

Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929

May/June 2019

Celebrating in the Sky



Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929

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Mae Marquet, Immediate Past Southeast Section Governor, left, with St. Croix Chapter member Rhonda Campbell. Mae and Southeast Section Governor Ramona Banks recently visited St. Croix and met the members and aspiring pilots.

The upcoming 43rd Annual Air Race Classic marks the first ARC finishing at the Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport. On June 22, following the race, a posthumous plaque honoring Dorothy will be dedicated.

Photo: Dorothy Rungeling with Pacer 125, 1954. Courtesy Brock University Archives, Dorothy Rungeling fonds, RG 517.



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Emily Crombez was fascinated by flying at an early age, soloing on a grass field at 15. She flew a '51 de Havilland Beaver to remote camps in Canada, was the first woman pilot in North America to fly the CL-413 "Superscooper" and is now a Boeing 737 first officer.



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On The Cover

Newly engaged Janie Frazier of the NY/NJ Chapter with her finance, Cliff, when he "popped the question." Janie contributed an equal share of hours in restoring the 1967 Citabria.



If you've ever wanted to visit Africa, now is a good time to plan a trip and celebrate both the Ninety-Nines 90th anniversary and the first anniversary of the Africa Section. Visitors will be landing on a strip near the beautiful Lake Makakola.



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Emily Alley was one 16 members who were named recipients of the Spring 2019 Fly Now Awards. The program began in 2001 with an award program called The New Pilot Award. In 2013, that program became the Fly Now Award.

After 20 years of flying and many ups and downs, San Diego Chapter member Heather Snyder finally obtained her goal in April of becoming a captain for a major airline.



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The 99s Mission Statement

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

EVENTS

2019

JUNE

- 18-21 Air Race Classic**, Start in Jackson, Tennessee. Terminus Welland, Ontario, Canada. Visit www.airraceclassic.org. This 43rd Annual Air Race Classic is the first ARC finishing in Ontario at the Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport (CNQ3) on June 21. The next day, the public is invited to a posthumous plaque unveiling in honor of former Ninety-Nine Dorothy Rungeling.

JULY

- 16-21 2019 International Conference and Career Expo**, Dayton, Ohio. Hosted by the North Central Section. Stay at the University of Dayton Marriott, book by June 15. Career Expo: July 16; Seminars and Tours: July 17-20; Dinner Under the Wings at NMUSAF – Welcome Reception and AE Scholarship Banquet: July 18; 99s Awards Banquet, July 20; Youth aviation event: July 21. For more information, contact Conference Chairs Minnetta Gardinier, Deb Henrichs, and Paula Rumbaugh at dayton2019@ncs99s.org or visit www.99sconference.org.



Make new friends from around the world at the 2019 International Conference July 16-21. Above, International members enjoying the 2014 Conference.

- 22-28 EAA AirVenture Oshkosh**, Wittman Regional Airport, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, eaa.org/en/airventure.
- 31 Deadline for submitting Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) Application for Mentoring Autumn Session.** For more information go to www.ninety-nines.org/resources.htm or email mentoring@ninety-nines.org.

AUGUST

- 17 41st Annual Okie Derby Proficiency Air Rally**, Sundance Airpark. For information and registration, contact Gail Foote: email crbfred@gmail.com, phone: 405-921-7763. Be sure to leave a message.

- 22-26 Northwest Section Fall Meeting**, Richland, Washington.

SEPTEMBER

- 13-15 North Central Section Fall Meeting**, location to be announced.

OCTOBER

- 4 Southeast Section Fall Meeting**, Greensboro, North Carolina.
- 4 Southwest Section Fall Meeting**, San Luis Obispo, California.
- 18-19 Mid-Atlantic Section Fall Meeting**, Washington, D.C.
- 19-24 African Section Meeting**, Lilongwe, Malawi, Africa.
- 25-26 New England Section Fall Meeting**, Worcester, Massachusetts.
- 25-26 South Central Section Fall Meeting**, Abilene, Texas.

NOVEMBER

- 1-2 Fall International Board of Directors Meeting**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Contact HQ for more information, info@ninety-nines.org or 844-994-1929
- 2 Ninety-Nines 90th Anniversary Celebration**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- 8-10 China Section Meeting**, Chengdu, China.
- 9 New York/New Jersey Fall Section Meeting**, The Cradle of Aviation, Long Island, New York.

2020

JANUARY

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

To List Your 99s Events

Ninety-Nines magazine deadlines always fall on the first of the month prior to issue date, ie: April 1 for May/June issue. Email information to: news@ninety-nines.org or fill out Online Form at ninety-nines.org/forms/index.cfm/news_reporter.htm. Mailing address: PO Box 950374, Oklahoma City, OK 73195-0374.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April every year means The 99s heading to Sun 'n Fun in Lakeland, Florida. Our booth there this year was incredibly busy. We had beautiful weather, warm breezes, and signed up 68 new members, renewals, reinstatements, and Friends of The 99s! We had a very successful and fun week with night airshows and visiting with new and current friends.

I also had the opportunity to attend the monthly Florida Suncoast meeting at The 99s House. Yes, I said 99s House! We have our own House on the grounds of Sun 'n Fun. How cool is that? They are an active group with lots of enthusiastic members. Escape the cold weather next year and come and join us in sunny Florida!



Jacque Milroy, Australian Governor, and Jan McKenzie.

The Australian 99s Section meeting is held in conjunction with the Australian Women Pilots Association (AWPA) annual meeting. This year, Brisbane was the location in sunny Queensland. Seventeen out of forty 99s Australian members attended the meeting. Governor Jacque Milroy ran an efficient and enjoyable meeting. She and all of The 99s were incredibly welcoming and friendly.

May took me to awesome Australia for The 99s Section meeting in Brisbane. Before arriving in Brisbane, I ventured north to Cairns on the Great Barrier Reef where I met and had a delightful dinner with Deborah Evans, Section Treasurer. Deb had been very helpful to me two years ago by contacting a local manufacturer to make the Amelia Earhart plaque that The 99s placed at the Lae Airport in Papua New Guinea. She even arranged shipping it to PNG.

If you remember, the American Ambassador to PNG requested we place a plaque commemorating AE's last airport departure on her around the world trip. The previous marker was worn and unreadable.



Jan McKenzie
International President

"If you ever get a chance, attend a 99s meeting in a country other than your own. I promise you will learn new things and meet many women who will be your sisters for life!"

Choose to Soar! Choose to Fly Your Dreams!



Ninety-Nines at the Australian Section Meeting.

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TOUCH & GO

Dorothy Rungeling Airport is ARC Terminus



The 43rd Annual Air Race Classic marks an unprecedented year for aviation enthusiasts. It's the first Air Race Classic finishing at the Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport (CNQ3) on June 21 in Welland. Up to 55 teams of women pilots will test their flying knowledge and skills traveling more than 2,400 miles.

Starting June 18, the pilots will leave Jackson, Tennessee, veering south to Georgia and westward to Arkansas, before heading north through Minnesota and crossing into Canada through Sault Ste. Marie. They will land at Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport.

The race will officially begin at the McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport on June 18 with teams departing 30 seconds apart, and the faster planes quickly leading the journey. At each of the nine enroute stops, teams

will execute high-speed flybys over a timing line that monitors them as they race against the clock. They may also land to refresh or refuel.

Prior to the race, each plane, depending on its engine size, performance power and speed, is given a handicap, so pilots are racing and challenging their own best time. This also creates a level playing field, so slower planes can equally compete against faster aircraft. Official standings aren't determined until after the last team has crossed the finish line and the judging is completed.

Following this year's judging, the public is invited on June 22 to a posthumous plaque unveiling in honour of The 99s Canadian Chapter member Dorothy Rungeling. She is also the airport's namesake. The local Chapter of The Ninety-Nines is also dedicating its Compass Rose Project.

Linda Fritsche Castner Receives Renewal of Master Aviation Educator (MAE) Accreditation

New Jersey Chapter member Linda F. Castner, a three-time Master and SAFE member, recently renewed her Master Aviation Educator (MAE) accreditation through the Master Instructors LLC's MICEP program. She is one of only 18 aviation educators worldwide to earn the MAE credential.

A recent inductee into the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame, Linda is an FAA certificated advanced ground instructor (AGI) and teaches ground schools that focus on STEM aspects of aviation. She uses her airport as a living lab, while also teaching similar STEM programs around the country.

A certificated pilot, she co-owns, operates, and manages New Jersey's Alexandria Field Airport (N85).

Master Aviation Educator accreditation recognizes those individuals who work as professional teachers of aviation in industry and government but who do not necessarily hold FAA instructor certification.



