

99 News

The Official Magazine of the International Organization of Women Pilots

July/August 2007



2007 Scholarship Winners





99 News

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

The 99 News

4300 Amelia Earhart Rd.
Oklahoma City, OK
73159-1140

Email:

news@ninety-nines.org

Online Form:

www.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

This year, 17 pilots received Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarships, three women were selected for New Pilot Awards and one pilot was presented with the Maule Tailwheel Award. They will be honored at a special banquet at the 2007 Ninety-Nines International Conference in the Denver/Boulder area in September. We hope you'll also celebrate their achievements at your Section and Chapter meetings.

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

2007

AUGUST

17-18 29th Annual Okie Derby Proficiency Air Race, Oklahoma City, OK. World's largest proficiency air race, sponsored by the Oklahoma Chapter. Trophies, Secret Round Robin Course. Contact Ann Pogson, av8her99@sbcglobal.net.

17-19 Palms to Pines Air Race, Santa Monica, CA to Bend, OR. For race kits send \$5 to Claire Walters, 13026 Psomas Way, Los Angeles, CA 90066, or download from website 99slapalms.com for no charge. Impound deadline Thursday, August 16, 12:00 PDT.

23-26 Northwest Section Meeting, Gillette, WY, Clarion Hotel. Virginia Williams, Friday luncheon speaker, is a senior Captain at UPS. Saturday dinner speaker, Anne Millebrooke, has countless aviation stories to tell. Contact Anne English, 509-854-2272. Visit www.nw99s.org.

25 New England Section Poker Run (Rain date Aug. 26). Stops: Parlin Airport, New-
port, NH; Eastern Slopes Airport, Fryeburg, ME; Augusta State Airport, ME; Bethel Regional Airport, ME; terminus Laconia Municipal Airport, NH. Hosted by Katahdin Wings Chapter. Contact 207-647-2880 for more information.

SEPTEMBER

12-16 99s International Conference, Mountains and Memories 2007, Boulder/Denver, CO at the Omni Interlocken Resort. For more information, visit www.ninety-nines.org/conference.html.

14-16 Aviation and Women in Europe (AWE), London Gatwick Airport (LGW), Copthorne Hotel. Visit www.aweu.org.

21-23 North Central Section Meeting, Duluth, MN. Keynote speaker is Julie Clark. Hosted by Minnesota Chapter. Contact Patti Sandusky, pilotpatti@hotmail.com, 320-963-3982.

28 2nd Annual Kitty Hawk Classic Golf Tournament, Lochmere Golf Course, Cary, NC, sponsored by Kitty Hawk Chapter. Funds to benefit Chapter scholarships and the Fly for Breast Cancer Cure. Contact Corbi Bulluck at mcbulluck@aol.com.

28-30 Powder Puff Derby Reunion, Baton Rouge, LA, celebrating 60 years. Bring race memorabilia and come reminisce

with other Powder Puff racers. We will be meeting with the Silver Wings Fraternity. Contact Barbara Evans, 925-687-1912 or email Quailr@aol.com.

OCTOBER

1 Due Date for 99 News submissions for November/December 2007 issue.

4-7 Southwest Section Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA, hosted by Santa Clara Valley Chapter. Join us for a weekend of San Francisco flying, dining and yachting while the Blue Angels perform above the Bay. Contact Torea Rodriguez, globug@mac.com.

4-7 The 2007 Women Military Aviators Convention, Irving TX, at Embassy Suites DFW Airport. Contact PegCarnahan@cs.com; www.WomenMilitaryAviators.org.

6 Mississippi Chapter Annual Fly-In, John Bell Williams Airport, Raymond, MS from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Check out our website at www.mississippi99s.com for more information or contact Stacy Booker at 601-454-6457.

6 AOPA 99s Breakfast, Hartford, CT, 7 to 9 a.m. at the Hotel Marriott next to the Convention Center. Before browsing the exhibits and seminars, enjoy a scrumptious breakfast and interesting speaker with your fellow 99s and friends. Price: \$28, reservations recommended. Contact Peggy Loeffler, 860 379-1200, pegfly99@snet.net.

31 Deadline to submit Intent To Seek Election forms for the 2008 International elections. Forms are available in the Members Only area of the International website.

NOVEMBER

1-3 Fall International Board Meeting, Headquarters, Oklahoma City, OK. Travel dates October 31 and November 4.

25-27 NBAA Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. Visit www.nbaa.org.

DECEMBER

1 Due Date for 99 News submissions for January/February 2008 issue.

2008

MARCH

12-26 Incredible India Tour, sponsored by the India Section. Special pre-and post-tours available. Contact Chanda Budhabhatti at Chanda99tour@gmail.com.

99 News

The Official Magazine of The International Organization of Women Pilots

July/August 2007

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PROMOTE world fellowship through flight
PROVIDE networking and scholarship opportunities for women
and aviation education in the community
PRESERVE the unique history of women in aviation

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Articles

Submissions should be typed single space without unusual fonts, headers and footers, and using only one space after a period unless it's the start of a new paragraph. Please furnish author's name, email address and phone information in case we have any questions. For additional submission guidelines, log onto www.ninety-nines.org and click on 99 News magazine. Submissions should be emailed to news@ninety-nines.org. If you have any questions, please email us at news@ninety-nines.org.

Photos

Please submit photos scanned in high resolution (300 dpi) or provide highest quality digital photos (no date stamps, please!). All photos sent by mail are forwarded to The Ninety-Nines Headquarters unless accompanied by an SASE for return to the author. Please do not send photocopied pictures or photos printed on a computer printer. Be sure to include caption information and your contact information. Complete photo submission guidelines are posted on www.ninety-nines.org. Click on 99 News Magazine and scroll to the bottom.

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President's Message

BY PAT PRENTISS, International President

April and May were active months, both beginning with Section meetings, fly-ins, fly-outs and all the normal activities that begin to surface with the onset of warm weather. In May, I attended the Southeast Section meeting in Titusville, Florida. I was very pleased to see such a great turnout, install the new Southeast Section officers and present a Chapter charter to the new Paradise Coast Chapter. Congratulations!

One of the highlights of the meeting was guest speaker Brigadier General Susan Helms, who shared her life as an astronaut. Selected by NASA in January 1990, General Helms became an astronaut in July 1991. She flew on STS-64, STS-78 and STS-101 and served aboard the International Space Station as a member of the Expedition-2 crew. A veteran of five space flights, General Helms has logged 211 days in space, including a spacewalk of eight hours and 56 minutes, a world record. Today, General Helms is Commander, 45th Space Wing, and Director, Eastern Range, of Patrick Air Force Base in Florida. I am sure it does not come as any surprise that General Helms left Titusville as a member of The Ninety-Nines.

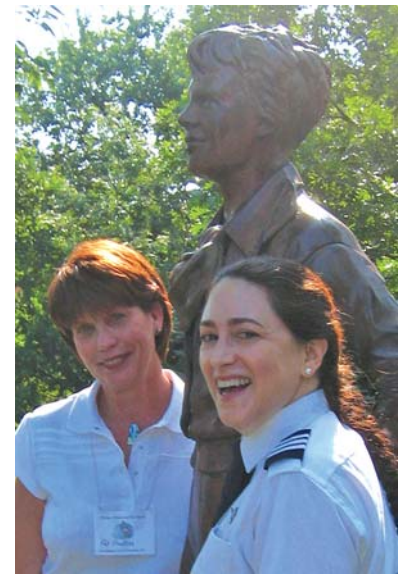
Following the Southeast Section meeting, I attended the Southwest Section meeting in Santa Maria, California. As with all Section meetings, each has something to remember, something inspirational and something to share. Suzanne Skeeters Trabon, guest speaker, shared how Ninety-Nines member Wanda Strassburg inspired her to become a professional pilot. Suzanne had decided to take flying lessons "just for fun," and Wanda was the designated examiner who gave Suzanne her Private Pilot certificate. When the check ride was over, Wanda commented to Suzanne that she had a special aptitude for flying and wrote in Suzanne's logbook, "I'll see you in the cockpit of a DC-10 one of these days." Is it any surprise that Suzanne is flying A-330s

today and that she has spent most of her career in DC-10s? Absolutely not, because through that small exchange of encouragement, Suzanne realized a belief in herself, and she has lived Wanda's greatest dream.

In June, it was back to Washington, D.C. for the Robert J. Collier Trophy Presentation Banquet. The Collier Trophy has been justly called the greatest and most prized of all aeronautical honors in America. The F-22 Raptor aircraft team, led by the Lockheed Martin Corporation, was honored for the greatest achievement for 2006. I was thrilled to be there as your President and represent our organization. Many thanks to NAA for their continuing support of The Ninety-Nines.

From Washington, D.C. it was on to Atchison, Kansas to celebrate the 31st anniversary celebration of the International Forest of Friendship. In a gentle, peaceful setting, each of the 27 honorees, 19 of whom are Ninety-Nines, was presented and inducted into the Forest. How impressive to hear all the wonderful contributions that each has made to the world of aerospace and aviation. Congratulations to all of you!

I couldn't be more proud of our organization, and as Norman Mineta, Former Secretary of Transportation, said recently in Washington, D.C. when I introduced myself as the President of The Ninety-Nines, "Ahhh, *The Ninety-Nines, what a great group of women.*" And that we are...



Pat Prentiss and Jenny Beatty, International Forest of Friendship honoree, at the Forest's statue of Amelia Earhart.



Southeast Section installation of officers with Pat Prentiss, International President, doing the honors. From left, Pat Prentiss, Becky Ritter (Co-Secretary), Barbara Yeninas (Co-Secretary), Corbi Bullock (Governor), Catherine Cavagnaro (Vice-Governor), Marlene Reseta (Treasurer), Marie Grein (Immediate Past Governor).



Pat Prentiss meets with Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum Trustees at the Museum. Clockwise from center front, Lou Foudray, AEBM Caretaker (with back to camera), Carolyn Mohler, Nancy Miller-Borg, Carole Sutton, Pat Prentiss and Jan Coyle.



The Chancellor of UW Oshkosh gathers with eight of the Mercury 13 women prior to a commencement ceremony on May 12, at which the first American female astronaut trainees were awarded honorary doctorates. They are, from left, Jerri Sloan Truhill, Sarah Lee Gorelick Ratley, Rhea Allison Woltman, Bernice "B" Steadman, Irene Leverton, Gene Nora Stumbough Jessen, Chancellor Richard H. Wells, Myrtle Cagle and Jerrie Cobb.

Mercury 13 Receive Honorary Doctorates from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

BY BOBBI ROE
Greater Seattle Chapter

Individual photos furnished from the archives of the International Women's Air & Space Museum, Cleveland, Ohio.

In the 1960s, 13 women passed the same physical tests as the original Mercury 7 astronauts of the Project Mercury manned spacecraft program. These 13 women pilots all are (or were) members of The Ninety-Nines. The Mercury 13 women pilots were honored with honorary Doctorate degrees on May 12 during the University of Wisconsin's spring commencement.

Following is a brief glimpse of their lives and accomplishments. For more information, see www.mercury13.com.

JAN DIETRICH

Jan and Marion were identical twins. Jan was a flight instructor and chief pilot for a flight school, as well as a corporate pilot for a construction company and an early jet pilot. By 1961 she had 8,000 flight hours.



IWASM file photo

MARION DIETRICH

Marian was a writer and reporter for the *Tribune* in Oakland, California. She flew charters and ferried aircraft and built over 1,500 hours of flight time. Marian went on to new horizons in 1974.



