

Fall South Central Section Meeting Aerospace Education Report October 7, 2017

Your Aerospace Education Chairman has been very remiss in her duties to keep you all informed. In fact, I only just now noticed that the SCS website has a place where I could have put useful information or links. I also noticed that in the footer of the website there is a link to other aviation websites nicely categorized by topic – and nothing for Aerospace Education. I need to do something about that.

In my Spring 2016 report (did I really fail you for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017?) I offered information from American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) on their **Micro Lessons** (www.aiaa.org/MicroLessons/). They now have **46** lessons out there **for free** structured for all ages. I hope maybe some of you went out to look at these outstanding stand-alone lessons or joined AIAA for FREE as an educator member.

Rio Grande Norte Chapter hosted the **Air Race Classic** in June and we offered a Youth Aviation Activity session. (That's my excuse for no Spring report!) Using a model I learned from YOUTH AVIATION ADVENTURE (another great resource) we set up 4 activity tables and the youngsters rotated around them to make paper airplanes, check out weight and balance, talk with a female Air Force officer who let the girls try on her flight helmet, and a CAP cadet told the girls and their parents about the opportunities offered by Civil Air Patrol.

Though some volunteers may be tiring of Girl Scout Aviation Days, the Girl Scouts never do. We have had several repeat attendees and now are trying to mix up our program with less power point and more hands-on activities. If you need activity ideas, I have a ton of them.

For older girls the **Real World Design Challenge** is celebrating its 10th year. This is a great opportunity for High School students. The challenge is tough but the learning experiences involved carry over well beyond this competition! Please check it out and spread the word to teachers and aviation enthusiasts. A team does not necessarily have to be in a school setting and, given today's technology, not necessarily located in the same town or state. They are always looking for MENTORS to help the students understand the aviation components of the challenge. www.realworlddesignchallenge.org

Aviation class helps student choose a career. Dublin, California student Jessica Wang took a six-week aviation class offered by the Patriots Jet Team Foundation, where she learned to take off and land a plane, how to read traffic patterns and more. The experience solidified her career plans: "Besides the high demand for commercial pilots, the thrill and thought of traveling to different places and getting to see the horizon 35,000 feet above the ground every day is what encourages me to strive to do my best to become an airline pilot," she wrote. She the article on www.OneDublin.org (September 13): www.onedublin.org/2017/09/13/dublin-high-school-sophomore-experiences-thrill-of-flying-in-six-week-aviation-course.

NM Aviation Aerospace Association 2017 Aviation Expo will be held at Alamogordo White Sands Regional Airport on Thursday, October 5 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. 2,000 students are expected to see lots of aircraft and aerospace vendors showing some of the latest tools of the trade. This is an ANNUAL event so look for it next year on www.nmaaa.net.

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GAMA Announced the 2018 Aviation Design Challenge on National Aviation Day: GAMA will provide the first 110 schools that register complimentary “Fly to Learn” curriculum and software, powered by X-Plane, that teach aerodynamic and aviation engineering principles. Teachers will guide students through the science of flight and airplane design, completing the curricula in approximately six weeks in the classroom or in four weeks through an accelerated program. Schools will then apply that knowledge to modify an airplane design and complete a mission in a virtual fly-off using the software, which GAMA judges will score based on application of what the team learned, and performance parameters. Four students, one teacher and one chaperone from the winning team will receive an all-expenses-paid trip during the summer of 2018 to experience general aviation manufacturing firsthand. See more information at www.gama.aero/opportunities-in-ga/aviation-challenge.

On an erratic basis, I send out an email called **STEM Tidbits** with items I think would be of interest to educators, youth and aviation enthusiasts. The above paragraphs are samples of what STEM Tidbits might contain. If you want to be added to my email group just contact me at akwoman86@yahoo.com. It is a blind cc group so I do not share anyone’s email address.

We’ve had some absolutely amazing programs on the **Science Channel** lately – the Cassini Grand Finale, a special about Jack MacDonnell an amazing aerospace engineer who design the F4 Phantom jet. Information about these and other programs could be in your Chapter newsletter or shared with educators you know.

Aerospace Education is not just for kids. We have an obligation, according to our mission statement, to “promote advancement of aviation through education, scholarships and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight.” There are some challenges facing GA and we need to stand up and let people know that aviation makes a difference in the lives on many, many people, not just pilots. It is the “hook” that will lead a struggling student into the mysteries of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). There are many competitions out there that could benefit from 99s mentorship.

See the handout of ideas and resources on the SCS website.

Apologetically and respectfully submitted,

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