



Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929

July/August 2019



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The 99s will celebrate its 90th anniversary on November 2. On this date in 1929, 117 U.S. women pilots were invited to assemble at Curtiss Field in Valley Stream, Long Island, New York, to provide mutual support and advance aviation. Ninety-nine women pilots became charter members.

The China Section invites all 99s to their first Section Conference to be held on November 6-10 in Chengdu, the hub of Southwestern China.

From from left, Wenyu Fu and Ida Zhang. Back row, Sherry Shi, a friend of 99s, Vivian Poon, Saki Chen, and Fay Wu.



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In honor of Memorial Day, members of the St. Croix Island Paradise Chapter took part in changing of flags at the Kingshill Veterans Cemetery. From left, SCIPC member Ronda Campbell, mentee Vivia Lionice Webster, and SCIPC member Amanda Burton.



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On The Cover

The ceilings may have been low, but the spirits of the Air Race Classic teams were high. See page 10.

Photo by Cynthia Lee



The Air Race Classic dates back 90 years to 1929 when it was known as the Women's Air Derby (aka the Powder Puff Derby). Twenty female pilots raced competitively, (19 finished), including Amelia Earhart. This year there were over 100 female racers.



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This year, the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Trustees awarded 25 Amelia Earhart Flight Training, Academic and Vicki Cruse Emergency Maneuver Training Scholarships. Delighted to receive an Academic Scholarship is Annelie Hubinette, a member of the San Fernando Valley Chapter.

In June, six Ninety-Nines traveled to South Africa for a self-fly safari. It was on Mary Build's Bucket List, and fellow Katahdin Wings members Jenny Jorgensen and Brenda Thibodeau decided to join the adventure, along with 99s Olga Mitchell, Teresa Camp, and Denise Robinson.



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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

AUGUST

- 22-26 Northwest Section Fall Meeting**, Richland, Washington. Hosted by Mid-Columbia, Cascade, Crater Lake Flyers Chapters. Contact: Marjy Leggett.
- 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.

SEPTEMBER

- 13-15 North Central Section Fall Meeting**, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- 13-15 West Canada Section Fall Meeting**, Vernon, British Columbia, Canada.
- 20-21 Forest of Friendship Celebration: Discovery Through Flight**, Atchison, Kansas. September 20: 5 p.m., Cocktail Party and Reception at AE Birthplace Museum.

Mindful Adventures for
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2019 Exciting NEW Flight Adventures

- **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

September 21: Noon, luncheon with Keynote Speaker at Elizabeth's restaurant; 2:30-4:30 p.m., Induction Ceremony at Forest of Friendship; 6-9 p.m., Dinner and Hangar Dance at AE Airport. For more information visit www.ifof.org for schedule of events and registration.

OCTOBER

- 3-5 Southwest Section Fall Meeting**, San Luis Obispo, California.
- 4 Southeast Section Fall Meeting**, Greensboro, North Carolina.
- 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. Go to www.ninety-nines.org/anniversary.htm for details.
- 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 PPLI Deadline, Spring Session.** 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.

FEBRUARY

- 28-29 Spring International Board of Directors Meeting**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Contact HQ for more information at info@ninety-nines.org or 844-994-1929.

JULY

- 8-12 2020 International Conference and Business Meeting, Long Beach, California.** Hosted by the Southwest Section.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Were you in Dayton on July 9-14? If you were, you enjoyed dinner “under the wings” at the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world, with more than 360 aircraft and missiles on display.

The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force was our setting for the 2019 International Conference and Career Expo Welcome Reception, and the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Banquet. During the days of the Conference, we enjoyed many aviation seminars and networking opportunities, including three keynote speakers, one of whom was the first woman to pilot a F-35 Joint Strike Fighter jet.



On behalf of The Ninety-Nines, President Jan McKenzie accepts the National Aeronautic Association's Henderson Trophy from Greg Principato, president of the association, at the Awards Banquet. — Photo by Jeneanne Visser

contribution to the promotion and advancement of aviation and aerospace in the United States.” It is a great honor for all 6,000-plus of us to receive this distinguished award. The next time you are at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, look for our name on the trophy.

Thank you, North Central Section, for an enjoyable, productive, and fun Conference!

Dayton was a great location for pilots to visit the Wright Brothers' home, the Wright “B” Flyer hangar and museum, the WACO Air Museum, and so much more. We thank Chairs Minnetta Gardinier, Debra Henrichs, and Paula Rumbaugh and their committee for a very successful Conference.

A special thanks goes to Brittni Latos and Terry Carbonell for our second successful Career Expo. A very impressive set of airlines and aviation companies came to meet and interview our members and other pilots.

I also heard many compliments on our leadership event, L.I.F.T. A big thank you goes to Cathy Prudhomme for the excellent planning, leading, and execution of one of our best Conference events. Some of the comments suggested that every member would enjoy and benefit from attending it.

We topped off a very busy several days with The 99s receiving the National Aeronautic Association's Henderson Trophy at our Awards Banquet. The trophy is awarded to “...a living individual, group of individuals, or an organization whose vision, leadership or skill made a significant and lasting



Jan McKenzie
International President

***I hope to see
you at our 90th
Anniversary Gala
on November 2,
2019. Go to [www.
ninety-nines.org/
anniversary.htm](http://www.ninety-nines.org/anniversary.htm)
for details!***

**Stay cool during
these hot months.
Choose to Soar!
Choose to Fly Your Dreams!**



Welcome Reception at National Museum United States Air Force. Photo by Jeneanne Visser

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TOUCH & GO

Inspiration To Visit China

By Evelyn Liu, China Section

The China Section will hold its first 99s Section Conference on November 6-10 in Chengdu, the hub of Southwestern China, also well-known as the homeland of panda bears. All Ninety-Nines members and aviation friends are invited.

The Conference will be a part of this year's China International Aviation Festival, a five-day event featuring activities such as the Aviation Industrial Forum where business leaders and aviation experts meet to discuss various industry issues and opportunities. Distinguished women aviators from around the world will be invited to share their flying stories with young Chinese girls at the Swam Talk Forum.

From general aviation to the aerospace industry, China has experienced huge growth and expansion in the past 20 years. There is no sign of it slowing down. At the China Section Conference, you will meet people in the very center of this change and growth, learn about all aspects of aviation in China, network if you are looking for business or career opportunities, connect with China Section 99s, and inspire future aviators.

Besides the Conference and Fair, you will have the option to visit other parts of China. Side trips to the National Park of the Panda Bears outside of Chengdu, the Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an, and the Great Wall and Forbidden City in Beijing, will be arranged for those who are interested. Flying over the Great Wall in a small plane, a special and unique experience, may also be a possibility (weather and airspace permitting).

To inspire more girls and women in China to reach for the sky, we hope you will consider joining us. Sichuan Airlines (3U), a major sponsor of China 99s Conference, has agreed to provide members of The 99s and WAI traveling from Los Angeles to Chengdu (CTU) free round-trip tickets on 3U's flights (guests will be responsible only for government fees and airport departure taxes).

For more details, please email us at: China99s@qq.com.



Looking forward to welcoming 99s to the China Section's first Section Conference are, from left, front row, Ida Zhang, first Governor of the China Section; Saki Chen, current Governor; back row, from left: Vivian Poon; Wenyu Fu, current Vice Governor; and Fay Wu.



First Meeting of The Ninety-Nines, November 2, 1929.

The 99s Turn 90 On November 2

by Cathy Prudhomme, Ninety-Nines International Secretary



In 1929, there were more than 9,000 pilots in the United States, but only 117 of them were women. That year, for the first time, women pilots were finally granted access to air racing, with 20 pilots competing in the first transcontinental Air Derby from Santa Monica to Cleveland — but only in aircraft with horsepower deemed “appropriate for a woman.” Perhaps it was during this nine-day race that the idea of forming an organization to provide support for women pilots took root.

That November, 117 U.S. women pilots were invited to assemble at Curtiss Field in Valley Stream, Long Island, New York, to provide “mutual support, advance aviation, and maintain historical records on women in aviation” — three goals that guide us to this day.

Louise Thaden, the winner of that first women’s Air Derby, was elected secretary and worked to keep the group together. In 1931, Amelia Earhart was elected the first president, and the group named themselves “The Ninety-Nines” to represent the 99 charter members.

