achieve a high score on your written exam.

Another interesting change to note is in the Instrument ACS. The Instrument ACS Appendix 3 states, "The applicant must accomplish a precision approach to the decision altitude (DA) using aircraft navigational equipment for centerline and vertical guidance in simulated or actual instrument meteorological conditions. A precision approach is a standard instrument approach procedure to a published decision altitude using provided approved vertical guidance." So even though this appears to contradict how the regulations define a precision approach, if your aircraft is WAAS capable, you could count that for a precision approach. The ACS goes on to define a non-precision approach: "A non-precision approach is a standard instrument approach procedure to a published minimum descent altitude without approved vertical guidance. The applicant may use navigation systems that display advisory vertical guidance during non-precision approach operations, if available." It appears as though you could potentially do three RNAV GPS approaches on your checkride. The airplane would have to be WAAS capable, and the airport would need more than one GPS approach option, but it is possible.

If you have already started your test on the old versions of the PTS or ACS, the FAA has released guidance on how to handle these situations. Your DPE will have information about how to proceed.

It can seem daunting when new changes come out in testing documents. Just know that the change is going in a positive direction that helps make safer and more competent pilots. Do your homework and take the time to read through the applicable ACS so you're prepared for your checkride. 

CLEARED DIRECT FOR BETTER RATES AND COVERAGE

Not all aircraft insurance policies and premiums are the same. As the only direct writer in the market, Avemco never uses third-party insurance agents and instead, connects you directly with an aviation underwriter, ready to solve problems and approve coverage based on your individual situation.

Avemco provides lightning-fast quotes, competitive rates, and personalized policies that are easy to read and tailored to you.

CLEAN UP YOUR FLIGHT PLAN AND GO DIRECT WITH AVEMCO.

Members of the Ninety-Nines save 5% and can earn additional premium discounts through the Avemco Safety Rewards Program.*



Call us today! (888) 879 0387 [Avemco.com](https://www.avemco.com)

*Premium credits subject to underwriting guidelines. Avemco Insurance Company is a member of the Tokio Marine HCC group of companies. ADS0217 (04/24)

Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony in Honor of Aviator **Jimmie Hudson Kolp**

By Elizabeth B. Hawley, *Wichita Falls Chapter*



Jimmie Hudson Kolp was the first woman pilot commissioned in Texas for full time courier service with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).



LaVena Wilson (99), Sierra Jackson, Kimberly Jackson (99 and CAP), Wichita Falls Chapter Chair Mary Latimer, South Central Section Governor Laurie Adams Peake, Elizabeth Hawley (99) and Sarah Pilke. Photo by Becky Trammell.

The Ninety-Nines and the Wichita County Historical Commission of Texas, on April 20, 2024, dedicated a historical marker for aviator Jimmie Hudson Kolp. The designation of a historical marker reflects the influence that Kolp had on her community, in women’s aviation, and now as a part of history.

“Few people outside of the flying community know Jimmie Hudson Kolp. We hope honoring her with a marker will cause her story to inspire young women and, in fact, all of us,” said Robert Palmer, Wichita County Historical Commission Chair.

Wichita Falls Chapter Chair Mary Latimer led the event.

Jimmie Hudson Kolp was an active pilot for over 40 years, with over 5,000 hours in flight. Her FAA record consists of over 400 pages, most of which were yearly renewal paperwork. She dedicated herself to the overall promotion of aviation and support of women in aviation. Her efforts and contributions deserve our honor and recognition. We are all connected to her through the threads of time and her contributions to various organizations and to aviation. This historical marker will serve to remind us of the past and, specifically, Jimmie’s legacy in aviation.

Chapter members LaVena Wilson and Elizabeth Hawley were on hand to assist in the event. Hawley, Becky Trammell, and John Yates, members of the Wichita County Historical Commission, collaborated in the research needed to write the text for the marker.

Hawley said, “There is so much about Jimmie to know and admire. She was altruistic and philanthropic and was adored by the community and her many friends. One of the most charming things that I came upon about her was in a letter written to her by two buddies from the Dallas area. In the letter, they said that in the dark of the night, they installed as a joke a sign outside her grassy runway that said, ‘Electra International Airport.’”

“Driving down the road past the sign, we thought it was hysterical. There were grass runways and a hangar, nothing else,” said Latimer.

From those grass runways, named Kolp Air Field and managed by Kolp herself, she gave many discovery flights to children, hosted fly-ins, raised funds for war bonds, and allowed Sheppard Air Force Base trainers to land and take off from there during their practice flights.

Jimmie Hudson Kolp earned her pilot’s certificate on April 30, 1929, the first woman in Wichita County, Texas, to do so, the third woman in the State of Texas, and the 39th woman in the United States. She was also the first woman commissioned First Lieutenant by the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) during World War II, for which she is eligible for the Congressional Medal of Honor. Chapter members and members of the Wichita County Historical Commission are currently researching the documentation necessary to apply for a Congressional Medal of Honor for Kolp. For over 40 years, Kolp was an active officer of The Ninety-Nines, during which time she helped establish

the Museum of Women Pilots. She also served as Trustee of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund and as a regional director of the National Aeronautics Association. Kolp was one of the founders of the Wichita Falls Chapter of The Ninety-Nines, and in 1950, received The Ninety-Nines Trophy for contributing the most to aviation.

The text of the marker says, “Jimmie Hudson Kolp (1904-1970). During the pioneer era of aviation, most women were discouraged from participating or relegated to subordinate roles. In spite of these obstacles, a few brave women were among the first pilots. Born in 1904 in Copperas Cove (Coryell County), Jimmie Hudson moved with her family to Electra in 1912. She became fascinated with flight after a chance meeting with a pilot in 1928 and began flight instruction on April 9, 1929, in an Alexander Eagle Rock biplane with a Curtiss Jenny OX5 engine. For Christmas in 1929, her husband, Charles (1878-1947), gave her a single-engine Spartan aircraft and 120 acres near Electra that would become Kolp Air Field.

“During WWII, Kolp held events at the airfield to raise money for war bonds, and the field was used to train Air Force pilots stationed at nearby Sheppard Air Force Base. Kolp was the first aviatrix in Wichita County and among the first in the state and nation. She was also the first woman commissioned as second lieutenant in the Texas Civil Air Patrol. Kolp’s adventures took her all over the world, including India, where she met a female co-pilot for Indian Airlines; South Korea, where she witnessed the released crew of the U.S.S. *Pueblo* return to the U.S.; and Australia, where four escaped convicts helped free her plane, which was stuck in the mud.

“Kolp died in 1970, flying herself to Dallas for medical attention. Over her lifetime, she logged more than 5,000 hours in the air and was a state, national, and international supporter of aviation advances. She was a leading advocate for female pilots, serving 40 years as a member and officer of The Ninety-Nines, an organization for female aviators founded by Amelia Earhart. Jimmie Kolp was buried in New Electra Cemetery.”

South Central Section Governor Laurie Adams Peake and her husband, Stuart, joined the members to celebrate the honor to Kolp.

“Kolp started flying in the days when women were told to stay home,” said Peake and added that Kolp is an inspiration to today’s young pilots. “It’s amazing to watch their faces. They get so inspired when we tell them about people like Jimmie, who broke barriers.”

Kimberly Jackson, a Wichita Falls 99 and First Lieutenant of the Civil Air Patrol, and her husband Mark, gathered cadets C/ TSgt Jaxon Calderon, C/CMSgt Gavin Pate, C/SMSgt Carter Pate, C/SMSgt Boaz Rittenhouse, who, under CAP Captain David Elliot, displayed the color guard. Other members of the Tierra del Fuego Squadron of the CAP, Pedro Coehlo, Gabriela Pate, Bryce Harris, Shanan Harris, also joined in the event.

Wichita Falls Mayor Tim Short attended and visited with The 99s before the event began. He showed the group his 30-year-old aviator’s watch, a gift from his wife.

Of note, Mr. Phillip Miller, who as a young man flew with Jimmie, attended. In addition, Ms. Jimmie Frances Flint Lemmons, who was named after Kolp, stood before the crowd

and the news cameras to tell her story. Several citizens of Kolp’s hometown, Electra, attended, speaking fondly about their memories of their inspirational neighbor.

The dedication was held inside the terminal of the Wichita Falls Regional Airport, 4000 Armstrong Drive, while thunderstorms and rain passed through the area. Over pulled pork and other food cooked by Latimer and served by LaVena Wilson, another Wichita Falls 99, and aviator Sarah Pilker, many a story was told about Jimmie and other women pilots.

The Wichita Falls Regional Airport is home to the Jenny to Jet Museum, organized and maintained by the Museum of North Texas History. Its display includes a Curtiss Jenny from the 1920s and a T-38 from the United States Air Force, among other items.

The Texas State Historical Commission commemorates with markers the historical significance in history of individuals, events, places, and buildings. 