Linda F. Castner.

St. Croix Island Paradise Chapter members and mentees, along with past Southeast Section Governor Mae Marquet, second from left, and Southeast Section Governor Ramona Banks, third from right, visit Point Udall on the island of St. Croix.

By R. Mae Marquet
Past Southeast Section Governor



Evolution of a Chapter

This story begins around 2014 when California Ninety-Nine Louisa Porter decided to retire to the island of St. Croix. As a 99, she figured there was surely a Chapter there, but no Chapter existed.

Louisa queried headquarters to find out if there was interest in establishing a St. Croix Chapter. She discovered that Florida Chapter member Caroline Fawkes had a mail address on St. Croix. After talking with Louisa, Caroline agreed to help her start a new Chapter.

The women got in touch with then-governor of the Southeast Section Terry Carbonell, who eagerly helped them prepare the paperwork. They would need seven members to qualify as a Chapter.

Caroline suggested that Louisa meet with Ninety-Nine Cenita Heywood. With pilots Caroline and Louisa, and some help from Cenita gathering a few girls interested in aviation, an official 99s Chapter was formed. The new members communicated by FaceTime — no one had ever travelled to their new Chapter.

After a few great meetings, Louisa unexpectedly had to return to the continental U.S. Though she remained a distant member to keep the Chapter going, it slowly dwindled. Coupled with a plane accident and a hurricane, the Chapter was quickly iced.

When I took over as Governor in 2017, I received notices from Headquarters that the Chapter wasn't in compliance. After consulting the Section's Board, it was decided to hold out a little longer and see if something changed.

And that "something" did! While International Board member Terry Carbonell was working The 99s booth at Oshkosh, she signed up a longtime pilot who was newly living on St. Croix.

Julie McShea had been encouraged by her grown daughter, a 99, to join the group. Terry put her on the phone with me immediately. I knew that girls and women interested in joining needed a CFI to sign their request for a student pilot certificate. There was none on that island. As it turned out, Julie's husband Steve is a CFI. They would have a contact for commuter flights on St. Croix, and Julie could bring some aviation knowledge to these girls. It was a start.

Together, Julie, Steve, and Cenita helped the girls obtain their student pilot certificates and subsequent 99s membership. The St. Croix Island Paradise Chapter began to grow. However, just under a year and still needing resources to go the distance as pilots, Julie

was moving off the island for family reasons. So again, a challenge faced the St. Croix Island Paradise Chapter.

I decided I needed to visit these young women. While Cenita has lived all over the world, she is not a pilot. Many of these young girls, all student pilots, have never been off the island. I told the Governor-elect that I was going to St. Croix from Sun 'n Fun 2019 before I left office, and she said she also wanted to go. I am especially grateful that Ramona Banks chose to travel with me. This next Governor also saw and heard these girls' hearts cry out. I know we'll never forget.

We went to inspire them, but they truly went far beyond touching our hearts. They gave gifts, prepared Cruzan meals and opened their homes. Cenita also has nine more young women waiting to officially join the Chapter after the FAA returns their medicals.

Resources there are short. But I believe 99s can be instrumental as a source for their futures. We have brainstormed numerous ideas and are still developing. We welcome your thoughts. If you are a CFI and would like to travel to the island, we might be able to arrange some flight lessons for these girls.

The reward is beyond the glass ceiling. It is heavenly. Write us, SEsection99s@hotmail.com; Ramona, ramona.banks@alabama99s.org; or me, skyqueen31r@yahoo.com.

St. Croix Island Paradise Chapter Chair Teresse Sinclair, left, with Southeast Section Governor Ramona Banks.



HOLDING SHORT

Aviation Passion and Romance!

By Janie Frazier, Long Island Chapter

My father was a private pilot who always told stories about flying. It sparked an interest and was something I always wanted to try. He gave me an introductory flight lesson when I was nineteen, and I spent the subsequent summer at the airport flying as much as possible and falling in love with aviation. Since then, I have earned both my commercial airplane certificate and helicopter ratings, and I currently work as a certificated flight instructor on Long Island. I plan to apply to the airlines next year once my Master's in Business Management program is complete.

Cliff and I met through our shared interest in aviation, and our first date was a flight in a 1939 Fleet 16B. His experience with vintage airplanes inspired me to get my tailwheel endorsement, which is my favorite endorsement yet! He is an Operations Supervisor at JFK, a CFI, and owns a 1967 American Champion Citabria 7GCAA that we both put 1,800 hours (each!) into restoring over the course of eleven months.

It was not Cliff's first restoration, but it was mine, and I learned so much. Since we completed the Citabria in December, we have put 70 hours on it flying it around the New York area.

I attended my first 99s meeting during my initial training, but I did not become a member of a set Chapter until last year



Above, newly engaged Janie Frazier of the Long Island Chapter with her fiancé, Cliff, after he "popped the question." At left, Janie did her equal share of hours in restoring the 1967 Citabria.



when I made my first visit to Oshkosh AirVenture. I had so much fun visiting the booth and talking to the women there and am now proud to be a member of the Long Island Chapter. Cliff and I are planning a fall wedding for 2020. Since aviation is what truly brought us together and is our passion, we absolutely want our wedding to reflect this!



Sue Osborne's (Colorado Chapter) "little sister" Sharon Stebbins (Tulsa Chapter, on right) receives her 99s membership pin from Ramona Banks (Alabama Chapter) at this year's Sun 'n Fun. Sue had gifted this membership to her sister and requested that we "pin her" when she stopped by our 99s booth at Sun 'n Fun. Sharon is a certificated land and sea pilot.

Back Taxi In History

Amelia Earhart was the first woman pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. But, did you know she visited Maine to try to entice more women and girls to fly?

In August 1934, she made stops in Bangor, Waterville, and Augusta. Here she is pictured at the Augusta airport. The Katahdin Wings Chapter honored the 80th anniversary of that event in 2014 with a "Spirit of Amelia" celebration, with the same goal in mind: encourage girls and women to fly and share our aviation passion.



Photo: Kennebec Historical Society

Treasure Coast Chapter Hosts Girl Scout Aviation Day

On March 23, 2019, the Treasure Coast 99s hosted 34 Girl Scouts. See complete story in Grass Roots, page 27. At the end of the day, the Girl Scouts shared comments that included their questions, what they learned, and “Ah Hah” moments. Below is a sampling of their comments and photos of the Girl Scouts and their newly-found enthusiasm for aviation.



Ah Hah: That I can have a career in aviation; I can get my license at a young age.

Learned: Panels; how the wings work. Girls rule!



Learned: All of the controls on the panel of the plane. How to speak to the tower when wanting to land. The alphabet for the air language.

Ah Hah: I want to become a pilot, I want to do this next year.

Learned:

How pilots talk to the tower, the plane's anatomy, how planes fly.

Ah Hah: Flying is a lot easier than I thought.

Learned: There are words to identify letters; CFI stands for Certified Flight Instructor; Flying animals from one place to another is a job.

Question: Do you have to be good at math and science to be a good pilot?



Ah Hah: How to tell if an airport is busy or not on a map; what the pedals are used for.

Ah Hah: Planes are safe; planes have GPS.

Question: Is it fun or scary to fly a plane?

Ah Hah: I have recognized and heard of the aviation alphabet; the inside of the planes were cool.



Emily Crombez



Inspired By Her Parents, She's Now Flying High And Inspiring The World

By Sue Mead, Connecticut Chapter

As a young girl, Emily Crombez was fascinated by the aerial maneuvers of crop dusters that danced in the sky near her family farm on the outskirts of Tillsonburg, Ontario. Today, the 31-year-old has piloted a wide variety of aircraft, including bush airplanes, water-bombers and the 737.

Inspired by her parents, who “started a life of farming from ‘nothing’ and did all the labor themselves,” Emily says her father is the only person she has never heard complain about work a day in his life. Her mom, who is a social worker and also worked on the farm to tend tobacco and ginseng, “parked the stroller in the field when I was days old to be able to help out.”

For three decades, her parents have raised ginseng, a very high-risk crop that is subject to frequent weather issues, with no crop insurance available.

“I witnessed many financial losses

growing up on the farm, and my parents always continued to push forward with their heads up. They always encouraged me to learn about new careers, research a variety of fields, and supported any decisions I made with regards to my ambitions.”

“

Years of bush flying really complement airline flying – when something happens, you have to dumb it down and go back to the basics.

Her parents also drove her to a lot of sports activities — and flying lessons — and always made sure she was giving back to the community through several organizations.

