

99 News



The Official Magazine of the International Organization of Women Pilots

May/June 2015

Nepal Section 99s Organize Aid for Earthquake- Stricken Village of Sinche





99 News

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

The 99 News

PO Box 950374
Oklahoma City, OK
73195-0374

Email:

news@ninety-nines.org

Online Form:

ninety-nines.org/99newsreports.html

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

For advertising information, specs and rates, or to place an ad, please contact advertisingmgr@ninety-nines.org

On The Cover

Two recent earthquakes in Nepal killed and injured many thousands of people and left more than 19,000 homeless.

Responding to the crisis, Nepal Section members visited the village of Sinche to determine how they can help residents recover from the disaster. The first priority is distributing basic food items, followed by helping the village rebuild its structures.

Photos show the 99s visiting with the villagers and assessing the damage.

For more information or how you can help, contact *Carol Munch, International Member Chairman*, at camunch@comcast.net.

Background photo: *Doutourdumonde Photography / Shutterstock.com*.

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

2015

JUNE

1 Due date for submissions to the 99 News for the July/August issue.

5-7 New York-New Jersey Section Spring Meeting, hosted by the North Jersey Chapter. Contact Joanne Campbell, 201-337-5831.

19-20 International Forest of Friendship, Atchison, Kansas. The 2015 theme will be Forests and Flying, honoring foresters who fly, smoke jumpers, pilots and operators of fire tankers, and other related fields. For information, visit <http://www.ifof.org/>.

22-25 2015 Air Race Classic. Visit airraceclassic.org for race information.

JULY

5-10 99s International Conference and Annual Business Meeting, Munich, Germany.

20-26 EAA AirVenture 2015, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. For more information, contact Lin Caywood, 301-903-2588 or 99lin@comcast.net. Be sure to stop by The Ninety-Nines booth in Hangar B, Aisle B.

31 Deadline for submitting Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) Application for Mentoring Session B. For more information go to www.ninety-nines.org/careers/ or email mentoring@ninety-nines.org.

AUGUST

1 Due date for submissions to the 99 News for the September/October issue.

15 The 37th Annual Okie Derby Proficiency Air Rally, start and finish at Sundance Airport. Course is no longer than 200 nautical miles and open to men and women pilots. Registration is \$45. Contact Heather Sterzick at hsterzick@gmail.com or Kay Jennings at kayjfly@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER

10-13 NW Section Annual Business Meeting/Conference, Spokane, Washington, Red Lion Inn at the Park on the Spokane River and The Centennial Trail. Contact Carolyn Hambidge, chambidge@q.com.

25-27 Fall North Central Section Meeting hosted by the Minnesota 99s, the Anoka-Blaine Airport (KANE). Contact Patti Sandusky, 612-308-4291 or pilotpatti@hotmail.com.

OCTOBER

1 Due date for submissions to the 99 News for the November/December issue.

15-18 South Central Section Fall Meeting, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Hosted by Rio Grande Norte Chapter. Contact Susan Larson, 505-690-6903 or sjlaron99@mac.com.

22-25 Fall Southwest Section Meeting, Santa Cruz, California, hosted by Monterey Bay Chapter. For more info: <http://ninety-nines.net/sws99sMB/>.

NOVEMBER

6-7 Fall International Board of Directors' Meeting, Oklahoma City. Call HQ for more information.

99s Are Finalists for 2015 Pilot's Choice Awards

Great news: The 99s is one of 12 aviation nonprofit finalists competing for grants in the 2015 Lightspeed Competition, and it is currently in second place! The finalists with the highest Internet votes will receive grants of up to \$10,000 from Lightspeed.

You can cast your vote and the votes of your friends and family at www.vote99s.com. You can also send me a list of your friends and family who want to vote for The 99s, and we will cast their votes for them. Lightspeed keeps track of the vote tally by email addresses, and an email address can only be used once to vote. You can also use your @facebook.com email address to vote for The 99s.

We hope to use the Lightspeed grant money to increase our presence and outreach at aviation events and to continue the Karen Johnson Solo Scholarship (funding through first solo and beyond to a young girl between 16-20 years old) that we award at Oshkosh in cooperation with EAA on October 16.

Please vote now at www.vote99s.com.

— Susan Liebler, International & Ventura County 99s Fundraising Chairman
Lexpert@Lexpertresearch.com

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

EDITORIAL AND PHOTO GUIDELINES

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

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

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Ninety-Nines Kate Macario, Mary Ellen Morris, Laurence Bonneau and Tammy Hand.



Deutsches Museum, Munich. Photo Max-kmuc



Miriam Lopez and Kikue May discover that Every Kid Can Fly.

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President's Page

BY MARTHA PHILLIPS, International President

We are so very proud to welcome a new Section to The 99s – the China Section! The International Board of Directors voted in February to accept their application, and they received their Section Charter in March. The new Section Governor is Xueyan (Ida) Zhang from Beijing. The other five Charter Members are Wenyu Fu, Eva Lam and Vivian Poon from Hong Kong, Lina Shi from Yorba Linda, California, and Jingyi Xu from Monterey Park, California.

There was an interesting article about Ida in the July/August 2014 issue of the *99 News*. At that time, Ida was in the U.S. beginning her work on getting her private pilot certificate. She was taking part in the Fullerton Chapter in California, attending Southwest Section meetings and even a 99s International Conference. Ida was so enthusiastic about starting a China Section that this year she and Jamie Tanabe, Fullerton Chapter Chairman, flew to my home airport, Camarillo, California, to meet with me about what needed to be done and what the next steps were.

She was then about to take her checkride, which meant she would be returning home and was anxious to get started on introducing The Ninety-Nines to China. She had already been in touch with some of the above China Section Charter Members, and between them, they were able to recruit the requisite number to apply for the Section Charter.

Two more members have joined since their Charter was approved. Obviously, there is a lot of potential in a vast country like China, and we hope that Section sees a large growth in membership.

We tend to refer to those members who live in countries that are not located in North America as “International” members, and



we are so proud of their efforts to remain connected and letting us know about their efforts to recruit new members.

Speaking of that, do you know which Section outside of North America has the most members currently? It is the Arabian Section, now up to 73 members. Made up of individuals from countries such as Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Lebanon, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates, they have some of the liveliest and best attended Section meetings around.

We expect more International members than normal at Munich in July. While most of our members live in North America, an occasional Conference held elsewhere gives our International members a chance to attend with less cost. The last 99s Conference outside of North America was held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2005. The 99s who attended still talk about what a wonderful change of pace and what a great excuse it was to go to a part of the world that they might never get a chance to experience otherwise. And this year, our German Section is hoping to welcome members from all over the world to their lovely country. See you there!



Martha signs the China Section Charter.



New China Section Governor Ida Zhang, left, with Jamie Tanabe, Fullerton Chapter Chairman, in an “unmanned” cockpit.



BY MARY ELLEN MORRIS
AND CAROLE WYMAN
Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter

Kate Macario

A Love for The 99s

Kate Macario's love affair with aviation began in 1946 when she earned her private pilot certificate.

Kate Macario is an Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter member who has “seen it all.” Since joining the Chapter in 1955, Kate has been instrumental in helping the Chapter grow, both in numbers and in its contributions to the world of aviation.

In 1930, the Mid-Atlantic Section was formed and was originally called the Middle East Section. By 1934, the Section was geographically enormous, including Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia and the District of Columbia. The Pennsylvania Chapter was so large that, in 1938, it was divided into Eastern Pennsylvania and Western Pennsylvania.

Kate joined the Civil Air Patrol in high school and began socializing with a group called Women Flyers of America. She learned about the New Hanover Airport nearby, and five years after Amelia Earhart disappeared, 18-year-old Kate Macario signed up for flight lessons in a rented Piper Cub for \$9 an hour. After taking additional lessons at Flying Dutchman Airport, Kate obtained her private pilot certificate in 1946. Thus began her love affair with, and commitment to, the world of general aviation.

Photo above, Kate Macario, left, with Mary Ellen Morris in 2009.

In 1950, Kate met her husband, an aircraft mechanic, and for the next seven years she balanced her growing family of seven children with her love for aviation, never letting either interfere with the other.

When Kate and her husband moved to a larger home, they began restoring planes in their garage and continued that work for the next 25 years. While her husband worked on the engines, Kate handled the doping, rib stitching and other tasks related to getting an airplane airworthy. Three of their four sons helped as well, and all later followed careers in aviation.

Kate's first involvement with The Ninety-Nines was in 1955 when friend Marie Angstadt invited Kate to a Ninety-Nines meeting in Philadelphia. It was a small group of about 12 members, and they met monthly at different restaurants. Only a few months after joining the Chapter, Kate became Chairman. She decided that there should be more to the meetings than just a dinner, and she set up educational programs each month.

She was also instrumental in growing the Chapter's Penny-A-Pound events. Originally called "Ladies Day," it was an opportunity to introduce the joy of flight to members of the community by taking passengers for airplane rides in single-engine planes for just a penny per pound of the passenger's weight. Although inflation has taken its toll, Kate can now say that the Eastern PA Chapter's annual Pennies-A-Pound tradition that she helped build is over 40 years old.

As the Chapter's primary fundraiser, it has allowed the Chapter to offer scholarships to deserving women in the Delaware Valley, encouraging young women to learn to fly and to take advantage of the camaraderie and support found in the Chapter. Last year alone, the Chapter's volunteer pilots flew over 200 passengers from Heritage Airport. The proceeds funded three \$2,500 scholarships, and the recipients have all become Ninety-Nines.