Elizabeth B Hawley is a long-time member of The Ninety-Nines, having served as Chair and Secretary of the Wichita Fall Chapter. She is a member of the Texas Wichita County Historical Commission involved in the research about Kolp for a historical marker designation. Hawley is an IFR rated pilot who enjoys flying her Bonanza and her Luscombe.



Over her lifetime, Jimmie logged more than 5,000 hours in the air and was a state, national, and international supporter of aviation advances. She was a leading advocate for female pilots, serving 40 years as a member and officer of The Ninety-Nines.



Beverley D. Sharp



Senator Tammy Duckworth joined members of Beverley's family at the launch of the Beverley D. Sharp Aviation Diversity Award. Photo by Nicholas Morris.

Ninety-Nines Celebrate Diversity

BEVERLEY D. SHARP AVIATION DIVERSITY AWARD LAUNCH EVENT

By Rebecca Burghy, *Intermountain Chapter*

On May 1st, the Washington DC Chapter of The 99s hosted a festive evening of celebration and fundraising to launch the new Beverley D. Sharp Aviation Diversity Award. With the goal of encouraging more women from diverse backgrounds to pursue aviation careers, the \$1,000 annual award will recognize chapter and international section efforts to promote such programs and initiatives. The first award will be given in 2025.

Members of the Mid-Atlantic Section and the Washington DC Chapter warmly welcomed Beverley Sharp's family, Chicago Area 99s, and numerous aviation colleagues and friends for this inspiring event, honoring Beverley's lifetime legacy of aviation safety and community service. Delta Air Lines Captain Kristin Hall and United Airlines Executive Erik Prince added thoughtful perspectives with personal experiences and insightful remarks. Special guest U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, a Chicago Area 99, and U.S. Coast Guard Commander Lashanda Hawkins, a Washington DC 99, engaged in a fireside chat, sharing entertaining stories, laughter and the camaraderie of aviation with fellow pilots and friends.

Beverley Diggs Sharp 1943-2006
Ninety-Nines International President 1998-2000

Beverley Sharp is fondly remembered as a quintessential 99, whose boundless energy and enthusiasm created a legacy of aviation safety and involvement, matched only by her passionate community activism. Bev learned to fly in the early 1980s, joining The 99s in 1982. She went on to hold every chapter office and the offices of Mid-Atlantic Section Treasurer

and Governor, as well as International Treasurer, before serving as International President. Inspired by her friendship with Founding Member Fay Gillis Wells, Bev accumulated over 1,000 hours, mostly in her Beech Baron, and became an FAA Aviation Safety Counselor. A tireless advocate for aviation safety and education, she co-authored the FAA Aviation Safety Counselor Handbook and created Flunkbusters, a program rewarding high school students with actual flying time for improving their GPAs.

Additionally, Bev was a champion community activist, serving on the boards of the United Way, the National Association of Parliamentarians, and Icarus International. She moved with her family to Reston, Virginia, in the late 1960s to support the new town's mission of greater diversity of all kinds, a determined voice for racial and economic justice. Her constructive, effective actions were often recognized with awards and commendations. Shortly after Beverley died in 2006, a flag was flown over the United States Capitol, noting: "This flag is flown in honor of the life of Beverley D. Sharp, Past President of The Ninety-Nines, International Organization of Women Pilots, and the many contributions to aviation education and safety that she made to this nation and this world."

U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth

U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth is an Iraq War Veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and member of the Chicago Area 99s. Duckworth was among the first handful of Army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2004, she was deployed as a Blackhawk pilot for the Illinois Army

National Guard. On November 12, 2004, her helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG), and she lost her legs and partial use of her right arm. While recovering from her injuries over the next year, she became an advocate for her fellow soldiers and went on to be Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. In 2009, Duckworth was appointed U.S. Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs, collaborating on an initiative to end veteran homelessness and working to address the unique challenges of female and Native American veterans. She served in the Reserve Forces for 23 years before retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2014. Senator Duckworth is the current Chair of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation.

Looking Back at 95 Years of 99s History

Possessed of great capability, intelligence, and determination, women have contributed significantly to aviation from its earliest days. Female pilots have broken the sound barrier, engaged in combat operations, traveled deep into space, circumnavigated the globe, invented useful items, flown millions of miles as airline captains, and beaten all racing competitors, proving beyond any doubt that women pilots are equally, and often more, capable than their male counterparts.

Many of America's female pilots met and flew together for the first time in the 1929 Cleveland Air Races and Women's Air Derby. A very special relationship blossomed immediately as the women engaged in hangar talk, discussing careers and barriers to their flying. They wanted to create an organization to support one another, share experiences and opportunities, and encourage other women to take up aviation careers. Thus, the fledgling group met on a cold November day in a hangar at Curtiss Field, Long Island, and decided this new entity would be both social and professional and open to all certificated women pilots. Soon, 99 of the 117 eligible female pilots had joined the association, and the name simply followed: The Ninety-Nines.

Over the last 95 years, The Ninety-Nines has become a renowned organization, the foremost vanguard in the ongoing push for greater opportunities, pay, and positions for women in aviation careers. This powerful coalition stands strong behind every woman in the industry, rallying to support

members, friends, airports, and schools in need – without reference to personal demographics. In 1929, our founding members knew the only criteria that mattered was each woman's capabilities. In 2024, we still know that to be true, and we continue to rally, support, and uplift our sister 99s and women across aviation in striving to achieve their greatest career goals. 🌊

For complete details of the Beverley D. Sharp Aviation Diversity Award, visit <https://www.dc99s.com/about-5>.

To bid on items for the Award's fundraiser, visit <https://wdcnn.betterworld.org/auctions/beverley-d-sharp-aviation-divers>



Top left: U.S. Coast Guard Commander Lashanda Hawkins, a Washington D.C. 99, with husband Maurice Hawkins.

Top right: Special guest U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, and U.S. Coast Guard Commander Lashanda Hawkins, engaged in a fireside chat, sharing entertaining stories, laughter and thoughts on the challenges of diversity.

Middle: Chicago Area Chapter members Cynthia Madsen, U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, Ellen O'Hara and Leslie Prellwitz.

Bottom: Ninety-Nines in attendance included members from not only the Washington DC Chapter, but New England, Mid-Atlantic, and North Central Sections as well.

Photos by Nicholas Morris



2024 SPRING FIRST WINGS AWARDS

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund (AEMSF) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 Spring First Wings Awards. There are 18 winners from 16 chapters and eight sections, representing Belarus, Canada, China, Germany, India, Peru, Sudan, and the United States.

The mentoring aspect of this award is one of the things that helps make it such a success. THANK YOU to those mentors – many of whom are also AEMSF scholarship winners, past and present! We couldn't do what we do without YOU!

The AEMSF Trustees received this heartfelt response from Anastasia Heitmann, one of the 2024 First Wings Winners:

"I've been passionate about aviation since I can remember, and this award carries a lot of meaning to me. Not only do I get to fly, but I now have the support of a group of accomplished FEMALE pilots! Whatever happens in the future, I can look back to this moment and remember what an amazing thing this is.

"I grew up hearing that women can't even drive, and now, here I am, writing a thank you email for a scholarship for female pilots in aviation!

"One day, maybe I'll be interviewing for the airlines and mention this event with great pride. Or even further down the line, one day, I'll be the one sponsoring a young aspiring pilot and inspiring her with this story.

"This is literally a dream coming true!"



Jennifer Baran

New Jersey Chapter,
New York-New Jersey Section
Mentor: Linda Scully

I am from Oak Ridge, NJ. I have always had a fascination with aviation. Last summer, I decided to pursue my dream and embarked on my journey to becoming a pilot. This is a journey that I am thoroughly enjoying. I am currently training at Aero Safety in Lincoln Park, NJ. I am looking forward to obtaining my pilot's certificate and continuing to become a CFI. I also became involved with The 99s at this time as well. Since becoming a member, I have received additional support in the path that I have chosen.



Chelsea Borowski

Reno High Sierra Chapter,
Southwest Section
Mentor: Leah Ochs

My name is Chelsea Borowski, and I have worked in public education for the last ten years. After earning my Master's in Educational Leadership, I transitioned from a classroom teacher to an elementary school administrator. This change prompted me to start my aviation journey last summer with the ultimate goal of becoming a CFI, merging my love for teaching with my passion for flying. Some of my most cherished memories include my first cross-country flight as a student pilot with the person who first introduced me to aviation when I was young and the exhilarating experience of my first solo flight.



Lilly Clements

Daytona Chapter,
Southeast Section
Mentor: Amanda Fallon

Hi, my name is Lilly Clements, and I fell in love with flying at a young age. Growing up as a German-American with military parents, we traveled quite often. Despite facing challenges, I'm pursuing my dream of becoming a pilot at Deland. Juggling two jobs and flight training, I have worked hard to make progress towards my goal. Joining The 99s organization has connected me with other women in aviation and inspired me to empower young women pursuing the same dreams. Receiving the scholarship has motivated me more to achieve my goal.



