

September/October 2024



# Ninety-Nines

*Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929*



**99S HELPING  
CONSERVE  
ENDANGERED  
SEA TURTLES**

*p. 16*

***plus***

**2024 AMELIA EARHART  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND WINNERS**

**MERCI BEAUCOUP,  
VANCOUVER!**



## Ninety-Nines Magazine

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### 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    

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Photo courtesy of Turtles Fly Too

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New Horizons



## Thank You to Our Sponsors





2024

**SEP**

- 6-8 Southeast Section Meeting**  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Georgia Flying Belles Chapter  
✈ [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](http://ifof.org)
- 20-22 Southwest Section Fall Meeting**  
Paso Robles, California  
✈ [Pat Chan, chiflys@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Pat.Chan@chiflys@sbcglobal.net)
- 27-29 South Central Section Fall Meeting**  
League City, Texas  
Houston Chapter  
✈ [LuAnn Pfeifer-Cotton, luannpfeifer@hotmail.com](mailto:LuAnn.Pfeifer-Cotton@hotmail.com)

**OCT**

- 1 Deadline: First Wings Applications**  
☐ [Ninety-nines.org/scholarships.htm](http://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](mailto:Mary.Build@gmail.com)
- 26 Witches of the South Wicked Gathering**  
St. Clair County Airport, Pell City, Alabama  
Memphis, and Alabama Chapters  
✈ [Wendy Watson, Wendy@plrairport.com](mailto:Wendy.Watson@plrairport.com)

**NOV**

- 1-2 International Board of Directors Fall Meeting**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
✈ [info@ninety-nines.org](mailto:info@ninety-nines.org)
- 16 Gala: 75th Anniversary of the Phoenix Chapter**  
Phoenix, Arizona  
Phoenix Chapter  
✈ [KarenFlysN13492@gmail.com](mailto:KarenFlysN13492@gmail.com)

**DEC**

- 1-9 India Section Aviation Conclave**  
New Delhi, India  
✈ [Indiasection99s@gmail.com](mailto:Indiasection99s@gmail.com)
- 31 Deadline: Intent to Seek Election**  
✈ [Jill.Oakes@umr.umanitoba.ca](mailto:Jill.Oakes@umr.umanitoba.ca)

2025

**MAR**

- 27-29 Women In Aviation Conference**  
Gaylord Rockies Resort, Denver, Colorado  
☐ [wai.org](http://wai.org)
- 28-30 South Central Section Spring Meeting**  
Sulphur, Louisiana  
Lake Charles Chapter  
✈ [Sandra Leder, sleder99@yahoo.com](mailto:Sandra.Leder@sleder99@yahoo.com)

**JUL**

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

**OCT**

- 23-26 South Central Section Fall Meeting**  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Rio Grande Norte Chapter  
✈ [Jo Cunningham, lucyfur@me.com](mailto:Jo.Cunningham@lucyfur@me.com)

**MAGAZINE SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

are one month prior to issue date.  
NOV/DEC issue deadline: Oct 1.

*Check the online calendar for the latest information.*  
☐ [ninety-nines.org/calendar.htm](http://ninety-nines.org/calendar.htm)



**Robin Hadfield**

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

## ***Understanding Our Future Acknowledging Our Past***

**U**nderstanding our future direction requires us to acknowledge our past. Throughout history, individuals facing common challenges or pursuing shared goals have come together to form organizations, achieving outcomes beyond the reach of individual efforts. These organizations aren't created merely from a desire to unite; they need leaders with initiative and drive to bring them to life.

The founders of The Ninety-Nines were driven by a profound passion to share their knowledge and experiences with other women pilots. As you read through this issue of the *Ninety-Nines* magazine, you will find our Amelia Earhart Scholarship recipients and our 2024 International Award winners, a testament to how, 95 years later, that same passion endures. However, with the advent of new technology and more organizations serving women pilots, we must stay relevant and forward-thinking to uphold our prestige and provide value to our members.

Goal setting is a crucial part of our professional and personal lives. We're encouraged to set career, athletic, and personal goals from a young age. For goals to be effective, they must be measurable and attainable. While setting personal goals is straightforward, setting goals for an organization requires buy-in and commitment from all members.

My goals include enhancing our outreach efforts, reducing the number of members each month who don't renew, and supporting our members in achieving their goals as our industry rapidly evolves.

We're moving forward with several key initiatives during the next few months. These include searching for an experienced Executive Director and making capital upgrades to our headquarters building, which was built in the mid 1970s and needs a few upgrades to keep it in good condition for the next 50 years.

Finally, I want to extend my gratitude to the members of the 2023-2024 Board of Directors, Committees, Trusts, Section Governors, and Chapter Chairs for their dedication and hard work. A special thanks to our headquarters staff: Laura, Martha, Amy, Lacey, and Nautica, whose efforts are vital to the smooth operation of our organization. And to all the past Presidents who have shared their wisdom with me — your advice has been invaluable and deeply appreciated!

Have you noticed that we've started placing our own ad on the magazine's back page? This is a great way to promote The Ninety-Nines when you drop off your copy at the FBO, flight school, doctor's office, or anywhere someone might pick it up and learn about The Ninety-Nines.

**I want to hear from you directly.** Please email me your ideas and requests, and I'll try to respond within 48 hours! You can reach me at [President@ninety-nines.org](mailto:President@ninety-nines.org).

Chapter Chairs: we have many new members who joined us this summer. Please ensure that each one has been called or sent a message of welcome. You are sent a list of your new members and those who are expiring each month. Reach out to them and show them the camaraderie that The Ninety-Nines are known for.

Fly safe. Be active. Inspire the next generation of pilots.

## Holding Short



### Celebrating a Milestone at Oshkosh

**Lauren Kollar** is a student at Embry Riddle and obtained her Private Pilot Certificate on July 26, 2024. She is a pilot now, just like her mother, **Phyllis Kollar**. Both are members of the New Jersey Chapter of The 99s! Phyllis remarked, "She is our chapter's newest pilot. We celebrated her huge accomplishment at Oshkosh."

– Phyllis Kollar, *New Jersey Chapter*



### Magical Flying Celebration

Michigan Chapter member **Kim Fanelli** and her husband, Jeff, who is also a pilot, flew their single-engine Cirrus SR20 from Michigan to the Bahamas as a 25th wedding anniversary bucket-list adventurous celebration! After many hours of safety planning, within nine days in June 2024, they flew over 2,700 miles and shared over 20 hours of flying. Once in the Bahamas, they island hopped between Governors Harbour (MYEM), Staniel Cay (MYES), San Salvador (MYSM), and Stella Maris (MYLS) before returning safely home to Michigan. Viewing the sparkling turquoise waters from the sky will be etched in their memories forever. Flying is Magical.

– Barb Vukits, *Michigan Chapter*



### Celebrating the Spirit of Flight Day

Idaho 99, **Mimi Steel**, flew her Citabria, which celebrates WASP, to the annual Spirit of Flight Day at Nampa Municipal Airport (KMAN) on July 13. Mimi is such an enthusiastic ambassador for women in aviation. Both Bev La Brie and Penny Hamilton, Idaho Chapter members, also attended the annual event. Learn more at [www.SpiritofFlight.com](http://www.SpiritofFlight.com).

– Submitted by Penny Hamilton, *Idaho Chapter*



## Witches of the South Wicked Gathering

October 26, 2024

The Memphis and Alabama Chapters along with St. Clair County Airport (KPLR) are hosting a community Trunk or Treat event, aviation style. Come and interact

with community members in a fun Halloween fashion, costumes encouraged. Lunch will be provided by the Memphis and Alabama Chapters. Following the Trunk or Treat event, stay for a St. Clair County Airport hangar party including games and prizes. Hotel pricing has been set up at the local Hampton Inn (career day rate). Overnight camping will also be available.

There is a \$5 registration fee using the SurveyHeart link below or QR code below. All are welcome to attend, no restrictions. Please register so the planning, logistics, and flightline safety committees can provide for a wonderful and safe event.

<https://surveyheart.com/form/65b97ee7181ef21d055b9e2a>

For questions or to mail your registration fee please contact Lois Horne or Wendy Watson.

Lois Horne: 315-525-7732

Wendy Watson: [wendy@plrairport.com](mailto:wendy@plrairport.com)

St. Clair County Airport

Cell: 205-229-6668

Office: 205-338-9456

– Lois Horne, *Memphis Chapter*



## Phoenix Chapter Celebrates 75 Years!

The Phoenix Chapter is planning a celebration of 75 years as a chapter! We will be having a gala here in Phoenix on November 16, 2024. We would like to invite 99s and friends that have been a part of our chapter over the years though we may not know how to reach you.

So please let us know if you are interested in joining us at our celebration. Email [KarenFlysN13492@gmail.com](mailto:KarenFlysN13492@gmail.com).

– Karen Hausteen, *Phoenix Chapter*



## The Angels Among Us

By Donna Miller, *Colorado Chapter*

If you were fortunate enough to know Sandra Clifford, then you know how truly blessed you are. I've been thinking about her so much this past month as she slowly slipped the surly bonds of Earth. There is so much to be amazed by, but what makes me most grateful to her is her unwavering kindness and selfless spirit. Even when she lost her medical and could no longer fly, she poured more of her time and energy into giving back. She started a program to inspire girls to fly. She was there for the college students when their aviation program began to crumble. You never would have known, because she did it so quietly and selflessly.

It made me think of the people that surround us every day who make our worlds better just by being in them. The Ninety-Nines for example – who aren't currently flying but are funding, evaluating, supporting, and awarding the scholarships. (Jacque Boyd, I see you.) The Jenny Beattys of the world who are still actively guiding fledgling airline pilots and are always available with the needed support. The countless number of pilots who speak to school kids and take on student pilots to mentor them through the rough patches just fill my heart with gratitude.

I've never been busier as an airline pilot than I have been this past summer. I get enmeshed in the busyness of the job, but when I come up for air, there is my amazing local chapter newsletter in my inbox (courtesy of Margot Plummer), a well-organized summer picnic, and the Ninety-Nines magazine with its amazing content and photos. There are scholarships, the Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI), webinars, and Girl Scout programs going on. None of this happens by accident. I love hearing about pilots flying canine rescue and volunteer medical flights. We are truly surrounded by angels who are lifting us all up as we go on with our busy lives.

We don't even know all the amazingness that is afoot! The completely anonymous \$5 donation to The Ninety-Nines from a struggling student pilot for example. But that donation combined with the rest of the funds that have been donated still creates a fabulous opportunity for someone else! The chapter meetings, the section meetings, and the International Conference take time and effort to plan and host. I am grateful for the volunteers who staff the booths at AirVenture, SUN 'n FUN, the local airshows, and the Air Race Classic. From start to finish, the volunteer support at these events is simply amazing. It is a testament to the selflessness of our members. It truly warms my heart.

In honor of Sandra, I hope you take just a moment to do something to help someone else. It doesn't have to be an epic superhero act, or even aviation related. By lifting someone up, we are all elevated just a bit. In these turbulent times, couldn't we all use a little more of that?



**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](mailto:askadpe99@gmail.com)

Your question may be answered in the next issue!


## ***I'm really struggling with my landings, specifically the flare. Do you have any tips that could help me improve?***

Landings are a normal learning plateau for many private pilot airplane students, and power-off 180 accuracy landings are common for many commercial students. In both cases, it's prudent to persevere and get different feedback as you are learning. Prior to a check ride, it's important to have confidence and consistency. We often do better on maneuvers we are good at under pressure and do worse on maneuvers we are not good at.

A stabilized approach sets the stage for a good landing. The Airplane Flying Handbook recommends being stabilized by 500 feet and, if you become unstabilized below 300 feet, to execute an immediate go around. While there are many reasons you could be unstabilized on final, I've found that on check rides, the most common issues are lack of airspeed control and not maintaining a proper aim point. The airplane is on the backside of the power curve, so remember: pitch for airspeed, power for altitude. Often applicants will make the mistake of making large and rapid power adjustments on final and they end up too fast or slow.

