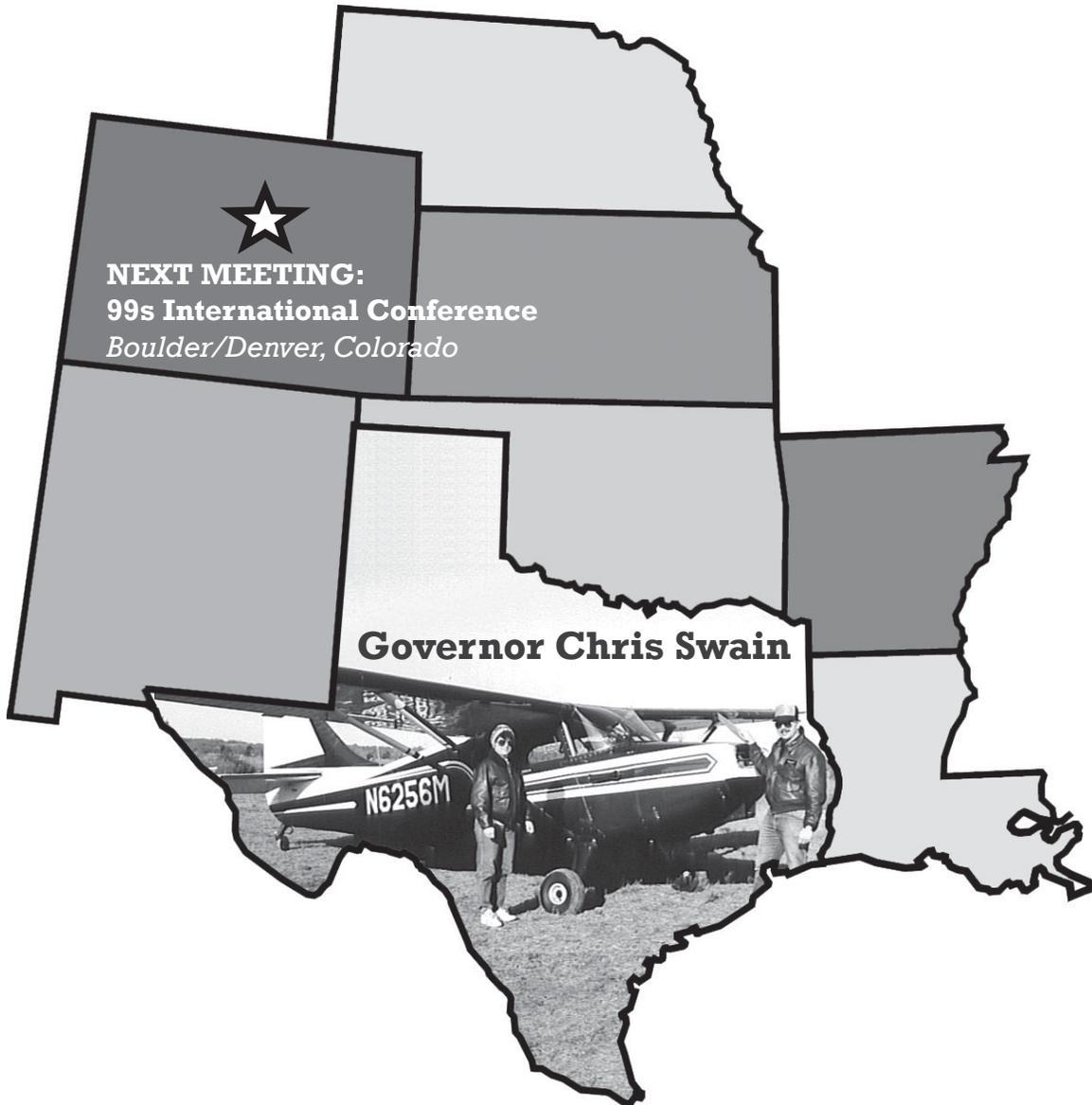


# ***APPROACH***

## **South Central Section 99s**

*The Official Publication of the South Central Section of The Ninety-Nines, Inc. • Fall 2007 • Vol. XXIII, No. 2*



