

AIR NEWS



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

MARCH 2025

chicagoarea99s.org

THIS MONTH

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER 99S MEETING
MARCH 15, 2025 12:00 NOON

MAIN TERMINAL BLDG

SOUPER SATURDAY SPECIAL
LUNCH
MEETING
PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Fly In or Drive In
DEKALB TAYLOR MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (DKB)
3232 PLEASANT STREET
DEKALB, IL

CORIE W & DEB M
Want you to:

**Feel welcomed and warmed by the variety of hot soups
for lunch & be educated and entertained by the
short meeting and interesting program**

Our speaker, Larry Martin, a FFAST/WINGS presenter out of Poplar Grove will do a bit of an IMC/VMC situational analysis that has to do with cold weather to start the conversation from which we will learn about what types of tools and kits you should carry in the plane in the event of cold weather issues and potential off-airport landing. From there, Ed Hollendonor from Troop 40 in Sycamore, who, coincidentally is the Three Fires Council trainer for OKpik (cold weather camping) is going to take it a step further and teach us about handling the elements, layering properly and the right type of clothes to wear to maintain body temperature, relevant first aid and simple scouting tools should you need them in an off-airport landing.

It should be a fun program, with beneficial information and hands-on learning. WINGS credit is available.

We will have lunch at Noon, a short 99's business meeting at 12:30 (while everyone is finishing up eating), and the program to follow at 1:00.

See you there! Fly in Drive in Join us !

NEXT MONTH

**THE IOWA CHAPTER 99S ARE HOSTING THE SPRING
NORTH CENTRAL SECTION WEEKEND BUSINESS MEETING**
ON APRIL 25-27 ON IOWA CITY

Registration and details are available at
NCS99s.org
And in your last issue of Waypoint



SAVE THE DATE!

25-27 April 2025

Iowa City, Iowa

NCS SPRING MEETING

Hosted by Iowa 99s

Registration: \$109 (\$139, late)

Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn Iowa City (\$129/night)

AND IN MAY

Chicago Area 99s
Aviation Day for Girls
Saturday, May 17, 2025

Girls Ages 10-18, \$20/person

See page 5 for details

Contact Megan M to volunteer

WHO'S WHO
in the
Chicago Area Chapter

CHAIR

Madeleine M

VICE CHAIR

Larisa K

SECRETARY

Vickie S

TREASURER

Shelley V

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.

CHAPTER BRIEFING

Pre and Post Flight

Madeleine M



Dear Chicago 99s,

For aviation career aspirants with Commercial Certificates, the Michigan Chapter is hosting a zoom meeting on the 99s mentoring program Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) and we are invited to participate. Please mark your calendar to join in:

Zoom Link for PPLI Panel Zoom Meeting March 4, 2025 at 7:00 pm EST or 6:00 pm CST

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5575887285?pwd=R_Ww1NkZibFo4VzJ1aEJKNDY5VEpDZz09

Meeting ID: 557 588 7285 Passcode: 48640

From our WEBMaster, Cynthia M, we have been experiencing great activity on our website www.chicagoarea99s.org GoDaddy just sent an update that we have had 1,112 visitors to the site in the last 30 days, and we are one of the top-performing sites with a 90 score for businesses like ours.

We have received an inquiry from Soaring Society of America (SSA) to learn more/explore options in glider flying. I think many of us would enjoy a visit from a sailplane pilot, or better yet a visit to a glider port. One of SSA's officers has invited us to come to Sky Soaring in Huntley to hear what soaring is, how much fun it is, how to get involved, the Glider rating, and the challenges of free flight (cross country soaring and contest flying). We are working on a plan for this summer sometime. Might be some demo rides given!!!!

Our friends at Chicago's Leading Edge Chapter of Women in Aviation are planning a major event at Aurora Airport on Thursday, May 29th. Many of our Chapter members are also their chapter members; this is a fun Hangar Dance with a big band 1940's theme; warbirds, costumes, food, drink and dance music—all for aviators! Who's ready to swing dance—or watch the swing dancers and listen to the band play hits from the past.



BUT BEFORE THAT!!!