IWASM file photo

MYRTLE CAGLE

Myrtle was a flight instructor in Macon, Georgia, an instructor with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and an A&P mechanic. She logged over 4,300 hours of flight time.



IWASM file photo

GERALDYN 'JERRIE' COBB

Jerrie Cobb was a pilot with four altitude records in an Aero Commander and a test pilot for North American Aviation. Jerrie ferried surplus military airplanes worldwide and was a jungle pilot in the Amazon. Jerrie still holds her dream of someday going into space.



IWASM file photo

WALLY FUNK

Wally has been flying professionally since 1957. As a flight instructor, she has soloed more than 700 students. She has flown many air races, including the Powder Puff Derby, Pacific Air Race and Palms to Pines Air Race. She plans to venture into space one of these days.



File photo



JANE 'JANEY' BRIGGS HART

Janey, the mother of eight, was a Civil Air Patrol Captain, is both a multi-engine fixed wing pilot plus helicopter and still captains her own sailboat, sailing worldwide.

SARAH LEE GORELICK RATLEY

Sarah participated in six All Women Transcontinental Air Races (Powder Puff), and the International Women's Air Race. Her career has been in mathematics and engineering.



JEAN HIXSON

Jean was a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, Class 44-6. She flew the B-25 twin-engine bomber as an Engineering Test Pilot. Later she was a flight instructor in Akron, Ohio and an elementary teacher. Jean went on to new horizons at age 62.

BERNICE 'B' STEADMAN

'B' won the Transcontinental Air Race (Powder Puff Derby), was President of the International Women's Air and Space Museum and now serves as Chairman of the Board. B was President of The Ninety-Nines from 1969-70.



GENE NORA STUMBOUGH JESSEN

Gene Nora was a sales demonstration pilot for the Beechcraft factory in Wichita, Kansas. She flew as one of the Three Musketeers, an introductory formation flight through the contiguous 48 states over a 90-day period. Gene Nora served as President of The Ninety-Nines in 1988-1990.

GERALDINE 'JERRI' SLOAN TRUHILL

Jerri flew North American B-25s, the venerable twin-engine bomber and the same airplanes used by Jimmy Doolittle and his Raiders to bomb Tokyo in 1942. She flew them under contract to Texas Instruments, developing the Terrain Following Radar (TFR) and "smart" bombs. Jerri also participated in numerous air races.



IRENE LEVERTON

Irene flew for a manufacturing company in Arizona and was a pylon racer in the Reno Air Races. She works with a Civil Air Patrol squadron as a flight check pilot. She has in excess of 25,400 hours.

RHEA ALLISON WOLTMAN

Rhea towed gliders for Cadets at the Air Force Academy and instructed in them. She has flown in the International Women's Air Race and in the Powder Puff Derby. She has flown all over the United States, including Alaska, as well as Canada and Mexico.



The women of Mercury 13 field questions about their passions and experiences the day before they received their honorary Doctorates.



A mannequin representing *Blanche Stuart Scott* flies a 1911 D Curtiss Pusher replica that now hangs in Greater Rochester International Airport (ROC) in upstate New York.

The Big Reveal

BY JUDY STILES
Finger Lakes Chapter and
Portrayer of Blanche Stuart
Scott

Blanche Stuart Scott — A Magnificent Woman and Her Flying Machine

Vet Thomas spent four years building the fixed wing replica with a tricycle undercarriage from scratch. He sits in it one more time before it is hung from the ceiling.



After years of planning, construction and anticipation, our special day *finally* arrived. “Blanche Stuart Scott,” sitting pretty at the controls of the Curtiss replica 1911 Model D Pusher aircraft, was hoisted to the ceiling at the Rochester, New York Airport (ROC).

Our Finger Lakes Chapter had fashioned, sewed and manipulated her costume and representative mannequin into the plane. Sandy Brown is responsible for the stylish brown satin flight suit closely resembling Blanche’s original, Martha Ann Hull constructed the velvety helmet and Marcia Gitelman knitted the striking lucky red sweater.

The “reveal” ceremony was attended by over 200 people, including local Rochester

dignitaries and aviation enthusiasts and, of course, many of our loyal Central New York Ninety-Nines.

Vet Thomas, creator of the replica Pusher, and Marcia Gitelman, Blanche Stuart Scott researcher, were the star speakers at the media event. The exciting day was the satisfying culmination of much time, effort and talent invested in preserving the unique and memorable story of Blanche Stuart Scott, America's first aviatrix.

Blanche Stewart Scott was born and brought up in Rochester, New York. She was described as a spunky, daredevil child who was involved in several sports, especially ice skating and trick bicycle riding. In fact, she managed to trash seven bicycles in her endeavors! In my belief, however, it was that experience that may have saved her life when she took up flying. Like her contemporaries the Wright brothers and Glenn Curtiss, who were also experienced bike riders, she developed an exquisite sense of balance. Those early, very unstable aircraft required whole body coordination for control, similar to the demands of riding bicycles.

When Blanche was 13 years old, her dad bought a Cadillac. Since there were no age requirements or speed limits in those days, she took the wheel and sped down Rochester streets, terrorizing the population. After graduation from high school, Blanche went to New York City and found a job selling cars. In the spring of 1910, the company sponsored her to drive across the continent. When she reached San Francisco, she was met by a press agent from the Glenn Curtiss Flying Exhibition Company. He suggested that



Jutta Stiefen Dudley

when she returned to the East that she take flying lessons from Glenn Curtiss in Hammondsport, New York, about 60 miles southeast of Rochester.

Blanche soloed in September of 1910 and thus became America's first aviatrix. She ultimately performed many "firsts" in her flying career. Although Blanche married twice, she never had children. She died in 1970 and was buried in Rochester. The Finger Lakes Chapter now maintains her grave site as one of our projects to preserve the history of women in aviation.

If you should visit ROC terminal, look ceilingward and view Blanche in her Pusher, sporting a bright red sweater over her brown flight suit, her red curls covered by a plush helmet.

The staging area is curtained off to hang the replica and make preparations for the dedication ceremony later in the day.



Finger Lakes Chapter members Sandy Brown, left, and Judy Stiles with the mannequin of Blanche Stuart Scott, waiting to position her in the replica.

New Pilot, Maule Tailwheel and AEMSFScholarships Recognize 21 Women



BY JACQUE BOYD, PH.D.
AEMSFS Chairman

New Pilot Award amount increases for 2007, and major estate and other generous donations allow AEMSFS to award scholarships to 17 women pilots to help them achieve their aviation goals.

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Trustees are proud to introduce you to our recipients for 2007.

Once again we are grateful to the generosity of the Maule family for their donation of a Tailwheel rating. Susan Maule, a former AE Scholarship winner and a member of the Maryland Chapter, acts as liaison between her family and The 99s. Her help is much appreciated. Stephanie Hahn, from the Greater Kansas City Chapter in the North Central Section, is the 2007 recipient.

The AEMSFS made the decision to raise the award amount to \$1,500 for the New Pilot Award, only available to our Future Woman Pilot membership. This year we were able to make three awards. Heather Martha Cook, Rio Grande Norte Chapter in the South Central Section, Marty Vale, Greater Seattle Chapter in the Northwest Section, and Brandi Weir, Santa Maria Chapter in the Southwest Section.

The AEMSFS received major donations from the estates of Helma DeFronzo, former Connecticut Chapter member, and Elizabeth Lippincott McQueen Bancroft. While not a pilot, Elizabeth was the founder of the Women's International Association of Aeronautics and was instrumental in recruiting several of the women pilots for the 1929 Air Derby. A larger profile of Elizabeth will be published in a future issue of the *99 News*.

Because of these major donations and the continued support of the members of The Ninety-Nines, the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund stands at \$3.1 million dollars as of June 1, 2007. Because of the growth of the Fund, we were able to award 17 scholarships this year. Please see the following pages for the award recipients.

The Fund is healthy and growing because of *your* continued commitment and dedication. Without the support of the entire membership of The Ninety-Nines, we would not be able to accomplish our task as Trustees. Because of your help, we were able to award nearly \$84,000 toward helping these women attain their goals in aviation.

Very specific thanks go to the Chapter Chairs, the Chapter Amelia Earhart Scholarship Chairs and their committees and to the Section Amelia Earhart Scholarship Chairs. The process of evaluation is time-consuming, and your dedication on all levels is responsible for the success of our work.

MAULE TAILWHEEL AWARD



STEPHANIE HAHN, Greater Kansas City Chapter, South Central Section

I was born in Towson, Maryland in 1979, and when I was 10, my family and I moved to the suburbs of Kansas City. Throughout my youth, my father took both my mother and me to every airshow he could find in the area. I did not seriously think about flying until I met a flight instructor. One year later I received my Private Pilot certificate, and two years after that I had my Instrument rating. At first I just wanted to fly for my own pleasure, but I came to realize that I love to show people the joys of flying. It was at that moment I discovered I wanted to teach. My goal is now to become a flight instructor.

NEW PILOT AWARDS

HEATHER COOK, Rio Grande Norte Chapter, South Central Section

My dad instilled a love of flying in me at a very early age. I'm an Air Force brat, spent my teenage years in the Civil Air Patrol and in 2002 earned the coveted Spaatz award, the highest honor a cadet can achieve. I came to Santa Fe to attend St. John's College, a small liberal-arts school, graduated last May and have since stayed in Santa Fe and have full-time employment in sales. In January, I decided it is about time to get my Private Pilot certificate, and I am now close to my cross-country solo.



MARLENE (MARTY) VALE, Greater Seattle Chapter, Northwest Section

I've just received notice that I am a recipient of the New Pilot Award. How great is that! The most important thing it does for me is make me accountable. I have to let go of those limiting thoughts of whether I have it in me to finish my Sport Pilot rating at 59 years old. I do! I started flying in an Air Creation Trike in the dead of winter in Spokane, Washington. The one thing that stopped me was having to buy one to solo. The same problem arose with the Daystar I trained in. Sport Pilot has been evolving since I began working toward it in 2004, and more planes are becoming available. Currently, I'm flying out of Harvey Field, Snohomish, Washington in a 1946 Aeronca Champ. The Harveys have owned it since it was new. Literally hundreds of students have learned to fly in it, and yet it is still in one piece. Right now I am flying solo, venturing out of the patch with some admitted concerns because I know what I *don't* know. My goal is to finish my SP certificate by the end of summer. I soloed on February 4, 2007 and flew all winter.

BRANDI WEIR, Santa Maria Chapter, Southwest Section

As a Future Women Pilot, I am currently experiencing the joys of learning to fly. The New Pilot Award gives me a great sense of encouragement. Having The Ninety-Nines' support empowers me to follow my dreams and accomplish my goal to be a pilot. Being in the air and seeing the world in a new perspective makes me happy. Thankfully my family is perpetually patient while I tend a real estate career, attend college and achieve my aviation goals. I have attempted to balance it all gracefully. In the future I would love to have a career in aviation. By flying, I'm motivated and uplifted to further means!



AMELIA EARHART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS



LYNDSAY ASMUSSEN, AIRLINE TRANSPORT PILOT, Utah Chapter, Southwest Section

One of my most memorable moments was soloing for the first time when I was 18. I realized that teaching was a way to be a part of memorable moments of others. I quickly moved through the rest of my ratings within a year after my Private. I discovered my two passions in life, teaching and aviation. Teaching has inspired my love for learning, which has led me to pursue my Ph.D. in Education Leadership. Recently I obtained my Airline Dispatcher certificate and will be teaching dispatchers, in addition to flight and ground training. I volunteer as a FASST Team Representative and mentor to local members of the Utah Ninety-Nines.