Emma Coulter

Ventura County Chapter,
Southwest Section
Mentor: Alison Barker

Aviation is something I've been exposed to my entire life, yet its impact did not stretch beyond wonder and curiosity until I received a Discovery flight for my 17th birthday. One year later, I am eagerly anticipating my private pilot checkride while daydreaming about the bright future that lies ahead. Aspiring to fly professionally after high school, I plan on attending a Part 141 University to earn a Restricted ATP Certificate. Balancing school, sports, and flying hasn't been easy, but I couldn't have done it without the support from my VC99s family! Thank you for showing me that the sky is not the limit.



Esmeralda Guzman Beltran

Sutter Buttes Chapter,
Southwest Section
Mentor: Mary Wich

My name is Esmeralda J. Guzman Beltran, a 25-year-old student pilot currently working as a server as I pursue my goal of becoming an airline pilot. Every moment I spend in the air reaffirms my passion for flying. Outside of flying, I enjoy exploring new trails, spending quality time with my loved ones, or hanging out with my cat. I look forward to the day when I become a professional pilot so I can connect with people from all over the world and have the privilege of flying my family to new destinations!



Anastasia Heitmann

Sutter Buttes Chapter,
Southwest Section
Mentor: Lisa Simpson

Anastasia's aviation journey began when she moved from Eastern Europe to Italy as a young girl, with her first flight leaving an indelible mark. She embarked on a career in tourism while nurturing her love for flying. After moving to the USA in 2020, she embraced her passion for aviation, enrolling in a Flight Technology program in college and undertaking flight training. As a dedicated student pilot and mother, she aims to become a Certified Flight Instructor and then an airline pilot by 2030. Anastasia is committed to supporting aspiring female aviators fueled by her relentless passion and perseverance.



Palvinder Kaur

First Canadian Chapter,
East Canada Section
Mentor: Chryselle D'Souza

I am very thankful to receive the First Wings award as I embark upon a new chapter of life after retiring as a professional engineer. I've always cherished life's simple joys and pursued joyful challenges, like skydiving in my youth, learning swimming and skiing later on, and paddling down 312 kilometers of the Yukon River. More recently, I found fulfillment in serving communities through a charity (Langar Seva Meal & Support Services) that I founded nine years ago, providing free meals to needy families. As I venture into aviation, I'm humbled by the opportunities provided by The Ninety-Nines to learn and grow, embracing each step with immense gratitude.



Anita Kazarian

Lake Erie Chapter,
North Central Section
Mentor: Lori Manthey

Born and raised in NYC to Armenian immigrant parents gave me an international world view. Trips to La Guardia or Idlewild (now JFK) to greet visitors were special but not unusual. The exotic and exciting planes were the GA planes on TV, like *Sky King*. As an older student pilot, I see the world new again, from the air. I was hooked on my Discovery flight and now am grateful to the women of my Lake Erie Chapter and NC Section who encourage, support and mentor me. The 99s opened yet another new world, one of community and friendship.



Ellen Kirby

Intermountain Chapter,
Northwest Section
Mentor: Elsbeth Roach

Ellen has been drawn to the skies for as long as she can remember and has always dreamed of flying jets across the country. She recently decided to leave her career as an educator to pursue her long-time dream of becoming an airline pilot. She is currently completing her Private Pilot Certificate and is excited to prepare for her first solo cross-country flight. She is honored to be a recipient of The First Wings Scholarship and is looking forward to completing her Private Pilot Certificate through the support of its funding before continuing with advanced ratings.



Julia Lindow

Eastern New England Chapter,
New England Section
Mentor: Arlene Alexander

Born in Germany, I dreamed of becoming a pilot, but it seemed unachievable. Instead, I studied Geosciences, earned a PhD in Antarctic Geology, and lectured on expedition cruise ships sailing the polar regions. However, I kept looking up, and the buzzing skies over my new home, Cape Cod (USA), inspired me to transform my dream into a goal. Last year, I started my private pilot training, and I am working toward becoming a professional pilot. Being part of The 99s deeply enriched my life and aviation journey. Thank you for the First Wings Award.



Lesly Lopez Fernandez

Dallas Chapter,
South Central Section
Mentor: Kimberly Manasco

My name is Lesly Lopez, a Peruvian-born adventurer whose passion for travel led me to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in tourism.

After completing my studies, I embarked on a journey to the United States for an internship program. Currently, I work full-time as a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines, navigating the skies and creating memorable experiences for passengers. Inspired by my experiences in the air, I am now pursuing my dream of becoming a pilot. Thanks to this scholarship, I will be able to obtain my private pilot certificate, aiming to soar to new heights in my aviation career.



Dhelal Mohammed

Sleeping Giant Chapter,
East Canada Section
Mentor: Beth Robinson

My name is Dhelal Mohammed; I’m a student pilot at KBM Aviation in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Born and partially raised

in Sudan, I migrated to Canada with my family at 13. My fascination with distant lands sparked a lifelong love for travel. Before pursuing pilot training, I worked extensively in social services and spent seven years as a flight attendant, where my passion for aviation truly flourished. I am grateful to be the recipient of the First Wings Award and the support of The 99s. My journey shows it’s never too late to follow your dreams!

Christina Piper



Eastern New England Chapter,
New England Section
Mentor: Sue Benua

I am an author, former professor, Navy veteran, and member of the New Hampshire Air National Guard. I work in combat crew communications in the Operations Group,

working closely with the KC-46 pilots and aircrew. Joining the Guard made me realize I still wanted to pursue my dream of becoming a pilot. I started flight lessons last Fall. I plan to fly refueling planes with the Air Force as active duty or Guard. My grandfather flew B-24s during WWII for the Army Air Corps, so I’m following in his footsteps. This 99s award will help give me a running start.

Nisha Radtke



Santa Clara Valley Chapter,
Southwest Section
Mentor: Maki Yu

Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Hi! My name is Nisha Radtke. I’m a sophomore at Cupertino High School, and I hold a student pilot certificate. I started my flight training

when I was 13 with a discovery flight, and since then, all I have wanted to do is fly. It was my 16th birthday recently and I had the opportunity to have my first solo flight! I aim to receive my private pilot certificate when I turn 17, which is why I am so grateful to receive the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship. Fly safe, everyone!



Emma Toth

Waterloo on the Grand Chapter,
East Canada Section
Mentor: Lauren Hannan

The world of aviation has always captivated me, sparked by my mother’s career as a flight attendant with Air Canada. Her

dedication and the experiences she shared as a single and successful mom have inspired my own journey in this field. Currently, as a second-year student at the Waterloo Wellington Flight Centre, the support from them and from my fellow Ninety-Nines has been instrumental. I am excited to take full advantage of this opportunity and look forward to supporting and inspiring my fellow Ninety-Nines as I pursue my dreams. Thank you for believing in my potential!



Zia Walther

Air Hearts-Utah Chapter,
Southwest Section
Mentor: Liz Jones

My name is Zia Walther, and I’m currently working on my PPL! Aviation has always been a big part of my life since I was a kid

– my dad was a pilot and I guess a love for flying runs in the family. Despite growing up with aviation, I decided to go to college for International Studies, a different way to explore the world. However, shortly after I decided to give aviation a shot and signed up for flight school. I joined The Ninety-Nines shortly after beginning training, and it’s been one of the absolute best parts of this journey.



Leigha Woelffer

Long Beach Chapter,
Southwest Section
Mentor: Andrea Garcia

Leigha is 25 years old and lives in Hermosa Beach, CA. Originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, she is an active-

duty electrical engineer in the US Space Force. Her ultimate aviation goal is to attend pilot training and fly C-130s for the Air National Guard, where she can continue to serve her country.

Leigha is humbled and thrilled to receive a First Wings Scholarship to complete her PPC, and she is looking forward to many more experiences and adventures as a 99.



Mary Kay (Xuyan) Zhang

Colorado Chapter,
South Central Section
Mentor: Naomi Chaqueco

I’m a student pilot training at Centennial Airport, Colorado. I’m deeply thankful for the First Wings Award scholarship. It fuels

my passion for aviation and encourages me to excel in my training. I’m committed to giving my best and supporting 99s. Thank you for this opportunity.



Gene Nora Stumbough Jessen

Pilot, Instructor, Businesswoman,
Author, FLAT, and 99 (1937-2024)

by Minnetta Gardinier, *Iowa Chapter*

I met Gene Nora Jessen in Bozeman, Montana at the Start of the 2008 Air Race Classic (ARC). She and Patty Mitchell were flying the race in Gene Nora's Beech Sierra. ARC Start weekend is a time to clear your pilot and airplane credentials for the race and to wrap your head around flying the actual race. We met Gene Nora and Patty at the "Meet the Racers" welcome party and read about their career highlights in their team biography. They became and remained great mentors and friends.