Kate's contribution to general aviation over the years is legendary. She is an active member and contributor to almost all of the major general aviation organizations, including The Ninety-Nines, the Aero Club of Pennsylvania, the Experimental Aircraft Association, Women in Aviation, AOPA,

the Powder Puff Derby and the Air Race Classic, where she has volunteered in 10 air race events. She is generous to a fault when it comes to helping and mentoring women in aviation who need assistance with their careers or aviation pursuits.

Kate has held every office of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of The 99s, and as current Membership Chairman, she tirelessly recruits for The Ninety-Nines at aviation events, through her airport contacts and through every other opportunity that presents itself. She has grown and held Chapter membership steady at over 100 members – not bad for a Chapter that started out with 12 members!

Kate's approach to recruiting new members is relentless. Nancy Kyle says, "I took the bulk of my flying lessons at Chester County Aviation in 1990 and several years after that for various ratings and certificates. Kate kept her airplane there, and she was always in the lobby. I inevitably ran into her once or twice a week. She was very persistent in recruiting me to join The Ninety-Nines. I resisted for a long time but, honestly, I finally joined so she would stop bugging me! She just wouldn't take no for an answer."

Kate enjoys showing off her Chapter. Bobbi Roe recalls, "When my husband was working in Pennsylvania and I was in Seattle, I would go to Pennsylvania

Kate has held every office of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter, and as current Membership Chairman, she tirelessly recruits members.

Below: Kate Macario, Mary Wunder and Gayl Henze in 2005.





Above, Mary Wunder, Kate Macario, Sylvia Merrit, Theresa Dellaquila, Gayl Henze, Adelle Bedrossian and Alison Chalker at a 2004 Section Meeting in Williamsburg Virginia.

The most important thing Kate's gotten out of her connection with The 99s is the camaraderie and sense of purpose, as well as close friendships that helped her through some of the more difficult periods in her life.

for weekends. I called Kate because she lived closest to the corporate condo. She swooped in and took me to Eastern PA Chapter meetings, and I enjoyed the sisterhood of that wonderful Chapter."

Kate is also a co-editor of The Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of The Ninety-Nines monthly *Flight Lines* newsletter, which not only keeps members up to date but serves as one of her best recruiting tools. She has never missed getting out an issue, and the newsletter distribution list has grown well beyond the Chapter membership in her endeavor to spread the message about The 99s.

Chapter member Sandy Belinski says Kate was her introduction to The 99s. "I had never heard of them before meeting her. She then sent me a copy of the *Flight Lines* newsletter every month with a personal note included. I have her to thank for introducing me to a fun, smart, diverse group of women with a common passion for aviation. I'm sure there are many women in our Chapter with a similar story."

Recently, the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter celebrated Kate's 90th birthday and her 60th year as a Ninety-Nine. She was presented with a cake that had a laser-etched replica of her beloved Cessna 195, as well as a scrapbook packed with cards, letters and photographs that is a beautiful and lasting book of memories of her Ninety-Nines friends.

Tom Brokaw called them *The Greatest*

Generation, and Kate is part of that generation. She has made introducing others to general aviation and The Ninety-Nines her passion, and that passion has been contagious. Those of us who know her are better pilots for having Kate in our lives.

As Gayl Henze said, "I cannot think of another person that personifies the accomplishments of the goals for her life or the mission of The Ninety-Nines as does Kate Macario. For each of us whom she has drawn into the "fold," our involvement with The Ninety-Nines has changed our lives. The friends we have made will last a lifetime."

And what does Kate say about all of this? She told us that the most important thing she's gotten out of her connection with The Ninety-Nines is the camaraderie and sense of purpose, as well as close friendships that helped her through some of the more difficult periods in her life.

If we choose, we Ninety-Nines can be associated with everything aviation. We fly, we talk to children at schools, community organizations, Brownies and Girl Scouts. We attend conventions all over the world and meet and socialize with many other women who have flown in the past or who are flying in many different capacities today. Kate says she has learned something from every Ninety-Nine with whom she has associated over the past 60 years.

At age 90, she still accompanies her son in her Cessna 195 as often as she can, and she continues to live her passions as a stalwart supporter of general aviation and The Ninety-Nines.



Kate with her beloved Cessna 195 at OshKosh in 2011. Photo by Sarah Dickerson

Welcome New and Returning Ninety-Nines!

Welcome Back Members

Alke, Debbie, Montana
Allan-Jacobs, Letitia, San Luis Obispo County
Behbehani, Tahereh, Fort Worth
Bonnar, Jean-Marie, Fresno
Bost, Kimberly, Carolinas
Braman, Helga, Mid-Columbia
Clarke, Carolyn, Utah
Cunningham, Tamara, Coyote Country
Frost, Jennifer, Colorado
Gardy, Michelle, Austin
Hagan, Kirksey, Florida Spaceport
Huffman, Cindy, Phoenix
Hutson, Cheri, Memphis
Johnson, Jennifer, Houston
Johnston, Mary Jo, Santa Rosa
Leeds, Amelia, Florida Firstcoast
Magee, Brooke, Reno High Sierra
McCann, Annamary, North Jersey
McKissock, Nina, Eastern Pennsylvania
Mohn, Rebecca, Georgia
Muhammad, Carmelita, St Croix Island Paradise
Northern, Hannah, Santa Rosa
Pintor, Mary Ann, Chicago Area
Rachmian, Batelle, Washington DC
Ranniger, Leslie, Colorado
Reyner, Susan, Santa Barbara
Ricci, Donatella, French Section
Riggs, Laura, Florida Firstcoast
Schoephoerster, Janet (F), Minnesota
Sims, Lisa, San Joaquin Valley
Slotsky, Ilana, Florida Goldcoast
Stafford, E, Kentucky Bluegrass
Stultz, Janet, Phoenix
Sunkavalli, Satya (F), Three Rivers
Tibbs, Brenda, Santa Barbara
Trusler, Mary, Houston
Wallace, Jean, Arkansas
Wertz-Thomas, Charity, Virginia
Wiemers, Karyn, Mid-Columbia
Willman, Jacquie, Florida Suncoast

Welcome New Members

Abdulsalam, Aisha (F), Arabian Section
Aljalaud, Noof (F), Arabian Section
Anderson, Cheryl, Alabama
Ashton, Valerie (F), Palomar
Bars, Katherine (F), Ventura County
Bates, Elizabeth, Eastern New England
Beidoun, Maha (F), Arabian Section
Bell, Sheenagh, First Canadian
Bensova, Veronika, Florida Goldcoast
Bonilla, Wendy, Greater New York
Borth, Margaret, Bay Cities
Bost, Kathryn, Carolinas



*Sarah Lykins
Phoenix Chapter*

Bourgoin, Sara (F), Montreal
Brannon, Christina, Tucson
Bras-Jorge, Muriel, Connecticut
Brown, Molly (F), Katahdin Wings
Brutlag, Ida, Chicago Area
Bussell, Kaitlyn, Oklahoma
Capel, Lacey (F), Greater Seattle
Carter, Cevera, Florida Firstcoast
Cholakova, Margarita, Greater New York
Clark, Kimber, Florida Goldcoast
Cohen, Amber, Florida Goldcoast
Copeland, Marsha, San Antonio
Darcy, Gisele (F), Santa Rosa
Dickemore, Maya, Utah
Espinosa, Patricia, First Canadian
Eychaner, Patricia, Santa Maria Valley
Flowers, Kai (F), San Diego
Forseth, Jenna (F), British Columbia Coast
Foster, Caitlin (F), Florida Goldcoast
Freeman, Genevieve, Minnesota
Fualautoalasi, Matootua, Coyote Country
Garner, Jordan, Alabama
Giffin, Kylie, Phoenix
Grabman, Topaz, Santa Barbara
Hagg, Helen, Michigan
Hanna, Christian (F), Carolinas
Hatchett, Chantel (F), Bay Cities
Heintz, Pauline, Ventura County
Heitmeyer, Kimberly, Michigan
Hightower, Erin (F), Mid-Columbia
Hoehn, Izumi, Western Washington
Holcomb, Katrina, Phoenix
Hoover, Zalak, Dallas
Hoynacki, Jeanette, Ambassador
Hurst, Jenny, Scioto Valley
Hyatt, Mikayla (F), Fort Worth
Ibrahim, Carolina, North Jersey
Imperatore, Aldebaran, Western Washington
Iverson, Andrea, Santa Clara Valley
Jacobs, Lydia (F), Katahdin Wings
Jorgensen, Justine (F), Alberta
Kavanagh, Kiara (F), Phoenix
Kelly, Heather (F), Greater Seattle
Kelly, Yolanda (F), Florida Goldcoast