JANELLE BARON, B.S. IN AERONAUTICAL TECHNOLOGY, Pikes Peak Chapter, South Central Section

Born to fly, Janelle began taking lessons in high school and earned her Private certificate on her 17th birthday. Now, at 19, she's a Commercial pilot with Multi and Instrument ratings, as well as a Certified Flight Instructor at Kansas State University at Salina. She's a sophomore there, majoring in Aeronautical Technology. She thanks The Ninety-Nines for giving her the chance to fly by mentoring her and helping fund her flying. She also loves basketball, snowboarding, music, writing and living life to the fullest. Her motto: Never settle.





MICHELLE BASSANESI, EUROPEAN FLIGHT, Ambassador Chapter, South Central Section

Michelle was born in Sydney, Australia, where her family had relocated. At the age of 16 she moved with the family to Rome, Italy. Almost by chance, Michelle was exposed to flight and began paragliding in 1990, both as a competitor and as a competition organizer. In 2000 she switched to airplanes and rapidly attained most licenses available both sides of the Atlantic up to JAA Airline Transport Pilot (frozen) and FAA Certified Flight Instructor. Michelle continues to build her credentials to be more marketable. She continues in her quest to create opportunities for women in Europe and to bring to light the accomplishments of European women in aviation.

MARY BILLER, COMMERCIAL PILOT, Scioto Valley Chapter, North Central Section

I have always been in complete awe of pilots but never considered being one myself until I was in my late 20s. A sightseeing flight over Cleveland with my dad for Father's Day one year was all it took to convince me that I needed to fly. At the time I was busy raising four young children and attending college part-time. My husband's job took us to England for a few years, and it was there that I was given the opportunity to take lessons from a delightful WWII Royal Air Force veteran. I completed my Private Pilot certificate after we returned to the States and have since earned my Instrument rating and Tailwheel endorsement. I am currently working on my Commercial rating with aspirations to become a Certified Flight Instructor.



SARAH DOOLEY, B.S. IN AVIATION FLIGHT TECHNOLOGY, Indiana Chapter, North Central Section

Sarah was born and raised in central Indiana. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA from Triton Central High School in 2004. Sarah's love for aviation blossomed as a teenager after her father, Dr. Jon Dooley, earned his Private certificate and began taking her for weekend flights. At the age of 15, Sarah took her first flying lesson. She soloed at 16 and was a licensed pilot her junior year of high school at the age of 17. Currently, she is a full-time student at Purdue University. Her major is Aviation Flight Technology and her minor is in Aviation Management. She will graduate in May of 2008 and hopes to become a corporate pilot. Sarah has her Commercial certificate with Instrument and Multi-engine Land ratings. She is also a Certified Flight Instructor. When not flying, she also enjoys spending time with family and friends and long distance running.

SADIE WILLOW HALES, INSTRUMENT RATING, Redwood Coast Flyers Chapter, Southwest Section

Sadie Hales was born in Branscomb, California in 1976. She has since lived up and down the coast of Northern California, working a variety of jobs from bookseller to taxicab driver. When working as a laundromat attendant in 2002, Sadie took her first flight in a Cessna 152. From then on she was hooked. Spending all her extra money on flying, she was able to attain one of her proudest achievements: her Private Pilot certificate. Now Sadie works at a small FBO in Eureka, California as a line service technician. She hopes one day to hold her Commercial certificate.



LIANA HART, B737 TYPE RATING, Las Vegas Valley Chapter, Southwest Section

Liana Bruland Hart lives in Henderson, Nevada with her husband Randy. Because she is often on the road, volunteering to be a Phone Tree contact person for her Chapter is her way to be involved and to keep up on what's happening with the Las Vegas Valley Ninety-Nines. Liana is also the Southwest Section Careers Co-Chair and a graduate of the Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative Program. She is presently employed by Mesa Airlines as a Canadair Regional Jet Captain, based in Nashville, Tennessee. She volunteers as the Chairperson for Pilot Assistance and Vice-Chair for Critical Incidence Response through the Air Line Pilots Association.



CHRISTINA HARTLAUB, COMMERCIAL SES ADD-ON, Wisconsin Chapter, North Central Section

My roots in aviation came from childhood flights from my uncle, Ken Langer. I started flying in Sheboygan, Wisconsin as a high school senior and had my Private in 2001. I completed my Instrument and Commercial Single in 2002 at Fox Valley Technical College, my Multiengine Instrument add-on in 2003 at Gateway Technical College, my MEI, CFIA and CFII in 2003 at the University of Dubuque and instructed part-time with them until I graduated in May 2005 cum laude with a Bachelor's in Flight Operations and English. I moved in 2005 to Madison, Wisconsin for a full-time position with Wisconsin Aviation. I enjoy learning Japanese, writing and speaking at EAA meetings. Currently, I have over 1,800 hours, 1,300 hours dual and am working towards a Gold Seal rating, CFI SES rating and a 135 checkride. My long-term goals are working corporately, finishing my first book and being an aviation/community speaker.

CATHERINE HOBSON, MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION – AVIATION MANAGEMENT, Australia Section

I am an Australian woman with a passion for aviation. I wanted to be a school teacher. I soloed at 16 and discovered that I could become a Flight Instructor, paid to be a teacher *and* fly at the same time. I followed this career path for 15 years and became a B200 charter pilot. I did this for two years and left for an airline position, flying B1900D out of Brisbane as First Officer. This job lasted until the company was sold. I have returned to my love for flight instruction, married and joined my husband by volunteering for the Australian Air Force Cadets as a Flight Instructor and Training Officer. I am currently studying for my MBA – Aviation Management.



LORENA KNIAZ, CFII, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Southwest Section

I was born in Argentina. I am an only child, my parents got divorced when I was very young. I was raised by my mother and her family. Once in college, I got a degree in Political Science and learned two foreign languages thinking that I wanted to be a diplomat. Then I decided not to pursue that career and started a long journey of career changing. It took me a few years to realize that I wanted to try entering the aviation field as a professional pilot. After my first flying lesson, I was hooked. Flight training presented many challenges, and I was amazed many times by my own willingness to overcome them. I am currently working on my CFI and looking forward to begin teaching.

HEIDI KLEIN, COMMERCIAL AVIATION, B.S. IN AERONAUTICS, Wisconsin Chapter, North Central Section

I'm Heidi Klein from Waupaca, Wisconsin. I am 19 years old. Currently, I'm a junior (07-08) at the University of North Dakota-Grand Forks. My major is Commercial Aviation and minors are Public Administration and Honors. I'm currently a C/Lt Col in Civil Air Patrol and enjoy working with cadets and in the emergency services field. In my free time, I enjoy skiing, reading, flying, spending time with friends, volunteering, discussing politics and spending time outdoors. When I graduate, I plan on pursuing law school to work toward becoming an Aviation Lawyer.



LAUREEN NELSON-BOUTET, INSTRUMENT RATING, First Canadian Chapter, East Canada Section

My immediate goal is to become a proficient Instrument-rated pilot as I enjoy cross country flying and participating in air rallies. I own a Cessna Cutlass RG that recently underwent an exciting avionics upgrade. I became a Private Pilot in 1990, followed by a Night rating in 1991 and have been an active member of The Ninety-Nines since 1992. It was while attending the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario for Veterinary Medicine that I became interested in flying. I often speak to students about non-traditional careers, plus I enjoy sports. I look forward to many more years of participation in this incredibly supportive, interesting and fun group of individuals.

WENDY O'MALLEY, B747-300 EFIS TYPE RATING, Bay Cities Chapter, Southwest Section

Wendy currently holds many hats — pilot, wife and mom. She began flight training in 1995. After graduating from UC Berkeley, she began flight instructing in 2001, which she found very rewarding. Having spent the last three-and-a-half years as a Captain at Ameriflight, she is poised for the next step in her career. With this type rating, she hopes to find a new airline to call home by the end of the year. Currently she holds the office of Secretary and Membership Committee Chair for her Bay Cities Chapter of The Ninety-Nines.



KIRSTIN PECK, AIRLINE TRANSPORT PILOT, Ambassador Chapter, South Central Section

Kirstin started her flight lessons at the age of 28 while living in New Zealand. After earning her Private Pilot certificate and Multi-engine Instrument rating down under, she returned to Colorado to finish her Commercial License. With that successfully completed, she attended a four-month program through Mesa Airlines, which taught her the systems of the Canadair Regional Jet (CRJ) and polished her instrument flying. A month after completing this course, she was hired at Mesa Airlines as a First Officer on the CRJ. Having been at Mesa for over two years, she looks forward to her future endeavors in aviation.

JEANNIE SHIPP, ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN AVIATION MANAGEMENT,

Greater Detroit Area Chapter, North Central Section

My name is Jeannie Shipp; I am 18 years old and in my senior year at Milford High School. While attending high school this year, I took classes at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Michigan. At Schoolcraft I am working on attaining my Associate's degree in Aviation Management. I will then be transferring to Eastern Michigan University to finish my Bachelor's degree. My ultimate career goal is to be the manager of Oakland County International Airport in Waterford, Michigan. I am also a Private Pilot and hope to be working on my Tailwheel endorsement this summer.



SALLY SIEBE, INSTRUMENT RATING, Greater St. Louis Chapter, North Central Section

Thanks to her brother (instructor, mentor, commercial pilot), Sally Siebe found her passion, flying! Prior to becoming a Private Pilot in May 2005, she earned degrees in Veterinary Technology and Nursing. She is currently working as a dialysis nurse. She's held office as a Board Member, Membership Committee Chair, Webmaster and Vice Chair in her Ninety-Nines Chapter, and she is in the Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI). She's working on earning her Instrument rating and looks forward to every step of the way to becoming a Charter business owner with her brother.

LYNN SYKES, COMMERCIAL PILOT, Northwoods Chapter, North Central Section

My name is Lynn Sykes. I was born in the beautiful Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Learning to fly was always a dream of mine. I began my flight training four days before my 48th birthday. During the next 14 months my dream became a reality, I earned my Private Pilot certificate. Last fall I accomplished one of the hardest and most rewarding goals of my life — I received my Instrument rating. My son is currently serving in the USAF as a flight examiner in the elite EURO-NATO program. It is so gratifying to be able to discuss our flying experiences with one another. Recently, I heard him tell a friend, "I am so proud of my mom...she's a pilot!"





PILOT CAREERS: Courage

BY DONNA MILLER
International Careers Committee

“Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace. The soul that knows it not knows no release from little things; knows not the livid loneliness of fear, nor mountain heights where bitter joy can hear the sound of wings.” —Amelia Earhart

Face it, it takes courage to fly. We get into a device that balances lift and weight and thrust and drag, add a little Bernoulli and a few parts Newton, some knowledge, a dash of faith, and we are airborne. Since we were not born with wings, we took the gifts of hundreds of years of dreaming and turned them into a hobby, and for some, even a career. A really fun career.

So back to courage. We face the fear head on, turn it into excitement, and we’re on our way. If only it were that easy. Those dang prefixes and suffixes! Courage can turn into **discouraged** all too easily. A simple sentence from a friend or relative shakes our faith in ourselves to fulfill our dream of flying.

“Waddya wanna do THAT for?”

“Girls don’t fly.”

“It’s awfully expensive, isn’t it?”

All the courage we mustered up to start this venture is on the line. We want to protect our dream and gather our courage in the face of those who are in their ever shrinking comfort zones.