The roundout and the flare can be challenging when first learning to land an airplane. If you are struggling in this area, you are not alone. Judging the flare requires accurate judgement of both vision and height. This starts with something as simple as adjusting your seat in the same spot before your flight. When I first introduce a student, I have them adjust the seat height so they can see over the dashboard and are about an arm's length from the panel. Remember where that spot is so it's in the same position for each flight. Your flare should start around 10-20 feet above the ground. The power should be pulled to idle. Slowly apply back pressure and transition your vision from your aim point to down the runway. Typically, you will increase your back pressure to about two to three degrees above the horizon as your airspeed bleeds off. You should try to hold the airplane off two to three feet above the ground for as long as possible. This can be done by continuing to add back pressure as the rest of the airspeed bleeds off.

Another difficult landing later in flight training is the power-off 180-degree landing. This landing is very challenging, and I've seen many applicants fail this maneuver on their Commercial Single-Engine check ride. I don't recommend using the drill and practice method when learning this maneuver. On your check ride, you get one attempt and no go-around. Often, students will practice eight in a row during their flight lessons. They may be successful five out of eight times. The problem is the check ride is not formatted this way, so it's hard to measure consistency. I would recommend scattering them throughout your flight lessons. Make sure you can consistently do them on the first try.

Landings can be both frustrating and fun. It's important to remember most pilots have struggled with landings at one point in their training. I encourage you to rise to the challenge, don't give up and persevere to master your skills. 

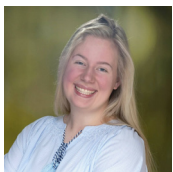
# 2024 AMELIA EARHART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND WINNERS



The Ninety-Nines Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund (AEMSF) Trustees are pleased to announce the awarding of 22 scholarships amounting to \$200,799.90 for 2024. The scholarship winners are from 17 chapters and seven different sections. They represent Australia, New Zealand, Japan,

Brazil, Canada, the United States, and Britain. The ratings include the Vicki Cruse Emergency Maneuver Training Scholarship, Gas Turbine Endorsement, Technical – Light Sport Repair Maintenance Certification, Academic – Professional Aviation, Multi-Engine, Commercial Multi-Engine Add-On, Commercial, CFI, and Instrument.

Scholarship groups, both Fall and Spring First Wings and the AEMSF Scholarships, are assigned a Mama Bird from among the Trustees. The winners report on their monthly progress and share successes and concerns. This follow-up approach works well to support the recipients. The 2024 AEMSF Mama Bird is Trustee Jacquie Boyd, who reports that three of the winners have already completed their ratings. The winners have until June 30, 2025, to complete their ratings and certificates.



## Ivy Adams

**CFI**

*Nashville Chapter  
Southeast Section*

Hello! I'm Ivy Adams. I'm honored to receive the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship and to be part of the legacy of women pilots that our organization has been empowering for nearly one hundred years. I'm an alumna of Middle Tennessee State University, where I earned both my bachelor's and master's degrees in aeronautical science. As an aviation enthusiast, I'm certified as both an Aircraft Dispatcher and a Part 107 Small Unmanned Aircraft System Operator. My long-term career goal is to fly for a major legacy air carrier.



## Olivia Anderson

**GAS TURBINE ENGINE ENDORSEMENT**

*Australian Section*

My name is Olivia Anderson and I'm a Helicopter Mustering Pilot in remote outback Australia. I had my heart set on flying since my early teens which lead to me completing my CPLH at 19 and launched me into the crazy, challenging, and ever rewarding aerial mustering industry. I get to work amongst some of Australia's most stunning and remote scenery. There aren't enough words for how grateful I am to The 99s to be a recipient of this scholarship which I'll use as a launch pad to propel me into further complex airwork roles in turbine helicopters.



## Amber Brierly

**CFI**

*Daytona Chapter  
Southeast Section*

I'm originally from New Zealand and became a U.S. Citizen in 2023. I graduated with a degree in aviation management in New Zealand, studied abroad for a year at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus, and graduated in 2014. I've spent the last eight years working in business aviation before starting my flight training in August 2021. I started my own aviation apparel company designing shirts for female pilots and recently won NBAA's Top 40 Under 40 in 2023. I'm looking forward to CFI training and want to use these skills to give back to the community as an instructor.



## Nobi Buntin

**MULTI-ENGINE INSTRUCTOR**

*Santa Clara Valley Chapter  
Southwest Section*

After over 25 years in the educational arena, I felt completely burnt out. In 2016, I decided to reinvent myself and took to the skies. Early in my flight training, I ignored the advice of my mentors; I stubbornly tried to avoid becoming a CFI, attempting to escape the gravitational pull. However, instructing was my true calling. I'm back to teaching and loving every minute! With the generous support of the AEMSF, I'll earn my MEI, perfectly combining my passions for teaching and aviation. The moral of the story? Sometimes, you just can't fight destiny or gravity!

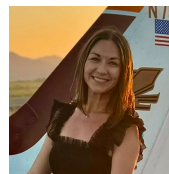


## Jacqueline Cako

**COMMERCIAL MULTI-ENGINE ADD-ON**

*Phoenix Chapter  
Southwest Section*

I was a professional tennis player up until COVID shut the world down. With tennis being a financially demanding sport, I decided it was time to start a new chapter. Since I always had an interest in aviation, I took a discovery flight in August of 2020 and was immediately hooked. I'm now working as a CFI at California Aeronautical University. This scholarship allows me to attain my Commercial Multi-Engine after which I plan to get my Multi-Engine Instructor Certificate. These are the stepping stones toward my end goal of becoming an Airline Pilot.



## Jalyna Cook

**INSTRUMENT RATING**

*San Diego Chapter  
Southwest Section*

My name is Jalyna Cook, a recent Private Pilot as of November 2023 and currently sit as the San Diego 99s Membership Chair. In my professional life, I work as the Associate Director of Nursing Informatics for a large healthcare system in Texas. I've dedicated my life to continuous learning, already obtaining four college degrees. I hope to utilize my doctorate in education along with flight training ratings to serve the next generation of aviators. Thanks to this tremendously generous scholarship, I'll be able to complete my Instrument Rating expeditiously – a crucial step in my aviation journey.



**Ana Costa**  
**INSTRUMENT RATING**  
 Florida Goldcoast Chapter  
 Southeast Section

My childhood passion for aviation led me to become the first pilot in my family, at the age of 19. The following year, I earned my Commercial Certificate and started working as a Pilot in Brazil. Years later, I moved to the U.S., where I obtained my FAA Commercial Pilot Certificate. Now, with the support of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship, I'll pursue my Instrument Rating. Besides aviation, I enjoy fishing, cooking, and spending time with loved ones. I also proudly serve as the Social Media and Vice Chair of the FLCG 99s Chapter. My goal after earning this rating: Fly for a charter company!"



**Susan Haass**  
**TECHNICAL - LIGHT SPORT REPAIR MAINTENANCE CERTIFICATION**  
 Houston Chapter  
 South Central Section

I started flying late in life, beginning with a Discovery flight in November 2011 and passing my Private Pilot Certificate check ride in June 2012. In 2015, I bought my Cherokee 140/160. In 2016, I started flying for Pilots N Paws; dogs and flying are a perfect match. I'm in AOPA, EAA, and The 99s. Since retiring, I've started my third career: aviation. I'm a FAASTeam representative for KIWS, have taken avionics classes at the Aircraft Electronics Association, and work for a flight club at KTME. This scholarship will allow me to achieve the Light Sport Repairman Maintenance Rating to work on light sport aircraft.



**Sarah Haskett**  
**COMMERCIAL**  
 Michigan Chapter  
 North Central Section

I reside in Midland, Michigan with my husband, Brandon, and my two teenage daughters, Arianna and Stephanie. I began flight lessons as a 40th birthday present to myself. I completed my Private Pilot Certificate in July 2020 and my Instrument Rating in July 2023. Recently, I passed the written exam for my Commercial Pilot Certificate. I recently ended my public school teaching career and opened my own music studio to make more time for flight training. My goal is to pursue a career in aviation upon completion of my Commercial Pilot Certificate.



**Whitney Holcomb**  
**COMMERCIAL HELICOPTER ADD-ON**  
 Air Hearts-Utah Chapter  
 Southwest Section

I'm thrilled to be an AEMSF recipient and grateful to my Air Hearts-Utah Chapter and Southwest Section for their support. I've loved aviation all my life, and have been a skydiver for 19 years, but my desire to become a pilot didn't begin until age 43 when I took my first flight in a gyroplane. I'm now a Commercial Pilot, CFI, and autogyro owner. This scholarship will be used to add Commercial Helicopter Rating to my certificate. While working as a helicopter Pilot, my ambition is to create a more accessible and affordable route for others to become commercial rotorcraft pilots.



**Dana Magallanes**  
**COMMERCIAL MULTI-ENGINE ADD-ON**  
 San Gabriel Valley Chapter  
 Southwest Section

I'm so honored to receive the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship for my Multi-Engine Rating. I have the pleasure of serving as Membership Chair for my local chapter. I joined The 99s as a student pilot and now I'm an Instrument Rated Commercial Pilot. I fell in love with aviation after my discovery flight. Since then, my focus is to become an Airline Pilot. I hope to inspire other female pilots juggling aviation and children, or those who want to make a career change into aviation. This scholarship allows me to follow my passion and is life changing for my family.



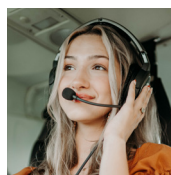
**Kimberly Manasco**  
**COMMERCIAL MULTI-ENGINE ADD-ON**  
 Dallas Chapter  
 South Central Section

As a former Math Teacher turned Flight Attendant and now Flight Instructor, I'm on a relentless pursuit to elevate my career as a Pilot. Juggling two jobs to fuel my aviation dreams, I've been soaring the skies since July 2022 – driven by a thirst for knowledge. Inspired by fellow 99s, I'm eager to explore new horizons in the corporate world, harnessing my diverse experiences and dedication to excel. With unwavering determination, I'm committed to mastering every aspect of flight swiftly and adeptly, poised to carve my path among the stars.



**Megan McArthur**  
**COMMERCIAL**  
 Chicago Area Chapter  
 North Central Section

As a single mother working two jobs, I never thought becoming a pilot would be my reality. Two years ago, I was given a discovery flight. The moment that plane took off I knew that I found my calling. I completely fell in love with aviation and haven't looked back since. I've recently earned my Instrument Rating and my Instrument Ground Instructor Certificate. The blessing of this scholarship has been allowing me to complete my commercial training. I'm working towards becoming an instructor and look forward to supporting and inspiring others to pursue their aviation dreams.



**Annemarie McMillan**  
**ACADEMIC - PROFESSIONAL AVIATION**  
 NOLA Chapter  
 Southeast Section

Shortly after my 17th birthday, I discovered my passion for flying and subsequently joined The 99s. I began my flight training at a soft-field, private airport while still in high school, often waking up to fly before class in the morning. Now, I'm a commercial student pursuing a professional aviation degree at Louisiana Tech University, where I'm president of the WAI Chapter. I'm so grateful to The 99s for making my dreams possible and affordable, and I'd like to give a special thanks to the NOLA Chapter for encouraging me throughout every part of my aviation journey!



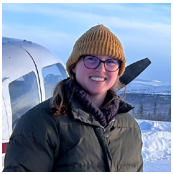
**Glynis Olgado**  
**COMMERCIAL MULTI-ENGINE ADD-ON**  
*Las Vegas Chapter*  
 Southwest Section

After experiencing a tour flight in Las Vegas through my job as a Concierge, I caught the aviation bug immediately – especially since the captain was a woman and a fellow 99. I became the first pilot in my family! This award will help me work towards my Commercial Multi Add-On, which will help later in my career as I aspire to be an Airline Pilot. I appreciate the support of The 99s and the friendships I've made. Besides flying, I enjoy riding dune buggies in the desert, breakdancing, and spending lots of time with my niece and nephew.