Kingzett, Alexandra, Florida Suncoast
Koenig, Albane, Washington DC
Kress, Dagmar, Colorado
Kristofzski, Brianne, Mid-Columbia
Kuntz, Kelli (F), New Orleans
Lewis, Theresa (F), Eastern Pennsylvania
Lowen, Lindsay (F), Oregon Pines
Lykins, Sarah, Phoenix
Majed, Mariyam (F), Arabian Section
Marin, Jessica, Florida Goldcoast
Matejik, Christina, Eastern Pennsylvania
McCracking, Rebecca, Emerald Angels of the Gulf Coast
McWilliams, Robin, Orange County
Meier, Jessica, Florida Goldcoast
Merker, Rita (F), Greater Seattle
Moore, Katherine, Ambassador
Myers, Lori (F), Rio Grande Norte
Neill, Courtney (F), Oklahoma
Nejdl, Sarah, Dallas
Nelson, Madeline (F), San Antonio
Noall, Jennifer (F), Oregon Pines
Nye, Mindy (F), San Fernando Valley
Overton, Nancy (F), Mt. Shasta
Pardo, Candace (F), First Canadian
Pineda, Ileana (F), Florida Firstcoast
Pinkowski, Jen, Ambassador
Powell, Natasha (F), Australian Section
Repp, Christilyn, Sacramento Valley
Rhynard, Cheryl (F), Fullerton
Robinson, Janeann, North Jersey
Rogers, Brooke, Utah
Russell, Mary (F), Washington DC
Schroeder, Keegan (F), Houston
Scully, Amber, Michigan
Seidel, Rebekah (F), San Diego
Shafi, Fatima, Greater New York
Shaw, Shana (F), Fort Worth
Sheridan, Kerry, Emerald Angels of the Gulf Coast
Sorgen, Hannah, Austin
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Sumner, Jennifer, Greater Kansas City
Tervo, Eeva, Arabian Section Member
Thomas, Gabriella (F), Tucson
Trachsel, Cindy, Manitoba
Umberger, Hannah (F), Antelope Valley
Vena, Katherine, Michigan
Vernoski, Sarah (F), North Jersey
Vest, Patti, Florida Spaceport
Vincent, Kritika, Florida Firstcoast
Warfield, Kit, Greater Seattle
Wilson, Candice, Western Washington
Withell, Lynda (F), Coyote Country
Wojcik, Karyn, Chicago Area
Yang, Caroline (F), North Jersey
Young, Sandra, Florida Goldcoast
Yount, Kathleen (F), Houston



MUNICH

A City Between Technology And Tradition

BY SOPHIE SCHACKERT, German Section

What comes to your mind when you hear ‘Munich’? Oktoberfest, beer, pretzels, weisswurst, dirndl and lederhosen? Perhaps this defines Munich on the surface, but when you start exploring the city’s curiosities, you will discover what the Bavarian, and especially the Munich, spirit is really about.

Munich’s spirit is wandering between the poles of high technology and culture, respectfully preserving traditions. It’s a rarely seen symbiosis, and Munich manages to build a bridge between these contrasts. You can see and feel the old and new while walking and driving through Munich’s streets.

On the high tech end, you see on the outskirts of town the four-cylindrical headquarter building of BMW. You will find other major companies such as MAN and MTU Aero Engines, all manufacturers of high technology products.

On the other end of the spectrum, the heart of the ancient city center reveals cultural highlights such as art museums, old churches and theaters. On the one hand, Munich has the highest rate of patents in Germany; on the other hand, Munich preserves its culture and history through their food and in the way they like to end their day: in the beer garden.

In this synergy between technology and tradition, Munich has developed a unique atmosphere resulting in a laid back lifestyle (*Gemütlichkeit*) and self-confidence. As a result you can find a challenging job in Munich, but you can also enjoy beer, good food (which in Bavaria means *zünftig* – heavy food) and life in general. There are sayings that highlight and express these character traits of Bavarian lifestyle: ‘Ein Prosit, ein Prosit der *Gemütlichkeit*’ (cheers to the laid back lifestyle – we love

the way we live our lives and exceptionally are we enjoying the fact that we live in Munich, the most beautiful city in the world), ‘*Mia san mia*’ (we are who we are – and we are proud to be Bavarians! That’s the best thing which could happen to us), ‘*o’zapft is*’ (the barrel is tapped – let’s drink... and drink... and drink...!).

So when you come to Munich to join the Conference, take the fantastic tours to discover the city and its countryside, but also take your time and let yourself explore the picturesque streets of Munich. Soak in the cheerful atmosphere that can be found only in this wonderful city – probably the only major city in the world that has preserved the spirit from ancient times so well.

Munich is the capital of Bavaria and offers extensive cultural and other highlights. Strolling through the streets you will find a variety of art and technical museums, classical and modern theaters, glorious churches, very old houses, crowded markets and parks for your daily jogging trek, walking your dog or just to sit back and enjoy the sun. This fact might be one of the reasons why Munich is ranked in the top five cities to live in the world (4th rank worldwide, 1st rank in Germany) in the Mercer’s Quality of Living Survey 2015.

After a stressful day in which you discovered amazing museums, participated in thrilling workshops and listened to fascinating lectures, there is no better thing in the world than to enter a beer garden, sink into a chair, stretch your legs, order a pint of beer or Radler (mixture of beer and lemonade), gaze into the last rays of sun and let the day fade under a roof of chestnut leaves.



99s International Conference July 5-10, Munich, Germany

Foods to Try

- **Weisswurst** – eaten with sweet mustard, pretzel and a Hefeweizen
- **Schweinshaxn** – roasted pig thigh, served with gravy and sauerkraut and bread or mashed potato
- **Dampfnudeln** – sweet dumpling served with vanilla sauce
- **Reiberdatschi** – a kind of fried pancake made out of ground potatoes (a little bit like hashbrowns) served with applesauce
- **Obatzder** – spread made of creamy cheese, onions, butter and paprika
- **Auszogne** – thinly pulled sweet yeast dough fried and served with confectioner's sugar.



Weisswurst sausage, sweet mustard, pretzel and Hefeweizen style beer. Photo courtesy ©Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Landwirtschaft und Forsten

Expressions To Know

(On youtube you can find helpful tutorials to learn how to pronounce them):

- **Griafß God!** – Hello!
- **Pfiat di/Pfiat eich!** – Goodbye! (to one person/to several persons)
- **Joa mai** – used for everything, mostly in the beginning of a sentence, followed by an excuse, a thing which was better in earlier times, an explanation, or even if you don't know what to say.
- **a Moas** – make sure to order a Moas instead of a Stein! Never say Stein!



Englischer Garten

Places to Go

- **Viktualienmarkt** – deli food, local specialties, crisp vegetables and juicy fruits, pavilions with ready-to-eat food.
- **Englischer Garten** – huge park in the center of Munich, comparable to Central Park in Manhattan.
- **University** – here you can find an impressive memorial for the Weiße Rose, a resistance group of students who secretly distributed anti-Nazi materials during the war.

Museums to visit

- **Deutsches Museum + Hangar in Schleißheim** – technology and engineering.
- **Pinakotheken** – art of the old masters (M.A. – 16th century) in Alte Pinakothek and design and modern art in Pinakothek der Moderne.
- **BMW Museum** – history of BMW, motors and current series.



Viktualienmarkt. Photo courtesy of Team Walsh Media, LLC

Fly Now Awards Go To 17 Student Pilot Members

BY SHELLEY VENTURA, AEMSF Trustee

The AEMSF Trustees were thrilled to present 17 Student Pilot Members with a Fly Now Award for Spring 2015. As you will read in their statements, our winners come from many different backgrounds and have a wide variety of goals. Join us in cheering them on through the next year while they pursue their first pilot certificate.

The Fly Now Award is a need-based progressive award which provides up to \$3,000 toward completion of the Recreational Pilot, Sport Pilot or Private Pilot certificate, or non-U.S. equivalent, in any aircraft. This award is given incrementally to winners after they complete each of the four milestones in their training. The success of the Fly Now Award is dependent upon the relationship between the student pilot and their 99s Chapter. Each applicant is required to have a formal 99 mentor to help guide and support her during her training.

The next Fly Now Award application submission deadline is September 15, 2015. NEW for Fall 2015 is a one-month membership requirement. Applicants must be officially registered as Student Pilot Members of The Ninety-Nines, Inc. by August 15, 2015 to be eligible to apply for the Fall Fly Now Award.

DIANE ABELA, NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER **Mentor: Susan Cafoncelli**

I've always loved aircraft and flight. The moment I went on a helicopter demo was the moment I found my one true fit in life. Originally from Tampa, Florida, I now live in New York City and train in Princeton (39N). I have a bachelor's degree in chemistry, and I balance my work schedule in Manhattan, as I fly the weekends in New Jersey. I plan to eventually get both an instrument rating and a commercial certificate to fly tours and charters. I hope to become a role model to those who think that the pilot seat is an unreachable goal.



SARA BOURGOIN, MONTREAL CHAPTER **Mentor: Claire Lemiski**

Since childhood, I had dreams of flying around the world, but I didn't think I could do it. While attending a flying theory course and hearing about meteorology, things kicked in. I realized that aviation is lots of simple things and concepts all put together – then I thought I could do it! So I did all my ground school and began to fly. I am so honored to have been selected for a 99s Fly Now Scholarship. Thank you for all the support my Chapter gives me and the help The 99s organization provides me to follow my new dream.

LACEY CAPEL, GREATER SEATTLE CHAPTER**Mentor: Marilyn Emery**

I feel so honored to be a recipient of the Fly Now Award. The support and encouragement that comes from The Ninety-Nines community is endless. I live on the beautiful Olympic Peninsula in Port Townsend, Washington, where I work as a sailmaker and raise my nine-year-old daughter. With the help of the Fly Now Award, I will be able to obtain my private pilot certificate and continue on to my ultimate goal of earning my CFI certificate in both land and sea. Thank you for helping me turn my aviation dream into a reality.

**DONEGAL CHIN, COACHELLA VALLEY CHAPTER****Mentor: Bonnie Muench**

My name is Donegal Chin, and I have been flying since I was 14 years old. I have always wanted to fly, and on June 28, 2012, I was able to. A few weeks prior to my solo flight on October 15, 2015, I joined the Coachella Valley Chapter and attended their fly-in event. I want to use aviation both recreationally and professionally. My plan is to become a trauma surgeon and help underprivileged countries. By using aviation, I can fly myself to remote areas to help. I believe this would be the perfect combination of my talents in academic achievement and aviation.