Don’t allow negative comments the luxury of discouraging you! Walk away from them. The world has “X” billion people in it. We’ll never meet them all, so of the ones you do meet, why not associate with the ones who support you? A simple observation from even a stranger can fuel our dream.

“You fly? Wow! You go, girl!”

Of course, it’s always nice to hear those **encouraging** words from friends and family. I love the genuine excitement from fellow Ninety-Nines when a student solos or a pilot reaches a new aviation milestone. It builds our confidence and helps us believe that we are on the right path (the flight path, that is!).

Financing this venture can be another source of discouragement. Remember, if it were easy, everyone would do it. All the same, you don’t want to sell the pilot shirt off your back to finance your dream — if you don’t have to.

There is more **encouraging** news. In addition to The Ninety-Nines, there are several organizations that can help turn your excitement into reality through financial aid. Scholarships! Here’s the catch. You have to find them. You have to apply for them. It’s work. But for the financial aid involved, it could be the best return on your time investment you can make. It amazes me how many women I talk to that say flying is too expensive but haven’t applied for a single scholarship. It makes me wonder if money is the only issue.

As Anais Nin said, “Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one’s courage.” Be courageous. Do what it takes and FLY!

PRO 99s PROFILE: Emily Biss

BY BETSY DONOVAN, International Careers Committee

As a toddler, Horizon Air First Officer Emily Biss begged her parents for a biplane ride at an air show. They said, “No!” Emily now flies the Q400 (DHC-8). “The Q400 has been a very interesting airplane to learn – very high tech! I am especially smitten with our 6-bladed, 13-foot diameter propellers.”

While studying mechanical engineering at college in Rhode Island, she put together her own exchange program with University of North Dakota and learned to fly one summer. She rose through the ranks as a flight instructor (ASEL, AMEL, Instrument) mostly in the San Francisco Bay Area. Before joining Horizon, Emily flew a Twin Otter (DHC-6) as First Officer and Captain for Scenic Airlines in Las Vegas. A member of the Columbia Cascade Chapter, Emily is an Airline Transport Pilot with AMEL and DHC-8 ratings.

Emily’s advice: “Persistence. The sacrifices required to make a career in aviation are substantial. Be clear about your goals – both personal and professional. As I advance in my career, I am



continually amazed at all of the stories I hear of how people have gotten to where they are as professional aviators. Your path doesn’t need to look like anyone else’s path. Do what makes sense to you. Do as much research as you can to make the most well informed decisions possible.”



*Chitna Glacier, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
in Southeast Alaska. Photo by Jim Wark.*

BY PEGGY LONG
Conference Chair

Attendees can look forward to hearing some fascinating and adventurous speakers at the 2007 Conference in the Boulder/Denver area.

99s International Conference 2007

Pilots, Authors, Photographers and Speakers

The 2007 International Conference this September promises to be one of the best ever. If you are flying to Colorado, there will be fantastic flying opportunities, stunning views, sweeping vistas, 100-plus-mile visibilities and aviation experiences envied by all pilots. The activities range from the mountains into town, from cowboy and mining towns of the 19th century to glass and steel modernism of today. Denver was, and still is, the “Queen City of the Plains,” and contrary to popular misconceptions, it is not in the mountains.

In addition to all of the tours and events, we have some wonderful supporters of The Ninety-Nines who will give presentations during the Conference. Following is a sample of some of their fascinating and adventurous topics.

Conference speaker CarolAnn Garratt is the author of *Upon Silver Wings*. CarolAnn soloed in 1972 and then didn't fly much during her "workaholic years." But being laid off in 2001 and losing her mother to ALS/Lou Gehrig's Disease prompted her to renew her currency, earn her CFI and CFII and make a cross-country flight in 2003 — around the world in her Mooney. This marvelous adventure was only the 113th flight of this type and the seventh by a woman. When she describes the 15-hour leg from California to Hawaii or the 12-hour segment from Darwin to Singapore, you can just hear the engine go to "auto-rough." The proceeds from her book sales go to the ALS Therapy Development Foundation in honor of her mother.

Jim Wark will talk about *Flying To Alaska*. His experiences up to and back from the "Last Frontier" result in topics such as different routes, weather and climate, bugs, bears and wolves, situations and places to avoid, things and places to see, and, naturally, taking pictures. Listening to Jim, you can visualize everything he says so easily. However, he makes it even easier with his wonderful pictures. Jim is a Colorado resident who flies his Aviat Husky all over the country taking the most marvelous aerial photographs. He will be available to autograph his books.

More adventurous flying will be the topic of Bruce McAllister's talk. Another longtime Colorado resident, Bruce has spent many hours above the Rocky Mountains all the way into Canada, along with trips to Alaska and the Arctic. Bruce will speak of his experiences researching his new book, *Wings Over the Alaska Highway*. He has collected many photos of the highway from the time of its construction in the early 1940s through today, focusing on the role that aviation played. In collaboration with Canadian historian and writer Peter Corely-Smith, he has produced an engrossing history of the airports and airstrips along the highway and of the men and women who made it happen. This book joins his others, *Wings Over Denali*, *Wings Above the Arctic* and *Vagabonds of the Sky*, all paying homage to those who explored in the sky.

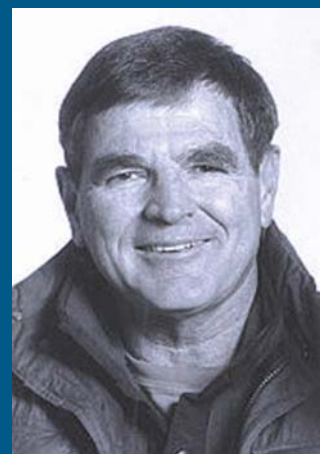
Women pilots in Alaska were interviewed by Sandi Sumner for her book, *Women Pilots of Alaska*. Excerpts from these interviews will be included in her presentation. Although not a pilot herself, Sandi has very capably collected the thoughts and views of such notable Alaska women pilots as Marvel Crosson and Patty Wagstaff. Sandi will be a fine lead-in to the 2008 Conference to be held in Anchorage, Alaska.

Michael Maya Charles' new book, *Artful Flying*, will be the centerpiece for his talk and includes his experience of over 35 years as a professional aviator and author. This new book looks deeply into the human side of aviation and promises to be insightful and thought-provoking. Michael began writing *The Pro's Nest* in the 1970s for *FLYING* magazine and currently contributes to *AOPA PILOT*.

Other notables in our midst will be Janet Conner from Jeppesen Sanderson, who is promoting a new book by Flint Whitlock and Terry Barnhart entitled *Captain Jepp and the Little Black Book*. It's a look at the life, times and achievements of Captain Elrey Jeppesen who, from a little \$5 black notebook, built the company that today supplies 90 percent of all the navigational charts to aviation around the world. You'll find a review of the book on page 22.

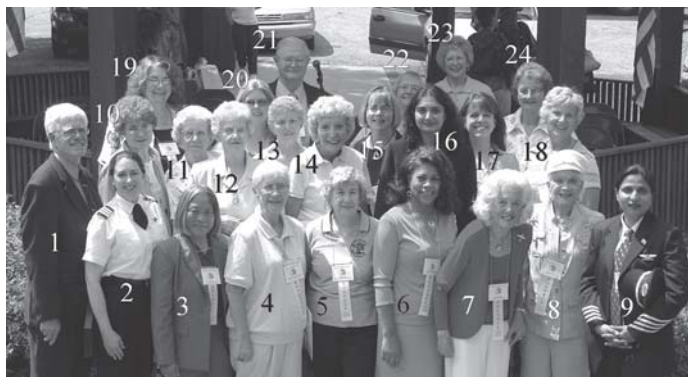
Additionally, we will enjoy the company of Emily Warner, a Ninety-Nine and the first woman pilot at a major U.S. airline. As a testament to her groundbreaking role, one of Emily's uniforms is now at the Smithsonian. Retired now from careers in general aviation, the airlines and the FAA, she is an inspiration to us all.

This is an overview of who is on the list right now, but there are even more speakers coming. Register soon to take advantage of a jam-packed, informative and fun Conference right here in beautiful Denver/Boulder, Colorado. We'll leave the runway lights on for you!



Conference speakers, from top, CarolAnn Garratt, Jim Wark and Michael Maya Charles.

TOUCH & GO



INTERNATIONAL FOREST OF FRIENDSHIP HONOREES

Twenty-seven honorees were inducted into the International Forest of Friendship in Atchison, Kansas, during ceremonies in June. Of these, 19 were Ninety-Nines.

On a beautiful Saturday morning, the induction ceremonies were held in the Fay Gillis Wells gazebo surrounded by the waving flags of the 50 states and 35 territories and foreign countries that have trees in the Forest.

The honorees who are Ninety-Nines, along with their sponsors are: (the numbers correspond to those in the picture above): Jenny Beatty (2) Tracy Leonard, Donna Miller, Aileen Watkins and Pro 99s; Pat Chan (3) Bay Cities Chapter; Lois Erickson (4) accepting for Mary Lou Colbert Neale, San Fernando Valley Chapter; Linda Horn (5) Colorado Chapter; Betty Hadden Moseley (7) Carol Osborne; Zoe Dell Nutter (8) Carol Osborne; Capt Archana Kapoor (9) Kingfisher Airlines of India; Marsha Mascorro (10) El Paso Chapter.

Audrey Schutte (13) Mount Shasta and San Fernando Valley Chapters; Margrit Goodrich (14) San Diego Air and Space Museum accepting for herself and her late husband Murray Goodrich; Marilyn (Didi) Shaffer (15) El Paso Chapter; Capt Harpreet A. De Singh (16) Air India, also accepting for Capt Rashmi Miranda; Lynda Meeks (17) Lake Erie Chapter; Donna Gale Crane-Bailey (19) Monterey Bay Chapter, also accepting for Diane Pirman, Santa Maria Valley Chapter; Alice Talnack (20) accepting for Joanne Nissen, Monterey Bay Chapter; June Beverly Bonesteel (24) Phoenix Chapter.

Honored, but not present, Shirley Tanner, Orange County Chapter (deceased) and Maj Nicole Malachowski, USAF, the first woman member of the Thunderbirds and a Ninety-Nine. Other honorees included: Patte Barham, distinguished journalist; the late Roger Blodgett, sponsored by the All-Ohio Chapter; Sandra Campbell, who has worked to honor the memory of Bessie Coleman; Gen Michael P.C. Carns, USAF (ret), former Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force; the late Don Martin, longtime photographer for the Forest; and the late Brigadier General Charles E. Williams, Jr, USAF.

Linton Wells (1), is Co-Chair of The International Forest of Friendship, which was a gift to America on the Nation's 200th birthday in 1976 from the City of Atchison, Amelia Earhart's birthplace, and The Ninety-Nines.

— Linton Wells

POWDER PUFF DERBY REUNION

Do you remember? The first AWTAR race was in 1947 — 60 years ago. We had our 25th anniversary race in 1971 from Calgary to Baton Rouge. This year we are highlighting our 60th year with a return to the terminus of the 1971 race. Headquarters for the event will be the Holiday Inn Select in Baton Rouge, September 28-30.

To add to the fun, bring with you any memorabilia you may still have...flight outfits (whether you can still wear them or not), charms, programs, pictures, anecdotes, etc. Come and reminisce with other Powder Puff racers.

We will be meeting with the Silver Wings Fraternity. For more information contact Barbara Evans, email Quailr@aol.com or phone 925-687-1912.