Gene Nora's love of aviation began with her discovery of the WWII Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) history, and she pursued her private pilot's certificate through the Civil Air Patrol – earning it at age 19. After completing an English degree, working her way through college as a flight instructor, and just five years later, she was invited to join a select group of female aviators in a privately funded research program – the First Lady Astronaut Trainees (FLATs) – later dubbed the Mercury 13.

After the FLATs program testing was ended, she landed a job with Beech Aircraft. In 1962, Beech launched a new plane, the Beech Musketeer, and Gene Nora, Joyce Case, and Mike Gordon were chosen to showcase the plane by flying and demonstrating a "flight of three" to Beech dealerships across the United States – The Three Musketeers. Within a few years, she married Bob Jessen and relocated to Boise, Idaho, where they raised a family, ran a Beech dealership, operated an FBO, and sold aircraft insurance over the years before retiring.

But that was not enough for Gene Nora. She had joined The 99s back in 1958 and remained a lifelong member – 65-plus years! Before being elected our President (1988-1990),



she served all other positions on our International Board – Director, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. She was among the founders for our Museum of Women Pilots that started out as the Ninety-Nines Resource Center. Not surprisingly, she paved her way to the International Board through her leadership efforts in the Idaho Chapter and the Northwest Section. One of her first President's posts in our 99s magazine highlighted two goals: 1) eliminate the requirement that all members hold a current license; and 2) that we institute an auxiliary membership. Item 1 passed in 1988, and item 2 failed – yet today, we have Friends of The 99s, our 'auxiliary' group.

No story would be complete about Gene Nora without air racing. She raced in both the All Woman Transcontinental Air Race (AWTAR) and today's Air Race Classic (ARC). Of 12 races flown, she broke into the Top Ten group in 2013 with co-pilot Patty Mitchell and crewmember BJ Carter – The Three Musketeers. We all set out to win the race, but for Gene Nora and many racers, it's more about the experience, the camaraderie, and the stories we gather on the race. We learned a lot about air racing and The 99s from Gene Nora. When we all meet up for the 2024 ARC Start on June 18th, I hope that many racers will raise a glass in memory of Gene Nora (and Patty)...and again, at our conference in Vancouver.

Looking for some reading material? Try one of Gene Nora's books: *Sky Girls: The True Story of the First Women's Cross-Country Air Race* (2018; formerly published as *Powder Puff Derby of 1929: The True Story of the First Women's Cross-Country Air Race*, 2002); *Amelia Was Right* (2014); *The Fabulous Flight of the Three Musketeers* (2009). 🍷

Top left: Gene Nora Stumbough Jessen portrait. Center: Patty Mitchell and Gene Nora Jessen at ARC in Bozeman, Montana, 2008. Top right: Gene Nora being interviewed by a young reporter from ARC youth activities, Denver, Colorado, 2009. Bottom: Gene Nora with collegiate aviation trophies, University of Oklahoma.

(Photos one and two: Courtesy of the Gene Nora Stumbough Jessen Papers, NASM.2023.0052, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution).

FORWARD MOTION

fly·ing/'flīNG/*adjective - moving or able to move through the air with wings.*

By Cooper Payette,
San Diego Chapter

To fly is the ultimate superpower that I have always wanted, but I don't have wings, so I did the next best thing and became a pilot. It is the *feeling* of flying that I love. What do we do if we don't have wings?

I went on a mission to find the ability to fly and achieve the feel without wings. As a skydiver, I could float down, but I would need a plane to go back up. Then I saw exactly what I was looking for at Sun 'n Fun. This group of people got off the ground on foot, launching themselves into the air with a colorful parachute above them and a small personal-sized motor harnessed to their backs. It was intriguing to see them up in the air with their feet dangling, and I was impressed with the height they reached in such a short time. I had so many questions!

Do you need to run fast to get off the ground? How noisy is the motor? What kind of training does it require to fly one of these?

Paramotors are paragliders with a motor. There are two basic types of paramotors: foot launch and wheel launch. Paramotors are regulated under FAR 103 which means no certificate, medical certificate, training, or registration is required. With that said, training is highly recommended, as with any task that may present challenges. From my experience during pilot training, one would probably like to land properly.

The night after watching my first paramotor aerial show, I hitched a ride to the parking lot. That's when I met my new friend Charlie, a longtime attendee of Sun 'n Fun. He introduced me to Rick, the owner of the PPG Gorilla. After expressing my interest in paramotors, Rick graciously allowed me to visit his hangar located in Wauchula, Florida.

The best time to fly paramotors is the first few hours of daylight during the

morning calm. I drove south of Lakeland in the darkness, following the road to a rural, quiet airport located in the middle of the farmlands. I arrived just as the sun was beginning to peek over the horizon and splashing hues of pink and purple throughout the sky. The day started with 60-degree cool temps and a slight breeze. Rick got the 41-meter canopy laid out for the trike, also known as a wheel launcher. The nice thing about these types of parachutes is that they do not have to be packed and repacked after each flight. There are single and tandem trikes. Since I didn't have ten days to do the full training, we took out the tandem trike for a change to flight over the nearby fields.

Take off requires only about 50 feet of ground run, and we were quickly up in the air. To be honest, it was a little weird to have my feet dangling and not have any rudders. It was easy to let go of that concept once the wind started blowing on my face, and I began to appreciate the scenery below me. The skies were turquoise and made the greenery of the land much brighter. Flying at 25-35 mph and height from 80 feet to 500 feet, I saw some wild turkeys, boars, and at least 20 deer. My favorite part is, of course, flying over the airfield. One small tug on the parachute maneuvers you in the direction you want to go and the throttle is always kept in your hand, similar to the way you would hold and adjust in a plane. Paramotors are allowed to fly at low altitudes and are capable of going up to 18,000 feet. As you know, though, the air is less dense, so it flies slower, and you have to monitor your oxygen levels. Most paramotor pilots that I spoke to prefer flying 500 to 1,200 feet. We flew for about 40 minutes, and it was absolutely exhilarating. I have flown in an open cockpit before, but this was a true experience of forward motion.

The training for a launcher takes about ten days, depending on the weather and the winds. The first part of training is called "kiting," which takes two to three days. The kiting trainers are smaller, and it is how you learn to get the glider to "inflate." It is the part you want to master before ever launching. Once you can handle and maneuver kiting in reference to the winds, then



Top: Trike/Tandem Wheel Launcher.
Bottom: Cooper (Dea) Payette with her new flying friends Rick (second from left), owner of PPG Gorilla, and Charlie (far right).

you begin the next step of running. In the final stage, once you are ready to solo, you will do about ten supervised solos. Foot launch units weigh about seventy pounds with fuel. Modern equipment can support any weight as long as the trainee can run for foot launch. Paramotors use ethanol-free fuel or avgas and are allowed a maximum of five gallons under FAR Part 103 Ultralight rules. That allows for a flight of two to three hours. Can you imagine your cross-country flight with this kind of freedom?

Before I left, I put on the foot launcher and harnessed on to walk around so that I knew what to expect upon my return to complete the paramotor foot launch training and earn my wings. (You get a pair of gold wings when you get endorsed.) I hope to see you there.

For more info, check out www.ppggorilla.com

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN AVIATION: A DAY OF EMPOWERMENT AT CAE NEW JERSEY MORRISOWN

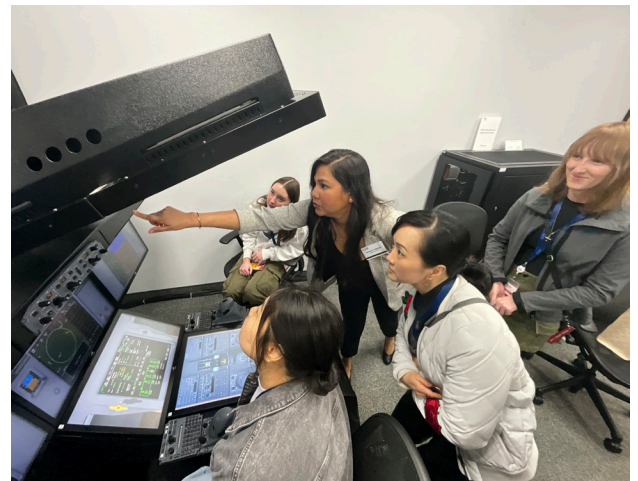
By Maria Choi,
Florida Suncoast Chapter

In the warm embrace of March, as the world commemorated Women's History Month, CAE Morristown opened its doors to a remarkable gathering of female pilots. "It's a significant day for us as we welcome women pilots to our CAE building to introduce who we are and what we do here. More importantly, today, we are celebrating Women's History Month together at CAE," expressed Kyle Coulson, the Center Leader of CAE Morristown, as he greeted our esteemed guests.

Located in Morristown, New Jersey, the North East Training Center opened its doors in January 2007 and provides pilot, technical, and flight crew training to business aircraft operators. In 1947, CAE, then known as Canadian Aviation Electronics Ltd., was founded by Mr. Ken Patrick, an ex-Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) officer.

