

Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929

July/August 2020

**India Section Member Aaro
Pandit Circumnavigated the
Globe in a Light Sport Aircraft**



Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929

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Natasha Stenbock has always been fascinated by the earth's natural forces. Her drive to understand them led her to a career in meteorology and conquering her fear of flying.



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Penny Rafferty Hamilton received the 12th Annual Spirit of Flight Award. For over 10 years, Penny has supported the mission of Spirit of Flight to educate the general public and inspire future generations to become involved in aviation.



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While parachuting isn't a particularly uncommon experience, it's rare to see a woman celebrating her 90th birthday jumping out of an airplane. That was how Golden Triangle Chapter member Dottie Hughes decided to start her 90th decade. Happy birthday, Dottie!

On The Cover

In 2018, India Section member Aarohi Pandit began her successful journey to circumnavigate the globe in a Light Sport Aircraft, setting several new records.

After becoming the first woman to fly across Canada from northeast to northwest via the southern route, accompanied for part of the flight by Pipestrel Canada's president Jonah Boll, Aarohi flew solo across the Pacific Ocean from Nome, Alaska, USA, to Anadyr, Chukotka, Russia.

Story on page 10

Photo by Halldór Ben



The Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Trustees awarded 20 scholarships this year totaling \$172,052. The trustees received a total of 59 applications this year. Right is Summer Papple (with friend), who will be using the award towards her Commercial Helicopter Conversion.



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On June 14, a group of 99s members and friends got together to honor local WASP Bernice (Bee) Haydu, Kay Hildbrandt (deceased), and Shirley Kruse. Eighteen airplanes and 50 people from five Ninety-Nines Chapters, along with friends and 49½s, gathered at Stuart Witham Field.

Airline pilots gather at the Wings Over the Rockies Museum to celebrate the life of their mentor and friend, Emily Howell Warner, who flew to New Horizons on July 3, 2020. Emily was the first female airline captain in the United States, and she was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame 2014.



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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.

CALENDAR

2020

SEPTEMBER

- 12 Southwest Section Fall Meeting**, via Zoom.
- 12 Northwest Section Annual Meeting**, via Zoom.

OCTOBER

- 2-4 99s Fly-in, McKeller-Sipes Airport (KMKL) Jackson Tennessee.** Registration is free for the weekend of events. There will be both camping under your wing and a block of hotel rooms available for a nightly rate. Enjoy aviation competitions, educational seminars, movie nights, fun, food, camaraderie, rental aircraft available for currency flight instruction and night currency.
- 3 Mid-Atlantic Section Fall Meeting** tbd.
- 9-10 New York-New Jersey Section Fall Meeting**, location to be determined.
- 17 Southeast Section Fall Meeting**, virtual format, hosted by Appalachian Aviatrices.
- 17 South Central Section Fall Meeting** via Zoom.
- 17 West Canada Section Fall Meeting online**, hosted by the Manitoba Chapter.
- 20 Webinar – Navigating NEXRAD**, 8 p.m. Eastern. Join Scott Dennstaedt, Weather Systems Engineer, CFI and former NWS research meteorologist for our next 99s/ Sirius XM webinar.
- 23-24 New England Section Fall Meeting**, Kennebunkport, Maine, Nonantum Resort. Hosted by the Katahdin Wings Chapter.

NOVEMBER

- 6-7 International Board of Directors Fall Meeting**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

APRIL

- 1 Australian Section Annual Meeting**, Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia.
- 13-18 Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo**, Lakeland, Florida.
- 24 New York-New Jersey Section Spring Meeting**, Oneonta, New York.

JULY

- 7-11 2021 International Conference and Career Expo** on the Queen Mary, Long Beach, California.

AUGUST

- 13-15 Palms to Pines Air Race**, California to Oregon.
- 14 42nd Annual Okie Derby Proficiency Air Rally**, Sundance Airport, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



The Indian Section Conference in December will include a tour of the majestic Taj Mahal in the city of Agra.

2021

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.
- 31 Deadline for 2021 International Awards Submission.** For more information, email Awards@ninety-nines.org.

MARCH

- 19-21 South Central Section Spring Meeting**, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

DECEMBER

- 4-9 India Section Conference**, New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur. Ninety-Nines are invited to experience the sights, sounds, flavours, and history of "Incredible India" through a six-night/seven-day program, beginning and ending at New Delhi. The itinerary includes an exciting tour of the three most fabled cities of India — the capital city of Delhi (where the old culture and architecture coexists with the new), Agra (for its famous Taj Mahal), and Jaipur (popular for its handicrafts and UNESCO World Heritage sites). For those interested, send a message to Governor Nivedita Bhasin to be added to the India Section 99s Conference WhatsApp group.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We Are Here to Support One Another

It is with great anticipation that I look forward to my term as President of The Ninety-Nines. We have an awesome team of officers, directors, trustees, committee members, employees, and volunteers, all working together to move our organization forward.

The last several months have seen an interruption of our normal daily lives, and many of our 99s sisters have been adversely impacted. But we are a family: we are here to support one another. Ask a member why she joined The 99s and chances are she'll say something such as, "For the scholarship opportunities" or "My flight instructor told me to join." But ask why she remains a member, and I bet she'll say, "For the camaraderie and sisterhood."

We can all look forward to resuming our normal Chapter, Section, and International meetings, holding Let's Fly Now! First Flight program events, hosting poker runs, pennies-a-pound flights, scavenger hunts, and fly-outs just for fun. In the meantime, we need to stay connected as a family. Yes, we are here to support one another.

Let's take this opportunity of "down time" to prepare for the future of our organization. *Let's look forward* — to working with our strategic planning volunteers to advance projects such as refining our corporate sponsorship program, establishing relationships with colleges that offer aviation programs, adding more membership perks, and seeking grants for our museums. *Let's look forward* — to website revisions, as well as an enhanced social media presence. *Let's look forward* — to developing more educational opportunities and growing our webinars. *Let's look forward* — to expanding our Friends of The 99s membership base to provide more support to our organization.

We are looking forward — to seeing each and every one of you at a Chapter, Section, or International meeting, hearing about your flying achievements, and learning about your contributions to our organization.

With heartfelt gratitude, I thank you for the opportunity to work with you and for you. I am looking forward to these next two years and the great things we will accomplish!



Corbi Bulluck
International President

Let's Look Forward



From their first gathering on November 2, 1929, The Ninety-Nines have focused on its members. Since that memorable day, the organization has been a supportive and continually growing family, celebrating the good times and helping each other through the challenging times.

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2020-2022 International Officers Elected

*Congratulations to our newly-elected Officers and Directors!
Unfortunately, this year's traditional installation of new officers has
been cancelled due to Covid-19 and will be held online. We hope
activities are back to normal by July 2021 when our officers can
personally be recognized at our next Conference on the Queen Mary.*



Corbi Bulluck
President
(2020-2022)



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(2020-2022)



Jan McKenzie
Past President
(2020-2022)

Jewell Bailey Brown Receives FAA Master Pilot Award

By Kim Bost, Carolinas Chapter

Jewell Bailey Brown, who resides at the Elkin, North Carolina airport, was awarded the FAA Master Pilot Award on July 18, 2020. She is a member of the Carolinas Chapter.

Jewell began flying when she was 14 years old. On her 16th birthday in 1943, she attained her private pilot certificate in a Piper Cub. She went on to earn her commercial and flight instructor certificates and an instrument rating.

During World War II, Jewell flew coastal patrol in the Civil Air Patrol in the Carolinas. She was promoted to Lt. Colonel.

In 1949, in Charleston, South Carolina, with William T. Piper present, Jewell set an altitude record in a Piper Super Cub, reaching 26,875 feet. The aircraft was put on display in the Smithsonian to celebrate the accomplishment.

Jewell set an enthusiastic example for her many students. We, the Carolinas Chapter, were proud to name our 2017 flight scholarship in her honor.



Jewell Bailey Brown, left, recently awarded the FAA Master Pilot designation, presents a scholarship to Courtney Robson, Kitty Hawk Chapter.