November 2, 2019 marks the 90th anniversary of our founding. Now more than 6,000 members strong, we have spread our wings around the globe, with 156 Chapters in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, New Zealand, and the Middle East.

Every member is a pilot or student pilot, and we represent all facets of aviation — commercial pilots, flight instructors, military pilots, helicopter pilots, balloon pilots, aerobatic pilots, astronauts, and “for-the-fun-of-it” pilots.

In fulfillment of our mission to honor the history of women in aviation, The Ninety-Nines, Inc. owns two museums, the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum in Atchison, Kansas, and the Museum of Women Pilots located in our Headquarters Building at Will Rogers Airport in Oklahoma City.

Each year, the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to members who are pursuing advanced ratings, completing their initial training, or conducting academic research in an aviation field. We have recently launched an introductory flight program, Let’s Fly Now!, to encourage flight training for both young people and adults. Our annual International Conference and Career Expo includes a hiring fair, educational seminars, inspirational speakers, an opportunity to explore an interesting locale, and lots of hangar flying. We have many accomplishments to celebrate!

Chapters and Sections are encouraged to publicize our 90th Anniversary in their communities whenever a Ninety-Nines event is held. We will also celebrate our anniversary at our Oklahoma City Headquarters. All members, Friends of The Ninety-Nines, and guests are invited to an Anniversary Celebration at 6 p.m. on Saturday, November 2, at our Headquarters in Oklahoma City.

The 90th Anniversary provides the perfect opportunity to visit Headquarters, tour the Museum of Women Pilots, and attend a meeting of the International Board of Directors. Consult the homepage, www.ninetynines.org, for information on reserving your spot.

HOLDING SHORT

Scholarship Winners!

Missy Martin Montana Chapter

Melissa (Missy) Martin of Polaris, Montana, was awarded the 4th annual Martha King Scholarship for Female Flight Instructors during the annual Women in Aviation International Conference in Long Beach, California. This scholarship consists of \$5,000 toward an initial CFI certificate or an add-on rating and free, lifetime access to all King Schools courses, including FIRC's for life. The total value is over \$18,000.

Missy is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. She was an Air Force Missileer, Air Force Reserve Navigator and is currently a C-130 pilot for the Montana Air National Guard. She loves flying the back country of Montana in her Husky. Very recently she was diagnosed with breast cancer and has been undergoing treatments while flying under BasicMed.



Emily Wishard, Minnesota Chapter

The Minnesota 99s Chapter is proud to announce that Emily Wishard is the winner of our 2019 scholarship for her private pilot flight training. Emily is training at Fleming Field, South St. Paul, Minnesota. We wish her blue skies and great success as she moves forward with her flight training.

Soloing at 16!

Louanne Stenger, member of the Austin Hill Country Chapter and instructor at Stenger Air Service located at Lockhart Municipal Airport, recently soloed 16-year-old Emily Elizabeth Mulva from Austin, Texas. Besides aviation, Emily is interested in singing and engineering.

With a beaming smile, right, Emily shows her excitement of completing her solo in the Piper Tomahawk N91372.



Confidence

By Italian Section Governor Ciara O'Toole

In the lead-up to my first long solo navigation before I sat for my PPL exam, I was pretty anxious. The flight consisted of flying from Weston Airport in Dublin, which is very close to both Dublin International Airport and Baldonnel Airport, Ireland's principal military airport, then to Shannon Airport in the West of Ireland, a designated alternate landing site for the space shuttle. I was training in a C152 to do a touch and go, then head to Galway Airport, do a full-stop landing, refuel, and head back to Weston.

I made many mistakes that day, including getting lost twice. I had nothing



Ciara O'Toole, Governor of the Italian Section.

with me other than my chart, plotter and manual calculator — no sat nav or iPad as a backup. When I finally made it back to Weston, I had become rather well known by ATC for many of the wrong reasons.

I felt like such a failure and momentarily questioned my sanity to be doing this in the first place. But, as time went on, I realised that this single day of flying probably taught me more about flying and my belief in myself than any other day in an aircraft had yet to do.

The knowledge that it was all up to me in the end gave me confidence rather than fear, and while I still sometimes think back to the day and shudder a little, it also often gives me a dart of confidence in myself at times when I need to draw on an inner strength and courage, in any area of my life.

Memorial Day Activities in Paradise

In honor of the Memorial Day weekend activities, members of the St. Croix Island Paradise Chapter joined the American Legion Post 102, JROTC Cadets, and The Virgin Island Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Youth Aviation Club with changing of flags at the Kingshill Veterans Cemetery. Approximately 400 older flags are replaced annually with new flags. From left, mentee Vivia Lionice Webster with SCIPC members Denali Georges and Ronda Campbell.



99s Welcome New Control Tower



The British Columbia Coast Chapter attended the Grand Opening of the NavCanada Control Tower at Pitt Meadows Regional Airport (YPK). Ninety-Nine Cynthia Prescott, center, donated a plaque. She was accompanied by Ninety-Nine Marcia Strang, left, at its presentation to Tower Operations Supervisor Jason Berryman, right, on behalf of the GA community.

Old Dominion 99s at the Udvar-Hazy Museum for Innovations in Flight Family Day and Outdoor Aviation Display

On June 15, 2019, Barb Gruber and her team from the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum executed another fun day at the Udvar-Hazy Museum for Innovations in Flight Family Day and Outdoor Aviation Display. The Ninety-Nines participated in the activities offered to the museum visitors.

One of the highlights of this day is the General Aviation and

Military aircraft that arrive at Dulles Airport (KIAD), taxi to the museum and park on the ramp for visitors to explore. This year, Old Dominion 99s participated: Susan and Dave Passmore flew in with their Diamond DA62, and Abby Welch, a volunteer with the Flying Circus, flew with Joe Bender in the Flying Circus' Stearman. Sugarloaf Ninety-Nines also participated for their first year. Victoria Neville flew in on a gyrocopter, and Seth Van Lehn flew in with her Cessna 120.

Plenty of other activities were inside the museum for the

Photos, right, Victoria Neville flew in the Gyrocopter from Frederick (KFDD). It was a cold morning for a gyrocopter flight.

Below, Judy Shaw assists the pilot on the first simulator. Visitor instruction was provided on the flight simulators throughout the day and attracted many observers.



Photos by Sue Passmore



visitors. The Old Dominion Ninety-Nines used four of the museum's flight simulators to give visitors a chance to "fly." Debbie Gallaway, Judy Shaw, and Susan Passmore instructed the "pilots" to fly a final approach into one of Dulles airport runways. Museum aviation education staff and several United Airlines volunteers from various United departments helped with the flight simulators to ensure a fun experience for the visitors.

This is one of the museum's most popular annual events. Museum attendance for the day was an amazing 15,907 visitors.

Air Race Classic 2019



Air Race Classic Team 6, "Blondes Away," consisting of Alisa Cutting and her co-pilot, Treasure Coast Chapter member Sarah Wendt, make their high-speed fly-by in a 1946 North American Navion during the 2019 race.

Photos by Cynthia Lee

More Than 100 Female Pilots Race Over 2,200 NM

By Shannon Osborne, Greater New York Chapter

The Air Race Classic (ARC) dates back 90 years to 1929 when it was known as the Women's Air Derby (aka the Powder Puff Derby), when 20 female pilots raced competitively, including Amelia Earhart.

This year, that original number was expanded to over 100 female pilots who planned to race over 2,200 nm from the Jackson, Tennessee, starting point to Welland, Ontario, Canada. While the reasons for racing may vary, many do so to check off the experience from their bucket lists, while others do so to improve their aviation skills.

On the pilot ratings front, we find that the range also encompasses a wide spectrum, including private, instrument, commercial, and even CFI and CFII ratings.

Regardless of an individual's reason for racing, participants usually come away with memories and friendships that extend for many years after the event. That is why so many women pilots come back year after year.

The Terminus was in Canada at Niagara Central Airport, which was renamed Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport in 2015. It is the first Canadian Airport named after a female aviator. Dorothy Rungeling, a 99, was an

award-winning pilot from Fenwick, Ontario, who was born in 1911 and passed away in 2018. She was once known as "Canada's Flying Housewife" and is said to have opened many doors for women in aviation. She was one of the first Canadian 99s holding several officer positions throughout the years, including East Canada Section Governor for two terms. Her awards from The 99s include the Amelia Earhart Medallion in recognition of

her contribution to aviation over the years. Dorothy did not stop there with her accomplishments and made her mark in air racing for many years. This is why having Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport as the terminus of the 2019 Air Race Classic Terminus was so special for many of our female aviators participating in this exciting event.