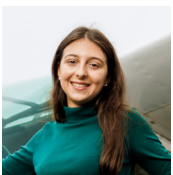
**Kimberly Olson**  
**COMMERCIAL MULTI-ENGINE ADD-ON**  
*San Diego Chapter*  
 Southwest Section

I work as a flight attendant with Alaska Airlines and serve as the Chair of the San Diego 99s. I'm the Lead Tutor at Miramar Community College's aviation department and am on track to become an adjunct instructor there. My favorite flights are with Pilots N Paws as it combines my love for helping rescue animals and my love of flying. This scholarship fills me with immense gratitude as it will help me obtain my Multi-Engine Commercial Add-On. I aim to become an Airline Pilot while mentoring other women as they navigate their aviation journey.



**Alyssa Rittel**  
**MULTI-ENGINE LAND**  
*Midnight Sun Chapter*  
 Northwest Section

I'm a 99 and pilot from Fairbanks, Alaska. When I started flying in 2022, it quickly became clear that I wanted to pursue a career in aviation. I'm in training to become a Certified Flight Instructor with the goal of becoming an Airline Pilot. My next goal is to obtain a Multi-Engine Rating. Being a recipient of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship is making that goal possible and I'm so grateful for the opportunity. In addition to flying, I enjoy being a mom, exploring trails with my huskies, knitting, gardening, fishing, and outdoor adventures.



**Alessandra Rizzo**  
**COMMERCIAL MULTI-ENGINE ADD-ON**  
*San Luis Obispo Chapter*  
 Southwest Section

I've grown up flying with my family, but it wasn't until university that I began learning to fly. Over the past four years, I've earned my Private and Commercial Certificates, became a Flight Instructor, and most recently, in March of this year, I earned my CFII Rating! I've enjoyed getting to know the aviation community through my involvement with The 99s and my university's aviation club. I'm excited to share that I'll be graduating in June with a degree in biochemistry from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, California, and then I'll start training towards my Commercial Multi-Engine Rating this summer!



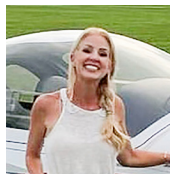
**Fiona Smith**  
**EMERGENCY MANEUVER TRAINING**  
*in Memory of Vicki Cruse*  
 British Section

I was awarded my PPL the day before I joined the Royal Air Force. Since then, I've enjoyed building my hours in Canada, a flight to France, and lots in between. My Aerobatics Rating has always been in my sights. I'm absolutely delighted at the opportunity to fly aerobatics, fly Pitts, and fly tailwheel, all in one award! Once my scholarship is fulfilled, I plan to fly into my workplace, Brooklands Museum, on a fly-in day! I'm aiming for commercial flight, battling through theory and building hours. I'm proud to be a 99, and to be a British-European scholarship winner!



**Stacy Uebelhor**  
**CFII**  
*Greater Seattle Chapter*  
 Northwest Section

As a Flight Attendant since 2006, I didn't find my true aviation calling until a couple colleagues encouraged me to take a discovery flight. I balanced work, family, motherhood, and volunteerism while flight training. Fast forward and I'm a first-generation pilot with a passion for instructing. I'm originally from northern Arizona but call the Pacific Northwest home. It was here I learned to fly and found The 99s, which provided both mentorship opportunities and financial support. Many thanks to the women pilots who continue to inspire me towards my own goals. This scholarship will help me earn my CFII.



**Spring Vick**  
**CE-525 TYPE RATING**  
*San Diego Chapter*  
 Southwest Section

As a single mom of four and a Flight Attendant with Delta Airlines for 26 years, I've recently embarked on an exciting new chapter. After five years of perseverance, I was selected for Delta's Propel Pilot Career Pathway Program. Concurrently, I'm pursuing a Ph.D. in aviation, aiming to combine flying with teaching at the collegiate level. I aspire to pilot the A350 aircraft and inspire others, particularly women, in aviation. Through my journey, I demonstrate to my children that no obstacle is too significant when you're committed to your dreams.



**Maki Yu**  
**CFI**  
*Santa Clara Valley Chapter*  
 Southwest Section

My flying started as a hobby, and it quickly became an obsession. I've managed to earn my Private Pilot Certificate, Instrument Rating, and Commercial Pilot Certificate every year since I started flying. Thanks to the generous Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship, I'll reach my goal of becoming a career CFI sooner than expected. I'm grateful for The 99s and the amazing members in my chapter who have supported me through my entire aviation journey. As a CFI I'll continue to spread the love of aviation to those in my community, including my 8-year-old son who I hope to solo on his 16th birthday!

## AEMSF OUTSIDE JUDGES

**Emily Reiman**, Elevate Aviation, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at Elevate Aviation;  
**Catherine Press**, Chinook Helicopters, CEO; **Susan Pflugstler**, Vice President, Jet Blue Aviation

# Merci Beaucoup, Vancouver!

– By Cathy Prudhomme,  
*International Conference  
and Career Expo Committee Chair*

**B**eautiful sunny weather? Check. Gorgeous setting by the water? Check. Fabulous speakers? Check. Hundreds of Ninety-Nines? Check and check! The 2024 International Conference and Career Expo checked all the boxes for success.

The Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront, located just a few blocks from Vancouver Harbour, provided a welcoming setting for the nearly 300 members, guests, and Friends of The Ninety-Nines who attended the Conference July 3-7, 2024. Many people arrived on Wednesday, in time for the Keynote Breakfast and the first keynote speaker

early Thursday morning. Kendra Kincade, CEO of Elevate Aviation, did not disappoint, inspiring the audience with both her own story and her passion for sharing the gift of aviation with future generations through Elevate Aviation, founded in Edmonton, Alberta, and now with programs offered throughout Canada.

Following the Keynote Address, an exciting lineup of speakers provided presentations that were both informational and inspirational. Many thanks to our Thursday featured speakers: Angela Tanton, Kathy Fox, Catherine Press, and Colette Morin.



1. Second Keynote speaker Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force, Major General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet. | 2. Sue Benua and Margot Cheel (Eastern New England Chapter) enjoy a scenic seaplane flight with Harbour Air. | 3. Victoria Fitchett and Marcia Strang (West Canada, British Columbia Coast). | 4. Conference hosts West Canada Section met for their own annual meeting during the conference on July 5. Governor Cindy Pang (front center) holds the Canadian Prime Minister's official welcome letter of congratulations to The 99s International Conference. | 5. Director Mary Build receives the 2023 International Award of Achievement for Contributions to Aviation. | 6. Nivedita Bhasin (International Director and India Section Governor), Glenna Blackwell (outgoing International Director) | 7. ICCE Committee - Victoria Fitchett, Lori Parker, Cathy Prudhomme, Jan McKenzie, Rosanne Isom, Cindy Pang. | 8. Members of the New England Section invite everyone to the 2025 International Conference in Burlington, Vermont. | 9. AEMSF Trustees and AE Scholars. | 10. Keynote speaker Kendra Kincade, CEO of Elevate Aviation. | 11. Southeast Section members Caroline Hodges, Ramona Banks, Lois Horne. | 12. Lori Plourd (New England Section) and Eva Thierry (Mid-Atlantic Section) of the Publications Committee enjoy the delightful atmosphere and scenic view at the Hospitality Room.

Photos opposite, 2, 6, 7, 8, 12, pg. 14 bottom left by Margot Cheel; Photos 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, pg. 14 top left and right by Aldo Cruz.



Top left: Left to right: Jenna Forseth (West Canada Section), 99s International Award winner Cathy Press, Honorary Colonel of 442 Search and Rescue “City of Vancouver” Squadron Diane McCurdy, West Canada Governor Cindy Pang. | Top right: Air Canada Captain Kim Winsor, East Canada Section | Bottom left: Southwest Section members Priya Gopinath, Samarra Dalrymple, Alicia Hobbs, Lisa Simpson. | Bottom right: A group of 99s enjoyed an after conference Alaska cruise shown here as the ship sailed out to sea under the Lion’s Gate Bridge, leaving Vancouver. Photo by Carol Rayburn.

Thursday afternoon provided time to network in the beautiful Hospitality Suite, which featured a large outdoor balcony overlooking the harbor, chat with AE Scholarship Trustees to learn more about scholarships, visit vendors and exhibitors, or learn more about the beautiful city of Vancouver on several optional tours. The Conference Welcome Reception was held Thursday evening in the Vistas Room on the top floor of the hotel, an aptly named venue as it provided panoramic views of the city as it slowly revolved.

Attendees were up early again on Friday morning, as nobody wanted to miss the second Keynote Address. The Ninety-Nines were honored to welcome the Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force, Major General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet. Maj. Gen. Speiser-Blanchet’s remarks on her own experiences in the military, and her vision for the role of women in aviation, met with a standing ovation.

Friday morning offered additional opportunities for learning and inspiration. Eva Lopez and Lise Ash spoke on the role of aviation in humanitarian efforts in “Flying for a Cause.” Judy Phelps shared the knowledge she has gained as a DPE. All members were encouraged to attend “Laugh, Learn, Lead,” where rich conversation provided information and new ideas for chapters and sections. More than 100 members attended this session!

The Ninety-Nines Inc. Annual Meeting took place on Satur-

day morning and was presented in a hybrid format so those members unable to attend in person could participate virtually. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous sponsor, Life Members attended a lunch following the Annual Meeting, to thank them for their support of The Ninety-Nines. Saturday afternoon’s presentations focused on professional pilots and aspiring professional pilots with a Career Panel presented by The Ninety-Nines Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI). Thank you, Laura Matheson, Ella Stersky, and Kim Winsor for your presentations, and Marianna Baratto and Mariko Doskow for facilitating this event. A bonus presentation followed the PPLI Career Panel given by Captain Jennifer Henderson, Boeing Aircraft Chief Pilot of Production.

The Conference concluded on Saturday evening with the Awards Banquet, honoring the recipients of The Ninety-Nines International Awards, the President’s Award, the Award of Inspiration, and the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship winners. It was truly a star-studded evening!

While most attendees reluctantly departed Vancouver for home on Sunday, others extended the fun with the post-Conference Alaska cruise or other adventures in Canada.

Thank you to the West Canada Section, the British Columbia Coast Chapter, and The Ninety-Nines International Conference Committee for making sure the 2024 Conference checked all the boxes for success! 🍷

# THANK YOU / MERCI

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Have you given an outstanding presentation to your Chapter or Section that you would like to share at the International Conference?

We are looking for dynamic presenters for the 2025 International Conference to be held July 10-13 in Burlington, Vermont. Non 99s will also be considered. Presentations should be approximately one hour, including time for questions and answers.

### If interested in presenting, please submit:

- ✈ Your name (and chapter if applicable)
- ✈ A short abstract of your proposed topic
- ✈ A brief biography, including previous speaking experience

**Send to:** [99scallforpresenters@gmail.com](mailto:99scallforpresenters@gmail.com) by October 1, 2024. Selected speakers will be notified by November 1, 2024. If selected, you will be asked to submit a photo for publication in The Ninety-Nines Magazine and International Conference Program.

**Please note:** Participation is on a volunteer basis. Membership in The Ninety-Nines is not a requirement. Each presenter is responsible for his or her own transportation, lodging, meals, registration, and parking. This is not a venue for promoting products or services.

# 99s Helping Conserve **Endangered Sea Turtles**

By Kelli O'Donnell, *Florida Suncoast Chapter*



**O**n April 3, 2024, five Ninety-Nines from three chapters got together for a unique opportunity. These ladies are all **Turtle Fliers for Turtles Fly Too (TF2)** and were invited to participate in the first pilot sea turtle release. TF2 is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to coordinate and facilitate the use of general aviation to transport endangered species and critical response teams and to educate the community on conservation of marine life. Since its inception in 2014, TF2 has used volunteer pilots, Turtle Fliers, to transport over 6,000 sea turtles as well as multiple other protected species. However, Turtle Fliers have never had the opportunity to participate in a sea turtle release.