“This all quietly inspired me to be the determined, motivated and goal-oriented woman I have become.”

The wellspring of hard work and humbleness led Emily to plow through challenges to find incredible success at a young age. She soloed on a grass field at 15; garnered academic, leadership and sports awards and played on two fastball teams while in high school. She received her degree with a 4.0 from the highly-rated Confederation College that offered a specialty in teaching float flying.

While there, Emily, the Class Valedictorian and Female Athlete of the Year, also received the national level Garfield Weston Merit Scholarship for

good citizenship and the drive for success in a chosen field.

Her second aviation job was flying a '51 de Havilland Beaver with a 9-cylinder radial engine.

"I was always thinking outside the box, and I was flying a Canadian legend of an aircraft to gorgeous remote-access lakes. This is a purely VFR job and airplane that created its own unique challenges and pressures from both customers and flying."

She also loved learning the area with a map and, on bad weather days, following a river to a lake to another landmark. "True navigational skills are becoming a thing of the past, and I'm so fortunate to have had a map on my lap and had to find my way," explains Emily, who started flying a bush airplane at 19.

Piloting was only part of the work she discovered during her four seasons flying at remote camps. "There were challenges every day. There was always something broken at an outpost camp, and to go back to base and fly someone else in to fix it was not always an option or cost effective. So, you had to think outside-the-box, and often had minimal tools.

"There was always something needing to be repaired, like a dock, and there was always an unhappy fisherman who needed to be told the secret spot on the lake so

Emily on "red alert" waiting for a call at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Fire Base in Dryden, Ontario.



he could catch something, and there was always someone who forgot to listen to my instructions of how to relight the propane appliances, should a tank run out. So, my hands were always dirty, and my skills were forever being improved."

In 2011, now with an IFR rating, she made the jump to a twin turbine Metro III, flying for Bearskin Airlines, in northern Ontario. Headquartered in Thunder Bay, she established the Sleeping Giant Chapter of The 99s, and, in 2013, she was the recipient of the Amelia Earhart Vicki Cruse Scholarship Award for Emergency Maneuver Training.

“

There was an adrenaline rush dropping water on a fire 100-feet above the trees, pulling off the fire in an up to 60-degree bank turn, and going back to the lake for another scoop. Then, of course, seeing the water/foam drops become effective, which, in some cases, means saving someone's home, cottage, airport — or life.

Emily in the CL-415 enroute to the pick-up lake to work this fire near Kenora, Ontario.





Left:
*Emily with the
de Havilland
Beaver on
Ivanhoe Lake,
Ontario.*

Below:
*Emily on the
water taxiing for
departure in the
Beaver.*

Five years after graduation, Emily was hired by Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry as a Twin Otter Captain, an aerial support job that found her flying firefighters, equipment and freight to remote airports.

Emily then became the first woman to fly the CL-415 "Superscooper" in North America – a waterbomber aircraft that scoops water off the lake to drop on forest fires.

"There was an adrenaline rush dropping water on a fire 100-feet above the trees, pulling off the fire in an up to 60-degree bank turn, and going back to the lake for another scoop.

"Then, of course, seeing the water/foam drops become effective, which, in some cases, means saving someone's

home/cottage/airport — or life.

"When the siren went off, we ran to the plane with a goal of being airborne in less than five minutes. This was a bit of a rush in itself, and you never knew what you were in for until you were airborne and got more details — or could see the smoke," says Emily.

Today, Emily is a West Jet Boeing 737 First Officer. "It's very modern, and nice, to have a bathroom on board, although I mastered peeing off a float!

"More seriously, though, it's just a totally different way of life — a schedule, days off, not living in a remote area, and passenger dynamics are much different. I don't wear grubby clothes. I miss the physical aspect of the job, the loading and unloading and all of the 'odd jobs' that

went with bush piloting, but it's always sunny at FL 390, and the reliability of jet engines compared to a 1951 Beaver is comforting.

"The hands and feet gained from years of bush flying really complement airline flying — when something happens, you have to dumb it down and go back to the basics."

It's no surprise that Emily has exciting goals. "I want to work my way up to a captain position, continue to explore the world, buy an airplane so I can relive my love of float flying with my fiancé, and work to expand the family farm with my siblings."

After all, that's where this small-town girl began — on a farm with humble and hardworking parents who inspired her!

Flying The Beaver



I started flying the Beaver when I was 20. I was the first female to ever fly for this outfit. Most of the customers are repeat, and the fact that I would be flying them in was foreign.

Often the fishermen were in groups of eight, so I needed four passengers to come along. Nobody would move. So, I delegated four passengers to come with me... nobody would move. This happened daily, so it wasn't a surprise. My boss would then step in. I was soon loading four nervous guests, who each had their snide remarks.

"Emily," one said, "This is a man's

job and you should probably go back to the kitchen where you belong." Some of the guests would use the satellite phone (at \$3 per minute) from the outpost to state they would not be flown out by a female.

The snickering and teasing in the back of the plane during the flight all ended when I 'greased' the Beaver onto the water. Those unfamiliar with aviation think a good landing means you're a good pilot, so with some I was instantly on top of the pedestal. Bothersome, yes. Was it going to stop me from doing what I loved? Of course not!

Forest of Friendship to Honor Those Who Have “Pushed the Envelope”

By Ellen Herr, The 99s International Forest of Friendship Committee Chair

The Forest of Friendship has begun making its preparations for our 43rd season. As part of Aviation Weekend in September, the Forest’s Celebration and Induction Ceremony will be held on September 20 and 21.

Exciting developments in Atchison include:

- Completion of the FBO building at Amelia Earhart Airport. The new building features a Quonset style roof and glass wall sections that have a 1920s style. Construction will be complete in time for the Hangar Dance on September 21.

- Construction of the Forest of Friendship interactive map accessible through our website. The location of each honoree’s stone has been mapped, as well as the location of each nation’s/state’s tree, all in relation to the 633 sections of sidewalk that make up the pathways that wind through the Forest.

Opportunities to sponsor a sidewalk section will be available, with more information soon on our website.

After the sections are identified, Darci Paull, GIS specialist of the KS Forestry Service, will complete the interactive map. Clicking on the location of a tree or section of a sidewalk will enable visitors to see which honorees’ stones are nearby.

Registration is open for the 43rd annual ceremonies, including the Cocktail Party on Friday and the luncheon, children’s program and parade of flags preceding the Honorees’ Induction on Saturday.

This year’s theme is Discovery Through Flight, honoring those who have “pushed the envelope” in all aspects of aviation and aerospace. Lodging information is available on the website. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to make reservations early.

The deadline for nominating an honoree is July 15.



16-21 July 2019

99s International Conference & Career Expo

Are you registered?
On-time registration due May 31st

Hotel?
Marriott @ Univ Dayton \$99/night
Book before June 15th



Flying in?
DAY, commercial
MGY, general aviation

For full details -
www.99sconference.org

Questions?
dayton2019@ncs99s.org



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- **June 26-30:** How An Aviation Star is Born: Personal distinction unboxed. Backcountry flight, seaplanes, spins, and more - Cascade, Idaho
- **July 25-28:** Floatplane Splash Down in Northern Idaho
- **August 15-18:** High Flyer Mountain Checkout along the Continental Divide in Colorado
- **Sept. 25-29:** How An Aviation Star is Born: Personal distinction unboxed. Backcountry flight, seaplanes, spins, and more - Cascade, Idaho

To find out more go to:
www.womanwiseawesomeadventures.com

Come to Africa and Celebrate Two Landmark Anniversaries



By Ivana Alvares-Marshall, African Section Governor

In October we will be holding the first African Conference in Malawi. It will be history in the making for the Malawian Aviation Sector and Africa to have so many female pilots visiting Malawi. It will be, of course, the 90th celebration of The Ninety-Nines and the first anniversary of the African Section. We plan to combine the celebrations.

Attending will be three ministers, 15 ambassadors from the girls' countries, and possibly two first ladies. It will be a high-profile event. BBC news, Al Jazeera and an international film crew will do a documentary. We are very excited about getting our name out there. We are working on having the event fully sponsored.

In keeping with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030, there are 17 that we will be covering, including Education, Women Empowerment, Gender Equality, and Partnerships with regards to the project I set up,

Girls Wings For Africa.

Girls Wings For Africa Scholarship and STEM have some companies in Africa, flight schools in the United Kingdom, United States and Africa, and airlines that will partner long term with us regarding the education and STEM project.

These companies are helping us provide mobile portable simulators to take to remote parts of the villages so children can get to see what flying is all about. In some parts of the remote villages in Africa, they do not even have video games or Nintendos, PlayStations or television, so this is as real as it gets for them. It is the only way we can promote aviation in countries where aviation hardly exists.

