



FALL 2019 | VOL. XXXV NO.2

APPROACH

The Official Publication of the South Central Section of The Ninety-Nines, Inc.



SECTION MEETING - ABILENE, TX

Cover Picture: Check out the WASP Museum at waspmuseum.org

Honoring Our Past

Remembering the pioneer female pilots that came before us during this fall section meeting with a dedication for Vera Dawn Walker, an Abilene Texas native, and a trip to the W.A.S.P. Museum in Sweetwater, Texas.

"Because I want to!"

-Vera Dawn Walker

Response when asked by a reporter why she wanted to fly.



SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION
Governor
GRETCHEN JAHN
gjahn@knotridge.com
NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:
MARCH 15, 2019

See pages 4-7 for more details



SECTION MEETING

October 25-27, 2019

Hosted by the Brazos River Chapter
Abilene, Texas (with a tour in Sweetwater, TX)
See pages 4-7 for more information

Hotel Registration Deadline: September 27, 2019
Meeting Registration Deadline: September 20, 2019

SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION

AMBASSADOR | ARKANSAS | COLORADO | KANSAS | LOUISIANA | NEBRASKA |
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AVAILABLE ON THE WEB:

www.scs99s.org

In the left hand column select
Approach, then the issue you want.

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NEXT DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2020

Fall 2019 - Circulation: about 890 emails and printed copies (plus 24 governors, 4 international officers)

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South Central Section Board of Directors

2019-2020



GOVERNOR
GRETCHEN JAHN
(303) 570-1736
gjahn@knotridge.com

VICE GOVERNOR
MONICA RANDOLPH-GRAHAM

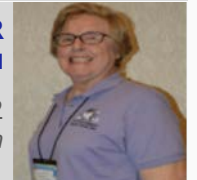
(817) 714-6439
Monica.99scs.vicgov@gmail.com



SECRETARY
CAMELIA SMITH
(479) 530-6947
ccamelia2fly@gmail.com

TREASURER
ELIZABETH FRANKOWSKI

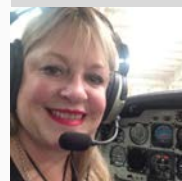
(713) 305-6372
elizabethfrankowski@gmail.com



DIRECTOR
AILEEN HUMMEL
(817) 919-6189
aileenflys@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR
RENI BAKER

(210) 860-2602
renibaker@outlook.com



PAST GOVERNOR
STEPHENIE R. ROBERTS
(903) 530-0437
sroberts@tyler.net

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SUSAN OSBORNE (CHAIRMAN)
sueav8s@g.com

SANDRA LEDER
sleder99@yahoo.com

STEPHENIE R. ROBERTS
sroberts@tyler.net

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

FALL 2019 APPROACH

Thank you to every chapter who sends me their newsletters. I love reading about your educational activities, flying and non-flying events, and member accomplishments. Regardless of chapter size, it seems to me that holding quality events with camaraderie and support is what our chapters do best.

In March the Nebraska and the Aux Plaines Chapters North Central Section did an outstanding job hosting a joint section meeting with North Central Section in Kearney, NE. Many of us braved the cold and dark before dawn to experience the thrill as thousands of cranes took off from the sand bars on the Platte River. This was my second time to experience the Sand Hill Crane migration, and it was as awe-inspiring as the first time. In addition, attendees were treated to a variety of other tours, seminars, and meetings, and the fun of "Pilot's Family Feud". You had to be there!

The International Conference in Dayton, OH, was a delightful mix of tours and seminars to feed every type of aviation interest. Plus opportunities to meet with sister 99s from around the world, share ideas, and work together to build the community of female pilots. The delegates to the annual meeting voted to approve both proposed amendments to the international bylaws and standing rules, which represent the first step to modernize the corporate documents. Congratulations to the following SCS members who were elected: Dawn Rogers (Kansas Chapter) and Sarah Rickman (Pikes Peak Chapter) – 99s Museum of Women Pilots; and Carole Sutton (Nebraska Chapter) – AE Birthplace Museum.