GABRIELLA DE ASIS, SAN FERNANDO CHAPTER**Mentor: Ruth Logan**

I am a high school senior and a member of Aviation Explorer Post 747. Other than flying, my interests include writing, graphic design, teaching, swimming, ice skating, singing and American Sign Language. I am a Girl Scout Ambassador and president of my girl run troop. I completed my Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting, am a President's Volunteer Service Award recipient, as well as a California Girl State Alumni. After completing my private pilot certificate, I plan to pursue my commercial pilot certificate.



Hannah Fadrigdan



SANDY DUBROW, MANITOBA CHAPTER

Mentor: Jill Oakes

Since childhood, I've watched planes fly overhead and pictured myself as a pilot. One day, one of the pilots at work suggested going for a discovery flight, and it was "Love at First Flight!" I started training at Harv's Air, and it was the best decision I've ever made. The feeling of accomplishment, happiness and astounding sense of freedom that flying gives me is unparalleled to anything else. I am currently training for my private pilot certificate and am planning to get my commercial certificate. I don't know where this journey will take me, but the sky is no longer the limit!

AMANDA FRON, TUCSON CHAPTER

Mentor: Christina Bentley

I am a Tucson native who has grown up with a tremendous amount of admiration and love for aviation. My love for flight began when I started attending airshows at the neighborhood Air Force Base as a child and peaked upon flying in my friend's early Cessna 150 taildragger. As soon as I graduated college, I made flying my next life goal – and joined The Ninety-Nines. I am extremely thankful to have so many people who support my interests and achievements. I am extremely happy to be a Ninety-Nine!



ALISA LILEY, SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER

Mentor: Jeanne Fenimore

I've always been fascinated with flying, but my flight training didn't start until spring 2013. I love the feeling of being in the air, like a bird, seeing the world from an awesome perspective – feeling free. I am grateful to be a scholarship recipient and a member of the amazing San Fernando Valley 99s. I'm looking forward to completing my private pilot certificate and continuing my training. I want to share the joys of flying with others, taking them on scenic tours and local trips. I hope to inspire my daughters and others to pursue their dreams, especially if it is flying.





LINDSAY LOWEN, OREGON PINES CHAPTER
Mentor: Louise Parsons

I live in Eugene, Oregon, with my husband and our two adventurous young sons. We spend every second of our spare time exploring. If we aren't searching out an airport or chasing the waves at the beach with our dog, we can be found trekking across the West to experience every National Park in the country. Recently I had the amazing opportunity to be the backseat student pilot ferrying a beautiful T-6 Texan from California to Illinois. After earning my commercial certificate, I hope to bring the amazing warbirds to as many youth as possible through instruction and discovery flights.

BRIANNE MURPHY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Mentor: Frankie Clemens

I am a junior at Santana High School. During the past few months, I have embarked on the journey to my dream career of becoming a professional pilot. I am studying for my written exam, plan to solo before my senior year starts, and aspire to earn my private pilot certificate while in high school to put me a year ahead of the normal college pathway. Being a young female in aviation sets me apart from most kids my age; I hope to be an example and inspiration for future girls interested in pursuing their dreams.



CARLY ORR, INTERMOUNTAIN CHAPTER
Mentor: Amber Phillips

I am currently working on my private pilot fixed wing certificate. In the future I plan to switch over to rotary aircraft and eventually become an Emergency Medical Service helicopter pilot. I am truly honored to have received the Fly Now Scholarship. This scholarship is not only money, but a kick-start to my future and career in aviation. This scholarship will get me through the long solo cross country, the written exam and certificate completion. I am forever thankful for The Ninety-Nines and their support.





CAROLA RHODES-BENSON, COLORADO CHAPTER

Mentor: Terry Fiala

Flying my first solo at age 37 was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. Amelia Rose Earhart inspired me to finally pursue my childhood dream when she announced her around-the-world flight last year. Since then, I have logged almost 50 hours. I am looking forward to completing my solo cross-country and finishing flight training. Once I have my certificate, I plan on volunteering for Pilots N Paws and sharing my love of flying with my friends. Thank you to the AEMSf Trustees, my CFIs, Kayla and Barbara, and the Colorado Chapter of The Ninety-Nines.

BETH ROBINSON, SLEEPING GIANT

Mentor: Emily Crombez

After five years of university I was sure I would not be doing any more school for a good while. This changed after getting an aerial photography position. Once getting into the air, I quickly realized it wouldn't be enough to just take the pictures. It has already been a very exciting and rewarding path, and I can't wait to be the one behind the controls. I couldn't have done this without the help of so many people, and the added bonus of getting this scholarship will help me out more than I can say. Thank you so very much.



IRWINA SAMARA, KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS CHAPTER

Mentor: Christine Poelma

My passion in aviation stems from my strong belief in the empowerment of women in all career choices. To me, flying is an extension of my freedom, a resilient stand that desiring women around the world should partake in the miracle of flight. It is my "American Dream." The financial and moral support that The Ninety-Nines gives truly makes dreams come true. I am honored to be the recipient of the Fly Now award, and I anticipate the day that I too am able to pay it forward.



HANNAH SUMMERS, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Mentor: Sandy Smith-Hardaker

I am so honored and grateful to have won the Fly Now award. Both of my parents are pilots, so I was practically raised in a plane. However, it wasn't until just recently that I had the opportunity to earn my own private pilot certificate. I absolutely love flying – it's both relaxing and exhilarating. In addition to flight training, I'm a graduate student in a dual master's program. The Fly Now award will help me complete the first step of an exciting aviation journey. I hope to eventually earn my CFI so I can teach other young women how to fly.

VALERIE THORNTON, FORT WORTH CHAPTER
Mentor: Patricia Herbel

I've always loved flying but thought becoming a pilot was out of my reach. No one in my family or close circle of friends flies. If it weren't for a serendipitous meeting of a CFI and bartering my first few lessons, I might still consider it a distant dream. Since joining the Fort Worth 99s, I have found a wonderful network of support, and I am thrilled I was chosen for a FLY NOW award! After using this award towards earning my private certificate, I hope to continue on to become a commercial pilot and fly professionally.



KATHERINE VERHULST, FIRST CANADIAN CHAPTER

Mentor: Lesley Page

The more I fathom the responsibility of this certificate, the more grateful I am for those brave men and women who have earned the 'PILOT' title. Although I am new to the aviation world, I am learning through all of your stories how to be the best pilot I can be. Thank you for the honor of earning your trust and investment into what I hope I will become: a commercial pilot and strong leader and advocate for women in aviation. This award helps me reach goals faster and gives me permission to do what gives me the utmost joy ... FLY NOW.





From left, David Llamas, 99 Claudia Contreras, Jennifer Casillas, program founder Sean D. Tucker, Kikue May, Brittany Briseno, Miriam Lopez and Aldo Pedraza.

Every Kid Can Fly!

At Risk Teens Explore Life Through Flight

BY CLAUDIA CONTRERAS
Monterey Bay Chapter

At the beginning of the year I received a phone call from aerobatic pilot Sean Tucker asking if it was possible to solo a student in 10 weeks. I thought to myself, 10 weeks — that should be plenty of time, two to three flights a week. Even counting for weather issues, it should add up to about 22 flights, or roughly 22 hours. That's more than enough time to get someone to solo.

I answered yes, it is possible to solo a student in 10 weeks. Good, he says, we want you take 10 students from 0 to solo in 10 weeks. That means 20 to 30 flights a week for me. I had to figure out how that was going to work, since I wouldn't be able to do anything else for 10 weeks.

We started with a Young Eagles flight to get our pool of students. Eight volunteer pilots helped us out. The Young Eagle flight brought in 30 students from Rancho Cielo, Silver Star and Salinas Community Schools in California. The students had two weeks to get the application filled out and to complete the first three chapters from Sportys "Learn to Fly" course and return them to me.

I had eight completed applications, and everyone who applied got in — five girls and three boys. Perhaps there were more girls because they saw me at the Young Eagles event and realized that a girl can fly too, it's not just an activity for boys. For whatever the reason they decided to participate, I am glad they did.

We started with two weeks of ground work where they learned about radio communications, airplane parts, instruments, the complete workings of the engine and systems, emergencies, aerodynamics, regulations, weather, airport markings and signs. It was four days of ground work followed by a fun activity on Saturday. The ground work was done at the NASA SEMAA Aerospace Lab where they had access to computers, hands-on activities and a flight simulator.

The first Saturday they had a tour of the airport, including the businesses and hangers. As a reward for completing their intense ground sessions, we all went to ride Go Karts as a team building activity. We were down to seven students at this point.

Then the fun part started – the flight training. By then they had relaxed and were not the shy, quiet students I met during the first few days of the program. They were so excited about learning to fly that I had a hard time keeping them quiet, but their excitement was contagious.

I remember their first flight lessons, every single one of them was nervous. They knew what to expect and had practiced the flight on the simulator. Now they had to do it in an airplane. I spent one weekend flying with each one. After the takeoff, they all did the same thing — looked out the window to find their house and their school.

We flew from Salinas to Moss Landing, past Watsonville, to Santa Cruz. Back to Salinas. They practiced climbs, descents and turns at whatever degree they felt comfortable. Some did 5 degrees and some did 20 degrees, but none ventured past 30. The best part of the first lesson was the big smiles on their faces. They flew their first hour from takeoff to landing. I helped with the landing, but they all stayed on the controls. Nobody liked the turns, some still have a hard time turning left without first having to take a moment to think it through.

