

AIR NEWS

Chicago Area Chapter Ninety-Nines®, Inc., International Organization of Women Pilots.

OCTOBER 2025

chicagoarea99s.org



October 2025 Meeting: with POT LUCK LUNCH



Our meeting is on October 18th at 11:30 in the Conference room at Lansing Airport (KIGQ) FBO. Lunch is a pot luck! Please bring a dish to share.

Cynthia and Ralph M will give a talk on Air Racing, how it works and tips and tricks!

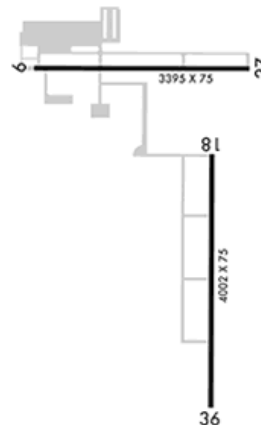
Airport Information & Communications Lansing Municipal Airport - KIGQ

CTAF	UNICOM	AWOS	APPR	LIGHTS
122.70	122.70	119.275	118.40 (CHI)	122.70

Phone: 708-889-6319

Location

ELEV	FROM CITY	LAT	LONG
616'	1.3 miles S	41° 32.39'	87° 31.93'



Donations—your annual contribution—are still being collected to support the Chapter's work during the year.

Please consider a donation in the suggested amount \$20.00 to:

Zelle directly into our Chapter Bank account using 224-931-9010

Check payable to Chicago Area Chapter 99s mailed to: Susan M

Paypal using 'Donate' button at <https://chicagoarea99s.org/>

WHO'S WHO
in the
Chicago Area Chapter

CHAIR

Victoria S

VICE CHAIR

Larisa K

SECRETARY

Lisa M

TREASURER

Susan R-M

Deadline for submission the
20th of the month :

Madeleine M, Editor

Air News is published monthly by the Chicago Area Chapter of the 99s Inc and is available to non-members for \$20 per year. Members must pay chapter dues to receive Air News. Suggested donation for a business card size ad is \$5/month or \$50/year. Members may place 6 free personal ads per year. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and shall not be construed to express the policies or opinions of the Ninety-Nines, Inc.



Skywriting
Chair, Vickie Szewczyk

Dear Chicago Area Chapter

Hmm...

Air racing.

Do you envision Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines, or Red Bull pylon racing, or the cartoon Planes?

In 2024 I worked as a timer for the Air Race Classic at Bult Field. I was there to see many of the teams stop at Bult Field. The teams of ladies were from all different walks of life, young and old, professionals, students and recreational pilots. There were several types of aircraft, and most of them I could fly.

Before the event I saw a presentation at my EAA chapter from the daughter of one of our members. She had done the air race a year or two prior. Since then, I also have seen presentations by VP Minnetta G and others. So, it got me to thinking, could I do this? Maybe.

Or maybe I'll plan to go see the start or finish of the 2026 Air Race Classic. The start is on June 23 rd in East Alton, IL, near St. Louis. The finish is 95 miles away in Mount Vernon, IL about June 26 th . It is fascinating.

But I'm not convinced that I really want to commit to that amount of time to do the ARC. But then, I learn of smaller air races. Oh, that sounds better! The ARC Air Derby is a DIY air derby that you do on your own anytime from Oct 1 to Oct 14 th . Well, that's OK, but I want some other pilots to race against and hang out with too.

But wait. The Chicago Area Chapter ran an air race for many years. And the Chapter has an air race champion in our midst who is willing to tell you some of her secrets! Cynthia, and her secret weapon (Ralph, her husband and navigator) will be telling us all about air racing. What it is. How it is run. And how to do one!

Please come join us down in Lansing (KIGQ) on October 19th to learn all about air racing!

Vickie

P.S. I think there are plans to run an Air Race next Fall. Hint, hint, nudge, nudge



If any members reach a new level, accomplish a goal, overcome an obstacle, or just discover a new joy in flight-please email Joy R and tell her a bit about it. We want to hear how ALL of you are doing. Remember, every one of us started just like you.