At the Saturday banquet in Dayton, I was honored to be awarded the 99s Award of Achievement for Contributions to Aviation. I am grateful to the Colorado Chapter for the nomination, and to the judges for the selection. But most of all, I am grateful to my husband who introduced me to aviation AND to The 99s, and to the Colorado Chapter for introducing me to air racing and the joys of aviation. Participation in The 99s propelled me to shift my career from the software industry to the aviation industry – truly a life-altering decision. Without The 99s, my aviation career would not have happened.

During 2019, The 99s has been celebrating our 90th Anniversary with a variety of events. I hope you are flying and taking photos for the aerial scavenger hunt, "90 Things in 90 Days for the 90th Anniversary" (www.ninety-nines.org/scavenger-hunt.htm for rules). It's a great excuse to go flying! And on November 2nd, please join everyone in Oklahoma City for the 90th Anniversary Celebration. The day kicks off with the Museum of Women Pilots hosting their first Girl Scout Sky Badge event, followed by an afternoon MWP Open House 1p-5p for 99 cent admission, culminating in dinner with a "Roaring 20's" theme. Registration deadline for the dinner is October 15th (<https://www.ninety-nines.org/anniversary.htm>).

Our fall section meeting, hosted by the Brazos River Chapter, includes a 90th Anniversary event. The meeting is in Abilene, TX, home of 99s charter member Vera Dawn Walker. We will hold a gravesite celebration to dedicate the headstone that SCS purchased a few years ago when we discovered that she was buried in an unmarked grave. We will remember her life and her adventures as a pilot and a racer in the first women's trans-continental race in 1929. See below for details and registration information. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Blue Skies and Tailwinds,

Gretchen



Ladies, we want you, we need you, we love you, this is the way you can give back and help make our Section the best!!

- South Central Section is looking for great candidates for all the offices.
- Please look at our website <http://www.scs99s.org> for Forms/IntenttoSeekElection.pdf, StandingRules.pdf to see how you can help our Section
- All information pertaining to election, terms of office, eligibility is covered in our bylaws
- Elected officers shall be Governor, Vice-Governor, Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors. A Nominations Committee of three members shall be elected as an independent board.
- Officers, directors, and standing committee members shall have such duties and responsibilities as are set forth in these Bylaws or as may be set forth in the Standing Rules.
- The Governor, Vice-Governor, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected in even numbered years for a term of two (2) years. The Immediate Past Governor shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The Governor shall serve as Chairman of the Board.
- Deadline to file Intent to seek election is October 31, 2019

The next election will be during the spring of 2020 and the new Board will take office at the beginning of the 2020-2022 fiscal years (June 1, 2020)

AMBASSADOR | ARKANSAS | COLORADO | KANSAS | LOUISIANA | NEBRASKA |
| NEW MEXICO | OKLAHOMA | TEXAS |

Editorial Comment by Heather Hodge

The wonderful Mrs. Ellie Block is passing the torch to me. I can tell you that without her support, help, and guidance, this would not have happened. I encountered some turbulence during this transition and am working towards getting a better grasp on the process of creating this publication. I express my deepest gratitude for all of the support that has been at my fingertips during this transition. I did drop the ball regarding notifying chapters for article submissions for this issue. I have already taken corrective action and look forward to adding even more articles into the spring issue. I will make a 'Recap 2019' section for the Spring 2020 issue to include pieces I missed in this issue. With that said, I hope the new design of this publication is well received, and I welcome constructive criticism and input from members.

Thank you for having faith in me and allowing me the opportunity to hold this position within the section. I look forward to working on many more issues in the years to come.

SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION

AMBASSADOR | ARKANSAS | COLORADO | KANSAS | LOUISIANA | NEBRASKA |
| NEW MEXICO | OKLAHOMA | TEXAS |

YOU'RE INVITED!

