



# APPROACH

The Official Publication of the South Central Section of The Ninety-Nines, Inc.  
Spring 2009 • Vol. XXV, No. 1



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## SECTION MEETING

15-17 MAY 2009

PECAN PLANTATION, TX

HOSTED BY THE BRAZOS RIVER CHAPTER  
SEE PAGES 6-7 FOR MORE INFORMATION

HOTEL DEADLINE: **1 MAY 2009**  
EARLY REGISTRATION: **15 APRIL 2009**

## **SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION**

ARKANSAS COLORADO KANSAS LOUISIANA NEBRASKA NEW MEXICO OKLAHOMA TEXAS

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**NEXT DEADLINE: June 19, 2009**

## **APPROACH EDITORS**

*By Nan France*

My Air Force pilot husband bought me flying lessons for my birthday in March of 1970 and I earned my private pilot license in December of that year. We were stationed at Davis-Monahan AFB in Tucson at that time and transferred to Luke AFB in Phoenix where I saw an article about the Kachina Air Race. I presented myself at the registration table and said, "I'm a pilot, how do I join?". Procedures for membership were different back then. I had to have a sponsor from the Chapter, attend 3 meetings or activities and then wait until the gals decided whether or not to accept me. So, they did and I joined the 99s in 1972 and went on to earn a commercial license (without an instrument rating) in May of that year. Things have changed a lot since then and I believe the changes are all for the better. I have been proud to be a member of this fine organization for 37 years.

With my husband's military career causing us to move quite often, the 99s have been the only thing that has remained

my own stable standby. My most notable accomplishment was organizing the only light plane fly-in to Ramstein AB in Germany. I was managing the base aero club at that time and invited members of German and NATO flying clubs to participate. The Germans were especially intrigued to be invited to bomb Ramstein! (Flour bombing, of course) The Canadians flew in in their Tiger Moths, creating quite a bit of excitement among the military pilots stationed there.

There have been lots of memorable flying adventures over the years as we moved from one place to another. I earned my instrument rating and CFI while we were stationed in Rhode Island, then we moved to Florida and I earned the CFII. I was lucky enough to find a job flying in Destin where I instructed, did a little charter and a lot of five dollar air rides. One day, three strapping young men in swim suits, tee shirts and tennis shoes came in for their five dollar rides. They were young and silly and joking with one another as I told them they had to pick who got the front seat in the C-172. Shortly after takeoff, the young man to my right grabbed the yoke and said,

"I'm going to fly this plane.". Well, I was hot and tired after a morning of instructing and so I said, "O.k. - you've got it" and removed my hands from the yoke. Well, the silence in the airplane was deafening and the newbie pilot was sweating more than me. One of the boys in the back asked who was flying the plane and I indicated that their friend was. With a little coaching from me he did fine and flew the circuit, I usually flew while I pointed out scenery of interest. When we approached the airport again I asked if he would mind if I did the landing and you never saw anyone sag back in relief like he did. Lots of good memories!

It is a real pleasure to try to give back to the 99s all the support they've given me over the years.



Ellie Block and Nan France

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## **ABOUT THAT APPROACH - PECAN PLANTATION - OTX1**

*By Bonnie Lewis*

The Brazos River Chapter invites all of you to be our guests at Pecan Plantation for the Spring 2009 South Central Section, May 15-17. We will continue to honor our Military Women Aviators as we watch a DVD made for and during the Operation Fifinella event. We will enjoy cocktails and memories with Betty Jo Reed, one of the WASPs who flew with us in September, during the cocktail hour Saturday evening. We will also be honored to hear from Samantha Weeks, USAF Thunderbird Pilot, at our dinner Friday evening. If you have a military women aviator, past or present, in your chapter or your community, please invite her to the section meet-

ing and help her with the registration form, transportation, etc. We would love to have several of these women join us. There will be plenty of time for hangar flying on the porch, airplane rides (weather permitting) and home and hangar tours. Home stays are first come, first serve, so register early to reserve your spot in a home in the airpark.

Oh yes, The Brazos River Chapter did a few other things this half year also. In June we made our annual trip to the New Horizons Children's Home to offer gifts, our airplanes to touch and sit in, our encouragement, and our friendship. Lana Kraeszig, Karen Sparks and Bonnie Lewis attended the Fall Section Meeting and were

honored to receive the Governors Award. We served a pancake breakfast at Granbury Municipal and participated in the local EAA fly-in. Debbie and Dick Keyt hosted a great Christmas Party. Karen Bloom is starting a new career as a flight attendant with Mesaba Airlines. Sandra Winfield's biography, citing her flying interest, was featured in the Johns Hopkins Alumni Quarterly magazine. Nona Meinen got her tail wheel signoff. Kathleen Bales has been elected President of the Lake Granbury Art Association for 2009. Barb and Steve Wilson hosted the annual Red River Swift Flyin in Granbury. Many members have been flying all over our beautiful country.

\*\*\*\*\*

**We look forward to welcoming you into our homes  
for a fun-filled SCS, May 15-17, At Home on the  
Airstrip II, Honoring our Military Women Aviators.  
Y'all come!!**

# GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

by  
Jan McKenzie

## DID YOU KNOW....?

Did you know that 51% of the current membership of the 99s joined since 2000? So one says "Great! We should have greatly increased our membership since 2000." Unfortunately, that is not true. Even though we have gained 2500+ members since 2000, we have lost 2500+ members in the same time frame.

Have you ever heard of that statement in business that it takes 3-4X the effort to get a new customer as it does to retain your existing customers? Well that applies to us, the 99s, also.

We seem to do a pretty good job of recruiting new members; however, not such a good job of retaining members. I know we have lost a few members to New Horizons, but only a few.