Penny Rafferty Hamilton Recipient of 12th Annual Spirit of Flight Award

By Spirit of Flight Foundation

Colorado Chapter member Penny Rafferty Hamilton, Ph.D., received the 12th Annual Spirit of Flight Award at the annual Spirit of Flight Day held as an outdoor event on July 11 in Westminster, Colorado, close to the Rocky Mountain Metro Airport.

Penny, a long-time donor and volunteer for the Spirit of Flight Foundation, joins a prestigious group of past award recipients.

For over 10 years, Penny has supported the mission of Spirit of Flight Foundation to acquire, restore, preserve and display aviation history to honor all American veterans, to educate the general public of the significance of aviation, and to inspire future generations to become involved in aviation and/or aviation history. She was inducted into both the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame and the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.

Penny lives on Lake Granby and is the co-founder of the Grand County Historical Association Emily Warner Field Aviation Museum. Penny is a member of the Colorado Chapter of The Ninety-Nines.

Recently, Penny authored the national aviation history book, *America's Amazing Airports*, donating a portion of the proceeds from this important book to the Spirit of Flight mission. Her current book is *Inspiring Words for Sky & Space Women: Advice from Historic and Contemporary Trailblazers*.

The Spirit of Flight collection has been relocated. Looking to the future and building a new facility, the Foundation continues to promote aviation history. Located in Westminster, Colorado, History Gallery, it is now open by appointment and on special days. Visit their website, www.spiritofflight.com, for featured events.



Colorado Chapter member Penny Hamilton was chosen for the 2020 Spirit of Flight Award. AVEE, the Spirit of Flight mascot, adorns her trophy.

HOLDING SHORT



In front row, 99s members Alexis Thind, second from left, and Colette Morin, fourth from left. Photo credit: Warwick Patterson

Honoring Fallen Pilots

British Columbia pilots and 99s paid tribute to two recent fallen pilots, Captain Jennifer Casey and Patrick Daniel Forseth.

Jennifer, a member of the Canadian Forces Snowbird air demonstration team, tragically passed in an accident that occurred during Operation Inspiration, a month-long, cross-Canada flight to salute the front-line health care workers. It also honored first responders, essential workers, and also all Canadians doing their part to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Just a year ago, on May 18, 2019, a Canadian pilot and our British Columbia Coast Chapter Chair Jenna Forseth's brother, Patrick Daniel Forseth, passed in a tragic accident shortly after takeoff on

Roatan Island, Honduras. He had a larger than life personality, performed Angel Flights, and served as a role model and mentor to many pilots.

To honor and pay tribute to these beloved fallen pilots, British Columbia 99s Nicole Wardstrom, Cynthia Prescott, and past 99 member Jessica Peare participated. Along with Renata Nicmans and pilots from the British Columbia General Aviation Association, they organized and launched Operation Backup Inspiration.

A mass flight was held over different cities and hospitals across the Lower Mainland of Vancouver, with safety being paramount.

Tribute flights were also organized at other British Columbia locations, including

Squamish, where Ninety-Nines member Colette Morin was given the honour of leading a flight of 10 airplanes organized by the Squamish Flying Club. They completed an itinerary over the cities of Squamish and Whistler and vicinity. Colette was joined by 99s member Alexis Thind.

Pilots in Kelowna, Quesnel and many other locations across the province organized flyovers honoring the fallen pilots and the Snowbirds.

This has been a very sad time and a very inspiring time for us all. We wish to express our condolences and support to the Canadian Forces Snowbirds, their families and everyone emotionally involved with the fallen Birds, whose spirit will be flying among us forever.

A 90th Celebration To Be Remembered

Adventurous Golden Triangle Chapter member Dottie Hughes chose to celebrate her July 5 90th birthday on July 4, 2020. She did not simply celebrate with cake and ice cream and fireworks, but she joined the ranks of us who have decided to jump out of a perfectly good airplane over Caddo Mills Airport, Caddo, Texas. Jumping at 13,500 feet, followed by a 1,000-foot freefall, Dottie's jump lasted less than four minutes. Dottie declared, "I had a fantastic time! Such a thrill, so glad to have been able to do this."



Catching Up with Janie Frazer

The May/June 2019 Ninety-Nines magazine featured Janie Frazer's post-engagement photo on the cover. She and her finance Cliff are flight instructors and vintage aircraft restorers. Here's an update:

Since this winter was so mild, Cliff and I definitely didn't spend as much time in the garage as we had anticipated. There were just too many nice days to be out flying! In early March, we actually both passed our instrument instructor checkrides, which was an accomplishment we've been wanting to finish for a while now.

As for the Smith mini-plane project: so far we have stripped down, sandblasted, and primed the fuselage. The wood has also been prepped, polyurethaned, and reinstalled, which really makes it look like an airplane again. Currently, we are working on the bottom wings.

Since bringing them home, we have taken all of the fabric off to inspect, and besides a few minor repairs, all seems good. The goal for the next couple months is to have all of the repairs made and wings covered.



As for the wedding, we have had to postpone our April wedding until the fall due to our venue closing for the Coronavirus. We are still hoping to have a small ceremony on our date because fall is just too far to wait to get married!

— Janie Frazer Daly
Long Island Chapter

Masks Turn into Scholarship Money



Annelie Brinkman, left, and Merja Vainio turned masks into scholarship money. Annelie says, "The bottom line: put an airplane on something and a pilot will buy it. Yeah!"

One day in early April, I was talking to San Diego Chapter member Mary Ford about the Coronavirus and what a shame it is that we are all homebound, having to wear a mask when leaving the house, and getting more bored by the day. She said, "Imagine making face masks from aviation fabrics. I bet they'd sell." Funny, I had that same thought several days earlier but didn't pursue it because I didn't know anyone who would be able to make them.

At the end of 2019, I had met a new friend at my gym, Merja Vainio. One day she invited me to her home for lunch, and while getting to know each other, she told me she has done a lot of professional sewing.

From there things took off. Merja offered to help the Chapter by making the masks. Lucy Torres, entrepreneur, entered the picture. She posted the newly-made masks online, and we started getting orders. They went like hotcakes! Merja could hardly keep up, and I was kept busy picking up the finished masks from her house and running to the post office to ship them.

Soon I reached for the goal of \$1,000, but we exceeded that in no time. Merja, Lucy and I couldn't believe it.

Between April 7 and May 15, Merja had sewn 275 masks, and I have shipped to 191 addresses all over the USA. At \$25 apiece, we have made close to \$7,000, minus some expenses to be deducted.

— Annelie Brinkman

Aaroahi Pandit on a stopover in Vestmannaeyjar, an archipelago off Iceland's south coast, before her Atlantic crossing for Greenland. She named her Light Sport aircraft Mahi, or Mother Earth.



Halldór Ben 2019

Aaroahi Pandit

Around the World in a Light Sport Aircraft

By Jann Clark, Eastern New England Chapter

On July 30, 2018, a 22-year-old pilot from Mumbai set out to circumnavigate the globe in a Light Sport Aircraft (LSA). Along the way, she set several new records.

Aaroahi Pandit was accompanied on the first flights of her journey by another young female pilot, her friend Keithair Misquitta. “We flew a Pipestrel Sinus 912 from India to Scotland before I embarked May 14, 2019 on a solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean, the first woman to do so in an LSA,” says Aaroahi.

“Enroute from Wick, Scotland, to Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada, I stopped over in Iceland and Greenland to refuel and, on May 4, 2019, became the first woman pilot to fly solo over the Greenland Icecap in an LSA.”



High altitude flight training in Gorizia, Italy.

After flying across Canada from northeast to northwest via the southern route, accompanied for part of the flight by Pipestrel Canada's president Jonah Boll, Aaroahi flew solo, another first, on August 21, 2019, across the Pacific Ocean from Nome, Alaska, USA, to Anadyr, Chukotka, Russia. While she was in Russian air space, she was accompanied by a Russian navigator.

“Winter set in, and I was unable to fly back to India as planned,” says Aaroahi. The COVID-19 pandemic, with subsequent travel restrictions, eliminated the possibility of her flying back even when the weather improved, so she had to have her plane shipped back to India. A disappointing ending, but a wonderful adventure, nonetheless.