After the first lesson, another student left the program, and then there were six. I continued to fly with every one of them, they were all doing two to three flights a week. Then we dropped down to five students when one couldn't make it to her flight lessons. Four girls and one boy. What are the odds of that happening in any flight school or program? Due to circumstances, two of the girls were not able to fly as often as the rest because of family obligations and having to work to help support their families. They still fly whenever they can.

Six weeks after that first flight we had our first solo of the program. On May 4, Manuel Maya was the first to solo. I was nervous for him. It's not easy soloing an airplane, but having to solo with an audience of his mom, brother, uncle, aunt, classmates, principal, social worker, founder of the school, Sean, and the news crews was just more pressure. He handled the outside pressures and took off at 11 a.m. On the ground, the questions flew: Is he high enough, is he too low, where is he going, is he going to make it?

As a flight instructor, the last thing you want is for anything out of the ordinary to happen, especially on that first landing. He took off and was told to do left pattern for runway 31. But as soon as he took off, the winds made a quick shift and were favoring runway 26, and he was asked instead to do right traffic for runway 26. He handled it, continued his pattern and made his first landing. The audience cheered and finally expelled their held breaths. I was so proud of him, but more proud of his mom who came to see him and encourage him to continue.

I think having a student from Rancho Cielo be able to solo an airplane will encourage other teenagers to think about what they are doing and make a conscious effort to improve their lives. It's not easy, but if one can do it, so can the rest. This journey of flying an airplane has changed the perspective of five young teenagers. It changed their outlook and, in turn, their lives. They will forever be able to say they have flown an airplane. It is an accomplishment that can't be taken from them.

We have two weeks left of the 10-week program, and I will



Manuel Maya practices on the flight simulator.

continue to work with the students. Even if they aren't ready to solo yet, they know they can do everything else and come back to finish in a future class of Every Kid Can Fly.

I am happy that Sean Tucker asked me to be the flight instructor for Every Kid Can Fly. Working with these kids made me relive the excitement and struggles of aviation. I was there to see their smiles and to see them grow. I don't know if they will pursue aviation later in life, but they have a new skill to add to their life experiences. I can proudly say that I helped them get it.

About the Program

Founded by well known aerobatic performer and competitor Sean Tucker, the Every Kid Can Fly program focuses on at-risk teens, taking them on a journey through the science of aviation to discover the understanding required to fly an airplane.

While soloing is the tangible goal of the program, the real adventure is of the mind, an adventure that prepares the students for their future through cultivating self-discipline, self-learning, self-reliance, collaboration, curiosity and the ability to uncover solutions.

The plan is to establish learning centers in locations that cater to at-risk and underprivileged teens such as the Boys and Girls Clubs.

The organization recently took delivery of a completely rebuilt Cessna 152 flight training aircraft that has been donated to the program.

For more about Every Kid Can Fly, visit <http://everykidcanfly.org>.

FATIMA SHAFI AWARDED 767/777 TYPE RATING SCHOLARSHIP

Fatima Shafi, a new 99 and member of the Greater New York-New Jersey Chapter, was recently awarded a 767/777 Type Rating from Delta Airlines at the Women in Aviation Conference.

Fatima grew up in Pakistan, where she was told, 'girls don't,' 'girls can't,' and 'girls shouldn't.' "I didn't know any other option existed." She was able to evade the tradition of getting married in her teens and instead completed an engineering degree and became an officer in Pakistan Air Force. Six years ago, after arriving in Vero Beach, Florida, Fatima found her way to FlightSafety and began her journey to becoming a pilot. She is now an ExpressJet first officer.



Fatima Shafi.

— Wally Funk

SUE BALLEW ACCREDITED AS NAFI MASTER FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR

The National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) recently announced that NAFI member Sue Ballew, Santa Clara Valley Chapter member, earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor. The NAFI Master Flight Instructor program is the longest running and most prestigious FAA accredited master flight instructor program in the industry.

The NAFI Master Instructor accreditation is earned by aviation educators based upon a system of advanced professional standards and peer review. The accreditation identifies and publicly recognizes those teachers of flight who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth and service to the aviation community.

— Carol Munch

NEBRASKA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HONORS PENNY HAMILTON

The Nebraska Alumni Association recognized 20 accomplished University of Nebraska Alumni, including Colorado Chapter member Penny Hamilton, on May 7 at their Annual Awards Banquet.

Penny received both her MA and Ph.D. from the university. Her 40-plus years of work experience includes university teaching, leading business and conference workshops, and print/broadcast media.

She was inducted into the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame, the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame and is the director of both the Colorado Airport History Preservation and the Teaching Women to Fly Research Project.

— Penny Hamilton



Penny Hamilton.

WASP BEE HAYDU RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE FROM VAUGHN COLLEGE

On May 16, Florida Gulf Stream 99 and WASP Bernice "Bee" Falk Haydu, received an honorary doctorate degree from Vaughn College in Flushing, New York.

Bee was a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots from 1942 to 1944. In 2000, she was inducted into the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame, and her original uniform is on display in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. In 2012 she was inducted into the Women In Aviation International Pioneer Hall of Fame, and in 2014 was given the Federal Aviation Administration Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.

"Bernice Falk Haydu is an outstanding patriot, and it is our pleasure to award her with an honorary doctor of science degree and recognize her service to this country" said college president Sharon B. DeVivo.

— Vaughn College

Come Glide at the WWGC!

Women's gliding championships have a long tradition in Europe. The first FAI approved International Gliding Competition for Women took place in 1973 at Leszno, Poland. Even in these beginning days there were participants from outside of Europe, one Australian and two US-American pilots. The championship is carried out every second year, and in 2001 it became a world championship. But since then, there is still a very small number of pilots from overseas taking part in this nice and friendly event.

I wonder, are there any more female pilots out there who would be interested in competing with other women at an international gliding event? Are you interested in getting to know the weather and thermals of foreign countries and gaining new gliding friends all over the world? We (the old "witches") would like to invite you to come and fly with us next August in Denmark, when the 8th WWGC will take place. Don't you dream of being a world champion?

— Ursula Hammer, German Section Governor

Nepal Section Provides Aid to Villagers After Earthquake Devastation

BY SABINA SHRESTHA, Nepal Section

Recently, two devastating earthquakes in Nepal killed more than 8,000 people and injured more than 19,000. Hundreds of thousands of people became homeless, with entire villages flattened across many districts of the country. Worldwide aid is flowing in from both organizations and individuals, including our own Ninety-Nines Nepal Section. Although communication has been sparse, Nepal Section member Sabina Shrestha relayed to us the following account describing their efforts to help a local village, both immediately and in the future. To learn how you can help, contact Carol Munch, International Member Chairman, at camunch@comcast.net.

Sinche, a village located in the district of Nuwakot with a population of approximately 80 people, was greatly affected by the 7.8 magnitude, on the Richter scale, earthquake that hit parts of central and western Nepal on April 25, 2015. On our visit, representing The Ninety-Nines Nepal section to analyze and interact with the villagers regarding their needs of the moment, we were told that their greatest loss was that of their shelter. Although the village is mainly comprised of farmers, a few hold jobs in Kathmandu as well as India. They are mainly sustained on maize and Nepali millet (finger millet) farming. Of recent, with the popularity of bee farming, some have invested in equipment needed for the same and prospered.

As per our meeting of May 7, headed by our Governor, Capt. Maheswari Dongol, there was interest by the members who took part in the meeting to supply relief aid to this particular village. Their needs of the hour are some basic food items such as rice, dal, oil and also mattresses, blankets and tarpaulins for shelter.



“Just day before yesterday we all 99s went to distribute food and tent to Shivapuri, which is north of Kathmandu. Today also we have earthquake with 7.3 magnitude. It was so scary. I was at home with my daughter. We all 99s are safe.”

— Sabina Shrestha



It would be a small way for us Ninety-Nines to give back to the society and the less fortunate.

This distribution on a small scale will be the first phase of our plan. As for the second phase and future, it was proposed to help the villagers in the rebuilding process. We could either provide them with some items required to rebuild their homes, or bring in a new and cheaper but sustainable alternative for their shelter.

Your feedback and suggestions as members of The Ninety-Nines are vital to the success of this project.

Background photo by Dutourdumonde Photography / Shutterstock.com



Pilot Careers: The Pilots We Used To Be

BY DONNA MILLER
International Careers Committee

A few days ago, I went to my mother's house for a visit. She has the hallway of our childhood home lined with family photos that go all the way back to my great-grandfather in his World War I uniform.

Somewhere on the other end of the hallway is one of me in my first regional airline Captain's uniform. I looked at the picture closely. I was much younger then. Pre-furlough, pre-merger, pre-several-decisions-that-would-affect-my-airline-career. I looked into the eyes of my younger self and wondered what I had learned in the 10,000 flight hours between then and now.

I was such a newbie then, and yet, I was in charge. I remember how I had that "fake it 'till you make it" feeling, like I had yet to grow into my Captain's skin. I learned that being a newbie, while sounding negative, can be a really good thing. No one tries harder

than someone just starting out. No one is more courageous or more determined or more exhausted after an eight-leg day than a newly minted Captain. (Yes, we flew eight legs a day!)

I wanted to say to that younger self beaming back at me that the decisions she made were good ones. That even in the uncertainty of the moment, doing the right thing, the safe thing and the legal thing is always the right choice. Somewhere in all that time and all of those hours, I learned to trust myself.

Just when I got ready to tell her it was all going to turn out okay, I heard her ask, "Are you still studying as much as I am?" "Well, um...not quite as intensely." I started to feel a little guilty. "Are you still involved with all the programs to help Girl Scouts and fearful flyers and aspiring pilots?" Again I hesitated. "I've got to commute now," I stammered. "I bet your logbook is fun to look at!" she said. "Yeah, I need to update that..." my voice trailed off.