Our great Aviation for Girls Day—this year at Lake in the Hills Airport—is coming up soon. Mark your calendar for May 17, 8:00 am, and think about how valuable it is for girls to see what they can be. The possibilities that YOU represent to the next generation of aviators has such tremendous value. When you stand before a girl and say “I am a pilot” and teach (demystify) an aviation subject, you open doors to their future. Contact Megan M who is again chairing this event and volunteer to stand as an example of what's available to them. Some group leaders are needed, to protect the girls on the active airport. And some teaching spots are still open.

**I'm going to the 99s Annual Conference.
Are you?**

Don't just belong.....

participate! *Madeleine*



Ellie D is fine-tuning her pattern work skills. After recently soloing, Ellie continues to build confidence with each flight.



Hanan M is focused on tower communications, emergency landings, and stalls. She feels strong with some of her Private Pilot maneuvers and is working to overcome the challenge of staying calm during busy airport communications.

Marly S faced multiple weather-related delays but finally got a clear day to complete her solo flight.



Susan K has passed her written knowledge test and secured her third-class medical certificate and is set to begin accelerated flight training in March.

AND UPDATES FROM OTHER MEMBERS!

Info gathered by Sarah D

From **Diane H**: Hello from Cape Coral Florida. Just wanted to say hello to all our friends and wishing them happy flying. My airplane is still in Rhinelander Wisconsin and looking forward to flying it when I migrate North in the springtime. Then I can fly to the meetings of the Chicago area chapter of the 99s as I have a cabin in Lake Tomahawk, Wisconsin. Wishing everybody to keep warm and safe.

From **Jen M**: Currently I am 3/4 of the way through my instrument training program. Should be instrument rated by the end of March. Besides locking in for that, my main priority nowadays is looking for scholarships and other ways to make the rest of my training a bit more affordable!! I am also going to be attending Sun N Fun and staying in Florida April 1-11th if anyone will be around I'd love to meet up and do something.

From **Yanina B**: I am happy to let you know that I earned my ATP rating on January 24th in CE525. I am super happy about my achievement.



MESSAGE FROM OUR AMELIA EARHART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND SECTION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Issues:

- *Some aren't reading the instructions document, which is **separate** from the actual application. This is affecting application submission/quality/procedures/deadlines, etc.
- *Some are sending applications to section/trustees when they should be sending to their chapter.
- *PDF issues: the Trustees suggest <https://www.ilovepdf.com/> as a free tool you can try if your computer isn't playing nice.
- *ALL pictures of documents, must be oriented correctly (not sideways, upside down, etc.) and able to be clearly read.
- *Eliminate blank pages before submitting.
- *Signatures should not be typed names.
- *After the Section Scholarship Chair reviews applications, they may give feedback. It is important that you acknowledge and take care of those things in a timely manner. They are doing their best to help applicants show their best.

Answers to common questions:

- *Academic applicants must submit logbook pages/proof of medical, if they are in a program that is providing flight training.
- *An applicant can add something after they've submitted their application--for example, you submitted application by Jan. 1 and then passed the applicable written Jan. 5th. You can add that at the end of the application and label it with those details or add a page with explanation DO NOT change the pages that are part of the original submission that was sent in by the deadline (especially dates). The application still has to come to section as ONE complete PDF.
- *The Section AE Chair can not format/fix the applicant's document. This is to protect the applicant against something being inadvertently deleted, changed, etc. It's up to the applicant to put their package together.
- *The trustees require that an applicant's package be sent in as one PDF. If we ask the applicant to fix/change some things, they would do so and then send the updated package to us as one PDF.

The bottom line! There is entire cadre of people working to help our members present the best possible application This AEMSFS Scholarship is funded by donations large and small mostly from other 99s. **Its competitive! Give it your best!**

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT FLYING A PROFICIENCY RACE?

Some 99s have expressed an interest in air racing. There are chapter members (myself included) who have extensive experience in proficiency racing, as well as organizing races and conducting race clinics. The Chicago Area Chapter conducted its own air meet every year for decades.