### **NO FALL SECTION MEETING**

**The South Central Section is hosting the  
2007 International Conference in  
Boulder/Denver, Colorado  
September 12-16, 2007**

*WE'LL SEE EVERYONE THERE!*

## NEBRASKA

By Susan Biba

Our Chapter hosted a joint meeting April 27th -29th 2007 for the South Central Section and the North Central Section at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"LNK-ing the 99s" was the theme for the meeting reflecting the joining of two memberships with 110 registrants. Nebraska Chapter members assisting with organizing this event were: Patsy Meyer (Meeting Chairman) and Susan Askew, Diane Bartels, Kathy Spahr, Carole Sutton, Linda Sutton, Elisa Tyson, Sally Van Zandt, Sandy Zeliff, and Susan Biba.

Ninety-Nines who flew in private planes for the meeting dodged rain showers on Friday but soon the ramp began to fill with planes piloted by members.

A local television news outlet filmed and presented a story on the 99s arrival. Deb Price of the Colorado Chapter was featured upon landing at Lincoln Municipal airport. Linda Horn and Kristine Irwin-Herron were also interviewed for the report. Early arrivals for the meetings were able to tour the Strategic Air and Space Museum on Friday morning. They rejoined the later arrivals on a tour of the Duncan Aviation facilities at the Lincoln airport. Duncan employees led groups



Nebraska Chapter 99s: Kathy Spahr, Patsy Meyer, Diane Bartels, Carole Sutton, Susan Askew, Linda Sutton, Susan Biba, Elisa Tyson, Sally VanZandt, Jeanne Given.

of Ninety-Nines through their impressive, world-class facilities and showed wonderful Nebraska hospitality to the visitors.

The Duncan cafeteria was the location for a catered meal with guest speaker Betsy Curtis (along with Harry Barr). Betsy is a flight instructor for the US Air Force at Offutt Air Base in Omaha. Chandra Clanton also was presented. She is a member of the 2007 US Aerobatic team that will be competing in Grenada, Spain this summer for the World Aerobatic Championship.

Saturday events included business meetings for 99 members from both

sections. Ninety-Nines and guests took a tour of the extensive private collection of Speedway Motors Museum. This extensive private collection was a treat for all.

Saturday afternoon activities included seminars and socializing at the Hospitality Suite and Fly Market. Martha Norman presented a seminar describing her role as a NIFA judge and the role of The Ninety-Nines in the NIFA competitions. Diane Bartels presented a seminar on "Sharpie: the Life Story of Evelyn Sharp." Ninety-Nines and their guests were also treated to "Timeless Voices of Aviation" on a large screen.

The Saturday evening banquet featured guest speaker Ronnie Mitchell of the Nebraska DOA who delivered an entertaining message of his experiences flying with the Air Force and for the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics.

The fun continued with an auction conducted by Jody McCarrell of Oklahoma. Chapters donated aviation-related items for the auction. Over \$2,700 was raised and will be directed to 501c3 organizations with ties to the Ninety-Nines.

On departure day Sunday Ninety-Nines left Lincoln under bright blue skies, and (of course) tailwinds!

---

Vol. XXIII No. 2

Fall 2007, Circulation: 950 copies

The South Central Section APPROACH is the official publication of the South Central Section of The Ninety-Nines, Inc., a non-profit organization [IRS Code 501(c)(3)] incorporated in the State of Texas. Two issues per year are distributed to every member of the South Central Section, the International Board of Directors, and the Governors of each U.S. Section.

Neither the Editor, the South Central Section of The 99s, Inc., or its Board of Directors are responsible for the accuracy or authenticity of any of the content of this publication or for that contributed by members and advertisers who do so without remuneration.

No material may be copied or reproduced for sale or for any other purpose without the written permission of the Editor or the South Central Section Board of Directors.