Florida Suncoast member Kelli O'Donnell has been the Southeast Pilot Liaison for TF2 since 2020. As a Marine Biologist for NOAA, volunteering with TF2 has been the start of combining her two passions of sea and sky, which she wanted to share with her Ninety-Nines sisters. Her experience with federal permitting for endangered species as well as understanding pilot needs has proved to be mutually beneficial and a crucial piece in developing a procedure that is safe for both the pilots and the animals. Kelli had recruited Brenda Tibbs (Mountaineer Chapter), Terry Carbonell (Paradise Coast Chapter), Sally Frakes (Florida Suncoast Chapter), and Donna Kennady (Florida Suncoast Chapter) for sea turtle transport missions in the past. So, when she heard of this release, the largest in Georgia's history, and the possibility for Turtle Fliers to participate, she jumped on the opportunity to get some Ninety-Nines to attend this once in a lifetime experience.

After completing their rehabilitation from four different facilities within Massachusetts and New York, thirty-four turtles in total were flown down to Jekyll Island, where waters were warm enough for release. This included 33 Kemp's Ridleys, the most critically endangered of the sea turtle species, and one green. These turtles had been cold-stun rescues from 2023 and were finally ready to go back into the wild. Cold-stunning occurs every year around Cape Cod when the water temperatures drop in the fall and some sea turtles don't migrate south to warmer waters fast enough. Because sea turtles are reptiles, when they are subject to cold waters for too long, they become hypothermic or cold-stunned. Cold-stunned turtles lose their ability to swim, and hundreds wash up on northeast beaches each year. Many of the cold-stunned sea turtles have pneumonia and some have other medical conditions or injuries from being washed against rocks, which requires longer term care. These 34 turtles received rehabilitative care, got their veterinary seal of travel approval, and were ready for release. Coordination between multiple federal and state agencies, animal care facilities, and TF2 occurred to secure the required endangered species transport permits and work out the logistics for the pilots to play a part in not only the turtle transport, but also the release. Further conversations with FBOs, sponsors, volunteers, and TF2 pilots occurred and within a few days, the turtles were on their way south.



Opposite: Kelli O'Donnell, *Florida Suncoast Chapter*. | Top: Sally Frakes, *Florida Suncoast Chapter*. | Bottom: Turtle Fliers helping offload the last of the transported sea turtle. The turtles travel in banana boxes to reduce weight.



Unfortunately, it wasn't all blue skies and tailwinds for the Turtle Fliers coming down. They were met with strong headwinds and storms they had to navigate around due to a cold front. While The Ninety-Nines Turtle Fliers anxiously waited in Georgia tracking the flights, they participated in producing a conservation video message about sea turtles and why they want to fly them and about being members of The Ninety-Nines and issues they've faced in the past as women pilots. Finally, the rain that had been going on all day stopped and the sun started to come out. Turtles were offloaded from the two aircraft, loaded into vans, and everyone made the trek to the beach. Each Turtle Flier, including those that flew in with them, got to release two to three turtles each, something not many can say they've done. It was not uncommon to see people getting emotional over this situation. It's hard not to feel an attachment to these endangered animals as you help reintroduce them into the population, hoping they will endure for

future generations. Once the turtle release was complete, the clouds came back in and the winds began to pick up. All the ladies used their good pilot decision-making skills and decided to stay the night and head out the next day. A night of Turtle Flier comradery was held with everyone heading out the next morning to a bright sunny sky, waiting on their next transport call to play their part in saving a sea turtle.

TF2 needs more Turtle Fliers, especially those with six seat or larger aircraft. Feel free to contact Kelli O'Donnell, [kelliodonnell2003@yahoo.com](mailto:kelliodonnell2003@yahoo.com) for more information on how to participate or go to the following link and sign up to be put on the volunteer pilot list. Building flight hours while saving an endangered species, now that's something to put on the resume. And who knows, you just may get to participate in the next sea turtle release.

[www.turtlesflytoo.org/volunteer/](http://www.turtlesflytoo.org/volunteer/) 

Top left: Donna Kennady, *Florida Suncoast Chapter* releases a sea turtle. | Right: Brenda Tibbs, *Mountaineer Chapter*. | Bottom left: 99s with Turtle Fliers for Turtles Fly Too (TF2) President and Founder Leslie Weinstein.

Photos are courtesy of Turtles Fly Too.

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# 2024 International Awards

99s International Conferences celebrate the presenting of the 99s International Awards. 99s President Robin Hadfield and Awards Committee member Laurie Peake congratulated each winner. (Conference photos by Aldo Cruz)

## AWARD OF INSPIRATION SISTERS OF THE SKIES



*Sisters of the Sky award was accepting by Kimberly Ford, Greater Seattle Chapter.*

Sisters of the Skies (SOS) is a nonprofit organization that promotes the inclusion and advancement of African American women in the aviation industry. It provides mentorship, advocacy, scholarships, and support to help women of color pursue careers as professional pilots and other aviation roles. The organization aims to create a more diverse and inclusive aviation community by inspiring and empowering young women to enter the field.

Sisters of the Skies was co-founded in 2017 by Lieutenant Commander Angel Hughes, a U.S. Coast Guard pilot, and 99s member Captain Teresa Claiborne, the first African American female pilot in the U.S. Air Force, who recently retired from the airlines as a 777 Captain. They, along with a group of African American female pilots, established the organization to provide a network and resources for women of color in aviation.

Through mentorship, professional development, and advocacy, they support aspiring pilots and provide a network of camaraderie and resources. Their mission is to diversify the aviation industry and inspire the next generation of female aviators, ensuring a more inclusive and representative future for aviation.

Ninety-Nines member Kimberly Ford, also a member of the Board for Sisters of the Skies, received the award on their behalf.

## AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AVIATION DR. BARBARA GRUBER



Dr. Barbara Gruber serves as the leader of Education and Public Outreach at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. With a fervent dedication to equity and inclusion in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) and aviation fields, she tirelessly advocates for expanded opportunities for underrepresented communities. She designed, put together, and ran a novel aviation summer camp at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum for disadvantaged middle school students in the Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia area called Soaring High Explorers (S.H.E.) Can STEAM Camp.

This initiative is focused on the impressionable middle school years when students, particularly girls, are exploring career options and teachers can shape student confidence and skills in STEAM. Through the activities of the camp, Barbara made a difference by empowering these students to seek and succeed in science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines.

In its first year, 2018, the S.H.E. Can STEAM Camp gave 57 middle school students the chance to experience hands-on flight instruction on FAA-certified simulators, a 30-minute discovery flight with a local flight school, a high-altitude weather balloon launch to study the atmosphere, and an indoor skydiving experience. The campers met with women from a variety of aviation career fields, such as Air Traffic Control, Cyber Security, and Commercial Aviation.

Barbara did all the research to choose the appropriate flight simulators, acquired the simulators, and provided technical support as needed. Furthermore, she organized all the activities and design challenges. The two-week camp activities included launching model rockets, touring FAA air traffic control facilities like Dulles Tower, Potomac Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON), and the Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC), and visiting an aircraft mechanic school.

Barbara went above and beyond for her campers as she even used her kayak to rescue a camper's instruments when her weather balloon landed in the river!

The camp was clearly a success as it was repeated the next year with 60 campers. In the four years of the camp, it has hosted 378 campers.

Drawing from her rich background as a former Assistant Director of Education at the National Air and Space Museum, alongside her pursuit as a student pilot, Dr. Gruber embodies a commitment to inspiring and empowering diverse voices in the realms of science, exploration, and aviation.

## AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NINETY-NINES LAURENE (FIELDER) MCENENY



Laurene (Fielder) McEneny was born in Michigan in 1958. She grew up on a small island south of Detroit called Grosse Ile. Although small, the island

was home to one of the largest primary flight training stations for Naval aviators.

Laurene became fascinated with airplanes as a child by watching the constant flow of air traffic just above her family home. This love was encouraged by her father, Don Fielder, who served as an ATC in the U.S. Air Force. Eventually, the two of them would become certified pilots, both training at the old Naval Station turned municipal airport – Grosse Ile Municipal Airport (KONZ).

Laurene was issued her Private Pilot Certificate on December 30, 1977. Her father purchased a Piper PA-28R and began flying lessons in early 1978. Together they pursued their love of flying in Cherokee N2678R.

In December of 1978, Laurene graduated with a bachelor's degree from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She

joined The Ninety-Nines on February 23, 1979. In the summer of 1979 Laurene was hired by General Electric and moved to Bethesda, Maryland.

Her life moved in another direction when she and two other people started a computer software company in Detroit in 1983. The company, American Tech, Inc., developed and sold the first PC-based procurement software, P.O. Writer Plus.

The '80s were a busy time. In 1985, Laurene would marry one of her initial business partners, Tim McEneny, and in 1987 she would become a mother to daughter Erika.

During the '80s and '90s the company grew steadily, transitioned to the Internet, expanded internationally, and was renamed PurchasingNet, Inc. In 2009 the company was sold to a large software company which allowed Tim and Laurene to retire.

After retiring and moving to Florida, Laurene began to fly again and rejoined The Ninety-Nines. She also became involved with various organizations as she was determined to become an active volunteer.

Some of Laurene's regular volunteer activities include fundraising for flying scholarships: for the Susan G. Komen 3-Day, for the Community Foundation, and for The Real-Life Children's Ranch. She is the current Secretary for the Treasure Coast Chapter.

## AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

### KELLI O'DONNELL



Kelli O'Donnell is a private pilot for land and sea and works as a Marine Biologist for NOAA Fisheries. She has been a member of The Ninety-Nines since 2016

and of the Florida Suncoast Chapter since 2017. In addition to her job, she is involved with humanitarian efforts by participating in and inspiring others to become involved in conservation of endangered species via aviation.

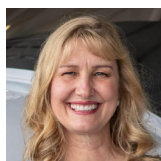
Since 2019, Kelli has combined her love of sea and sky by volunteering with the

nonprofit Turtles Fly Too (TF2), an organization whose mission is to improve the survival rate of endangered species by engaging general aviation pilots to provide air transport for affected species and critical response teams. This reduces transport time and stress on the animals, which increases their chance of survival. Kelli now serves as the TF2 Southeast Pilot Liaison organizing sea turtle rescue fly-ins, organizing logistics for and flying local and international sea turtle rescue flights, assisting with federal permitting needs, and recruiting Ninety-Nines pilots. She's used her experience as a marine biologist and as a pilot to streamline efficiency between partners and alleviate concern over nonanimal care specialists (pilots) being in charge of endangered species during flight by publishing a Protocol for Pilots Transporting Sea Turtles. This document is now used by multiple agencies and shared with Turtle Fliers before their first flight. It not only discusses the need to protect sea turtles being transported, but also outlines pilot safety. Additionally, she's used networking and facilitation skills to get approval to land at the restricted NASA Kennedy Space Center Shuttle Landing Facility for sea turtle releases and most recently assisted with organizing Georgia's largest sea turtle release where Ninety-Nines Turtle Fliers were invited to participate returning sea turtles "home." She currently is investigating obtaining aircraft donations, specifically an amphibious seaplane, to increase TF2's sea turtle release capability and the organization's funding and outreach opportunities.

To date, TF2 has transported over 6,000 sea turtles with Kelli transporting over 50. She looks forward to continuing to further TF2's mission, engaging new Ninety-Nines Turtle Fliers, and flying sea turtles and other endangered species herself.

## AWARD OF MERIT

### CATHY PRESS



Cathy Press is a trailblazing aviator and CEO of Chinook Helicopters, a premiere flight training school headquartered in Abbotsford, B.C., Canada.

In 2019, she was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award Winners by the Women's Executive Network.