ISA+21 CONVENTION

The 2007 ISA+21 (International Society of Women Airline Pilots) Convention was held in Park City, Utah. In addition to the business meeting, attendees enjoyed cocktail parties, a very creative and amusing puppet show, and touring some of the 2002 Winter Olympic sites. The ladies discovered it is much easier to control a Boeing or an Airbus versus the street luge. Hurtling through the air on the Zip Line made us feel quite at home, except most of us don't actually feel the wind in our faces while flying now. We also got some target practice at the biathlon site.

The camaraderie made our time in Utah a memorable experience.

— Laura Smith



Some of The Ninety-Nines attending the ISA+21 Convention were, back row, from left, Linda Friedman, Lynn O'Donnell, Donna Miller, Aileen Watkins, Jeannie Dismukes, Debbie McEndree and Ann Kieffer. Front row, Patty Barrera, Nancy Waylett Berra, Tracy Leonard, Laura Smith, Erin McCoy, Nell Justice, Susan Horstman and Laurie Reeves.

TOUCH & GO

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUN 'N FUN

The Ninety-Nines had another successful year at the Sun 'n Fun Building. There were over 360 guests, including Ninety-Nines from all over the U.S. and Canada. Information on the organization was given to a number of women, and we had two reinstatements and signed up two Future Women Pilots.

The Ninety-Nines/WASP luncheon was held on April 19, with a record number of 76 people attending. We were fortunate to have nine WASP and enjoyed their stories.

On Friday, 45 of Marie Grein's fifth graders from her First Wings program were bussed over from Pinellas County for a tour of the facility. Nancy Wright made all of the arrangements, and donations from Suncoast Chapter members paid for the bus.

We were fortunate to have Immediate Past President Elaine Morrow and her husband there the entire time. They put in many hours of hard work, and we are grateful for their support. International Board Member Lisa Cotham was also present, as was our Southeast Section Governor Marie Grein. Marie participated in the Teachers' Education Workshop, and Elaine Morrow gave a talk on Aerospace Education at the forum.

The Florida Suncoast Chapter held their meeting on Saturday and had a mortgage burning ceremony to celebrate the free title to the house. Sun 'n Fun Convention President John Burton and Chairman of the Board Bill Eichoff attended and assisted with the event.

The Volunteer Workers' Parade was held early Sunday morning, and we participated with two decorated golf carts, air horns and candy to throw at the admiring crowd.

For a number of years, Eleanor Kline has managed the building in the afternoon and stayed until after the air show. This is appreciated by members who stay late and need the facilities in



In the cart from left, Fran Sargent, Helen Snapp and Ruth Schaffer Fleisher. Back row, Elaine Morrow, Marcia Gitelman, Vicki Sherman and Lee Orr.

the building. The faithful workers include Elaine and Glen Morrow, Nancy Wright and Jim Pappas, Eleanor and Steve Kline, Marie Grein and Barbara Sierchio, who worked all week. Other workers were Lisa Cotham, Rita DeBeer, Pat Hange, Vicki Sherman, Barbara Strachan and Barbara Yeninas. Thank you to all of our workers. Our success is due to your support.

— Barbara Sierchio and Nancy Wright

They flew dangerous missions in every aircraft the Army owned, from single-engine trainers to sophisticated bombers.

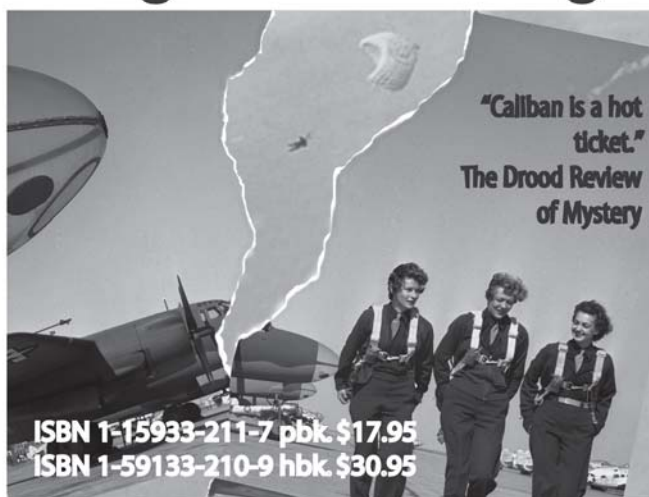
Yet their planes were sabotaged. They were savaged in the press and denounced on the floor of Congress. They were awarded no medals and no veterans benefits. Thirty-eight of them died in service to their country.

And now, four decades later, someone is killing off the survivors.

Ask your bookseller to order this Hilliard and Harris book through Ingram or Baker & Taylor or order online at www.hilliardandharris.com

*a Cat Caliban
mystery
by D. B. Borton*

Eight Miles High



Read an excerpt at www.dbborton.com

N I F A



Verna West

A NIFA participant concentrates on a spot landing.

BY CAROLYN C. CARPP, International NIFA Co-Chair

The future of aviation and specifically The Ninety-Nines lies in the hands of our young pilots. Anyone who volunteers or becomes involved in the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) senses this immediately when they set foot in the hangar where approximately 600 college students are eagerly studying and preparing for the annual Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference (SAFECON).

Looking around, one will see long rows of lunchroom type tables and a stage at one end. Around the perimeter are booths, where vendors are promoting their products as well as airlines and aviation related companies recruiting potential employees. The vendors are primarily NIFA sponsors, but others are there as well. The booths provide the opportunity for students to make one-to-one contacts and network with the industry.

Thirty-one colleges and universities sent teams to this year's SAFECON, with all teams having previously participated in regional competitions. This year's event was held in Columbus, Ohio at the Rickenbacker Airport. The sponsoring school was Ohio State University, which has its own airport north of the city. However, after the 2006 SAFECON, when neighbors complained of "too much airplane noise," the event was moved to its present site, the very comfortable hangars owned by AirNet Systems, one of the event sponsors. Other sponsors included Frasca, NetJets and Southwest Airlines.

As always, The Ninety-Nines sponsored two awards: The Top Scoring Woman Pilot and the Women's Achievement Award. Emily Harrison from LeTourneau University won The Ninety-Nines Top Scoring Woman Pilot Award, with Lora Stepusin from

Lewis University coming in second, and Jennifer Jakubiec from Western Michigan placing third. Nick Kasdaglis, Marketing Manager for David Clark Company, donated a \$900, top-of-the-line headset to the Top Scoring Woman Pilot.

The Ninety-Nines Achievement Award winners were Danielle Kaskel, Purdue University, first place; Sabrina Weber, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, second place; and Allison Barber from the University of North Dakota, third place. The young women faced intensive interviews conducted by Carolyn Carpp, Lois Erickson, Past Ninety-Nines President, and Virgilea Sworts. The thoroughness of the interview format developed by The Ninety-Nines team led to its adoption for the Men's Achievement Award as well.

Many 99s are consistently involved in NIFA at all levels. The Communications Desk has been operated for over 10 years by Past Ninety-Nines President Elaine Morrow. Extremely organized and detailed, Elaine has truly created the nerve-center of NIFA SAFECON. She is there early in the morning until late at night, answering questions, distributing information and co-ordinating the various events. She even provides maps to the best restaurants in town and sightseeing opportunities.

Past Ninety-Nines President Jody McCarrell served as the National Senior Chief Judge and as a member of the NIFA Council, along with Bonita Ades and Diane Bartels. Other judges at the 2007 SAFECON included Vicki Lynn Sherman, another Past Ninety-Nines President, Anita Lewis, Virginia Harmer, Jerry Anne Jurenka, Linda Mathias, Edith Fischer, Joan Mace, Cathy Jameson, Virgilea Sworts, Lois Erickson, Carolyn Carpp, Trine

Jorgeson, Sondra Ridgeway, Bonita Ades, Elaine Morrow and Poochie Rotzinger. There are no doubt others who worked behind the scenes whose names have been missed unintentionally.

The volunteers will enthusiastically agree that meeting these exciting young women (and men) pilots each year is extremely stimulating and provides us with the assurance that the future of aviation is in good hands. NIFA participants are not only excellent pilots but also top students and extremely involved in their various communities. Quite a few of the current judges have been participants in the past and return year after year just to stay involved.

For example, the editor of the 2007 event's daily news was Karrie Shank from Ohio State University. Karrie is a past winner of both The Ninety-Nines Top Scoring Female and The Ninety-Nines Achievement Award. She is also a new 99s member.

Volunteers are always needed at regional competitions as well as the national SAFECON. Ninety-Nines can learn more and see the annual schedule of competitions on the NIFA webpage at www.nifa.us. Plan to join us next year! You are guaranteed to have a wonderfully rewarding experience.



From left, Lois Erickson, Virgilea Sworts, Allison Barber (3rd Place winner of The Ninety-Nines Achievement Award), Danielle Kaskel (1st Place winner) and Carolyn Carpp. Second place winner Sabrina Weber was absent from the ceremony because she was graduating that night.

NIFA SPOTLIGHT:

Lois Erickson, Carolyn Carpp and Virgie Sworts

BY KARRIE SHANK, Guest Author

Between these three ladies are 112 years of flying experience and 23 years of Men's and Women's Achievement interviews. I had the opportunity to sit down with them and talk about their perspective on the interviews they do each year, how they love seeing the changes in interviewees from one year to the next, seeing them become more outgoing and watching their goals become more specific and more ambitious. From there, we talked about personal stories.

Lois, a nursing administration consultant from the Mount Shasta Chapter, owns a Piper Cherokee 180. She recalled learning to fly, telling her husband, "If you fly, I am going to fly," thinking this would dissuade him. They began flight lessons together, and a few days later they bought their first airplane for \$2,500.

Carolyn, from Bellevue, Washington, decided to learn to fly after learning that another teacher she worked with flew, and taking a flight with her cousin, who flew for United. She figured if he could do it, then she surely could... after all, she was smarter than he was! Today she flies her Cessna Cardinal and, along with Lois, serves as the International NIFA Co-Chairs for The Ninety-Nines.

Virgilea began flying in college, at Oklahoma State University. Her mom told her, "No way!" to flying, but her grand-



Carolyn Carpp, Virgilea Sworts and Lois Erickson.

mother supported her, telling her mother, "Be quiet, you were the first one in this family to drive a car." Today she flies a Pitts, having as much fun with it as humanly possible. Her theory on keeping her brain sharp is to fly inverted — after all, gravity will improve the circulation to the brain, right?

They talked about how they became involved in The Ninety-Nines and the help they have had along the way. Lois, a Past President of The 99s, remembered the guys who looked out for her during her training, even when she didn't know they were, and how her Private Pilot examiner told her to contact The Ninety-Nines, telling her she needed other women to associate with since they "hangar fly" differently from men.

For Carolyn, it was a chance occurrence that led her to join. At the time, she was singing with the Seattle Opera and was in a restaurant after a performance, driving her companions up the wall always talking about airplanes. A woman at another table overheard her and told her about The Ninety-Nines.

Two things are evident: all three women wholeheartedly love The Ninety-Nines and the friendships and opportunities it has brought them, and that their common goal is to see every girl encouraged to fly and have the same opportunity as anyone else.