So let's go all out this year to see if we can't retain ALL of our members in our chapters. A few ideas to aide in retaining members:

1. Get everyone involved – give every member a job no matter how small. Being asked to help out, even in a small way always makes you feel that you are wanted.

2. Chapter Chairs and Membership Chairs receive a monthly report from headquarters with a list of members that are on "Hold" and "Standby". These are the 99s who have not renewed their membership. CALL THEM! Make a personal contact and tell them how important they are to your chapter. Ask them to renew their membership. Only 1 or 2 calls a month, just 10 minutes of your time, could make a big difference.

3. Organize fly-ins or fly-outs; ask plane-owning members to take a wingless 99 with them. Our best friendships and memories are made flying with each other.

Next are the "Top Ten Reasons for Staying in the 99s". Please share them with all of your members. And please contact me if I can help in any way in retaining our members!



## Top Ten Benefits of 99 Membership

By Captain Karen Kahn

1. **Experience:** Some mistakenly think this is a social organization for older women pilots – but it is so very much more! The 99s are experienced pilots from all areas of aviation, with histories and achievements that young pilots have only dreamt of. From jet airliners, helicopters, space shuttles, and business jets, to tail-draggers, air racing, soaring, aerobatics and ballooning – you name it and there's a 99 doing it.

2. **Networking:** We are more than 6000 women pilots worldwide. We are eager to share our knowledge and experience with the newer pilots, so contact us and we'll be happy to help you fly your dreams. Each of us can remember another 99 who helped us accomplish our goals; so Pay it Forward is the name of the game.

3. **Education:** The Ninety-Nines sponsor many large and small educational programs, from a few members discussing a specific flying topic at a chapter meeting, to sponsoring public aviation safety meetings and conferences.

4. **Friendship:** The friends we make in the 99s are life long friends. They are women who share your interests. We keep our old friendships and make new ones which are very rewarding and enduring.

5. **Scholarships:** From chapter awards and Future Women Pilot Awards for beginning pilots to the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarships for advanced pilot training and aviation education, The Ninety-Nines have a scholarship that can help you continue your goals in aviation.

6. **Understanding:** Many of us have been through the same trials and tribulations when learning to fly or achieving advanced ratings. We have figured out ways around the obstacles and can help the new pilots with good ideas to keep them moving forward. Share your knowledge with our new members.

7. **Recognition:** Your victories and achievements, large and small, will get the recognition they deserve from your peer group. No reason to try to be on of the guys when you can shine as one of the gals!

8. **Encouragement:** This natural part of women sharing with women is particularly useful since we fly in what is still mostly a man's world. Be a female role model and mentor here in The Ninety-Nines.

9. **Career Tips:** Pilot-specific information, realistic solutions, mentoring and career networking are just a few of the tangible rewards you'll find in your interactions with 99s in your local chapter and with other professional women pilots throughout our organization.

10. **Acceptance:** Being a 99s member guarantees your acceptance, regardless of your experience level. Chapters exist worldwide and you'll find the welcome mat is always out, wherever you may land. The Ninety-Nines are the Good Old Girls network we've all been hoping to create, here and now.

\*\*\*\*\*

Brazos River Chapter is planning another spectacular Section meeting at their fly-in community complete with free home stays on a first come first serve basis. It should be a blast!

Can't wait to see you on May 15th at Pecan Plantation,

Jan



JAN AND HER MOONEY OVER THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

# CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

**BRAZOS RIVER:** We had a joint meeting with the local Zonta chapter to celebrate Amelia Earhart's life. We had a fly-out and full day tour of Sheppard AFB Euro NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training base in Wichita Falls, TX. We also flew out to the annual Crawfish Open in Llano, TX. On Memorial Day weekend we flew to Sweetwater, TX, for the WASP homecoming and heard Major Nicole Malachowski, USAF, the first female Thunderbird pilot speak. In September we participated in Operation Fifinella, flying WWII WASP and their family members from Alliance Airport in Fort Worth, TX, back to their WWII training base, Avenger Field, in Sweetwater, TX. We made our annual fly-out to the New Horizons Children's Home. We served two pancake breakfasts at Granbury Municipal Airport and participated in two local EAA fly-ins.

**FT. WORTH:** We installed new officers in May with a potluck in Carol Morris's hangar/home. In October we toured the Spinks Airport tower and got a close-up look at the new (100 MPG) Quasar Lite LSA. In December, several of our members manned the 99s booth at the annual DFW Aviation and Transportation Expo held at DFW for about 2,000 schoolchildren.

**OKLAHOMA:** We held our 30th Annual Okie Derby with 17 planes competing. Our Okie Derby Wings of the Future Scholarship winner, Leona Aranda earned her private pilot license in September. Poochie Rotzinger was a judge for the Fall Region 6 NIFA hosted by Spartan School of Aeronautics held at Jones Airport in Tulsa. We provided registration fee scholarships for all the members of all four of the Oklahoma schools competing in the Regional.

**GOLDEN TRIANGLE:** Golden Triangle Chapter toured the new terminal building and airport tower at Denton as well as taking cookies and treats to the Arlington Airport tower to celebrate their second anniversary. We are planning the Fall South Central Section conference in Denton, TX. Highlight will be a tour of the WASP collection at Texas Woman's University. Y'all come.

**HOUSTON:** We hosted a safety meeting every month except December. We painted compass roses at two airports, helped local Girl Scouts earn their aviation badge and organized two poker run events. To attract new members we have a summer picnic in June, Ice Cream Social in September, as well as our Christmas party in December.



## **The Ninety-Nines, Inc. HOUSTON CHAPTER**

**PIKES PEAK:** We had several aviation tours and airport marking; patches of 17 girl scouts and enlisted six new members.