Jill F: “Although I have been flying 1-2 times per week in my Gyroplane recently, it looks like I will not be ready to take my practical by the end of September when my written expires. I will keep flying as often as possible and retake the test closer to when I am ready for my practical test. Consistent landings in cross wind and no wind seem to be my biggest issue now. My communication and ability to change radio frequency without losing my awareness of altitude and direction have improved. But still a skill that needs constant practice. I haven’t given up yet!”

Gabrielle F: “I was inspired to start flying when I saw a black pilot at the airport for the first time. He stopped me to say hi because he saw my college sweatshirt in which we graduated from the same school. I was so inspired by seeing my first black pilot I started doing research into aviation then fell in love with it. I felt fearful when we went up on a windy/bumpy day. It was very turbulent. I overcame fear by having trust in my instructor and myself. This past summer, I was an aviation instructor for the program Aerostar. I taught 5th to 8th graders and we got to experience EAA”

Susan M: “My grandmother, Eddie Ferguson, who flew in 1925 and my mother, Bobbi R, who was instrument/seaplane rated inspired me to fly. I did experience a fearful time when my comms went out during a training flight. I learned how to use the lights at the tower. I watched my instructor, and he didn’t seem nervous, so I just calmed down. I flew a cross country 250 miles from Aurora, IL to Springfield, OH. I am filming an electric aircraft race in October, and I wanted to check out the runways, airport and filming locations. My mother introduced me to the 99’s.

Maddie S: “I took my discovery flight with no intention of pursuing a pilot career. I just wanted to check it off my bucket list as something fun to do. I was instantly hooked and my passion for flying began. I was fearful in the plane during my second solo flight away from my home airport. I was going to practice maneuvers by myself a couple of miles away. I prepared on the ground. I chair flew the maneuvers, studied the airport layout, and visualized the different ways I could enter the traffic pattern depending on the winds. I chose to fly during a quiet time, late in the evening of a weekday, to minimize stress and additional pressure. This summer my aviation school honored 9/11 by hosting grass landing competition for students. We all flew out to a nearby airport, had breakfast together and completed 2 landings each on a grass runway. We were judged on our soft field takeoff, radio calls, and of course on the quality of the landing. I didn’t win, but it was a great opportunity to meet other students, instructors and get some experience landing on grass! I discovered the 99’s through online research after my CFI suggested looking into aviation groups for women as a great place to network, receive mentorship, and have access to scholarships.

Marly S: “In 5th grade, I participated in the Adopt-A-Pilot program. That experience sparked my fascination with airplanes and flying although I never imagined could be possible for me. Years later, I came across a video of a woman flying and it made me realize I can do that too. I decided to pursue it. Early in my training, I stalled on takeoff, and it completely shook me. I had never felt such fear, and I didn’t handle it well. It was tough but one of the most important lessons I’ve learned.. I worked through it (fear) by talking it over with my CFI and reflecting on what went wrong. That conversation helped me approach flying differently. Since then, I’ve focused on staying calm, being proactive, and applying what I learned to prevent similar mistakes. I wasn’t able to participate in many activities this summer, but I did attend two air shows. My flight instructor, who is also a woman, encouraged me to get more involved with organizations that support women in aviation and I found the 99s. My check ride will most likely be in November!

Melissa R: “I have been a flight attendant for over 8 years. I grew to love the aviation industry and aviation in general. After taking a discovery flight at 31, I knew I wanted to pursue all the ratings and become a commercial pilot.

Continued next page

Melissa R; continued "When I first started learning to land during my private, I was terrified. I thought I would never be able to get over it. I did a few night landings and that helped me a lot! Also just going around the traffic pattern over and over until I felt comfortable helped as well. I have been training hard on getting my private and haven't had the time to participate in activities. I'm hoping to attend Oshkosh next summer.



UPDATES FROM OTHER MEMBERS!