BRAZOS RIVER CHAPTER - FALL 2019 SECTION MEETING - ABILENE, TX

October 25-27, 2019

HONORING OUR PAST: VERA DAWN WALKER

Vera Dawn Walker experienced her first flight while working as a stand-in on a movie set. She was offered a flight-seeing tour and later recollected, in 1972 during an interview that, "before we touched the ground, I knew that I had to learn how to fly." In 1928 she applied to numerous aviation schools and received one acceptance letter. From this point, she started her aviation journey with Aerial Corporation of California.

A year later in 1929, Walker learned of the Women's Air Derby. She landed a sponsorship by Howard Hughes and won the right to enter into the race. The Women's Air Derby of 1929 consisted of an eight-day journey from Santa Monica to Cleveland. Lucky for Walker, her home town of Abilene, Texas was on the stop route that year. Abilene provided the utmost hospitality for their hometown favorite, greeting her with a large reception, including her father and siblings.

Throughout her life Vera Dawn Walker was known as small by fierce. Weighing in at an estimated 90 pounds and standing tall at 4'11," she couldn't even touch the rudder pedals without cushion assistance. However, that made her out to be an excellent wing walker. She was known as the "Tiny Texan" and "the world's smallest pilot."

Looking back on Vera Dawn Walker's life, it is challenging to highlight just one of her accomplishments. She became the eleventh women in the world to win the United States Department of Commerce full transport license. She was a representative and demonstration pilot for Panther McClatchie airplane motors.

After a piloting trip to Guatemala, a diagnosis of tuberculosis was imminent. Rather than being placed into a sanatorium she decided to relocate to Tucson where she began placer mining for gold. Sadly, this disease would eventually claim her pilot's license but would not doom her to a short life. Walker lived to be 81 years old. She rests in peace at Cope Cemetery in Abilene Texas.



Birth: 3 Feb 1897
Texas, USA

Death: June 1978

Interesting Facts: Charter member of Ninety-Nines, wing walker, air racer, and movie extra.

Honoring Our Past

Vera Dawn Walker

99s South Central Section Fall Meeting
 Hosted by The Brazos River Chapter
 October 25– 27, 2019 – Hilton Garden Inn, Abilene, TX



Conference Registration Form

Full Name:
Phone & Email:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Chapter & Current Office Held:
Past Section/Int'l Office(s) Held:
Guest Name(s):
Dietary/Special Considerations:
Abilene Arrival: Date/Time/ Commercial flight or N#
Driving:
Renting a car: YES_____ NO_____

Tickets	Date	Time	Price	QTY	Sub-Total
Full Conference	By Sept. 20		\$89		
Full Conference (LATE)	After Sept. 20		\$99		
Guest Banquet Ticket	Sat. Oct. 26	6:30 PM	\$40		
Grave Site Dedication	Fri. Oct. 25	3:00 PM	0		
WASP Museum Sweetwater	Sat. Oct. 26	2 – 4 PM	0		

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Brazos River 99s
 Mail to: Brazos River 99s, Barbara Wilson; 9606 Taxiway Drive; Granbury, TX 76049

Total:

Cancellations: No cancellations after September 20, 2019

Hotel Accommodations:

Hilton Garden Inn Abilene
 4449 Ridgemont Dr, Abilene, TX 79606
 Double Queens Beds \$119.00 + taxes (includes breakfast buffet)
 Call Hotel Direct at: 325-690-6432
 Reservations Due by: 9/27/2019

48 hour cancellation policy

Rental Cars:

AVIS – 325-677-9240 Enterprise – 1800-261-7331 HERTZ – 325-673-6774

Abilene Airport – ABI

Airlines: American and Continental

ATIS 118.25 UNICOM 12.95

TOWER 120.1 GROUND 121.7 ABI APPROACH 125.0 Free tie downs

RWYs 17R/35L 17L/35R 4/22

Abilene Aero 325-677-2601 <http://www.abileneaero.com/>

Grave Site Dedication Cope Cemetery:

Friday 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Directions:

1474 Co. Rd. 134 Ovalo, Taylor County, TX

Take 84 South to 134

WASP Museum Tour:

Saturday 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

210 Avenger Field Rd,

Sweetwater, TX

Open: Tu – Sat 10AM – 5PM

Sun 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Directions:

Take Ridgemont Dr. South

TR to Rebecca Ln which turns into Dub Wright Blvd.