We will be teaching them STEM and having motivational talks. One of the first things I did in February was post pictures and videos of safety around airports in remote areas.

The challenges we face, especially bush pilots

like myself flying to these remote areas, are the kids hijacking our airfields and playing football on them. When we try to buzz them, they start jeering and waving all excitedly, not moving out of the way. While we do our circuit, they carry on playing, not understanding we are trying to get them to move. We chance it to land while they eventually scatter in other directions. Many of the airfields are not fenced, so it is more challenging with wild animals, livestock, dogs, elderly people, and the children in the landing space.

When we taxi out and line up to take off, they all stand a few meters behind the plane, again not knowing the dangers of the dirt runway with stones and debris flying at them.

It is all about educating the school kids, who will then educate the parents who are illiterate. I have made signage posters using symbols kids see on roads but with aeroplane and airport signs.

So, our first campaign is safety around remote airports!

I have also been connecting with female pilot mentors in other African countries to spread STEM. I then plan to take five girls from each country, all of different age groups, and hold STEM camps in various locations throughout Africa or International STEM camps.

The African Section Conference will be held in Malawi from October 19 to 24, 2019. More details about the event can be found on the website at www.african99s.com under the Events page.



Photos:

Opposite page: Elephants at the Mvuu Game Park. Animals near the runway can be dangerous at times as the pilot doesn't always see them in the thick, dense grass and trees. "It's quite a surprise when an elephant is walking towards the runway as you're about to land," says Ivana Alvares-Marshall.

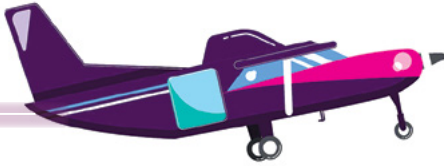
Above: The airstrip at the privately owned lake resort, Club Makakola, that attendees will visit during the African Section Conference.

Below left: Monkey Bay airstrip during the wet season.

Below right: One of the challenges of landing at Monkey Bay is nearby habitation and livestock on the runways.



fly now Winners!



High Fives for 16 Spring Fly Now Recipients!

By Jacque Boyd, Chair, Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Trustees would like to give a BIG congratulations to the 16 women who were named recipients of the Spring 2019 Fly Now Awards

We are asked if “older” student pilots should apply. Absolutely! Out of the total 208 Fly Now Award recipients, 148 of the winners have been aged 15 to 32, and the other 62 have been from 33 to 67. In fact, this year we ran the gamut with two 16-year-old recipients and three others at ages 57, 60 and 69. Bring it on, Ladies! Age is not a factor!

Needless to say, you don’t have to have a career goal as a professional pilot. You do need a well-developed plan as to why you want to get your initial flight certificate. The better you can articulate those plans, the more successful your application will be.

Several changes have been made in the 10 years that we’ve been able to offer awards to Student Pilot members of the organization. One of the biggest changes leading to the most success was the addition of a mentoring process. The first New Pilot awards didn’t include a mentor, and our success rate was lower than we would have liked.

The following information comes directly from the Fly Now instructions: WHAT IS A MENTOR? A Mentor can be any current 99 who is willing to provide support, encouragement, and guidance to the student throughout her primary training. She will be someone who can answer questions, be a shoulder to cry

on and someone who celebrates the student’s accomplishments along the way. Webster defines mentor as “a wise, loyal advisor.” She does not take the place of the instructor but enhances the training with friendship and support.

The Mentor must agree to assist the applicant throughout her period of training in any way she deems advisable. However, she should not take over the role of instructor. The Mentor must make contact with the student at least once a month during the training and should feel free to include others in recognizing the continuing progressive steps achieved by the student.

The Mentor must also provide updates to Amelia Earhart Trustees once a month and sign all Requests for Payment. Any current 99 may serve as a Mentor, including Chapter Chairmen, Chapter Scholarship Chairmen, Section Governors, Section Scholarship Chairmen, and past scholarship winners.

There is also a very specific Mentor Agreement. This is excerpted from that Agreement: As the Mentor, I agree to make contact with the student at least once a month during her training and if she is selected for the Fly Now award, to also provide updates on her progress to Amelia Earhart Trustees once a quarter. I will sign all Requests for Payment as the student completes milestones.

We would like to thank all of the Ninety-Nines who gave their time and expertise to serve as Mentors for the 2019 Spring Fly Now Winners.

YOU make the difference!



Emily Alley

Shenandoah Valley Chapter, Mid-Atlantic Section

Mentor: Valissa Duerk

Since high school, my dream has been to learn to fly. My husband, already a private pilot, took me to the sky on one of our first dates. He captured my heart, and the flight, my first in a Cessna, cultivated my dream of becoming a pilot! I began my flight journey almost three years ago at Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia. Through careful budgeting while working full-time at a technology company, I chipped away at my goal. Now, thanks to The 99s, I am on the cusp of completing my training and finally earning the title “pilot.”

Donna Benz

Lake Erie Chapter, North Central Section

Mentor: Sherri Spagnola

I am a retired mom and grandma. I decided to try flying when I first retired and immediately became dedicated. When I'm not flying or studying aviation, I spend my time with family and friends. My husband and I love to travel, having visited all the United States and each continent except for Antarctica. At home, I volunteer for CASA, a child's advocate organization. I plan to use my private certificate to enhance all these interests, including exposing children to the thrill of aviation, visiting distant family more often, and of course, traveling to new places.



Jillian Bourdage

Florida Goldcoast Chapter, Southeast Section

Mentor: Myra Bugbee

I have been involved in The Ninety-Nines for over two years and have always felt so blessed to be among such inspiring, dedicated, and adventurous women! I will be attending Ohio State University in 2020 to play college golf and pursue a professional pilot aviation major. I am passionate about becoming a commercial airline pilot, and I am currently working towards my private pilot certificate. I am so grateful for the amazing opportunity that the AEMSf has blessed me with. I am motivated to become a pilot who teaches, mentors, and creates many future opportunities for young aviators just like me.



Megan Carlson

Colorado Chapter, South Central Section

Mentor: Trimbi Szabo

Megan, 16, has been flying since she was 14. She celebrated her first solo flight for her 16th birthday and is now training for her private certificate. As a high school junior, she is concurrently enrolled in the Aviation Front Runner program at Metropolitan State University. She has completed the Advanced Air Academy in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. An active member of The 99s, Megan volunteers at Wings over the Rockies and EAA Young Eagle rallies. Megan plans to become a commercial pilot. She will be the third generation of aviators — and the first female pilot — in her family.



fly now **Winners!**



Katie Christensen

Chicago Area Chapter, North Central Section

Mentor: Mary Lou Erikson

When I was seventeen, I took my younger sister to a place that advertised 'Pancakes and Plane Rides' and unintentionally took my first flight lesson with her riding in back. Although I loved it, I could not afford it, so I chose an education and career in business. Luckily, that path led me full-circle back to aviation. It's an honor to be selected by the AEMSF; I cannot begin to express just how much this means to me! Thank you, Ninety-Nines, for all you do for women, and thank you, Mary Lou, for your constant support, encouragement, and generosity!



Olivia Corriveau

Montreal Chapter, East Canada Section

Mentor: Melissa Haney

A 23-year-old student pilot with the goal of flying commercially, Olivia recently started her journey in aviation at Air Richelieu in September 2018. Olivia completed a BSc. in Kinesiology at McGill University prior to commencing the ATPL program. The adventurous and sociable young woman also completed an exchange program at Auckland University in New Zealand where she had the opportunity to experience travel and new cultures. Olivia loves to get involved in various leadership activities, and through The Ninety-Nines became secretary and newsletter editor for the Montreal Chapter. She is looking forward to creating a bright future in aviation.



Abigail Dang

Aloha Chapter, Southwest Section

Mentor: Nobi Buntin

Abigail is a 16-year-old student pilot who took her private pilot checkride on her 17th birthday in May. She was recently elected Secretary of The Ninety-Nines Aloha Chapter and serves as the public relations manager. Abigail aims to attain her instrument rating and pursue her commercial certificate in her senior year. She is an Early Admissions student at Kapiolani Community College pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Aviation. Abigail is honored to receive the AEMSF Fly Now award and is thrilled to be able to complete her initial pilot training.