Somehow, I felt her disappointment. There is no question that I am still passionate beyond measure about the job that I get to do. But somewhere in the experience that comes with years of a great career, it's easy to let a few things slip. "Okay," I said to my younger self. "I'll be better. I'll work harder to be the amazing pilot that you were aspiring to be. You deserve that much. You worked so hard to get to this point."

I glanced away at the other family pictures, then back at the Captain. "You know that time when you were flying freight all by yourself and diverted because of weather?" I asked her. "You got in trouble because your boss said you COULD have made it without the divert. You still question yourself. It's okay," I said to her. "Even now I'd still do the same thing!" I smiled at my younger self. "We'll talk again before I retire," I promised.

Plenty of Fun, Sun and Camaraderie at 99s Building

BY BARBARA SIERCHIO

Barbara Yeninas and Mary Wunder took over the operations for The 99s at Sun 'n Fun April 21- 26. Barbara and John Yeninas prepared the building and stocked it with supplies. Mary Wunder took care of the sales, decorated the golf cart and drove it in the Volunteer Workers' Parade. Many other volunteers were there to lend a hand.

The WASP tent was located in The Ninety Nines' front yard. We were fortunate to have four WASP attending: Penny Halberg, Bea Haydu, Kathleen Hilbrand and Barry Smith.

The WASP luncheon was held on April 23. Barry Smith celebrated her 95th birthday that day. Lana Kraeszig, Board Member of the WASP Museum, introduced the women, who shared their inspiring stories. Two Tuskegee Airmen, Charles McGee and George Hardy, also participated in the question and answer session.

The Florida Suncoast Chapter held their meeting on Saturday, attended by a large group. There was a display honoring Nancy Wright, former Co-Chairman of the building operations, Nancy passed away in February.

Many Ninety-Nines, guests and others visited the building. It was a popular rest stop and a chance to visit with members from far away. Six new 99s, two student pilots and a reinstatement were added to the membership list.



Members gather at The 99s building during Sun 'n Fun April 21-26.

GRASS ROOTS — Section and Chapter reporters share their recent activities

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

This year's Safety Seminar was a resounding success due to good weather and a great program. Last year we had a blizzard, the roads were snow packed and only about 80 pilots and companions attended. This year that number tripled to about 250.

The vendor area was filled with 15 exhibitors, among them our own Lora Yowell with her Aviation Universe display.



Donna Klein, Mary Lou Erikson, Ellen O'Hara and Carol Para at the Chicago Area Chapter's Safety Seminar.

Fortunately, with the changing of leadership in Springfield, IDOT - Division of Aeronautics, still co-sponsored the seminar. We appreciate our partnership and hope it will continue.

In addition to the Safety Seminar, the Chicago Area Chapter meeting was held at Lora Yowell's Aviation Universe shop to the enjoyment of all. She hosted a brunch, followed by our monthly business meeting, and a treasure hunt. Members and 49½s searched the store for answers to clues such as "Where are the WASP hiding?" and "What aircraft were the Tuskegee Airmen famous for flying?" The winner was Leslie Prellwitz, who was awarded a "treasure" from the shop.

On Friday, March 20, Chicago Area Chapter Chairman Donna Klein and her son, Wayne, flew an Angel Flight. They departed from Clow Airport in Bolingbrook, Illinois, to pick up 5-year-old Adalyn and her parents in Pontiac, Michigan. Adalyn has a genetic condition which has required her to have many eye surgeries by specialists in Detroit. She had finished her most recent procedure and was heading back home to Topeka, Kansas. Donna's segment of the trip carried them to Peoria, Illinois, where another Angel Flight pilot met them and flew them home. Their little passenger thoroughly enjoyed the flight but was disappointed that it was so smooth (for her, the bumpier, the better).

— Donna Klein

EMERALD ANGELS OF THE GULF COAST CHAPTER

On March 21, Stacy Everitt, Pamela Flesher, Amy Lee Fooladi, Caitlin Kuersteiner and Carol Voss of the Emerald Angels of the Gulf Coast Chapter joined up with Aviation Adventures, Inc. to launch the first ever Aviation Olympics at the Boys and Girls Club in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

Girls from the Boys and Girls Club of South Alabama made the commute and an overnight trip to attend. The event proved to be a success, with a turnout of close to 50 girls who participated in a fun-filled day packed with aviation-related relays and activities.

The girls, who are part of the "No Limits" Program geared towards introducing under-privileged girls to aviation, had been practicing long and hard with their "flight instructors" to learn the topic of each event. Topics included learning the phonetic alphabet, UTC "zulu" time, parts of the airplane, geography, etc. It was impressive to see how knowledgeable they were. Evidently the practice and studying had paid off.

The members of the Emerald Angels of the Gulf Coast who volunteered were enlisted as judges and proctors for the



Stacy Everitt, Pamela Flesher, Amy Lee Fooladi, Caitlin Kuersteiner and Carol Voss with girls participating in the first ever Aviation Olympics in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

individual events and relays. Competition ran high among the girls and the groups to place first, second or third. Even more so, there was a sense of camaraderie, with a number of the girls dedicating weekends together and building friendships while expanding upon their aviation knowledge. This program has given them the opportunity to access the wonderful world of aviation. Many of them have the dream of becoming pilots.

The Chapter is looking forward to taking part in future Aviation Olympics. Hopefully, one day there will be future Ninety-Nines from this group of young girls who can continue to mentor the next generation!

— Caitlin Kuersteiner



Kate Macario's 60th Ninety-Nines birthday celebration.

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

Held in a member's home, the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of The Ninety-Nines monthly meeting in March was a special one. After the meeting, we surprised Kate Macario with a celebration of her milestone birthday (you'll have to call and ask her which one it was!) and her 60th anniversary as a Ninety-Nine.

Over 30 Chapter members watched as Kate was presented with a beautiful cake that had a laser-etched replica of her beloved Cessna 195 in the icing. Several members also showered her with floral bouquets and champagne.

As a final surprise, Chapter Chairman Barb Zeigler presented Kate with a beautiful scrapbook packed with cards, letters and photographs that over 35 Ninety-Nines, including International President Martha Phillips, had sent to a Chapter member the previous month for compilation and to produce a beautiful and lasting book of Ninety-Nines memories for Kate. The scrapbook represents the friendship, love and support that Ninety-Nines provide each other, whether we're actively flying or not.

Happy Birthday and Happy 60th Ninety-Nines Anniversary Kate Macario!

— Mary Ellen Morris

RIO GRANDE NORTE CHAPTER

The Rio Grande Norte Chapter presented a day-long Flying Companion Seminar on March 21 at the beautiful New Mexico Air National Guard facilities in Santa Fe. More than 20 participants (flying companions and their flying spouses) learned about aerodynamics, weight and balance, communication and radio systems, the instruments, weather considerations and more. Hands-on activities included a preflight inspection and a scavenger hunt for items on a sectional chart.

One of the high points of the day was a presentation by Bob Woods, manager of the KSAF Tower, who talked about radio communications and the fact that air traffic controllers are your friends; they can and will help you in the unlikely event of a problem. Using a ham radio setup, some of our Flying Companions practiced radio calls with Bob, establishing the vital communication link with an actual controller. Don't forget to push the push-to-talk button – and then don't forget to stop pushing it!

William Dubois, one of the pilots who attended with his Flying Companion, wrote afterward, "I think every pilot should take a Ninety-Nines Flying Companion Seminar. We go to great lengths to learn all we can about flying: aerodynamics, aeronautical navigation, aircraft systems, FAA regulations, radio communication, and weight and balance. We attend seminars on weather, airspace, mountain flight, emergencies, and more.

"But how many of us have ever taken a seminar to help us learn more about the most important thing in the airplane? Our loved ones. Find a Flying Companion Seminar near you today and sign up. It will make you a better pilot, and you'll



A sectional chart scavenger hunt helps Flying Companions identify checkpoints, understand compass roses and magnetic directions, and learn where to find radio frequencies and other useful information.

get to spend the day with a group of strong, brave and smart women – pilots and non-pilots alike."

That's the best compliment a girl could get. (To read the rest of William's delightful blog post, go to <http://www.planetales.net/plane-school/hangin-with-the-ninety-nines/>)

— Elizabeth Hunke



Orange County Chapter members enjoy a fly-in to the Santa Barbara Yacht Club for lunch.

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

From a chance meeting last November, 14 Chapter members and two guests enjoyed an amazing fly-in and lunch experience in Santa Barbara. The plan was born when I met Arlene Wilske's parents, Llew and Marilyn Goodfield, while waiting for Arlene to fly into CRQ.

Arlene was flying as captain of the inaugural flight of Surf Air's newest Pilatus PC-12 NG on the first Surf Air flight into the company's newest base at Palomar Airport. Marilyn suggested that the Orange County 99s have a fly-in to SBA and invited us to lunch at the Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

After much work and ever changing details, including passenger/plane assignments, the fly-in took place on March 21. The participating airplanes were a Cessna 172, a Piper Arrow, a Beechcraft Baron and a Citation CJ-2, all of which departed SNA and landed at SBA in IFR conditions. The Yacht Club had set up a table for us with a magnificent view of the harbor and sailboat races. Marilyn had prepared a goodie bag for each of us, which included a giant avocado from the family's orchard.

After a delicious lunch, lively conversation and Llew's lesson on the history of both the yacht club and early aviation in Santa Barbara, we were transported back to the airport for our VFR flights back to SNA. I know that everyone enjoyed this unique experience.

— Diane Myers

NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER

Chapter Member Joanne Campbell and 49½ John Tokar will be inducted into the Forest of Friendship on June 20.