TL to Bus 20 TL to I-20

Take exit 240 to Avenger Field Rd. also marked 170

12th Armored Division Memorial Museum:

www.12tharmoreddivisionmuseum.com

1289 N 2nd St

Open Tue – Sat 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Adults \$5 Seniors \$4

Abilene Zoo:

www.abilenezoo.org

2070 Zoo Lane

Open 9:00 AM– 5:00 PM

Adults \$8 Seniors \$7

Frontier Texas:

www.frontiertexas.com

625 N 1st Street

Mon – Sat 9AM – 6PM Sun 1-5 PM

Adults \$8 Seniors \$7

Honoring Our Past

Vera Dawn Walker

99s South Central Section Fall Meeting
 Hosted by The Brazos River Chapter
 October 25– 27, 2019 – Hilton Garden Inn, Abilene, TX



Schedule of Events

Friday October 25, 2019	
6:00AM – 10:00AM	Hotel Breakfast Buffet
10:00AM – 2:30PM	Registration
3:00PM – 4:00PM	Cope Cemetery Grave site Dedication – Departure at 2:30PM
4:30PM – 6:00PM	SCS Board Meeting
6:00PM -	Dinner on your own
7:30PM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room
Saturday October 26, 2019	
6:00AM – 10:00AM	Hotel Breakfast Buffet
8:00AM – 11:00AM	SCS Business Meeting
11:00AM – 12:00PM	Chapter Chair Meeting
12:00PM – 1:00PM	Lunch on your own
2:00PM – 4:00PM	WASP Museum – Departure 1:00PM
5:30PM – 8:30PM	Cash Bar
6:00PM – 7:00PM	Silent Auction
6:30PM -	Banquet
Sunday October 27, 2019	
7:00AM – 11:00AM	Hotel Breakfast Buffet
6:00AM -	Departures

APRIL 27. 2019

AIRMARKING

Oklahoma Chapter



From the Sooner Takeoff

BY ELAINE REGIER

Our Air Marking project in April at the Hinton airport was a lot of fun and the Compass Rose turned out beautiful. The weather cooperated enough to keep the rain away and the winds would pick up and then die back periodically, but it was truly a great day for the project. We had a full day of painting, measuring, marking and were fortunate to have the help of a highway striping machine. We had enough volunteers and time to layout and paint "HINTON" on the taxi way, too. A big thanks to Teresa for her planning and coordination efforts!



Pictured: Trina Southard, Leona McGee, Charlene Davis, Dawn Mills, Wyvema Startz, Ashley Benton, Teresa Camp and Angela Drabek

