

99 News

The Official Magazine of the International Organization of Women Pilots

October/November/December 2011





To list your 99s events on this calendar page, send information to:

The 99 News
4300 Amelia Earhart Dr
Suite A
Oklahoma City, OK
73159-1140

Email:
news@ninety-nines.org

Online Form:
[ninety-nines.org/
99newsreports.html](http://ninety-nines.org/99newsreports.html)

Please indicate the name and location of the event, the contact name and the phone/fax/email.

On the Cover

Patricia Mawuli Nyekodzi, Governor of the newly chartered Ghanaian Section, gives a thumbs up after a flight in her Rotax 912UL-powered Zenith CH701 aircraft that she built, flies, maintains and teaches in. She flies missions with Medicine on the Move and also survey, search and rescue and related support flights. She started her journey to becoming a pilot in 2007 when she asked for work with WAASPS, a social entrepreneurship project in West Africa. For more about Patricia, please see the article on page 8.

Photo by Lydia Wetsi

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

2011

DECEMBER

- 1 **Due date for 99 News submissions** for the January/February/March 2012 issue.
- 16-17 **International Conference of Women in Civil Aviation**, Mumbai, India. Organized by the India Section to celebrate 100 years of civil aviation in India. Contact chandab99@hotmail.com.
- 20 **Deadline for AEMSF application** submittal to Section AE Chairmen.
- 31 **Deadline to submit Bylaws and Standing Rules** proposed amendments (see below).

2012

JANUARY

- 17 **Deadline for Award Nomination submissions** for The Ninety-Nines, Inc. annual Awards of Inspiration, Award of Merit and George Palmer Putnam Award (see page 6).
- 31 **Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative Application Deadline.** The link to the application form is on The 99s Website or email mentoring@ninety-nines.org.

IMPORTANT DEADLINE

Proposed Bylaw and Standing Rule amendments may be made by the International Bylaws/Standing Rules Committee, Chapter, Section, Council of Governors or International Board of Directors. To present proposed amendments to the membership for the Annual Meeting in 2012 in Providence, Rhode Island, such proposed amendments must be submitted by December 31, 2011.

Submit to:

Pat Prentiss
International Bylaws/Standing Rules
Chairman
225 Opal Avenue
Balboa Island, California 92662
patprentiss@aol.com

APRIL

- 27-29 **South Central Section Spring Meeting**, Choctaw Casino Resort, Durant, Oklahoma. Hosted by Wildflower Chapter and South Central Section. Contact Cathy Wappler, cwappler99@hotmail.com.

MAY

- 4-6 **Southwest Section Spring Meeting**, Studio City, California.

JULY

- 11-15 **Ninety-Nines International Conference**, Providence, Rhode Island, Marriott Providence Downtown. For Conference information and registration, visit wom-enpilotsnewengland.org.



2013

- JULY **Ninety-Nines International Conference**, Bozeman, Montana.

CORRECTION

I recently noted an article in the April/May issue of the 99 News listing websites for women's organizations. Here Women in Corporate Aviation (WCA) was incorrectly listed.

Please correct your records to reflect the web address as www.wca-intl.org.

Elizabeth A. Clark
Executive Director

Women in Corporate Aviation (WCA)

It's time to think about holiday gift giving. If you have a 99 on your list, be sure to check out the 99s estore for that special monogrammed something for her at: estoresbyzome.com/ninety-nines.php



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

EDITORIAL AND PHOTO GUIDELINES

We encourage submissions for publication in the 99 News. Furnish author's name, email address and phone information. We reserve the right to edit for space and/or clarity. We accept both original photographs and high-resolution digital photos (at least 4X6 at 300 dpi). We cannot use photos from the following sources: camera phone, newspaper, home printer, photocopies or copied from the Internet. Include caption information with all photos and your contact information. Please email photos as separate attachments.

For additional submission guidelines, log on to ninety-nines.org and click on 99 News magazine. Submissions should be emailed to news@ninety-nines.org. Deadlines for submissions are listed in our calendar on page 2. If you have any questions, please email us at news@ninety-nines.org.

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Patricia Nyekodzi, right, Governor of the new Ghanaian Section, teaches students about aviation.



Ninety-Nine Sarah Morris, left, and teammate Leah Hetzel, representing Jacksonville University and flying a Cirrus SR-20, took top honors in this year's Air Race Classic.



Enjoying Oshkosh are, in back, WASP F.G. Shutsy-Reynolds and Jan Goodrum. Center, WASP Dorothy Swain Lewis and Dawn Seymour. Front is driver Albert "Chig" Lewis and WASP Jean T. McCreery.

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President's Page

BY SUSAN LARSON, International President

Occasionally, those of us in the United States work so closely with our local Chapters that we fail to remember the meaning of the word 'International' in our organization's name, The Ninety-Nines, Inc., International Organization of Women Pilots. Nearly 5,000 women around the world are joined together with a common goal: promoting aviation with all the joy and passion that we share for our love of the skies.

Did you know...that of the 24 women who received Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarships this year, five were from outside the United States? An East Canada Section 99 received an Academic scholarship to pursue her work at the International Space University in Strasbourg, France. A West Canadian Section 99 will work toward her instrument rating. And then there are the women in the Nepal, Brazil and Russian Sections who are pursuing a type-rating, multi-engine rating and helicopter retraining respectively.

Did you know...that in this calendar year alone, The Ninety-Nines has acquired 17 percent of its new members from countries outside the United States? And did you know that, currently, our overall membership has nine percent of its members in countries outside the United States? There is no question that our future growth will continue this trend and be even more international in scope. Since January 1, 2011, we've acquired new members from the following countries: Australia-2; Austria-1; Bahrain-3; Belgium-2; Canada-12; China-1; Egypt-1; England-1; France-1; Germany-1; Ghana-5; India-2; Jordan-4; Latvia-1; New Zealand-1; Russia-1; Saudi Arabia-1; South Africa-2; Switzerland-1; UAE-1. Along with 99s everywhere, I welcome each one of these women to a remarkable organization, and I hope each will learn how appreciated she is and that she has a place in the worldwide array of women pilots.

Did you know...that a delegation of five 99s leaders attended the China International General Aviation Convention held October 15-16 in Xi'an, China? Ying Gao (Laura), Florida Suncoast Chapter, born in China and now living in Florida, was the impetus behind this visit, encouraging The Ninety-Nines to have a presence at this annual event. This was an opportunity beyond measure to expose a country with little knowledge of general aviation to its advantages and our unique organization of women pilots. I made two presentations to the delegates and was honored to represent The 99s.

Did you know...that wherever you travel on this planet, you will be welcomed by 99s? An international trip should always be preceded by a query of our online database for a nearby member. We all enjoy meeting our fellow 99s, and there's nothing quite as special as meeting them in another country.

Of the 196 countries on the planet, we have members in 42 of them. For you numbers buffs, that leaves 79 percent of the countries without a 99. We've come a long way from our roots solely within the United States, but we definitely have a way to go to fully represent the world.



Kyung O. Kim, Far East Section Governor, at Headquarters during her recent visit. See page 25 for more about Kyung.

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Nominees Invited to Apply for 2011 International Awards

The International Awards Committee is accepting nominations for three prestigious awards to be presented by The Ninety-Nines, Inc. at the 2012 International Conference in Providence, Rhode Island. The deadline for submitting nominations is **January 17, 2012**.

Award	Description of Award	Who May be Nominated
Award of Achievement (for Ninety-Nines)	Three separate Awards of Achievement may be presented for Contributions to The Ninety-Nines; for Contributions to Aviation; for Humanitarian Efforts.	An individual member of The Ninety-Nines (living or deceased); a group of 99s; or an organization within The Ninety-Nines, such as a Chapter, Section, Committee or Trust. An individual recipient must be a current member or have been a current member at the time of her death.
Award of Merit (for non-Ninety-Nines)	Recognizes a significant contribution to any facet of aviation, such as aviation or aerospace education, aviation science, aviation history, aviation commerce, aviation legislation, etc.	An individual (male or female, living or deceased) or an organization. The recipient may not be a current or former member of The Ninety-Nines or of a group within The Ninety-Nines.
George Palmer Putnam Award (for non-Ninety-Nines)	Recognizes support provided to The Ninety-Nines by an individual (male or female, living or deceased) or an organization. The contribution may have occurred in the past or present, as a single action or a series of events.	An individual (male or female, living or deceased), or an organization. The recipient may not be a current or former member of The Ninety-Nines or of a group within The Ninety-Nines.



Emily Howell Warner, this year's recipient of the Award of Achievement for Contributions to Aviation.

Who may submit nominations? A Ninety-Nines Chapter, Section, or Trust.

How to nominate: Submit a one-page letter, signed by two officers or trustees (as appropriate). The nomination must include the name, address and telephone number of the nominee, or the nominee's next-of-kin, if the nominee is deceased. Up to three additional pages of substantiating material may be attached to the letter. Send your nomination to International Headquarters in Oklahoma City to the attention of the Awards Committee. Nominations should be received by the deadline of January 17, 2012. Note: Previous nominees may be resubmitted.

Questions? Contact Cathy Wappler, International Awards Chairman, at cwappler99@hotmail.com, or 713-376-2961.



PILOT CAREERS: One of the Trusted

BY DONNA MILLER
International Careers Committee

I love my flying job. I am grateful to be living my passion every day. However, I talk to pilots who have been beaten up by the industry and the uncertainty of the future of it all. Every life decision is based on their contingency plan if this job should suddenly end. They are tired of the scheduling, the union-company relations and the day-to-day grind.

I was thinking about this when I pulled out one of my favorite aviation books, *The Airman's World* by Gill Robb Wilson. The poem "One of the Trusted" was written over 50 years ago. As much as times and technology have changed (not to mention vernacular), I realize it still applies today. It makes me feel honored to be One of the Trusted. I hope it comes to mind next time you fly.

You are at cruising altitude.
The westering sun is pink on the disc.
Your eye flicks the gauges. The engines are contented.
Another day – another dollar.

You look down at your hands on the wheel.
They are veined and hard and brown.
Tonight you notice they look a little old.
And, by George, they are old. But how can this be?
Only yesterday you were in flying school.
Time is a thief. You have been robbed.

And what do you have to show for it?
A pilot – twenty years a pilot – a senior pilot.
But what of it – just a pilot.
Then the voice of the stewardess breaks in on your reverie.
The trip is running full – eighty-four passengers
Can she begin to serve dinner to the passengers?
The passengers – oh yes, the passengers.
You noticed the line of them coming aboard –
the businessmen, the young mothers
with the children in tow, the old couple,
the two priests, the four dogfaces.