**Editor: Dottie Loveless**

123 Ivy Hill Court  
Santa Teresa NM 88008  
505-589-4307  
505-589-4307 fax  
nmtxdottie@elp.rr.com

**NEXT DEADLINE:**

**4 January 2008**

## GOVERNOR'S REPORT

By Governor Chris Swain

I have to start out by saying thanks to the Nebraska Chapter for the outstanding job of hosting the Spring joint section meeting between the South Central Section and the North Central Section. I know it took a tremendous amount of planning, coordination and just plain old work by everyone in the Chapter, but all the attendees I spoke to expressed what a great time they were having.

Information reported at the Section meeting from the last BOD and COG meeting that need to be noted are: the COG has assigned sister sections to all U.S. based sections, with the intent to offer encouragement and assistance to our International Section members, SCS will be sister section to India and Mexico. Our International President Pat Prentiss has accepted a challenge to increase out membership to 6,000 by mid-2008. This challenge should be an opportunity for SCS to work closely with the India Section to build their membership, they currently have seven members, and find a way to revitalize the Mexico Section, only one listed in the directory. The Amelia Earhart Scholarship Fund received a donation of \$500,000 from the estate of Ms. Lippencotes and the Endowment Fund will receive 1 cent per search if every time a member uses [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and chooses Ninety-Nines as the designated charity.

And on the subject of the web and membership, one thing that would greatly help membership growth of

any Section and/or Chapter is to keep your website up-to-date. Since the web is such a big part of our lives today, anyone surfing for information on the Ninety-Nines, whether to join or for just a contact, would be discouraged if the only information found was out of date. Keep all information current, dates for chapter meetings, fly-outs, dinner gatherings, lunch gathering, airport activity, forums planning to attend. Even if one person is planning to attend an event, put it on your website with a contact so if someone is looking, they will know a 99 will be there. Current information will give the Chapter a chance to brag on their activities and achievements.

SCS has bragging rights again! Congratulations to AES winners Michelle Bassanesi, Kristen Peck, Janelle Baron, and New Pilot Award Heather Cook!

It's been reported that the FAA is proposing an avgas tax hike and user fees again and that everyone should contact their representative. However, I want to remind everyone you're doing this as an individual, since The Ninety-Nines are a non-profit organization and cannot endorse any agenda. In other words, as an organization The Ninety-Nines cannot get involved in politics.

See everyone in Boulder/Denver for International Conference in September. Plan to attend and enjoy.

Blue Skies,

*Chris*

## WANTED!

### CANDIDATES FOR SECTION OFFICES!

Next spring you will elect a new slate of officers who will do the important work of managing the business of the South Central Section. The deadline for submission of the "Intent to Seek Election" form came and went with some positions still open. The deadline has now been extended to October 15.

It has always been the goal of the nominating committee to present more than one candidate for each office in order to give the membership choices. But we need your help! We have one candidate each for Governor, Vice-Governor and both Directors. We have NO candidates for Secretary, Treasurer or Nominating Committee.

Look at yourself and look at your Chapter members. Who would make a good officer for the SCS? Sometimes they just need a little encouragement. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, contact a member of the current Nominating Committee: Nan France, Jody McCarrell or Ginny Boylls. They'll do the rest!

## SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006-2008

Governor Chris Swain  
[Chris56m@aol.com](mailto:Chris56m@aol.com)

Vice-Governor Jan McKenzie  
[mckenjn@yahoo.com](mailto:mckenjn@yahoo.com)

Secretary Charlotte Larson  
[charlotte.m.larson@suddenlink.net](mailto:charlotte.m.larson@suddenlink.net)

Treasurer Deb Price  
[Deb.price@comcast.net](mailto:Deb.price@comcast.net)

Director Jo Agee Housler  
[jeveagee4@yahoo.com](mailto:jeveagee4@yahoo.com)

Director Jill Williams  
[Jillwilliams99@yahoo.com](mailto:Jillwilliams99@yahoo.com)