A proficiency air race is a fun way to hone your skills at navigation and fuel usage, either in your plane or a rental. The entire triangular course is usually no longer than 150nm under VFR conditions in non-complex airspace. Sometimes a spot landing contest is included.

If you are interested, please let me know. -- Cynthia M.



Editors note: There exists somewhere a very impressive traveling trophy that was won many times by Cynthia and her 49 1/2, Ralph. Many members of our Chicago Area Chapter looked forward every year to doing practice runs to verify fuel consumption and renewing their navigation procedure skills. It's a great way to whet your appetite for regional and national races if you decide you like it. Contact Cynthia and tell her you are (or might be) interested. Madeleine

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT FLYING YOUNG EAGLES?

There are many airports/EAA Chapters that schedule Young Eagles Flight for kids. There are so very few women who volunteer to fly them. The Young Eagles group at Chicago Executive Airport has just published their 2025 schedule and I would like to invite you to participate. If interested please call or text, Madeleine and I will answer questions, and explain the process. Volunteers DO NOT have to fly every event. The GO/NO GO weather decision is made by you as PIC. You can visit and help out on the ground if you prefer to watch first.



Please be a mentor. Be the pilot who models "Women Fly Too"

YOUNG EAGLES AT KPWK 2025 RALLY SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 26, 2025	Saturday, May 17, 2025	Saturday, June 21, 2025
Saturday, July 12, 2025		Saturday, August 16, 2025
Saturday, September 13, 2025		Saturday, October 18, 2025

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT SERVING YOUR CHAPTER AS AN OFFICER?

Our current Officers are finishing their 2 year term this May. At our June meeting (the pool party at Casa de Aero) we will be installing new officers who will carry on our great work in the aviation community. There are a few positions not yet filled on the slate being prepared by Jill F and her Nominating Committee, Megan M and Ana A.

Not every officer has to attend every meeting. We hope to find ourselves with a new board that enjoys our mission and wants to contribute, but weather and geography can occasionally impede that. New ideas and new leaders will breathe new life into our already thriving Chapter. Will you bring yours?

Please contact Jill or Megan or Ana—all contact info for them is in our online directory at www.ninety-nines.org. They can answer your questions or direct you to someone who can help. Remember the old recruiting posters from way back when Uncle Sam said:

"WE WANT YOU"

And we need you, too!



Chicago Area 99s Aviation Day for Girls Saturday, May 17, 2025

Girls Ages 10-18, \$20/person



Register at:
<https://chicagoarea99s.org/>

Lake in the Hills Airport *3CK *

8397 Pyott Rd, Lake in the Hills, IL 60156

8:30A—1:00P

We will be hosting Aviation Day for Girls at the Lake in the Hills Airport (3CK) on May 17th! As of Feb 15, we have registration open on our Chapter website <https://chicagoarea99s.org/>. Registration should also be up and running on the Girl Scout website within the next week, I will send an update when that is live.

Above you will find our flyer, please feel free to print and post at your local airport!

We are still looking for VOLUNTEERS! Specifically, we need volunteers to run the Forces of Flight and Communication workshops and someone to work with Vickie at the Mechanics workshop. We could use some more Group Leaders to escort the girls around during the event, a team to work Registration, people to help organize food and we always can use extra help with miscellaneous tasks.

We are putting together Swag Bags for the girls and if anyone can get their hands on some aviation related goodies (keychains, coloring books, stickers) we would appreciate the contributions. We are capping registration at 150 guests.

Contact me now if you want to help or if you have any questions. We are so excited to see you at this event!