A thousand times you have watched them
file aboard and a thousand times disembark.
They always seem a little gayer after the landing
than before the take-off. Beyond doubt
they are always somewhat apprehensive aloft.
But why do they continuously come up here
in the dark sky despite their apprehension?
You have often wondered about that.
You look down at your hands again
and suddenly it comes to you.

They come because they trust you –
you the pilot. They turn over their lives
and their loved ones and their hopes and dreams
to you for safekeeping.

To be a pilot means to be one of the trusted.
They pray in the storm
that you are skillful and strong and wise.
To be a pilot is to hold life in your hands –
to be worthy of faith.

No, you have not been robbed.
You aren't "just a pilot." There is no such thing
as "just a pilot." Your job is a trust.
The years have been a trust.
You have been one of the trusted.
Who could be more?

PRO 99s PROFILE: Tami Ueda

BY BETSY DONOVAN, International Careers Committee

First Officer Tami Ueda got her start in aviation with encouragement from Margaret Lynch, a Southwest captain and Check Airman. Currently furloughed and based in Cincinnati, Ohio, Tami has been a CRJ 700 and 900 first officer for Comair since 2007. She progressed via instructing and flying as a Part 135 pilot in a Cessna 402 out of Opa Locka, Florida. Tami paid for her initial training by working as an insurance claim representative and childcare provider. She also slept on the floor of an office to save funds for her aviation career.

Tami holds a commercial certificate with a multi-engine rating, CFI and CFII. Her ATP written completed, Tami will begin ATP training soon. She has been a Ninety-Nine for 10



years, and though not currently affiliated with a local Chapter, she did serve as newsletter editor for the Florida Goldcoast Chapter when she lived there.

Tami's advice to others: "Look at all avenues of aviation, not just airlines. Go to your local FBO and hang out. Get to know everyone, and soon they will think of you when they need a pilot. A lot of this business is about connections."



Patricia Mawuli Nyekdozi

She Walked out of the African Bush and Discovered the Sky

Patricia instructs a student in the WAASPS program.

BY KARLENE PETITT
Greater Seattle Chapter

What appeared to be any other day in Ghana turned out to be anything but normal when Patricia Mawuli Nyekdozi walked out of the bush in 2007 looking for work with the WAASPS — a social entrepreneurship project in West Africa. The WAASPS, based at Kpong Airfield, provide pilot training, build aircraft, do maintenance, provide expertise for aerial survey, agricultural surveillance and plantation selection work and more.

Chief Flight Instructor and Chief Engineer Captain Yaw (aka Jonathan Porter) did put Patricia to work. He stuck a machete into one hand and a mattock in the other and told her to remove stumps. Little did he know the impact Patricia would have upon the world when given an opportunity.

Captain Yaw says, “Patricia took to the task like a beaver, practically chewing the trees out of the ground. She arrived early to work, walking several miles from the mud and thatch home, without power and where water was fetched from a standpipe, stayed late when needed and

turned up on days she was not working to watch the planes. For this young lady, the concept of learning to fly, becoming a pilot and becoming an engineer was an impossible, ‘unallowable’ dream. It was never envisioned that she would be a long-term part of the operations because the focus was on the wrong set of people.”

Patricia accepted her shrub-clearing task with focus, enthusiasm and determination, as she does with everything she’s involved with. One day, when the engineering assistant was caught stealing and taken to the police station, Patricia was asked to hold a wing. This task not only opened the door for her but was an eye-opener for Captain Yaw.

When Patricia asked more questions than all the staff combined, he knew she was someone special. On a ferry flight she was given control and took to the sky like she’d been born there. Captain Yaw said, “Her efforts and determination changed the face of the whole operation.”

Because of Patricia, young women were given new opportunities. Captain Yaw said, “They did better, tried harder and were demon-



Patricia preflights a Rotax-powered airplane, one of the six aircraft she built and maintains.

strably better investments of time, energy and finances.” Because of Patricia, the focus changed for WAASPS and Medicine On the Move toward educating and working with women.

In early 2010, they started a small school, taking four girls per year, training them to build aircraft, perform maintenance, flight instruct, work with airfield operations, robotics engineering and computers. STEM (Science, Technology, Education, Mathematics) education is alive and well in Ghana.

Patricia came to Captain Yaw because she wanted to fly. And fly she has! With experience in the workshop and flying some ferry flights, Patricia soon noticed that few women were learning to fly. She really wanted to be an instructor and worked diligently to become one. The best part of instructing? She loves meeting new people with different ways of learning and the challenge of teaching them new things.

This amazing woman is setting a new level for firsts, including the first woman to obtain Ghana’s National Pilots License and the first woman and first black African to obtain the coveted Rotax Aircraft Engines certification after training and assessment in Austria with Rotax Aircraft Engines at the Regional Innovation Centre. The first female engineer to undertake the course, she was among 33 participants from

20 nations and five continents.

She is now teaching, engineering, flying, doing photo-video missions, training, conversion flights and check rides. What she loves about flying? “Everything. Especially the fresh air that takes away all of your worries and the ability to view the world in a different way.”

Last year, for the Centennial of Women Pilots event, Patricia, with the help of three male pilots, flew 97 women in one day. This year, on March 5, Patricia and Captain Yaw invited 100 children from rural communities to have an air experience. Last year it was girls only. This year they are targeting a 60:40 girl:boy ratio. They’re searching for talent to bring four girls to go on their four-year training program at Av Tech academy.

When asked what motivates her, Patricia says, “Being in the air.” Captain Yaw says, “The only thing that will absolutely bring her down is fuel, or rather the lack of — she is like an eagle, just wants to be up there, loving every minute of it.”

Patricia has shown that hard work, dedication, commitment and perseverance opened the door to her dreams. She is an inspiration to all. I cannot wait to return to Ghana and meet her.

Keep flying strong, Patricia! You are making a difference in the world. Enjoy the journey.



Patricia flies Emmanuel Bedzrah, a Ghanaian Member of Parliament.

The only thing that will absolutely bring her down is fuel, or rather the lack of — she is like an eagle, just wants to be up there, loving every minute.



Captain Yaw introduces Patricia Nyekodzi, Ghanaian Section Governor, and Melissa Pemberton, Vice Governor, at the 99s tent during Oshkosh 2011.

Photo by Clay Hollenback, Medicine on the Move



2011 Air Race Classic participants.

Air Race Classic 2011

BY DENISE WATERS
Central New York Chapter

Jacksonville University students Sarah Morris, Virginia Chapter, and Leah Hetzel were top winners of the 2011 Air Race Classic.

Ninety-Nine Sarah Morris and teammate Leah Hetzel, representing Jacksonville University (JU) and flying a Cirrus SR-20, took top honors in this year's prestigious Air Race Classic (ARC).

The 2,365 nautical-mile race started in Iowa City, Iowa. Racers flew the finish line in Mobile, Alabama on June 24. Sarah and Leah were one of 11 collegiate teams competing for the ARC Collegiate Trophy. Fifty teams overall were entered in the 2011 ARC. As first place collegiate and overall winners, Sarah and Leah were recognized by the Jacksonville Florida City Council. On September 13, the Council passed a resolution and held a ceremony to honor them and commend Jacksonville

University for winning the all-women transcontinental air race that dates back to the era of Amelia Earhart.

Each year, the ARC continues a women's air racing tradition that began as the first Women's Air Derby in 1929. Since 1977, the ARC has flown unique routes annually across the United States and parts of Canada. This year veteran racers with more than 25 Classic years were saluted by the ARC. The honorees included both current and past Ninety-Nine members Dottie Anderson, Lorrie Blech, Pauline Glasson, Margaret Ringenberg, Elaine Roehrig, Esther Lowry Safford, Ruby Sheldon, Jean Sloan, Joyce Wells, Marolyn Wilson and Janet Yoder.

The 50 teams entered for 2011 rep-

resented a wide range of aviation backgrounds and experience, flying a variety of General Aviation airplanes. Pilots fly the Classic for the experience, camaraderie, sharing a passion, inspiring youth, meeting new people and places, building hours, history and more. All teams receive unique handicaps for the competition or can fly the route in the non-competition class.

Minnetta Gardinier, Iowa Chapter Chairman, was the ARC 2011 Start Chair. Three days at the start gives racers time to attend briefings, recheck team checklists, verify the airplane is ready to race and enjoy the local area. The Iowa Ninety-Nines and volunteers hosted a fantastic Start.

As racer arrivals and preparations took place in Iowa City, weather was building toward the area. The day before Race Start, race officials met to review weather forecasts and backup logistics. The decision was made to ensure safety and move the Start from Iowa City to Alliance, Nebraska, an en route stop. Five race legs were cut from the VFR-only race due to forecasted tornado activity and persistent low to marginal conditions. Alliance and the rest of the route were clear of that weather path.

Ninety-Nines had a strong presence in the 2011 ARC. Racers included Joyce Wilson, Becky Hempel, Gene Nora Jessen, Patty Mitchell, Brenda Carter, Leah Dunn, Linda Keller, JoDean Perry, Taylor McWilliams, Terry Carbonell, Carolyn Baldwin, Lydia Baldwin, Lin Caywood, Susan Beall, Peggy Tucker, Joyce Wells, Kathy Walton, Robin Turner, Dottie Anderson, Jean Sloan, Mary Wunder, Rose Brown, Tamra Sheffman, Sonia Bortolin, JoAnne Alcorn, Meredith Frederick, Elizabeth Hawley, Linda Evans, Alison Chalker, Carolyn Van Newkirk, Carol Church, Maureen Kenney, Deborah Dreyfuss, Linda Knowles, Mae Marquet, Janet Miller, Nicole Lordemann, Janet Yoder, Glenda Ann Shaneyfelt, Julia Matthews, Camelia Smith, Debbie Dukeman, Marlene Raseta, Karen Workman, Patti Sandusky, Joyce Parker, Elizabeth Frankowski, Linda Street-Ely, Amy Bogardus, Jessica Bailey, Minnetta Gardinier, Barbara Harris-Para, Laurie Zaleski, Kristen Jurn, June Mills-Benson, Carolyn Kolasa and Natalie Kasak.

In addition, ARC President Marolyn Wilson and many of the ARC board of

directors, judges, and volunteers represent Ninety-Nines.

The Mother-Daughter Award for the highest mother/daughter finishing was new for 2011. Ninety-Nine Pat Keefer offered this award to honor her mother, air racer Marion Jayne, and to support the ARC and all mother/daughter teams. Ninety-Nines Susan and Marie Carastro, Classic 29, received the Mother/Daughter Award.

ARC 2011 winner Leah, trained locally as a high school senior in Brunswick, Ohio, making it all work by mowing lawns, plowing runways and answering phones. She gained her private shortly after graduation. Leah is currently completing a Delta Air Lines intern program that will complete her Bachelor's in Aviation Management and Flight Operations. Airline pilot is her professional goal. Sarah's aviation interest was sparked as a little girl in Jonesboro, Georgia. She also started flight lessons in high school. In 2010, as the JU Flight Team co-captain, she became the

nation's top scoring female at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association's Safety and Evaluation Conference. Earning her A & P (Airframe and Powerplant) certificate is next in her personal program to ultimately serve as a missionary pilot.