**LAKE CHARLES:** Dr. Sandra J. Leder conducted an aerospace education day camp for upper elementary students in conjunction with a graduate course for teachers at McNeese State University the summer of 2008. This was the 19th year for this activity. Sandra loaned her collection of airplane ornaments to Vision Aviation at the Lake Charles Regional Airport for the 3rd year in a row.

**NORTHEAST KANSAS:** We bid a sad farewell to life member, Sondra Ridgeway who flew on to new horizons in October. More about her life will be in the next issue of the Ninety-Nine News.

**RIO GRANDE NORTE:** Our chapter members flew with at-risk kids from the local juvenile corrections system and with special kids already anxious to begin flight lessons. We ran two aviation-oriented workshops for teenage girls as part of Expanding Your Horizons, a national program to interest girls in technical careers. We worked at the Santa Fe Airshow and raised \$1500 for an Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship (New Pilot Award) in honor of deceased

chapter member Arlene Walsh. We went on a weekend trip to the Forest of Friendship where chapter member, Dr. Jacque Boyd was inducted.

**TEXAS DOGWOOD:** We did a drink booth at our local air show last spring and got together for our annual Christmas gathering.

**SAN ANTONIO:** We celebrated our 50th anniversary as a chapter at our summer banquet and again with a wrap up luncheon in November, celebrating our past, present and future. We hosted a hangar BBQ; gave a section FWP scholarship to member Becky Smith, who quickly got her private pilot rating; were proud to see our member Cheryl Casillas win an AE scholarship and go on to complete her 737 type rating; participated in Girl Scout career exploration day twice; provided a speaker to the Zonta club Amelia Earhart Award Luncheon; and had several safety meeting in conjunction with chapter meetings.

**TEXAS WILDFLOWER:** We are basically a Chapter of seniors, scattered like wildflowers across our Section, with no meetings and no Chapter dues. We are unable to attend meetings, but able to be represented by our perpetual Chairman, Pat Ward, in Section and International affairs. Many of us are rescued from the Member-at-Large roster where we had no voice, and we welcome any member who wishes to stay informed and involved with representation.



*At Home on the Airstrip II*  
 Honoring our military women aviators  
 SCS SPRING SECTION MEETING REGISTRATION  
**May 15-17, 2009**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ All Offices Currently Held \_\_\_\_\_  
 Past Section & International Offices \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION PACKAGE FOR 99s AND GUESTS INCLUDES 2 CONTINENTAL BREAKFASTS, FRIDAY DINNER, SATURDAY BBQ & HANGAR PARTY, AND HOSPITALITY ROOM WITH FRIDAY LUNCH FIXINS.

EARLY REGISTRATION - POSTMARKED BY **APRIL 15** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$80 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
 REGULAR REGISTRATION - POSTMARKED AFTER APRIL 15 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$85 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
 49 1/2 TOUR TO SKY TEC STARTER \_\_\_\_\_ NR \_\_\_\_\_  
 T-SHIRT, EMBROIDERED LOGO \_\_\_S\_\_\_M\_\_\_L\_\_\_XL\_\_\_XXL @ \$18 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL -- Make checks payable to Brazos River 99's** \_\_\_\_\_

*No refunds after May 4, 2009*  
 Fly Market table? \_\_\_Yes\_\_\_No

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

ARRIVAL Date \_\_\_\_\_ eta \_\_\_\_\_  
 PRIVATE AIRCRAFT - Land Pecan Plantation, n \_\_\_\_\_ AIRCRAFT type \_\_\_\_\_  
 COMMERCIAL - (MUST RENT A CAR) \_\_\_\_\_ DFW \_\_\_\_\_ Dallas Love  
 DRIVING - How many could you provide with local transportation if needed \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOMMODATIONS

**HOME STAYS** (FIRST COME, FIRST FILLED BASIS) PREFER (CIRCLE):  Twin  Double  Queen   
 Name(s) of Person(s) rooming with \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in RV or tent camping.

**PECAN PLANTATION INN:** Call 817 573 2641 for reservations with credit card, mention BR 99s  
 Room Rate \$85 +tax, one suite available at \$90 +tax  
 Reservation Deadline: Friday, May 1, 2009

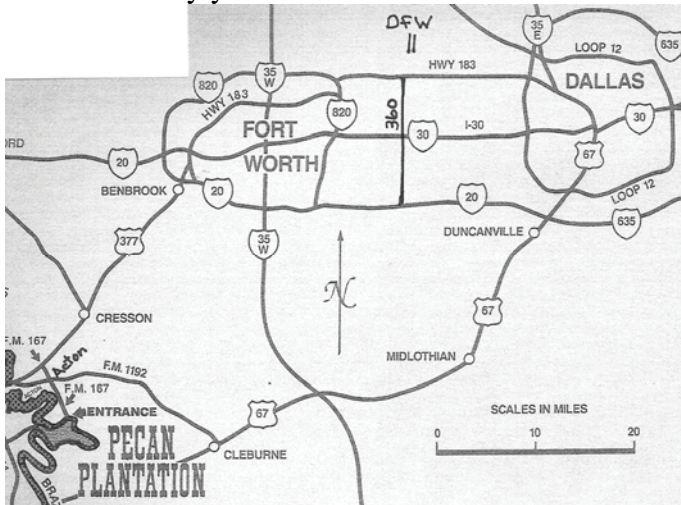
In GRANBURY (12 - 15 miles): (NO TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED)  
 LaQuinta Inn & Suites 817-573-2007, Holiday Inn Express 817-573-4411, Comfort Inn 817-573-2611  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Mail completed registration form to:** Karen Sparks, 9631 AIRPARK DRIVE, GRANBURY, TX 76049