The annual air race provides an opportunity for pilots to use their skills interpreting weather to know when to take off, when to wait, what altitudes to fly and just plain good decision making. This year was no different. The race officials had to use these skills at the start, as weather in Jackson, Tennessee, and between the first two legs was impossible to fly in VFR conditions, which is one of the rules of the race. During all this wait time, there were many smiles and excitement of the unknown ahead.

In addition to the weather, this year's route challenged the racers with border crossing into Canada and clearing customs.

After a four-hour delay, it was decided to eliminate the first two legs and create a new leg from Jackson to the third enroute stop, Bryant, Arkansas. This took a lot of coordination with the stops, now moving up the arrival of these 47 racers, but also flight planning for the racers. It was a hard decision for the officials, as they know how hard stops work preparing to receive the racers and the community there to greet them. The main factor in decisions is always safety of the racers, and this was no exception.

Just after noon, the racers began to take off in order. Those deciding to wait gave up their takeoff spot until all racers wanting to depart had done so. Within a couple hours, all racers had departed for Bryant, and the race began.

My personal main takeaway from the start was the abundance of good sportsmanship demonstrated and teamwork between the racers, volunteers and officials.

Congratulations to all the women who competed in this year's race! They flew a challenging race and finished safely.

It's not too early to start planning for the 2020 Air Race Classic that will start in Grand Forks, North Dakota (GFK), across 2,299 nm to the Terminus at Terre Haute, Indiana (KHUF).

Visit www.airraceclassic.org to learn more about air racing. We look forward to seeing many of you air racers at the next Air Race Classic in June 2020!



The Air Race Classic Terminus was in Canada at Niagara Central Airport. It was renamed Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport in 2015 in honor of Ninety-Nine Dorothy Rungeling, now deceased. It is the first Canadian airport named after a female aviator.

Above, the compass rose created by 99s in honor of Dorothy.



Top winners of the 2019 Air Race Classic. See next page for a list of the Top 10, and visit airraceclassic.org for full listing.

First Time Racers Feel A Part Of History



Alexis Meaders is greeted by 99-year-old Jeanette Geantil in Lee's Summit, Missouri (KLXT), during the Air Race Classic. Jeanette earned her pilot certificate in 1939 at Lambert Field (STL), Missouri. It has the distinction of being the first airport with an air traffic control system — although one that communicated with pilots via waving flags.

By Alexis Meaders, Memphis Chapter

This was the first race for Alexis Meaders and her co-pilot Sheila Smith, Spirit of Memphis, Classic Racer 1. Alexis provides an account of their experience.

The preparation for the race was quite daunting. It seemed like there was so much to do and so much information. However, when we arrived in Jackson, it was somewhat anticlimactic, as having worked through all the pre-prep, we sailed through the credentials process.

Our goals were to finish the race and not have any penalties. Our preparation paid off, as we accomplished both. Execution is only as good as the preparation, so I know we would not have done so well without preparing as much as we did.

My race partner, Sheila, was very detailed and ensured that we were able to get through all the credentials. I backed her up and reviewed everything, and I also focused on making

Top 10 ARC 2019 Winners

- 1st: Team 11: Corbi Bulluck & Stephanie Wrenn
- 2nd: Team 61: Caitlyn Miller & Kendall Higdon
- 3rd: Team 24: Jan Aarsheim & Elin-Mari Heggland
- 4th: Team 6: Ailsa Moseley Cutting & Sarah Wendt
- 5th: Team 44: Madison Bright, Rachel Chaput & Morgan Carney
- 6th: Team 22: Susan Carastro & Marie Carastro
- 7th: Team 99: Lara Gaerte & Donna Harris
- 8th: Team 29: Mickael Ashworth & Megan Shaffer
- 9th: Team 2: Susan Larson & Amy Ecclesine
- 10th: Team 19: JoAnne Alcorn & Gretchen Jahn

sure we were ready to fly the race. We did a dry run two weeks before, virtually flying the race in real-time based on the actual weather at the time. This was a good prep technique, as it helped us review the airspace and challenges leg by leg. It also made us think about the weather we were likely to face this time of year.

I think that as a first-time racer, a lot of the challenge is the unknown. The first leg was very daunting as the weather was not optimal. We knew that it was the most congested portion of the race, and everything we knew about how to do a flyby was what we had read and from briefings.

Once we had the first leg under our belt, it seemed easier. Our route was very interesting, and as we made it to our later stops, the flybys were more challenging, as well as the challenge of completing the border crossing VFR. It was nice to have knocked out the general experiences of racing before we hit some of those harder challenges.

Overall, the feeling I had after the race was of pride. I truly felt we had become a part of history. I felt proud to be a female aviator along with my fellow racers. I was very impressed by the caliber of the aviators in the race, including and especially the collegiate racers.

I know this is a memory and experience I will cherish for a lifetime, and I met so many wonderful women whom I hope to get to know better in the future. Aviation has always brought me joy, but what I truly love about it is always the people. The people are what made this experience amazing — all of them. The racers, the volunteers that put the race on every year, the volunteers at each stop and the people we met everywhere who welcomed us (like the manager at Perkins that gave us muffins in Fairmont, Minnesota).

I know that as time passes these memories will fade somewhat, but when I'm 99, I hope to be waiting at a stop to greet the 2067 Air Race Classic Racers. Unless I'm competing, of course.



BY DONNA
MILLER

*International
Careers
Committee*

We Are Unstoppable

Imagine showing up at the Boston Marathon knowing exactly how you will place, that you knew before you even stepped up to the start line that you would run an eight minute mile for 26.2 miles and place 134th in your age division. What would be the fun in that? What would be the point of even showing up?

Part of... no, most of, the joy is in the journey. The whole experience. Coming to the start line with butterflies in your stomach, sizing up the competition in the thousands of runners surrounding you. You start your watch when you cross the start line and get into your pace, while watching those around you settle into theirs. What happens after that is anyone's guess. You could run your best race or be slowed by physical pain that you didn't anticipate.

And so it is with us and flying. We put

ourselves through the wringer again and again in our careers. We reach for the next rating or plane or job. Sometimes we fall short and have to regroup to figure out what didn't go our way. We go back for a checkride year after year proving yet again that it wasn't a fluke, that we are qualified and competent to fly this aircraft. The sweetness comes from overcoming doubt and fear and triumphing over our own insecurities.

There are many reasons and even more excuses why student pilots don't finish their certificates. You've heard them: the cost of continued training, the time commitment, instructors that leave to take other jobs, or wanting to fly for the wrong reasons.

The list is long. For the ones who do complete their training, however, there is a newfound confidence. Doors open to more possibilities and flying opportunities. We are better people for having kept our commitment to ourselves and persevered. We see the world from a new perspective,

both literally and figuratively, and have learned from the experience of training what we need to do to continue to learn. It is expensive, it is challenging, and we often wonder if our resources would be better spent doing something else.

My mother used to say, "If it was easy, everyone would do it!" Pilots know that is true, and we press on.

Just like the marathoner halfway through the race, we look back at how far we have come and look ahead to how far we have to go. We reassess our energy and resources and plan our strategy for the long haul. For the ones who continue the journey, it may not look like the one we had mapped out for ourselves. We adjust accordingly.

And just like the runner having a medal placed around her neck at the finish, the joy is watching the examiner sign the certificate for that new rating or taking that next step up the ladder in our aviation journey. We have earned it.