What impact did ARC have on these winning women? Sarah sums it up stating, "Through flying in the ARC, I have vastly expanded my abilities, reduced personal limitations and become a much more skilled and confident pilot." In 2007, Leah met racers who inspired her to put the ARC on her "must fly" list. Now, she and Sara are the ones inspiring others.

Be part of this exciting annual event. Fly the 2012 Air Race Classic! Volunteer along the route as the racers take off from Lake Havasu, Arizona and perform the final flybys at Sporty's in Batavia, Ohio. Applications will be available November 15, 2011. Entries will open January 1, 2012.

Find more details on this issue's back cover or www.airraceclassic.org.



Air Race Classic winners: Sarah Morris, copilot, holds the collegiate first place trophy and plaque while teammate Leah Hetzel, pilot, displays her collegiate plaque. Photo by Laurie Zaleski



Sophie Bailliez at the FBO in St. Cyr, France.

Flying Adventures with 99s

BY MARIE A. FASANO
Ventura County Chapter

Wherever you travel, there are bound to be adventures found with a fellow Ninety-Nine, whether it's seeing Fenway Park from a Robinson 22 or flying over castles in France.

One of the perks about being a Ninety-Nine is the opportunity to meet and sometimes fly with women pilots from around the world.

In April 2010, I had a business trip from Arizona to Boston. I contacted the Eastern New England Chapter 99s in Massachusetts and arranged to connect with member Anne Umphrey. Anne is chief pilot for Concord Copters that provides tours and aerial photography in the greater Boston area.

At Hanscom Field, KBAD, Bedford, Massachusetts, I met Anne and went flying in her Robinson 22 helicopter, Mikey. With my camera secure and the photo door open wide, we took off and flew over Boston. It was evident the controllers knew Anne, and with her discrete code we were able to fly everywhere. A highlight came over Fenway Park where I managed a great shot of the Boston Red Sox at practice.

A slow descent gave us a landing on a gravel strip for fuel at Minute Man Airfield in Stowe, Massachusetts. We then returned to KBAD.

On another trip this spring, I had an opportunity to visit Paris. I contacted Iza Bazin, the French Section Governor.

"My plan is to go to the Air and Space museum at Le Bourget Airport, to hopefully connect with members of the French section and to find an instructor to take a flight over Paris," I emailed.

Iza responded, "Flying over Paris is not possible for GA aircraft. Flying with an instructor, and seeing Versailles from the sky is possible, as even though it is in the Class A airspace, the St. Cyr airfield is right on the edge of the castle gardens."

This was my first taste of aviation rules outside the United States.

Iza put me in touch with Sophie Bailliez, a young French female instructor who flies out of St. Cyr, and said she was a "very good English speaker."

Sophie and I connected with emails. I was really going to fly in France! We arranged to meet at the Montparnasse station. I telephoned

to see if she was delayed. She was waiting at the “Gare” (train station), not the Metro (subway) where I waited — another French lesson.

Sophie proved to be a delightful and energetic young woman. At 24, she already has her instrument, multi-engine and instructor ratings. Three years ago, she applied to a French government aviation program and was one of 60 selected from over 1,000 applicants to complete her training. She was required to take examinations and complete a psychological test in order to qualify. She now mentors others in the program. Sophie says some of the men don’t want to fly with a female instructor, and therefore she is constantly proving herself.

Sophie has a professional airline pilot career goal in mind. She wanted to join The Ninety-Nines and was pleased when I told her about the scholarships. Sophie thought they were only for Ninety-Nines in the United States.

As the train sped through the French countryside, we talked like old friends about flying in our respective countries. At the FBO in St. Cyr, Sophie introduced me as her “American friend.” The only grass strips I had flown were back country in Idaho. Here there were two grass runways side by side – and a control tower.



Flying over the 16th century Château de Thoiry, France. The landmark encompasses 370 acres and includes a castle, zoo and botanical gardens.

She quickly organized our flight, and soon we were out to pre-flight the light sport Italian Tecnam 2002 Sierra. With the Rotax engine, she had to pull the prop through to get the oil flowing. She is a small woman, and it took some effort to

pull it through. After a few tries we heard the “gurgle” of the oil.

When Sophie asked the controller if she could speak English so her American passenger would understand, she got some ribbing from other pilots in the air. We took off with barely a sensation of leaving the ground. This was quite different from my Cessna 182.

Sophie guided me away from the towns. “Not allowed to fly over them,” she said. So, out to the countryside, where we flew over verdant forests and several castles, including the magnificent 16th century Château de Thoiry.

On the way back to St. Cyr, we stayed in the pattern to do a few touch and goes. Then with a stall speed of 39kts, we landed ever so gently and rolled out to parking.

As a thank you for my adventure, I enrolled Sophie in The Ninety-Nines and suggested she contact the Pro 99s Network. She is thrilled to connect with women pilots from around the world.



Left: Anne Umphrey and Marie Fasano with Anne's Robinson 22, Mikey.

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*Helping new pilots
connect with
The Ninety-Nines*



Hillary Carl with Peggy Loeffler. Photo by Rolfe Tessem

BY PEGGY LOEFFLER
Connecticut Chapter

The 2011 Conference is over, and it was great fun to see my Ninety-Nines friends gathered together again. The tour of our Museum and the photo shoot of Ninety-Nines encircling the new compass rose were memorable. But what made this Conference extra special for me was the opportunity I had to bring a fellow Connecticut Chapter member with me to experience her first Conference.

I was reminded of the first Conference I attended in 2000, in San Diego. That year I was awarded an Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship to pay for my instrument rating. Saving my pennies for flight training was not going to allow me to budget a trip across the country.

Laurie Reeves, a wonderful mentor who assisted me through the scholarship application process, was determined to see me attend the Conference. "You can't miss this opportunity to accept your award in person," she told me. Laurie and several Connecticut Chapter friends enabled me to make that trip to San Diego with donations of standby airline tickets, shared hotel rooms and donated meal tickets. I'll never forget being seated at a table with Faye Gillis Wells at the Scholarship Banquet before going up to the stage to receive my award.

Eleven years later, as a full-time flight instructor at Great Barrington Airport in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, I have been helping a young pilot, Hillary Carl, of Tolland, Massachusetts,

through the scholarship application process. Hillary trained with me for her private pilot certificate. In the past few years, she has received Chapter and Section awards, as well as local scholarships. Working several jobs to pay for college and flight training, Hillary was just completing an expensive instrument rating when she was notified that she was a recipient of an Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship. This one will allow her to train for her commercial rating with me.

Hillary, in her quiet but approachable and friendly demeanor, has endeared herself to everyone at our airport. When I put the word out that it was important for Hillary to attend the Conference and accept her award, dozens of pilots and friends of the airport responded with contributions to the campaign, "Help Send Hillary to Oklahoma." Donations came pouring in during a potluck picnic fundraiser for Hillary and continued through the weeks before the July convention — enough to cover the cost of airfare, hotel and registration.

So, on July 13, Hillary and I boarded a Southwest flight from Connecticut to Oklahoma. What followed was four days of fun, connections with old friends, new friendships, inspiration, motivation and new memories for both of us. The highlight of the Conference for me was to see Hillary accept her award.

Laurie Reeves was right — it was an opportunity not to be missed.



Marie and Pete Spear arrive at Avenger Field in their Stearman

BY MARIE SPEAR, Chicago Area Chapter

“Do you realize how far that is?” I think my husband Pete asked me that at least a half dozen times after I first mentioned the possibility of us flying to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas for the WASP Homecoming. I said, “Sure, in the Cessna 180 we could be there in just a few hours,” although the flight was ultimately made in our Stearman. That conversation started just before Christmas 2010, although a trip to Avenger Field has been a dream of mine since February 1996 when I read my first book about the WASP. The book was a gift from Pete, so in a way, it was his own fault anyhow.

The WASP Homecoming was on Saturday, May 28. We planned to leave Kenosha on Wednesday, but Mother Nature had a different idea. On Thursday at 6:45 a.m. the temperature was around 37 degrees with light rain, but visibility and ceiling were good with a 30 mph tailwind. Because of the cold temps, we both were bundled up in multiple layers of clothing, leather helmets, goggles, white scarves and gloves. I knew that along the way we would be shedding most of that stuff.

Our route was Kenosha, Wisconsin – Nevada, Missouri – Cushing, Oklahoma – Grandfield, Oklahoma – Frederick, Oklahoma – Sweetwater, Texas. It was a grand total of 863 nm/993 sm. With that awesome tailwind, we were tracking 150 mph across the

ground, amazingly cool for a Stearman that usually travels about 105 mph. The tailwind stayed with us, albeit dwindling, for most of the trip until our last fuel stop. However, when we touched down at Avenger Field, we had been in the air only 10 hours.

We were given a warm welcome. They were surprised to see us in the Stearman because I had told the museum director that if



Marie and Pete Spear with WASP Tex Meachem.

we made it there at all we would be coming in our Cessna 180. Pete taxied the Stearman right up to the museum/hangar door. The hangar was built in 1927 and is one of the few original structures at Avenger Field. I got out of the Stearman into the 100-degree Texas weather, gave Pete a hug and kiss, then reached down and rubbed my hands into the warm earth — *I was at Avenger Field!*

After sleeping in, the next day was just to unwind. Pete worked at cleaning the plane, and I helped around the museum getting things ready for the next day's festivities. Saturday morning, we taxied both the Stearman and Bill Johnson's PT-19 over to the museum for display. Around 10 a.m., the WASP began to arrive. There were to be 23 in attendance that day. Some drove in and several were flown in by members of the Brazos River 99s.

For most of the morning, the WASP explored the museum, visited with each other and enjoyed the people who were there to see them. What wonderful women they are. They stopped and posed for pictures and autographs whenever asked. I had the opportunity to meet all of them at some time during the day. I was graced with fun stories and lots of laughs.

We attended a luncheon where WASP Bee Haydu talked about her experiences as a WASP and the years after they were disbanded. After the luncheon, the WASP and many of those who attended went over to the "Wishing Well." In my own personal world, this was an honor beyond belief. Erected on the path before the wishing well are two honor walls where the names of all WASP are listed by class.

Back at Avenger Field that afternoon, a local high school presented a one-act play about the life of Jackie Cochran. Graciously, the WASP spent some time signing more autographs, and we were fortunate to have a few requests to sit in our plane. WASP Betty Wall 44-W-1 (now Elizabeth Strofus), WASP Mary Alice 'Put-Put' Putnum Vandeventer 44-W-7 and WASP Shirley Chase Kruse 44-W-6 (known as 'Surely Shirley' during her WASP years) all sat in our aircraft and shared some of their Stearman recollections with us.