Just after the uplifting ambiance of International Women's Day on March 8, CAE Morristown hosted a group of 14 women pilots from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, including New Jersey Chapter members. Guided by dedicated CAE staff, the building buzzed with excitement and laughter as these women delved into the world of business aviation.

The day commenced with CAE's gracious welcome, setting the tone for an enriching experience ahead. Female staff members at CAE Morristown eloquently presented their roles while sharing their personal aviation journeys, serving as beacons of inspiration for the aspiring pilots in attendance. From navigating challenges to mastering crucial skills like time management and networking, the discussions resonated deeply with attendees, who found solace and encouragement in the shared experiences of CAE's female trailblazers.



Top: Group photo in front of a full flight simulator. Middle left: Maria Choi and Kim Barwick, PPLI Mentoring Coordinators. Bottom left: Kate Chebunina and Maria Choi, both business jet pilots and working at CAE. Bottom right: Instructor Pilot Sakshi Kumania explaining the airplane system using Falcon Integrated Procedures Trainer

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the hands-on experience offered to participants. From the Falcon Integrated Procedure Trainer room to live classrooms and, finally, the full-motion flight simulators, every moment was filled with learning and excitement. With safety being the top priority, simulator instructors went above and beyond to ensure a memorable and enjoyable experience for all, effectively easing any nerves and fostering an atmosphere of camaraderie.

The event not only left a lasting impression on participants but also sparked newfound aspirations. "I never knew that CAE was here and inspiring women work here too! Now I envision myself coming here after getting my commercial multi-engine

certificate, and I want to be a part of the team," exclaimed one participant, encapsulating the transformative impact of the day.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to CAE staff volunteers whose dedication and passion made this event possible. From Center Leader Kyle Coulson to the female instructors and supporting crew members, each individual played a vital role in shaping an experience that transcended boundaries and inspired dreams.

As we reflect on this memorable occasion, we are reminded once again of the power of unity and inclusion in shaping the future of aviation. Together, let us continue to soar to new heights, empowering and uplifting each other along the way.



Top left: Pilots Jim and Kathy Hunt prepare to fly Kathy's grandson home, as comfortably as possible. Bottom left: Collin and his mother Ari in flight from KINT to KHEG. Right: Back home in Jacksonville, Florida, celebrating Collin's belated birthday.

COLLIN'S FLIGHT

By Kathy Hunt,
Florida First Coast Chapter

On February 3, 2024, just two days after becoming a member of The Ninety-Nines Florida First Coast Chapter, private pilot Kathy Hunt, together with her son, Jim, a B-777 pilot, literally flew into action to fulfill an urgent request: Kathy's 23-year-old grandson, Collin, was being released from a hospital in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, following emergency surgery for a broken hip he suffered in a snowboarding accident. Doctor's orders were that, due to the seriousness

of his injury, Collin could not withstand the many hours that it would take, with necessary stops along the way, to drive him home to Jacksonville, Florida, from Winston-Salem. A question from Collin's mom (Kathy's daughter, Ari) to the surgeon revealed, however, that he would approve Collin for the two-and-a-half to three hours it would take to fly him home in the Hunt family's Piper Cherokee Six. Armed with that encouraging information, Ari contacted Kathy and Jim to find out if "all the stars might align to make this happen."

Thanks to the Cherokee Six's design and capabilities, with the middle seats removed, it would provide an ideal transport for Collin – he in one of the

rear seats with Ari comfortably beside him in the other. Being blessed with perfect weather on a smooth night flight from Winston-Salem Smith-Reynolds Airport (KINT) to Jacksonville Herlong (KHEG) prompted Collin, days later, to comment with a chuckle that the bumpiest, most painful part of the trip was the 25-minute car ride from Herlong to his apartment!

Kathy, Jim, and her entire family are immensely grateful to everyone, including the awesome Signature Flight staff and ATC at Winston-Salem's Smith-Reynolds Airport, who showed such kindness in helping with preparations for Collin's successful flight home. 🐾

Places to Go & Things to Do By Mary Bryant, Florida Suncoast Chapter



I'm delighted to have been asked to write a regular column on interesting "Places to Go and Things to Do." Many, but not all, will involve flying. Most of these are activities my Florida Suncoast Chapter or I have completed recently or are planning in the near future. Many could be used by other chapters or members as events or activities to increase participation, foster camaraderie or to just plane (no typo) have fun. My objective is to focus on what got us interested in The 99s in the beginning...airplanes and flying.

My first topic is the "SiriusXM and 99s Rock the Falls" Air Tour organized by Terry Carbonell and sponsored by the International 99s and SiriusXM. The tour is September 16-20, 2024.

Have you ever wanted to fly the Hudson River, waving at the Statue of Liberty as you fly by at eye level? Or fly into Canada and backcrossing Niagara Falls? I have! They've been on my bucket list for years. Although I've flown in every state in the continental United States, I've not checked these two off yet. I'm finally planning to do so in September as part of the tour.

The tour starts in Frederick, Maryland (KFDK), with one leg per day and nightly stops in Lake Placid, New York (KLKP), Montreal, Quebec, Canada (CYHU), and Niagara Falls, New York (KIAG). There is a limit of 15 planes, and everyone can go at their own pace. Hotels have been selected at each stop, with block room rates available at most. It's possible to just do part of the route, if desired, with no need to cross the U.S./Canada border. The tour is designed to be very flexible. Most participants will arrive in Frederick by Monday, September 16, fly each leg at their own speed and on their own schedule, and then rejoin the group at the hotel each night, concluding with an overnight at KIAG on September 19, 2024. Everyone returns home on their own schedules.

There is no charge to participate in the tour, but everyone is responsible for making and paying for their own hotel reservations, aircraft, and other expenses and securing proper documentation for participants and aircraft to cross the border. A variety of briefings will be available, including weather by SiriusXM and a list of informative videos covering such things as flying near the Washington DC SFRA/FRZ, flying the Hudson River, crossing Niagara Falls and the U.S./Canada border. The videos should be viewed well before the trip commences. Special training and credentialing are required to fly within 60 miles of Washington, DC. Wings credit is available.

Registration and insurance confirmation is required.

For additional details, contact Terry Carbonell at godusty@hotmail.com or check out the links at:

<https://site.corsizio.com/event/664a09e1f02febfcf686b9d5> (PIC)

<https://site.corsizio.com/event/66218bcdbb1a2115cob15189> (Co-Pilot or PAX)

So grab some of your flying buddies, and let's go say hello to The Lady and Rock the Falls! Hope to see you in September.



Mary Bryant has been a pilot and 99 for over three decades. She holds ATP, CFII, MEI and CE500 ratings. She is an aviation business owner, aircraft owner and active pilot. She loves to fly and is always looking for "Places to Go and Things to do." Suggestions welcome. marybryant100@gmail.com



Copyright 2018,
by Aviation Chicago LLC.
ISBN: 978-1-7327990-1-1
Available from Amazon
or on the author's website:
Aviation-Chicago.com

AVIATION CHICAGO TIMELINE

Author: Michael Haupt

Recommended by Madeleine Monaco, *Chicago Area Chapter*

This book is exactly what it says it is – and it's fascinating. As the "About the Book" prologue says: "*Aviation Chicago Timeline* offers a fascinating account of more than a thousand events documenting the development of aviation in Chicago and the surrounding region." It's that and much more. For example, 1916/19 – Ruth Law Sets Distance Record, and 1964/04/17 – Solo Around-the-World Flight by a Woman (Jerrie Mock). Open the book to any random place, and the information is fascinating. Plus, anyone who knows me well can attest to the fact that I love a good bibliography. This bibliography, plus the End Notes, is just a stellar historical reference. I loved it, and I'm giving a huge thank you to Madeleine Monaco (Chicago Area Chapter) for giving it to me.



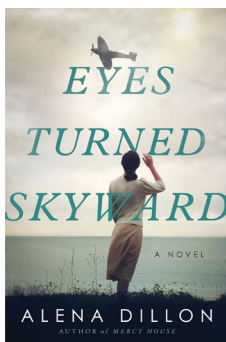
Copyright 2024,
G.P Putnam's Sons
ISBN: 978-0-593-32398-4
Available on Amazon

AMERICAN WINGS – *Chicago's Pioneering Black Aviators and The Race For Equality In The Sky*

Authors: Sherri L. Smith and Elizabeth Wein

This Chicago area is and always has been a hotbed of aviation activity. This marvelous book gives a highly overlooked group the due they deserve. I particularly enjoyed the chapter containing information on the Chicago Girl's Flight Club and the picture of the members Lola Jones, Willa Brown, Doris Murphy, Janet Harmon Waterford, and Dolores Jackson from 1938. The additional photo of Willa Brown, taken right after receiving her pilot's certificate, is stunning. The book is extremely well researched, and the accompanying photos are a great accompaniment to the narrative.

The book is crisply written and supported by a wonderful section of the Author's Notes and Source Notes. There is a Resource Section that will keep you busy for days. This is a GREAT book that deserves a place in your aviation history library.