Past Governor Kris Irvin Herron  
[CPAaviator@aol.com](mailto:CPAaviator@aol.com)

## SCS ADVISORS

### LEGISLATION

Charli Lamb  
[charlilamb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:charlilamb@sbcglobal.net)

### NASA PROJECT

Jill Williams  
[Jillwilliams99@yahoo.com](mailto:Jillwilliams99@yahoo.com)

### SCHOLARSHIP

Rose Lepore  
[r9lupor9@swbell.net](mailto:r9lupor9@swbell.net)

### AWARDS

Gloria Blank  
[Luv2fly@kfc.com](mailto:Luv2fly@kfc.com)

&

Laura Richter  
[Blueflyer9@aol.com](mailto:Blueflyer9@aol.com)

### BYLAWS

Beverly Stephens  
[beverlystephens@ntin.net](mailto:beverlystephens@ntin.net)

### MEMBERSHIP

Kay Renfrow  
[ifly76c@highspeedtexas.com](mailto:ifly76c@highspeedtexas.com)

### Dorothy Warren

972-247-5904  
(no email)

### WEBMASTER

Linda Horn  
[Ljhm1796j@aol.com](mailto:Ljhm1796j@aol.com)

## NEXT SECTION MEETING:

### ALBUQUERQUE!!!

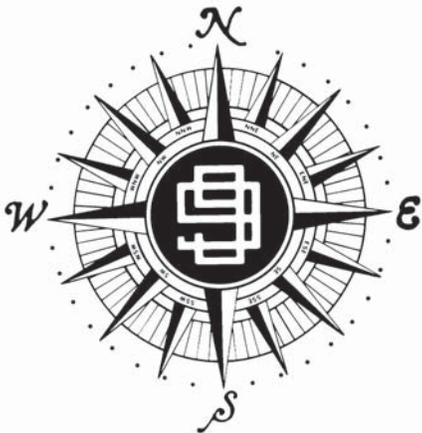
14-16 MARCH 2008

The Albuquerque Chapter looks forward to hosting our section for the Spring 2008 section meeting. We're planning a fun-filled mystery weekend. Bring your GPS to try your hand at a geocaching exercise to "Find Amelia." For those not looking for geocaching clues to "Find Amelia," we'll have seminars on Saturday afternoon.

The highlight of the meeting will be an executive tour of Eclipse Aviation ([www.eclipseaviation.com](http://www.eclipseaviation.com)) on Friday afternoon. Eclipse Aviation pioneered the "very light jet" market and we'll see what makes this little jet so special. Eclipse Aviation is very excited about The 99s visiting them, so expect a really good time! You won't want to miss this tour, so make sure you get to ABQ in time to take this tour! (Tentative time to leave the hotel is around 12 noon on Friday, 14 March.)

Our meeting hotel is the Sheraton Uptown in ABQ. Room rates are \$99 +tax, single or double, add \$10 per night per extra person. Call 1-800-252-7772 and ask for "The 99s" rate. Cut-off date for The 99s rate is 15 February 2008.

We'll cap the weekend with a Mystery Cafe on Saturday night. It will be a mysterious and fun weekend! Please join us!



## FORT WORTH

By Ellie Block

As the Fort Worth 99s contemplate their 50th anniversary on November 18th, 2007, we have to consider all the people who made it work and now continue to do so.

We have one member who joined The 99s in 1942. As a WASP, Dora McKeown trained other pilots to fly the B29 during WWII, and then continued with her flying career later by learning to fly helicopters and joining the Whirly-Girls.

Ann Atkeisen, a member since 1988, was in the last WASP class, with her wings pinned on by Hap Arnold. Wally Funk, a 99 member since 1958, has been reaching for the stars as a member of Mercury 13, receiving the same training as the men. She has continued her flying career and continues to be recognized internationally, influencing many women to fly.

One member, Ina Derksen, from the Netherlands, keeps us up with what is happening with flying in Europe.



The Fort Worth 99s are an impressive group of women!

