

# The Leading Edge

Newsletter for the Ambassador Chapter 99s  
<http://www.ambassador99s.org>



*See above photo at [www.ssmrocks.com/kimnovak/graphics/wallpaper/poinsetta\\_med.jpg](http://www.ssmrocks.com/kimnovak/graphics/wallpaper/poinsetta_med.jpg)*

Dear Ambassador Chapter members,

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and many blessings for 2009. Enjoy all of your holiday activities and be well this season!

Sincerely,

Sabrina Riffle, Editor

## Contact Us!

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[www.ninety-nines.org](http://www.ninety-nines.org)  
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# JOIN OUR MONTHLY ONLINE MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

The Ambassador Chapter conducts **monthly online meetings every 9th day of the month at 9pm Eastern Time.** To join in on the fun, you'll need to download a free copy of Yahoo! Messenger at:

(for a PC) <http://messenger.yahoo.com/win.php>

(for a Mac) <http://messenger.yahoo.com/webmessengerpromo.php>

(from the Web) <http://webmessenger.yahoo.com/>

Each day on the 9th members from all over the world log in for about an hour to chat free over the Internet. Join us! And if you have questions, please contact one of the Chapter Officers for help.



If you're an Ambassador Chapter member who hasn't yet signed up for our Yahoo! Groups site, please consider doing so here. It's free and easy:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ambassador99s/join>

We use this site to post the meeting minutes, announcements, member bios and photos. Post yours today!

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## **UPDATE ON AMBASSADOR CHAPTER PROJECT: AMELIA BEARHART**

**Hello All! I'm pleased to inform you that our group project is moving along nicely, and to date we have 20 confirmed members - and hopefully the rest of you will be contacting us shortly to give us your answer "yay" or "nay".**

**If you are interested in being an "Ambassador" with Amelia Bearhart, please let us know as soon as possible so we can coordinate her travel accordingly.**

**Gwen Davis, our member from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, has generously offered to be Amelia Bearhart's travel agent and will be in charge of coordinating the most efficient and timely shipping arrangements to each of the participating members. If you have a particular event you would like to share with our bear, please let Gwen know: [honeybeenation@yahoo.com](mailto:honeybeenation@yahoo.com) and we will do our best to schedule the bear's travels accordingly.**

**As our project progresses, and members contribute to the photo album, logbook, and journal, we will post updates on the chapter website: <http://ambassador99s.org/> and bear blog: <http://ambassador99s.org/> Stay tuned!**

**Amelia Bearhart will be kicking off her grand journey around the membership with Robin Turner, who will be vacationing in Argentina and Peru for the next couple of weeks.**

**I thank you all for your help and participation in this very unique and important project!**

**Kirsten Brazier  
Chair, Ambassador Chapter  
[kirstenbr@yahoo.com](mailto:kirstenbr@yahoo.com)**

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# AMBASSADOR CHAPTER NOVEMBER 2008 MEETING MINUTES

November 9th, 2008  
Monthly Membership Meeting  
Yahoo! Chatroom  
9pm ET

Members Present: Kirsten Brazier, Robin Turner, Sarah Wildman and Kira Vitale

Items Discussed: Charity Bear

The Charity Bear project is still in the works. Ambassador Chapter members were emailed and called recently to find out if they are willing to participate in this project. So far, 12 members have agreed to participate.

The idea of purchasing a logbook for the bear was discussed, and all agreed that this was a good idea. Since the bear is a pilot, she should have a log of her flights and journeys.

Ways to package and ship the bear around the country and the world were discussed. Members who have connections to shipping companies like UPS and FedEx will be contacted to see if there are any shipping discounts for our chapter.

The Ninety-Nines scholarships were also discussed. There are three members from our chapter who have applied this year: Michelle Bassanesi, Monica Doherty and Lorena Kniaz.

The meeting participants then discussed their experiences flying various aircraft.



ΥΨΨΨ!!!

**A big “Yippee!” for Instructor Michelle Bassanesi, who inspires others in flight:**

“I think I lost about 10 years of my life yesterday when I got out of the plane to let him go up solo for the first time ... then I gained them again when he got out of the C152 back at parking. We must have danced around the tarmac a couple of times ... people must have thought we were nuts! Or maybe just happy-releasing all the adrenaline buildup!”

“Here are the photos ... when I handed him his SOLO FLIGHT certificate!”



“Today I have 900 hours total time, of which 175 are dual given. I started working for the Rome Aeroclub the 27th November of last year. I have certainly come a long way!”

“Last week I took the students to the Rome Tracon. They really were surprised: the controllers are actually human! The students were so well behaved that we have been invited

to Fiumicino Tower and again to Rome Tracon besides one of their controllers will come to the school and give a lecture on safety and incident reporting!”

-Michelle Bassanesi



**A big “Yippee!” for Wendy Paver!**

Wendy recently accepted a job flying the Global Express for ExxonMobil. Congratulations, Wendy!



# HEADQUARTERS DISPATCH

## PROPOSED BYLAWS / STANDING RULES AMENDMENTS DEADLINE

By Sally Biggin, International Bylaws/Standing  
Rules Chairman

Bylaw and/or Standing Rule amendments may be made by this committee, a Chapter, a Section, the Council of Governors, or the International Board of Directors. These proposed amendments will be presented to the membership at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

All proposed amendments must be postmarked by December 31, 2008 and sent to:

Sally Biggin, Int'l Bylaws/  
Standing Rules Chairman  
PO Box 1127  
Hoopa, CA 95546 USA  
Fax: 530-625-4736  
Email: [sbiggin@thegrid.net](mailto:sbiggin@thegrid.net)

## SPRING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Spring Board of Directors meeting will be held at Headquarters in Oklahoma City, OK, on March 20-21, 2009 (travel on the 19th and 22nd).