MILESTONES

Rika Ballard, Commercial,
Connecticut

Alyssa Behrens, Private, Bay Cities

Vonda Benson, Private, Wisconsin

Kristina Clark, Instrument, Pikes Peak

Rachel Cuthrell, Private,
Treasure Coast

Lisa Doty, ATP, Placer Gold

Benedikta Unter Ecker, Ground
Instructor, Advanced Instrument,
Los Angeles

Amy Ehn, Private, Helicopter
Oregon Pines

Brianne Forman, Private, Minnesota

Lara Gaerte, CL60 PIC Type Rating
Checkride, North Central Section

Candyce Goudey, CFI, Intermountain

Skylar Hansrote, Private,
Treasure Coast

Abigail Harrison, Private, Minnesota

Abbie Kellett, CFI, Florida Heartland

Alicia Maher, Sport, Los Angeles

Lisa Mannina, Multi-Engine, NOLA

Jennifer Meiners, ATP, 1st Officer
SkyWest, Placer Gold

Tammy Meredith, Private, Placer Gold

Donna Miller, Boeing 787 Type
Rating, Colorado

Christine Oksas, Instrument,
Bay Cities

Ellen Quist, Instrument, Minnesota

Jessica Richardson, Multi-Engine
Commercial, Indiana Dunes

Jaimie Rousseau, Instrument, CFI,
Eastern New England

Liz Sommers, ATP Checkride, CRJ
Type Rating, Alameda County

Michele Sonier, Commercial Multi
add-on, NOLA

Jan Squillace, CFI-A, Kitty Hawk

Janie Thomas, Commercial,
Los Angeles

Hailey Truax, CFI, Reno High Sierra

Alison Yusov, Private,
Eastern New England

Beth White, Private,
Eastern New England

Colleen Whitehouse, CFI,
Old Dominion

*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.*

25 Ninety-Nines Awarded Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarships

By Jacqueline Boyd
Permanent Trustee and Chair, AEMSF

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Trustees are pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 Amelia Earhart Flight Training, Academic and Vicki Cruse Emergency Maneuver Training Scholarships.

We were able to award 25 scholarships worth \$191,078.98. You will notice I added the “pennies” on the award figure. There are scholarships advertised with a “valued at” caveat in the heading. One of the unique features of the AEMSF scholarships is that we award exactly what the applicant has requested in order to ensure they have what they need to finish their rating. We consider the area where the applicant will be training, i.e. we had one Instrument Rating that will cost \$5,346 and another in a different area of the country that will cost \$8,610. The exception to this is the “up to \$10,000” per year for the Academic and the new scholarship ceiling of \$20,000 for Flight Training and Technical Training, which will come into play for the 2020 applications.

We were also able to award an AEMSF Research Scholar Grant. Jenny Beatty, Wisconsin Chapter, will be a researcher and sponsor for research work by Rebecca Chute, a non-99. We anticipate the research outcome for this RSG will be ground-breaking and extremely important to add to the body of research concerning female airline pilots.

The acceptance emails from winners always remind us that



Photo: Everett Historical

the hard work of the Trust is truly appreciated. We would like to share Gabriella Ferra’s letter to the Trustees:

“I would like to start by expressing my sincere gratitude for this very generous award. I have applied for this scholarship in the past, and to be awarded it this year is extremely humbling. I am very excited to make good use out of these funds by continuing my flight training and working towards my dream of becoming a professional airline pilot.”

“This scholarship came at the most opportune time as I am just beginning training for a multiengine commercial add-on. This is the most expensive rating to train for at my flight school, and I truly would not be able to receive this instruction without The Ninety-Nines. After completion of multiengine training, I will move on to become a CFI so I can build up the required hours for a restricted ATP.”

“Thank you for choosing to fund the goals of a young woman who is working hard to make what were once dreams a reality. By helping me, your organization is helping all young women who have a passion for aviation and hope to follow a similar path.”

“My journey would not be the same without organizations such as The Ninety-Nines who support and empower women who are flourishing despite stereotypes and preconceptions made against them every day. Thank you for making this possible.”



ADVA AMIR • ACADEMIC, A.S. AVIATION

Washington D.C. Chapter (Israel), Mid-Atlantic Section

I am 25 years old, originally from Israel. After three years in the military, I was released, ranking as a Lieutenant, and decided I wanted to be a pilot. I was inspired when I realized there are not a lot of women pilots, and I wanted to change that. I knew it’s going to be challenging, but today, almost three years later and with 1,300 hours and lots of experiences, I have no doubt it was the best choice. Once I complete the Associate Degree, I’m planning to integrate into the airlines and to expose more women to the aviation industry.

LESLIANNE BANDY • INSTRUMENT

San Diego Chapter, Southwest Section

The Ninety-Nines and the San Diego Chapter have supported me since the beginning of my aviation journey, before I ever took my first flight lesson to my first solo and finally to passing my private pilot checkride last summer. With this scholarship, I will now be able to achieve my instrument rating and someday, my CFI certificate. Flying is not just a wild curiosity for me anymore, it's a way of life, it's a belief in myself and a world of impossibilities turning possible. Thank you, Ninety-Nines, I can't wait to pass on the belief!



MARI BARRATO MULTI-ENGINE COMMERCIAL

Fullerton (Brazil) Chapter, Southwest Section

My interest in aviation sparked while taking private pilot ground school lessons back in my native country of Brazil. After only a few classes, I decided to pursue a career as a pilot. An aeronautical degree, several check rides, certificate conversions, and many moves later, I am now a certified flight instructor in California working towards my goal of becoming an airline pilot. Obtaining my commercial multi-engine certificate will help me get closer to my requirements for the airline transport pilot certificate, as well as my dream job!



NOBI BUNTIN • MULTI-ENGINE COMMERCIAL

Aloha (Japan) Chapter, Southwest Section

I was seven when I first felt compelled to obtain a career in aviation. During long-haul flights, to rid myself of boredom, I pushed beverage carts down the aisles of 747s and offered drinks to fellow passengers. The incredible support from the AEMSf enables me to utilize my time as I acquire a multi-engine certificate while earning a degree at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. AEMSf has propelled me to the fast track, allowing me to earn my certificates efficiently and paving the road towards my goal of being a MedEvac.



JUDITH BURLESON • INSTRUMENT

Alabama Chapter, Southeast Section

I am a private pilot working on my instrument rating. Starting my aviation journey after 50, I understand the importance of maximizing the development of knowledge and skills. While training, I am flying with my granddaughters promoting aviation, assisting students with XC planning, knowledge exams and check ride prep. This all contributes to making me the best I can be. Thank you to The Ninety-Nines for making this possible with the AE Scholarship. I will continually sing your praises! I'm proof that with persistence, determination and impeccable training we can do this!



CLAUDIA CHILDS • MULTI-ENGINE RATING

Western New York Chapter, NY/NJ Section

I obtained my private pilot certificate, instrument rating and commercial certificate in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In 1982, I joined the Buffalo, New York Police Department and served for 25 years. I achieved many “firsts” for women in the department, including becoming the first female Inspector and first female Chief of Detectives. After retiring, I rekindled my passion with aviation, bought a Cessna 172 and became a CFI. In 2012, I formed Little Bird Airways, which specializes in flights such as skydiving, instruction, scenic airplane tours, aerial photography, airplane rental, and various piloting services.

JUNGYUEN CHOI • ATP-CTP

Florida Suncoast Chapter, Southeast Section

I’m happy to be able to call myself a pilot, which I didn’t dare dream of when I was in Korea. I started flying just two years ago, in April 2017, and now I’m a CFII/MEI working towards my ATP. The Ninety-Nines flying sisterhood and PPLI program keep me motivated toward my goal of earning a pilot spot at a major airline, aspiring for eventual captain, of course! I absolutely feel it’s my duty to share my passion, to encourage and inspire girls and women around the world who dream of flying across endless skies.



ABBY CROSS • ACADEMIC/B.S. AVIATION

Santa Maria Valley Chapter, Southwest Section

Trading my military experience for a career in aviation has been a dream come true, and I am truly honored to have been chosen for this scholarship. I am currently in the first third of instrument training at Maharaja Ganga Singh University (MGSU). After completing my flight training, I would like to work as a flight instructor, with a target goal of flying the B747 for Atlas Air. I am incredibly grateful to The Ninety-Nines, and I hope to make my Chapter proud. As a single mother, I hope to inspire other single parents, as well as my son, to follow their dreams.

ELIZABETH DE SWAAF • MULTI-ENGINE

Sleeping Giant Chapter, East Canada Section

I began my aviation career in 2004 flying seaplanes, namely Canada’s iconic bush plane, the de Havilland Beaver. Over the last 15 years, I have been very fortunate to have experienced so many fascinating people, places and challenging flying. As a flight instructor and seaplane trainer, I’ve been very pleased to share this background with students, both in class and in the air. I’m thrilled to be seeking a new career as an airline pilot – diving headfirst into the books and regulations has been a welcome new challenge, and I look forward to seeing what the future will hold!