Publisher: William Morrow
ISBN: 978-0-06-314476-7
Available on Amazon

EYES TURNED SKYWARD – *A Novel*

Author: Alena Dillon

I very rarely read or recommend a fictionalized account of a woman's life in the field of aviation. This book is an exception.

When my good friend, the late Dora Dougherty Strother McKeown, took me to my first WASP reunion, I got to meet the "KoWs" - - the Kids of WASPs. I was utterly amazed to find out that many of them had no idea what their mothers had done during WWII. My question to them was, "How could you NOT know?" This fictionalized story answers that question in a very specific setting.

Dillon fleshes out the story beautifully, setting a background scene of a woman with a normal life, well-lived with children, a husband, and a "routineness" that seems feasible. The daughter's wake-up call into a new reality brings the story full circle.

Kate Quinn's cover quote sums the story up: "A powerful examination of the cost when women are denied their right to soar." This is a novel well worth your reading time.

Milestones



Anita Ammon
Commercial
– Maryland

Amanda Boyd
CFII
– Bay Cities



Lauren Brenneman
EMB-145 Type-rated
– Maryland



Gita Brown
Solo
– Eastern New England



McKenzie Byrne
Private
– Orange County



Alexis Burgess
Instrument
– Orange County



Heather Cheek
Instrument
– Hampton Roads

Ana Gabriela Cordeiro da Costa
Commercial
– Florida Goldcoast

Allison Couch
FO with Air Transat, A330
– Arabian Section



Morgan Duling
Citation XLS
Second-in-Command
– Michigan



Maria Esparraguera
Commercial
– Maryland



Nicole Gonzalez
Multi-engine
– Florida Goldcoast



Ginelle Graves
Private
– Orange County

Heather Grimes
Commercial
– Florida Goldcoast



Taylor Ivins
Private
– Alabama



Raj Karwa
Instrument
– Lake Tahoe

Rita Khoueiry
CFII
– Orange County



Diane Lambert
Private
– Mid-Columbia



Sydney Lavoie
Tailwheel Endorsement
– Lake Charles



Juliana Martinez
Private
– Austin Hill Country



Micaehla May
Private
– Tucson



Kaytlin Mendoza
Private
– Phoenix



Tiffany Meredith
CFI
– Kentucky Bluegrass



Rachel Morrow
Instrument
– Michigan



Yvette Munoz
Private
– Antelope Valley

Alison Northern
Commercial
– Old Dominion



Hannah Park
CFII
– Orange County



Weronika Ross
CFII
– Florida Goldcoast



Gabriela Sanchez
Multi-engine Instrument
– Quebec



Cynthia Schlitter
Private
– Air Capital



Joanne Swanson
ATP
– Connecticut



Audrey-Anne Toulgoat
Commercial
– Quebec

Reports

2024 INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee Members, and Trustees

This election included officer positions, two director positions, three members of the Nominating Committee, three trustees for the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum (AEBM), two trustees for the Endowment Fund, and one trustee each for the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund (AEMSF) and the Museum of Women Pilots (MWP).

The 2024 election was held from March 15, 2024, to May 1, 2024. There were 7,486 eligible voters. ElectionBuddy was our service provider, and they managed all ballots, whether electronic or paper.

1,218 ballots were returned, or 16% of the total distributed, including 1,116 electronic and 102 paper ballots. There were no spoiled ballots.

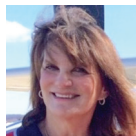
ELECTED WERE THE FOLLOWING:



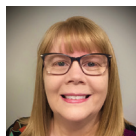
President
Robin Hadfield
*First Canadian Chapter,
East Canada Section*



Vice-President
Minnetta Gardinier
*Iowa Chapter,
North Central Section*



Secretary
Debi Dreyfuss
*Washington DC Chapter,
Mid-Atlantic Section*



Treasurer
Aileen Coverdell
*Mid-Columbia Chapter,
Northwest Section*



Director
Mary Build
*Katahdin Wings Chapter,
New England Section*



Director
Pat Chan
*Bay Cities Chapter,
Southwest Section*

If you choose to vote electronically and to ensure that you receive your ballot, please make sure your email address updated and correct in the Membership database.

If you wish to receive a paper ballot, make sure your mailing address is correct in the Membership database. Online voting is the most cost-effective way to hold the election.

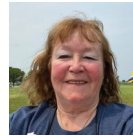
Election Procedures Committee:

Kathy Fox, *Chair*
Deb McGee
Laurie Peake

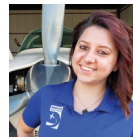
MEMBERS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:



Jill Oakes
*Manitoba Chapter,
West Canada Section*



Kathy Lester-Ross
*Wisconsin Chapter,
North Central Section*



Kaylee Jeffries
*Dallas Chapter,
South Central Section*

TRUSTEES:



AEMSF
Tina Hartlaub
*Wisconsin Chapter,
North Central Section*



Endowment Fund
Virginia Harmer
*San Gabriel Valley Chapter,
Southwest Section*



Endowment Fund
Stephenie Roberts
*Texas Dogwood Chapter,
South Central section*



MWP
Isabelle Kearney
*Oklahoma Chapter,
South Central Section*



AEBM
Joyce Parker
*Northeast Kansas Chapter,
South Central Section*



AEBM
Joan Widener
*Air Capital Chapter,
South Central Section*



AEBM
Mandi Hill
*Memphis Chapter,
Southeast Section*



(Photo by Bev Weintraub)

GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER

Greater New York Chapter Secretary Bev Weintraub (center), New Jersey Chapter member Phyllis Kollar (left), and Capital Region Treasurer Linda Cioffi participated in Kiwanis Kids' Day at LaGuardia Airport (KLGA) on May 4. Bev flew into LGA in her Piper Archer, and Linda flew in in her Cessna 182.

– Bev Weintraub

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS



The Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter and the Women in Aviation International (WAI) Bluegrass Chapter had a joint meeting touring the Republic Hangar in Louisville, Kentucky, as shown in top left photo.

We toured the National Weather Service facility in May in Louisville, Kentucky (bottom left photo), learning quite a bit about the work they do to keep the pilots, as well as the public, safe during weather events.

Sue Glisson and Kaye Combs Moore represented the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter at the Spring North Central Section Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri (bottom right). The meeting was enjoyed by all and topped off with a Mardi Gras-themed banquet. Sue Glisson was elected Governor of the North Central Section for the 2024-26 term.

– Sue Glisson



Michigan Chapter members and friends at their Chapter's 90th anniversary. Front row, left to right: Willow MacLaughlin, Audrey Cook; middle row: Linda Langrill, Destany Parker, Addison Hymer, Cherry Kan, Shakar Soltani, Nicki Acker; back row: Sheila Ralph, Erin Riley, Anupama (Sigma) Kar, Suzette Biela, Frances Rose, Sarah Finello, MonaLisa MacLaughlin.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Special activities held in the past two months were:

The Michigan Chapter held elections in April, and the following members were elected for two-year terms beginning June 1, 2024: Linda Langrill, Chair; Suzette Biela, Vice Chair; Frances Rose, Secretary; and Rachel Lindvig, Treasurer. Officers were installed during the Annual Meeting held at Mt. Pleasant Municipal Airport (KMOP) on June 1, 2024.

At the North Central Section Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, on April 26-28, 2024, Sandy Denton, former Michigan Chapter Chair, posthumously received the NCS Governor's Service Award for 2024. Sandy led the Michigan Chapter from 2018 to 2023. Sandy and her husband, Bob, died in an airplane crash near Winder, Georgia, on April 26, 2023, while en route to the Spring 2023 North Central Section Meeting. Current Chair, Linda Langrill, accepted the award certificate and charm on behalf of Sandy's family.

The Michigan Chapter is celebrating 90 years since the first meeting was held on February 17, 1934, at the airport (then named Gratiot Airport) in Roseville, Michigan. To commemorate this historic event, Michigan Chapter members met for lunch on February 24, 2024, at Owosso Community Airport (KRNP) in Owosso, Michigan. A second celebration is being planned by Chapter members Frances Rose and Suzette Biela to be held in August 2024.

– Barb Vukits

Grass Roots



Left to right: Kim Wilcox, Chair Kathy Powell, and Kim Story at the Pryor Regional Airport Fly-in.

ALABAMA CHAPTER

Seven Alabama Chapter members staffed an information table at Pryor Regional Airport (KDCU). The weather hampered the fly-in but not the local drive-ins. There was interest in discovery flights, and a new member was added!

The Auburn Collegiate Wing of the Alabama Chapter hosted their third Annual Pilot for a Day event. This year, the event was attended by only 20 youth of the Boys and Girls Club of Auburn, allowing individualization of the experience for them all. The Wing was fortunate to hear a few guest speakers, one of whom was Captain Beverly Bass of American Airlines. They were also able to fly with Full Throttle, the formation flying group out of Atlanta Regional Airport Falcon Field (KFFC).