Obviously, Aaroahi didn't wake up one morning and decide to fly around the world, go to the airport and take off on this great adventure. WE! (Women Empowered) approached her for the expedition and handled all the land details of her trip — local travel, accommodations, whatever she would need.

Visas and permissions to fly into or across various countries were obtained by Nexus Flight Operations. They also participated in overall flight planning, although each day's flight plan was Aaroahi's sole responsibility. As she says, “My job was to fly.”

In order to prepare for the expedition, Aaroahi underwent seven months of arduous preparatory training in India, Greenland, Serbia, and Italy, honing her capabilities to cope with flight over oceans and extreme terrains in all kinds of weather conditions and at high altitudes.

Aaroahi holds a light sport pilot license, as well as a commercial license and an instrument rating. This expedition would have been challenging in any general aviation aircraft but was especially so in a light sport aircraft.

As Aaroahi says, “Flying in a light sport aircraft was hard.

Flight planning was very important before every flight due to limitations of fuel. I remember checking the weather every two hours the night before I took off on my oceanic flights. I had to consider every weather minima — visibility, cloud base, wind speed and direction, wind gusts, and so forth. Even after all the flight planning, I somehow managed to get into bad weather conditions.”

Flights were physically grueling, as well as mentally challenging. “Even though I was physically healthy, there were times when I was exhausted after my bumpy flights. Such extreme flights mean you have to sit still in a confined space. After many hours of bumpy flight in bad conditions, my body starts to ache and muscles start to spasm. One has to be able to control the body really well to coordinate the movements of all four limbs in order to control the aircraft perfectly, for example, to land in difficult IFR conditions. Believe me — it’s tough.”

AaroHi says her most difficult flight was over the Atlantic Ocean. “It was so tough, the Pacific Ocean crossing seemed like plain sailing. I recollect that on my crossing from Iceland to Greenland, I faced light turbulence, rain and clouding all the way. Let’s just say, it’s never possible to fly VFR over the Atlantic Ocean. At some point or other, you are back staring at your instruments with glued eyes.”

No matter how thorough her flight planning, AaroHi somehow managed to get into bad weather conditions over the Atlantic.

Although she was able to take along another pilot on parts of her circumnavigation adventure, the ocean crossings had to be solo due to the weight restrictions of her LSA. Adding a life raft, oxygen, and other safety gear needed if forced to land in the ocean precluded having a passenger.

Summarizing the significance of this journey, AaroHi said, “At times you come across opportunities that are very beneficial for your career, but for me this was a personal growth of career as well as of a human being. I was growing up each and every day, dealing with a lot of people and unfamiliar situations, which I don’t think any other project would have offered me at such a young age.

“This project was so much more than just a circumnavigation; it was about representing women in aviation and marking India on a world map of aviation. Since gratitude is the only attitude, I will always be thankful to my instructors, my mentors and all the people around the world who helped me in every step.”

AaroHi was inspired by Amelia Earhart at an early age. “Aviation for me is love, passion, hard work and patience. I started my flight course at 17. Flying is the only thing I know to do. My family has been extremely supportive. My parents have always had my back.”

AaroHi’s present day inspiration and mentor is Matevz Lenarcic, an ace pilot from Slovenia who has flown more than 35,000 hours all over the world in an ultralight aircraft and has flown three times around the world. Says AaroHi, “I was lucky, he gave me his attention and his time whenever I was in ambiguity and always helped me out, no matter how busy he was.”

AaroHi is a member of the India Section of The 99s, who have supported her as she follows her aviation dreams.



AaroHi visits the Vintage Wings of Canada at the Gatineau-Ottawa Executive Airport, Quebec, Canada.



Takeoff from Pipestrel Factory in Slovenia.



Flying over Vestmannaeyjar Airport, a two-runway airport on the island of Heimaey in Vestmannaeyjar, a small archipelago off the south coast of Iceland.

Photos by Halldór Ben

Natasha Stenbock Transformed Fear to Empowerment

by Lauren Nagel, Montreal Chapter

Natasha Stenbock has always been driven by a thirst for knowledge, a desire to understand the “why” of the earth’s natural forces. This drive is what led her to a career in meteorology and eventually the pursuit of aviation, overcoming her greatest fears along the way.

Growing up with a grass strip in the backyard and an aircraft-owning father, Natasha was introduced to the world of flight at a young age. “Anytime we wanted to go somewhere, we would fly instead of drive.” As she gained worldly experience, it was commercial aviation that mystified her most, “I did pretty well flying with my dad, but with commercial airlines I didn’t know what was happening. I would ask myself, ‘Why is it bumpy? It’s clear outside!’”

This curiosity persisted, and she continued to ask questions, “Why do planes experience turbulence? How is it possible to fly through clouds?” Underlying her interest was an undeniable fear caused by not knowing what forces were acting on the aircraft and causing the unexpected bumps and drops during flights. Despite her upbringing, certain prominent aviation accidents reinforced her anxiety, cumulating into a fear of flying that wouldn’t subside until years later.

Natasha turned to her studies to feed her thirst for knowledge, starting with a telecommunications degree from Pepperdine University.



Natasha flew a Light Sport CTSW and added Fifinella to the tail in honor of the WASP.



As she developed her new interests in journalism and broadcasting, her fascination with the mysteries of the skies persisted. So strong was her need for answers that she decided to pursue further education in the field, studying Broadcast Meteorology at Mississippi State University and earning her American Meteorological Society (AMS) seal.

Following her education, she earned her way to the position of Chief Meteorologist for KOIN6 News in Oregon, a title she takes very seriously. “When people see you on television, they have no idea what your credentials are. They ask me, ‘So do you do your own forecasting?’ They think I have a teleprompter and someone writes it up for me.”

For Natasha, it is important to call women by their proper titles since nicknames, such as “weather girl,” can often diminish their credibility. “I’m particular about my job title, but not in a snobby way.”



could change in an instant. “Don’t expect forecasts to be perfect or on time and don’t dismiss the old-fashioned look out your window,” she advises. “There are some pilots who dismiss things, and I think that can get pilots in trouble.”

In the years after obtaining her private pilot certificate, she continued her training and received a 99s Amelia Earhart scholarship to complete her IFR rating that she says was the most challenging part of her training. She failed the written test twice and succeeded on her third try, completing her requirements just two days before scholarship deadline. Natasha says she’s not embarrassed to talk about such things, asserting, “All those little failures got me to this point.”

Her path has given her a thicker skin, and her job has taught her to put her embarrassment on the shelf. “Failures or decisions that didn’t turn out just lead you to the next path. I have no regrets, even if things weren’t perfect.”

One of the main challenges she now faces is staying current and comfortable in the plane while balancing her busy life. In addition to her full-time job and flight training, she also has a supportive husband and four kids at home. “I don’t have the freedom that I used to,” she says, but when she does get out flying, “I’m a different person, so much better, a better mom when I get back.”

Natasha is no stranger to the guilt mothers feel for taking time for themselves to go flying, feeling as if it’s a selfish thing to do. “What if something happens to me” is a thought that often crosses her mind. She insists that women need to stop feeling guilty for something that’s good for them and for their minds. “I hope that women out there who have kids, whether they’re babies or teenagers, know that they are needed in the air. They need to fly.”

Natasha continues to lead by example by flying as often as possible, whether it’s taking her kids for a sight-seeing flight or hitching a ride with the Thunderbirds for a press tour. On her journey, she has persevered and managed to turn fear and curiosity into awe and appreciation. Going forward, she hopes to inspire other pilots, especially moms, to make time for themselves and get in the air, where they love to be, and where they are needed.

While her professional pursuits clarified some of the mysteries of the skies, there was still something nagging her. “There was a frustration with myself for being afraid of flying. I just wanted to stop being afraid.” After years of postponing the inevitable, Natasha marched down to her local flight school, walked up to reception and asked, “What do I need to do?”

She signed up for lessons and enrolled in ground school, learning about all the phenomena that had previously mystified her. During the meteorology unit, she found she was actually teaching the instructor a thing or two, though concepts like decoding a METAR kept her humble.