BOOK REVIEW

Capt. Jepp And The Little Black Book

By Flint Whitlock
and Terry L. Barnhart
Savage Press; 2007

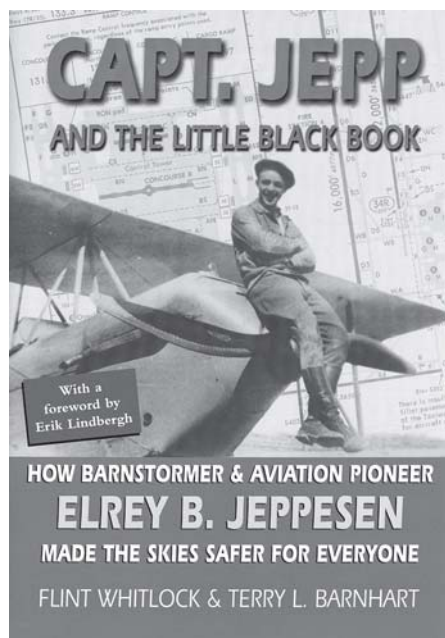
ISBN: 1-886028-83-4
\$24.95
285 pages

BY JACQUE BOYD, PH.D.
Rio Grande Norte Chapter

There isn't a pilot around who doesn't recognize the word "Jeppesen." In this trailblazing book you will find out about the man behind the name.

Flint Whitlock and Terry Barnhart have done a great job in getting out the information for this, the first book-length biography of Captain Elrey Jeppesen. There are a few typographical errors, but this "Special Edition" book is well worth your time. The jacket and book comments made by other aviators is like reading a "Who's Who" of aviation.

Reading Captain Jepp's biography is



like reading a "history of aviation" by itself. You will find out about the pioneering practices in barnstorming, airmail, airlines and the creation of air navigation systems. All this information is part of the life and story of Captain Jepp. Whitlock and Barnhart go it one step further and put a human touch on the information and also give us Elrey B. Jeppesen, the man.

Whether you knew it or not, as an aviation enthusiast this is one book you've been waiting for, and you won't be disappointed. This book just serves to whet your appetite for more!

RATINGS & WINGS

RATINGS

Melissa Chennault – First Solo
Ventura County Chapter

Elizabeth Collins – Commercial
Seaplane
Reno High Sierra Chapter

Barbara Davis – First Solo
Ventura County Chapter

Ann Goldsmith – First Solo
Monterey Bay Chapter

Cher Gupta – Private Pilot
Chicago Area Chapter

Heather Hostert – Private Pilot
Chicago Area Chapter

Karen Johnson – Private Pilot
Ventura County Chapter

Kelsey Krigstein – First Solo
Ventura County Chapter

Asti Livingston – Seaplane
First Canadian Chapter

Beth Owens – Helicopter CFI
Phoenix Chapter

Lori Parker – Instrument
Ventura County Chapter

Lorena Kniaz Sher – CFI
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

PROFESSIONAL RATINGS

Linda Berlin – ATP, Dash 8 Captain Type
Rating, Ambassador Chapter

Michelle Booth – 757/767 Type Rating
Ambassador Chapter

Angelee Conroy – ATP, Citation III
Type Rating
Ventura County Chapter

Michelle Gerttula – B-737 Type Rating
Southwest Section

WINGS

Sara Parmenter – Phase XVIII
Virginia Chapter

Betty Vinson – Phase VIII
Virginia Chapter

AOPA/Ninety-Nines Breakfast



Fly to beautiful New England in the fall and join us at our 99s Buffet Breakfast in Hartford, Connecticut on Saturday morning, October. 6. Before browsing the exhibits and seminars, enjoy a scrumptious breakfast and interesting speaker with your fellow 99s and friends. We look forward to seeing you!

When: October 6, 7-9 a.m.

Where: Hotel Marriott, next to the Convention Center

Price: \$28. Reservations recommended.

Contact Peggy Loeffler, 860 379-1200, pegfly99@snet.net

Welcome New Ninety-Nines Members!

Alaska Chapter

SAIGH, Denise
TERRAZAS, Marie Connie (A)

All-Ohio Chapter

DUDECK, Sarah Roberta
HOLLINGTON, Linda F.

Aloha Chapter

HEDLUND, Nancy L.
WILKIE, Emi Yoshida

Ambassador Chapter

CHANG, Carol Elizabeth

Atlantic Chapter

CASPER, Danielle Meghan
CORCORAN, Meghan Vanessa (A)
LIVELY, Carin Elizabeth (A)

Bakersfield Chapter

SHAPIRO, Juanita Joyce

Canadian Rockies Chapter

GOURLIE, Roberta

Chicago Area Chapter

DECHAUD, Maureen

Coachella Valley Chapter

LINDIG, Gabrielle Ann (FWP)

Colorado Chapter

DOLLIVER, Sarah Jane
GALLO, Vanita L.
HAMILTON, Penny R.

Columbia Cascade Chapter

MCILRATH, Laura Jean (FWP)

Eastern New England Chapter

CARVALHO, Shirley Louise



Maj Nicole Malachowski, Military Internet Chapter.

Embry-Riddle Daytona Chapter

BROWN, Stephanie Ann (FWP)
REENFIELD, Hilary Paige (A)

First Canadian Chapter

BREDIN, Lynn N.

Florida Goldcoast Chapter

TUCKER, Karolyn Kaye

Florida Gulf Stream Chapter

DUFFY, Pattie

Florida Spaceport Chapter

BEECH, Lynn Y. (FWP)

HELMS, BRIG. GEN., Susan J.

KEEL, Kamianna

Florida Suncoast Chapter

SELLMEYER, Barbie L. (FWP)
SKAGGS, Carolyn Cave

Greater Cincinnati Chapter

RASCHKE, Kelley N. (FWP)

Greater Kansas City Chapter

CARNAHAN, Margaret Dennis

Greater New York Chapter

RIFFLE, Layla Kristen

Greater St. Louis Chapter

KASTNER, Debbie

High Country Chapter

GAUL, Deborah K. (FWP)
TOLBY, Rebecca S.

Idaho Chapter

THOMAS, Denise Carol (FWP)

Intercollegiate Internet Chapter

SPARROW, Katie L. (A)

Katahdin Wings Chapter

LYMNEOS, Debra E.

Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter

MORGESON, Julie Anne
SAUER, Connie Lorraine

Kitty Hawk Chapter

LISS, Zenda Alma
PALMER-MOLONEY, L. Jean (FWP)
ROBINSON, Lisa Maria (FWP)
SUTHERLIN, Carolyn Y.

Las Vegas Valley Chapter (FWP)

WILSON, Audrey Kaye

Long Island Chapter

FLETCHER, Tamara (FWP)

Marin County Chapter

DALSGAARD, Giuliana (FWP)
GOLLNER, Denna
ORTEGA, Nina A. (FWP)
WOODS, Anne

Michigan Chapter

BERGMAN, Jennifer Joy (FWP)

Mid-Columbia Chapter

COLE, Bonnie Lynn

Military Internet Chapter

MALACHOWSKI, Nicole

New York Capital District Chapter

FIORAVANTI, Barbara Kussmaul

Northern New England Chapter

VRIESENDORP, Sylvia (FWP)

Orange County Chapter

D'AGOSTIN, Sylvie M.
PEICH, Shannon M. (FWP)

Penn-Jersey Chapter

LOVING, Diane H.

Pikes Peak Chapter

HARCLERODE, Zoan Ruth

Reno High Sierra Chapter

WIEDERKEHR, Sandra Dee

Rio Grande Norte Chapter

PASQUALINI, Donatella (FWP)

San Diego Chapter

BOND, Suzy Belinda (FWP)

NELSON, Leslie S. (FWP)

SIMS, Dianne Beatrice

San Fernando Valley Chapter

BROWN, Ayla Clevenger (FWP)

San Luis Obispo Co. Chapter

HOLDEN, Ruth Richter

Santa Clara Valley Chapter

DIRKS, Annacheri Lee



Zenda Liess, Kitty Hawk Chapter.

Santa Rosa Chapter

ST. CLAIR, Mary A. (FWP)

Scioto Valley Chapter

GIVENS, Kristin Maria (A)

AUSTRALIAN SECTION

DUNCAN, Athalie
HOOPMANN, Janet Elizabeth
WALKERDEN, Lesley Eileen

BRAZIL SECTION

TOSIN, Vivian (A)

FINNISH SECTION

SALO, Hanna-Mari

GERMAN SECTION

KENNEDY, Annete Caroline
KOTTWITZ, DR., Marion

INDIA SECTION

DUTT, Sunita

SOUTHEAST SECTION

MITCHELL, Kirsten E.(A)

Sugarloaf Chapter

BEALL, Susan Elaine
GRINNALDS, Patricia Erickson

Tucson Chapter

HECHT, Sharon J.
MAGNUSON-HAWKINS, Shelby J.
NUSSBAUM, Shana L.
STITES, Kelly S.

Ventura County Chapter

KRIGSTEIN, Kelsey Lynn (FWP)

Virginia Chapter

ANDERSON, Birgitta L. (FWP)

FASOLI, Dijonna Marie

Wisconsin Chapter

WEGNER, Julie Anna

Women With Wings Chapter

BOLANZ, Kellie Eileen
DANHOFFER, Denise Marie

Did You Know That Amelia Earhart...?

BY KAY ALLEY, Kansas Chapter
Photographs by Dean Bailey



Pat Prentiss, Alice Talnack and Donna Crane-Bailey read the names on the bricks that pave the walkway of the Amelia Earhart birthplace home.

This is a triple anniversary year for Amelia Earhart: 110 years since her birth, 75 years since her 1932 solo crossing of the Atlantic from Newfoundland to Ireland and 70 years since her mysterious disappearance in the South Pacific.

Did you know that Amelia:

- Was born on July 24, 1897?
- Was born in the second floor bedroom of her grandparents' home at 223 North Terrace in Atchison, Kansas?
- Was named after her two grandmothers, Amelia and Mary?
- Had a younger sister named Grace Muriel?
- Was given a BB gun by her father at age nine?
- Attended elementary school in Des Moines, Iowa?
- Graduated Hyde Park High School in Chicago, Illinois?
- Attended Ogontz College in Rydal, Pennsylvania?
- Served as a volunteer nurse during World War I in Toronto, Canada?
- Learned to play the piano and the banjo while living in Toronto with her sister?
- Took her first airplane ride in Long Beach, California with a barnstormer pilot named Frank Hawks?
- Received no pay for the trans-Atlantic publicity flight as a passenger while the two male pilots received \$25,000?
- Accepted a fee of \$1,500 to appear in an ad for Lucky Strike cigarettes although she didn't smoke.



Donna Crane-Bailey and Alice Talnack with the statue of Amelia at the International Forest of Friendship on the outskirts of Atchison.



Amelia Earhart's bedroom.

- Was employed by Transcontinental Air Transport in 1929 to "sell flying to women?"
- Placed third in the Women's Air Derby, nicknamed the Powder Puff Derby by Will Rogers?
- Was elected the first President of an organization formed in November, 1929 for the purpose of uniting women pilots?

You are cordially invited to visit Amelia's birthplace home in Atchison, Kansas, to learn more about her life and view artifacts on display honoring our organization's first president.

GRASS ROOTS — Section and Chapter reporters share their recent activities

CANADIAN ROCKIES CHAPTER

The Canadian Rockies Chapter (Black Sheep) put together a presentation for the Girl Guides in order for them to receive their Aviation Badges.

The first get-together was a ground school presentation covering various topics about airplanes and airports. We also constructed three types of paper airplanes along with a balsa wood airplane. This was followed up with test flights on each of the airplanes we made.

Our second outing was a visit to the Vernon Airport. The girls were given the opportunity to sit in the 172s and check out the controls. The highlight was a trip to visit the local Citation on the field. I was impressed by the glass cockpit; however, the girls were most interested and impressed that the airplane had a toilet. They all received their badges, and we hope to do this again next year.