The meeting hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn on Meridian Avenue. To make your reservations call 405-942-1400. The cost will be \$89 per night (plus taxes.) This rate will extend a couple of days before and after if you are planning on spending some extra time at Headquarters.

Please let Headquarters know the dates you will be there. Board meetings are open to all who wish to attend. If you are not a Board member, Governor, Trustee or International Committee Chair and would like to attend, please call Headquarters for more information.

Reports for the Board packet need to be in to Headquarters by March 1, 2009.

## 2008-2009 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Look for the 2008-2009 Membership Directory to be delivered in December.

What's in this directory you ask? The Directory is filled with lots of useful information - it's better than the Yellow Pages! In it you will find information about our Bylaws and Standing Rules as well as a complete listing of all current members (as of July 1 each year).

Want to know who's on the International Board of Directors? It's in there - with pictures. Want to quiz Chapter members on who were the first 99 women to join? A list of the charter members is there. Need an overview of the organization? Just open the first few pages - it's in there.

The directory contains:

- International Officers & Board of Directors listing
- International Committee Chairmen listing
- Chronological listing of past Presidents
- Alphabetical Section and Chapter listing
- Alphabetical listing of Members

-International Members-at-Large listing  
 -Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Standing Rules

August 14-15 – 40th Annual Palms to Pines Air Race

and much, much more....

**Future International Conferences**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
 2008-2009**

July 5-9, 2010 – Kona, Hawaii, USA

July 2011 – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA

December 20 – Due date for AE Scholarship applications to Section Scholarship Chairmen

**CORRECTION**

December 31 – Deadline to submit Bylaws and Standing Rules proposed amendments 2009

The statement made in the November Dispatch concerning Chapters not having to renew their trademark certificates was incorrect. All Chapters who sell items that use any of the Ninety-Nines trademarks (the Compass Rose logo, the name of The Ninety-Nines, Inc., or the interlocking 99s) must renew every two years as long as they have product for sale.

January 15 – Deadline for nominations for Awards to be received at Headquarters

January 31 – Deadline for submitting Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) application

The Trademark Committee and Headquarters would like to know what is available for sale and what the Chapters are selling.

February 1 – Due date for 99 News submissions for the March/April 2009 issue

-Frances Luckhart, Trademark Committee Chairman

March 1 – Reports due to Headquarters for the Board of Directors meeting

March 20-21 – International Board of Directors meeting, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

April 1 – Due date for 99 News submissions for the May/June 2009 issue

April 21-26 – Sun ‘n Fun, Lakeland, Florida



June 20-26 – Air Race Classic, Denver, Colorado (Centennial Airport) to Atlantic, Iowa

July 22-25, 2009 – International Conference, Chicago, Illinois, USA

# NOTES FROM THE NORTH

## Where the Heck is Kirsten?

By Kirsten Brazier

Good question Erin! I'm starting to wonder that myself! Anyway, after several minor crises, an unplanned week in Winnipeg, and fighting with the car dealership that made repairs to my car that caused my engine to seize, I finally made it to Abbotsford, BC (sans l'auto), for my AE Scholarship training.



Most of you will recall that I was selected for a BC Forestry Approved Mountain Course on the Bell Jetranger helicopter. I spent the first couple of days collecting my bearings, familiarizing myself with the machine and recovering from my battles with the car dealership.

last flew a helicopter and it was in a totally different machine - the Bell 47. Thankfully the moment passed and we moved on with the lesson.

On November 13, I learned to fly all over again! Immediately prior to startup, I was momentarily scared senseless... wondering what the heck I was doing in this helicopter and how the heck am I going to fly it?! It had been 6 years since I

We spent the first few days relearning the basics, exploring the Jetranger and practising various emergencies before slowly working our way into the mountain training. At the time of writing I've logged about 14 hours and have 11 left to go... It turns out there is a lot to learn about the Jetranger, which on the surface appears to be a simple machine, and mountain flying, which is not at all a simple skill.



On the one hand, I'll be glad to complete the course as I'd like to try and find a helicopter job right away, but on the other I will be sad to see it end as I am learning lots and worry it might be hard to find a job as an entry level helicopter pilot in a very slow market. Ah well, overcoming challenges is what makes aviation so interesting!

One of the first things I did when I arrived is contact Women in Aviation, and sent out a notice on the 99s email networks, looking to say hi and possibly meet local members - what great results! It turns out there was a meeting for each organization in the same week - both in Abbotsford! Several 99s emailed me to say hi and offer encouragement, and I discovered that one member, Clare Brooks Higgins, is living right across the street! She is a grade 5 teacher, and with her husband Paul, owns a C-172 they keep at the Abbotsford airport. What warm and welcoming people I have met since arriving here!

The West Coast Chapter of the 99s met on Tuesday November 18th, with new Chapter Chair Caroline Kolasa presiding. The group photo includes, back row from left to right: Jean Prior, Joan Lynum, Wendy Boyes, Kirsten Brazier, Caroline Kolasa; and front row from left to right: Clare Brooks Higgins and Cindy Pang.