She was also able to put her meteorology knowledge to good use during her flight training, setting strict minima for herself that fellow pilots didn’t always abide by. She was keenly aware that forecasts were flawed and weather



Natasha had an early introduction to flight on her mother’s lap, already preparing for a future as a PIC.



AEMSFAwardsScholarships

By Jacqueline Boyd, Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Chairman

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Trustees are pleased to announce the Scholarship winners for 2020. The Trustees received 59 applications requesting \$543,174. The high quality of the applications made the evaluation process a challenge.

We were able to award 20 Scholarships for \$172,052.14. The 2020 winners represent eight Sections and 18 Chapters. The Scholarships include the Vicki Cruse Memorial Emergency Maneuver Training award, 16 flight training awards and three Academic awards. The Academic awards cover training for Aviation Maintenance Tech training, Commercial Aviation Degree, and a course of study in Virtual Environments, Simulations and Robotics.

We want to thank the Chairs and AE Chairs of each Chapter, the AE Section Chairs and all the committees involved in the evaluation process before the applications came to the Trustees.



Felicity Shields Beckham, Instrument Yavapai Chapter, Southwest Section

I am a big city girl with big city dreams. I have never stopped reaching for the skies, literally, when it comes to my future. As president of my Chapter at the Embry-Riddle campus, I spend a lot of my time reaching out to upcoming female pilots as well as future aviators. It is the best feeling in the world to be able to share even a glimpse of the aviation community with aspiring pilots. Once I have earned my Instrument rating, I will continue on to Commercial, then CFI, so I can instruct at Embry-Riddle.

Julie Ann Carson, Instrument Fort Worth Chapter, South Central Section

The Ninety-Nines showed me that even at this stage in my life, it really was a viable possibility to make the change of career into aviation. Some in the group had already successfully become professional pilots, even though they had started out later in life, like me. Widening my pilot experiences in the instrument aviation environment would not only prepare me for the next level of training that can lead to a professional pilot career, but it would also enable widened opportunities in my volunteer efforts with The Ninety-Nines and within the aviation community. Thank you, Ninety-Nines!



***Leslie Caubbe, CFI
Maui Chapter, Southwest Section***

Aloha! I'm so honored to be a part of this amazing organization of inspiring women and humbled to be an AEMSF recipient. I'm a commercial pilot living in Hawaii and currently serve as Vice Chair for our newly-formed Maui Chapter. Like my 99s grandmother before me, my dream is to become a CFI. I will be using the funds from the AEMSF scholarship to make this dream a reality. My passion is to motivate women to begin flight training. I'm excited to now be able to train them myself to become skilled, safe pilots.



***Kimberly Chan, Instrument
San Fernando Valley Chapter,
Southwest Section***

I'm deeply honored and grateful to receive a 2020 AEMSF Scholarship for my instrument rating. I plan to use my IFR to fly more frequently and fly to further destinations. Oshkosh would be a dream! I want to be a safer pilot, and having my IFR will empower me to approach more situations with confidence. As Chair of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, I'm excited to get more of my members flying with me as my safety pilots and to engage new pilots. Look forward to seeing you all aboard the Queen Mary in 2021! Heartfelt thanks, and stay well.

***Natalie Codd, Multi-Engine
San Gabriel Valley Chapter,
Southwest Section***

I have been in the aviation industry for about eight years and flying for five, and I couldn't imagine doing anything else. I obtained my commercial pilot certificate in the summer of 2019, and I'm working toward my multi-engine. I hope to be able to give back and inspire other Ninety-Nines and women to pursue their goals, showing them even with obstacles, perseverance can prevail. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities The Ninety-Nines have provided me in working toward my goal of being an airline pilot and look forward to sharing and inspiring others.





**Emmy Dillon, Academic Virtual
Environments, Simulations & Robotics
Greater Kansas City Chapter,
North Central Section**

Aviation has always been in my blood. I grew up going to airshows, watching airplane movies, visiting aviation museums, anything and everything airplanes. I earned my private pilot certificate in high school and my advanced ratings in college. After graduation, I worked as an engineer designing user interface for integrated flight deck avionics systems and as a flight instructor. I recently made the decision to pursue flying full-time and have been a corporate pilot for almost a month. I am excited to utilize the scholarship towards the completion of my Master's degree in Human Factors and Systems Engineering.

**Autumn Eells, Academic Aviation
Maintenance Tech
Oregon Pines Chapter, Northwest Section**

My aviation affair began in 2017 with a discovery flight, resulting in initiating flight training in 2018. Midway through my Private training, I began teaching group ground to the Professional Pilot China Program at my school. While experimenting with teaching tactics, I discovered there is a knowledge gap between pilots and aircraft systems. After obtaining my certificate in August 2019, I set out to pursue my A&P at Lane Community College in hopes of making headway in bridging that gap in the future. I am a passionate aviation enthusiast who aspires to become a professional pilot one day.



**Jenna Forseth, Multi-Engine
Instrument
British Columbia Coast Chapter,
West Canada Section**

I fly a J-3 Cub, and one of my favorite things is flying over our lush green valleys and sandbars. The 99s supported me from the beginning of my training, and I am grateful for their mentorship and scholarships. It is a tremendous honor to receive the Amelia Earhart Scholarship that will enable me to complete my Multi-IFR rating and achieve my goal of qualifying as an airline pilot. I plan to inspire and mentor more women to reach their goals through determination and the support of The 99s. It is an honor to serve as British Columbia Coast Chapter Chair.

***Hannah Rose Henderson, Instrument
Payson Rim Country Chapter,
Southwest Section***

This Arizona country girl, wife, and first-time mother is blessed and honored to be an AEMSf recipient. This seasoned flight attendant, who dreams of doing walk-arounds as a professional pilot, is that much closer. This dreamer can hardly describe what it means to fly — it creates happiness, hope, freedom, and is beyond value. This private pilot is forever grateful to The 99s, the AEMSf Board, and to those closest for their support. Best wishes to all 99 members! Kick a** and chew bubblegum, and if you're all outta bubble gum, well then, you know what to do.



***Magali Lewis, C525S
Columbia Cascade Chapter,
Northwest Section***

I love flying, and I feel extremely lucky to have been able to make it a career. During challenging times and personal victories, I have always felt the support of The 99s. From flight instructing to leading a high school aviation program to serving as a corporate pilot, I am inspired by helping others accomplish their goals and push through. Aviation is a passion and a never-ending adventure in my life. I am very honored to receive the 2020 Amelia Earhart Scholarship to complete my single-pilot type rating and to be part of this wonderful organization.



***Summer Papple, Commercial
Helicopter Conversion
Maple Leaf Chapter, East Canada Section***

Five years ago, I had my first flight in a small plane, fell in love with aviation, and joined The 99s. I created my own business, Papple Aviation, offering scenic flights, air taxi, and aerial photography. Last year I flew fixed-wing medevac on King Air 200s in Northern Canada; I am now working for myself full-time while earning my helicopter CPL. With the encouragement of my sister 99s in Eastern Canada Section and the PPLI, as well as the support of the AEMSf, my long term goal of becoming a helicopter medevac pilot is within reach.





Tanya Rames
Commercial Multi-Engine
Aloha Chapter, Southwest Section

Turning my dreams into a reality has been the most fulfilling adventure I have ever embarked upon. It hasn't been easy, and my path has changed more than once over the years, but the goal has remained the same. I aspire to sit in the cockpit of a major commercial airline. With the help of the Amelia Earhart Scholarship, I will be able to add on my multi-engine rating to my commercial pilot certificate. I am so excited to acquire the knowledge and skill involved with flying a multi-engine aircraft, and I am so proud to be a Ninety-Nine.