Karin Didisse
Idaho Chapter, Northwest Section
Mentor: Lori MacNichol

While waiting for the restoration of our Piper Pacer, I decided to join the local flying club and work on getting my certificate. I've wanted to do it ever since I was a Civil Air Patrol cadet. Recent Lasik eye surgery has improved my eyesight so I can pursue that bygone goal. Since moving to the mountains of Idaho, I am active in ground-based search and rescue, as well as amateur radio. I also help out with many backcountry events. Looking forward to passing my final milestone and getting my certificate so I can better pursue my many interests!



Fiona Harnischfeger
Finger Lakes Chapter, New York-New Jersey Section
Mentor: Jill Browning

Currently, I am a Ph.D. student at Cornell University. My work is on how obesity influences taste perception. Throughout my Ph.D. studies, I have been actively involved in STEM outreach to 7th through 9th grade students. Last summer, a friend introduced me to soaring at Harris Hill in Elmira, New York, where I fell in love with flying. I soloed a glider just before the season ended. Currently, there are no female instructors at Harris Hill. I intend to rectify that once I complete my private pilot certificate, with the help of The Ninety-Nines and the generous Fly Now Award.



Maria Harrison-Dooley
Katahdin Wings Chapter, New England Section
Mentor: Brenda Thibodeau

I'm incredibly honored and grateful to The 99s for being a Fly Now recipient. Yes, I'm a "late bloomer." My decades-long dream of getting a private pilot certificate didn't take flight until last year at 68. "Flying is my Passion, Inspiration is my Mission." It's my intention to lead by example, share my story and inspire females of all ages to follow their dream of flight. As Katahdin Wings Chairman, I am grateful for the many opportunities to be an ambassador for The 99s. A special thank-you to all my Sky Sisters throughout New England for their tireless support and encouragement.



fly now **Winners!**



Summerleigh Martin

Phoenix Chapter, Southwest Section

Mentor: Sara Mazzarella

Summer grew up in aviation thanks to her mother. She worked at Lufthansa Airlines and took Summer on stand-by adventures to various countries. Two weeks out of high school, Summer started working at Virgin America Airlines at SFO as a part-time ticketing agent and full-time college student. After working ground operations and as a flight attendant, she discovered flying helicopters in Seattle, Washington. It took one flight to fall in love with flying helicopters and a few more instruction flights to know it is her new passion and career path. She is excited to now complete her rotor wing private pilot certificate.



Jessica Meiris

Pikes Peak Chapter, South Central Section

Mentor: Jane Link

Jes was born and raised in Colorado to an outdoor-centered family. After 14 years as a mountain guide, she is shifting to aviation to alleviate the physical demands of guiding on her arthritic joints. With a strong background in risk management and interpersonal relationships, her previous skills have translated well to her flight training. Her goal is to see the mountains from new heights as a search and rescue helicopter pilot. Also passionate about mentoring others, she encourages people to practice resiliency and engage with fear and doubt in a powerful way. Thanks to The 99s for making this a reality!



Haley O'Donnell

Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter, Mid-Atlantic Section

Mentor: Juliet Lindrooth

I am 24 from Columbia, South Carolina. Last year I moved to Philadelphia to work as a flight attendant for American Airlines. After only a few weeks as a flight attendant, I discovered that my dream was to one day be a jet pilot for a major airline. A friend and mentor took me for an introductory flight, and I was hooked! I am enjoying every second of flying, and I am grateful to The Ninety-Nines for their support and this incredible opportunity to complete my Private Pilot training.

Hibah Salaria

First Canadian Chapter, East Canada Section

Mentor: Kasia Gruchacz

Hibah is a motivated, goal-oriented high school student who has balanced a diverse range of extra-curricular activities while maintaining an exemplary academic performance. From varied experiences, including living briefly with an Arctic Inuit community, contributing support to 99s events, volunteering for The Royal Ontario Museum, and learning from science and art field trips, Hibah has proven to be a humble but very effective leader. Some of her passion for aviation comes from her aspiration to one day fly commercial routes helping Arctic communities. Hibah continues her quest for her CPL and has been accepted to study journalism at Carleton University.



Soyla Tostado

Long Beach Chapter, Southwest Section

Mentor: Cindy Santoso

Growing up with a love for adventure, my desire to fly had the perfect environment for growth. Exposed to aviation when hired as a Delta flight attendant in 2015, my journey of becoming a pilot taught me that anything is possible with hard work and dedication. I am grateful and humbled by this award and want to thank The Ninety-Nines AE Trustees and the members of my Chapter for their support. This award is a monumental step to achieving my dream of becoming an airline pilot.



Abigail Wells

Greater Seattle Chapter, Northwest Section

Mentor: Cortni van Schoonhoven

Beyond a thank-you to The 99s for this award, I want to thank all of you, the aviation community. Because of you, I experienced many small moments in life that brought me to aviation and the desire to fly. I graduated college in environmental science and biology, and this award will help me combine these interests with aviation, hopefully as a wildlife pilot. I look forward to learning, flying, and giving back those small moments so someone else with no aviation connection may realize that they too can join this wonderful group in the sky.





Left: Heather Snyder in the flightdeck after she completed her initial operating experience (IOE).

“A four-year-old girl pointed at me and, at full volume, yelled, “Dad, is she our pilot? Is she taking us to Hawaii?”

“I Kept My Eyes On The Prize For 20 Years”

By Heather Snyder, San Diego Chapter

On April 3, I achieved what was perhaps my largest life goal and became a captain at a major airline. Although my career up to this point had contained a fair amount of achievements and definite highlights, this was the real prize.

I’m often asked how long I’ve been flying. It still sounds unbelievable when I answer, “20 years.” How could I have been doing anything for 20 years?

I began my flight training at Utah Valley State College in 1998. When I arrived for my first ground school class, it was impossible not to notice I was one of only two women in the room. It was clear from the get-go that the people in my sphere didn’t take me very seriously.

It was a newer program at the college and, looking back, the lack of mentorship now seems glaringly obvious. The wonderful resources that women now have, such as The 99s and social media networking sites, were either not made known to me or didn’t exist then.

Despite the lack of mentorship and guidance, I persevered and became the first woman to graduate from the program.

It is important to me that people understand success in aviation is not instant nor is it guaranteed. This is a career where success depends largely on your willingness to play the long game and manage setbacks that are beyond your control.

I flew at a regional airline for seven years after the industry was impacted by the events of September 11th. I was later furloughed from United for four years and flew for two different foreign carriers before returning to United in 2013. It ultimately took me 20 years to achieve my goal of being a captain for a major airline, but it was worth it.

Another question I am often asked is how long it took me to learn to fly that plane? I have type ratings in the EMB145, A320, B737, B757/767, B777, and B747. Every one of those took approximately six to eight weeks to complete.

Airline training is hard. I find that my non-pilot friends and family think that the simulator sounds fun, like a really deluxe video game.

I’ve resorted to telling them: “Imagine going to work and having everything that could possibly go wrong with your day occur, non-stop, for four hours. All the while you’re being evaluated by an instructor pointing out in painful detail even the smallest thing that was less than perfect. And for five days a week for four weeks.”

This has helped them realize my job is not all fun layovers and interesting destinations.

Ultimately, I love my job. It’s challenging, fun, a non-stop learning experience, and incredibly satisfying. That said, the statistics on women pilots frustrate me. Recent data shows that only about seven percent of all pilots are women. Only six percent of airline pilots are women.

My airline is closely in-line with that. United has over 13,000 pilots, and about 750 of them are women. I’ve been told that less than a third of the women there are captains. So I know I joined a very small and exclusive club when I passed that check ride in early April.

However, I also know that the image of a pilot as a cocky white man is changing as well. In mid-April, after I finished my last training flight and was officially signed off as a full-fledged captain, I was walking through the terminal at LAX proudly sporting my four stripes, bigger wings, and elaborate hat. A four-year-old girl pointed at me and, at full volume, yelled, “Dad, is she our pilot? Is she taking us to Hawaii?”

She was excited and seemed not at all confused by her female pilot sighting. I’m not sure who was happier, me because I know that one day relatively soon seeing someone who looks like me in a pilot uniform will be normal, or her because of the plastic wings I pinned on her collar.



BY DONNA MILLER
International Careers Committee

MAGIC

And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it. — Roald Dahl

It's not hard to believe in magic if you are a pilot. I remember studying Newton's first law: an object in motion will stay in motion until acted on by a force; and Bernoulli's Principle: the increase in speed of a fluid (or air) occurs simultaneously with a decrease in pressure. Still, every time, even now when the wheels lift off the ground, I think there is just a little magic that happens, combined with Newton and Bernoulli, that lifts my airplane into the sky.