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT Lana Kraeszig: [kraeszig99@charter.net](mailto:kraeszig99@charter.net) OR 817 579 5454  
 Karen Sparks: [kksparks@charter.net](mailto:kksparks@charter.net) OR 817 579 9631

## DFW - Recommended Route

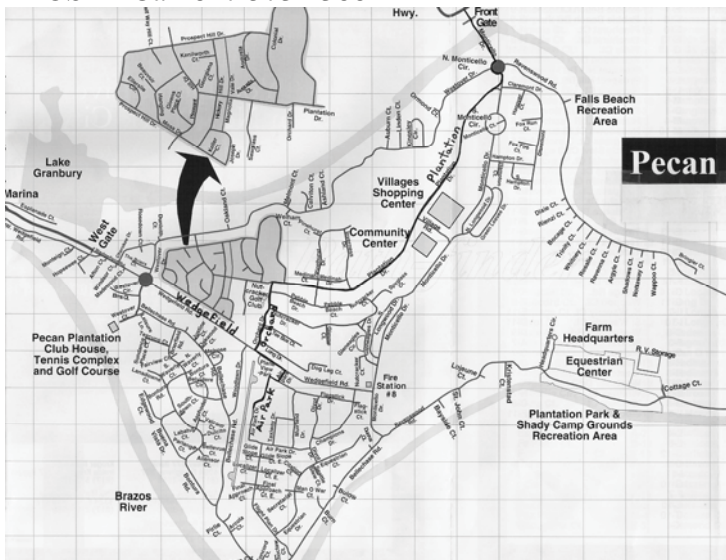
- Take the south gate out of DFW Airport
- Follow signs to 183W and 360S
- Take 360S to I-20W
- Take I-20W to 377S
- Take 377S 30.7 miles to 167S, there are traffic lights & a gas station on the corner
- After 1.9 miles bear left at traffic light in ACTON to stay on 167
- 4.4 Miles further on 167 to Front Gate  
**STOP AT GATE FOR PASS**  
Identify yourself as a 99



## DO NOT SPEED IN PECAN PLANTATION

Posted speeds range from 25 to 35, watch carefully  
The 99s will be charged **large** fines for your ticket!!

- Cross bridge
- At rotary take second right
- Make immediate right, Plantation Dr.
- Left on Orchard Dr.
- Left on Wedgefield Rd.
- Right on Airpark Dr. to 9640
- LOST - Call 817 573 4388



## Driving in or Driving from DFW

Follow directions to the left

All major rental car companies available

## Flying in to Pecan Plantation

On DFW Sectional – 0TX1

Coordinates: N32 21.24, W097 40.58

Bring tie downs

## *Spring 2009 SCS Preliminary schedule*

### Friday, May 15, 2009

10 a.m.–6 p.m. Registration, Credentials  
Hospitality, Flymarket

Lunch on your own/Hospitality

1 – 3 p.m. Board of Directors meeting  
Chapter Chairs meeting

1 – 3 p.m. WWII WASP Video  
Lewis Alaska Video  
Home and Hangar visits  
Airplane rides

Hangar flying on the porch

3:30 p.m. Skydiving Seminar and Demo

6:30 p.m. Cocktails

7:00 p.m. Dinner

**Speaker, Samantha Weeks**  
**USAF Thunderbird Pilot**

### Saturday, May 16, 2009

7:00-8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast,  
Registration, Credentials

8:30-12 noon SCS Business Meeting

9:00-12 noon 49 ½ Tour, Sky Tec Starters

Lunch on your own – Granbury Square

2 – 5 p.m. Hospitality, Flymarket  
Shopping on the Square

WWII WASP Video

Alaska Video

Home and Hangar visits

Airplane rides

Hangar flying on the porch

5:30 p.m. Cocktails with **Betty Jo Reed**

7:00 p.m. **BBQ and Hangar Party**

### Sunday, May 17, 2009

7:00-8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast

7:00 a.m. - ? Hospitality, hang around

# BRAZOS RIVER HONORS OUR MILITARY WOMEN AVIATORS

by  
Bonnie Lewis

After many months of planning by our Chapter Chair, Lana Kraeszig, and her 49 ½, Chuck, and Cindy Wiesner and Susan King, the Brazos River Chapter was honored to be a part of Operation Fifinella on the 25th of September. 38 WWII WASP, their family members and escorts were flown by 30 private aircraft from Alliance Airport to the WASP training base, Avenger Field, in Sweetwater, TX. Upon landing each WASP was met by a pilot or crew personnel (mostly female) from Dyess Air Force Base standing at attention. As the WASP exited the aircraft she was saluted by the AF pilot or crew who then became her escort for the rest of the day. The Lunch program was arranged by

Major Bridgett McNamara, B-1 Bomber instructor, an avid WASP museum supporter, and Museum director, Marianne Wood and museum supporters. It included a flag ceremony and a B-1 Bomber fly-over, and the exchange of wings between the Air Force pilots and WASP. There were 42 WASP and over 100 family members and guests. Three WASP drove to Avenger. One family came to spread the ashes of their grandmother, who was a WASP, over Avenger Field. That made 42 WASP, the largest reunion, yet. So many of the WASPS said the reunion made their dreams come true. They never expected to fly into Avenger Field again. And, "I can't believe y'all are doing this for us",

was repeated often. The smiles, tears, hugs and thank yous of these courageous women will always be cherished in the hearts of the BR 99s who participated. Brazos River 99s who flew in Operation Fifinella were Lana Kraeszig, Bonnie Lewis, Karen Sparks, and Debbie Dewey. Members who came along to help with the activities were Claudia Sutter, Marcia Walker, Kathleen Bales, Debby Scanlan and Debbie Keyt. 49 ½s Chuck Kraeszig, Tom Lewis, Martin Sutter and DR Bales were there to help by flying, hauling trash, serving sandwiches, parking airplanes and whatever else they were asked to do. Many other friends, old and new, helped to make the day perfect.



