

## **Judy Humphries Allerheiligen, High Country Chapter**

*by Ruth S. Anderson (2001)*

As a young child, Judy Humphries showed some interest in flying since she lived near the Naval Air Station in Illinois where the Blue Angels practiced and often flew low over her house. But it took a drop kick from her real estate boss in Grand Junction, Colorado, in 1989 to start her flying career.

In the late 70s, Judy lived with her family in California and worked for a savings and loan institution. She never warmed to the idea of being in management where you have to "be there to open, be there to close, and are tied to a location". So she took an appraisal class at night -- no management positions for her.

After moving to Colorado in 1980, she accepted a job with Jim Biber's appraisal firm in Grand Junction, a job that required her to get a real estate license. On her first day of work, she took her first ride in Jim's Cessna turbo 206. She continued to fly with Jim on appraisals until one day he told her, "You need to get your own pilot's certificate."

Judy had always wanted to fly, but didn't think she could. Now she had to try. So she started ground school with 99 Deanna Strand's Flying School. When she soloed in December 1989, her father was waiting at the airstrip to pin her with the same wings he got when he soloed in 1937. Lack of money prevented her from getting her private until August 1990.

Two years later, Judy purchased her first plane, a Piper 235 that she named "Kacina," meaning a spirit that rides on the wind. Last year, she replaced Kacina with a 1961 Comanche 250/260, which she named "Quirk."

Today, Judy is a senior residential appraiser and a certified commercial real estate appraiser. She and Jim are the only appraisers in the Grand Junction area who fly on their appraisal assignments. This is a significant advantage in the Rocky Mountain area where a quick one-hour flight often replaces a trip of three or four hours by car. "The view from the air also gives us a valuable perspective about a property that can't be obtained from the ground," Judy says. She takes her own pictures from the air, a dramatic verification of the area being appraised.

As well as chairing the High Country Chapter, Judy is a South Central Section Director -- and now that she can manage her own time (remember her early concern about "management hours"), she gets to work at 6:30 in the morning and often works till 6:30 or 7:00 at night. When you love your job, time doesn't seem to matter -- and Judy loves her job!