— Kelly Sheret



Girl Guides “Captain” Emily McDougall and “First Officer” Lauren Keryluke get the feel for the cockpit. These two look like future Ninety-Nines!



UPS 727 Captain Terri Donner explains airline pilot duties.

KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS CHAPTER

In March, 229 Junior Girl Scouts descended upon the Old Terminal Building at Bowman Field to complete the requirements for the Aerospace Badge during the annual Junior Girl Scout Aerospace Day.

The girls were primarily from grades 4-6 from southern Indiana to the Louisville Metro Area. This was the fourth consecutive year that the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter of The Ninety-Nines partnered with Girl Scout Troop 1549 to sponsor this event.

The Scouts learned about early female pilots and the formation of The Ninety-Nines. They learned that the organization was founded in 1929 and Amelia Earhart served as its first President.

—Terri Donner

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

The Chicago Area Chapter’s Second Annual Girl Scout Aerospace Badge Day was a huge success. Over 300 enthusiastic Girl Scouts, plus 100 Troop Leaders and parents, gathered at the Illinois Aviation Academy at DuPage Airport to attend the event. Co-chairs for the event were Kristy Brooke and Elizabeth Hitchcock, who took on the project for the third year in a row.

Seven stations were set up in the Academy hangar with presenters covering various topics:

Aviation Careers – Captains Carol Skiber and Pam Dunbar from Southwest Airlines and Ellen O’Hara; How to Talk to ATC – Cher Gupta and Donna Klein; Physics of Flight (Glider Competition) – Shelley Ventura (Aux Plaines Chapter), Heather Hostert and Linda Copley; Maps and Charts – Vickie Szewczyk and Linda Walker; Dining in Space (Astronaut Food) – Diane Cozzi, Karen Ballard and Mary Ann Pintor; Real Airplane Display/How Planes Fly – Cynthia Madsen,

Mary Lou Mueller and Carol McCabe; Amelia Earhart Portrayal – Vicky Dumez.

—Dianne M. Cozzi



Cher Gupta explains to Scouts how to talk to ATC.

GRASS ROOTS



Sheila Dyson and her crew arrived in Bahrain and are greeted by Yvonne Trueman, far right. They are presented with a gift from Civil Aviation Affairs.

ARABIAN SECTION

On a flight from London to Australia flying a Cessna 182, Sheila Dyson and her two co-pilots met up with Yvonne Trueman of the Arabian Section. Their routing takes them onwards from Bahrain to Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia to Darwin, where they will fly down the east coast to Cairns and Sydney. There the aircraft will be dismantled, crated and shipped back to England.

The flight is called "The Flight of a 1,000 Eyes" for the charity ORBIS, which aims to raise funds to save the sight of 1,000 African children from blindness.

Sheila Dyson has promised to join the Arabian Section on completion of her flight. Welcome aboard Sheila!

—Yvonne Trueman

VIRGINIA CHAPTER

The Virginia Chapter celebrated its 40th anniversary with a gala luncheon on April 28 with 11 members and three guests attending. In recognition of their founding the Chapter, Charter Members Maxine Walker and Virginia (Ginny) Riley were given an interlocking 99s pin made of rhinestones.

The Chapter received a lovely art glass vase and flowers from the International Board of Directors on the occasion of our 40th anniversary.

We were also thrilled that a student pilot, Birgitta Anderson, who attended the luncheon, joined as an official FWP.
—Betty Vinson



Charter Members Maxine Walker, left, and Ginny Riley were presented with rhinestone Ninety-Nines pins.

MAT-SU VALLEY CHAPTER

The 16-member Mat-Su Valley Chapter hosted their largest-ever monthly meeting on April 17, with about 45 members and guests present to hear local retired physician Bill Compton discuss his recent solo, single-engine, non-stop, winter, nighttime flight from Kodiak, Alaska to Honolulu, Hawaii. Although he has made the trip from Hawaii to Alaska several times, this was the first time he had flown the route non-stop.

Bill is well-respected not only as an OB/GYN who delivered babies and grandbabies for some of the local aviatrixes but also as an example of determination-in-action. Last November Bill flight-planned, then flew, his turbocharged Beech Bonanza for 2,455 nm in 16 hours and 18 minutes with a 12-13 gallon/hour fuel burn. His airplane is equipped with an auxiliary fuel tank in the back seat area, autopilot, both panel-mounted and handheld GPS, sophisticated engine instruments, oxygen, a four-person auto-inflating raft, float vest, and special STC hand controls (Bill is a paraplegic as a result of a non-flying accident about five years ago).

During the entire flight Bill wore a survival suit. His only problem was a temporary loss of HF radio contact, but he succeeded in reestablishing ATC communication with the assistance of an over-flying Korean Air flight and proceeded to his destination on course and on schedule.

—Judith Foster



Bill Compton in his Bonanza.

CENTRAL OREGON CHAPTER

To help promote The Ninety-Nines and the Bend Airport Days on June 16, the Chapter hosted a refreshment booth and held a raffle. They are also looking forward to their upcoming Poker Run to be held on July 14. This event is open to all pilots, and the money raised will go towards the Chapter's scholarship fund.

Everyone is watching with great anticipation as the construction continues on the new runway at the Bend Airport.

GRASS ROOTS

KATAHDIN WINGS CHAPTER

The Katahdin Wings Chapter was blessed with a clear, cold fly-out to Eastern Slopes Airport in Fryeburg, Maine in November. Four aircraft flew in, piloted by Mary Build, Jacki Rogers (with co-pilot Twyla Rogers), Claire Holmblad and Michele Guerrette. They welcomed guest Barbara Walsh, who became a Future Woman Pilot member the following month. February was another Saturday fly-out to Augusta State Airport.

The March Safety Seminar was attended by about 40 people. The meeting was "Working Together With In-Flight Emergencies," co-sponsored with Twin Cities Air and the FAA and held at Auburn-Lewiston Airport. It was an interactive evening of safety discussion and lessons using scenario-based training.

New Future Woman Pilot member Christy Hemenway was introduced to the Katahdin Wings.

There was a fly-out to Parlin Airport in Newport, New Hampshire. The May meeting was a fly-to Saturday meeting at Biddeford Airport. Another new member, Sophie Strout, joined the Chapter.

— Lorena Plourd

SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAPTER

The San Luis Obispo Chapter introduced the Central Coast Sky Tour at the spring Southwest Section Meeting in Santa Maria. The Sky Tour is a guide to flying the remarkably beautiful central coast area of California.

Arguably it offers some of the best flying in California, but there are some airspace issues that might discourage pilots from sightseeing. The eight-page, full-color 8.5 by 11 inch pamphlet has a centerfold chart. It includes a guide to negotiating the local military airspace and restricted areas along with descriptions of the local airfields. There are descriptions and aerial photos of points of interest that are identified on the chart.

Three suggested routes are marked on the chart, two to the north of different lengths and one to the south. Each offers a one- to two-hour tour. California pilots could fly in, fly one of the tours, stopping along the way for lunch at one of the airport restaurants, and head home the same day. Others from farther away could stay at the Radisson Hotel at the Santa Maria Airport or other local hotels and make a day or two of flying the area.

We want to encourage people to come and explore the central coast by air. The project is a fund-raiser for Chapter activities, primarily to support a flight instruction scholarship honoring Wanda Strassburg, a founding member of our Chapter and a mentor to many pilots in our area.

The Central Coast Sky Tour is available as a thank-you gift for donations of \$25 or more. Donations are fully tax-deductible. Happily, this project won the trophy at the Southwest Section meeting for innovative ideas. If you would like a copy of the Central Coast Sky Tour to fly the central coast or to inspire your Chapter to develop a sky tour of your area, send a check for \$25 or more to the SLO Ninety-Nines, PO Box 5214, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403.

— Grace Crittenden



In May, Claire Holmblad, far right, and Lori Plourd, far left, visited a middle school in Freeport.

MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER

Tylertown's Vintage Fly-In was a success. Kudos go to Jerry Sumrall-Garner, Treasurer of the Mississippi Chapter, for organizing the event. Our Chapter raised over \$250 by selling t-shirts, cookies and drinks at our booth.

David Mars graced the event by giving rides in his TravelAir, while others were giving rides in their RV6s and Mooneys. Jan and David Oreck flew in for a visit as well.

In other Chapter news, Stacy Booker, Assistant Chapter Chair of the Mississippi Chapter, won The Ninety-Nine of the Year award for the Southeast Section. She has worked hard in revitalizing the Chapter. In the past two years, the Mississippi Chapter has acquired a new website, sponsored fly-ins, safety meetings and is involved in outreach. While Stacy is hard at work revitalizing the Chapter, she is also earning her Private Pilot certificate and changing her career, where she has her heart set on corporate flying.

The Mississippi Chapter also won Chapter of the Year in addition to the Safety Award of the Year.

—Stacy Booker



Jerry Sumrall-Garner.

NEBRASKA CHAPTER

The Nebraska Chapter hosted a joint meeting for the South Central Section and the North Central Section at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Lincoln, Nebraska in April. “LNK”ing The 99s was the theme for the meeting, reflecting the joining of two membership sections with 110 registrants in Lincoln (identifier LNK).

The task of uniting the two large sections that cover most of the central part of the United States in a joint Section meeting was a huge undertaking for our small Chapter. A local television news outlet even filmed and presented a story on The Ninety-Nines’ arrival.

Tours included the Strategic Air and Space Museum and the Duncan Aviation facilities at the Lincoln airport. Guest speakers were Betsy Curtis, a flight instructor for the U.S. Air Force at Offutt Air Base in Omaha, Harry Barr and Chandra Clanton. Chandra is a member of the 2007 U.S. Aerobatic team that will be competing in Grenada, Spain this summer for the World Aerobatic Championship.

Saturday events included a business meetings for members from both the North Central Section and the South Central Section. Saturday afternoon activities featured seminars and socializing at the Hospitality Suite and Fly Market.

Martha Norman presented a seminar describing her role as a NIFA judge and the role of The Ninety-Nines in the NIFA competitions. Diane Bartels presented a seminar on



Nebraska Chapter members Diane Bartels, Susan Askew, Patsy Meyer, Sally VanZandt, Linda Sutton, Susan Biba and Carole Sutton.

“Sharpie: the Life Story of Evelyn Sharp.”

The Saturday evening banquet featured guest speaker Ronnie Mitchell of the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics, who delivered an entertaining account of his experiences flying with the Air Force and for the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics.

The fun continued with an auction conducted by Ninety-Nines Past President Jody McCarrell of Oklahoma. Chapters donated aviation-related items for the auction, and over \$2,700 was raised and will be directed to 501(c)(3) organizations with ties to The Ninety-Nines.

— Susan Biba



Trish Bianchi, standing, and Linda Cioffi talk with participants at the Adventures in Aviation workshop they presented this spring.

NEW YORK CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER

In April, four members of the New York Capital District Chapter presented a program, Adventures In Aviation, at the Troy Public Library. The workshop was developed for girls ages 10-17. Harriet Bregman, Linda Cioffi, Barbara Fiorvanti and Trish Bianchi offered the girls and several adults an overview of the world of aviation, including an historical perspective of The Ninety-Nines.

A PowerPoint presentation, Female Firsts in Aviation, provided a chronological view of some of the achievements of

women pilots. Flight dynamics, including the parts of an airplane and the forces acting on an airplane in flight, were demonstrated with charts and model airplanes. Of particular interest for the girls were two large cockpit posters (a Cessna 172 and 182) that gave them a real life view of what a pilot would see sitting in the cockpit. The cockpit instrumentation generated many questions about how instruments help a pilot determine and monitor altitude, airspeed, direction and the plane’s condition.