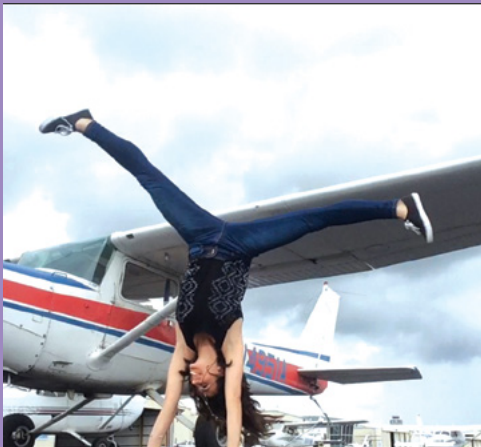
Stephanie Robinson
Commercial
Ventura County Chapter, Southwest Section

I am so grateful for this generous scholarship from The 99s for my commercial pilot certificate! In my past, I worked for nearly 18 years as a college instructor, specializing in teaching vocational skills for digital music production. I made a radical life shift three years ago to pursue my childhood dream of becoming a pilot. Today, I am combining my passion for aviation with my experience in skill-based education. The commercial certificate is an important stepping stone in the process of becoming a CFI and becoming a mentor to others in achieving their dreams.



Rachel Scarbrough
Commercial ASEL
Austin Hill Country Chapter,
South Central Section

My passion for flight began as a gymnast, and it continued to propel me towards coaching for over 14 years. When I took my first flight in a small plane in January 2018, all of those feelings were reignited and amplified. It was after that Discovery Flight I realized my second home is in the sky, and I immediately began to plan my second career. This scholarship will help me obtain my commercial ASEL, getting me one step closer to my CFI and continuing my career-switch journey from coach to captain.



Carly Shukiar
Academic Commercial Aviation
Degree

Ventura County Chapter, Southwest Section

I was born and raised in Southern California, but I currently attend the University of North Dakota studying Commercial Aviation. I started flying at age 15, and I joined the Ventura County Ninety-Nines as a student pilot in 2017. Currently, I am finishing my commercial multi-engine training, and I ultimately plan to fly for a corporate or charter operation. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with friends and family and giving prospective student tours at UND Aerospace. I additionally fly as the copilot for UND's Women's Air Race Classic team.



Eryka Silva, Multi-Engine
Sugarloaf Chapter,
Mid-Atlantic Section

I'm the most intense, funny, stubborn person anyone will ever meet. When I hear "not possible," I take it as: find another way to get it done. And that's how I have become a pilot. One of my most unique abilities is to be "the life of a party," which, for the sake of everyone, I only use against willing participants to share my passions. I learned from the past, celebrate the present while always figuring out how to make tomorrow better for everyone. When not flying, I love running, rafting, skydiving, cooking, and playing with my dogs.

Jiah Sim, Multi-Engine
Columbia Cascade Chapter,
Northwest Section

I was a journalist in my country, South Korea. I traveled all over the world, envying the pilots who took me to business destinations. Finally, I dared to challenge myself to become an airline pilot, following a little girl's dream. I earned the private, commercial certificates with an instrument rating, and a CFI certificate. My aviation journey has been an extreme challenge, yet I am not finished. Now, with grateful help from AEMSE, I get a chance to earn the multi-engine rating, which is essential for airline pilots. I cannot wait to encourage women so they will never give up on their dream.





***Jo Ann Speer, Vicki Cruse EMT
Memphis Chapter, Southeast Section***

I am the FBO Manager of McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport, Jackson, Tennessee, and president of Aviation Adventures, Inc. I began flying in 2000; earned my Private, Commercial, Instrument Rating, AGI, and CFI by 2005. I owned and operated Jo-Aire, LLC, the FBO at Everett-Stewart Regional Airport, Union City, Tennessee, from 2002-2007 and was the airport manager for the next 10 years. I served on the Governor's Aviation Task Force, Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame Board, President Tennessee Aviation Association, and Obion County Chamber Board, and as the Memphis 99s Chairman. My husband, Kerry, and I enjoy our family, flying, camping, kayaking, and gardening.

***Nour Utayim, Multi-Engine
Montreal Chapter,
East Canada Section***

I am a 25-year-old Syrian flight instructor in Canada. Being the second Syrian female pilot and a third-generation pilot have propelled my path in aviation since the very beginning. I was raised by a single mom who did not say but rather proved that women are powerful and capable leaders. The 99s inspiring sisterhood always keeps me motivated as I go towards achieving my dream of becoming an airline pilot. The AEMSf will not only have a great impact on me and my family but also reflect my place as a role model for other women in aviation.



***Christina Williams, Cadet Program
Hampton Roads Chapter,
Mid-Atlantic Section***

I am 29 years old, from Virginia Beach, Virginia, and am saying goodbye to a career as an automation engineer to pursue my dream of becoming a pilot. In my endeavor to become a professional pilot, I begin training in June as a cadet in the Southwest Destination 225 Program. Thank you to the Hampton Roads Ninety-Nines for the amazing support you have given me! I cannot wait to fulfill my dream of becoming a pilot and to encourage other women to pursue their dreams too.

2020 AEMSFS Outside Judges

Beth Ruggiero York

Once a pilot, always a pilot. Beth Ruggiero York is a former Trans World Airlines (TWA) B727 pilot. Although a medical diagnosis ended her career far sooner than she hoped, Beth enjoyed the years leading up to flying for the airline as she built her hours as well as her time with TWA. In the 1980s, Beth flew for various companies, including flight instruction (CFI, CFII, MEL,) banner towing (Piper PA-18 Super Cub,) glider towing (Piper PA-25 Pawnee,) FAR Part 135 night freight and passenger charter (Piper PA31-350 Navajo Chieftain,) and FedEx feeder pilot (Cessna 208 Caravan). She also holds the Airline Transport Pilot certificate and Flight Engineer-Turbojet rating.

Since leaving aviation, she has successfully built two additional careers as a Chinese language translator and travel consultant and as a professional photographer and photography instructor. She recently published her memoir, *Flying Along*, about being a woman pilot in the 1980s. Beth now lives in Fountain Hills, Arizona, for most of the year, returning to her home on Cape Cod for the summer months. Beth is also a Friend of The 99s.



Bobbi Thompson

Bobbi's aviation career has spanned more than 40 years, including being a 4,500-hour pilot (single and multi-engine and helicopter.) She is a Fédération Aéronautique Internationale world record holder. For 35 years, she produced air shows, was an airport manager, FBO owner and manager. She was also an air racing and aviation consultant.

She is the COO of ABS Aviation, an international FBO holding and airport management company, and the executive vice-president of Airport Business Solutions. She is also the past-president of the Nevada Airports Association and their former state lobbyist. ABS Aviation is currently contracted by Douglas County to manage Minden-Tahoe Airport, where Bobbi has served as the Airport Director for the past 10 years. During her career, she has managed seven airports.

She was previously a Board member and Chair for NDOT's Statewide Transportation Technical Advisory Committee. Bobbi spent several years as the Aviation Director for Los Angeles County. She is the past-president of the Board of Directors for the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and also a member of the Chamber Economic Development Committee. She is a Board member and president of the Business Council of Douglas County and is a Board member for the Reno Air Races.



Susan Ying, Ph.D.

Susan is responsible for Global Partnerships at Ampaire. She is also president of the International Council of Aeronautical Sciences. Before joining Ampaire, Dr. Ying was the Chief Integration Officer of the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China. In 2013, she retired from Boeing as the Director of Research and Technology. Before Boeing, Ying taught at universities and directed research in the DOE Research Labs and NASA Ames Research Center. She has been the recipient of countless honors and has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS). She received her Ph.D. and MS in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Stanford University and BS in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Cornell University.





BY DONNA
MILLER
*International
Careers
Committee*

A Soft Place to Land

By your second or third flight as a student pilot, your instructor asked you, "If you were to lose your engine right now, where would you land?" You hadn't thought about it before, so you scanned the area about 30 degrees off the nose on either side for a suitable runway. Not even a field, because you were a student pilot after all. As you continued your training, your instructor got trickier. The best landing spot may have just passed under your wing, which meant you had to turn around to find it. It was probably challenging to even recognize because it might not have been a hard surface.

What you were learning then was a lesson that continues to serve you now, though you may not realize it. Wherever you currently are in your aviation life, you need to continue to look for a soft place to land. And not just the aircraft.

These are indeed turbulent times. After the downturn following 9/11, pilots were searching for the proverbial emergency field. We all took huge steps backwards in our lives and in our careers and waited for the storm to finally clear before we took off again.