Madeleine M: "A friend took me for a flight in 1975 from the old Elgin Airport and I fell in love. Serious turbulence frightens me. I have always been careful with weather conditions, but bumps happen unexpectedly. To overcome my fear, I learned more on the structure of the airplane (my Mooney 201 had LoPresti wings) and paid more attention to maintenance regulations and compliance. My first CFI was a Chicago 99-Marge Sundmacher. There was no question that I would join when eligible.

Joy R: "I was introduced to flying at age 7. My dad's friend took us up in a dilapidated plane in a grass field. I was able to see the ground through holes in the floorboard. 33 years later, my husband and I went up in a friend's Cessna while visiting in Washington, DC. The friend told me to take the controls. That was all it took! I started lessons the next week. One day upon final approach, there was a wind sheer. It was frightening, I didn't know what it was. My instructor was shook. But we kept calm and landed. I'll share the story of landing at Chanute AFB at another time!"

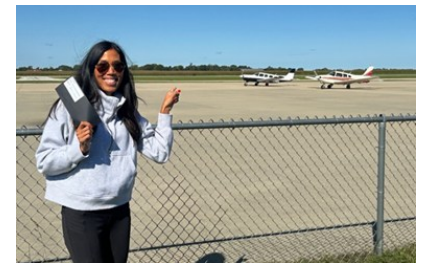
Info gathered by Kadijah H

Nina B I got to fly the Chicago shoreline a few; was even cleared into their Class B. The flight was brief, but beautiful. I flew to Cleveland and landed at Burke Airport. With Cleveland Class B, downtown, and a stadium just west/southwest of the field, there were a few things to consider when planning. When I departed, I took off of runway 24R, was approved to turn right, over the lake, and then into a teardrop over the field for a departure to the south. Once I cleared the Cleveland Class B, I resumed on-course navigation to the southwest- a neat experience!

Syd S F I am retired now, for a long time - my enjoyment of flying now is observing flights in the air, to and from our Chicago airports -and remembering my time in the air - Happy Happy! To my fellow 99s

Susan Z I enjoy flying early in the morning for breakfast with my husband Victor in a Cessna 182 Skylane as well as reading. I recently read Anne Morrow Lindbergh's book called Hour of Gold, Hour of Lead and recommend it. It's easy to read because it's her letters to family members about flying solo, flying with Charles to map out the air routes for future air travel to South America, as well as their early married life. I am wishing all my 99s friends blue skies and tailwinds

Jamie S On Sept 6th -Dave and I met up with Naper Aero Flying Club and did a poker run at 5 different airports :LL10, KYVS, KQSI , KEZI, KRPJ-We picked up a card at each FBO, had lunch at Rochelle and revealed the best poker hand On Sept 7-Flew into Merkle airport and went to Orchard Landing for some apple picking family fun. This place is quiet and secluded and they have the best Apple cider donuts. Highly recommend! What a gem!



Bailey R I earned my CFI on Sept 8th in Oshkosh and was accepted into the 99s PPLI program, the same week.

**CONGRATULATIONS
BAILEY!!!!**



**Chicago Area Chapter 99's Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2025, Sky Soaring Airport L55
1:00 pm**



Hostess: Vickie S

Attendees: 99's: Vickie S, Deb M, Larisa K, Ellen O, Susan M, Sharon S, Lisa M, Shelley V, Susan Z, Mary Lou E, Kathryn M, Mona K, Madeleine M, Penny L.

49 1/2: Yosh K

Guests: Leah S

Meeting was called to order at 1:22 PM

Chairman's Report: Welcomed new members and introductions.

Vickie S informed there is a round table chapter chair meeting once a month. Meetings are recorded for viewing later. Scholarships

Board – Chapter Leadership Manuals were distributed to officers info in the 99's website and library

2026 schedule: Madeleine and Lisa are currently working on getting dates and locations filled.

Secretary's Report: Minutes Secretary Lisa M motion to accept as published in Air News. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Mona K and seconded by Madeleine M. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Susan M reported still collecting Chapter Donations

Old Business

NCS Fall Meeting: First-timer award / scholarship: \$150.00?

Chapter logo shirts available for order now

New Business

AE Plaque: Cynthia /Chicago 99s donation & Amelia Earhart Plaque Gift to the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum.