Bridgett McNamara, USAF, Betty Strohfus, WASP, and Linda Vadnais, USAF in front of a WWII training airplane, a PT 19, on static display at Avenger Field



Betty Strohfus with her name at the Wall of Honor



Jan Wood, Betty Wells Strohfus, Flora Belle Smith Reece, Dawn Seymour, and Madge Moore



# ALBUQUERQUE 99's

by

*Greta Moore*

The Albuquerque 99's hosted the Spring 2008 SCS in March. We "invented" "Where in the world is Amelia Bearhart?". Our goal was to keep her traveling and being exchanged/adopted by a different 99 at each section meeting. Not sure how that is going but we hope all section members get to meet her.

Each year we help at the New Mexico Pilot Bash (the big party after the NM Aviation Conference) in June. We work the Jim and Roz Kinlen Scholarship raffle to encourage new pilots to get training.

In July we enjoyed a dual picnic with the Rio Grande Norte Chapter. It was a great time and we got to know those members from the northern half of the state a little better.

In October we held our Second Annual Flygirls Event for the 3rd grade girls from Governor Bent Elementary here in Albuquerque. We had 19 3rd graders and 4 99s in attendance. We teach them

basic aviation stuff like "How an airplane Flies, Flight Planning, Navigation and how to put a model airplane together. Then we had them fly a route to different airports and see how far their airplanes would fly. They had a wonderful time and left with a goodie bag full of fun aviation activities. We are looking forward to another fun-filled year ahead and many happy flights.



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## PURPLE SAGE CHAPTER

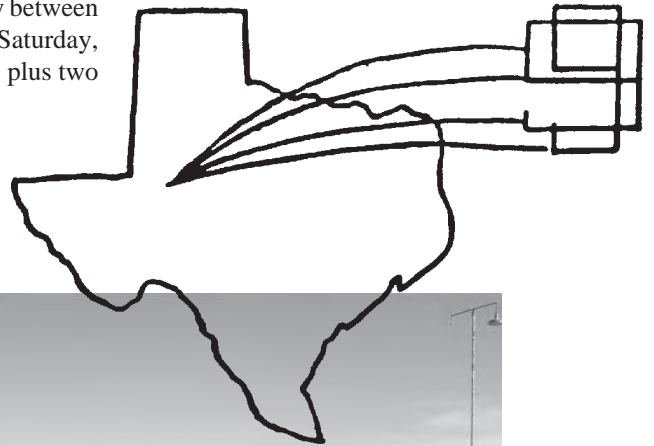
by

*Priscilla Barbee*

Saturday, November 22, four members of our chapter, Janet Koonce, Priscilla Barbee, Betty Jones, and Mary Alice Tidwell, and one 491/2, James Jones, drove to the Pyote Air Force Base, nicknamed Rattlesnake Bomber Base because of the large number of rattlesnakes that were there at the time it was being built during World War II. When the base was completed it covered 2,745 acres of University of Texas land a mile southwest of the town of Pyote, TX, which is 15 miles west of Monahans, TX. The base itself was south of Interstate 20. We visited the Pyote Museum and Rattlesnake Bomber Base Museum which displays area history, mementos, and pictures. The old base was training base for thousands of B-17 and B-29 bombardment crews during WWII. Many types of bombers were stored there after World War II, including the B-29 bomber, Enola Gay. She was moved from there to Washington, D.C. for preservation at National Air and Space Museum. After we toured the Pyote Museum, we went outside to the old sign that remains to what was once the entrance to the Rattlesnake Bomber Base. We felt as though we had somehow stepped through the portal of time.

Member, Janet Koonce and her 491/2, Norman Koonce, hosted our Chapter Christmas Party Friday, December 19 in their home. Again, according to our tradition, we brought good food, white-elephant gifts to exchange, toys for tots, and items for the Permian Basin Safe House.

We had a luncheon at the Clear Springs Cafe on Hwy 191 halfway between Midland and Odessa, TX on Saturday, January 17. Five of our members plus two of our 49 1/2s attended.



At the Pyote Rattlesnake Air Force Bomber Base  
Pictured L-R: Janet Koonce, Priscilla Barbee, and Betty Jones.  
Mary Alice Tidwell seated in front

# AVIATION AND SPACE EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

by  
*Jill Williams*

Several projects are ongoing at the International level and I can definitely use the input and experience of our Section members.

While on the “back burner” at the moment, Michelle Booth and Mikhael Miller of the Ambassador chapter are in the early stages of developing curriculum to present aviation to children with various autism spectrum disorders. A preliminary program outline is available on the Section web site: <http://www.scs99s.org/advisors.htm>.

I have also had the opportunity to represent The 99s’ organization as part of a work group made up of FAA personnel and various general aviation organizations (to include representatives from the Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles and Youth Aviation Adventure) in developing a “WINGS” type program for youth (geared towards the ages of 8 – 17). Fashioned after the “WINGS” program on [faasafety.gov](http://faasafety.gov) (registration is open to any-

one), this work group is tasked with developing online content to be put available on a dedicated web site: [www.faasteamyouth.org](http://www.faasteamyouth.org). I will let everyone know when this web site becomes functional. Modules can be written by any 99 but will go through a screening process to make sure the content is appropriate and adaptable for online use.