There are sunsets that you can see only from the vantage point of an airplane that are forever etched in your mind's eye, and rainbows that encircle the shadow of your airplane on a cloud. Of course there is a logical explanation, but sometimes it's just nicer to enjoy the breathtaking view and not think about the how.

In addition to believing in magic, it's sometimes also necessary to take a huge leap of faith. One pilot compared it to being on a trapeze and letting go, not yet seeing how her partner on the other trapeze bar would catch her. Leaving the financial stability of an

office job to become a flight instructor, hoping the timing is right to catch the wave of pilot hiring at her intended airline.

What if the timing is off, and you've already let go of the bar? How far do you fall before you feel the security of the safety net below? Or do you just trust yourself and your partners and let go, feeling the excitement and the magic as you sail off the bar, knowing that all is right with the universe and you will land exactly where you intended?

What I love about magic is that it is part of a plan that is greater than one I could have mapped out on my own. For example, I had just reached my goal to fly for a major airline when 9/11 changed the entire industry and my life as a pilot as I knew it. I was forced to see the world in a whole new way and consider opportunities I never would have thought of before. At the time, I saw them as part of survival, and now I look back and see the growth I experienced and wonder of those moments. I never would have had the courage (or reason) to leave my dream job to have those experiences.

This year, as you continue on your aviation journey, as you work on your next rating or your next flying job, enjoy the journey. All of it. The good and the bad, the joyous successes and the opportunity to grow and seek wisdom from disappointment. Find the magic wherever it is.

MILESTONES

Right, Elizabeth L'Heureux, Aloha Chapter, acs her instrument rating checkride.

Jennifer Andrew, Solo, Pikes Peak
Katie J. Clagg, Private ASEL, Paradise Coast
Karissa Davan, Private, Katahdin Wings
Amy Ehn, Private, Helicopter, Oregon Pines
Carrie Fosaaen, Instrument, Oregon Pines



Note: As room allows, we will publish Milestone photos. Please email a high resolution photo along with your Milestone information to news@ninety-nines.org

Catherine Hicks, Private, Bay Cities
Elizabeth L'Heureux, Instrument, Aloha
Sherry Ann Ketcham, Commercial, Colorado
Bekki Manville, Commercial, Pikes Peak
Jessica Meiris, Solo, Pikes Peak
Kathleen Ongena, Instrument, Tennessee
Debra Plymate, CFI, Oregon Pines
Rachel Sara Siddiqui, Instrument, Wisconsin
Rachel Siegel, Solo, Long Island
Betty Weidenhaft, CFI, Oregon Pines
Christeena Whitfield, Private, Oregon Pines
Cindy Woodworth, Private, Oregon Pines

GRASS ROOTS

Old Dominion Chapter

The Ninety-Nines Old Dominion Chapter participated in a Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Family Day at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center on March 9. The theme was Women in Aviation and Space and featured over 23 booths, speakers, and educational sessions for aviation and space enthusiasts of all ages. Over 11,345 adults and children attended the event.

The Ninety-Nines Old Dominion Chapter's booth was nestled between the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird and WWII exhibit. Participants were able to absorb the history of aviation while partaking in activities at The Ninety-Nines interactive station. The activities included three state-of-the-art flight simulators provided by the Smithsonian, a Washington Sectional Chart display, a remote-controlled Cessna 172 airplane used to demonstrate flight control surfaces, and a rug where the kids could sit and learn the phonetic alphabet.

The goal of the multiple stations was to ensure participants walked away with a basic knowledge of how pilots operate the flight controls of an airplane and the corresponding movements of each control surface. Each child that visited the booth flew a supervised simulated visual approach to runway 1R at KIAD.

Old Dominion Chapter members who supported the event included Sue Passmore, Barb Wilper, Judy Shaw, Morgen Reeb, Abby Welch, Debbie Gallaway, Barb Gruber and future Ninety-Nines member Eleanor Brunzman and her mom Lori Brunzman.

— Abby Welch and Debbie Gallaway



Above, from left, Old Dominion volunteers Lori Brunzman, Eleanor Brunzman, Sue Passmore, Abby Welch, Morgen Reeb, Judy Shaw, Barb Wilper, and Debbie Gallaway. Not shown, Barb Gruber.



Right, a young visitor at the XPlane simulator.



Participating in the AERO Oklahoma Aviation and Aerospace Advocacy Day are, from left, MWP curator Jennifer Lynch, Angela Drabek, Phyl Howard, Gail Foote, Leona McGee and Dawn Mills.

— Report and photo by Angela Drabek

Oklahoma Chapter

The Oklahoma Chapter and the Museum of Women Pilots had side-by-side displays on March 19 at the AERO Oklahoma Aviation and Aerospace Advocacy Day hosted by the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission. The event was held on all four floors of the state capitol rotunda. Over 80 exhibitors participated to promote the impact that aviation and aerospace have as the second largest industry in Oklahoma.

Participating were Jennifer Lynch, curator of the Museum of Women Pilots, and Chapter members Ashley Benton, Angela Drabek, Gail Foote, Phyl Howard, Leona McGee, Dawn Mills, Elaine Regier, Carol Sokatch and Wyvema Startz.

Los Angeles Chapter

In Celebration of the 44th International Women's Day, Air France sent 44 women on two all-female flight crews from Paris, France, on an Airbus 380 and a Boeing 777 from Papeete, Tahiti, to LAX. The Los Angeles 99s greeted the two crews at LAX on March 8 and hosted a day of activities, organized by Chapter Vice Chair Vanessa Gibson, at the Santa Monica Airport the next day.

After a brunch at the crew's hotel, a bus took the Air France crews to Santa Monica Airport, where the LA 99s gave a tour of Pilot Outfitters, Barker Hangar, and the airfield. The Museum of Flying hosted the women for a presentation of a beautiful film, *Night Flights*, posted on the Aviation101 YouTube channel, and a talk by Christine Debouzy, captain of the Air France flight from Paris to LAX. Back home in France, Christine is President of the Association Française des Femmes Pilotes.

We closed out the day with some hors d'oeuvres at Spitfire Grill. It was great to have our student pilots meet women with careers in the industry and for the Air France crews to see the place where women broke through some of the early barriers in aviation. The French crew invited us to visit the Femmes Pilotes in Paris, soon!

— Kate Scott



Los Angeles 99s welcome several of the 44 women on two all-female flight crews from Paris, France. They flew on an Airbus 380 and a Boeing 777 from Papeete, Tahiti, to LAX. The flights were in celebration of the 44th International Women's Day.



Left, Santa Barbara Chapter member Anna Ramirez demonstrates how to use the Red Bird simulator.

Below, members enjoy a "fireside aviation chat" at the home of Tanis Hammond and her husband Seth Hammond.



Santa Barbara Chapter

The Santa Barbara 99s hosted a few fun, educational meetings and events over the past several months.

We took a spin in the Red Bird simulator at the local flight school, Above All Aviation. Gratitude to member Emma Sullivan's husband, Shawn, who owns Above All, for donating the Red Bird, and to member Anna Ramirez, who gave her time teaching us how to use it.

One of our members, Tanis Hammond, and her husband, Seth Hammond, hosted an evening dinner and "fireside chat," providing us with wonderful insight into their family's aviation history that is closely tied to the very foundation of aviation industry's beginnings, including Charles Lindbergh and The Spirit Of St. Louis, Amelia Earhart, Northrop Grumman, Pratt & Whitney, Howard Hughes, Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan, Earle Ovington, Glenn Martin of Lockheed Martin, and up to the present.

It was such a privilege to be a part of this evening. Great laughs and great stories were had by all!

Chapter members Captain Karen Kahn, Michelle Leiphardt and Cassandra Reed attended the Aviation Career educational event at Signature Flight Support FBO at Santa Barbara Municipal Airport (SBA).

Good times!

— Cassandra Anne Ilich Reed

GRASS ROOTS

Bay Cities

February and March have been full of activities, events and celebration. March saw our Chapter celebrating its 87th Anniversary, and we had successful Winging Parties to Half Moon Bay and Watsonville to enjoy lunch with members from several Chapters in the Southwest Section.

Oakland Aviation Museum again generously allowed us to use their space to present our 4th STEM event for local Girl Scouts. Chapter members volunteered to present on Math, Science, Communication, History and Careers in Aviation.

— Christine Malcomson-Young



Girls Scouts enjoy a STEM event at the Oakland Aviation Museum. Bay Cities Chapter members participating were Christine Oksas, Amber Gray, Judy Barron, Deb Begley, Sarah Bottom, Erin Johnston, Renee Sandell, Donneisha Smith and Louise Franco (pictured in the back row and center front in that order).