KATHLEEN DEVLIN • CFI

San Diego Chapter, Southwest Section

Flying has changed my life, and I am completely immersed in aviation. Recently, several friends asked me to be their safety pilot for IFR practice, work with them in the Redbird simulator or take them flying so they can practice radios, navigation, etc. I discovered how much I enjoy helping people progress in their training or improve their proficiency, and realized I do want to be a CFI. I am extremely thankful for the opportunities The Ninety-Nines has given me thus far and look forward to sharing my passion of aviation with others as their instructor.



DEBORAH EDWARDS • INSTRUMENT

Waterloo on the Grand Chapter, East Canada Section

Ever since I can remember, I have dreamed of being a pilot. As I grew older, I made it my goal to fly humanitarian aid to isolated locations. Currently, I am a 19-year-old private pilot working towards my instrument rating and commercial license. I work dispatch at the Waterloo Wellington Flight Centre and have funded my training through multiple jobs and scholarships. In addition to flying, I enjoy rock climbing and skydiving. I cannot express enough gratitude to The Ninety-Nines for their support. Thank you for giving me the tools I will need to realize my dream of humanitarian flying!

GABRIELLA FERRA • ACADEMIC/B.S. AERO SCIENCE

Paradise Coast Chapter, Southeast Section

I am a first-generation college student and daughter of hardworking immigrant parents. I discovered aviation as a four-year-old in a Cessna 152. The feeling of being lifted away from the life I knew stuck with me until I was able to take my first flight lesson. I am currently working towards my Commercial License with a Multiengine add-on as a student at Florida Institute of Technology. Ultimately, my goal is to work as an airline pilot and become a mentor for the next generation of young woman pilots.



STAPHANIE FRAZIER • INSTRUMENT RATING

Phoenix Chapter, Southwest Section

This journey began as a dream when I was a security guard, watching for spy planes in my first career out of high school. I developed an admiration for flying. As a pilot, I have found a family with The Ninety-Nines and a home in the sky. With their support, I am following my dreams to fly. I'm forever grateful for this generous scholarship to begin my instrument training, which is one of many steps towards becoming a commercial pilot at a major airline. "To most people, the sky is the limit. To those who love flying, the sky is home."

ANNELIE HUBINETTE • ACADEMIC A.S. AVIATION

***San Fernando Valley Chapter (Sweden),
Southwest Section***

Receiving the AEMS for me is like Cinderella putting on the coveted glass slipper. I am a hundredfold blessed to be a working single-homeschooling-mom to four daughters and also a San Fernando Valley Chapter 99. I gave aviation my all in the last three-plus years, even at the times it made sense to quit. My IFR rating is secured, and I can now finish two Associate of Science degrees in Aviation. I dream of working for Scandinavian Airlines, decorated in full uniform and landing in my hometown of Gothenburg, proving to every girl that the impossible is possible!



LACEE LAW • ACADEMIC/B.S. AERONAUTICS

San Antonio Chapter, South Central Section

The stories of Amelia Earhart have always deeply inspired me. I remember thinking, "If she did it, then so can I." I'm currently flight instructing while attending school online, with aspirations to become a military pilot. Completing my bachelor's degree will qualify me to pursue that preliminary goal. Beyond the stages of my personal aviation career, my highest ambition is to serve as a role model, inspiring people to chase their dreams with vision and fortitude in the same manner that Amelia first inspired me. I would like to thank the scholarship board, the women of my San Antonio Chapter, and my mentor Cheryl Mora, who cried with me after receiving the news of my award.

LISA McWILLIAMS • INSTRUMENT RATING

Nebraska Chapter, South Central Chapter

I am a private pilot working toward my instrument rating in hopes of acquiring a professional aviation job within the next few years. After acquiring my private pilot certificate 26 years ago, I took a break from flying to start a family and did not fly again until two years ago. Once I gain my instrument rating, I plan to immediately start working towards a multi-engine rating and a commercial certificate. I would love to be a charter pilot or tour guide, and because I also love animals, I want to volunteer to fly for a pet rescue organization.



MINDY NYE, INSTRUMENT – HELICOPTER

Ventura County Chapter, Southwest Section

I began flying in 2015 when a tour of Los Angeles turned into an introductory helicopter lesson. My path since has been anything but ordinary. A 7-year-old Sunday School student of mine was admitted to the hospital to remove a tumor on her liver. In these days, my two very different worlds of teaching children and flying started to take more shape, changing the direction of my life. Flying now had a new purpose. I am extremely grateful to be a recipient of the Amelia Earhart Scholarship for a helicopter instrument rating.

KATHLEEN O'NEIL – CFI

Washington DC Chapter, Mid-Atlantic Section

Thanks to all Ninety-Nines for supporting this scholarship. I'm honored to have been chosen. I'm a freelance science writer and the Washington DC Chapter Chair. When I first started taking flying lessons many years ago, I didn't know any pilots. I was fortunate that one of my instructors told me about The Ninety-Nines, and I found many supportive and fun women pilots across the country. As a CFI, I plan to do what I can to help more women fulfill their dream of taking flight.



TANYA RAMES, INSTRUMENT

Aloha Chapter, Southwest Section

Aloha! My name is Tanya Rames, and it is a dream come true to be selected as a recipient of the 2019 Amelia Earhart Flight Training Scholarship. I am currently working on my instrument rating, and I aspire to become a pilot for Hawaiian Airlines one day. Aside from working two jobs, I am the vice president of the Women in Aviation Hawaii 5-0 chapter and the current secretary, but soon to be vice chairman of The 99s Aloha Chapter. I absolutely love supporting others and helping them pursue their dreams by sharing my knowledge of aviation and scholarship opportunities.

CINDY SANTOSO, MULTI-ENGINE COMMERCIAL

Long Beach Chapter, Southwest Section

I am on top of the world! Pursuing my dream to become an airline pilot while meeting incredible aviatrixes and inspiring others in the process! A few months ago, I was a student pilot and worked a full-time job. Now, I am days away from becoming a full-time CFI. This scholarship will help me close the gap in obtaining my ATP certificate and applying to an airline. Ninety-Nines have been a huge part of my journey. Thank you, Long Beach Chapter, for the support and mentorships.



CARLY SHUKIAR, ACADEMIC/B.S. COMMERCIAL AVIATION

Ventura County Chapter, Southwest Section

I am a proud Ventura County Ninety-Nine. I am 18 years old and currently hold a private pilot certificate. I'm attending the University of North Dakota (UND) with a major in commercial aviation. I have been a Ninety-Nine since August 2017. In addition to being involved with The Ninety-Nines, I also serve as the ground coordinator for the UND Women's Air Race Classic Team and work as a UND Aerospace tour guide and student representative. I look forward to using this scholarship to finance my instrument/commercial training at UND.



SANDRA SMITH – VICKI CRUSE EMERGENCY MANEUVER TRAINING

Kitty Hawk Chapter, Southeast Section

It took well over 40 years to realize a childhood wish of being able to fly, and now, with this training, there is the opportunity to truly become a confident pilot! I look forward to using the education to become a wiser, more skillful aviator. Parents and passengers entrust me to provide a safe ride as I continue roles as a Young Eagles pilot, and with the Civil Air Patrol as a cadet orientation and mission pilot. I am currently the Kitty Hawk Chapter Chair and am very grateful for the support and encouragement of my sister 99s!

MICHELE SONIER, CFI

NOLA Chapter, Southeast Section

After a series of “life is too short” moments, I left Wall Street to pursue my dreams of flying. Learning to fly has not been easy. It has challenged me and changed me in ways I never thought possible. I am pursuing a CFI to give back and help other women find the self-esteem, confidence and freedom I found through becoming a pilot and flying solo. I am in the process of forming my own foundation that is focused on humanitarian rescue flights. I am also Vice Chair of my NOLA 99s Chapter. Thank you all for believing in me.



AUTUMN TUELLER-JENSEN, ACADEMIC/ B.S. AERONAUTICAL SCIENCE

Yavapai Chapter, Southwest Section

I have always had a passion for flight. Through my training and participation with The Ninety-Nines, my passion has grown and my determination to achieve my goals have flourished. After I graduate from ERAU, I plan on instructing for a few years to give back to the world that has given me so much. From there, I plan on moving to PSA Airlines and eventually American Airlines. But my biggest goal is to fly aerial firefighting. I want to be able to put my skills to a greater cause and bring hope to those trapped in tragedy.