Please let me know what your chapters are doing with Girl Scouts, Air Bears, NASA, etc. I would love to be able to tout our members’ involvement to both the Section and International Boards! If you have utilized resources you would like to share with other 99s I’d like to know that as well. Pictures are always welcome as the Aviation and Space Education web site (linked off The 99s’ home page or at <http://www.ninety-nines.org/aeroed/index.html>) remains a work in progress. And, if your chapter would like to be listed on the Aviation and Space Education web site as a resource for Girl Scout troops, please send

me the name and email address of your contact person and I will get them added to the list.

Remember, also, that I am collecting information from any 99 who is a flight instructor, owns a flight school, is a designated examiner, etc. to have available on the “Members Only” page of The 99s’ web site as a resource for other 99s. Thank you to those who have previously responded to me; I hope to soon have your information posted!



**Jill Williams**

**International Aviation and Space Education Committee Chairman**

**South Central Section Aviation and Space Education Advisor**

**[jillwilliams99@yahoo.com](mailto:jillwilliams99@yahoo.com)**

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## From Pat Prentiss

As some of you have already heard, President and close friend Susan Larson lost her father to New Horizons on November 12, 2008. Charles Larson played a significant part in Susan’s life and he will be missed greatly.

Susan was in San Jose at that time and remained with the family for awhile. Many of you have known Susan and her family and many will want to convey their respects.

As requested by Susan’s father, there was no memorial service. Instead, Charles Larson asked that a party be thrown in his memory. Therefore, the family had a Celebration of Life Party on November 18th at the San Jose Country Club.

The family has made no specific requests for donations, but Susan has asked that any donation be made to the 99s Endowment Fund. As Susan said, “her father’s life was taken doing what he loved doing, playing golf. He was with his best friend, winning the first hole and winning the first bet before he departed for New Horizons.”

Our love and caring goes out to Susan and her family.

## From Mary Wheelock

It is with sadness that I inform you that Francis Clark, 49 1/2 of Life Member Pat Clark, flew to New Horizons on Dec. 28, 2008. “Fran” served in the U.S. Marines Corps from 1941 until he retired in 1978. Colonel Clark served during World War II and the Korean War. During World War II, a treasured experience was flying wingman with his hero, Charles Lindbergh. Fran is fondly remembered by members of the Golden Triangle Chapter. Pat remains a member of the Golden Triangle and is currently residing in Kerrville, Texas.

# DALLAS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

by

Jill Williams

The Dallas Chapter spent our fall monthly meetings gearing up for two fundraisers we had planned for November. We held our first-ever Girl Scout event on Saturday, November 1st, at the Collin County Regional Airport in McKinney.

There were 14 kids in attendance (including one boy who was allowed to attend in order to finish his badge requirements). The official requirements outlined in the Girl Scouts manual were followed which stated that six out of the ten activities must be performed. They experimented with aerodynamics by assembling balsa airplanes and flying them, visited the tower, did a walk-around of Chiquita and visited her cockpit, heard a discussion on offshoots from NASA (including eating some samples of space food), heard historical perspectives by Dorothy and Jerry (which centered around Power Puff Derbies, and saw pictures), and explored the NASA and 99s websites.

The parents chatted downstairs and many had their eyes opened to General Aviation. They snacked on the popcorn and asked a lot of questions. Some of the parents also listened to a few of the topics upstairs and seemed as excited as their daughters.

The week following the Girl Scout event, we returned to the Collin County Regional Airport where we held a Flying Companion Seminar. There were thirteen attendees and topics were Communications, a walk-around and pre-flight of Ann and Anne's plane (a Cherokee 140); a tower visit; Aerodynamics; Instruments; Airspace and Navigation; Weather; and, Medical Factors. Over lunch we viewed AOPA's Pinch Hitter DVD.

In December, chapter member Katherine Staton and her daughter were our hostesses for our annual Christmas party and traditional gift exchange. Much fun was had by all and we look forward to next year's party!

We are looking forward to a busy and productive spring!



[From left to right: Janny Strickland, Melissa Powell, Anne Muirhead, Holly Barr, Gabriella Rodwell, and Brooke Franklin. Not pictured: Ann Koenig, Chris Swain, Dorothy Warren]

[From left to right: Beth Polcari, Janny Strickland, Dorothy Warren, Chris Swain, Ann Koenig, Anne Muirhead, Holly Barr, Brooke Franklin. Not pictured: Jerry Glennie. In the background: "Chiquita", Holly's airplane]

# OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

by Carol Sokatch

We are proud that Theresa White competed with Terry Carbonnell as Team Wild Mama in this year's Air Race Classic. She had the time of her life, and plans to fly again in 2010. Theresa is now serving on the Board of the Air Race Classic.

Sue Halpain voted as our chapter instructed on the proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Standing Rules at the International Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. Carolyn Smith dressed our bear for the AE lunch centerpieces and benefit auction. Sue could not resist being the high bidder to bring our bear, Oklahontas, back home to the Chapter.

At Oshkosh this year, Rita Eaves and Theresa White were thrilled to participate in Women Venture, the gathering of female pilots highlighted by a photo of all these women in their pink shirts in AeroShell Square. Gladys McCaslin was also again at Oshkosh.

The 30th Annual Okie Derby was a resounding success with seventeen planes completing. This year's start was delayed

by low ceilings but Starters Earl and Mimi Downs (editor of Oklahoma Aviator) were able to wave the planes off by 1:00 p.m. Theresa White with Mike Werner placed first and Theresa was Best 99 and Best OPA Racer. Best Out of State Racer was Tommy George; he and Marilyn are perpetual contenders. Terry Carbonnell and Jessica Stearns flew in from Florida with an additional crew of two plus lots of cookies not only to fly but to learn the planning and work to execute a competition such as our traditional proficiency derby. Terry then chaired the first ever Sunshine Derby hosted by the Paradise Coast Chapter 99s on a beautiful Florida Fall Saturday. Terry asks everyone to look forward to the 2009 Sunshine Derby. The Oklahoma chapter eagerly anticipates their 31st Annual Okie Derby in 2009.