Before sunset that evening, a memorial service for the 38 WASP who gave their lives in service to their country was held outside the museum beneath the three flag poles: the center pole waving the American Flag, the left pole waving the WASP flag and the right pole waving the Texas flag. It was a beautiful, moving tribute.

Sunday we headed for home and once again had an awesome tailwind of between 30-40 mph. How often do any of us get a tailwind both ways? When we touched down at Kenosha, I calculated our time, and we had made it back in eight hours.

The WASP we met touched our lives and warmed our hearts. The museum is currently planning an expansion project to continue honoring the WASP. I have seen the plans, and it is quite impressive. They need a climate-controlled area to display the most important items. Their goal is to have it done in two years, if the funds can be raised. Everyone is hoping that some of the WASP will be there to see it completed.

As one of the WASP was climbing out of our Stearman, Pete told her that he wouldn't let her slip or fall because she was a National Treasure. How true, and they should be honored as such.



Susan Lapis, 99s member, is a SouthWings Volunteer Pilot & Board Member, at the controls of beloved 5 Mike Tango

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Spotlight on the PPLI

BY JULIA REINERS
Carolinas Chapter



Emily Biss: Combining What She Loves

If there is an art to combining two things that you love, there is a science to translating that merger into a career. Emily Biss, an Ivy League-educated engineer, aspired to incorporate her technical expertise with her passion for flying.

After weighing her options and plotting her course, Emily blazed her own inspiring path into the male-dominated field of test piloting. Along the way she has employed all of her talents and proven that she approaches every opportunity with eyes wide open.

Emily's lifelong interest in aviation evolved as she earned her pilot certificate and several ratings during a collegiate exchange program. After graduation, she left her East Coast roots to work as a systems engineer in Northern California. There, Emily began formulating the plan that would bridge where she was and where she hoped to be. The transition would be complex and time-consuming; it would require an unwavering commitment to her long-term goals. In 2001, Emily took a leap of faith and devoted herself to her flying career. She worked as a flight instructor and a maintenance test pilot, flew for a small Part 121 carrier and later took a job as an airline pilot.

Emily joined the PPLI (Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative) at a pivotal point in her career. She was working as a professional pilot but had yet to realize all of her goals. When she started the program, she was flying as a first officer for Horizon Airlines and, coincidentally, by the end of it she had landed her current position as a production test pilot at Boeing. Emily says that the greatest part of her job is getting to fly aircraft on their maiden voyage. She conducts initial test flights and Customer Demonstration Flights on 737s (which she affectionately refers to as 'green beans' because of their color prior to their first paint job). She describes that responsibility as "such an honor!"

The PPLI aided in Emily's transition, and she credits having a close circle of friends and mentors for helping her traverse the bumps along the way. "It's wonderful to not only share my joys and triumphs but also to have their support when I am challenged," she adds. Emily values having women aviators in her life who share a common perspective.

In Emily's experience, one of the greatest advantages to the PPLI program is accountability. Within the structure of the program, participants are expected to

set goals and deadlines for themselves and share them with their mentor. Once another person becomes involved in the process with you, you take more ownership in the outcome.

Emily has contributed to the PPLI in various ways since her graduation. She has reworked internal publications, led online discussions and currently serves as a Senior Navigator. In this capacity, she oversees a mentoring partnership between two program participants.

Emily's volunteerism extends beyond the PPLI to her Greater Seattle Chapter of The 99s where she currently serves as the Scholarship Chairman and Membership Chairman. In 2009, she won the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship that allowed her to attend a short course on fixed-wing flight testing at The National Test Pilot School. Emily's most recent honor was her acceptance into the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.

Emily shared this bit of advice: "To get the job you want, be the best at the job you have." She has authored a NASA technical paper, flown 57 different types of aircraft and successfully transitioned from an engineering career to a flying career. Undoubtedly, she has followed this advice.

Welcome New and Returning Ninety-Nines!

Welcome Back Members

ARNAC, Sarah, Greater St. Louis
BANGAR, Sangita Kabra, India Section
BILLINGS, Patrice, Greater St. Louis
BROWN, Shirley Watts, Oklahoma
CHERRY, Jessica, Midnight Sun
CULP, Alexandra K H (F), Orange County
DAVID, Lori Ann, Santa Barbara
DAVIS, Gwendolyn A, Ambassador
DELYSER, Dydia Yvonne, New Orleans
DOBELLI, Amanda C Christi, Florida Goldcoast
EDELSTEIN, Bettina, Connecticut
EISEMAN, Denise, Colorado
FRESE, Laura, North Jersey
FU, Wenyu, Aloha
GARDY, Michelle, El Paso
GIGOUX, Tammy Juricich, Oregon Pines
GOURLIE, Roberta, Canadian Rockies
HANE, Marcia L, Lake Tahoe
HAWKINS, Marilee, Coyote Country
HENRY, Lauren, First Canadian
HORN, Cathy Ann, North Jersey
JAMES, Barbara A, Penn-Jersey
JORDAN, Lorraine W, Garden State
KELLERMAN, Robi (F), Connecticut
KLAES, Jamie, Midnight Sun
KRONGOLD, Helene, San Fernando Valley
LABUS-OLSON, Amy Marie, Minnesota
LAMOREAUX, B., Ventura County
LASKOS, Susan, Delaware
LEE, Clararose, Florida Gulf Stream
LEIPHARDT, Michelle Rose, Santa Barbara
LIESKE, Jennifer, Finger Lakes
LUTHIN, Melinda Marie, Orange County
MAKAGONOVA, Khalide Khusyainova, Russian Section
MCCONNELL, Angela, Columbia Cascade
MCMASTER, Maureen Louise, Kansas
METAYER, Estelle, French Section
NEWMAN-HARRISON, Susan, San Gabriel Valley
NICKELL, Becky Suzanne, Houston
NOEL, Laura, Colorado
PICKARD, Martha Anne, Finger Lakes
POON, Jaclyn JanLee, Greater Seattle
REIS, Valorie, Aloha
RILEY, Katherine, Orange County
SANDMANN, Kimberly, Coachella Valley
SCHEY, Marilyn, Yavapai
SMITH, Charlotte George, Aloha
SRIKURUWAL, Pornthip, India Section
TAYLOR, Barbara, Fresno
TERESE, Dia, Idaho
TILLEY, Jane Ellen, Eastern Ontario
TURNER, Robin, Ambassador

Welcome New Members

ADKINS, Alyse Michelle, Kentucky Bluegrass
ALCALA, Tania Rosa Maria Gutierrez, San Diego
AMES, Mechell Denice (F), San Diego
BAILEY, Carol, Sugarloaf
BAILLIEZ, Sophie Charlotte, French Section



Claudia Contreras, Monterey Bay Chapter

BARGABOS, Mary Elizabeth, Central New York
BARNA, Laura, Keystone
BEST, Amy (F), Houston
BHAKRI-MIRCHANDANI, Chitra, India Section
BHASIN, Niharika, India Section
BINEY, Audrey (F), Member at Large
BROUWER, Kelly, Alberta
BUFF, Barbara Setman, Washington DC
CAREY, Kaleen (F), Phoenix
CASEY, Marci, San Luis Obispo County
CATES, Vikki, Greater St. Louis
CLEMENT, Alison (F), Sacramento Valley
CONTRERAS, Claudia, Monterey Bay
COPPING, Courtney, Chicago Area
CROSBY, Rachel R, Tucson
CROWDER, Gayle (F), Kitty Hawk
CUNNINGHAM, Sally Jo (F), Redwood Coast Flyers
DANIELS, Moriah Hope (F), Tennessee
DEMORY, Sherry, Purple Sage
DRAGER, Heidi, Iowa
EGLE, Shawn, Colorado
EVANS, Meghan (F), Kansas
FISHMAN, Hannah, Greater Seattle
FOX, Melanie E (F), Dallas
GALLAGHER, Kim, Delaware
GRAY, Bea (F), Katahdin Wings
HANSEBOUT, Diane, Maple Leaf
HASTIE, Jennifer, Monterey Bay
HIGGINS, Connie (F), Colorado
HINDI, Hanadi Zakarya, Arabian Section
HODGSON, Emily, Montreal
HOLMGREN, Janna, Ventura County
HOUTAS, Franzeska (F), Antelope Valley
HUISSON, Victoria A, British Columbia Coast
IGE, Lileila Kiyono, Long Beach
KURUWAA, Juliet (F), Member at Large
LAGEN, Collette Trausch, Iowa
LATIMER, Mary, Wichita Falls
LEES, Kate (F), First Canadian

LEWIS, Emily (F), Penn-Jersey
MASON, Faith, Redwood Coast Flyers
MCCANN, Kelly K (F), Bay Cities
MCCORMACK, Sandy, Greater Seattle
MCGLYNN, Kaaren, Oregon Pines
MCLAUGHLIN, Cynthia, Eastern New England
MCMILLIN, Molly, Kansas
MEYER, Janet Godwin, Colorado
MILLS, Dawn, Oklahoma
NABAKEWA, Siteri, New Zealand Section
NOLAN, Erin, Member at Large
NYEKODZI, Emmanuella (F), Member at Large
NYEKODZI, Patricia Mawuli, Member at Large
O'NEIL, Elaine, Coyote Country
PAIGE, Sara (F), Bay Cities
PAYNE, Zenia (F), El Paso
PEARCE, Jayne (F), Santa Clara Valley
PEELER, Jodie (F), Carolinas
PENA-PANNELL, Laura B, El Paso
PHILLIPS, Jennifer (F), Michigan
PROKESOVA, Julia Vollger (F), Redwood Coast Flyers
QUINN, Kristee Ann, Far East Section
RAINS, Kelly (F), San Diego
ROHRER, Alyce, San Fernando Valley
SALZMAN, Leslee, Chicago Area
SHAFFER, Melody, All-Ohio
SIKES, Billie K (F), Alabama
SILVA, Dusty Lee (F), Mat-Su Valley
SKINNER, Amy, Finger Lakes
SMETHERS, Debora (F), San Diego
SMITH, Morgan Alexis (F), New Orleans
SMITH, Robin Noel, Rio Grande Norte
SNYDER, Susan R (F), Sugarloaf
SPIVEY, Rani, Washington DC
STETZ, Jeri Lynn, Florida Goldcoast
STEWART, Robyn, Australian Section
STRABALA, Mackenzie (F), Las Vegas Valley
SUNKAVALI, Satya M (F), Indiana
SWENSSON, Nancee, Orange County
TARLI, Rhonda (F), Ventura County
THOMPSON, Britni (F), Dallas
TOLERTON, Joyce, Lake Erie
TRAPP, Barbara R (F), Montana
UHEN, Rosie (F), Wisconsin
VANCIL, Krystal Claudie, San Diego
VERBRAEKEN, Natalie, German Section
WATSON, Terri, Intermountain
WEBER, Cynthia Cindy, Dallas
WEBER-BEHRINGER, Monique, French Section
WESTI, Lydia (F), Member at Large
WHITE, Sandra Smith, Kitty Hawk
WILLIAMS, Nicole (F), Paradise Coast
WILSKE, Arlene, Orange County
WILSON, Darlene Vilasini (F), Redwood Coast Flyers
WIRTH, Nadine (F), Florida Goldcoast
WUETHRICH, Elisabeth (F), Florida Goldcoast
YOUNG, Elizabeth D, Eastern New England
ZEPPENFELD, Dagmar, Austrian Section

Another Fun Year at Oshkosh

BY RITA ADAMS
99s Coordinator EAA/AirVenture Oshkosh

Oshkosh 2011 was yet another fun-filled week of aviation and Ninety-Nines!