Nineteen years later, just as the pilot shortage appeared to be a reality and flying jobs were becoming abundant, we are hit with a worldwide pandemic that has begun to shake our lives and our careers. All that altitude we gained is now being used

as we trim for best glide and hope to find the most suitable place to land.

As professional pilots training in the simulator, we learn to: 1) Silence the bell; 2) Fly the aircraft; 3) Get out the checklist. What if we did that in our personal lives as things are happening now? 1) Silence the noise. Take time to just be quiet. Turn off the news and breathe. 2) Control what you can and do what you need to do now. Shore up your finances. Save where you can. Update your logbook and resume. 3) Consider your options. Participate in Zoom calls and network. Cement your relationships, especially as a mentor or volunteer. There is always someone on the wrung below yours on the career ladder who could use your wisdom.

We are all looking for a suitable alternate to put our aircraft down in the tempest. What works for a Cessna 172 may not work for an airliner, just as the opportunities as a single woman are completely different from a family of four. But we have our radios, and we can communicate to help each other out. We are resilient and creative and sharing.

As Abraham Lincoln famously stated, "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate in the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise to the occasion." And so it is. As Ninety-Nines, we have always done that. And we will continue to thrive. Because that's what Ninety-Nines do.

MILESTONES

Ellen Albers, Private, San Antonio
Anne Anderson, Written Instrument, Intermountain
Allie Balding, Q400 Type Rating, NOLA
Angel M. Base, Written Private, Intermountain
Laura Burckhardt, Private, Los Angeles
Meredith Datena, Commercial and CFI, Columbia Cascade
Katie Dembowski, Private, Treasure Coast
Becky Fruehling, MEI, Treasure Coast
Sanjal Gavande, Instrument, Orange County
Nicky Goyvaerts, Commercial Multi-Engine add-on, Treasure Coast
Sophia Hillard, Private, Los Angeles
Annelie Hubinette, Commercial, San Fernando Valley
Holly Leopardi, Private, Rio Grande Norte
Magali Lewis, Cessna Citation Jet Type Rating, Columbia Cascade

Gladys Magh, Private, San Diego
Alicia Maher, Private, Los Angeles
Rosemary May, PPL, Columbia Cascade
Rachel Meitler, Solo, Antelope Valley
Abigail Melling, Multi-Engine Commercial, Columbia Cascade
Karen Mitchell, Private, Eastern New England
Jennifer Piccolo, Private, Bay Cities
Jordan Ruemenapp, CFI, Columbia Cascade
Mandy Schmidt, Solo, Columbia Cascade
Melanie Seymour, Commercial, Fullerton
Rachel Sullivan, Solo, Antelope Valley
Tiphani Tolan, Commercial, Orange County
Stacie Urbach, Instrument, Tailwheel, Intermountain
Jennifer Walinowicz, Private, Orange County
Nicole Wellmann, Private Written, Treasure Coast
Taylor Wilson, Private, Orange County

Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum Needs Your Continued Support

Dear Ninety-Nines,

Thank you for your great support of the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum (AEBM). Unfortunately, we had to limit access to our wonderful museum in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Also, we have instituted several measures to keep our employees and guests safe. Therefore, our admissions and gift shop sales are down from years past.

We put our gift shop online and have increased our social media presence (see below). Please visit us virtually and continue to support us through these access points. With the wonderful assistance of Laura Ohrenberg at The Ninety-Nines Headquarters, we have received CARES/PPE Act funding that covered our employee salaries and utilities for several months. We greatly appreciated the relief in our budget.

We are currently fundraising through the sales of tickets for a Garmin watch. See the back cover the March/April *Ninety-Nines* magazine or talk to your Governor or Chapter Chair for ways to purchase these tickets. This fundraiser was intended to raise money to maintain our museum. Now the funds will be needed just to cover our operating expenses.

Please consider a donation to our current operating budget and/or Permanent Trust Fund. We are over 90 percent of the



The Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum.

way to the \$500,000 needed to endow this fund. Once this mark is reached, we will have access to the interest from the fund to provide for the maintenance and care of this wonderful home honoring Amelia Earhart, our first president.

We thank you for your continued support of AEBM.

— Bonnie Johnson

Chair of the AEBM Board of Trustees

Online Gift Shop: aebm.square.site

Instagram: [@ameliaearhartbirthplace](https://www.instagram.com/ameliaearhartbirthplace)

Facebook: [AmeliaEarhartBirthplaceMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/AmeliaEarhartBirthplaceMuseum)

Website: ameliaearhartmuseum.org

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GRASS ROOTS



Bakersfield Chapter

Bakersfield Chapter Chair Dea Payette traveled to Midlothian, Texas, during the mid-July heat to earn her tailwheel endorsement at Big Q Aviation.

Flying has resumed in the San Gabriel Valley, and she also took her husband (non-pilot) on his second flight where he was rewarded with lunch at Harris Ranch.

Margaux Hein took a GA flight in Italy while she was completing an internship abroad.

— Dea Payette

Oklahoma Chapter

The Oklahoma Chapter postponed its Annual Okie Derby Proficiency Rally until 2021. However, we are proud to announce that we still awarded our Wings of the Future Scholarship for 2020. The recipient, Nicoletta Fala, will use the funds to get her multiengine rating. This \$5,000 award is usually recognized at the Okie Derby Banquet.

Nicoletta has been flying since 2012 and is now an instrument rated commercial pilot and flight instructor. While serving as president of Purdue Pilots, Inc., a student-led flying club at Purdue University, she created new initiatives, such as ground training for members and an Air Race Classic team. Through her efforts, the ratio of female pilots in the club tripled. Nicoletta participated in the Classic twice.

In 2018 Nicoletta received the Female Aviators Sticking Together (FAST) scholarship and the 2018 ICAS Lovelace-Drake Scholarship for aerobatic flight training.

Currently, Nicoletta is an assistant professor at Oklahoma State University in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Her Ph.D. was granted in that field by Purdue University. Her research spans human factors and systems engineering topics and aims to improve aviation safety and operations. Her past research evaluated cognitive biases that impact how pilots respond to risk-related debrief and this research was recognized with the AIAA William T. Piper Sr. General Aviation Systems award.

—Angel Drabek



Nicoletta Fala was awarded the Oklahoma Chapter 2020 Wings of the Future Scholarship.

GRASS ROOTS



C-Flug, Manitoba Chapter's club airplane, recently got its loving annual wash and wax by Chapter members and helpers.

Manitoba Chapter

The Manitoba Chapter completed the annual wash and wax of our club plane. C-FLUG is the heart of our Chapter, and we annually give her the love she deserves with a deep clean and fresh wax every spring.

The members of our Chapter adore this little aircraft and utilize it to build hours and stay current.

Thanks to our fundraising throughout the year, we are able to award a handful of scholarships in 10 and/or 20 hour blocks of time on our aircraft and rent it for only \$20 an hour dry. Our economical rental option has enabled many of our Chapter members to move onto flying commercially and earn hours towards their ATPL.

— Emma Babuik

Long Island Chapter

Sadly, in-person Chapter meetings have been reduced to telephone conference calls. We've held four, though we are having a larger number of members attending. We hope to figure out Zoom conference calls for the future.

Rachel Siegel's planned start at Embry-Riddle Aviation Academy this fall is postponed. She is now hoping to fly as much as possible this summer logging hours toward her private pilot certificate.

At a recent Section meeting before virtual meetings had to be implemented, the Long Island Chapter participated in The Girl Scout Aviation Program that presented activities for the Girl Scouts to earn their Aviation Badge. Girl Scout troops from Long Island were invited to attend for introduction to charts, clouds, the cockpit and hands-on aviation. The Girl Scouts range from 5th to 12th grade students. Among the Girl Scouts were two granddaughters of past or current Chapter members. Roberta Pistorius' granddaughter attended, as did Casey, Dottie Campbell's granddaughter.

JC Follender and 49½ Jesse Eldridge were surprised to see they were featured in the local paper, *Newsday*, with other pilots having reached the age of 50 or over and still flying. A reporter had attended one of the Saturday morning FAA safety seminars at Long Island MacArthur Airport, Bohemia, New York, that JC attends with Jesse. They were interviewed at that time and photos were taken, but they had no idea when or if the story would be published.