Our Okie Derby Wings of the Future scholarship winner, Leona Aranda, earned her private pilot license in September. She began her pilot training just this March and we are proud of her achievement and her

goals for her future in aviation.

Representing the Oklahoma Chapter at the September South Central Section Meeting in Amarillo were Diana Burton, Charlene Davis, Sue Halpain, Jody McCarrell, Poochie Rotzinger and Wyvema Starts. Congratulations to the hosts for their warm hospitality and sharing the grand Palo Duro Canyon.

Poochie Rotzinger was a judge for the Fall Region 6 NIFA hosted by Spartan School of Aeronautics held at Jones Airport, Tulsa October 20-24. Wyvema Startz and Phyl and Bob Howard also volunteered. Weather complicated staging of the events. Our chapter was gratified to provide scholarships in the form of registration fees for all the members of all four of the Oklahoma schools competing in this Regional (Oklahoma University, Oklahoma State University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University and Spartan).

Our Christmas Party was a potluck dinner at Headquarters. Of course, the food was wonderful.

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Bonnie Lewis with Patty Taylor  
San Antonio won the Travel Trophy  
and gets Amelia Bearhart.



South  
Central  
Section  
meeting  
in  
Amarillo



# SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION MEETING IN AMARILLO

by

Margot Plummer

The South Central Section meeting was held in Amarillo, Texas, September 12-13, at the beautiful Ambassador Hotel. Several of the Houston Ninety-Nines were kept home by Hurricane Ike.

There were many familiar faces and some new ones to enjoy the Amarillo hospitality, which was spread on thick.

Friday night, the plan of action was the Big Texan Steak Ranch where a 72-ounce steak can be had for free, if you can eat it. During our dinner a rather portly man named Jesse gave it a try and ended up having to pay \$72 because he couldn't get the whole thing down.

On Saturday, the section meeting was conducted by our new Governor, Jan McKenzie. The Colorado Chapter won a few awards at the meeting.

After the meeting, all attending boarded a Greyhound bus that took us to the Palo Duro Canyon State Park, also known as The Grand Canyon of Texas. A beautiful canyon full of cliffs, spires and mesas, 60 miles long and 800 feet deep, carved out by the now-trickling Red River.

Our guide, ranger Bernice Blansingame, showed us such a nice time and good naturedly posed with Amelia Bearhart, the South Central Section's trav-

eling mascot. Amelia Bearhart was transferred to the next Chapter in line to take her on her many trips and keep her log. The San Antonio Chapter members were photographed in the canyon.

After Palo Duro Canyon, the Greyhound took us back to the hotel to get ready for the River Breaks Ranch, a barbecue and horse race ranch outside Amarillo. The horse racing consisted of eight horses equipped with colored blinders over each of their heads, which looked a little like underpants. The horses would run in heats and each person had an opportunity to bet the "River Breaks Ranch bucks" on the horse of their choice. You would bet on the color. The horses had no riders; they were running for the food. It was hilarious.

The dinner after the races was great! Beef brisket, hot beans, salad and peach crisp. YUM!

We boarded the same bus to return to the hotel and by now the driver was getting to know the group. On our trip back to the hotel, the Texas members began singing Texas songs. Who would have imagined that there were so many? When we got to the chorus from The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You, the bus driver joined in the "Fee, fi, fiddly i o" part. This song sounds suspiciously like 'I've Been Working On The Railroad'.



International President, Susan Larson with Palo Duro Canyon Guide Bernice Blansingame and Ginny Boylls

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San Antonio Chapter at the SCS meeting in Amarillo

# RECRUITING TIPS FOR 2009

by

Annie Whonic

By way of introduction, my name is Anne Whonic and I am a member of the Pikes Peak Chapter in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In May 2008, I received a surprise e-mail from Jan McKenzie who asked me to be membership chair for the Section. I am honored that she thought of me for this position and after careful consideration I accepted her offer. My hope is that I can continue to work with all members and membership chairs of the South Central Section to spread the word about the Ninety-Nines (99s) and to grow our ranks with enthusiastic, dedicated members.

There are a number of useful ideas in the Retention and Recruitment Handbook in the Members only Section of the 99s website ([http://www.ninety-nines.org/secure/r\\_r\\_handbook.php](http://www.ninety-nines.org/secure/r_r_handbook.php)), and I am adding a few more tips that may help us gain new members and retain existing members.

The following excerpt from the University of North Texas publication Recruiting NewMembers encapsulates just how to accomplish gaining new members:

## Five simple steps when recruiting

1. Meet a person.
2. Be intentional in forming a friendship with the person.
3. Introduce the person to your friends in the organization.
4. Introduce the person to the organization.
5. Ask the person to join.

It is as simple as it sounds, and the Pikes Peak Chapter uses it regularly. Our chapter has added six new members in six months. Pikes Peak members put themselves where potential pilots are. One member who flies professionally meets future women pilots regularly at her FBO and she invites them to come with her to chapter meetings. She also becomes a friend and mentor to them as they progress to new ratings.

Another idea is to use bribery! The Pikes Peak Chapter is not beyond that, and we successfully use it on local CFIs! We package hand-made chocolates attractively and enclose a note of appreciation to the CFIs at several flight schools. We thank them for supporting the local chapter and ask that they let their female students know about us. It works!

In addition, we place and replenish 99s brochures in Flight Schools, FBOs, and aero clubs in our area so women pilots learn where to find us. FAA Safety meetings and other aviation events are great places to distribute brochures and get to know other women pilots. Take a good supply of business cards and brochures when you go and ask for their contact information so you can follow up with a phone call or an e-mail.