With a passion for aviation inherited from her father, she achieved her first solo flight at just 16 years old, then quickly



acquired her Private, Commercial Pilot and Helicopter Licenses becoming one of only six women in Canada with that distinction at the time. Cathy was not only the first female Helicopter Flight Instructor in Canada but currently the only person in the country that holds the Transport Canada Pilot Examiner status in both airplanes and helicopters. In 2023, Cathy achieved status as the first woman in Canada to become a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Certified Flight Instructor in addition to holding her FAA, ATPL, and CAAC license.

Through Cathy's drive to grow the company, Bell Helicopters announced the Bell 505 Dealership Agreement with Chinook Helicopters during the HAI Heli Expo in Anaheim, which makes Chinook the first authorized Bell 505 dealership in Canada. Chinook also holds the status of a certified Robinson Dealership, with over 25 Robinson Aircraft sold under her leadership.

As a true leader in the aviation industry, she has been recognized for her outstanding achievements. She was awarded the W.A. "Dub" Blessing Flight Instructor of the Year Award during the HAI Heli Expo. She has won numerous awards, including the Bank of Montreal's Innovation and Global Growth Award, the Enterprising Women of the Year Award by Enterprise Magazine, and the Back and Bevington Air Safety Award for the most significant contribution to air safety in British Columbia. She was awarded the DCAM Flight Instructor Safety and in 2021 she was given the Honorary Doctorate in technology at the University of the Fraser Valley for her long-standing commitment and contribution to the aviation industry. Her involvement in the aviation industry is truly inspiring as she is the Vice Chair for British Columbia Aviation Council (BCAC), an Air Transport Association of Canada (ATAC) member, and a board member of the International Women's Federation (IWF). She sits as the Chair of the Flight Training Committee for the Helicopter Association Canada (HAC) and is on the Business Advisory Committees for the University of the Fraser Valley and the British Columbia Institute of Technology. She is an inspirational figure who has


# 2024 International Awards

made a significant impact on the aviation industry. Her commitment to excellence and her pioneering spirit continue to inspire new generations of pilots, and her achievements have paved the way for women in a traditionally male-dominated industry.

## GEORGE PALMER PUTMAN INTERNATIONAL AWARD

### EDWARD MARQUET



 Edward Marquet, a lawyer by trade, is widely known as “The Legend” because of his warmth, personality, and legal skills. He is a man after the true spirit of George Putnam – the faithful supporter of a flying wife. He has faithfully supported and encouraged the women pilots of the NOLA 99s Chapter since his wife joined The 99s in 2008.

Their story is similar to that of George Putnam and Amelia Earhart, who once had their car break down while driving. It wasn't George who could repair it, but Amelia. Ed is not the mechanical one in the family. However, he has developed his right seat duties that include assisting his wife with the radio as well as dialing in the transponder code and watching for carburetor icing. Ed is extremely proud of his wife, her 99s and all they have accomplished including her Instrument and Commercial Ratings and the purchase of an airplane. He also suggested she participate in air races, always to polish her skills.

Ed does not miss a single NOLA Chapter meeting or event. He loves the camaraderie displayed in this group. He attended the section meetings and several International Conferences held in Pennsylvania, San Antonio, Germany, and South Carolina, making friendships with many of the women pilots. Not to mention the New Orleans International Conference where he helped as they hosted it! Ed has attended the International Forest of Friendship in Kansas with the NOLA Chapter twice and it was there he revealed his fight with Parkinson's. The chapter members say Ed is always smiling and making them laugh despite

his debilitation. He has made a positive and playful impact among all The 99s. The young and old alike appreciate his presence. He even started a 99s message thread to spread encouragement to chapter members. Ed went so far as to honor his wife's involvement with The 99s by getting a tattoo of the NOLA 49½ logo on his arm. The NOLA Chapter also recently honored him with their only Man of the Decade Trophy.

## 2024 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

### THE 99S PROFESSIONAL PILOT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (PPLI)



*Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative award was accepted Laura Matherson, Kritika Vincent, PPLI Founder Jenny Beatty.*

This year's recipient of the President's Award is one of The Ninety-Nines most distinguished programs. The dedicated members who have participated and driven this program forward over the years have generously invested their personal time and energy to enhance the success of fellow members.

Twenty years ago, The Ninety-Nines Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) was launched to provide structured mentoring and career development for Ninety-Nines members aiming for professional pilot careers and to develop future aviation leaders.

Conceived in 2003 by Jenny Beatty and Laura Smith, the idea for the PPLI began after Jenny's presentation at The Ninety-Nines annual convention. Laura's question about a mentoring program sparked their collaboration, leading to the creation of PPLI. This program benefits commercially certified women pilots pursuing professional careers by providing structured mentoring relationships. Participants commit to the program for 18 to 24 months, receiving and giving mentoring guidance.

Over the past two decades, the PPLI has been enriched by the expertise of over 75 women pilot leaders, all Ninety-Nines, from diverse aviation sectors. These mentors, hailing from the airline, military, corporate, government, and general aviation sectors, generously volunteer their time to share their knowledge and experience, helping mentees accelerate their career development through personalized mentoring.

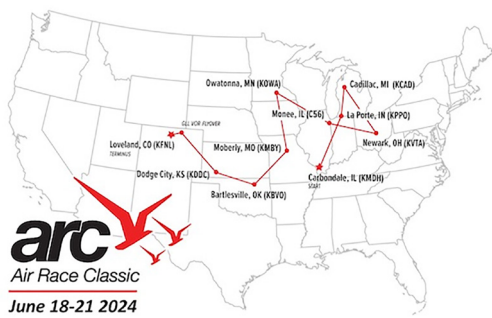
The core goals and structure of the PPLI have remained unchanged. Since 2007, all team leads have been PPLI graduates, demonstrating the program's success and commitment to nurturing future aviation leaders. Graduates develop leadership, managerial, and organizational skills while contributing to The Ninety-Nines and the aviation community.

A past team lead emphasized the importance of leadership, noting that corporations seek future captains, not just first officers. Participants spend one to four hours monthly on self-directed leadership activities, learning by doing.

Today, over 200 PPLI graduates from 15 nations and various U.S. and Canadian Ninety-Nines sections are making significant strides in their aviation careers. They hold leadership positions as Captains at major airlines, Corporate Pilots, Test Pilots, Airline Operations Managers, and more, a testament to the transformative power of the PPLI.

The PPLI will continue to be the world's premier mentoring program for Ninety-Nines leaders in aviation.

“Without the PPLI I would not be where I am today. It was essential for me, to form a vision for my future and give me the confidence to achieve it. And most importantly, I would have never learned how important it is to give back and inspire other women in aviation!”



# “From the Plains to the Peaks” – ARC 2024

By Minnetta Gardinier, *International Vice President*

**F**orty-nine teams registered to race, and 48 teams launched out of Southern Illinois Airport (KMDH, Carbondale, Illinois) on June 18. This year, the Air Race Classic (ARC) split the teams into two classes – Competitive (24) and Intercollegiate (22) – and two teams flew the route noncompetitively for the experience. All teams met the challenges of flying an ARC route, and all took home great lessons and grew their aviation skills.

From the plains and prairies of southern Illinois to the foothills of the Rockies, racers flew nine timing lines at En Route stops and a Terminus Flyover point before landing at Northern Colorado Regional Airport (Loveland, Colorado). They covered 2,269 nautical miles over four days with landings in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado. As always, weather was a key element throughout the race – heat, headwinds, rain, low ceilings, turbulence. All these factors played into team decisions when to fly each leg and what altitudes to fly at. All of this is what makes this race so challenging and intriguing. The last factor, of course, is LUCK – the unknown that can make or break any team’s final standing.

Just over half the racers were 99s (58/106), and just under half were collegiate racers (50/106) representing 14 universities. Fifty-seven racers flew the race for the very first time! Gretchen Jahn (Colorado Chapter) was honored for flying 25 ARCs! The Flying Carastros were honored as a three-generation team with Marie (age 95), Susan (daughter, aunt), and Danielle (granddaughter, niece) Carastro again teaming up – Marie and Susan have flown 20 ARCs. It is this mix of women pilots that has brought me back to the race every year since 2008 – 99s, collegiate, and rookie racers from all walks of

life. For nearly two weeks, we gathered again with old friends and made new friends...expanding our networks.

So how did it all shake out? Top Ten prizes were split proportionately to the Top Six in the Competitive class and the Top Four in the Intercollegiate class. ALL racers in the Top Six group were 99s with Team DC3-1 Debi Dreyfus (Washington DC Chapter) and Joy Halcott (Maryland Chapter) taking THE top place. They also won the 99s Terminal Leg Award. Kent State University Flying Flashes – Navy took home the top Intercollegiate award for the third year in a row! Southern Illinois University – Carbondale, Purdue, and Western Michigan completed the Intercollegiate top winners. For those not among the top 10 team winners, 27 leg prizes (three per leg) were distributed among 12 teams.

Every racer at the Terminus “meltdown party” IS a winner, and they all had their tales to share and memories to last a lifetime. For me, the best times are those that you spend with other racers along the route at the stops – sharing your trials and successes, asking for and/or giving advice to others. The highlight at the Terminus was when the last team taxied in Friday evening near sunset as the meltdown party was winding down. The AirDawgs fought their way through weather and mechanical issues but still made it to Loveland to celebrate their adventure. All the racers gathered at the ropeline on the ramp to cheer their arrival and their spirit. THAT is the ARC!

Consider challenging yourself to a future ARC or sign up to volunteer at a stop. Check out the 2025 race route – flying Fairhope, Alabama to Spokane, Washington. Visit [www.airraceclassic.org](http://www.airraceclassic.org) for details.

Top left: 2024 ARC route Carbondale, Illinois to Loveland, Colorado. | Top middle: Celebrating their arrival at the Terminus. Team 37 – Cirrusly Fast – Sara Etherington, *Greater Kansas City Chapter* and Bailey Baker, *Iowa Chapter*. | Top right: AirDawgs landed at the Terminus late, but they are cheered by the air racers. | Bottom left: 99s gather at the ARC Start in Carbondale. | Bottom right: Check out next year’s race route! Fairhope, Alabama to Spokane, Washington in 2025 | Photos by Jeneanne Visser.

## OVER 800 YEARS OF SAFE FLIGHT RECOGNIZED!



Members of the Houston Chapter in attendance at the celebration of safe aviators: Susan Haass, Becky Nickell, LuAnn Pfeifer-Cotton, Carol Brackley, and Shelly Lesikar-deZevallos.



Top row, left to right: Houston Chapter members Carol Brackley; Susan Haass; Lance Little with the FAA; Gary Able; Stanley Hoffpauier; Thomas Barger; Walter 'Frank' Huber; Mr. Randall Hollenberg (representing his son Randy); Paul F. Yust; Scott E. Rozzell; Shelly Lesikar-deZevallos, President West Houston Airport and member of Houston Chapter

Seated (L-R): John Isager, Warren Lee Smith, Ed Vesely, Noel Graubart, Richard Wilson, Paul Carrington, Brenda Landing (Master Pilot and Houston Chapter member). Not pictured: Noel Richard Welsh and Mr. William Harper.

The Houston Chapter and Lance Little of the FAA FAASTeam program proudly recognized 16 aviators for an evening at West Houston Airport (KIWS). These 16 aviators' 50 years of safe flight and over 800 years of combined flight experience were recognized with the FAA Master Pilot Wright Brothers Award. Over 150 friends, family, and flying buddies gathered to congratulate and honor these pioneers of safe flight.

Each history-making pilot shared a small part of their story and journey. From crop dusting to military, from private pilot to airline transport pilot (ATP). "All of us are extremely fortunate to have these individuals making history in the realm of our skies," said Woody Lesikar, West Houston Airport Director.