— Shannon Osborne

FIRST CANADIAN CHAPTER

To celebrate the Women of Aviation Worldwide Week, the First Canadian Chapter of The Ninety-Nines and the Durham Flight Centre organized an event at the Oshawa Municipal Airport on March 7. It was a huge success!

Although 269 women and girls had pre-registered for flights, only 155 checked in and received a boarding card (the weather forecast must have kept some away). In spite of the poor forecast, we started flying right on time at noon and flew until just after 5 p.m. We recorded 155 passengers for the Women Of Aviation Worldwide Week.

The 12 pilots who volunteered their time, aircraft and fuel included Ninety-Nines and members of COPA (Canadian Owners and Pilots Association). As well, aircraft, fuel and pilots were provided by the Durham Flight Centre in Oshawa and Seneca College in Peterborough. Almost half of the pilots were women.

But it wasn't just about the flights. We had presentations by inspiring women in the military, aviation and aerospace industries. During the presentation portion of the program, we estimated that there were approximately 400 people in the hangar.

We had 20 exhibits and activities, including a Ninety-Nines table, a career information center, a Recreational Aircraft Association wing rib building activity and a static display of a military King Air that flew in from Winnipeg.

Thanks to sponsor Minacs North America, Inc., we are offering a \$2,000 flight training scholarship. About 60 women and girls signed up to receive an application, and the applications are pouring in.

A huge thank you to the almost 100 volunteers and to our sponsors who made the event possible.

Please visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OshawaGirlsFlyingGirls>.

— Lesley Page



Jackie Book, instructor pilot with Department of National Defense, Canada, with some admirers in front of the military trainer King Air static display.



SLEEPING GIANT CHAPTER

On March 20 the Sleeping Giant Chapter hosted a cosmic bowling night to welcome new member Beth Robinson. Beth has just started flight training with our fellow Chapter member and instructor/bush pilot extraordinaire, Liz Wieben. We look forward to warmer days after another harsh winter here in Thunder Bay, Ontario, especially since all of our licensed members are endorsed with a float rating!

— Emily Crombez

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS CHAPTER'S GIRL SCOUT AVIATION DAY

On March 21, Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter hosted a Girl Scout Aviation Day at Air & Space Academy, Bowman Field, Louisville, Kentucky.

Over 250 Girl Scouts and their parents visited the aviation sessions, which included: Airline Pilots – Terri Donner and Kelly Lepley; Air Traffic Control – Jennifer Brown and friend Tammy; Private Pilots – Tori Williams and Hayley Haning; Women in Aviation History – Louise Bornwasser; Military Aviation and Civil Air Patrol – Gloria Hatcher, Kathryn Edwards and Faith Wethington; Aircraft Flight Line – Doreen Yost and her mom Jeanetta Purlee, Amy Bogardus, Maggie Hettinger, Erin Thompson and Beth King; and Aircraft Mechanics and Aviation Careers – members of the Association of Women Aircraft Mechanics.

Thanks goes to Chapter member Terri Donner and Girl Scout contact Terri Sanders for organizing the event. Thanks

UPS Pilot Kelly Lepley shows the Scouts the aircraft she flies for UPS and explains how she uses the iPad on flights.



Kentucky Bluegrass member Kaye Combs Moore celebrates her 50th anniversary as a 99.

also to Amy Bogardus, Doreen Yost and Louise and Louis Bornwasser for providing aircraft for the Flight Line and to our Registration and Group Guides, Betty Church, Sue Glisson, Kaye Combs Moore, Diane Stafford, Abby Tucker, Lila Sheehan, Christine Poelma, Shelia Barbour and Irwina Samara. Finally, thanks to Dr. Tim Smith, Executive Director of the Air & Space Academy, for use of the academy's spacious and comfortable building.

The Chapter also celebrated a special anniversary. Chapter member Kaye Combs Moore recently achieved 50 years of membership in The 99s. We celebrated her achievement with a cake and wishes for many more years to come. Congratulations, Kaye!

— Sue Glisson

ARABIAN SECTION

The Arabian Section members started a charity activity, visiting an infirmity house, where we celebrated Arab Mother's Day with cake and flowers. We wore our 99s T-shirts, and the local newspapers in Jordan covered the event.

— Alia Twal



KATAHDIN WINGS

March 7 dawned crisp and bright, a perfect backdrop for the Katahdin Wings' Women Interested In Aviation event held with help of Southern Maine Aviation (SMA) at Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport (SFM).

Girl Scout troops and 4-H groups joined the general public for a day of aviation exploration. Members from all three Chapters of the New England Section were on hand to teach "Ground School" in a Cessna 172, give hands-on flights in the full-motion RedBird flight simulator, teach airplane engineering, demonstrate the role of ATC, and give a talk on how they got started in their aviation careers.

Besides these hands-on ground school stations, aviation exhibits included The 99s and Women In Aviation History, Ace Camp, LightHawk, CAP, air racing, information on general aviation, aviation careers and much more.

The Maine Forest Service provided a look at their mission helicopter as well as a speaker describing their duties. Along with the static aircraft exhibits provided by SMA, generous pilots from The 99s and EAA provided the highlight of the day: Fly it Forward intro flights and Young Eagle flights. Thanks to these pilots' willingness to share their aviation enthusiasm, no one left SFM without a smile on their face and soaring spirits.

In other Chapter news, Katahdin 99 Sarah Stanley is the recipient of the New England Section's Shirley Mahn Scholarship. Sarah is a Maine native and the first generation in her family to fly.

With the \$1,700 scholarship, she will climb into the world of seaplane flying which will give her the leg up she needs to qualify for the jobs she most hopes to acquire, such as flying to remote areas for NOAA, EPA, state or national park services.

— Lorena Plourd

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

The Monterey Bay Chapter participated in over 50 air and space activities. Some of our highlights for the year included our current Treasurer Alice Talnack receiving the WVI Airport – Volunteer of the Year award. We repainted the frequency at the Salinas Airport because they decided that painting .525 was more of a challenge than .4. We went to the airport and made the necessary changes. They cannot change the frequency in the next 10 years.

Kay Harmon also received special recognition from Sons in Retirement and the Elks Club in Salinas. As a Chapter, we inducted Dell Hinn into the Forest of Friendship. At the end of the year we donated lots of toys, many aviation related, to the area's communities through the local news channel toy drive.

We had a busy 2014 and an even busier 2015. We look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary with all of you in a few months.

— Claudia Contreras

GOT NEWS? STORY IDEAS?
SHARE IT!

news@ninety-nines.org

MINNESOTA CHAPTER

Spring is finally in the air, and the Minnesota 99s are busy preparing for the fall North Central Meeting, which will be held September 25-27 at the Anoka County Airport (KANE). We had one business meeting on January 31 at KANE and another one on March 21 at Minnesota Army National Guard - Aviation building at the St. Paul Downtown (Holman Field) Airport (KSTP). There we were treated to a tour of the Black Hawk helicopter hanger by Major Wagner.

Our members have also been busy this spring. Melissa Aho won the 2015 Minnesota Ninety-Nines Chapter Scholarship and had an article "Tweeting at NASA!" published in the February 2015 issue of the *Minnesota Flyer* magazine.

We are happy to report that Tracy Lovness received her tailwheel endorsement in February, and Robyn Stoller received her private certificate at the Lake Elmo Airport (K21D) on March 20.

Also Kjersti Kittelson was selected to become the first Hub Leader in the AirSpace Minnesota Hub Leader Program. Finally, we would like to welcome new member Genevieve Freeman.

— Melissa Aho



Minnesota 99s touring the Minnesota Army National Guard's hangar of Black Hawk Helicopters. (L) Major Dave Wagner, Robyn Stoller, Tracy Davenport, Elaine Morrow, Thuy Piper, Deb Thompson, Cheryl Daml, Chris Kocinski, Tracy Lovness, Kjersti Kittelson, Carly Gallman, Melissa Aho, and Pamela York.

TENNESSEE CHAPTER

After cancelled meetings due to weather, the Tennessee Chapter finally held its first meeting of the year on April 11 at Downtown Island Airport (KDKX).

We awarded our first Tennessee Chapter Student Pilot Scholarship to Ninety-Nine Lilly Winburn. Lilly has started her student solo cross countries and will use the \$1,000 scholarship to help complete training for her private pilot certificate.



Belle Hembree completed her solo training with a scholarship from the Tennessee Chapter donated to the FLIGHT Foundation.

The Chapter also awarded Tim Hair, DKX Airport Manager, a plaque in recognition of his continued support of the Tennessee Chapter and their programs.

After the meeting, the Tennessee 99s were joined by EAA Chapter 17 for lunch and a presentation by U-2 pilot Jim Roberts.

On April 7, Janice Pelletti presented an aviation badge program to American Heritage Girls Troop TN5624, an Explorer unit, at Tri-Cities Airport (KTRI). The program included a presentation about airplanes and aviation followed by a tour of the hangar. During a pre-flight demonstration, Janice instructed the girls on the importance of checking under the aircraft for damage.

— Janice Pelletti

Tennessee 99s at the April meeting, from left, Pat Roush, Jan Kuban, Martha Miller, Linda Meese, Judy Wayman, Lilly Winburn, Belle Hembree, Janice Pelletti, Barb Lewinski (MI Chapter), Linda Haynes (MI Chapter).