FELECIA ZAHN, MULTI-ENGINE RATING

Phoenix Chapter, Southwest Section

Thank you for this opportunity to help advance my career as a pilot! The award for multi-engine training helps to obtain the last rating necessary for applying and being accepted for future employment with a charter company. I’m excited for this intense training in a twin Comanche because it’s another step closer to fulfilling my dreams of flying internationally. I have been blessed with so much support from The 99s at the local level and now from the international level. I’m so appreciative of this organization to help spur on our dreams.



Outside Judges Select AEMSF Recipients

Heather Alexander

Director, International Women's Air and Space Museum

Heather started working in the non-profit sector in the early '90s, installing exhibits for the Akron Art Museum. She graduated from the University of Akron with a degree in photography and art history. She managed several local photography studios and custom labs and worked as an archival framer for five years.

She spent over 16 seasons working on various archaeological sites in the Middle East. She is currently involved with a project in Luxor, Egypt, working under the auspices of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Her aviation life started in 1991 when she was hired to photograph an airshow. She has since coordinated fly-ins, arranged the aerial portion of military reenactments and has run an air show for eight years. Heather previously owned a Pietenpol Aircamper. She has been with the International Women's Air & Space Museum since 2003 and has served as the Executive Director since 2015.



Lonna McKinley

Archivist and Curator, National Museum of the United States Air Force

Lonna McKinley is a Certified Archivist and a Manuscript Curator at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Lonna obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Historic Preservation from Michigan State University, a Master of Arts degree in Public History from Wright State University, and a Master in Library and Information Science degree from Kent State University. She previously worked as the Assistant Curator at Carillon Historical Park in Dayton, Ohio.

She has served as a Council Member and the Vice President of the Society of Ohio Archivists, the Chair of the Miami Valley Archives Roundtable, and an Advisory Board member for "Little Stories of the Great War: Ohioans in World War I" — an NEH Grant to preserve and provide access to digital collections of WWI archival materials held by institutions in Ohio. She is also an active member of the Ohio Digitization Interest Group, the Ohio Preservation Council, and the Midwest Archives Conference.



Christine Mau

F-35 Contract Instructor Pilot for Lockheed Martin

Lt. Col Christine Mau was the first woman to fly the Department of Defense's newest fighter, the F-35, in 2015. She also led the first combat mission planned, briefed, launched, and flown entirely by women in 2011 while flying the F-15E. She served for 20 years in the USAF, culminating as Deputy Commander, 33rd Operations Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

Christine entered the Air Force in May 1997 after graduating from the USAF Academy with a degree in Biology. During her career, she also stood up the first and only Air Defense Aggressor Squadron and served as an Instructor Aggressor at Nellis AFB while she started her family. After two children and two master's degrees, she served as the 366th Fighter Wing Director of Staff and Director of Operations for the Royal Singaporean Air Force 428th Fighter Squadron at Mountain Home Air Force Base.

She currently works as an F-35 contract instructor pilot for Lockheed Martin at Eglin AFB, teaching simulator and academics to F-35A and F-35C pilot.



Self-Fly Safari to Africa

*By Brenda Thibodeau
Katahdin Wings Chapter*

*Wildlife Photos by Jenny Jorgensen
Katahdin Wings Chapter*

In June, six Ninety-Nines traveled to South Africa for a self-fly safari. Who would have thought of such an adventure? In our case, it was on our Chapter member Mary Build's Bucket List, so she began investigating the possibility a little over a year ago.

Fellow Katahdin Wings members Jenny Jorgensen and Brenda Thibodeau didn't want to miss the opportunity either and joined in the adventure. Once the word got out, Olga Mitchell,

Teresa Camp, and Denise Robinson decided to tag along as well.

The group just kept getting bigger when others heard about the trip and wanted in on the adventure. Friends of the Thibodeau's and another couple, who are friends of Mary's from California, completed the group. All together there were five rented aircraft, plus one for our guides who flew the trip.

The task of finding a company to accommodate such travel was an adventure in itself. We decided that Hanks Aero Adventures, Warnerville, New York, was the perfect choice. The owners, Christina and Nick Hanks, had a booth at Oshkosh last year, and Mary inquired about making a trip.

Christina and Nick welcomed us with open arms upon our arrival in Lanseria. Then we were off and running in the good hands of Louie and Devin Ashpole, who are purchasing the company from the Hanks. Their skill, attention to detail, and patience with us was remarkable.

Our kit, sent to us months prior to the trip, included a flash drive with ATC communications information and a written exam that needed to be completed. We also received a document full of information about the whole experience, from what to pack to how to prepare our technology for flight



Leopard sighting.

planning. Apparently, charts aren't printed on a regular basis, and the ones sent to us and those in our aircraft were several years old.

The first three days in Lanseria, South Africa, were spent getting our documents together, taking a check ride, and yes, we had to do one to obtain a South African private pilot license. We also had to learn how ATC wanted to communicate, which was difficult with their British accents and the speed in which they spoke to us. Thankfully, our guides monitored our radio communications and stepped in when we didn't understand.

Imagine the work of flying in a group of six planes, monitoring all radio communications, giving flight briefings at each stop, helping fuel attendants regarding payment, responding to customs agent requests — and you have some very patient but tired guides at the end of the day. They never wavered and even had enough time for a few photography tips. We were all so grateful and appreciative because without them, we would not have been able to enjoy the incredible scenery and find the small airstrips tucked away in the middle of nowhere and capture the many special moments we shared.

Our first leg of the trip was to Mala Mala in Kruger National Park, South Africa. The accommodations were five star, and the wildlife didn't disappoint either. We had our first glimpse of elephants, leopards, rhinos, giraffes, hippos and zebras in their natural habitat and learned about their behaviors. Did you know elephants have a dominant side? It's the side with the shorter tusk! Did you know a group of elephants is called a parade, a group of giraffes is called a tower, baboons are a troupe, a group of lions a pride and a group of zebras is a dazzle?

Our next stops were in Botswana. We stayed at the Mashatu Camp in the Limpopo Valley and Shindi Camp in the Okavanga Delta. On our way there, we flew over the Makgadikgadi Pans, which is the largest network of salt



Katahdin Wings Chapter members, from left, Jenny Jorgensen, Brenda Thibodeau and Mary Build, are ready to discover Africa.

pans in the world. Upon arrival at the Shindi Camp, we were greeted by a parade of elephants crossing through the water to the island. This camp, our first tent camp experience, was positioned on a teak deck above the ground due to high water during the rainy season.

When landing at the airstrip we had to look out for wildlife on the runway, much like we do here in the States. We

The African adventurers relax and enjoy the animal parade at the Linkwashe Wilderness Safari Camp. Elephants, baboons, zebra, kudu and other wildlife pass by for a drink of water at the pan, which is a magnet for the animals (photo top of opposite page). The camp was designed with gaps in the boardwalks going to the tents so elephants could pass through.





The adventurers flew over the magnificent Victoria Falls, where the Zambezi River plummets over a cliff and into the Boiling Pot before flowing through a series of gorges. Photo by Jenny Jorgensen.

wouldn't want to hit an elephant or giraffe that doesn't seem to understand or care that it's an airstrip! Botswana has a larger population of elephants than anywhere else in the world, is home of the Kalihari Desert, and was a large mining area for diamonds.

Our next few days were spent in Zimbabwe. Victoria Falls is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and after flying over it, you can understand. It is magnificent, and words or photographs do not capture its enormity.

Upon arriving, we flew a few circuits around the falls for photographs and then landed at the airport for the night. Our stay at the Victoria Falls Hotel, which is one of the Heritage Hotels of the world, was lovely, and we could view the falls from the terrace.

Our next stop was at the Linkwasha Camp for two nights. Once we found the runway, which was approximately 12 feet

wide, we were greeted by the staff and enjoyed a bathroom break, food, and drinks in their welcome tents, which was a nice touch. Upon arriving at the camp, we passed a watering hole with lots of activity. The main lodge was positioned in the open area set back from the watering hole so one could observe the wildlife. This camp was wide open to the plains, and animals were free to pass through the camp anywhere they wished. Walkways had open sections so they could pass through.

We were fortunate enough to observe young male lions after a night of hunting. They were resting with the pride in some low bushes and didn't seem to mind us near them. Even though we had observed many animals prior to this camp, we were delighted to see them again and get our last photos before heading back to Lanseria.