Several members have been involved with air racing. Also, several have been and are currently international and section committee chairs. One currently supervises personnel both in Atchison, KS, and Oklahoma City, OK.

Several members fly for major airlines. One member got back into flying after a hiatus of several years by helping to build her own airplane and acquiring a hangar home. She now flies around the United States visiting her family in Georgia and vacationing in Washington.

Currently, we have one young member who is going through her ratings so quickly she can hardly catch her breath. We have completed compass roses, NASA training, companion courses and many other projects. At our meetings we have had the privilege to meet such outstanding people as Col. Kim Olson (Iraq and Back). As we go into the next 50 years, we contemplate our past and hope to continue in those big footprints.

## DALLAS

By Jill Williams

After a quiet winter when various members were off to warmer climates, the Dallas chapter held officer elections in April. The following members were voted into office for 2007 - 2008: Jane Quinn, Chairman; Gabriela Adam-Rodwell, Vice Chairman; Sherry Coffey, Secretary; and Sarah Ranstrom, Treasurer.

Also in April, Chris Swain, SCS Governor and Dallas chapter member,

presided over the Spring Section meeting in Lincoln, NE. Chapter members attending were Chris and Jill Williams.

Our officer installation was held May 17 at Spring Creek BBQ in Addison and the new officers assumed their duties on June 1.



Installation of new Dallas Chapter officers. Left to Right: Sherry Coffey, Sarah Ranstrom, Jerry Glennie, Jane Quinn

We are busy planning a celebration of the 50th anniversary of our chapter charter which was granted on November 17, 1957. We will be celebrating with the Ft. Worth chapter as their 50th anniversary is one day later (November 18, 1957).

## PURPLE SAGE

By Priscilla Barbee

Our Chapter got together on December 16th for our monthly meeting and annual Christmas party. Thanks go to Janet Koonce for welcoming us to her home. We collected and gave travel-size lotions, shampoos, toys etc. to our local Safe House. We also collected and gave non-perishable food items to our local food bank. Rather than real gifts, we gave each other "white elephant gifts."



*New Purple Sage Chapter Officers: Chair—Patricia Darby (R), Vice-Chair—Janet Koonce (L), Treasurer—Mary Alice Tidwell (seated) and Secretary—Priscilla Barbee (C).*

The yummy pot-luck dishes we brought added to wonderful time we had.

We held a luncheon meeting at Clear Springs Cafe halfway between Midland and Odessa on April 21st to elect chapter officers for the new fiscal year. Our new officers are Chair: Patricia Darby; Vice-Chair: Janet Koonce; Treasurer: Mary Alice Tidwell; and Secretary: Priscilla Barbee. We also decided we would have more luncheon meetings. What fun!

At our May meeting we thanked our outgoing officers and had homemade desserts. Yum!

Our June meeting was all about inducting our new chapter officers and taking pictures. We enjoyed popcorn and cookies.

We had such fun hosting the SCS meeting last fall. Our invitation stands for return visitors to stop by and visit when in Midland/Odessa.

## FOREST OF FRIENDSHIP

By Dottie Loveless

It is not possible to become a woman pilot without learning about Amelia Earhart. No one demands it, no one plans it, but her legacy is a beacon that shines on aspiring pilots. Amelia Earhart was a founding member of The Ninety-Nines and its first president when dues were set at \$1 a year. She was noted as saying, "I want to do something useful in the world." She did, of course, but among her records and fame, she was the inspiration for the International Forest of Friendship in Atchison, Kansas.

Although there are other 99s-sponsored tributes to Amelia Earhart, the Forest of Friendship is unique because it is an ever-expanding memorial.

Each year a new class of inductees is added to the memorial. They are chosen for their contributions to aviation and not limited to women. A walk down Memory Lane there is like a review of the timeline of aviation .

Some names to be noted on their plaques include Charles A. Lindbergh, Sally Ride, Space Shuttle 7, Wiley Post, Fay Gillis Wells, Honorable John Lehman (Secretary of the Navy), Marsha Ivins NASA Astronaut, etc.