According to Lance Little with the FAA, "There have been 8,737 Master Pilots awarded in the U.S. With over a million pilots in the world, that's an exclusive club. There are 991 Master Pilots here in Texas. In the Houston area there are 188 Master Pilots, with these newly awarded pilots, that will make 204 locally."

The West Houston Airport, established in 1962, is a General Aviation Airport located at 18000 Groschke Road on Houston's west side. The airport is home to Houston's oldest continuously operating flight training school and maintains a base aircraft count of some 350 planes. The 99s is an international organization of women pilots and those training to become pilots, with chapters located all over the world. The Houston Chapter meets at the West Houston Airport. For further information about The 99s and how to become a member contact Susan Haass at flyingpyrs@gmail.com.

For general aviation information contact Shelly Lesikar-deZevallos, Ed.D., President of the West Houston Airport at shelly@westhoustonairport.com.

- Shelly Lesikar-deZevallos, Ed.D.,  
Houston Chapter

## Reports

### AMELIA EARHART BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

#### New Donor Plaque Pedestal

The Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum has a new fundraiser underway! The much beloved brick fundraiser has ended due to the new landscaping initiative. Don't worry, any previously purchased bricks will continue to be on display. Soon we'll collect them into one spot for ease of access.

Our new fundraiser consists of bronze (\$250-\$499), silver (\$500-\$999), and gold (\$1,000 plus) plaques on a custom donor pedestal to honor your donation in perpetuity. This pedestal has been installed in the Formal Dining Room of the AEBM, our room dedicated to The 99s. A donation for these plaques will also receive the equivalent level of membership perks to the museum, including free guided tours, gift shop discounts, and tickets to various special and members-only events.

The plaques allow for longer inscriptions than the bricks had, including three lines of up to 32 characters. You can email [giftshop@ameliaearhartmuseum.org](mailto:giftshop@ameliaearhartmuseum.org) for an order form for the plaques.

The AEBM is a 501(c)(3) and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its success depends on contributions from our visitors and supporters. We currently have many important projects that we're working on. We're raising funds for our landscaping initiative to bring the museum outside, including a more accessible entrance to the museum, a garden featuring plants popular during the Victorian Era, and signs that'll tell Amelia's childhood stories. We're also working continually to preserve our valuable collection and continually refresh our exhibits, so that each time you visit, you learn something new.

**Bronze Plaque:** \$250-\$499

**Silver Plaque:** \$500-\$999

**Gold Plaque:** \$1,000 plus

If you have any questions, or would like to purchase a plaque, please email [giftshop@ameliaearhartmuseum.org](mailto:giftshop@ameliaearhartmuseum.org) or call 913-367-4217.



# Places to Go & Things to Do



## Mary Bryant

Florida Suncoast Chapter

*Mary 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 always welcome!*

*marybryant100@gmail.com*

*Left: Claire and Mary Bryant during the 2021 ARC Air Derby. | Top center: Some of the 2021 ARC Air Derby Routes. | Top right: Claire Bryant preparing the aircraft for the Derby. | Bottom right: Skirting weather along the route on Derby day.*

I'm delighted to continue with my second column of "Places to Go and Things to Do."

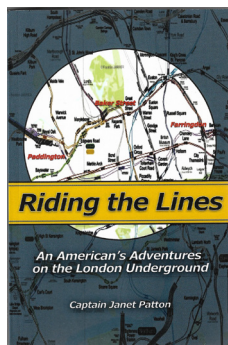
Most 99s know about the Air Race Classic (ARC), but how many of you are familiar with the ARC Air Derby? The first Derby was conducted in 2021 in the midst of COVID-19 when the traditional ARC was canceled. The Derby format provided an opportunity for everyone to fly in their own vicinity without the need to gather and fly as a group. The first Derby drew 90 teams, 208 pilots, and aircraft from several countries (including the United States, Canada, and New Zealand). By 2022, the second year of the Derby, COVID-19 restrictions had loosened enough for the traditional ARC to be flown and registration for the Derby decreased dramatically. By the third year (2023), registration decreased so much that the event was canceled. The 2024 Derby has been announced and I'm hoping to fly it for the third time and, in the meantime, increase awareness to ensure its viability.

I really like the Derby. I've also flown the traditional ARC. Although nothing beats the ARC for a four-day extended cross-country race where speed and good planning determine the victors, the Derby has some very desirable features and the much greater flexibility of the Derby makes it appealing to many who don't have the time, aircraft access, or want to expend the resources required to fly the ARC. It's less expensive and can be used by CFIs (as a long cross-country lesson) with no overnights or hotels are required.

The Derby is completed on the day of your choice within a 10-day window, September 27 to October 6, 2024. You can fly anywhere in the world over a course designed by you according to race rules. The route must include five legs of a minimum of 65 NM each and a landing at one airport other than the start/stop point. The legs can be defined by airports, waypoints, or latitudes/longitudes and the course must start and end at the same location. On the day you choose to fly, you submit your time estimate for each leg to the scorer prior to start. The objective is to fly your team-designed route and be the closest to your estimated time. Whoever flies closest to their planned flight wins. The route must be flown by VFR and FAR regulations (or regulations applicable in other countries) during the day. ForeFlight, Bad Elf, or a similar device must be used to download and submit actual times for judging. Insurance confirmation and aircraft compliance documentation are required.

The Derby is very flexible in other ways. Aircraft are only required for one day and can be light sport, experimental, and turbo charged. Teams consist of at least one woman pilot and one or more teammates to ride along. The first year, I flew the Derby with my 17-year-old student pilot daughter, Claire. She did great and we came in fourth. It's a memory I will long cherish.

Leg and total route prizes are awarded at a virtual banquet. To check out the complete set of rules and to register, go to [www.derby.airraceclassic.org](http://www.derby.airraceclassic.org). Registration opens August 15, 2024. So, grab some of your flying buddies and experience the adventure and challenge that aviation competition brings! 🏁



Copyright 2024  
Independently published  
by Janet Patton  
ISBN: 979-8320039282  
Available on Amazon:  
Paperback and  
Kindle editions

## **RIDING THE LINES** – *An American's Adventures on the London Underground*

Author: Captain Janet Patton, *Ambassador Chapter*

Recommended by Madeleine Monaco, *Chicago Area Chapter*

If you're expecting a guidebook to the London Underground, you'll get it. If you're expecting an enthusiastic traveler's recollections of traveling via the London Underground, you'll get it. If you're expecting a memoir of sorts from a highly accomplished female pilot, you'll get that, too. This book is a wonderful compilation of so many of those things and more.

Janet gives us history lessons, personality profiles (I loved reading about Alan, the bus service conductor on the green vintage bus!), descriptions of hidden artwork, family travel tips, and a plethora of "meeting people along the way" sorts of tales. This book is a delightful collection of everything that makes London and traveling such fun.

As a side note, the book begins in 1994 as Janet begins her career flying cargo for Zantop International Airlines. Her description of Marty Martin, one of the people her book is dedicated to, is marvelous. She introduces him as "the liaison for clueless pilots like me coming for temporary duty assignments to the UK." What follows in that first chapter is a rollicking whirlwind of a learning experience.

My advice: Get this book!



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Robyn Itule  
ISBN: 979-8880290789  
Available on Amazon:  
Paperback and  
Kindle editions

## **GRITTY. INDEPENDENT. RESOURCEFUL. LEADERS.**

*Jacqueline Cochran, Nancy Harkness-Love and the Women Airforce Service Pilots*

Author: Written and illustrated by Robyn Itule

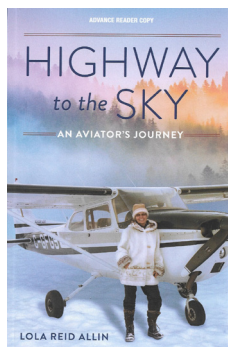
I refuse to categorize this marvelous little book as a children's book or label it with the genre of "juvenile." The format may appear to be more suitable for a younger audience, but this gem covers every age.

The first thing that grabbed my attention was the quality and type of illustrations used. There is a complete section in the back of the book titled "About the Artwork." The illustrations are built on the stylistically unique poster art from WWII, which takes this book to an entirely different level. I love it.

The main part of the story about Cochran, Love, and the WASP is written in, in my view, sophisticated verse. It doesn't rhyme overtly, but I found myself reading with a specific cadence – one that will really appeal to the younger reader.

The "Author's Note" section is truly a surprise. Itule shares a family history that is attention-grabbing. I won't give it away, but it's a story you'll enjoy as much as the main text of the book.

This little book will exceed your expectations!



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## **HIGHWAY TO THE SKY** – *An Aviator's Journey*

Author: Lola Reid Allin, *First Canadian Chapter*

Lola Reid Allin's book is an extremely candid look at beginning a flying career in a less than enlightened time period. Those of us who also learned to fly in the 1970s can relate to many of her flight experiences.

While reading this book, the constant theme was persistence: persistence in reaching her goal of learning to fly despite dealing with less-than-equitable situations, persistence in surviving some less-than-workable choices in men, persistence in being a good mom to her son, and persistence in trying not to second-guess herself at every turn. In many ways, it's a difficult book to read.

The stories she tells and the chronicle of her life exhibit a tenacity of spirit that inspires. The decisions she makes, both good and not-so-good, also serve as an example of a woman's success in getting where she wants to be.

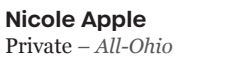
The descriptions of flying in Canada are attention-grabbing. For anyone who isn't familiar with the path to a Commercial Rating in Canada and the Canadian flight training processes, Lola has included a Glossary section. It helps round out the story.

# Milestones

**Abigail Abercrombie**  
Instrument – Alabama



**Zohrah Amiri**  
Private – Minnesota



**Nicole Apple**  
Private – All-Ohio



**Madeleine Brain**  
Private – Mississippi



**Evelyn Canfield**  
Commercial; Multi-Engine Commercial – Minnesota



**Chloe Clark**  
CFI – Tennessee

**Bridgett Cornet**  
Tailwheel Endorsement – Wisconsin



**Grace Cowherd**  
First Officer  
Envoy Airlines  
– Arkansas



**Janna Crow**  
CFII – Tennessee



**Emily Davila**  
Instrument  
– Kentucky Bluegrass



**Kimberly Davis**  
Private – Alabama



**Megan Hennessy**  
Multi-Engine, and  
Seaplane  
– Austin Hill Country



**Kim Marcel**  
Private, and Instrument  
Ground Instructor  
– Minnesota



**Frances Melina Velazquez Mercado**  
Instrument  
– Old Dominion

**Heidi Neumann**  
Commercial  
Multi add-on  
– Arkansas



**Mandi Neumann**  
CFI – Wisconsin



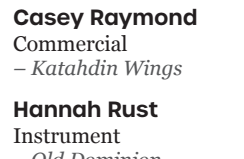
**Rachel Morrow**  
Commercial – Michigan



**Olivia Parmenter**  
Multi-Engine  
– Kentucky Bluegrass



**Allie Ranzau**  
Instrument  
– Kentucky Bluegrass



**Casey Raymond**  
Commercial  
– Katahdin Wings



**Hannah Rust**  
Instrument  
– Old Dominion



**Isabella Sargent**  
Private  
– Florida First Coast

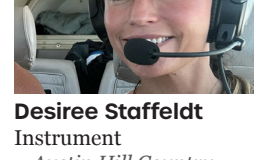
**Caroline Seurer**  
Solo – Minnesota



**Carmen Scruggs**  
Tailwheel Endorsement  
– Arkansas



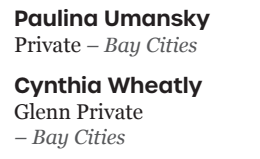
**Erin Siemienas**  
Private – Minnesota



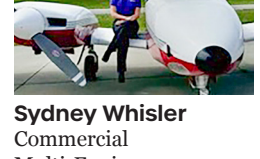
**Zhenia Smolinska**  
CFI – Bay Cities



**Desiree Staffeldt**  
Instrument  
– Austin Hill Country



**Kira Thompson**  
Private – Tennessee



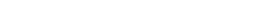
**Paulina Umansky**  
Private – Bay Cities



**Cynthia Wheatly**  
Glenn Private  
– Bay Cities



**Sydney Whisler**  
Commercial  
Multi-Engine  
– Lake Tahoe



**Mary Kay Zhang**  
Private – Colorado



Left photo: Cynthia Axell, Peg Doyle, and Yvy Von Helde on the ramp (Photo by Yvy's 49½, Chris Von Helde). | Right photo: Sarah Patten (right) and volunteer helicopter pilot Banu Cole (left) with two other ramp volunteers. (Photo taken by Sarah Patten.)