TRAINING MILESTONES

Debbie Draheim Balsley – SkyWest Embraer
175 Captain, San Diego Chapter

Diane Grizard – Solo
Ventura County

Lynzie Hudson – CFI
Bay Cities Chapter

Lydia Jacobs – Private
Katahdin Wings Chapter

Heather Jay – CFI
Mt. Shasta Chapter

Sherlyn Halloran – MEI & renewed CFI
Phoenix Chapter

Stephanie Layman – ATP and CL-65 type rating
Mesa Airlines
Phoenix Chapter

Tracy Lovness – Tailwheel
Minnesota Chapter

Stephanie Luongo – Multiengine
Reno High Sierra Chapter

Thao Nguyen – Solo
San Diego Chapter

Brittany Ortiz – CFI
Phoenix Chapter

Lina Shi – Private
Orange County Chapter

Courtney Smith – Instrument
Phoenix Chapter

Robyn Stoller – Private
Minnesota Chapter

Miranda Rydstrom – Multiengine
and Commercial, Phoenix Chapter

Ashley Taylor – Private
Idaho Chapter

Kayla Waskowski – High Performance,
Multiengine add-on, Complex
and Commercial Endorsements
Phoenix Chapter

Share your aviation
milestones!



NEW HORIZONS

BERNICE NEFF ALPER **Florida Gulf Stream Chapter**

Bernice, known by her friends and family as 'Chickie,' passed away on February 20, 2015, age 84, after a strongly fought battle with leukemia.

Bernice was born and raised in Camden, New Jersey. An accomplished pilot, she was a member of the Florida Gulf Stream Chapter and had been a member of The 99s since 1966.

She attended Hahnemann Hospital, where she received a degree in mental health and opened an office, Someone To Talk To.

During her free time she was an avid tennis player and world traveler. Bernice moved to Pompano Beach and volunteered at Holy Cross Hospital and many other charitable organizations including Cystic Fibrosis and City of Hope. She made lasting friendships from all aspects of her life and will be greatly missed.

— Dorothy 'Dot' Buckanin

MARGARET MARIE COSBY **San Antonio Chapter**

Saying goodbye to our good friends is never easy. Our sister San Antonio 99, Margaret Marie Cosby, flew on angel's wings January 27, 2014. She was a wonderful friend to so many. If not for Margaret, I might have never known about The 99s! I met her at a General Aviation pilot safety meeting, and she asked me if I was a 99. I asked her what a 99 was. Of course I joined soon after.



Margaret Cosby.

I flew with Margaret many times, not only as her instructor but as a friend. Her most eloquent obituary was written by her son Michael, an F-16 pilot who was also her initial flight instructor. They shared many worldly adventures. Margaret always bragged about him, deservedly so!

— Cheryl Mora

WAYNA LEA LEE **Oklahoma Chapter**

Wayna Lea Lee passed away on October 14, 2014. She was retired military civil service with Altus Air Force Base in Altus, Oklahoma and Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma.

She loved flying, riding horses and traveling with her husband Porter in their RV. She was an active member of the Oklahoma Chapter and Oklahoma Pilots Association for many years.

— Carol Sokatch



Wayna Lee.

DEBORAH KWAITKOWSKI PRICE Colorado Chapter

Colorado Chapter Chairman Deborah Kwiatkowski Price, 56, passed away unexpectedly on November 22, 2014.

Deb loved aviation and flight instruction. She graduated from the University of Florida and worked for Bell Labs, now Avaya. She was a computer science major and, as she enjoyed telling people, “a recovering engineer,” having in recent years made the career shift to being a certified dog trainer.

Deb had worked for several flight schools and Alpha Flying, Inc., now known as PlaneSense, flying the Pilatus PC-12. She was an active participant in the Flight Without Fear program sponsored by the Colorado Chapter.

The Colorado Ninety-Nines had been one of her greatest loves. Deb will always be remembered as sweet, kind and giving. She will be missed.

— Margot Plummer



Deborah Price.

GLADYS ILENE (BARTON) McCASLIN Oklahoma Chapter

Gladys McCaslin flew to new horizons on February 3, 2015. She was an active member of the Oklahoma Chapter for many years and was famed for the food she prepared for our Okie Derby and other events.

Gladys and her husband Ben owned their own grass airstrip in Lexington. Often Gladys and the other pilots who hangared there sponsored popular fly-ins. Our Chapter enjoyed many parties in her semi-underground home on the airport. She also delighted in hosting sleepovers in her hangar for CAP cadets.

Blue Skies Gladys, and be with Ben.

— Carol Sokatch



Gladys McCaslin.

DOROTHY ‘DOTTY’ CARLSON WESTBY Florida Gulf Stream Chapter

Dotty took her final flight on March 17, 2015, at the age of 76, after a long fight with pain and complications of surgery.

At an early age, she lived in Venezuela, and then graduated from Tulsa Central High School in Oklahoma. She studied sculpture, printmaking and art at the Rhode Island School of Design. After a successful career in art, she earned her private certificate and started her flying career at age 42. For a time, she worked charter for Red’s Aircraft flying Navajos and Senecas and then as chief pilot for Safe Air Charters. She progressed to Miami Air as engineer, co-pilot and then captain of 727s. After mandatory retirement, she continued with charter flights for a time. She was a longtime member of the Florida Gulf Stream Chapter.

She and her husband, Jerry Farquhar, moved from Fort Lauderdale to Indian Hammock in 2002. She enjoyed flying her Cub and their Aztec until recently. They also enjoyed sailing and boating in the Bahamas.

With her artist ability, Dotty created the illustrations for the book “What Are You Waiting For Jack” written by her daughter, Kristen Moeller. Through the years she did many drawings and paintings, which could be found in her home and in the homes of her friends.

She was also a sharpshooter, taking the Senior Championship in the SE State Championships for two years in the rifle, shotgun and pistol categories.

Through the years, most everyone who met her remember her ready smile, friendliness and giving nature. She touched so many people and will be remembered and missed. Safe flight, Dotty.

— Terry Carbonell



Dorothy Westby.

Final Flights for Our 49½s

Dick Davies — Becky Davies, Sutter Buttes Chapter
February 6, 2015

Bob Nauman — Marion Nauman, Ventura County Chapter, May 18, 2015

Edmond George Rotzinger — Poochie Rotzinger, Oklahoma Chapter, May 5, 2015

Former 99s International President Bernice Steadman Flies to New Horizons

Bernice Steadman, 99s International President 1969-1970, passed away peacefully on March 18, 2015, at her home in Traverse City, Michigan. She was 89. Bernice joined The 99s in 1946 and was a member of the Michigan Chapter.

Known simply as 'B' to her friends, she was born July 9, 1925 in Rudyard, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. When just over a year old, her life was shaped by tragedy when the family home burned and her father gave his life trying unsuccessfully to save her sisters and brother. She dedicated her life to them, striving to be the best she could be and disdaining mediocrity.

Bernice attended Flint Central High school with a dream of flying. As she said in her memoir, she could not remember a time she did not want to fly. Bernice began flying after graduation when finally able to earn enough for the lessons from her job on the inspection line at AC Sparkplug. She earned her pilot certificate before she obtained a driver's license and began flying professionally the same day she was certificated as a commercial pilot in 1946. She had started classes at Flint's Junior College but flying was her dream, and her activities as a commercial pilot and instructor consumed her time, leaving no time for further studies.

After obtaining the necessary certificates to teach, for several years she instructed and flew charter for a fixed base operation at Bishop Airport in Flint, Michigan. She started and operated her own flight school, charter service and fixed base operation at Flint under her family name of Trimble Aviation.

When able to get away from her business, Bernice flew in numerous air races all over the country. She won each of the major races at least once, including the All Woman Transcontinental Air Race (Powder Puff Derby), the International Air Race and the Michigan Small race, a race she founded. She was acknowledged to be one of the finest professional pilots in the country and finished in the top five or ten places in every race she entered, racing without specially prepared aircraft, using planes off her flight line or loaned by friends for the competition.

She was one of the first women to obtain an Airline Transport Rating (ATR), the highest rating available for any pilot and was



Bernice 'B' Steadman.

the only woman to instruct reserve Air Force officers after the war. Bernice was proud that she taught more than 200 men to fly who went on to become airline or corporate jet pilots, although the airlines would not hire women pilots then. She received numerous awards including the Michigan Outstanding Pilot Award from the Michigan Aeronautics Commission.

Her greatest achievement may have been her participation in the Mercury 13 Women in Space program. She was one of the 13 women who endured and successfully passed the psychological and physical tests given to male astronauts. Even though these 13 women were not allowed to complete their space mission, they proved to the country that women were equally as qualified as their male counterparts. They also changed the course of women in aviation. Bernice, with the assistance of Jody Clark, captured her story of that important time in history in *Tethered Mercury: A Pilot's Memoir: The Right Stuff...The Wrong Sex*.

In 1964, President Johnson appointed Bernice as one of the charter members of the President's Women's Advisory Committee on Aviation, and she was instrumental in the initiation of several programs since adopted for general aviation, such as the Gold Seal program for flight instructors.

In 1968 she was appointed chairperson of the Airport Commission for Ann Arbor, Michigan, and actively participated in developmental planning for expansion of the Ann Arbor Airport. It was in that same year she was elected President of The 99s.

Bernice was especially proud that she and Page Shamburger co-founded the International Women's Air & Space Museum during her tenure as Vice President and President of The 99s. Since its inception, Bernice served as either the President or Executive Vice President of the museum, located at Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland, Ohio.

In 2002 Bernice was inducted into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame. She was recognized by the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame for her remarkable spirit, her determination, and, most importantly, for the advances she made for women.



2015 International Conference

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Munich, Germany



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Neuschwanstein Castle in the Bavarian Alps at sunset.

Photo: Patryk Kosmider/Shutterstock.com