*Marsha Mascorro (L), statue of AE and Didi Shaffer (2007 FoF Inductee).*

Impressive? Yes, but sponsors of 99s to be inducted mostly pick women who are the backbone of flying organizations with their energy, dedication and plain hard work.

## INDUCTEES 2007

The South Central Section provided four deserving inductees for 2007. They are: Linda Horn sponsored by the Colorado 99s Chapter; Marsha Mascorro and Marilyn (Didi) Shaffer sponsored by the El Paso 99s Chapter; and Charles Williams, Jr. Brig. Gen. USAF of San Antonio, Texas. He was sponsored by his sisters Margaret Sewell of Lancaster, Kansas and Ruth Godbey of Topeka, Kansas.

There are special aviation events throughout the year at Atchison as well as the Amelia Earhart Birthplace restored home, and several museums.

It is a great place for a short getaway. Check out the 99s website for more information.



*Linda Horn looking at her plaque. (Photo by Margot Plummer)*

## SAN ANTONIO

By Margaret Cosby

Our chapter was honored to have Colonel Michael Cosby as speaker at our February meeting. Col. Cosby is the son of 99 Margaret Cosby. He has served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bahrain, and Qatar the last three years. Now he is enroute to Command the Gulf Air War Center, which is a Center of Excellence in the region. He will teach advanced tactics to the GCC states.

Col. Cosby gave us a pictorial tour of Iraq sites of historical significance. A special site included was the Zuggerat of Ur, which is the birthplace of the Patriarch Abraham.

The Central Command Area of Responsibility (AOR) stretches 5,400 miles across Iraq and Afghanistan, encompassing more than 6 hundred million people.

Currently, US Central Command Air Forces have more than 270 aircraft, made up of F15s & 16s, A-10s, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and helicopters.

In the last three years, he has flown more than 200 combat sorties over Iraq and was the Vice Commander of the Air Forces in Iraq. He was then selected to serve as the Chief of Staff to the Commander US Central Command Air Forces, overseeing all air operations in the AOR.

Technology has advanced significantly since the first Gulf War, back in 1991. They do lots of bombing, but use GPS and night vision goggles.

The bombs being used have much greater accuracy now. They can pinpoint a specific window in a specific building, taking out only one room. Many of the UAVs, and their bombs, are controlled from as far away as Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The USAF has established a large Theater Hospital in Balad, Iraq. Our modern military is capable of getting most wounded to the hospital within the first hour of being wounded. If a service man arrives at this hospital alive, there is a 98% probability that he/she will live. Those who need additional care are sent to a hospital in Germany.

Kirkuk Air Base in Northern Iraq is important because 6.4% of the world's oil is there. Al Udeid Air Base is the largest in the region. In addition, it is also where the Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) is located. The CAOC is responsible for all air operations in the AOR. Michael said 98% of the people in Iraq want us there until they can successfully run their own country.

After speaking, we had a brief question

and answer period. It was a very interesting and educational meeting, and we thank Col. Cosby for the time he spent with us.



Col. Michael Cosby, son of San Antonio 99 Margaret Cosby.

## OKLAHOMA

By Carol Sokatch

Our Chapter member, Allison Foster, was awarded the Vic Jackson Memorial Aviation Scholarship by the Oklahoma Pilots Association in March. She will use the funds to obtain her instrument rating. Allison previously received an Okie Derby Wings of the Future Scholarship.

We spent an enormous amount of time, thought and energy in planning for hosting the Start of the 2007 Air Race Classic. We are proud to earn designation for it as an official Oklahoma Centennial event. Friday, June 14 was scheduled for a reception at the Museum of Women Pilots at International Headquarters.

Saturday afternoon Terry von Thaden, granddaughter of Louise Thaden, winner of the first Powder Puff Derby conducted a youth program for Girl Scouts at the Omniplex Air and Space Museum. The Ninety-Nines, Inc owns Louise Thaden's plane that is currently on loan to the Omniplex for the mandatory ARC Reception.