## OLD DOMINION CHAPTER

The Old Dominion Chapter co-hosted a Women Can Fly event at Warrenton Airport (KHWY) on Saturday, June 8. The event was co-sponsored by the Virginia Department of Aviation, the Warrenton Airport Manager, David Huss, and The 99s. It was a beautiful day to introduce women and girls to aviation.

The statistics for the day: 222 people attended the pre-flight briefings, 58 people constructed cell phone stands with aircraft building techniques at Women Can Build, 25 pilots volunteered to fly the participants, 239 people flew with us.

Sarah Patten, an Old Dominion member and Air Traffic Controller at Potomac Approach, planned and coordinated this event for the last seven years. Over the last seven years, 1,457 people attended the preflight briefings and 1,329 people flew with us. These are phenomenal numbers and we know that some of our current members started their aviation journey here.

Besides Sarah, our volunteers included Cynthia Axell, Peg Doyle, Mary McCutcheon, Melissa Plumer, Hannah Rust, Jenn Weller, Yvy Von Helde and her 49½, Chris. They spent all day on the ramp, and they were tired and sunburned but had lots of fun and generated tons of smiles.

Sarah is planning to host the event again next year, which will be her eighth year of coordinating and planning the super day for our aspiring aviatrixes.

Old Dominion Chapter member Hannah Rust remembers her first experience with flight and reflects, "First impressions are so important! As I think back to my first flight, I was awakened to a dream that I didn't realize could become a reality. The Women Can Fly event has been that positive first impression of aviation for so many young women, girls, and families over the years. It not only offers a flight experience, it introduces those attending to the supportive and dynamic industry that we all love. Seeing the transformation in the young girls who attend is inspiring — their confidence soars throughout the day. Sarah's consistent leadership and collaboration with an extraordinary team of volunteers has created an incredible opportunity to make the gift of flight accessible to all."

– Susan Passmore



From left: Anupama Kar, Barb Vukits, Frances Rose and Linda Langrill were timers at the ARC stop in Cadillac, Michigan.

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER

The Michigan 99s have continued to grow over the last few months to 114 members. We can't wait to see how many new members may have joined while attending EAA AirVenture this year. The chapter held their Annual Meeting on June 1, 2024, at Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport (KMOP). Members were able to attend both in person and over Zoom. Following the meeting, in-person attendees enjoyed lunch together at a local restaurant. Dr. Sarah Albers, MD, MPH, CWSP, FAA Certified AME, was the guest speaker for our June meeting held on June 4, 2024. Dr. Albers shared valuable information from her experience related to FAA medical exams. She also responded to member questions. Dr. Albers offices at Romeo State Airport (D98) in Romeo, Michigan, makes it easy for pilots to fly in for their exams and consults.

Michigan Chapter members Anupama Kar, Barb Vukits, Frances Rose, Amy Witzke and Linda Langrill volunteered as "timers" for the 2024 Air Race Classic at the second stop in Cadillac, Michigan (KCAD). First-time air racers Sarah Haskett and Timber Dawson (Kentucky Blue Grass Chapter) competed as team "Sky Moms," and finished the race in 23 hours and 29 minutes of flight time on June 21.

Melanie McNicholas, Aviation & Space Education Chair, is a monthly contributor to the Michigan 99s Michigan Flyer newsletter. Each month, Melanie provides an article highlighting pilot safety and proficiency. Melanie is a FAA FAAST Team member and a member of the EAA Chapter 333 "The Flying Stinkers" VMC/IMC Club at Ann Arbor Municipal Airport in Ann Arbor, Michigan (ARB).

## Congratulations Scholarship Winners!

The Michigan chapter is proud to announce the following scholarship winners: Megan Schittenhelm received a \$3,500 scholarship from the Debbie Franceus Memorial Aviation Foundation; Arian Perez received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Debbie Franceus Memorial Aviation Foundation; Cherry Kan received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Debbie Franceus Memorial Aviation Foundation

– Barb Vukits

## CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

### Hosting ARC Stop at Bult Field

Air Race Classic 2024 is in the history books, and the winners are posted on [airraceclassic.org](http://airraceclassic.org). The Chicago Area Chapter hosted Stop No. 4 at Bult Field (C56) in south suburban Monee – a fabulous airport venue managed by a great team. Race Stop Co-Chairs were Cynthia Madsen and Megan McArthur, with Head Timer Madeleine Monaco. Support came from Diane Cozzi and Vickie Szewczyk who also assisted as timers. And 49½ partners Ralph Madsen and Tony Greco were absolutely vital to the operation. In addition, there were many volunteers covering fueling, timing, and of course, hospitality – all determined to do their best to support the racers.

Our gratitude goes to Bult Airport Manager Mark Thompson, Airport Ops Specialist Meredith Coon, the Ramirez Group directed by Sean Fortson for fueling, and Hanson Inc. for food and drink directed by Maribeth McLaughlin. With everyone pulling together to tackle this great event, the racers voted Bult Field as Best Stop. The airport received a plaque to display proudly, and of course bragging rights.

But we know that all Stops got racer votes for Best Stop, and deservedly so. All 99s and the plethora of terrific volunteers at all the Stops worked exceedingly hard to tackle this huge event, and enjoyed it in spite of the heat, long hours, and stress of a national air race. It was exciting!

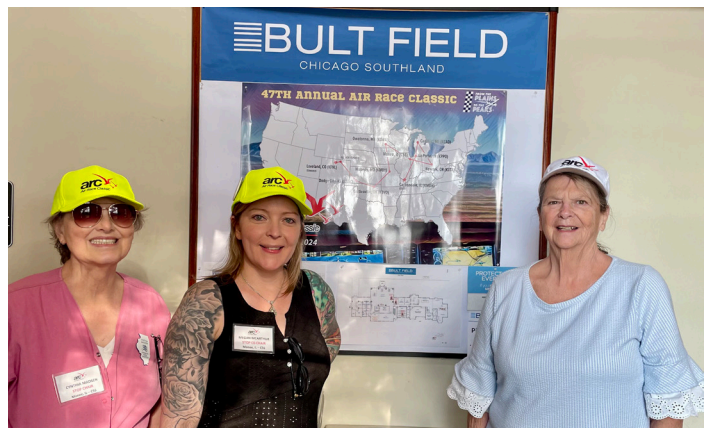
### Annual Chapter Awards

Our June meeting this summer was our annual presentation of awards, held at Skill Aviation at Waukegan National Airport (KUGN) in north suburban Chicago. Chair Madeleine Monaco presented awards to her supporting chapter officers and committee chairs: Vice Chair Larisa Kano, Treasurer Shelley Ventura, Secretary Vickie Szewczyk, Webmaster Cynthia Madsen, Amelia Earhart Scholarship Chair Sharon Ann Schorsch, and Membership Chair Karen Ballard. Recognition also went to 49½ Partners of the Year: Yosh Kano, Tony Greco, Ralph Madsen and Michael Baraz. Flying Awards went to: Rising Stars Piper Colantone and Linda Millon, Student Pilot of the Year Corie Wild, and Pilot of the Year Megan McArthur!

Our own Yanina Belazorava, Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) Graduate Excellent, was our speaker, providing a presentation on the PPLI Program. She did so well that we asked her to do another presentation soon.

Special thanks to our hostess Hannah Barnett and to Chris Greene, Chief Pilot, and the staff at Skill Aviation. They provided BBQ burgers, salad, cookies, lemonade, and watermelon for everyone at the meeting. Yum!

– Diane M. Cozzi



Top: Stop Co-chairs Cynthia Madsen and Megan McArthur with Head Timer Madeleine Monaco. | Middle: One of the timing crews: Standing: Vickie and Madeleine; Sitting: Chris Greene and Diane Cozzi. | Bottom: Stop Chair Megan and Head Timer Madeleine.



Dean and Tammie Jo Shults, San Antonio Chapter, and Billy James spoke to the Austin Hill Country Chapter on behalf of Angel Flight South Central at its quarterly chapter meeting.

## AUSTIN HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

The Austin Hill Country Chapter hosted Angel Flight South Central members during its quarterly meeting at the Gillespie County Airport (T82) recently.

Dr. Billy James, of Fredericksburg, Texas, along with Dean and Tammie Jo Shults from Boerne, Texas, told a story of how volunteer pilots in a five-state region are transforming lives. All three are pilots and have flown Angel Flight missions for the past five years. Their goal was to “recruit pilots, inform healthcare practitioners of our mission and raise funds to support the organization,” said James. “You (The 99s) can help us by spreading the word on the important service we provide,” he continued. Angel Flight South Central’s mission is to help people in need of free air transportation for medical and humanitarian purposes. Founded in 1991 and based in Dallas, the nonprofit organization serves Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, and New Mexico. In 2023, some 300 South Central pilots flew 4,521 passengers on 2,864 mission legs covering 650,000 nautical miles.

To qualify for volunteer service, Angel Flight pilots are required to have a minimum of 250 hours logged as Pilot in Command (PIC) of the aircraft along with a current Pilot Certificate, medical card and liability insurance.

Interested pilots and potential donors may contact the office at 972-755-0433 or [info@angelflightsc.org](mailto:info@angelflightsc.org).

– Submitted by Greta Moore  
(excerpt from Fredericksburg Standard-Radio  
Post by Lindy Segall, contributor)



Top: Minnesota Chapter members at Mankato Airport. |  
Bottom: Marcy Drescher tying her quilt.

## MINNESOTA CHAPTER

The Minnesota Chapter has been busy. In February, we visited the nonprofit Flight Expo, Inc., in Princeton, Minnesota, to tour their Build-a-Plane project and learn about how they educate young people in aircraft building and maintenance. Our Spring Quarterly Business Meeting was held on March 16 at the Anoka County/Blaine Airport (KANE). While at the meeting, our member Marcy Drescher had us tying a quilt she created. She is donating the quilt to a silent auction at the North Central Section Fall Meeting, which we are hosting in September. In April, we had a flyout to visit the Mankato Regional Airport (KMKT) and listened to presentations by a couple of our members about airport operations. We had our annual booth at the Great Minnesota Aviation Gathering at the Buffalo Municipal Airport (KCFE) in May.

Our members have a lot to celebrate. Jennifer Lewis received our Liz Strohfus Memorial Scholarship for currency. Erin Siemienas, Zohrah Amiri, and Victoria Delshire earned their Private Pilot Certificates. Victoria Delshire also passed her Instrument check ride, Emma Gaustad passed her Instrument check ride, Evelyn Canfield passed her Commercial check ride and her Multi-Engine Commercial check ride, and Brenda Hanson received her CFI.

Heather McNevin was awarded the Giving Wings to Aviation Scholarship and Sophia Bowman was awarded the “Fellowship of Aviation”: Randy Sohn Family Memorial Scholarship at the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame Banquet in April. Susan Bailey-Schmidt was awarded the 2024 prestigious Delta Leather Helmet Award for safety by the Delta Air Line Pilot Association.

– Dr. Melissa Aho



Top left: Colorado Chapter Student Pilot Meetup Group at KBJC tower. | Top center: Terry Fiala, Lydia Baldwin and June Stewart at ARC Terminus KFNL. | Top right: Amanda Willson, Margot Plummer, Alaina Bravo. | Middle center: Airmarking at Wings Over The Rockies Centennial 2024. | Bottom left: Alaina Bravo enjoys a glider flight at Mile High Gliding. | Bottom center: Amanda Willson, Lynn Merrill and Terry Fiala at Mile High Gliding. | Bottom right: Linda Wright and Stephanie Wells met up in Spain.