This trip, or should I say adventure, was one of a lifetime. As aviators, we learned about navigating in a country that does not have the radar and services we take for granted. Technology is critical, and by using all the tools available, we were comfortable and proficient. The condition of the airstrips varied widely, but they helped us sharpen our skills in many ways.

The group shared an incredible experience and will remain lifelong friends. When a pilot starts to look for something to do or see, keep in mind that the sky is the limit and offers many places to travel and experience on this great planet.

So what's on your Bucket List? Flying in South Africa, check. Now where do we want to go next?



The group's visit to a village school in Zimbabwe was eye opening. They saw the mud huts where the children lived but surprisingly discovered that the math content of the 7th grade class was typical of what U.S. 7th graders are learning. Above, Brenda Thibodeau wrote the group's names for students to read.

NOLA Chapter

On January 8, NOLA had their meeting at Jan Oreck's home in New Orleans. This monthly meeting had the largest number of members attending in recent memory – 25 and 1 potential member.

On January 11, eleven members of NOLA had a wonderful lunch with Jo Scott of the San Fernando Valley Chapter at Mr. B's Bistro in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Those attending were Lisa Cotham, JoAnn Dawson, Missy Day, Alice Fanto, Margaret Jones, Marissa LaCoursiere, Lisa Mannina, Jan Oreck, Allie Smith, Michele Sonier, and Karen Weldon. Much "hangar flying" was bantered about.

On January 26, five members of NOLA flew to Birmingham, Alabama, for the Amelia Earhart Museum fundraiser luncheon sponsored by the Alabama Chapter. Those attending were JoAnn Dawson, Missy Day, Marissa LaCoursiere, Mae Marquet, and Michele Sonier. They were joined by Janice Pelletti of the Appalachian Aviatrixes Chapter.

The February meeting was held at Oreck Farm in Poplarville, Mississippi, with 15 members in attendance. The meeting was opened with a safety moment given by Mary Donahue on single-pilot resource management. We were reminded to use the five



From left, Janice Pelletti, Appalachian Chapter, with NOLA 99s Marissa LaCoursiere, Mae Marquet, Missy Day, Michele Sonier, JoAnn Dawson.

P's (Plan, Plane, Pilot, Passengers, Programming) to analyze risks associated with the flight. After the meeting, members were given flights at the farm in one of the first 100 WACO Classics.

— Karen Weldon

Florida Suncoast Chapter

Our Chapter's Girl Scout Aviation Day was Saturday, April 13 at the Clearwater Executive Airport, Clearwater, Florida. This year 20 Brownies, 27 Daisies, 24 Juniors and 10 Cadettes attended.

Barbaras Yeninas received her 20-year volunteer pin for volunteering at Sun 'n Fun.

Maria Choi is our 2019 Amelia Earhart Scholarship winner, receiving \$5,200 towards her ATP.

Our May meeting at Crystal River was hosted by member Gudi and husband Tom Davis. We elected our new officers: Maria Choi, Chairman; Kelli O'Donnell, Vice Chairman; Diana Loucks,

Secretary, and Jeanette Burklund, Treasurer.

Our 2018 Space Camp winners Katherine Kupcho and Alina Lianos attended to tell us about their experience. The 2019 Space Camp Scholarship recipient for 2019 is Emily McCrackline. Emily is 14 years old, is homeschooled and lives in Homestead, Florida. She plans to attend either the Air Force or Naval Academy.

Our June Chapter Meeting was held at Bartow Airport hosted by Alyssa Dorsey. We installed our new officers, and Steve Purello, CEO of Angel Flight SE, was our guest speaker.

— Sophia M. Payton



Girl Scout Aviation Day was hosted by the Florida Suncoast Chapter on April 13 at the Clearwater Executive Airport.

GRASS ROOTS



Chicago Area Ninety-Nines and Girls Scouts at the annual Girl Scout Aviation Day, DuPage Airport.

Chicago Area Chapter

The Chicago Area Chapter sponsored their annual Girl Scout Aviation Day held in the Exelon Hangar at West Chicago's DuPage Airport. It was a great venue and a terrific group of volunteers, parents, leaders and scouts!

There were 67 girls in attendance, 37 leaders/parents, 17 volunteers from The 99s, and four volunteers from the NeoFlites Flying Club, who also provided their Cessna 172.

The Girl Scouts said they learned a lot, and from more than a few, we saw that spark that says, "I'm going to be a pilot some day!"

A huge thank you to Kristin Romano from Exelon for help organizing the event, getting volunteers from Exelon, and providing the lunches and snacks.

The 99s volunteers and the STEM areas they covered for the program were: Forces of Flight – Ellen O'Hara with Kseniya Polinsky; Navigation – Deena Schwartz with Stephanie McClellan;

Communication – Mariko Doskow with Callie Boydston and Colleen Murphy; Careers – Carol Skiber with Katie Christensen; History of Flight – Sue Nealey with Sharon Schorsch; Airplane Preflight – Brittnei Latos with Jill Feldman and Mona Knock (also photographer).

The Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame recently recognized Chicago Chapter 99 Ruth Frantz and her husband Bob. They were known throughout the aviation community for their dedication to a variety of aviation organizations, especially The 99s.

Ruth and Bob were deeply involved in proficiency air racing, as participants and at the organizational level. Even if not racing, Bob's computer program oversaw the scoring for both races for many years. Both have passed away and are missed by the organizations they supported and the pilots who knew them.

— Jill Feldman

Alabama Chapter

The Alabama Chapter hosted a Girl Scouts Aviation Day for the Madison Service Unit on May 11. We had 20 Girl Scouts, 12 Leaders, and 16 Ninety-Nines/Friends of The 99s join us.

The girls learned about the history of women in aviation, traffic pattern, basic aerodynamics, flight control surfaces,

weight and balance, and map reading. They also built foam airplanes, flew flight simulators, and did a walk around of an airplane. We would like to thank LearJet John Aviation at Pryor Field for providing the airport space to host the event.

— Ramona Banks



Happy Girl Scouts (and possible future 99s) pose after a Girl Scout Aviation Day in May hosted by the Alabama Chapter.

GRASS ROOTS

British Columbia Coast Chapter

The British Columbia Coast Chapter had a successful Poker Run on May 26. It marked the 39th Poker Run held by the Chapter. Over 33 aircraft from eight airports participated. Prizes, including cash, gift cards, underwater egress training and air tours, were donated and selected by players with the Top Hands.

— Karen Weldon



Above, tending to the Poker Run Table are Sophia Della, 99 Teena Della, and Harry Pride, Friend of The 99s.

Left, these two pilots, channeling the Blues Brothers, were number one for Best Costume at the The British Columbia Coast Poker Run.

Old Dominion Chapter

On June 9, 2019, the Old Dominion 99s celebrated past member Evelyn Marshall's 95th birthday. Evelyn's son, Troy, and his wife, Nikki, hosted the celebration in Mineral, Virginia, on the shores of Lake Anna. It was unfortunate that the ceiling was so low for the day because several seaplanes could not fly in for the



From left, standing: Peg Doyle, Jenny Reeb, Mary McCutcheon, Sue Passmore, and Marge Shaffer. Seated: Morgen Reeb and Evelyn Marshall. Photo by Mike Marshall, Evelyn's grandson.

celebration. Evelyn was inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame in November 2018, after serving the aviation community for 58 years. Evelyn was instrumental in the management and development of Manassas Airport, establishment of Warrenton Airport, and development of Winchester Airport.

These three airports are ones we have come to love in Northern Virginia, and they have Evelyn's fingerprints all over them. These airports also serve as home base for many Old Dominion 99s.

Happy 95th Birthday, Evelyn!

—Susan Passmore



Evelyn Marshall with friend Charlie Kulp, a retired aerobatic pilot who performed a comedy routine every Sunday with the Flying Circus Airshow for 34 years.

GRASS ROOTS

Santa Barbara Chapter

The Santa Barbara 99s have hosted several fun, educational meetings and events over the past couple of months.

We took a spin in the Red Bird simulator at the local flight school, Above All Aviation. Our gratitude to Shawn Sullivan, owner of Above All, for donating use of the Red Bird, and to member Anna Ramirez for donating her time to teach us how to use it.