Orange County

Members of the Orange County Chapter recently attended a performance of *Come from Away*. This inspired musical drew from events following 9/11 when airliners were diverted to Gander, Newfoundland, after the grounding of all air traffic in the United States for five days.

Gander, a small town, possessed a large airport, once a much-used refueling stop before airliners had the capacity to

fly directly to Europe. The musical features a fairly small cast, with each person portraying several roles. One major character portrays Ninety-Nine Beverley Bass, captain of an American Airlines jet at the time. Her plane is representative of those seeking refuge until the flight restrictions were lifted.

The residents of Gander must scramble to find food, accommodations, and other supplies for the stranded passengers and their pets.

Each of us had varying memories of where we had been on 9/11, and the musical allowed us to remember that day and those that followed by concentrating on the people of Gander, their kindness, and generosity.

Beverley Bass was the featured speaker at the International Conference last year in San Antonio, Texas, where she shared her experiences of Gander, Newfoundland, during the terror of September 11, 2001.

— Shirley McFall



Attending "Come from Away," from left, front row: Linda Abrams, Trish Magdaleno, Sanjal Gavande, Lena Wilson, Becky Valdez, Virginia Harmer, Diane Myers. Middle Row: Irene Engard. Back Row: Shirley McFall, guest, Diane Titterington-Machado, Maddy Mearsch, and guests.

Treasure Coast Chapter

The Treasure Coast Ninety-Nines hosted Girl Scouts Aviation Day at the EAA #203 Hangar at North County Airport on March 23. Ruth Jacobs, Debby Artman and Kaye Ebelt worked together to plan and implement a great program for the scouts. Debby signed up all the girls and their leaders and kept them going in the right directions, while Kaye developed the courses. Members of EAA cleared the hangar and set up tables, chairs and banners for the event.

Thirty-four girls attended to take six different classes on aviation and get a little time on the simulator. Female pilots Sarah Wendt, Michelle Abelman, Jennifer Clarke, Lisa Drew, Laurene McEneny, Jesse Kruse, Erica Koehler, Ashlyn Molinaro, Katie Campbell, Hoa Doa and Sarah Squires instructed them in different facets of aviation.

We so appreciated the Treasure Coast members and ATP instructors and students supporting us with their fun and love of aviation. Marcy Lannon and Terrie Riggs provided the transportation for the girls from hangar to Platinum. Jody Smith took awesome pictures for lasting memories. Platinum Aviation's Eric Arens gave instruction in the sim and promised those who did not get time could arrange to come back for their sim time.

At lunch, the girls were treated with historical aviatrixes Jackie Cochran (Kaye Ebelt) and Amelia Earhart (Anita Mixon, Treasure Coast Chairman) making an appearance and giving the girls a little history of women pilots. Eleven-year-old Ava Shelly also talked to the girls about her 14 hours of flight time. She has a great future ahead in aviation.

Lisa had her airplane, Gypsy, onsite for the girls to touch and feel.

The girls all received an award certificate with a Girl Scout Badge for Aviation. As they received their certificate, a picture was taken of them with Ruth and Debby and then they walked the line of 99s getting high fives all the way and picked up a backpack goodie bag at the end, many of them wearing their special t-shirt.

We felt we were successful because the girls were interested and



Katie Campbell gives some flying tips to a Girl Scout.

had great parting comments about what they had learned that day. I think all of the instructors at the Girl Scout Aviation Day can be proud of how much they shared their knowledge and taught these girls about aviation.

We felt we were successful because the girls were interested and had great parting comments about what they had learned that day, including:

Learned: How an airplane works, how to fly it, what the instrument panel means

Ah Hah Moment: Only one person steers at a time

Question: What if two people used controls at same time?

Learned: Airplanes have many gadgets and knobs. The circular things mean multiple things, like speed or altitude. Aerodynamics is flow of the air around an object. Simulators may be used before somebody learns to fly a plane.

Ah Hah: Thrust and drag are what make airplanes fly. There are many types of airplane related jobs.

— Ruth Jacobs



Wisconsin Chapter

On March 16, the Wisconsin Chapter 99s packed boxes for the Hunger Task Force in Milwaukee. These boxes provide food to low-income senior citizens in the community.

— Laurie Probst

Wisconsin Chapter members gathered to help the hungry. From left, front row: Maria Lamia, Thomas Probst, Laurie Probst, Kryss Brown, Sara Siddiqui, Darcy Kulesha

Back Row: David Ross, Kathy Lester-Ross, Megan Anderson, Cindy Schroeder, Dee Becker, Julie Hartlaub, guest (Sam), and Hunger Task Force Coordinator Ken Kulesha.

GRASS ROOTS



*Membership Chair
Ashleigh Lopes, right,
gives Jennifer Andrew her
Chapter welcome packet.*

*Jessica Meiris
(left) also receives her
Chapter welcome packet
from Ashleigh.*



Pikes Peak Chapter

Our growing and very active Chapter has an ambitious agenda of events in the works for 2019.

We continue to open our doors and welcome new women aviators. We've just begun offering PPL and Instrument Study sessions the first and third Sundays of the month, organized by Jes Meiris and Jennifer Andrew. Both are new members and are dedicated to helping other student pilots in the Chapter succeed.

We continue to hold a "mentoring" session 30 minutes prior to each monthly business meeting, which allows the women to share and learn from each other's flights and experiences.

Our recent programs have included presentations from the Pikes Peak Soaring Society (PPSS), a chapter of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Civil Air Patrol - Pikes Peak Senior Squadron, and an update from the Airport Advisory Commission Chairman presenting KCOS airport.

The Chapter recently switched our operations to G Suite so we can maintain continuity when our officers and committee chairs swap out. We now have committee emails so that organizations we coordinate with outside of the Chapter will always have a consistent way to contact the correct committee chair. We're also in the process of redesigning our Pikes Peak 99s logo. We're busy, and pleased with our prospects.

— Sarah Byrn Rickman

Tennessee Chapter

The Tennessee Chapter held an incredible opportunity to change someone's life by introducing aviation to a group of young girls by hosting Girls Fly 2 for ages 8 to 16 at the Knoxville Downtown Island Airport.

Several stations were set up to educate, excite and perhaps even ignite a young girl's life to a future in aviation. A pre-flight station was conducted by Corinne Beckham and Lee Stallings using both a high wing and low wing airplane.

The environment around an airport, runway procedures and much more were discussed by Karen Hughes and her husband Nelson Collins. Building you own airplane was the topic for Nancy Dougherty and her husband Bob, along with Judy Wayman and her husband Sam Robinson. Both couples brought their experimental airplanes and shared with the group the long and tedious building process.

Pilot talk over the radio, the alphabet lingo used by pilots and ATC procedures was taught by Jordan Cantrell and a female ATC from TYS. Various careers available to women in the field of aviation were discussed by Nancy McGinnis.

A tour of the Downtown Island Airport, the FBO, flight school, maintenance hangar, RAM hangar and the Knox County Sheriff's hangar was given by Kim Smith and Maily Tran. Aviation Navigation



The Tennessee Chapter prepares for a special Girls Fly 2 day at the Knoxville Downtown Island Airport.

regarding the use of paper and digital charts, calculations of fuel, time and distance along with all aspects of planning those exciting cross country trips was conducted by Kathleen Ongena (Jones). The Knoxville News included this amazing event on their evening news! Hopefully we gave these girls and their parents an experience they will never forget and may have some future 99s!

— Melisa Grissom

GRASS ROOTS



From left: Treasurer Janet Miller, Jana Kincaid, earliest member Janet Green, President Maryke Houben, Secretary Kellie McInvale, and Shelia Willis.

Mississippi Chapter

Five members of the Mississippi Chapter made their annual trip to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, to visit with their oldest and earliest member, Janet Green.

In Janet's life of 90-plus years, she has acquired over 3,000 hours in her pilot logbook. She shared her photo albums, newspaper articles, and her interesting stories from her many years of flying experience that she executed many times wearing a dress and pearls. She has a gracious grit and a contagious zest for life and adventure.

Janet has always been an active and involved member of The 99s and has a long list of positions held. She served in all Chapter positions, as well as Section Governor, International Treasurer, International Secretary, International Vice-President and International President 1980-81.

— Maryke Houben

Indiana Dunes Chapter

The Chapter holiday luncheon was held in mid-December at the LaPorte Briar Leaf Golf Club in the Portofino Restaurant. Eight members and three guests attended.

On February 16, seven members and four guests gathered at Griffith Airport for a Fly-in Galentine's lunch. After the meeting, run by Chair Margaret Wint, members shared flying experiences with the guests.