Megan M

NEED A NAME BADGE! Our Chapter has them available

BADGE ORDER FORM

BADGE ORDERED FOR ___ 99 ___ 49 1/2 ___ FRIEND OF 99

FULL NAME TO APPEAR ON BADGE _____

STATE WHERE CHAPTER IS BASED _____

PIN BACK _____ **\$22** **MAGNET BACK** _____ **\$25**

NAME OF YOUR CHAPTER _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS STREET _____

CITY, ST ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ENCLOSE CHECK FOR \$22 PIN BACK BADGE OR \$25 MAGNET BACK

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER 99S

MAIL PAYMENT TO: Linda U EMAIL
address & phone contact info in the 99s Directory

OR MAKE PAYMENT VIA ZELLE: using 99chicagotreasurer@gmail.com

ALLOW 3 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY



Chicago Area Chapter 99's Meeting Minutes February 8, 2025 Blue Skies Lake in the Hills Airport

Hostesses Megan M & Lisa M

Attendees: 99's: Vickie S, Jill F, Madeleine M, Deb M, Megan M, Larisa K, Lisa M, Mary Lou E, Gail L, Susan Z, Mona K 49 1/2: Victor Z, Bill M, Anthony G, Yosh K, Chris K Guests: Damiana A, Jasleen Emma

Meeting was called to order at 1:24 PM Introduction of members and guests.

Chairman's Report deferred

Secretary's Report Minutes were reviewed from the last regular meeting in October. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Jill F. and seconded by Mary Lou. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report Shelley V is out of town and will give a full report at our next meeting. The Expo did well with some extra donations and many vendors.

Old Business Megan Aviation for Girls Day (5/17) at Lake in Hills Airport. We will need extra guides as the event will be on an active airport. Volunteers needed. Flyers will be coming out soon. Last year there was a total of 200 volunteers and girls.

New Business Spring Section Meeting will be held in Iowa City, April 25-27 The Chapter needs to nominate people for the following awards and the following were suggested: Governor's Award – Leslie P, Madeleine will check with Leslie Spinning Prop – Megan M 49 ½ - Tony G

International will be held in Burlington, VT, July 9-13 The registration info is on International's website under Join Now area Sun and Fun and Airventure will both have 99s tables. Consider volunteering and help out.

The Chapter will be having elections soon. Jill Feldman is chairing the nomination committee. If you are interested in running for one of the Chapter's offices, please contact her.

Madeleine passed out some 99's posters to be hung in the area airports.

Thank you to our hostesses!

Ajournment The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 PM.

The new Lake in the Hills airport manager, Lou, spoke for a few minutes about some airport changes. These include installing 4 cameras, a new roof for a tenant, adding additional aircraft parking, a new AWOS-3PT weather system which will need new radio frequencies (August) and more. He mentioned possibly having an air show too.

Everyone enjoyed eating all the "dip" and snacks that were brought in by the attendees. It was all delicious! Great idea!



The online magazine [AvWeb](#) published a poll on Monday, February 10, asking readers whether “armchair accident analysis” has gotten out of hand. With slightly more than 600 people responding, readers said it absolutely *is* out of hand because “it leads to misinformation and conspiracy theories.”

I disagree, at least a bit. But not because I endorse conspiracies. I’m actually fascinated by a juicy theory like claiming a particular accident was caused by the Russian covert introduction of rogue squirrel fur into jet fuel production (I made this up). When I joined the aviation industry decades ago as a wannabe, I was fascinated by the final blue book accident reports the [NTSB](#) published. I read them cover to cover and always put them down, wondering why. “Why would a pilot or crew do what they did ... or why did they skip some step along the way in a particular checklist?” Little did I know then that I was leading myself to a lifelong curiosity about human factors analysis. Of course, I always told myself I’d never repeat that mistake when I flew. Over 50 years, I’ve been lucky enough to be part of the industry in various jobs: first as an air traffic controller, then as a flight instructor, then as a charter and business aviation pilot, and now primarily as an aviation journalist. Along the way, I also had an opportunity to spend five years as an adjunct staffer at [Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism](#), where I learned the importance of being able to present my ideas to a group of people. Each role added another perspective on the industry I’d come to call my own. All this said, my inability to hold a job should be viewed through a special lens ... that of a guy with an insatiable curiosity. And you know what the world thinks about that.

It was 1598 when the English poet and playwright Ben Jonson conjectured that “curiosity killed the cat.” In other words, being too curious about something might land you in serious hot water. Being born a few centuries later, I’d learn later just how right Jonson was. You can’t offer up an opinion on anything without upsetting someone. I was in high school when I first began reading Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. I’ve lost track of how often I’ve reread many of those stories. I always wanted to know what happened and why. I still can’t help myself. But letting my curiosity create a conspiracy theory to create a click-bait story ... nope. Not me.