Eventually they came across an article written in *The Eaglet*, the newsletter of the Antique Airplane Club of Greater New York. The



JC Follender and 49½ Jesse Eldridge were surprised to see they were featured in "The Eaglet," a newsletter of the Antique Airplane Club of Greater New York. The article showed them with their 1975 Citabria, above, that they bought over 20 years earlier, sight unseen.

—Photo by Newsday

article showed them with their 1975 Citabria, made by Bellanca, that they bought over 20 years earlier, sight unseen.

At that time JC flew commercial to Montana to pick up the airplane, and then flew it back to Long Island for her first extensive, solo cross-country flight. Something nice to think about while waiting to fly now.

— Patricia J. Rockwell

GRASS ROOTS



Minnesota Chapter members Magel Baker and Carmen Kivisto participated in a tribute flight in memory of Mary Hines Grant, former Minnesota Chapter member and WASP.

Minnesota Chapter

On Friday evening, May 15, six of our Minnesota 99s flew a joint tribute flight with pilots from Women in Aviation – Stars of the North Chapter, in memory of Mary Hines Grant, Minnesota WASP, who is buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. It was a beautiful night for this flight, and everyone was moved by the experience.

The three teams of Minnesota pilots that included 99s were Laura Herrmann (non-99) and Emily Wishard, Ellen Quist and Cheryl Daml, Majel Baker and Carmen Kivisto.

Thank you to our 99s pilots and Stars of the North pilots for coordinating this special event to honor Minnesota WASP Mary Hines Grant. It was a fantastic tribute!

— Robyn Stoller

Colorado Chapter

The Colorado Chapter is excited to share news about our ongoing activity, engagement and accomplishments. Recent months have seen virtual meetings via Zoom and fabulous activities within our aviation community.

In the Spring, members and guests enjoyed a tour of the Lockheed Martin facility in Denver. That was very impressive. The Chapter's June meeting featured a presentation from Sarah Bryn Rickman about the WAFS (Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron) and about Nancy Love in particular.

The Chapter has enjoyed narrative excerpts from author Penny Hamilton, including a recent piece about North Dakota's 1928 Miss Fargo. In May, Andrew McKenna, a researcher with TIGHAR (The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery), gave an interesting talk.

In July, the regular monthly meeting proved to be a feature of innovation with many members attending the International



On August 1, the Colorado Chapter completed a compass rose airmarking at Granby airport.

Grass Roots in the Midst of Covid

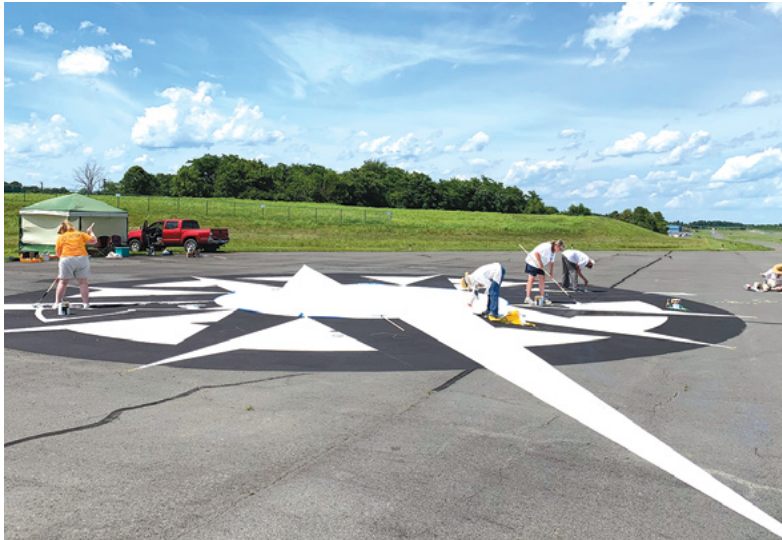
Even though face-to-face Chapter meetings and some activities will be cancelled, we still want to hear about your online meetings and Covid-safe activities (and don't forget your photos to use in Grass Roots). Stay well and enjoy the coming of fall!

meeting. What a delight to attend the virtual proceedings.

On August 1, the Chapter completed a compass rose airmarking at the Granby/Grand County Airport (GNB). Members from the metro and foothills areas had an excellent adventure up in the Rocky Mountains. This activity was a fun collaboration with Granby Airport manager Josh Schroeder and the local EAA chapter #1267. It was a bluebird Rocky Mountain day with grand energy and camaraderie.

Thanks to tremendous efforts from webmaster June Stewart, the Chapter is now hosting a new web page. Innovation is also seen with the successes of the Chapter's Student Pilot Meet-up Group (SPMG). Recent engagement of the SPMG has involved video conferencing and virtual connections.

— Lydia Baldwin



Old Dominion Chapter

Old Dominion completed its third compass rose in five years! With leadership and guidance from the new Air Marking coordinator, Stephanie Johnson, and despite the 90-plus degree temperatures, Chapter members and airport volunteers completed a renewal of the Culpeper KCJR compass rose in just two days. It was the perfect activity for social distancing but not for a group picture. Next up, Leesburg KJYO.

—Judy Shaw

Left, Old Dominion Chapter members and friends rejuvenated the Culpeper KCJR compass rose.

Orange County Chapter

Orange County 99s succeeded in getting a static display in the John Wayne (KSNA). Our Chair, Sanjal Gavande, worked many months with both the coordinator for JWA and with our 99s Museum to see this to fruition.

Who knew we would be blessed with this opportunity during a pandemic with record low numbers of people through our airport? The exhibit is up until March 2021.

The Orange County Chapter held its very first “Un-Banquet” on Thursday, June 11. With travel and participation still hampered by Covid-19 and social distancing, Chapter members met via Zoom. Outgoing Board members were honored, and new Board members were installed. Using the wonder that is modern technology, each incoming officer received a name badge and a scroll outlining their new duties.

The Chapter awarded three scholarships this year: the Vicki Anderson Memorial Scholarship to Sanjal Gavande (Orange County) for her commercial certificate, the Shirley Tanner Memorial Scholarship to Sofia Nosratabadi (Orange County) for her private pilot instrument rating, and the Eleanor Todd Memorial Scholarship to Soyla Flor Tostado (Long Beach) for her instrument rating.

The Orange County Chapter was chartered in 1962, creating itself from the Los Angeles Chapter. Following similarly, the Fullerton Chapter, chartered in 1974, was created from the Orange County Chapter. Three of our members have been elected International President.

We have enjoyed a momentous history, filled with a wide variation of aircraft, amazing destinations, and strong and determined members. Our student pilot members promise a future that builds upon our legacy and enhances it. Through the years, events and members have been commemorated on paper in a number of scrapbooks, many of which are now becoming a

little worn around the edges.

The Chapter’s Board has decided that in order to preserve our amazing history we need to ‘go digital.’ All of the scrapbooks have been reviewed and scrutinized in preparation for being scanned. The result will be our Chapter’s history available to all members through our website.

— Shirley McFall



Working on preparing the Orange County Chapter’s scrapbooks for digitizing are Sofia Nosratabadi, Trish Magdaleno, Beverley Allen, Pat Prentiss, and Irene Engard.

GRASS ROOTS



Delivering supplies to the hard-hit Arizona reservation communities are, from left, Phoenix 99s Samantha Resop (Chapter Chair), Ellie DeMarchi, and Theresa Farley, friends Mark Nowak and Steve Losefsky, and Abiding Ministries Rob and Joseph Day.

Phoenix Chapter

Arizona Reservation communities have been hit particularly hard by Covid-19. Last month a request for food and supplies went out for the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Abiding Ministries founders, Christie and Rob Day, asked for food and supplies as the San Carlos People are on lockdown and only allowed out of their homes two days per week.

Hoping to fill a rental Cessna 172, Theresa Farley put out the word for help through social media, "I figured I could buy a few things myself to ensure at least some relief."

Not only did Farley fill up a C172, the Phoenix 99s, along with other members of the local community, filled five other airplanes! So far there have been two separate flights, six total airplanes, 10 pilots, \$300-plus in cash donations, and over 1,100 pounds of food and supplies!