- Kathy Powell



Krista Morisen (left) and Liucija Smaizyte (right)

APPALACHIAN AVIATRIXES CHAPTER

The Appalachian Aviatrixes Chapter is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2024 scholarships. Kitty Hawk member Krista Morisen, PhD, received \$1,000 toward her instrument rating. Liucija Smaizyte, Alabama Chapter, received \$1,000 toward her private pilot certificate.

“As I enter into the final phases of my instrument training, I want you to know this scholarship will be well used,” wrote Krista. “It’s been a long, hard journey...yet it is a journey I would not trade for anything...I’ve learned so much”.

Liucija plans to pursue an airline career. She wrote: “I am extremely passionate about supporting aviation through volunteering as well as promoting it to other girls and women. I would like to volunteer my time flying to different rescue missions.”

Congratulations to both of these deserving ladies.

- Janice Pelletti



SPACEPORT CHAPTER

Spaceport 99s held their May meeting at Pat Ohlsson’s hangar in the fly-in community of Spruce Creek, Florida. Thirty people gathered to hear Dr. Leo Murphy, Associate Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, give a talk about the flying history of our founder, Amelia Earhart. Many people commented that, even though they had read a great deal about Amelia Earhart, they learned new information from Dr. Murphy’s talk. Represented at the meeting were 99s from Spaceport, Daytona, Long Island, Michigan, and North Jersey Chapters.

- Judi Oswald



Left: Olathe, Kansas, Girl Scout Troop receive a tower tour at Johnson County Executive Airport (KOJC). Top right: Chapter Chair Laura Burnham and Chapter Treasurer Linda Meyer presenting Section Governor Laurie Peake (middle) with flowers. Bottom right: Aviation Youth Camp with the volunteers at Lawrence Regional Airport (KLWC).

NORTHEAST KANSAS CHAPTER

Northeast Kansas 99s were busy this Spring!

The Chapter hosted the South Central Section Meeting on April 5-7 at the Atchison Airport (K59) FBO and the onsite Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum. On April 16, Cindy DeVan, Cheri Thompson, and Sara Tompson led the Olathe, Kansas, Girl Scout Troop and their leaders around Johnson County Executive Airport (KOJC), including a visit to the tower with controller John Calvin. On May 18, Cindy, Cheri, and Sara staffed registration and taught the session on Communication and Traffic Patterns at the Lawrence Aviation Youth Camp for middle school students at the Lawrence Regional Airport (KLWC).

- Sara Tompson



FINGER LAKES CHAPTER

Celebrating Women in Aviation at Harris Hill Soaring Club

The recent meetup of the Finger Lakes Chapter at the Harris Hill Soaring Club was an outing to remember. A special thanks is due to Sandra Tomas Roig Ryder and Wendy Zimmerman for organizing such a wonderful event set against the backdrop of the club's stunning vistas and unique ambience.

One of the highlights of the day was when Wendy Zimmerman, a devoted member of The 99s, took to the skies in a glider with Olivia Tate, one of the Chapter's younger members. Olivia, already a commercial glider pilot despite her youth, showcased her impressive skills, demonstrating the bright future of women in aviation. The flight was a symbol of the mentorship and camaraderie that define The 99s, as seasoned aviators like Wendy inspire and support the next generation.

The meetup wasn't just about flying; it was a celebration of shared passions and experiences. The conversation flowed effortlessly, with aviation serving as the common thread that wove everyone together. Whether discussing past flights, future aspirations, or the intricacies of gliding, the atmosphere was one of mutual respect and enthusiasm.

Other members who participated in this memorable event included Sam Horne, Greta Kolcon, and Frances Englund. Sam is working on her CFI, and Greta is a student pilot working on her private certificate. Sandra is a student working on her glider certificate. All brought their unique experiences and perspectives, enriching the discussions and the overall experience.

– Frances Englund



Top: Two passengers ready for their discovery flight during Florida Goldcoast Chapter's "Let's Fly Now" event. Bottom left: Volunteer Devan (left) with Chapter Chair Heather Grimes. Devan was a passenger at this event five years ago, this year she volunteered as a CFII. We loved hearing her story. Bottom right: Jen Toplak (right) with Yogini Modi, owner of Homestead Executive Jet Center, who donated her time, facilities, fuel, lunch, and personnel volunteers for the Let's Fly Now program.

FLORIDA GOLDCOAST CHAPTER

On April 27, 2024, we participated in the "Let's Fly Now" event at Homestead Executive Airport in Homestead, Florida. Implemented by The Ninety-Nines, Inc., "Let's Fly Now" is an introductory flight program inviting new and aspiring pilots of flying age to come experience what it's like to fly a plane entirely for free.

The Florida Goldcoast Chapter's "Let's Fly Now" was hosted once again by Homestead Executive Jet Center and Pilot Training Center Homestead (PTCH). Approximately 65 passengers were flown during the event, which included men and women, girls and boys of all ages, all excited to experience their first opportunity to fly a plane.

After successfully completing their first flights, attendees were provided certificates of completion and new flight logbooks to log their flight time for maintaining a record of their flight hours as budding pilots.

We are very grateful for all the volunteers that came together from the Florida Goldcoast Chapter, The Homestead Executive Jet Center, The Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP), the Girl Scouts of America, and the many volunteer pilots from The Pilot Training Center of Homestead.

As a result of this amazing experience, several attendees registered as student pilots, excited to begin their journeys to become pilots themselves.

– Andrea Ellison



CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

Airmarking at Lansing Municipal Airport (KIGQ)

In the Spring of 2023, the Lansing Municipal Airport (KIGQ) contacted the Chicago Area Chapter to see if we could repaint the compass rose, as they would be repaving the area where the prior compass rose was located on the run-up area of taxiway G. The Chapter agreed to take on the project, and Vickie Szewczyk agreed to chair it as Lansing is her home airport. At the same time, Alex Steadman was looking for an Eagle Scout project in aviation. His mother, Jessica Reinschmidt, is a 99 and Chicago Area Chapter member. She told him about the airmarking project, and they approached the Chapter to see if the Chapter and Alex could do this as a partnership. The airport agreed to the partnership and was excited about it. The paving of the area did not take place until late summer, and as the asphalt needs 90 days to cure, the painting of the compass rose did not occur until May 2024.

The Lansing airport supplied the paint. The airport also had the engineers mark the center point of the compass rose along with magnetic north and the cardinal points. Alex and his family gathered all the needed painting supplies and created the 99s' logo template. Vickie drew out the planned compass rose to scale and procured the necessary forms for the project.

On painting day, Alex and his family, plus Vickie, arrived early. The day was sunny with winds of 13 to 15 kts, gusting to 23 kts. Then, more scouts and 99s arrived. The 99s were: Jessica Reinschmidt, Eva Kozlowski, Vickie Szewczyk, Yanina Belazorava, Madeline Eckberg, Piper Colantone, Shelley Ventura, Corie Wild, Lisa Mitchell, Leire Kennedy, Mona Knock, and Karen Ballard. Alex's dad became the shuttle driver to get everyone out to the site. Alex's family also arranged for box lunches from Lynnies Q's on the field for everyone working on the project. Painting was completed by late afternoon.

Because it was Mother's Day weekend, Alex gave each lady a carnation as a thank you as they left. The Village of Lansing had arranged for a reporter from the *Daily Southtown* newspaper and the local LNN 4 cable station to cover the event. Alex, Jessica, and Vickie were all interviewed. The cable station set up a time-



Left: New Compass Rose at Lansing Airport. Right: Air marking Crew: 12 Ninety-Nines and 17 Boy Scouts (six scouts and 11 adults)

lapse camera. As the village owns the airport, the employees have special permission to fly drones there. Several drone pictures of the compass rose were taken. A member of EAA 260 who is based at KIGQ also came out to see the work. He writes the chapter quarterly newsletter. The project was on the front page of the *Daily Southtown* and in the *Naperville Sun*. It was also mentioned on WBBM radio. The LNN 4 crew put together a video for the cable channel and YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/I5svdxDqxJg?si=kV1LbZNo-ZL1mOuI>

Special Recognition



Photo by Nicholas Morris

On May 1, 2024, three members of the Chicago Area Chapter attended the Beverley D. Sharp Aviation Diversity Launch event at the Airbus Experience Center in Washington, D.C. Cynthia Madsen, Ellen O'Hara, and Leslie Prellwitz were there to greet Chicago Area Chapter 99 member Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Senator from Illinois, honored attendee at the event. After

greeting everyone, Senator Duckworth participated in a "Fireside Chat" with U.S. Coast Guard Commander Lashanda Hawkins. Senator Duckworth shared her experiences as a minority during her training to be a Blackhawk pilot in combat in the Iraq war, as a U.S. Senator, and elsewhere; she spoke on the need to increase participation of women and minorities in aviation. Senator Duckworth was presented with an Award of Inspiration by Pat Manos Kraemer, Award Committee Co-Chair of the Washington DC 99s and former member of the Chicago Area Chapter.