Info

WINGS OF THE FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

GAIL FOOTE
KATRINA HODGES

GONE WEST

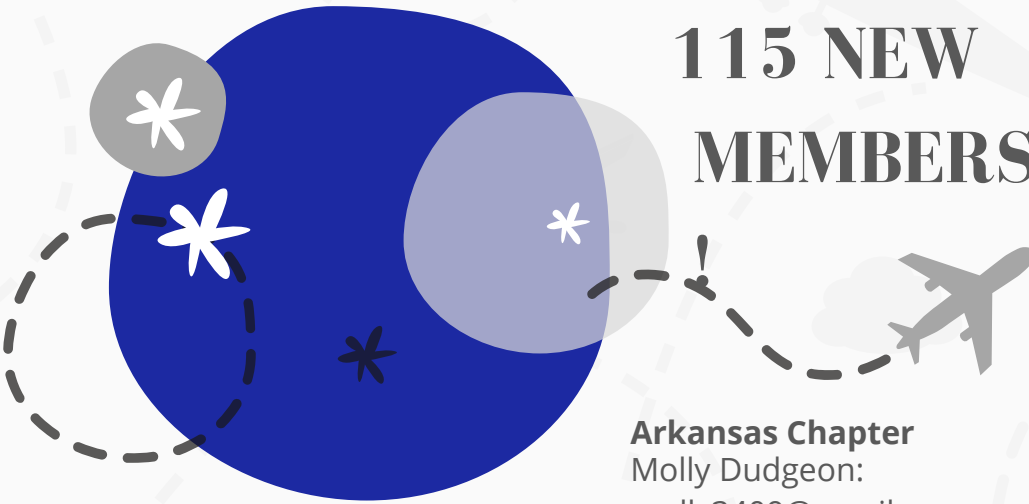
RITA DREESSEN EAVES

See more on pages 15-17

Meet the New Members

REACH OUT AND SAY HELLO!

115 NEW MEMBERS



Ambassador Chapter

Rachel Henderson:
rhenderson797@gmail.com

Jean Moe:
jeanmoemoe@gmail.com

Thora Anderson:
thoraanderson@outlook.com

Maria Neboschick-Mendez:
mgm243@yahoo.com

Julia Lair:
jgldrums@gmail.com

Megan Davis:
davissaleen03@yahoo.com

Ciara Smith:
ciara.smith03@yahoo.com

Christina Wong:
christinawong82@hotmail.com

Arkansas Chapter

Molly Dudgeon:
molly3409@gmail.com

Christa Guidry:
christa_guidry@yahoo.com

Brittany James:
james.brittanym@gmail.com

Stephanie Kight:
skight54@yahoo.com

Melissa Shipman:
melissa.shipman@gmail.com

Pikes Peak Chapter
Frances Burns:
nayo.burns@gmail.com

Ariana Fullmer:
arifullmer@yahoo.com

Rebekah Robertson:
rebekah11nicole_bex@yahoo.com

Sarah Saller:
sasaller@gmail.com

Aura Zink:
auraczink@gmail.com

Austin Hill Country Chapter

Cecilia Adamson:
cellalgae@aol.com

Lilliana Alvarado:
lillyalvarado4@gmail.com

Alisa Chastain:
Nicolenicchastain@msn.com

Ashley Hendrickson:
arh3mk@virginia.edu

Daisy Mitchell:
daisy@daisyandshane.com

Amanda Wilkinson:
amanda9444@gmail.com

Golden Triangle Chapter

Kathryn Hyde:
katyhyde06@gmail.com

Hailey Peterson:
hnpeterson341@gmail.com

Brittany Umphress:
ms.umphress@gmail.com

Meet the New Members

REACH OUT AND SAY HELLO!