The Phoenix 99s continue to spread the word and gather supplies. They are planning another flight soon and hope to make it even bigger than the first two.

—Theresa Farley

Appalachian Aviatrixes Chapter

The Appalachian Aviatrixes Chapter is excited to have completed their first compass rose at the Greeneville Municipal Airport (KGCY) in Greeneville, Tennessee. The Chapter is most grateful for all the help provided by EAA Chapter 1355, families, and friends.

It took almost four hours on Friday to layout the design for the first time. The weather was beautiful, and work continued until all the blue paint was in place.

Saturday started with rain and heavy skies. When the rain cleared, workers got busy with leaf blowers, and painting continued. As work wound down, the EAA provided a sandwich buffet lunch.

The City of Greeneville held a special dedication for the compass rose on September 12. Chapter members were on hand with a Ninety-Nines display.

— Janice Pelletti



Appalachian Chapter members and friends admire their newly-painted Compass Rose at the Greeneville Municipal Airport.



Ninety-Nines Gather for Honor Flight Recognizing Local WASP

By Ruth Jacobs, Treasure Coast Chapter

On June 14, 2020, a group of 99s Sisters and Friends got together to honor local WASP Bernice (Bee) Haydu, Kay Hildbrandt, (deceased), and Shirley Kruse.

It started as a Facebook discussion with Terry Carbonell, Myra Bugbee, Ani Taddeo, Anita Mixon and many others expressing interest. From there, we quickly came up with a tentative plan and date to make it happen. We had the enthusiastic help of Stuart Jet Center, Tim Barrett, KSUA Air Traffic Control, and Diana Potter working with the Waters Edge Assisted Living to allow Bee to be outside so she could see and be seen as the airplanes flew over.

Terry Carbonell recalls, "It was a glorious day as we honored the WASP who were in our hearts."

Eighteen airplanes and 50 people from five Ninety-Nines Chapters (Treasure Coast, Florida Goldcoast, Paradise Coast, Florida Heartland and Florida Suncoast), along with friends and 49 ½s, met at Stuart Witham Field, Stuart Jet Center at 10 a.m. We came together for the briefing and coordinated the fly over for Bee Haydu.

We all met in the Stuart Jet Center Hangar to hear the plan, the briefing and coordinate their place in the line-up to take off and fly. The first to take off was the Albatross L-39 with Steve "Thumper" Greenberg to lead the flight. Second was a Beech C-45 piloted by Ed Franco.

Following were 16 additional airplanes. Most of the planes were piloted by women pilots with women pilot passengers to cheer and honor our WASP heroes.

Bee watched from Water's Edge Extended Care as our pilots did a flyover to recognize her, Kay and Shirley, and all our historical WASP pilots. Susan provided a portable aviation radio for Bee to listen to the pilots and talk to a number of them as they passed over. It was such a treat to see her on the bridge and hear her voice.

"I know how much my mother loves aviation, and I know how much The Ninety-Nines mean to her," says Bee's daughter, Diana Potter of Stuart. "For this sort of effort to be put forth for her, it's overwhelming."

Photos by Matt Shaw

"Without a doubt, Bee made tremendous contributions to our country and really paved a way for women aviators," says Dan Capen, president and CEO of the Stuart Jet Center. "We were excited about the opportunity to meet the pilots, serve as their staging ground, and in some small way show our gratitude to Bee, and all women pilots, for their service to our nation and the field of aviation."

The WASP are among the most accomplished women in aviation, were the first women to fly military airplanes and paved the way for future women pilots, women military pilots and astronauts.

"Thank you Bee, Kay and Shirley and all our other WASP for all you have done and been. It was an honor and a privilege for us to honor our American heroes. Thank you for your service," says Terry Carbonell.



Kay's family, from left, Bob Hayek, Vivian Hayek, Loretta Leftly, Vivian's son Adam Hoff; pilot Ed Franco far right.



Celebrating the Life of Captain Emily Howell Warner

By Donna Miller, Colorado Chapter

Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen, from the flight deck, this is your Captain speaking.” It is because of Emily Howell Warner that it is possible to hear those words spoken by a woman. And today, as we pilots watch her quietly bank her aircraft and roll out onto a heading of 270 to “head west” (by instruction of the Ultimate Air Traffic Controller), we celebrate her life here on earth.

It is because of Emily that little girls, seeing a woman pilot as she boards the plane, can picture the career of an airline pilot as a viable option. But Emily had no pilot role models. In fact, as she began to dream her dreams of an airline career, she had more people telling her that it couldn't be done than she had encouraging her.

Imagine being a flight instructor with thousands of flight hours, teaching young men to fly. Under Emily's guidance, many of these men went on to be successful airline pilots.

That wasn't an option for Emily. How hard it must have been for Emily to live in her propeller-driven world and look through the glass ceiling at the jets flying high above, knowing that's where she wanted to be. And so her quest began.

It is said that success is where being prepared meets opportunity. Emily was more than prepared, and through creative staging, with the help of a few allies, she created the opportunity that would allow her to live her passion and eventually

become the first woman airline Captain in the United States.

It was with grace and equanimity that Emily navigated an often harsh environment at the airline. There were many men who didn't want a girl in their good old boys club, no matter how qualified she was. It was a great day when, to show their acceptance of her, one of the tougher captains said to her, “Emily, you're just one of the fellas now.” Emily always beamed with twinkling eyes when she told us that story.

To show how far Emily has taken us, I flew with a captain recently, and after he made a particularly nice landing, I said, “Mike, you fly like a girl!” And he said, “Thank you.”

Emily has motivated prospective pilots and young girls through inspiring talks. While telling us HOW she became an airline pilot, she showed us that it's possible to be strong without being hard, and that we could be smart without being intimidating.

At the Smithsonian Air and Space museum in Washington D.C., Captain Warner's uniform is on display. Frankly, if they hang your laundry at the Smithsonian, you know you have arrived.

And as we said goodbye to Emily recently, it's safe to say she had arrived in Heaven, having greased the landing of her jet with a woman's touch, right on schedule.

If you're thinking of Emily and see a rainbow or a butterfly or an Irish four leaf clover, it's probably her because Heaven's Tower has asked her to contact ground.



Photo top: Airline pilots gather at the Wings Over the Rockies Museum to celebrate the life of their mentor and friend. Above: Emily Warner is inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame 2014.

LETTERS

Betty Thomas Article a Delight to Read

I truly enjoyed the article on Betty Thomas in the May/June issue. Thank you! It was delightful to read. As a 70-year-old and flying for 49 years, the last sentence made me laugh out loud as even my pre-flight is slower :-)

Wishing You Blue Skies and Tailwinds,

— Patricia Jayne (Pat) Keefer, Dallas Chapter

'Sharing Your Spare' is Beautiful

I liked the article *Sharing Your Spare* in the last issue. Thank you for letting us read this beautiful story.

— Pat Prentiss, Orange County Chapter



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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:

Ron Abbate, 49½ of Doris Abbate, July 27, 2020
Long Island Chapter

Tom Baumann, 49½ of Diann Baumann, July 15, 2020
Wisconsin Chapter

Frances (Peggy) Campbell, July 31, 2020
Houston Chapter

Priscilla Cook, July 7, 2020
Western Washington Chapter

Peg Davidson, June 14, 2020
Connecticut Chapter


John Dale Horvath, 49½ of Marilyn Horvath, July 10, 2020
Indiana Dunes Chapter

Jean Hunt, April 16, 2020
Sacramento Valley Chapter

Catherine Kovar, June 12, 2020
Northeast Kansas Chapter

Erissa Yong-Wilson, July 27, 2020
British Columbia Coast Chapter

Emily Howell Warner, July 3, 2020
Colorado Chapter



Editor's note: Due to continuing restrictions essential to helping control Covid-19, many of the scheduled activities we usually cover are cancelled. This will provide extra pages to devote to interesting members and creative activities related to The 99s. If you have an idea for a submission, please contact Publications Chair Lori Plourd, 99spubschair@gmail.com, or Danielle Clarneaux, Editor, danclar@comcast.net. We look forward to hearing from you and wish you all good health.



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