Curiosity I like to think my curiosity has never been focused on publicity. I’ve never believed I was superior to the experts, the dedicated individuals at the [National Transportation Safety Board \(NTSB\)](#). I’ve been fortunate enough to know several current and former Board members personally. Years ago, Nancy and I visited the NTSB training center in Ashburn, Virginia, when the recreation of [TWA 800](#) was still an intact exhibit. Learning how the staff recreated the fuselage of that Boeing 747 was nothing short of awe-inspiring, especially when you can see how one NTSB investigator determined where a three-inch square piece of metal recovered from Long Island Sound fit into the original structure.

NTSB’s Recreation of TWA 800’s fuselage.



I have enormous respect for the Board. That doesn’t mean that my knowledge and experience are of no value, however. What has always been important to me are the educational aspects of accident investigation. What information can I share with my own students to prevent them from committing the same, often fatal, mistakes as a crew I’d read about? Over the years, I came to realize that there were plenty of working men and women in the world who were just as curious as me about an accident like the horrible ones we’ve experienced recently in DC, Philly, and Alaska. These people seldom asked me for the technical details about TCAS, DEI, prevailing visibility, or to define lord knows how many dozens of industry acronyms. They asked me to explain the details of an accident in layman’s terms. They didn’t ask me to stretch my brain for the probable cause, so I seldom have. For instance, when someone asked me how the door could have fallen off that Boeing 737 early last year, I was as honest as I could be based on what little we knew then. Common sense and logic told me there must have been some manufacturing or maintenance mistake along the way. My many years of immersion in the industry pretty much do the rest. I offer readers or listeners a “maybe” to hang their hats on. And I’m perfectly happy to wait for the NTSB to generate their final report.

Human Factors

Does all this make me an armchair aviation detective? Maybe. I like to think of myself as an educated reader and consumer of media about an industry I’ve been immersed in my entire life. But I believe readers of any text surrounding aviation accidents must take a little responsibility for some of the crazy conclusions promoted on social media and TV. My theory is simple, “Consider the Source.” No matter what the source, readers/listeners of any story, aviation, politics, or economics, must engage a pretty well-oiled BS meter during our 24/7 news cycle. Conspiracy theories are usually generated by people with some axe to grind. Crazy theories are spread by people who read and accept the words without question expecting someone else to handle all the critical thinking for them. This must stop.

My advice ... check out the writer’s bio before you believe anything you read or listen to. If the writer doesn’t have one, I’d steer clear and suggest others do the same.

Fly safely.

Rob Mark

AIR NEWS



Address Service Requested

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

CHICAGO AREA 99S 2025 CALENDAR

MAR 15	NOON SATURDAY	CORIE & DEB DKB
APR 25-27	NORTH CENTRAL SECTION SPRING WEEKEND MTG	IOWA 99S IOWA CITY
MAY 17	AVIATION DAY FOR GIRLS	MEGAN, CORIE & LINDA 3CK
JUNE 28	ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS NEW OFFICERS	KRISTA & MADELEINE CASA DE AERO
JULY 10-13	99S INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE BURLINGTON, VT	99S ICCE
JULY 21-27	EAA AIR VENTURE OSHKOSH WI	EAA 2 99S BOOTHS
AUG 17	CHAPTER MEETING SUNDAY 11:30 am	SHARON ENW
SEPT ?	CHAPTER MEETING TENTATIVE SAILPLANE MTG	VICKIE SKY SOARING ??
OCT 3-5	NORTH CENTRAL SECTION WEEKEND MTG	WISCONSIN 99S OSHKOSH SATURDAY
OCT 11	CHAPTER MEETING SATURDAY	CYNTHIA & RACHEL BULT FLD C56
NOV 13	THURSDAY NIGHT	JILL FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
DEC ?	HOLIDAY PARTY POT LUCK WEEK END AFTERNOON	LISA LAKE VILLA