Several traditional questions were raised, such as, “How does a pilot talk to people on the ground?” and “How do you know where to go?” These questions prompted discussion of communication and navigation skills.

Each panel member was able to add their own perspective and experience about flying, including a CFI (Linda) and a former FBO operator (Barbara). On a more humorous note, we were asked to share our favorite flying tales.

One important highlight of providing such a program is to illustrate to young girls the important contributions women aviators made and continue to make in the development of aviation. One young lady commented, “I never knew women did so much!”

The experience was a wonderful way for us as Ninety-Nines to share our love of flying and to hopefully open up some avenues for future Ninety-Nines. From the reaction of the kids, I’d say we did just that!

— Trish Bianchi

GRASS ROOTS — Section and Chapter reporters share their recent activities



Florida Spaceport Chapter members and guests.

FLORIDA SPACEPORT CHAPTER

The Florida Spaceport Chapter hosted the Spring Southeast Section Meeting on May 4 and 5 in Titusville, Florida. We were honored to have International President Pat Prentiss and Director Lisa Cotham take time out of their schedules to join us.

The Friday night social was held at the Valiant Air Command Museum. Members of the Brevard Theatrical Ensemble entered the room as Harriet Quimby, Jacqueline Cochran, Beryl Markham and Ruth Law. Each took the stage and told us of her part in the history of aviation. One of the women also portrayed Theresa James. What really made this special was the fact that there was a WASP, Helen Snapp, in the audience who knew Jacqueline Cochran and Theresa James.

The winners of the Bonnie and Archie Gann Scholarship were announced at the Business Meeting.

A new Chapter, the Paradise Coast Chapter in southwest Florida, was presented with its charter.

The guest speaker after lunch was Brigadier General Susan Helms, a retired astronaut, now the first woman Commanding Officer of the 45th Space Wing of the Air Force. She showed and narrated a video that was made on her last flight into space and her six-month stay on the International Space Station.

— Bobbi Lasher

COLORADO CHAPTER



Tuskegee Airman Col. Buck Newsome was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

On March 28, 2007, President Bush awarded 350 Tuskegee Airmen the Congressional Gold Medal for service in Italy, North Africa and Sicily during WWII. The all-black pilot training program was authorized by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1941.

The Colorado Ninety-Nines, joined by members of the Pikes Peak Chapter, enjoyed stories from local Tuskegee Airmen. Colonel Buck Newsome brought his Congressional Gold Medal and shared stories of life in the 332nd Fighter Group.

— Donna Miller

RIO GRANDE NORTE CHAPTER

Rio Grande Norte Chapter members Amy Ecclesine, Elizabeth Hunke, JoRita Jordan and Susan Larson participated in the annual "Expanding Your Horizons" program in Los Alamos, New Mexico, sponsored by various corporations, foundations and government agencies. This program is designed to nurture girls' interests

in math and science courses and encourage careers with science and math-based options such as computer science, engineering and physical sciences.

Members participated as class gofers, hands-on advisors for work groups and worked an aviation-career oriented booth.

— Susan Larson



From left, Elizabeth Hunke, Amy Ecclesine, Susan Larson and JoRita Jordan.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

A perfect weekend was enjoyed by New England Section members on May 4 and 5 when the Connecticut Chapter hosted the Spring Section Meeting held at the Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

The Friday evening dinner was followed by guest speaker Doug Stewart, CEO of DSFI, Inc. and 2004 Flight Instructor of the Year.

A Saturday morning business meeting and a group tour of the Norman Rockwell Museum concluded the weekend.

— Glenna Blackwell



Connecticut Chapter members hosted the New England Spring Section meeting.

GRASS ROOTS

INDIA SECTION

When FAA Administrator Marion Blakey came to India for the U.S.-India Aviation Partnership Summit, the first thing she wanted was to meet India Ninety-Nines members.

When I received this request from the FAA, I informed India Section Governor Mohini Shroff. We both were so thrilled to get invitations from the U.S. Ambassador to attend the reception given by him in honor of Marion's visit to New Delhi.

We gathered eight Ninety-Nines members to meet her. Five members flew from Mumbai to New Delhi: Governor Mohini Shroff, Capt. Aruna K. Rabia Futehally, Harpreet de Singh and Chanda Budhabhatti. From Delhi were Capt. Saudamini Deshmukh, Capt. Nivedita Bhasin and Sunita Dutt.

Marion met with us 20 minutes before the reception and had a wonderful one-to-one discussion with each member. We were very impressed with this informal friendly gesture. We all felt we had a good friend in her. It is obvious that the U.S. Ninety-Nines have a very long and lasting relationship with the FAA, and that respect now extends across the ocean to India.

At the reception, FAA officials welcomed The Ninety-Nines of India and paid tribute to The Ninety-Nines who have tirelessly worked to promote aviation throughout the world.

Are you ready to visit exotic India? Then mark your calendar for March 12-26, 2008 for the Incredible India tour. Special pre- and post-tours will be organized for those who want to visit interesting places of their choice in India. Members of the India Section are gearing up to welcome Ninety-Nines members, their families and friends for this specially planned tour to India. For further information, contact Chanda Budhabhatti at Chanda99tour@gmail.com.

— Chanda Budhabhatti

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NEW HORIZONS

SUSAN KRISTINA MCNUTT

Former Fullerton Chapter Member

Sue McNutt was a longtime member of the Fullerton Chapter until she moved to Big Bear. She stopped renewing her membership when she was not associated with a Chapter and she was preoccupied with her battle with breast cancer. We always think of Sue as a member.

She lost her two-year battle with breast cancer on May 3, 2007, a battle she fought with the same grace and dignity that she demonstrated throughout her life.

Sue grew up in Napa. After high school graduation, Sue put herself through Humboldt State University and later enjoyed a long and successful career in Finance at Hughes Aircraft Company/Raytheon in Fullerton.

After Sue's dad retired to Lake Havasu, she grew weary of the drive to visit him, so she started taking flying lessons at Fullerton Airport. It wasn't long before she had her Private certificate and joined the Fullerton Chapter. She also went on to get her Instrument rating.

The love of her life was Bob, whom she met while taking flying lessons at Fullerton Airport. They married in 1987. Both accomplished pilots, Bob and Sue owned his and her airplanes for many years. Bob liked twin-engine airplanes, first owning a Cessna 421 and later a Piper Aztec, while Sue owned and loved her Mooney. She enjoyed flying in the Palms to Pines Air Race and Poker Runs as well as trips to Southwest Section meetings and PCIFA events and flying back and forth to Big Bear, where they owned a second home overlooking the runway.

Sue also donated her time and her airplane to fly for Angel Flight.

Sue remained active in the Fullerton Chapter, holding every office at least once, including Chairman, until Bob and Sue moved to Big Bear full-time in 2001. She was an avid horseback rider and became active and served on the board of directors of the local Vaqueros Club. Sue had been in Soroptimist since 1997 and transferred her membership from Fullerton to Big Bear where she was a valued member of the board.

In 2005, Sue was diagnosed with breast cancer. After conventional treatments failed to produce results, she studied and practiced alternative approaches. She kept the cancer at bay until Bob was killed in a tragic airplane accident on November 14, 2006. It was a terrible blow that Sue never quite recovered from.

A memorial service was held at the Presbyterian Church of Big Bear on June 9.

— Denise Jennings



Sue and Bob McNutt.

NEW HORIZONS

SANDRA SWEENEY Pikes Peak Chapter

Sandra Sweeney passed away in March after a long battle with cancer. Sandra joined The Ninety-Nines in 1981, first as a South Central Section member and later as a member of the Pikes Peak Chapter, where she served as Co-Chair from 1999 to 2001.

In addition to being a pilot, Sandra was also an A&P, having graduated from Colorado Aero Tech. While living in Reno, Nevada, she was a member of the CAP, the Sheriff's Aero Squadron and worked with the Reno Air Races. She and husband Ed, also a pilot, owned a variety of airplanes, including a flying car and a twin engine Partinavia.



Sandra Sweeney.

Sandra had a variety of interests in keeping with her adventurous nature. She rode motorcycles, hiked and skied, traveled to such places as Russia, Peru and Antarctica, but also enjoyed the peacefulness of gardening and working for her church.

Those who knew her will remember her for her dignified manner, her love of family and her excellent flying skills.

Our Chapter was fortunate to have Sandra as a member. We shall miss her.

— *Phyllis Wells*

ARLENE C. WALSH Rio Grande Norte Chapter FWP

"A day without chocolate is like a day without sunshine" was my favorite of Arlene Walsh's sayings. She had ready comments about the Black Fairy, particularly when she got herself into Arlene's computer, and that "Pluto must be in retrograde" to explain an unpleasant day. A poet, pilot, knitter, teacher, author and airplane builder, Arlene lived each and every day with dreams and goals, but most importantly, love and a great sense of humor. She was life embodied, and oh, how she loved to fly with us.

A charter member of the Rio Grande Norte Chapter, Arlene was instrumental in locating the women that formed the nucleus of the Chapter. A resident of Santa Fe for 22 years, she found us all and brought us together.

Sadly, while driving to her favorite airshow, an antique biplane event in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Arlene died in a single-car automobile accident in Clayton, New Mexico on May 31, 2007. She was 71 and truly knew how to live.

— *Susan Larson*

IRENE WIRTSCHAFTER Florida Spaceport Chapter

Captain Irene Wirtschafter flew to new horizons on May 19, 2007. She was buried at Arlington Cemetery on August 9 at 3 p.m. with full military honors and a military band.

Irene was a member of The Ninety-Nines since March 1961. She served for many years on the board of the Forest of Friendship. She began her flying career in 1958 and held a Commercial license with IFR Land and Seaplane ratings. Irene owned an Ercoupe, Tripacer, Cessna 182 and Cessna 172. She participated in over 23 air races and is listed in *Who's Who in Aviation*.

Irene had a distinguished 32-year career in the United States Navy. In 1944 she was commissioned an ensign — the first woman to receive a direct commission without a college education. Assigned to the Supply Corps, after some shore duty she was the first female officer assigned to sea duty and served aboard the USS Bretner when it transported troops from New York to Bremerhaven, Germany after WWII. Irene was the first Jewish woman to attain the rank of Captain.

Upon retiring from the Navy, Irene became an Internal Revenue agent in the U.S. Treasury Office of International Operations. She was the first woman to serve in that position. She also served as a trustee of the International Women Air and Space Museum in Cleveland.

Irene received many honors during her career, including the Woman of the Year Award from the Silver Wings Association and the National Award of Merit from the Naval Reserve Association.

She was ill for many months. One thing Irene wanted very much was to fly one more time. Local pilots at the Merritt Island Airport, Florida arranged for a flight on March 10, 2007. Upon landing she was asked, "How was the flight?" Her answer, "Too short!" Shalom, Irene.

— *Bobbi Lasher*

MANUEL CASTANEDA, 49½ So-Lo Chapter

Manuel Castaneda passed away on March 9, 2007 after a lengthy illness. He was born and raised in El Centro, California.

His profession was a heavy equipment operator. As a sideline he had a great interest in aviation and received his Private Pilot certificate. He started his own business, Desert Aircraft Rental, in Imperial, California.

He encouraged his wife Pat to obtain her Private Pilot certificate, and she joined the Imperial So-Lo Chapter.

A contribution in his memory has been sent to The Ninety-Nines for the Amelia Earhart Scholarship Fund.



Irene Wirtschafter.



**2007
Scholarship
Winners**