The Ninety-Nines volunteers at the Tent were joined by Mary Wunder representing The Ninety-Nines Endowment Fund and distributing the Women Venture T-shirts (also a mentor in the Women Soar program); Candie Oldham, Eastern New England Chapter, promoting the 2012 Ninety-Nines International Conference in Providence, Rhode Island; and Ninety-Nine Barbara Schultz of Plane Mercantile, selling her shirts and jewelry.

The WASP stopped by frequently — seven of those lively ladies! International Director Jan McKenzie joined us Wednesday in time for the FAA presentations and stayed the rest of the week. Special thanks to Meigs Adams and Dodie Jewett, Lake Erie Chapter, for their devotion all week; to Ellen O'Hara, Chicago Area Chapter, for most of the week; and to volunteers from all parts of the country.

The inside Tent walls were spruced up with 3-by-6-foot colored laminated posters of 99 News covers highlighting various Ninety-Nines activities and events. Thanks to Fran Strubeck, International Membership Chairman, who was responsible for their reproduction.

On Monday, the two Nepal airline pilots who were at the International Conference visited at the Tent, and they were unbeliev-



Ninety-Nines Judy Phelps, left, and Vicki Lynn Sherman.

ably amazed at the number and array of planes and private pilots.

Wednesday evening a group of Ninety-Nines attended the FAA presentation of awards to Ninety-Nines Past President Vickie Sherman, Florida Spaceport Chapter, and Ninety-Nine Judy Phelps, Ventura County Chapter. Vickie received recognition for FAAST Team presentations, and Judy was named National Flight Instructor of the Year.

The highlight of The Ninety-Nines Breakfast was a presentation by Patricia Nyekodzi from Ghana, West Africa, and Jonathan Porter, her mentor, flight instructor and founder of Medicine on the Move. (See article on page 8.) Friday morning brought out hundreds of women pilots for the Women Venture photo.

There was so much more going on, with special tributes to Burt Rutan and Bob Hoover, 100 years of Naval aviation, the new 787 Dreamliner and the finale featuring the laser night air show and fireworks.

Women Soar with The 99s at Oshkosh

BY MADELEINE MONACO, AEMSF Co-Chair



From left, Ellen Herring, Chicago Area Chapter 99 and Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Trustee, Beth Oliver, El Paso 99 and Women Soar mentor, with Scarlett Thomas, recipient of the Women Soar/99s Scholarship for 2011.

This year at Oshkosh, Wisconsin's 2011 AirVenture, a large group of high school women took part in the latest EAA outreach program – Women Soar *You Soar* for girls. With the help of a dedicated group of chaperones and aviation professional mentors, the girls spent 3½ days immersed in aviation and goal setting. The 99s are proud to be a part of this wonderful program and to have provided scholarships both this year and last.

This year's winner of the Women Soar/99s Scholarship is Scarlett Thomas, who will receive \$500 for flight training at her home airport. Scarlett is not yet 16 but is studying at Embry Riddle already in pursuit of a professional flying career. We will keep track of Scarlett's progress and provide continuing mentorship for her as she moves ahead.

The EAA mentor assigned to Scarlett was El Paso Ninety-Nine Beth Oliver. The El Paso Chapter is one of the funding Chapters for the AEMSF New Pilot Award Perpetual Scholarship. Beth will be keeping in touch with Scarlett as well and hopes for a future for her with The Ninety-Nines.

MEMBER PROFILE: Bernice Barris

BY EVELYN MOORE
Lake Erie Chapter

Bernice Barris, Lake Erie Chapter member, received the 2011 North Central Section Governor's Service Award. Bernice has been a valuable member of The Ninety-Nines for decades, serving our organization in so many capacities. She has served as Chapter Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as headed several committees, including Education, Media Coverage, Air Marking and Air Racing.

To say that Bernice has dedicated her life to The Ninety-Nines and to aviation is an understatement. The breadth and depth of participation, enthusiasm and aviation knowledge that Bernice has served The Ninety-Nines with is unmatched.

A former WASP, Bernice, along with Helen Keidel, started the first proficiency race at the Cleveland National Air Show in 1976. She served as director of the Lake Erie Air Derby for several years, in addition to being a participant in several races over the years.

She was also a member of the Coast Guard, Zonta, Flying Nurses Association and Silver Wings, and has participated in the Powder Puff and Angel Derbies. In chairing the Lake Erie Air Derby events for the Cleveland National Air Show, Bernice helped raise tens of thousands of dollars that benefited several charities. She also serves the Civil Air Patrol as a Lt. Col., teaching aviation ground school.

Bernice has supported The Ninety-Nines through her lifelong dedication to aerospace education and has been the leading force in setting up safety seminars for Ninety-Nines members, as well as other area pilots, for many years. She is an accomplished member, holding an ATP certificate as well as ground and flight instructor certificates for both land and sea. Bernice is quick to share her knowledge and enthusiasm with other Ninety-Nines, encouraging them and serving as a mentor as they attain higher ratings.

Lake Erie Chapter unanimously nominated Bernice for the Wright Brothers Master Pilot award, an honor that was presented to her in 2007 by the FAA for 50 or more consecutive years of safe flight operations.

Bernice started flying in 1941 and returned to it in the late 1960s with her membership in the All-Ohio Chapter. She is a charter member of the Lake Erie Chapter that was founded in 1974. The

Lake Erie Chapter has become a strong, vibrant Chapter under her tutelage, which continues to this day. She has given talks, taught aviation courses, helped Lake Erie Chapter host the Accident Prevention Clinic at NASA, as well as previous North Central Section meetings.

She is a treasured member of our Chapter, attending every meeting, along with innumerable Section meetings and International Conferences. She not only strives for continual education for herself, she has always been active in the local and national aviation community.

For many years, Bernice has worked closely with the local FSDO, setting up safety programs. She provides an impressive, professional representation of The Ninety-Nines to the aviation and general community and is very highly regarded by all who are privileged to know her.

A longtime "shining star" to The Ninety-Nines and to aviation in general, Bernice remains every bit as vibrant, instrumental and inspirational to our membership as ever and continues to support and promote The Ninety-Nines through all of her efforts.

To say that Bernice has dedicated her life to The Ninety-Nines and to aviation is an understatement. The breadth and depth of participation, enthusiasm and aviation knowledge that Bernice has served The Ninety-Nines with is unmatched.



Bernice Barris receives the 2011 North Central Section Governor's Service Award from Nancy Wood, Lake Erie Chapter Chairman.

99s AEMSF Wins Lightspeed Aviation Foundation Grant

BY SUSAN LIEBELER AND PEGGY DOYLE

Allan Schrader, founder and president of Lightspeed Aviation Foundation and CEO of Lightspeed Aviation, presented The Ninety-Nines Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund with a \$10,000 check at the AOPA Aviation Summit in Hartford on September 23. Ninety-Nines and other members of the aviation community voted for the Scholarship Fund on the Lightspeed Aviation Foundation website — and we won! We were one of five aviation nonprofits to receive the award.

The Lightspeed Aviation Foundation was established in 2010 by Lightspeed Aviation to promote a vibrant and growing pilot community, support education that will preserve and extend the future of aviation and use its gifts within the aviation community to serve others for the betterment of our world. The Foundation designated 20 eligible aviation nonprofit organizations and over the last several months let the aviation community vote to determine which five organizations would receive \$10,000 grants.

Peggy Doyle, AEMSF Permanent Trustee and Co-Chairman, was on hand at AOPA to accept the award from Lightspeed at a ceremony on the AOPA center stage that was broadcast live over the Internet. A Ninety-Nines cheering section was in the audience with a “99s Love Lightspeed” banner to provide vocal support and gratitude for the award.

In addition to the \$10,000 award, the AEMSF is eligible to receive additional funds from purchases of Lightspeed Zulu



Peggy Doyle, Co-Chairman of the AEMSF, with Allan Schrader, President of Lightspeed Aviation, left, and Craig Fuller, President of AOPA.

and Sierra headsets. When headset purchasers register their products on the Lightspeed website, they can designate the AEMSF as a recipient of a donation the Foundation makes for each headset purchased.

Lightspeed has posted additional information about the winners of this year’s Lightspeed Aviation Foundation grants at <http://www.lightspeedaviationfoundation.org/content.cfm/News/LSAF-Announces-2011-Pilots-Choice-10,000-Award-Recipients,11>.

We are grateful to Lightspeed Aviation Foundation for their generosity and support.

Ninety-Nines Receive Awards at AOPA Aviation Summit

LET'S GO FLYING AWARD GOES TO MIREILLE GOYER

On September 24, AOPA honored Mireille Goyer, British Columbia Coast Chapter, with the 2011 Let’s Go Flying Award for her worldwide efforts to draw women into aviation. The award was presented during the AOPA Aviation Summit at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

Goyer originally began flying for the pure enjoyment of it. But it was not long before she earned her instructor’s certificate in order to share that joy.

In late 2009, she was searching for events marking the centennial of certificated women pilots (March 8, 2010) in which she could participate. To her dismay, she found none. Determined not to let this important milestone for women pilots go unnoticed and uncelebrated, she launched a worldwide Centennial of Licensed Women Pilots campaign and encouraged pilots everywhere to introduce a girl or a woman to flying as a salute to Raymonde de Laroche earning her pilot certificate in 1910. As a result, more than 1,600 girls and women in 36 countries on four continents discovered aviation.

LISA TURECEK RECEIVES \$5,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Connecticut Chapter member Lisa Turacek won a \$5,000 scholarship awarded from the Erral Lea Plymate Memorial Endowment to continue her flight training and obtain her private certificate.

Lisa's dream of flight began on a sightseeing flight she arranged for herself and her husband on their fifth anniversary. She quickly realized that earning her certificate could be a great way for them to “get away.” She was in it for the fun. Sadly, cancer claimed her husband’s life before she could complete her training.