Dallas Chapter

Breanna Black:
breeblack7@gmail.com

Dalena Bui:
dalenab10@gmail.com

Margaret Cowan:
memcowan@gmail.com

Janie Gomez:
gomezlawnsprinklers@yahoo.com

Caitlin Hebert:
caitlin.hebert@ymail.com

Aniseh Shapiro:
anisehshapiro@gmail.com

Arielle Sierra:
ariellejsierra@gmail.com

Madie Womack:
madielw@gmail.com

Karen Zolka:
karenzolka@yahoo.com

Brazos River Chapter

Emily Strickland
emily.n.strickland@gmail.com

San Antonio Chapter

Foram Bhatt: forum676@gmail.com

Yasmin Codina:
yasminacodina@gmail.com

Katherine Ramos Riley:
ktramos@juno.com

Fort Worth Chapter

Mariah Baker:
mariahfbaker@gmail.com

Melissa Calvin:
mel_calvin@yahoo.com

Grace Cooper:
pilotgracec@gmail.com

Dallas-LandisCruze:
dallas.landis.cruze@gmail.com

Ritu Dellecase:
ritu.dellecase@flightsafety.com

Gretchen Geest:
gretchenlizg@icloud.com

Emma Griffin:
emmygriff17@icloud.com

Eleanor Moore:
ellyandmoore@gmail.com

Grace Passmore:
graciempassmore@gmail.com

Heather Pinkerton:
heather.jackson@ttu.edu

Jeanette Stone:
happinesstravelsfar@gmail.com

Taylor Young:
taylorcub@cox.net

Houston Chapter

Jeanne Colgate:
jeannejon218@gmail.com

Susan Haass:
smokeav8@gmail.com

Maci Jones:
macij1s@gmail.com

Leigh Lawless:
lhlawless@gmail.com

Jessica Livesay:
jessidlivesay@gmail.com

Juli Mcleod:
juli.mcleod@yahoo.com

LuAnn Pfeifer:
luannpfeifer@hotmail.com

Mallory Rhodes:
malrho01@gmail.com

Harleigh Strack:
harleigh@j4-properties.com

Erin Trobaugh:
erintrobaugh@consolidated.net

Courtney Vela:
cvelaart@gmail.com

Meet the New Members

REACH OUT AND SAY HELLO!

Lake Charles Chapter

June Dugger

Karyl Hunter:
kbhunter3@gmail.com

Carla Ladner:
ladnerc@hudsonisd.org

Chynelle Mircham:
chynelles1st@yahoo.com

Madeleine Musial:
musialmadeleine@gmail.com

Nebraska Chapter

Margaret Doig:
mdoig@alumni.nd.edu

Northeast Kansas Chapter

Colette Hoffman
kettyk97@gmail.com

Kansas Chapter

Jessica Beech:
jriffel4@gmail.com

Rio Grande Norte Chapter

Margaret Lieberman:
mliebmd@gmail.com

Kristi McFadden:
flywithkristi@gmail.com

Lacey Raykovics:
lacrayko@outlook.com

Colorado Chapter

Casey Adamson:
casey.adamson@dibblecorp.com

Gillian Andersen:
gillianandersen322@gmail.com

Rebecca Carroll:
rebeccacarroll2104@gmail.com

Karin Carter:
kncarter21@gmail.com

Rebecca Cooper:
becca.cooper@flydcfa.com

Cynthia Dibble:
cynthia.dibble@comcast.net

Shelly Engel:
shellyjengel@gmail.com

Alexandria Garcia:
Alliealexandria-wright@hotmail.com

Misty Goff:
mistygoff.co@gmail.com

Tiffany Gusttet:
gustte@gmail.com

Rachael Northup:
rachael.northup@gmail.com

Jessica Pohl:
jessie.r.pohl@gmail.com

Dana Roper-Cooper:
drdanaroper@yahoo.com

Madison Siegrist:
maddi_siegrist@hotmail.com

Sarah Stewart:
Bearabbinormalemail@gmail.com

Lea Hadzick:
leadawn11@gmail.com

Tracy Johnson:
tbj67@yahoo.com

Jamie Jones:
Jamjamiemariejones@live.com

Heather Loomis:
guppyskyqueen@gmail.com

Elizabeth Mahnke:
bethmahnke@hotmail.com

Audrey Maruska:
awed.one@gmail.com

Morgan McKenzie:
mckenziemorgan20@gmail.com

Karen Tomlin:
tubejock1@comcast.net

Edith Yeager:
escottiey@gmail.com

Sheila Young:
renniegal@gmail.com

Meet the New Members

REACH OUT AND SAY HELLO!

Oklahoma Chapter

Emily Barstow:
emilys.b@att.net

Mikayla Barstow:
mikayla.sb1219@gmail.com

Ashley Benton:
abenton0210@gmail.com

Danilynn Brown:
danilynnrb2020@gmail.com

Cheryl Duffy:
rn2day@yahoo.com

Mica Foster:
micafoster@gmail.com

Clair Fraser:
clair_fraser@aol.com

Nathalie Hamilton:
Knathalie8195@live.com

Jamie Hembree:
jamielahembree@gmail.com

Bailey Lunsford:
baileylunsford2002@gmail.com

Riley McCue:
riley.mccue14@gmail.com

Meagan Rasberry:
meagrasberry@gmail.com

Briana Daugherty:
bd_ch_4@aol.com

Tulsa Chapter

Sharon Stebbins:
bnslake@yahoo.com

Wichita Falls Chapter

Mattie Bivens:
matleebivens@gmail.com

Be Sure to Say....

hello

To Your Fellow 99s!