Dr. von Thaden was the speaker at the ARC Banquet Sunday evening at the Biltmore. The theme of the Banquet was "A Night to Remember."

Carolyn Smith donated a stained glass window pane airplane quilt for a raffle at the banquet.

Our members racing this year in the ARC are Margie Richison and Linda Marshall. Margie is Chairman of the Board of the Museum of Women Pilots (MWP) and Linda is on its board.

We recently approved revisions to our Constitution, Bylaws and Policies, bringing them into agreement with International documents and actual practice.

Poochie and Ed Rotzinger drove to Columbus to work the 2007 NIFA National. Poochie continues to stress that members from our Section are vitally needed to judge monitor regional and national competitions. A big bonus is to meet and get to know aviation's future pilots.

Our Chapter did take time for fun by attending the Carpenter Square

*(Oklahoma report continued next page)*

---

**APPROACH  
DEADLINE!  
4 January 2008**

**Be ready to tell  
us all about your  
Chapter's Holiday  
adventures!**

(Oklahoma report continued)

Theater's production of PICNIC. Jayme Howell was stellar in the role of the spinster school teacher in the excellent arena stage production.

The Museum of Women Pilots opened a new display on Amelia Earhart, featuring her solo Atlantic flight 75 years ago. Fifth graders from an Edmond school were hosted along with local and state media on Thursday, May 17.

The children enjoyed tours and flying rubber-band powered planes along AE's course from New York, St. Johns, and Grace Harbor to Ireland outlined on our lawn. This was a successful day yielding great publicity for the entire MWP.

Saturday, June 2 was the Third Annual MWP Open House. Featured were four hours of live coverage by top talk radio station KOTK featuring interviews with 99s, MWP board members, etc. The visitors also were impressed by the OKC Police Department and Channel Four's helicopters. Civil Aeromedical Institute was present. The Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center provided interaction with their vertigo chair, flight simulator, and flight surgeon. We had a Girl Scout organized scavenger hunt. Also, Oklahoma University Aviation Department provided an information table where adults could register to win an hour of flight.

Newly elected Chapter officers for 2007-2009 are Chairman, Liz Lundin; Vice Chairman, Charlene Davis; Secretary, Carol Sokatch and Treasurer, Wyvema Startz. Installation is planned for our next meeting.

Amy McCue is Chairman of the 2007 Okie Derby. This will be staged from Wiley Post Airport in Bethany (OKC) August 17 and 18. Ya'll come and fly with us.

---

**Donations to the APPROACH are gratefully accepted by the SCS Treasurer Deb Price! (Suggested donation is \$2 per chapter member.)**

## HIGH COUNTRY

By Marisa Fay

At Judy Allerheiligen's urging, I am providing information on our new flight school.

I am a High Country 99s member, and started Colorado Flight Center, a Cessna Pilot Center, in Grand Junction, CO (GJT). I owned and operated Parkwest Air Tours since 1999, and the new flight school has helped expand and round out that operation. The Colorado Flight Center is the newest flight school at Grand Junction's Walker Field airport, and the only flight school in western Colorado to offer twin training. For more information, see [www.coloradoflightcenter.com](http://www.coloradoflightcenter.com) or call toll-free (866) 897-7910.



## PIKES PEAK

By Patsy Buchwald

More than 400 Community Leaders and Girl Scout Supporters raised their champagne glasses to toast and honor the 2007 Women of Distinction Finalists as the Colorado Wagon Wheel Council celebrated their 95th birthday in March. Among those being honored at the luncheon was our Pikes Peak 99s Member, Phyllis Wells.

Phyllis was nominated into the Community Sector by fellow 99s member Patsy Buchwald.

The rules state that this is a broad category and includes: women who work and/or volunteer their services through all sectors of the eight county

region represented by the Wagon Wheel Council. The individual must demonstrate a wide variety of business and interpersonal skills. She must be a person who uses diverse skills and talents within the community and is a positive role model for girls.