Now her learning to fly has a more serious purpose. Turecek wants to fulfill one of her husband’s final wishes and scatter his ashes over the ocean from a plane that she is piloting. After that, she intends to work with a volunteer medical airlift organization such as Angel Flight.

How fitting Lisa was selected for this scholarship! My mother, Erral Lea Plymate, would smile and applaud her for continuing to fly and fulfill her husband’s wishes. Lisa's accomplishments are an inspiration to us all. — Debra Plymate

SHARING OUR PASSION FOR FLIGHT

Our new section features Ninety-Nines who share their passion for flight through the written word and have published recent books or articles.

• **Julie Boatman Filucci**, Colorado Chapter, her first book, *Together We Fly: Voices From The DC-3*, asa2fly.com.

• **Mary Ford**, San Diego Chapter, the article *Flying, It's a Girl Thing*, for the International Aviation Business online newspaper, blueskynews.aero/.../Flying_its_a_girl_thing_by_Mary_Ford.htm.

• **Reya Kempley**, Reno High Sierra Chapter, educational aviation book *Flight Emergency*, starflightpress.com.

• **Sparky Barnes Sargent**, South Central Section, a book, *Tales of Timeless Wings*, <http://home.windstream.net/av8terz/book2.html>.

Holiday Shop at Our eStore!

Start your holiday shopping online with the Ninety-Nines eStore where you will find an exclusive line of Ninety-Nines items. Look through the backpacks, duffel bags, rolling bags, totes, briefcases and messenger bags. Keep her warm with a beanie cap or for the Florida sun, a baseball cap may do. Jackets and vests are available along with sweat-shirts and pants as well. There are shirts galore. You will find, T-shirts, polos, casual and dress shirts of all kinds. And sizes range from infants on up for that very young future woman pilot in your circle. There is something there for everyone. Support your very own eStore and make a Ninety-Nine or a future Ninety-Nine happy with a monogrammed gift just for her.

BOOK REVIEW

Tales of Timeless Wings

By Sparky Barnes Sargent

Reviewed by Donna Crane-Bailey

It is a pleasure to read a well-written, well-documented and authoritative set of stories. It's hard to say for sure who the stars of this book are, the planes or those who cared for them, restored them, babied them, flew them, loved them.

As a pilot, mechanic and professional writer, Sparky Barnes Sargent is the ideal person to bring the romance of aviation history home in such a positive and engaging manner. She clearly loves the subject matter and the people she features. The book is presented in magazine fashion with lots of pictures and sidebars, peppered by side comments from the author.

Read this book. I'm willing to bet that for most there will be an airplane or two included in it that evokes the comment, "Wow, I never heard of one of those."



TRAINING MILESTONES

Risa Altman – Solo
Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter

Carol Andrews – Wings Basic, Level 12, Sutter Buttes Chapter

Michelle Bassanesi – Master CFI
Ambassador Chapter

Ruby Bowen – Private Pilot
Intercollegiate Internet Chapter

Debbie Brown – Private Pilot
Ventura County Chapter

Meadow Chase – Solo
San Diego Chapter

Debby Cunningham – Citation X Type
rating, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Betsy Donovan – Citation X Type
Rating, San Joaquin Valley Chapter

Sandra Feliciano – CFII
Sugarloaf Chapter

Amy Gardiner – Solo
New York Capital District Chapter

Marcia Gitelman – Wings Advanced,
Level 4, Finger Lakes Chapter

Christine Hollingsworth – Private Pilot,
Greater Seattle Chapter

Ginger Hobbs – Private Pilot
San Diego Chapter

Maureen Kenney – Instrument
San Fernando Valley Chapter

Marybeth Martin – Private Pilot
Ventura County Chapter

Susie McWilliams – Commercial
Rotorcraft, Ventura County Chapter

Gabrielle Palmas – Multi-engine
Phoenix Chapter

Danna Park – Private Pilot
Blue Ridge Chapter

Jennifer Phillips – Solo
Michigan Chapter

Peggy Thompson – Instrument
Santa Rosa Chapter

Mini Zabala – Private Pilot
Ventura County Chapter

GREETINGS FROM THE KOREA SECTION

It is great to be here again [at International Headquarters]. I feel so welcome. This is my third visit here from 2005 and 2007. The main purpose of my visit this time is, since I became the governor of Far East Section of The 99s, I just wanted to keep you updated in person of how we're getting reshaped.

As the new Governor, I understand it is one of my main responsibilities to strengthen the relationship among women pilots in Asia through diverse activities. Therefore, I am in the process of getting more members involved. Currently we have 12 members from Korea, Japan and China. In the case of China, there are many more women pilots than we can figure out, but since they all belong to the military, the actual number still cannot be determined. In the case of Korea, more and more women are enthusiastically participating in air sports.

It is my hope and plan to have more women become interested in joining The Ninety-Nines. Russia has also shown interest in joining us. It is my desire to seek ways to work more closely with the International Ninety-Nines. I joined The 99s in 1958 and had been participating actively for over 20 years and made many wonderful friends.

I'm also active in FAI (Fédération Aéronautique Internationale). I've been working as the vice chairperson. I have worked hard to promote women's participation in the Korean Air Force, and I'm so proud to say that now there are a great number of women F-16 pilots. Also we have 10 women captains flying commercial airlines.

It is a great honor for me and my country to be a part of this great historical museum. I thank you for making me feel welcome all the time, and I wish you to pay a visit to Korea in the future.

— *Kyung O. Kim, Far East Section Governor*

WELCOME NEW GHANA SECTION

Dear Governor Nyekodzi,

On behalf of the International Board of Directors and all Ninety-Nines, we extend our warmest welcome to the newest Section, Ghanaian, approved by the International Board of Directors this day, October 4, 2011.

The Ghanaian Section is currently the only Section on the African continent, and your success is of great importance to those of us who live elsewhere in the world. We would be greatly heartened as an organization to see more Sections in Africa as aviation is indeed a great means of communication that benefits all, and Africa is a huge continent that is best bound together through aviation.

Melissa, as you are listed as Vice-Governor, and Patricia Malawi Nyekodzi, listed as Governor, does not have an email address, would you please do your best to communicate our delight to Patricia and the other charter members of the Ghanaian Section.

— *Susan Larson, Ninety-Nines International President*

Dear Susan,

We are very excited about this. It represents so much for the women flying and learning to fly in Africa, and I know that the ladies at Kpong Airfield will represent The Ninety-Nines well. They are making a difference every day, and they are such an inspiration to me. They are focused on teaching women to fly, to build and work on planes, to create runways and airports and to use aviation to teach first aid and make a difference through an 'air highway.' They give so many kids something to look up to, and now having The Ninety-Nines Section and all of the amazing connections to women all over the world, these girls who are working so hard can now be a part of a worldwide community of women pilots, and that is so exciting! From just a handful of girls to thousands :)

— *Melissa Pemberton, Ghanaian Section Vice Governor*

WOMEN OF AVIATION
WORLDWIDE WEEK

The Ninety-Nines Board of Directors has agreed to associate with 'Women Of Aviation Worldwide' in order to mutually support the goal of further exposing women to the joy and passion of flight and encouraging them to follow their dreams.

The Ninety-Nines plans to encourage its members, worldwide, to celebrate Women of Aviation Worldwide week by organizing events to celebrate Women Of Aviation Worldwide Week by organizing events to celebrate women pilots' history, raise awareness of aviation's opportunities among girls and women and introduce girls and women to aviation. The event is held annually during the week including March 8, which marks International Women's Day and the anniversary of the issuance of the first female pilot license worldwide.

"It is our pleasure that we work with Women Of Aviation Worldwide toward a common goal," said Susan Larson, president of The Ninety-Nines.

For more information about Women Of Aviation Worldwide Week, please visit the official website, WomenOfAviation-Week.org.

— *Mireille Goyer, founder*

HEATHER TAYLOR HONORED FOR
DOCUMENTARY

The National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF) presented its Ninth Annual Combs Gates Award to filmmaker Heather Taylor. She was recognized for the documentary she directed and produced, *Breaking Through the Clouds: The First Women's National Air Derby*. Heather received the \$20,000 cash award in a formal presentation on October 11 at a special opening session of the National Business Aviation Association 64th Annual Meeting & Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. *Breaking Through the Clouds* documents the First Women's National Air Derby, a grueling nine-day race from Santa Monica, California to Cleveland, Ohio, held in the summer of 1929. To learn more about the film, go to breakingthroughthecLOUDS.com.

— *National Aviation Hall of Fame*



From left, Kevin Psutka, Lesley Page, Jeff Page and Paul Hayes.

FIRST CANADIAN CHAPTER MEMBER WINS COPA AWARD OF MERIT

At the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) convention held in June, First Canadian Chapter member Lesley Page, along with her husband, were awarded the COPA Award of Merit in recognition of their efforts to introduce youth and women to aviation.

Six years ago, Jeff took Lesley for her first flight ever in a small airplane, and it was love at first flight. She decided that life is too short to be a passenger and promptly started flight training and received her license in 2007. She and Jeff have been sharing their passion for flying ever since. They are avid Young Eagles pilots, and Lesley is a Young Eagles Field Representative for her region.

Lesley joined The Ninety-Nines in 2008 and is currently Vice Chairman of the First Canadian Chapter.

Early in 2010, when Lesley learned that only six percent of pilots are women, she signed up for the “Centennial of Women Licensed Pilots,” an initiative created by Vancouver Ninety-Nine Mireille Goyer. In 2010, Lesley introduced 54 non-pilot women and girls to aviation. In all, Lesley, Jeff and 50 other Oshawa area pilots introduced 475 women and girls to aviation at the Oshawa airport, making Oshawa the 2010 “Most Female-Pilot-Friendly Airport” in the world.

— Akky Mansikka

PENNY HAMILTON JOINS COLORADO AVIATION HALL OF FAME

Ninety-Nine member Penny Hamilton was inducted into the Colorado Aviation Hall Of Fame on October 16 at Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum. She is a Colorado 99 and was nominated by Emily Warner, a previous inductee.

For more than 20 years, Penny has been an advocate for more Colorado women to become licensed pilots through her “Teaching Women to Fly Project,” as the creator of her “Penny the Pilot Program” to inspire school children to become interested in the mathematics and the science behind aviation, and through her “Colorado Airports History Preservation Project.”

TENNESSEE CHAPTER

The Tennessee Chapter enjoyed a truly unique experience August 6 in Knoxville. The Chapter celebrated the 100th birthday of Tennessee Chapter Charter Member Gladys Lacey Jones at the same time as the 71st anniversary of the Chapter.