First Wings Scholarship: Susan M applied and chapter voted to approve Motion/Second Passed

Announcements: Gabby F won another scholarship and is back flying!

Oct 3-5 NCS Fall Meeting OSH

Oct 18 Lansing – How to Air Race – Cynthia - with IN Dunes and Indiana Chapters.

November 13 th – Libertyville - Feed My Starving Children: 7:00 PM

December 14 th - Lake Barrington Shores - Holiday Pot Luck and Party: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Aviation Expo: 01/31/2026 Hilton Chicago Northbrook, Milwaukee Ave just south of KPWK

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 PM.

Thank you to Sky Soaring Glider Club for hosting and giving Glider Flights! Vickie and Lisa both went up in a glider and had a fun experience.

Lisa M, Secretary

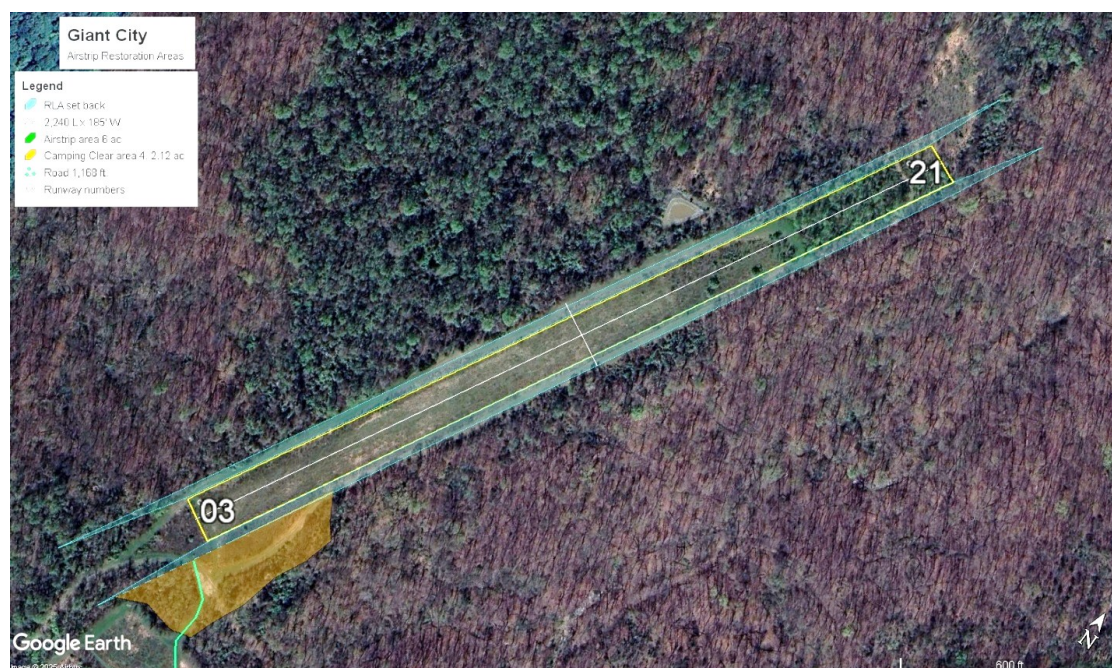


Giant City Airstrip – near Makonda, IL. To be restored by the Recreational Aviation Foundation

Giant City State Park was formed in 1927. It now comprises 4,000 acres of primarily forest land and unique geologic features, a vestige of Illinois' unglaciated past. In 1946 30,000 light aircraft like Champs and Cubs, were built in the United States. In 1950 work started on a grass airstrip east of the lodge to meet the needs of this post war boom in aviation, and what was to become, General Aviation. This airstrip along with six others in Illinois State Parks served visiting pilots and passengers for three decades. The Giant City airstrip was then abandoned around 1984. All institutional memory of this airstrip was lost.

In 2019 the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) began discussions on the possibility of restoring this historic airstrip. The RAF proposes to restore, chart and maintain this airstrip at its own expense, for use by all aviators.