Plans are being made to fly to Purdue University KLAJ on April 20 for our annual business meeting and have lunch with two of our members, aerospace student April Schott and Nicoletta Fala, who will receive her Ph.D. soon. Emily will update us on the AE Aerospace Summit at PU set for September 20-22.

— Diana Austin



Seven members and four guests gathered at Griffith Airport for a Fly-in Galentine's lunch.



Appalachian Aviatrixes Chapter

The Appalachian Aviatrixes Chapter welcomed two new members at the February meeting. Plans were underway for the annual Girl Scout Fun Patch Day on April 27. Featured presenters included airline pilots, corporate pilot, CFI, preflight, CAP and TSA.

This year the Aviation Celebration fundraiser is scheduled for May 29-June 2. The Commemorative Airforce Air Power History Tour is the featured event at KTRI. Fifi, the B-29, along with a B24, C45, Stearman and Mustang, arrive on Memorial Day. Rides are available in all the aircraft beginning May 29.

—Janice Pelletti

Appalachian Aviatrixes welcome new members with the Appalachian Aviatrix scarf. From left, Meagan Harr, Lorianne Carver, Janice Pelletti, Molly Van Scoy and Pam Phillips.

GRASS ROOTS

Long Island Chapter

Our February meeting was via telephone conference call. Student pilots Rachel Siegel and Stefanie Haining called in to join Chapter Chairman Nancy Neumann, Secretary-Treasurer Jill Hopfenmuller and Patricia Rockwell. Also participating in the call was Rachael's mom, Jennifer Siegel.

Stefanie is a new student pilot and a new 99. She is taking her flight lessons at Republic Airport with a private instructor, an airline pilot who instructs independently part-time.

Rachel attended Embry-Riddle Academy in Florida last summer and completed the Solo Camp, at which time she made her first solo flight with all the nervousness that usually accompanies any first solo. She flew a Cessna 172 Skyhawk outfitted with Garmin G1000. Prior to soloing, many hours were spent attending ground school. Among other subjects, a presentation was given on hypoxia awareness, at which time she and the class spent some time in the Riddle's hypoxia chamber.

After returning to Long Island, Rachel attended a program at the Cradle of Aviation, which was open to high school students. The program is part of the STEM initiative, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Chapter member Janie Frazier became engaged to Cliff Daly in front of his newly-restored Citabria, which he deliberately stopped on the taxiway at Brookhaven Airport. After they exited to check

Student pilot Rachel Siegel finishes her first solo with a big smile.



on "something," he popped the question in front of the plane that Janie had helped him restore. "Yes" was her reply. Congratulations to both Janie and Cliff. [See photo on cover and story on page 8.]

Long Island Chapter member Patricia Ohlsson advised us she is a candidate for Trustee of The 99s Endowment Fund. The Fund has over one million dollars, and only the interest is available for use on 99 projects.

Jill Hopfenmuller attended a program about the Women Airforce Service Pilots presented by Bruce Kagan, who focused on the WASP book of songs. They made up new words to popular music that fit their life as WASP. As part of the presentation, Kagan played the flute and had a sing-along to the words of three of the WASP songs.

— Patricia J Rockwell

Books



*By Jacqueline Boyd
Book Review Editor*

Private-Airplane Passenger Safety What You Need To Know

We are entering a time of year when many 99s Chapters begin working on pinch-hitter courses, reluctant-pilot courses or whatever courses might be available to help those passengers, non-flying spouses or others who aren't comfortable going up in a small aircraft.

Author: John O. Graybill
Publisher: Hand-Eye-Man Entertainment, LLC, 6436 Del Paso Ave., San Diego, CA 92120
ISBN: 978-0-9997076-3-0 Hardcover

John Graybill, the husband of San Diego Chapter 99 Adrien Kotner, has written a thought-provoking book that takes a rather unique approach to this situation. John is an FAA Designated Master Pilot, Commercial pilot, and CFI.

From the back-cover of his book: "In Private-Airplane Passenger Safety, Graybill alerts passengers to pilot actions, behaviors, and attitudes that could lead to a crash, personal injury or worse. Passengers will learn how to quickly and easily identify unsafe behaviors of their pilot and to know if the pilot is being as safe as possible.

"The author's simple red-flag and yellow-flag system calls out common pilot actions to help evaluate and recognize the subtle, little-noticed behaviors and attitudes of pilots that, gone unnoticed, could lead to dangerous problems."

It's worth checking out.



LETTERS

Terrific T-Shirts!

The St. Croix Island Paradise Chapter should get an award for the most attractive Chapter T-shirt! Makes me want to join their Chapter from here in cold, snowy Ohio. Nice job ladies.

— Jane McIntire, Scioto Valley Chapter

Amelia: The Inspiration

Last year I wrote an entire essay on Amelia Earhart. My passion grew for her immediately. I loved her bravery, daringness and willing to break boundaries. I just love how she broke records, and showed men that women can do almost anything that men can do!! But most of all that she inspired The Ninety-Nines, which grew from 15 to 40 and all the way to "99" and much, much bigger!

She also inspired me to be the best I can be. And that I can do anything that people think girls can't do!

— Anna Hartley Marrow



NEW HORIZONS

This space is dedicated to our members and 49½s who have passed on to New Horizons. We will miss them, and thank these 99s for all their contributions to our organization. Our members who recently flew to New Horizons were:

Jerrie Cobb, March 18, 2018,
Member at Large

Thelma Jean Cull, November 3, 2018,
Sutter Buttes Chapter

Mary Frances (Bunny) Foley, April 20, 2019,
Aux Plaines Chapter

Kristine James and 49½ Dick James, November 17, 2018,
Sacramento Valley Chapter

Bettye L. Lissant, December 26, 2018,
St. Louis Chapter

Marie McMillan, March 24, 2019,
Las Vegas Valley Chapter

Patrica McCarstle Ward, April 17, 2018,
Ambassador Chapter

Dorothy Wetherald Rungeling, February 17, 2018,
First Canadian Chapter

For obituaries, please submit only the name, date of death and Chapter. Notices of 49½s will be listed similarly. The full obituaries and photos are now posted on The Ninety-Nines website. To submit an extended obituary, please submit a personal write-up and not a copy or a link to an online obituary. To read the full obituaries, go to www.ninety-nines.org/new-horizons.htm.

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Our most recently enlisted Friends of The 99s

Monica Barletta, Piracicaba, San Paulo, Brazil
Yvonne Berecz, Bradenton, FL
Shawn Blaesing, Ames, IA
Kendall Burnley, Los Angeles, CA
Megan Cosklo, Carbondale, PA
Thomas DiCesare, Lakeland, FL
Anthony Gilson, Lakewood, CO
Michael Ham, Indianapolis, IN
Brad Haynes, Dallas, GA
Scott Livingston, Greeley, CO
Angela Moore, Fort Worth, TX
Kaleb Timberlake, Eagle, CO
Michaela Toronto, Los Angeles, CA
Brad Ubelhor, Farmington, MN
Haven Wilgus, St. Petersburg, FL
Raelynn Wood, Blairsville, GA



Capt. Brian Schiff was one of the pilots in the lead airplane of a group of 31 planes that flew from Israel to Jordan in "Operation Peace Flight"—the first ever aircraft to take off in one of these countries and land in the other.
Wings Credit



All pilots and aviation enthusiasts are invited to attend this special evening at Oshkosh with guest speaker Brian Schiff

**Tuesday, July 23, 2019 • 6PM
Wittman Terminal Building**

Pre-register & pay by July 17, 2019

Credit card only

Early-birds pay \$42 through July 1
\$50 thereafter

Register at: www.99sOshkoshdinner.com

Email: 99sOshkoshdinner@ninety-nines.org

The Ninety-Nines *Karen Johnson* **Solo Scholarship**

For young women who want to learn to fly

- **A \$3,000 Scholarship**
- **For flight training through first solo and beyond**
- **Application deadline: July 1, 2019**

The Ninety-Nines will award a \$3,000 Karen Johnson Solo Scholarship to provide a young woman (age 16-20 at any time during the 2019 calendar year) with financial support for flight training through her first solo and beyond. In addition, the winner will receive:

- a Lightspeed Aviation Zulu 3 ANR aviation headset
- a King Schools flight training course
- a set of Barry Schiff aviation books (autographed)

The Ninety-Nines will award the scholarship at the Aviation Appreciation Dinner at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, WI on July 23, 2019.
www.99soshkoshdinner.com

For applications, FAQs, additional info and complete scholarship rules:
www.kjsoloscholarship.com