Ninety-Nine Linda Haynes presented a brief biography of Gladys at the ceremony. Tennessee Chapter Chairman Martha Miller then presented Gladys with a copy of the Tennessee Chapter Charter and a Certificate of Appreciation.

Tea and refreshments accompanied a special cake in Gladys’ honor. Ninety-Nines, 49½s and a number of Gladys’ family members were present. Both local television and newspapers covered the event.

The original charter of the Tennessee Chapter was signed on August 9, 1940 in Knoxville. Gladys Lacy Jones is part of this group of aviation pioneers. The Lacy family is one of the first families to reside in Tennessee and its roots date back to before the Revolutionary War.

Gladys earned her private pilot certificate through the Civilian Pilot Training Program sponsored by the U.S. government from 1938 through 1944. The program was designed to increase the number of pilots in the United States. Pilot hopefuls received 72 hours of ground training, with only the highest scoring candidates continuing on to receive 35 to 50 hours of flight training. Gladys learned in a 40 hp Cub.

Her husband started in aviation as a flight instructor for King College in Bristol, Tennessee. The couple went on to own a Taylorcraft. Gladys currently lives with her daughter, Bette Jones Noble, in Gainesville, Georgia.

— Janice Orr Pelletti



Linda Haynes, left, looks on as Martha Miller presents Tennessee Chapter charter member Gladys Jones with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Ray Costello (in background), Judy Costello, Edith Robinson, Pam Collings, Sue Campbell testing the water at the hot springs.

NEW ZEALAND SECTION

After waiting for weather and members' travel plans to coincide, we at long last were able to hold our Section's weekend away at Great Barrier Island.

Great Barrier Island is a large island situated in the outer Hauraki Gulf, Auckland. The weather on the Barrier can often be ferocious, exposing it to high winds and with the principal

airstrip set in a valley with high hills at one end. However, we could not have organized the weather better if we had tried. A weekend in April was set aside, and a total of 10 Ninety-Nines and partners flew into the strip at Claris on a very sunny, warm and flat calm Saturday morning.

Pam Collings took the prize for coming the farthest (from Forest Field, near Christchurch). Joan and Malcolm Campbell arrived from their Waihi farm strip in their C172 and Dee Bond and Neil made a supreme effort after competing at Precision Flying comps at Matamata to fly up to Barrier to join the evening meal, also in a C172. Judy Costello (former 99) and husband Ray flew their Tecnam from the Hunua area, and Edith Robinson drove from Ardmore to fly with Sue Campbell, Richard Neave and Pam from North Shore airfield in a Mooney.

Activities included a welcome morning tea, a bush walk to the natural hot springs, a visit to the art gallery and local museum, an evening BBQ meal, a visit to Tryphena, fishing for snapper and, on the last morning, some sight-seeing and a beach walk.

Secretary/Treasurer Thyra Blaom, who could not attend herself, obtained a copy of the DVD about women pilots in Nepal so we could watch this video during the weekend.

— Sue Campbell

NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

A Girl Scout event, painting a new compass rose annually, hosting a Christmas party during a blizzard and preparing for the Fall Section Meeting 2012 keeps the Northwoods Chapter busy — very busy. Yes, that is what our Chapter has done over the past several months. But the most important and fun part was getting together and enjoying each other's company.

In April, we hosted our third Girl Scout Aviation Badge event at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. With 62 girls in attendance, it was a very successful day for all. Our program is liked so much, we had some repeat attendees. Our next Girl Scout event is scheduled for Fall 2013 in Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

Every year we have painted a compass rose somewhere in the Wisconsin/Minnesota Northwoods/Upper Peninsula respectively. This year we were at KERY, Newberry, Michigan. They requested that a moose head be incorporated in the design because Newberry is the Moose Capital. So, on Friday night we had a "Moose Potluck" with "moose" burgers (hamburgers), "moose steaks" and "Moose Poop Cookies." Some of us even camped out at the airport. It was a fun and productive weekend.

Our first digital scrapbook was presented at the Spring Section Meeting. Incorporated in it was a lovely memorial tribute to our Chapter member Eloise Greenlee, who flew to New Horizons this year.

The North Central Section Fall Meeting will be in Marquette, Michigan in September 2012. Several of our members are knitting their way to that deadline. You will just have to attend to see what that's all about! We are scheduling some interesting options for all.



Chapter Chairman Pam Trask took this photo of the completed compass rose as she and her husband flew home.



Candice Tuttle helps 49½ Ernie Nassimbene with a magic rope trick at the Chapter's 56th Birthday Party.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER

Santa Clara Valley Ninety-Nines have had a busy summer. At our annual Awards Banquet, Sandra Clifford was honored as Pilot of the Year with special recognition for her work in saving and redesigning the aviation degree program at San Jose State. Carol Munch received the Service Award for her energetic support of our Chapter activities, and Marilyn Dash was our guest speaker with wonderful stories about flying in the Reno Air Races.

The Chapter celebrated its 56th birthday in July with a potluck picnic. Magic tricks by 49½ Ernie Nassimbene, Andrea's husband, were an unexpected treat. Our August fly-in was our third annual trip to the Paso Robles Olive Festival, with three planes and nine passengers and pilots making the trip.

Member Terri Gorman, who frequently flies Young Eagle flights, had another opportunity to introduce participants to general aviation in a city-sponsored summer program. The 25 young people and their leader showed up at RHV, but when the airport staff was unavailable to conduct the tour, Terri filled in. She took them to Tradewinds Aviation where they learned how airplanes fly; to Flying S Aviation where they learned about aircraft maintenance and a career as an aircraft mechanic; to the Victory Hangar where a female mechanic showed them the six Russian Yaks tied down there; and to the Airport Shoppe where they were charmed by Fiona, the pet parrot.

— Judy Stark

FLORIDA SUNCOAST CHAPTER

Our June meeting was held in Crystal River, Florida, hosted by Gudi Davis and Meredith Kupcho. Gudi's husband Tom Davis presented a great program on "Pilots' Common Errors."

Chapter member Laura Ying Gao gave a presentation on using the iPad at our September meeting, followed by a luncheon at the Saddlebrook Resort.

— Sophia M. Payton

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

After painting Clow Airport's 18/36 numbers industriously from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a break for lunch provided by airport manager Joe DePaulo, these Fabulous Four painters, Syd Syran Fox, Maggie Dodson, Carolyn Johnson and Ellen O'Hara, were happy to complete the 2011 airmarking on June 28 after three previous dates were washed out.

The project worked well all day, even under an 80-degree sun, until one airplane turned around on the sod strip and blew freshly-cut grass onto the painting area (and onto the paint rollers!). Ellen slept 12 hours that night. The whole team needed a good rest!

— Ellen O'Hara

FIRST CANADIAN CHAPTER

A reception for First Canadian Chapter member Dorothy Rungeling was held on May 31 in celebration of her 100th birthday. Many people spoke about Dorothy, including Ninety-Nine Marilyn Dickson. Dorothy spoke as well, relating the love story of how she and her husband met and how he supported and encouraged her throughout their marriage.

Dorothy was born in 1911 and received her private license in 1949, followed by a commercial license. She instructed, set up a charter business and flew air races, winning the Governor General's Cup in 1953 and 1955 in which all other competitors were men. Since turning 90, she has written and published four books. Her inspiration and dedication to aviation have won her many awards, including the Order of Canada.

In other Chapter news, Lauren Egglestone from Seneca College School of Flight Technology was the recipient of the Chapter's Award of Excellence that includes a one-year membership to The Ninety-Nines, a cash award and a plaque. The award is presented annually to a female pilot who has achieved academic excellence and flight proficiency in her private pilot or commercial license in the region of the First Canadian Chapter.

— Akky Mansikka and Lauren Nelson



Lauren Egglestone, left, receives her Award of Excellence from Lauren Nelson, Award of Excellence Chairman.



Chapter Chair Margaret Wint congratulates new Governor's Award winner, Janice Welsh.

INDIANA DUNES CHAPTER

In May, the Indiana Dunes Chapter celebrated its 36th anniversary with a luncheon in Laporte, Indiana. Chapter members, their guests and several former members gathered to remember old times and give advice to younger members. Dee Nusbaum prepared an historical slide presentation enjoyed by all. The installation of new officers completed the program.

The Chapter continued into a busy summer in June with a meeting in South Bend and a presentation by member Janice Welsh, who talked about what it's like to be a certified flight instructor. In July, several of our members helped the EAA chapter in Elkhart, Indiana with "Flights with a Ford Trimotor." Many of our members were also lucky enough to get to fly in it.

By August, we were all ready for our own flying event, and we were finally able to have the air rally that had been postponed two times. We had to wait a little for visibility to improve, but we took off only an hour later than originally planned. We were very lucky to have Civil Air Patrol cadets volunteer their help. They took some of the burden off our loyal ground crew. Congratulations to Margaret Wint, who nailed her spot landing, and to Lynn Pergher and Marcia Forcey, who were the rally winners.

— Lynn Pergher

LAKE ERIE CHAPTER

Lake Erie Chapter members took on a three-fold airmarking at Portage County Airport this summer to paint a new compass rose, an identifier and the tetrahedron. We had it planned for the weekend of June 9-11, but due to a delay in surveying and sealing, we had to cancel and tried again on June 17-18 but had another delay due to the need to reseal the pavement. Finally with good July weather, we started on July 8 and finished on July 11. Thank goodness Ohio was not as hot in July as Oklahoma.

— Evelyn Moore

EAST CANADA SECTION MEETING

The East Canada Ninety-Nines held their Section meeting in Toronto on May 13-15 hosted by the First Canadian Chapter. Over 40 Ninety-Nines, mostly from eastern Canada, attended. Also attending were International President Susan Larson, International Board Member Joan Kerwin, New York-New Jersey Governor Mary Mattocks, and Western Canada Governor Betty Lee Moore.



Ninety-Nines attend the East Canada Section Meeting in May.

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

In July, Laurie Probst and Tina Hartlaub presented a flying companion seminar on Radios and Communication as a part of the WINGS Program at the FAA Forum at AirVenture.

Chapter members present for the event were, from left, back row: Jan Koerwitz, Christy Stark, Julie Hartlaub, Diane Welch, Dee Becker, Elizabeth Stull. Front row: Ann Sederquist, Darcy Kulesha, Laurie Probst, and Tina Hartlaub.

— Laurie Probst



LONG BEACH CHAPTER

The Long Beach Chapter painted a compass rose at Rosie the Riveter Park and Interpretive Center. The "flight path" features solar powered runway lights and silhouettes of airplanes etched in a landing pattern leading to the compass rose.

Chapter members were awarded a certificate of appreciation for their hard work and artistry by the Long Beach City Council on July 19.

—Nora Montoya

SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAPTER

Four members of the San Luis Obispo Chapter partnered with the local YMCA for their first Young Aviators Camp. The week of June 20-24, 13 boys age 9-13 were introduced to various aspects of aviation at Oceano Airport, California.