IDOT Div. of Aeronautics and IL DNR are aware of this volunteer RAF, project and see its potential to bring more visitors to Southern Illinois and create a piece of living history. All at no expense to the State of Illinois. We need the Governor's office to say yes. We are asking for your help with this effort. Please call your contacts in Springfield, IL. and voice your support for this unique project.



Mike Purpura,
Liaison RAF
mpurpura@TheRAF.org
(630) 936-3282.

After years of pursuing the Illinois State Parks management, and the Illinois DNR, our RAF Rep, Mike Purpura has received a positive reaction to his quest to reopen Giant City State Park's Airstrip. If you have access to any contact in the Governor's office, or to any member of the legislature who is a pilot or supportive of aviation in our state, please contact them and share this info and request. I will be presenting this proposal on RAF's behalf at the annual induction of new Hall of Famer's October 16. If you would like to join us at this event please see the invitation and registration info on the next page.

Madeleine M, Editor and Past Chair



SAVE THE DATE

Date: Sunday December 14th
Place: Lake Barrington Shores



CHAPTER HOLIDAY PARTY DETAILS SET

Time: 12:00PM - 4:00PM
Fireplace Room in the Clubhouse

[64 Old Barn Rd, Lake Barrington, IL 60010](https://www.google.com/maps/place/64+Old+Barn+Rd,+Lake+Barrington,+IL+60010)

Please enter off Barrington Road, other entrances are for residents only.

Potluck Dinner—Bring a dish to pass!

Last name starting with letters A - M: Side dish.

Last name starting with letters N - Z: Dessert or a treat!

Hosts: Chef Pete and Sous Chef Lisa M will provide a Maple Brown Sugar Ham and Turkey, along with cupcakes, meatballs and other festive foods.





2025 Banquet Registration Form

Thursday October 16, 2025 at 6PM Registration and Bar Open at 5PM

Hilton Garden Inn St. Charles, Illinois (Near DuPage Airport)

4070 East Main Street * St. Charles, IL 60174 * (630) 584-0700

Please fill out the information for your reservation This will be used to contact you if there are questions on the reservation, or in the event that there are changes in the hotel situation.

All banquet tickets are \$70.00

Dinner is Chicken Parmesan, served with salad dessert and drink.

A vegetarian/vegan/gluten free option of Ratatouille Lattice on gluten-free pasta is also available.

Chicago Area Chapter 99s, Hall of Fame Representative

Cynthia M

Please list all members of your party on the lines below, along with their meal choice.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Attendee Name _____ Meal Choice Chicken____ Vegetarian____

Attendee Name _____ Meal Choice Chicken____ Vegetarian____

Please mail or email this form with a check made out to Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame to:

Mr. Tom Cleveland, Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame

1117 Foxpointe Drive

Sycamore, IL 60178

(815) 895-2102 (Home) (815) 739-3100 (Cell) Groverdkb1@comcast.net

All reservations must be made by October 6, and payment must also be made by October 6, 2025

No payments will be accepted at the banquet

AIR NEWS

Madeleine M



Chicago Area Chapter Ninety-Nines, Inc. International Organization of Women Pilots

CHICAGO AREA 99S 2025 CALENDAR

OCT 3-5	NORTH CENTRAL SECTION WEEKEND MTG	WISCONSIN 99S OSHKOSH OCT 3-5
OCT 16	ILLINOIS AVIATION HALL OF FAME BANQUET	Reservation form page 7
OCT 18	CHAPTER MEETING SATURDAY 11:30 am Pot luck lunch Bring a dish to pass!	CYNTHIA & VICKIE LANSING IGQ
NOV 13	THURSDAY NIGHT 7:15 Libertyville Location Anyone interested in meeting for dinner before?	JILL FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
DEC 14	HOLIDAY PARTY POT LUCK SUNDAY 12-4 See details on page 6	LISA LAKE BARRINGTON SHORES FIREPLACE ROOM IN THE CLUBHOUSE
JAN 31	AVIATION EXPO HILTON CHICAGO NORTHBROOK	MADELEINE & CHAPTER TEAM