## COLORADO CHAPTER

The Colorado 99s enjoyed a fabulous evening at FlyteCo Brewing hosted by 99s Alaina Bravo and Amanda Willson. Alaina and Amanda are the Blonde Bombers (team No. 4) registered to compete in the 2024 Air Race Classic. Guests enjoyed visiting the aviation-themed venue, including climbing 11 stories to the observation lookout at the top of the old Stapleton Airport control tower building.

Excitement and preparation were high in anticipation of hosting the ARC Terminus in northern Colorado. Of the 48 teams registered to compete in this year's 47th annual Air Race Classic, four teams included Colorado Chapter members, and a total of six teams have racers that live in Colorado.

Colorado 99 Airmarking Chair Laura Abraham organized a fun mini compass rose painting activity at Wings Over the Rockies' Exploration of Flight at Centennial Airport (KAPA).

Congratulations to Colorado Chapter future Women Pilot Scholarship recipients Anna McAuliffe and Anastasia McCune.

Colorado 99 Makayla Galler was selected for a NASA internship this summer. Also, as Captain of the U.S. All Stars Drone Soccer team, Makayla attended and competed at the Academic Drone Soccer World Cup and Career Fair.

By happenstance Stephanie Wells who has been living in Spain, ran into Colorado Chapter 99 Linda Wright while visiting the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. The 99s community is international!

The Colorado Chapter proudly hosted the Terminus of the Air Race Classic at Northern Colorado Regional Airport (KFNL) in Loveland, Colorado. A team of volunteers provided a grand

welcome with the aircraft and racer arrivals as well as the post-race celebrations.

Colorado 99s enjoyed a special collaboration with Mile High Gliding at Boulder Municipal Airport (KBDU) in Boulder, Colorado. Several chapter members took their first glider flight, soaring up into the foothills of the Colorado front range.

On July 9 the Colorado Chapter Student Pilot Meetup Group visited the Rocky Mountain Metro Airport's (KBJC) traffic control tower. Ninety-Nines enjoyed a close-up look at the equipment and processes the controllers use every day to help keep our skies safe. The tower team was very accommodating, talking through many of the functions such as processing clearances, use of light guns, and ident procedures.

Also, the Colorado Chapter would like to share information about The 99s badge program offered by the chapter. What's roughly two inches in diameter and looks great on your shirt? A 99s name badge, of course! The Colorado Chapter offers badges you can purchase for yourself or your chapter members. They're a fun way to build camaraderie and can lend an "official" look when representing The 99s at events. Each badge will have The 99s logo, your name and chapter name, and office (if pertinent). Badges are either \$11 for a pin back or \$12.50 for a magnetic back each (plus shipping). You can even order 49½ badges for husbands, partners, supporters, and 33⅓ badges for daughters, granddaughters etc. To take a look at the order form, go to the colorado99s.org home page and scroll down to the "Order Badges" link. For more information or questions, email [badges@colorado99s.org](mailto:badges@colorado99s.org).

– Lydia Baldwin

# Grass Roots



Appalachian Aviatrixes and their guests with a Flagler County Fire Rescue (Florida) helicopter.

## APPALACHIAN AVIATRIXES

Wysong Helicopters at Tri-Cities Airport (KTRI) hosted an exclusive tour for the Appalachian Aviatrixes and their guests on July 16, 2024.

Since the early 1970s, Wysong has worked in all aspects of the aviation industry. Today, Wysong is one of the few independent customizing facilities. Customization includes news gathering, law enforcement, corporate, rescue and medical interiors. They also specialize in installation of advanced avionics.

The comprehensive tour included an in-depth review of the company and all the facilities. Attendees were able to visit with employees and ask questions about their respective responsibilities.

– Janice Pelletti



Smoke formation approaching | Left foreground: Gayle Stuber; Center foreground: Cheri Thompson; Center: Tammy (wearing the bright yellow cap)

## NORTHEAST KANSAS CHAPTER

The Northeast Kansas 99s hosted our annual hangar picnic with EAA Chapter 1535 in our chapter's Girl Scout Liaison Tammy Willits' hangar at Lawrence Regional Airport (KLWC). Our friends Al Stuber (Zenith), Derek Rogers (Nanchang), and Jim Cash (RV) put on a smoke show flyover for us!

– Sara Tompson



Right: Nancy Miller-Borg, Kathy Powell, Peggy Ann Colvette-Pepper, Kim Wilcox, Hilda Ray, Abigail Abercrombie, Sara Rutland, Eileen Hamby, Ramona Banks, and Nancy Swanner. | Left: Kim Wilcox and Nancy Swanner

## ALABAMA CHAPTER

Nine Alabama Chapter members, two Friends of The 99s, and three family members enjoyed a picnic at Smith Lake with good food, good company, and a beautiful lake view. It was also a great time to surprise chapter member Kim Wilcox with a birthday celebration. One of our most senior chapter members, Hilda Ray, joined us in remembrances of a recently deceased former chapter member, Ruby Dickerson, and shared historic photos and a news article.

– Kathleen Powell



## SANTA BARBARA & VENTURA COUNTY CHAPTERS

The Santa Barbara and Ventura County Chapters got together for the 50th annual Santa Barbara Solstice Parade. From left to right: Ninety-Nines Lee Wilkerson, Alexandra Nalevanko, Mary Bromage, Alison Barker, Sheila Collier, and Julia Olmstead (Taylor). Ninety-Nines in attendance but not in the picture were Judy McCarthy and Angelee Conroy. Big thanks to Angelee who did the compass rose and lettering on the street of the parade route.

– Lee Wilkerson, Santa Barbara Chapter



*Top left: Timber Dawson, with race partner, Sarah Haskett, Michigan Chapter, participated in the Air Race Classic 2024, Team #9, Sky Moms! | Top middle: Kaye Combs Moore and Christine Lee with scholarship awardees, Kyleigh Lanham and Nabaa Alani at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky's Aviation Summer Camp. | Top right: Louise Bornwasser, Terri Donner, Sue Glisson, Kaye Combs Moore and Erin Thompson at The 99s International Conference in Vancouver, B.C. Canada. | Bottom left: Kentucky Bluegrass July meeting at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky. Hostess, Sherry LeMaster, provided lunch followed by information about the women honored in the museum's Hall of Fame and a tour of the museum. Bottom right: Lauren Settles, author of the children's book, "Could I Be a Pilot?" at EAA's AirVenture Author's Corner book signing event.*

## **KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS CHAPTER**

The Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter June meeting was held at Mount Sterling/Montgomery County Airport (KIOB) in Mount Sterling, Kentucky, where hostess and husband Freedom and Jan Puetthoff presented a program on flying into AirVenture. Our July meeting was held at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky at Bluegrass Airport (LEX), Lexington, Kentucky. Our hostess Sherry LeMaster provided a delicious lunch followed by information about the women honored in the museum's Hall of Fame and a tour of the museum. Kaye Combs Moore and Christine Lee welcomed our two scholarship awardees, Kyleigh Lanham and Nabaa Alani, to the Aviation Museum of Kentucky's Aviation Summer Camp. Lauren Settles, author of the children's book *Could I Be a Pilot?*, appeared at EAA's AirVenture Author's Corner book signing event. Timber Dawson, with race partner, Sarah Haskett, Michigan Chapter, participated in the Air Race Classic 2024. Congratulations to Team No. 9, Sky Moms! Louise Bornwasser, Terri Donner, Sue Glisson, Kaye Combs Moore, and Erin Thompson represented the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter at the International 99s Conference in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

- Sue Glisson



Deborah Yarbrough, Ashley Jones, Marcell Bink, Linda Richards, Mary Ellen Parks, Memphis Chapter guest Beverley Bass, and Lois Horne. and friends at Orpheum Theatre in Memphis.

## MEMPHIS CHAPTER

On June 5, 2024, the Orpheum Theatre in Memphis, Tennessee, invited the Memphis Chapter to a reception honoring retired Capt. Beverley Bass. Capt. Bass was the first female Captain of an American Airlines commercial plane and the Captain of one of the planes inbound from Europe to the United States when the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration shut down the airspace over the U.S. on September 11, 2001. Her flight and several others (7,000 passengers in total) were diverted to Gander International Airport (CYQX), once known as the busiest airport in the world and used for refueling, in Newfoundland, Canada. Gander's population in 2001 was approximately 10,000. We had the opportunity to introduce ourselves and, more importantly, we were able to hear first-hand the decisions she made that led to the safe landing of her Boeing 777, which included the decision on whether or not to lower the weight of the aircraft prior to landing. She shared the subsequent experiences that she, her crew, and the passengers experienced while in the care of Gander residents. The incredible tale of the hospitality and kindness that the Gander islanders showed during the five days that planes were grounded there is told in the Tony Award-winning Canadian musical *Come From Away*. The Memphis 99s had the pleasure of attending *Come From Away* at the Orpheum Theatre on June 23, 2024. Many of The 99s members brought their families along to enjoy the show. The musical was an incredible portrayal of the unforgettable experience that Capt. Bass shared with us just weeks prior.

– Lois Horne



## Our newest Life Members

**Beatrice Axelrod**  
*Lake Erie Chapter*

**Darlene Becker**  
*Wisconsin Chapter*

**Sandra Brown**  
*Finger Lakes Chapter*

**Margaret Doyle**  
*Old Dominion Chapter*

**Lynn Harbinson**  
*Mid-Columbia Chapter*

**Gayle Ketchum**  
*South Central Section*

**Barbara Lasher**  
*Spaceport Chapter*

**Mary Latimer**  
*Wichita Falls Chapter*

**Eve Lopez**  
*Los Angeles Chapter*

**Rosella McGlasson**  
*Old Dominion Chapter*

**Neita Montague**  
*Lake Tahoe Chapter*

**Marlene Raseta**  
*Kitty Hawk Chapter*

**Glenda Sherwood**  
*San Luis Obispo County Chapter*

**Camelia Smith**  
*Arkansas Chapter*

**Wyvema Startz**  
*Oklahoma Chapter*

**Tucker Tucker**  
*Brazos River Chapter*

**Sarah Wendt**  
*Austin Hill Country Chapter*



## Our most recently enlisted Friends of The 99s

**Anca Ardelean**  
*Vancouver, BC Canada*

**Valerie Derosin**  
*Miami, FL*

**Kneale Ewing**  
*Jenks, OK*

**John Longnaker**  
*Chesterfield, VA*

**Gabrielle Metzler**  
*Winnipeg, MB Canada*

**Sindy Mikkelsen**  
*Poulsbo, WA*

**Richard Moravsik**  
*Orange City, FL*

**Brian D Morrison**  
*Albuquerque, NM*

**Alfred C Petersen**  
*Buffalo Grove, IL*

**Krittanon Srichuanhuensakun**  
*Winnipeg, MB Canada*

**Agnieszka Thomas**  
*Fort Myers, FL*

**Paper Epiphanies  
Victoria Venturi**  
*Portland, OR*



## 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.*

**Linda Scully**  
June 22, 2024  
*New Jersey*

**Nancy Teel**  
July 12, 2024  
*Tucson Chapter*

**Karen L. Stumpf**  
July 17, 2024  
*Central New York Chapter*

**Melanie Georger**  
July 20, 2024  
*Western New York*

**Hilda Hill**  
July 20, 2024  
*Orange County*

**Mary Story**  
August 1, 2024  
*Chicago Area*



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International Cargo Airline Pilot, Air Race Classic Education Director, 2016 Air Race Classic Winner, 99s Chapter Scholarship Chair, B-25 pilot for the Commemorative Air Force, Patriots Jet Team music coordinator

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