Another thing to remember is that sometimes the "no" means "not now." (McKee 2009, [www.volunteerpower.com](http://www.volunteerpower.com).) When you ask a potential member to come to a meeting or to a flying activity with you and she can't make it, don't be afraid to ask again. The next time might be more realistic for her schedule and she might be more available to add more activity to her schedule.

In closing, it is important to note that retaining existing members is as vital as adding new ones. The UNT publication also points out that membership must be meaningful to all members so it is essential to make sure the Chapter meetings and activities fulfill the needs of everyone. What can we add or take away to make membership in the 99s rewarding?

As we move forward in our recruiting and retention efforts in 2009, consider that recruitment and retention is the responsibility of ALL members! Ask your chapter membership chair how you can help her and offer her your thoughts and ideas for recruiting. Give her leads for potential members as you find them. Like her, I look forward to hearing what works for your chapter; so don't hesitate to contact me with new ideas or more details on the ideas shared above. Good luck and to borrow an old United States Air Force slogan, Aim High!

Anne Whonic

Pikes Peak Chapter

[awhonic@msn.com](mailto:awhonic@msn.com)



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### References:

University of North Texas, [http://www.unt.edu/sa/pdf/orgs/Recruiting\\_New\\_Members.pdf](http://www.unt.edu/sa/pdf/orgs/Recruiting_New_Members.pdf)

McKee, Thomas W. (2009), The Seven Deadly Sins of Recruiting Volunteers, <http://www.volunteerpower.com/articles/7sins.asp>

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**TO ALL SCS CHAPTERS - WE NEED LOGOS - IF YOU HAVE ONE, PLEASE E-MAIL IT TO ELLIE AT**

**COMTREND2@WAYMARK.NET. IF YOU DON'T, WHY NOT?**

# SPREADING WINGS GALA

by

*Donna Miller*

By day, the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum in Denver is a fascinating place to explore everything about aviation. Inside the giant 1930s former Air Force Hangar One there is everything from historic fighter planes to a Star Wars X-Wing fighter. It is full of history, past, present and future.

On November 8th, it was transformed from a museum to a beautiful and festive event to honor the First Ladies of Air and Space at the Spreading Wings Gala. Over 640 guests gathered to celebrate the achievements of Eileen Collins, the first woman space shuttle commander, Patty Wagstaff, the first woman National Aerobatic champion, and our own Emily Warner, the first woman hired by a U.S. airline. For those of you not totally familiar with these ladies, here is a really short reminder!

Eileen Collins is the first woman commander and pilot of the space shuttle. She is a veteran of four space flights, logging 872 hours in space. Her NASA career included a rendezvous with the Russian Space Station Mir, satellite deployments, spacewalks, experiments, docking with the International Space Station and telescope studies of the universe.

Eileen has nearly 7,000 military flight hours in 30 aircraft, including instructor time in T-38s. She was on the faculty at the U.S. Air Force Academy, teaching math and aerospace studies. She also believes strongly in education, and she enjoys speaking with teachers and students whenever she can. Prior to the gala, Eileen spent time with girls building Goddard rockets as part of the Learning With Legends program at the museum.

Patty Wagstaff, the first woman U.S. National Aerobatic Champion won the title not once, but three times, consecutively. She is still one of the world's most popular air show pilots. Her airplane, the Goodrich Extra 260, resides in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. In addition, Patty has traveled often to Africa to train pilots to prevent wildlife poaching.

The first woman pilot of a major scheduled U.S. commercial airline is Colorado's own Emily Warner. Three years after Frontier Airlines hired her, Warner earned her captain's wings, the first woman to do so. Since starting her career in 1958, Emily has amassed more than 21,000 flight

hours. Today, she tirelessly encourages other women and finds great satisfaction in motivating young girls to enter aviation. She was also on hand to work with school girls on building balsa wood airplanes during the Learning With Legends afternoon.

The evening began with cocktails and a chance to look over the many silent auction items that were displayed among the vintage aircraft and other museum displays. Where else can one enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, chatting with friends in the shadow of a B-1 bomber and a vintage glider hanging above?

The Mistress of Ceremonies was, appropriately, Amelia Earhart, a Denver based traffic reporter and a new member of the Colorado 99s. She introduced each of the recipients with photos and videos of their amazing careers. Each of the ladies spoke with gratitude for honor they received, and each recognized the achievements of the other recipients.

Several 99s, including new President, Susan Larson and members of ISA +21 (Society of Women Airline Pilots) attended to support the honorees. All in all, it was a wonderful evening and the celebration of women in aviation and space truly shows how high the glass ceiling has extended.



Pictured are Patty Wagstaff, Emily Howell Warner, and Eileen Collins, with International President, Susan Larson on the right.

Susan Larsen, International President, made a special trip for this event, arriving directly from the AOPA Convention in California.



## **SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION APPROACH**

Ellie Block & Nan France, Editors

PO Box 306

Alvarado, TX 76009

*Spring 2009*

*Vol. XXV, No. 1*

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### **Fall 2009 Section Meeting**

**Host: Golden Triangle Chapter**

**October 2 - 4, 2009**

**At the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Denton, Texas**

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### **Spring 2010 Section Meeting**

**Host: Dallas Chapter**

**April 23 - 25, 2010**

**At the Hampton Suites in Mesquite, Texas**

#### **CHAPTER NEWSLETTER CHAIRS/EDITORS & CHAPTER CHAIRS**

Please send your Chapter Newsletters or communications to Jan McKenzie, Governor of SC Section!!  
Please put me on your mailing list or your email list so I can enjoy and share in your fun events and communications of your chapter.

Jan M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie

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