Aviation Day for Girls

Our ever-popular Aviation Day for Girls, led by Megan McArthur and her leadership team of Linda Millon and Corie Wild, was fantastic. In all, 28 Ninety-Nines and four prospective members contributed to the success of the day. Chicago Area Chapter member Piper Colantone graduated from high school that day, too, and before celebrating, she and her mom came to Lewis University to share the excitement with her 99s sisters who were working Aviation Day. Over 100 enthusiastic girls and their 70-plus chaperones enjoyed the varied programs on pre-flight, careers, forces of flight, air traffic control, and more. The event was held at Lewis University on Chicago's southwest side, so visiting the university's MD-80 and flying the university's simulators were all part of the experience.

– Diane M. Cozzi

HOUSTON CHAPTER

Houston Ninety-Nines participate in Texas Fly-In.

The annual fly-in at Texas Gulf Coast Region Airport (KLBX) on Saturday, April 20, 2024, was a great success for the Houston Chapter Ninety-Nines. One of our members, Erendira Sanchez, participated in her second consecutive year as part of the skydiving demonstration team over the airport. The Chapter also had an exhibit booth for the second consecutive year. We handed out nearly 200 little gliders to the kids, as well as 99s stickers. We sold several of the used aviation books we have been collecting for the last couple of months as part of a fundraising project. Most importantly, we talked with and encouraged prospective women pilots and young girls, providing them with information about The Ninety-Nines' history as well as present activities. It is our true mission to promote The Ninety-Nines and encourage women and girls to join the aviation community. We had such a great turnout of helpers.

This annual fly-in is a truly great event and the airport does a fantastic job. In addition to numerous aircraft on display such as BD-5 and various biplanes, they have antique cars and tractors, model railroad, food vendors, and exhibits. It was well attended by thousands of spectators who all seemed to enjoy the activities. The Houston Chapter plans to participate again next year.

- LuAnn Cotton

Top: Erendira Sanchez, private pilot, member of the Houston Chapter, and professional skydiving instructor at Skydive Spaceland Houston, enjoying the view over the KLBX as she provides a skydiving demonstration at the Texas Gulf Coast Regional for the second year in a row.

Bottom: Participating in the annual fly-in at the Texas Gulf Coast Region Airport were Vickie Crostan, Rose Lepore, Carol Brackley, Michelle Trobaugh, Marilyn Wolff along with the skydiver Erendira Sanchez. Also much appreciated help from Martin Wolff, Sean Trobaugh, and Galen Cotton.



NEW JERSEY AND GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTERS

The New Jersey and Greater New York Chapters were invited to the Memorial Day Ceremony held at the Intrepid Museum on Pier 86 in New York City on May 27, 2024. The solemn ceremony honored the women and men of the United States Armed Forces, the enduring legacy of those who served, and the significance of freedom. Speakers included Susan Marenoff-Zausner, President of the Intrepid Museum (notably the first woman in the 42-year history of the institution to hold the position); Four Star Navy Admiral Daryl Lane Caudle, 35th commander of United States Fleet Forces; and New York Mayor Eric Adams. After the final wreath laying and standing for the former crew members of the U.S.S. *Intrepid*, the members toured the ship and visited with representatives of the different military organizations. Members in attendance: Susan Loricchio, Linda Scully, Marie Estrada, and Marina Sajina.

- Marie Estrada

Grass Roots

SOUTHWEST SECTION

CAL-FIRE at KHMT

On Saturday, March 23, 2024, members of the Orange County, Long Beach, and San Diego Chapters joined together to tour CAL-FIRE's (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base at Hemet Airport (KHMT). I was particularly excited about this event because I come from a firefighting family with careers as a CDF Captain, Fire Investigator, Wildland Firefighter, and even Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Firefighter. So, having the opportunity to tour the base, meet a pilot and some of the team, along with learning more about CAL-FIRE and their fleet, is the best of both worlds – fire and aviation! CAL-FIRE's air ops fleet of fixed and rotary-wing aircraft is the largest civil aerial firefighting fleet in the world.

Upon our arrival at KHMT, Travis Mojica and Clayton Wagner, both Fire Apparatus Engineers, introduced themselves as our tour guides for the day. We first met Fire Pilot Zachariah West, who showed his beast of a helicopter, the Sikorsky S70i CAL-FIRE Hawk. This was the first time I sat in the cockpit of a helicopter, and it was a climb to get into that pilot seat! The Fire Hawk is higher than the military versions to accommodate for the drop tank. When United Rotorcraft designers were trying to figure out how to raise it, they actually drew inspiration from monster trucks, utilizing heavy-duty struts to raise the fuselage.

The first fixed-wing aircraft we saw, the North American Rockwell OV-10A Bronco, is used for aerial command and wildfire control. The crew provides tactical coordination to the on-the-ground Incident Commander, such as movement and spread of the fires. Next, we saw the Grumman S-2 air tankers, which are used for rapid initial attack delivery of fire retardant. Retardant slows the spread of fire and gives ground crews time to move into position to extinguish the fire.

Travis shared a fun fact about the historical watchtower on the property. The tower was once a fire lookout in the San Jacinto Mountains but was relocated to KHMT. Disney production staff visited the station and took inspiration from both the watchtower and the Hemet-Ryan base for the 2014 film *Planes: Fire & Rescue*.

After the tour, we ate at Bambi's Hangar 1 Café, which is in the original bunkhouse for Hemet-Ryan Airfield. The airfield opened in the 1940s and was one of the locations where 14,000 army cadets learned to fly in Stearman trainers. The meals were scrumptious, the staff incredible, and the café like an aviation memorabilia box!

Our trip to the Hemet-Ryan airfield was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our firefighting heroes and the aircraft that they fly to fight fires. Thank you to all the firefighters who made our visit possible, the Orange County 99s for orchestrating the event, and all the visitors who came together to share the experience.

– Samantha Schroeder



Our newest Life Members

Kshamta Bajpai
India Section

Sharon Lee Bechthold
Eastern Ontario Chapter

Jo Kocisko
Tennessee Chapter

Marcelaine Lewis
Spaceport Chapter

Bridget Moorman
Tucson Chapter

Jagruti Patel
German Section

Kaitlyn Perl
Maple Leaf Chapter

Judy Phelps
Ventura County Chapter

Christine Rupert
Florida Goldcoast Chapter

Sandy Staszak
North Central Section

Marlene Winters
Wisconsin Chapter



Our most recently enlisted Friends of The 99s

Nick Acosta
Miami Springs, FL

Cortlan Bainbridge
Des Moines, IA

Darcy Guyant
Olympia, WA

Victor Jones
Placentia, CA

Christine Koch
Buffalo, NY

Rose London
Stroudsburg, PA

Aaron Munson
Hillsboro, OR

Genevieve Rosenbalm-Bainbridge
Des Moines, IA

Latha Srinivasan
Cleveland, OH

Susan Turne
Chatom, AL

Dr Linda Weiland
Honolulu, HI

Isabel Wild
Markham, ON Canada



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.

Harriet Brin
June 24, 2023
Monterey Bay Chapter

Betty Hostler
Life Member
September 2023
Spaceport Chapter

Colleen Handrahan
May 1, 2024
Orange County Chapter

Gene Nora Jessen
Emeritus Member
May 21, 2024
Idaho Chapter



All Women. All Pilots!

Since 1929, the Ninety-Nines have been inspiring women who love to fly!

- Scholarships
For all ages and training levels
 - Mentorship
Meet 99s through local chapter seminars and events
 - Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative
Creating tomorrow's aviation leaders today
-

Join us.
www.ninety-nines.org



“With SiriusXM I feel safer in my cockpit.”

Lin Caywood,
Vice President of the Air Race Classic



“During my fourth Air Race Classic, there was a weather front coming in as we were flying through the mountains. A combination of good luck, analysis and faith in SiriusXM’s weather allowed us to be one of the few teams that made it out of the mountains before the weather came in.”

Lin Caywood

Commercial SEL & MEL, tailwheel, seaplane, CFI, CFII, Cessna 182T and 150 owner

2024 AOPA Eastern Region Best Flight Instructor, Vice President of the Air Race Classic, PALS Pilot and 99s Governor of the Mid Atlantic Section

SiriusXM AVIATION

Learn more at siriusxm.com/aviation or watch Lin discuss her experience using SiriusXM Aviation Weather by scanning the QR code.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION: The SiriusXM Service may include traffic, weather and other content and emergency alert information and data. Such information and data is not for “safety for life,” but is merely supplemental and advisory in nature, and therefore cannot be relied upon as safety critical in connection with any aircraft, sea craft, automobile, or any other usage. Service not available in AK or HI.

© 2024 Sirius XM Radio Inc. SiriusXM and all related logos are trademarks of Sirius XM Radio Inc. and its respective subsidiaries. All rights reserved.