Kathy Dannecker and Camille Nelson spent a morning teaching the kids about runways, patterns and radio communication. Julie Butler taught a lesson on weather and soaring and brought her glider for the kids to sit in. Grace Crittenden led a fun lab on building and flying paper airplanes.

It was a great opportunity to serve the community and provide exposure to aviation to the next generation of pilots.

—Julie Butler



EASTERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

On June 22, several Chapter members attended the Aero Club of New England's annual Godfrey L. Cabot Awards Luncheon honoring retired astronaut and Ninety Nine Col. Eileen Collins.

The prestigious event, held at Boston's Harvard Club, recognized Eileen for her many outstanding achievements, including being the first woman commander of the Space Shuttle. Attending, from left, Trish Gillis, Anne Baddour, Anne Umphrey, Katharine Barr, Col. Eileen Collins, Georgia Pappas, Margot Cheel, Trish Sauve and Theresa Grant.

—Katharine Barr

RIO GRANDE NORTE

Just after sunrise on June 18, four RGN aircraft, carrying 11 space-tourist-wannabes, met in Truth or Consequences for a personalized tour of Spaceport America, New Mexico's answer to Cape Canaveral.

The Spaceport wouldn't let us land on the huge expanse of asphalt they call a runway, even though it was the only thing not under construction. Our tour guide showed us the entrance sign ("ooh") and the moonscape launch pads ("aah"); we drove by the control center (portable buildings), and checked out the hangar/terminal (under construction).

Clearly much remains to be done, and the only thing flying was a drone helicopter practicing landings on a moving flatbed trailer. The day's real excitement started as we arrived back at KTCS, just in time to see a Cessna bouncing along in a cloud of dirt. Apparently the pilot was trying to take off downwind and did not see the dust devil that clobbered him from behind (damaged aircraft, people unhurt).

Stiff crosswinds kept all but our most intrepid CFI on the ground all afternoon. At 5 p.m. the wind was still howling (a second dust devil came through, filling teeth and hair and everything else with dirt), but by dusk it had settled enough for one more aircraft to nose its way



Rio Grande Norte members in front of the Spaceport America terminal. From left, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, Robert Gibson, Steve Ross, Elizabeth Hunke, Michal Mudd, Marianne Francois, Virginie Dupont, Bertrand Rollin, Natalie Saindon, Tandra Hicks and Fred Loehr.

home through the dim greyness of the Wallow Fire smoke plume.

Everyone else learned a lesson: bring a toothbrush even for a morning outing — you might have to stay overnight!

—Elizabeth Hunke

VIRGINIA AND HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTERS

On August 20, the Virginia Chapter and the Hampton Roads Chapter met jointly at Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport (JGG) for a Longevity Luncheon. The honorees were Doris Phillips celebrating 70 years of membership in The Ninety-Nines and Maude (Maxine) Walker, who celebrated 60 years continuous membership. There were 10 members present from the Hampton Roads Chapter and eight from the Virginia Chapter. Members ranged from a new student pilot up to the combined 130 years of the honorees. After a roll call of those present the total number of years of membership in The Ninety-Nines was found to be 481.5!

Certificates honoring their service and signed by President Susan Larson were read and presented to each honoree.

Doris told of taking flight instruction in her home state of West Virginia prior to WWII and then becoming a charter member of the newly formed West Virginia Chapter. During WWII she did her part for the war effort by working on the production line building Taylorcraft planes. She belonged to several Chapters around the country before a permanent move resulted in her joining the Virginia Chapter in 1968. During her time in the Virginia Chapter she served as Section Chairman for the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund. In 1987 she transferred to the Hampton Roads Chapter. Doris celebrated her 94th birthday in July.

Maxine Walker earned her certificate in 1941 in North Carolina. She joined the Carolinas Chapter in 1951. Living in Winston-Salem area placed her right in the aviation beehive that was to become Piedmont Airlines, later to morph into USAirways. She took whatever flying jobs she could get, which included charter work. In 1959, Max became the first female Air Traffic Controller hired at RIC. In 2002 Max was recognized by her peers by being inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame.

— Betty Vinson



Doris Phillips, left, and Maxine Walker were honored by the Virginia and Hampton Roads Chapters at the Longevity Luncheon.



Greater Seattle Area Chapter members attend the Northwest Section meeting, from left, Tricia Crook, Elise Hoit, Marian Hartley, Marty Vale, Theresa White, Christine Hollingsworth, Marilyn Emery, Nancy Jensen, Andrea Chay and Gin Hildebrant.

NORTHWEST SECTION MEETING

On September 16-18, the Greater Seattle Chapter and the British Columbia Coast Chapter co-sponsored the Northwest Section Meeting in Vancouver, BC. Representatives were there from all over the northwestern U.S. and Canada.

Friday's weather was good enough to fly in with 3,500-foot ceilings in the Vancouver area. Five attendees made it across the border and landed at Boundary Bay (CZBB). Greater Seattle Chapter members were easy to spot in their new mango polo shirts.

Some attendees toured the tower at Vancouver International, and an Egress Seminar was held with 12 participants.

With over 70 people attending the banquet and silent auction, it was a wonderful time to hangar talk in our finery and bid on some unique gifts. Saturday and early Sunday were soaked in, but the clouds parted and those who flew in were able to head home by mid-afternoon.

It was a wonderful time, and we all made new friends on both sides of the border. Those flying out from ZBB had a rare sight upon departure: hundreds of Canadian CAP Cadets in full dress uniform in parade and marching with the drum and bugle corps in honor of the Battle of Britain. What a send-off!

— Marty Vale

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHAPTER

In May, Marissa Hopkins won the San Gabriel Valley Chapter's Linda Hayden Scholarship for a Future Woman Pilot. In June, Kate Darwin won the San Gabriel Valley Chapter's Jean Bustos Scholarship to pursue her CFI. Casey Erickson, CFII and Reno Air Races competitor, won the San Gabriel Valley Chapter Pilot of the Year 2011. Brenda Frazier, Chapter Secretary and former Treasurer, won the San Gabriel Valley Student Pilot of the Year 2011.

— Linda Rever

NEW HORIZONS

MARION E. ANDREWS-LOPEZ **Greater New York Chapter**

Marion E. Andrews-Lopez, 98, of Whitestone, New York, passed away peacefully on June 6, 2011 in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Marion was a member of the Greater New York Chapter and friend to the Long Island Chapter.

She received her pilot certificate in 1955 and later flew in several of the Powder Puff Derbies. A talented artist, she was commissioned by the U.S. Navy for a series of paintings of the Blue Angels. Her artistic specialties included calligraphy, gilding and watercolors.

— *Jill Hopfenmuller*

GENEVA CRANFORD **Monterey Bay Chapter**

Geneva Mae Cranford, 88, of Salinas, passed away July 25, 2011. She was born June 8, 1923 in Chandler, Oklahoma to Phillip and Tessie Ausmus. She married Douglas Cranford of Salinas in 1941.

She earned her private pilot certificate in 1961 at the Salinas Airport. In 1965, she helped charter the Monterey Bay Chapter. In 1966 she had one of her biggest thrills in flying as co-pilot in the Powder Puff Derby with Helen Shropshire in Helen's Comanche 180. She once again flew as co-pilot with Jo Dieser in the final Powder Puff Derby race in 1976.

Her creative talents led her to design and build a portable concession booth for The 99s to use at air shows and various activities, a model of which can be found in the front windows of the Headquarters building.

She was adventurous and led 24 Ninety-Nines on a climb of Amelia Earhart Peak in 1987 to commemorate the 50th year anniversary of Amelia's last flight. On her 80th birthday she skydived for the first time — in a gold lamé jumpsuit that she designed and made herself. In Geneva's own words, "If I think of something, I'm going to do it." And, she did!

Fly high, Geneva. We will all miss you.

— *Donna Crane-Bailey*

BETTY SKELTON ERDE

Betty Skelton Erde flew the final race on August 31, 2011 at age 85. She joined The Ninety-Nines in 1946. Betty caught the aviation bug early: she completed her first solo flight at 12 (although not officially permitted), had a private certificate at 16 and was a flight instructor at 18. Because military and commercial aviation were closed to women at that time, she turned to showmanship, wowing crowds with her displays of aeronautical daring.

She is famous for her inverted ribbon cut aerobatic trick that required Betty to fly her biplane, Little Stinker, upside down only 10 feet off the ground and slice a ribbon with her propeller.

— *Marge Shaffer*



Geneva Cranford.

RUTH EBEBY **San Diego Chapter**

Ruth Ebey flew to New Horizons on May 31, 2011. Born on October 1, 1920, she enlisted in the Women Marines on September 3, 1943 and served in communications until November 27, 1945. From 1954 until she retired in 1985, she worked as an engineering aide and secretary at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, Davis.

Flying was the love of Ruth's life. She received an Airman Certificate on May 25, 1959, and Gillespie Field became her home away from home. She met Jack Ebey at a hangar dance at Gillespie, and they were married in 1964. She joined The Ninety-Nines in 1962, later becoming a life member. In 1969, she starred as the irrepressible Snoopy, serving as an honorary starter for the Powder Puff Derby at San Diego's Lindbergh Field.

— *Beth Ebey Bruton, stepdaughter*

CAMILLA HUTSON **San Diego Chapter**

Camilla Hutson flew to New Horizons on March 2, 2011. Camilla was a member of the San Diego Chapter since January 1968. She and her late husband Robert flew their Aero Commander 500B for both business and pleasure. Camilla was very active in the Chapter's events and raced the Pacific Air Race with her sister-in-law Christine Hutson, Coachella Valley Chapter. In poor health for several years, she still managed to attend a few events held by the Chapter.

— *Frankie Clemens*

MARY JANE OBERG **Santa Clara Valley Chapter**

Mary Jane Oberg passed on to New Horizons on July 11, 2011 at her home in Salinas, California, surrounded by family and friends. Born and raised in the Salinas Valley/Monterey Bay area, she met Harold Oberg when she was in high school, and he took her for her first airplane ride in 1940. They married and later started Valley Flying Service, a flight school operation. Mary Jane got her certificate there in 1952 and became a charter member of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter in 1954, serving as their first Treasurer.

Mary Jane and Harold were involved in local aviation for many years and flew many flights together.

— *Judy Stark*

BARBARA (BARBI) WILDER **Florida Spaceport Chapter**

Long time member Barbi Wilder passed away on July 13, 2011. She learned to fly when she was 16. She joined the Air Force in 1949 but was told that "girls can't fly." The fact that she already had a pilot certificate made no difference.

Barbi started the first chapter of Women in the Air Force (Space Coast Chapter One) four years ago.



Barbara Wilder.

— *Bobbi Lasher*

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