**DID YOU
KNOW**

You can find contact information for those in your chapter? Visit www.ninety-nines.org, member area on the upper right, log in, select directory on the right hand column menu, and search your chapter!

ON THE HORIZON

Upcoming Events

FALL 2019 SEASON



Look Out

90 THINGS IN 90 DAYS

A scavenger hunt to celebrate the 90th anniversary of The 99s



Look Out

CELEBRATING EDNA GARDNER WHYTE

A Historical Marker Dedication



Look Out

NATIONAL AVIATION HALL OF FAME

57th Annual Enshrinement Ceremony and Dinner

KEEP US IN THE LOOP!

by Heather Hodge - Approach Editor-in-Chief

Please keep us up to date with your chapter newsletter, events, and communication. We want to feature you! Send the information to scsapproach@gmail.com.



ON THE HORIZON

Upcoming Events

FALL 2019 SEASON

90 THINGS IN 90 DAYS

Join in on the fun in celebrating the 90th Anniversary of The Ninety-Nines with an aerial scavenger hunt! Register for only \$25.00 and submit your photos. Enter at any time but the scavenger hunt ends October 27, 2019.

To learn more about this event visit:

<https://www.ninety-nines.org/scavenger-hunt.htm>

CELEBRATING EDNA GARDNER WHYTE

There is a Historical Marker Dedication celebration for Edna Gardner Whyte at the AeroValley Airport, 52F-Northwest Regional Airport, on Nov. 3, 2019, Edna's birthday. Additionally, this will be the airport's 50th year celebration.

More details to come on this event.

NATIONAL AVIATION HALL OF FAME

The 57th Annual Enshrinement Ceremony and Dinner will be held on Sept. 28th at the Wings Over the Rockies Museum in Denver, Colorado. The 99s International President, Jan McKenzie, will be accepting the award on behalf of the late Katherine Stinson.

To learn more about this event visit:

<https://www.nationalaviation.org>

SCHOLARSHIPS:

For Ninety-Nines Members Only

Learn more about what scholarships you qualify for at:

<https://www.ninety-nines.org/scholarships.htm>

For Women in Aviation International Members Only

Learn more about what scholarships you qualify for at:

<https://www.wai.org/education/scholarships>

FAA.gov Grants and Scholarships

Learn more about what scholarships you qualify for at:

https://www.faa.gov/education/grants_and_scholarships/



Gone West

REMEMBERING OUR SISTER RITA DREESSEN EAVES 9/3/1920 – 5/24/2019

By Elaine Regier

A true pioneer of aviation, Rita Dreessen Eaves had a passion for aviation throughout her life. In 1931 her surrogate grandfather took her and her younger sister to the dedication of Will Rogers Airport, and at the young age of nine, it was there that she saw an airshow that would inspire her for a lifetime. The airshow had one particular plane that captivated her, and as the plane landed, she said "it wasn't just any pilot, it was a woman". And at that moment, young Rita said to herself, "if she can do that, I can do it".

Rita never waived in her determination to become a pilot, going through several flight instructors, even with the insistence of a flight instructor who bluntly told her that "women don't fly". On December 24, 1951 her dream to become a pilot came true.

The inspirational woman pilot that she had seen as a young girl later became her mentor, who was The Ninety-Nines own Dorothy K. Presler Morgan, the second female to become a pilot in Oklahoma, who appeared in many air programs with Wiley Post and Amelia Earhart.

Just after being married, Rita convinced her husband Leonard that they should both learn to fly, and shortly thereafter they purchased their first airplane. In January 1957, Leonard and Rita built their own airplane, a Nesmith Cougar 1 experimental airplane, with a folding wing design that won third place at the EAA competition in 1963. Rita named this plane "Chigger", and this innovative airplane was featured along with Rita and Leonard on the cover of EAA Sport Aviation in February 1963.