Also in attendance was the oldest known living Girl Scout, Marianne Elser Crowder. While at the luncheon, which was the 8th Annual Celebration for Women of Distinction, Ms. Crowder took a few minutes to visit and congratulate Phyllis.

On behalf of all the Pikes Peaks 99s, we congratulate Phyllis Wells on being selected as a 2007 Woman of Distinction.



Phyllis Wells (C) with Pikes Peak 99 members at the 2007 Women of Distinction Luncheon.

## **NASA REPORT**

*By Michelle Inzunza in Dallas*

I used to do research at Kennedy and Johnson Space Centers, so I like reminiscing by writing about NASA news.

The space shuttle Atlantis (STS-117) took off on June 8th without a hitch. This is the 24th mission to visit the International Space Station (ISS). What a celebration for spaceflight. Mission tasks include the installation of a new truss segment for the ISS and some new solar arrays. Also, they take the wonderful food supplies to the ISS crew and remove all the dirty laundry that's gathered.

One of the most exciting things for me about STS-117 is Mission Specialist, female aviator Sunita Williams. Her return on Atlantis caps the longest female stay on the ISS.

She came into the Astronaut Corp in 1998. She is a Navy Commander and flies helicopters. She has participated in deployments to support Desert Shield and Operation Provide Comfort. She has logged over 2770 flight hours in more than 30 different aircraft.

Her experiences on ISS as the Flight Engineer for Expedition 15 is written in a journal that is accessible online: [http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/station/expeditions/expedition15/journals\\_sunita\\_williams.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/expeditions/expedition15/journals_sunita_williams.html)

Looking to the future there will be another mission lander going to Mars, The Phoenix. The Mars lander is a mosquito looking lander that is the first in the NASA Mars Scout Program. This program is a partnership between government, academia and industry. The university of Arizona will be first. The lander will be able to dig deep into the Martian soil to retrieve samples to determine the history of water on Mars and to determine the habitability potential for the planet. These tasks are a must if anyone is to visit Mars. The window for launch is August 3-28th. If you'd like more information click onto: <http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu/mission.php>

Something else to think about is Dark Energy. We live in this wonderful universe day to day and don't realize that it is expanding faster than it ever has in history. It has long been known that the universe has been growing since its origin 13.7 billion years ago. Scientists have believed that the expansion would slow over time due to gravity. However, astrophysicists in 1998 discovered the expansion is speeding up. They theorize that the "energy" causing this mystery is opposing gravity and is called "Dark Energy." The idea is not truly new because Einstein had included "anti-gravity" effect in his theory of general relativity in his "cosmological constant." This Dark Energy makes up two-thirds

of the universe and yet scientists don't know what it is. So you are thinking--SO WHAT? Well, just think--if scientists up to this point have developed all these basic theories that are understood as fundamental (the one's that all of us were taught in school as the laws of the universe) but yet they have no understanding about two thirds of the universe "Dark Energy"--well this leaves scientists scrapping for new elementary descriptions of electrons, neutrinos etc. These key parts are today's modern life like electronics, computers, cell phones, engineering and medicine. Basically, science needs a major upgrade and no one knows where to start. So what is next? NASA, the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation have joined forces to plan space satellites and ground-based telescopes that will probe the properties of Dark Energy. This investigation will take place light years away, but will indicate the implications of Dark Energy. If it continues then the "Big Rip" will happen, pulling all of the universe apart or it will continue to expand into the "Big Chill", out to the coldest parts of space. If the Dark Energy gets weaker then gravity may take over and then the "Big Crunch" will occur. OOOUUUUUCCCCCHHHH!!!! For more details go to: [http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/astronomy/cosmic\\_darknrg\\_020115-1.html](http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/astronomy/cosmic_darknrg_020115-1.html)

---

## **SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION APPROACH**

Dottie Loveless, Editor  
123 Ivy Hill Court  
Santa Teresa NM 88008

*Fall 2007  
Vol. XXXII, No. 2*