We spent a memorable evening at a “fireside chat” and dinner hosted by our member Tanis Hammond and her husband Seth Hammond. They provided us with a fascinating insight into their family’s aviation history that is closely tied to the very foundation of the aviation industry’s beginnings: 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!

In other news, Chapter members Karen Kahn, Michelle Leiphardt and Cassandra Reed attended the Aviation Career educational event at Signature Santa Barbara. Good times!

— Cassandra Anne Ilich Reed



Above: Santa Barbara Chapter members spent a memorable evening traveling back in time as Tanis Hammond and her husband Seth talked about their family’s long history in aviation.

Right, an assortment of the Hammond’s memorabilia.



Indiana Dunes

On April 20, members and guests met at Purdue University Airport (LAF) for our annual business meeting. Hostesses were 99 Nicoletta Fala, who just received her Ph.D. and will be teaching at Purdue, and 99 Emily Schott, a junior in Aeronautical/Astronautical Engineering. Ten people enjoyed lunch at Pappy’s Sweet Shop in the Purdue Union following the meeting.

On May 18, new Chapter officers for 2019-2021 were installed at Elkhart Indiana Flight Center. Congratulations to Chair Jessica Richardson, Vice Chair Keegan Starkey, Treasurer Rose Sirko,

and Secretary (and North Central Vice Governor) Janice Welsh. Student pilot guests were Kat Helfrich and Greta Carlson.

Our speaker was Lowell Farrand. You can read about his adventures in “God, Me and Those Flying Machines” and “Little Slice of Heaven: As Told To Becky McLendon.”

The event was hosted by TJ Shaum and Marilyn Horvath.

We welcome Katherine Magon, a retired American Airline pilot, to our Chapter. Katherine joined The 99s in 1978. Her mother, Pat Magon, was an active member of the Dunes Chapter.

—Diana Austin



Installation of 2019-2021 Indiana Dunes officers, from left, Chairman Jessica Richardson, Vice Chairman Keegan Starkey, Treasurer Rose Sirko, and Secretary Janice Welsh.



Ten members and guests enjoyed lunch at Pappy’s Sweet Shop in the Purdue Union following the Chapter’s annual business meeting held at Purdue University Airport (LAF).

GRASS ROOTS

Appalachian Aviatrixes Chapter

The Appalachian Aviatrixes hosted 115 Girl Scouts, parents and leaders at their April 27 Aviation Day. Information presentations included preflight, airline pilot, corporate pilot, airline dispatcher, CFI, CAP, ATC, and TSA.

Ninety-Nine Pam Phillips opened her FBO at KTRI for the event. Ninety-Nines and relatives helping were Meagan Harr, Gracey McKinney and Wendy Oliver, Lorianne and Lucy Carver, Molly Van Scoy, Mary Dwyer, Adrienne and Olivia Smith, Manami Murphy and Janice and Patrick Pelletti.

On May 29-June 2, the Appalachian Aviatrixes Chapter held its third Aviation Celebration. It was exciting to host the B-29 Bomber Fifi, as well as three other warbirds provided by the Commemorative Air Force History Tour.

The attendance was great, and we raised another \$4,000 for our scholarship fund. Myra Bugbee, Southeast Section Immediate Past Governor, and Claudette DeCourley, San Diego Chapter, flew in to help.

This year we are awarding \$3,800 in scholarships. The scholarship award winners from the Appalachian Aviatrixes Chapter are Gracey McKinney, solo, Meagan Harr, instrument, and Lorianne Carver, CFI. Lee Stallings from the Tennessee Chapter was awarded the private scholarship. Congratulations to all!

On June 29, the Chapter held a meeting at its first family cookout. Lorianne Carver and her family hosted the event on their family farm. After the business meeting, the old-fashioned hot dog and marshmallow roast around the campfire made for a relaxing evening. Discussions ranged from aviation news to reptile identification. Baby goats and the sheep herd were also in attendance!

— Janice Pelletti



Top, from left, Myra Bugbee, Claudette DeCourley, Mary Dwyer, and Janice Pelletti welcome visitors to the Aviation Celebration 99s booth. Below, Student pilot Gracey McKinney, 15, demonstrates preflight to Girl Scouts.

Long Island Chapter

The April meeting of the Long Island Chapter was held in the Board Room of the terminal building at Republic Airport, Farmingdale, New York. Five members and one mom attended as we discussed proposed changes to the NY-NJ Section bylaws.



Long Island Chapter members discuss proposed changes to the NY-NJ Section bylaws. From left, Jill Hopfenmuller, Patricia Rockwell, Terry Caputo, Rachel Siegel, and Nancy Newmann.

Members attending were Chairman Nancy Newmann, Secretary-Treasurer Jill Hopfenmuller, Patricia Rockwell, Terry Caputo, Rachel Siegel, and her mother Jennifer Siegel, who graciously took the photo.

The five members attending represented the 32 current members in the Chapter, some of whom joined in 1961, plus our newest and youngest member Rachel Siegel, who joined last November at the age of 16. Rachel is working on earning her private pilot certificate hopefully by next year.

The difference in membership is approximately 57 years. Many of these earlier members still fly and are active in aviation clubs and groups and attend The Ninety-Nines Conferences, meetings and events.

We have been honored to have six members awarded AE Scholarships between 1976 and 1991.

Five Chapter members plan on attending the International Conference in Dayton, Ohio. Member Pat Ohlsson hopes to fly to the Conference from her home in Daytona Beach, Florida, in her 180 HP Lycoming Grumman Tiger, joining Chapter members Nancy Neumann, Diane Fisher, Sue Mirabel, and Rachel Siegel.

— Patricia J. Rockwell

GRASS ROOTS



Michael Church presents an IFR Refresher seminar for local pilots.

Orange County Chapter

The Orange County Chapter recently sponsored an “IFR Refresher” seminar for local pilots. Presented by Michael Church, the seminar covered pre-flight planning, departure, en-route, and approach procedures, and many related topics.

Michael is highly respected in the aviation community, and both new and seasoned pilots can augment their knowledge with new information from his presentation.

— Shirley McFall



Opal Kunz's Legacy Lives On at the Museum of Women Pilots

By Denise Neil-Binion

Although there are many important tasks to be completed at The 99s Museum of Women Pilots, one of my favorite things to do is research items in the collection.

In 2013, the Sacramento Valley Chapter generously donated to the museum a trophy won by Opal Kunz. This silver cup was presented to Opal for her first-place finish in the 1929 Red Bank Air Races.

It is well known that Opal was a charter member of The 99s and an advocate for women in aviation. Wondering about the history of the Red Bank Air Races, which she won just one month after receiving her pilot certificate, I also hoped to gain more knowledge about how the Sacramento Valley Chapter came into possession of this historical artifact.

In 1961, Opal befriended Martha Bost, and upon her death, Martha inherited a scrapbook, a few trophies and other personal items. In turn, she donated these items to the Sacramento Valley Chapter.

In this valuable written account, the museum is also the caretaker of a photograph of Martha posing with two trophies currently on exhibit at the museum.

In addition to Opal's first-place finish at the Red Bank Races, she went on to compete in the first women's transcontinental air race in August of 1929. She founded the Betsy Ross Corps and became the primary flight instructor at the New Bedford Municipal Airport.

Aviation remained an important part of Opal's life, working as an inspector at Aerojet-General Corporation in Sacramento until her retirement. She passed away on May 15, 1967, but her legacy lives on at the 99s Museum of Women Pilots.



Martha Bost with two trophies won by Charter Member Opal Kunz and currently on exhibit at the 99s Museum of Woman Pilots.

Photo 99s Museum of Women Pilots.

LETTERS

Fly Like A Girl



Thank you so much for highlighting our special Girl Scouts Aviation Day and the girls and their successes. It was fun to see how you did it. I will see that the girls see themselves in print in 99s News. Awesome!

— Ruth Jacobs
Treasure Coast
Ninety-Nines



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:

Doris Abbate, June 11, 2019

Long Island Chapter

Beverly Banks, June 11, 2019

Bakersfield Chapter

Ann Batty, June 13, 2019

Reno Area Chapter

Mary Elizabeth DeCanter, May 13, 2019

Oregon Pines Chapter

Rita Eaves, May 24, 2019

Oklahoma Chapter

Joan Kerwin, June 15, 2019

Chicago Area Chapter

Lois Letzring, March 2, 2019

Life Member, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Blanche O'Brien, May 11, 2019

Florida Suncoast Chapter

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