Gone West

REMEMBERING OUR SISTER RITA DREESSEN EAVES 9/3/1920 – 5/24/2019

continued

Another favorite airplane they built designed by Leonard was dubbed "Skeeter." They unveiled Skeeter in 1966 for her first flight at Wiley Post Airport, and it was more than just an airplane, Skeeter was a part of the family, taking them to unseen horizons and new found friends. When a tornado destroyed Skeeter in 1999, Leonard immediately built Skeeter II.

Rita joined The Ninety-Nines in 1952, serving the Oklahoma Chapter in every facet over the years, holding all chapter offices (several times), and was also the Powder Puff Derby stop chairman twice. She was still an active member of the Oklahoma Chapter of Ninety-Nines (a lifetime member), at the age of 95. She was not actively involved in aviation, but she inspired and encouraged other women to become aviators. She was an avid supporter and contributor of The Oklahoma Chapter of The Ninety-Nines annual event, the Okie Derby Proficiency Air Rally, which provides scholarships to Oklahoma women pursuing their dream to fly. Rita participated in numerous positions for the annual event, from timer for the race, to spotter, as well as donating her hangar for Okie Derby breakfasts for the pre-race, for many years.

Rita and Leonard became charter members of EAA in 1956, helping with the fly-in starting during the Rockford days and long after the event moved to Oshkosh. They served as volunteers for over 45 years straight at the International EAA Convention, flying a home-built to it all except four years. Rita was sales chairman for the EAA annual meeting in Rockford for two years and then at Oshkosh. Rita started the EAA women's activities program in 1967 and continued when the show moved to Oshkosh, a feature to this day. For ten years Rita was the official photographer for women's activities and chronicled all photos with names in yearly albums. With the Oklahoma EAA Chapter, Leonard and Rita were very involved with implementing the Young Eagles program to introduce youngsters to the thrill of aviation.

Gone West

REMEMBERING OUR SISTER RITA DREESSEN EAVES 9/3/1920 – 5/24/2019

continued

Rita and Leonard are the only EAA members to be awarded the EAA President's Award in recognition of outstanding and dedicated service to sport aviation and the Experimental Aircraft Association, by Paul Poberezny in 1973 and by Tom Poberezny in 1998.

On June 20, 2009, Rita Eaves and forty other Ninety-Nines were also inducted into the International Forest of Friendship, in Atchison, Kansas. The Forest is a living, growing memorial to the world history of aviation and aerospace: there, Rita's name joins more than 1,200 internationally recognized honorees, along with recognized flyers such as Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, The Wright Brothers, Sally Ride, Eileen Collins, and Chuck Yeager.

In December 2015, Rita was honored by the Oklahoma EAA Chapter 24 with a Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to her as a member who had impacted aviation through her personal commitment and contributions to EAA.

In July 2016, Rita won The Ninety-Nines Award of Achievement for Contributions to Aviation and her award was received by her dear friend Angela Draybek.

In her own words, Rita said of her life, "I think Leonard and I probably had one of the most exciting lives in aviation", she said. "It has been a very rewarding, fun life".

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SCHEDULE OF HOST CHAPTERS | NINETY-NINES SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

October 25-27, 2019	Fall 2019 Section Meeting - Abilene, TX
April 24-26, 2019	Spring 2020 Section Meeting - McKinney
July 8-12, 2020	International Conference - Long Beach, California
October 14-18, 2020	Fall 2020 Section Meeting - Corpus Christi, TX
March 19-21, 2021	Spring 2021 Section Meeting - Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE MEETINGS VISIT:
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CHAPTER NEWSLETTER CHAIRMEN/EDITORS AND CHAPTER CHAIRMEN
NINETY-NINES SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION

Please send your Chapter Newsletters or communications to Gretchen Jahn, Governor of the South Central Section!

Please put me on your mailing list or your email list so I can enjoy and share in your fun events and communications from your chapter.

Gretchen Jahn

11347 Colony Circle
Bloomfield, CO 80021-4108
gjahn@knotridge.com
Cell: 303.570.1738
Home: 303.321.1349

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HEATHER HODGE, ELLIE BLOCK, AND AILEEN HUMMEL, EDITORS

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1929
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