

The Leading Edge

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



See the above photo at www.landscaping.about.com/od/landscapecolor/ig/free-halloween-pictures/red_maple_round.htm

Dear Ambassador Chapter members,

Fall is a busy time of year! Kids go back to school, the landscape bursts into color, and we have to start thinking about winter flying challenges like harsh winds and icing conditions. It is a time of adaptation and change- this month, we feature members who have worked for their own goals, dealt with changes and have come out successful! Read about their inspiring accomplishments and use that energy to inspire your own change this Fall!

-Sabrina Riffle, Editor

Contact Us!

International Headquarters
99s@ninety-nines.org
www.ninety-nines.org
800-994-1929

Ambassador
Chapter
"CREW
MEMBER"
Positions:



Chair:
Kirsten Brazier
kirstenbr@yahoo.com

Vice Chair: Erin Recke
flyinerin@mac.com

Secretary: Sabrina Riffle
sabrinariffle@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kira Vitale
kira@iskyblue.com

Newsletter Editor:
Sabrina Riffle
sabrinariffle@gmail.com

Membership Chairs:
Robin Turner
robin@turnerdairy.net
Erin Recke
flyinerin@mac.com

Website Chairs:
Michelle Booth
Kirsten Brazier
ambassador99swebsite@yahoo.com



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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AMBASSADOR CHAPTER SEPTEMBER 2008 MEETING MINUTES

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

Members Present: Kirsten Brazier, Robin Turner, Erin Recke

Items Discussed: Charity Bear

The chapter is going to create a more involved teddy bear project (or some other cute, cuddly aviator) to travel as an Ambassador around our chapter, meeting our members, having her photo taken in various situations (hopefully in lots of aircraft!), and collecting memories along the way. Accompanying our bear will be a photo album/scrapbook for pictures we take of her journey, a passport/journal for members to write in, and a knapsack for keeping the bear with all of her things. After our bear spends a period of time traveling around to all of the members who wish to be a part of this special project, our plan is to send the bear to a terminally ill child. We haven't yet decided on an end recipient, part of the project will be to research, and vote on a "best patient" – suggestions welcome.

The more members who participate, the more meaningful the final gift will be. Also, we are hoping that by viewing the contributions of others as our "ambassador" makes the rounds, our members will get to know each other better.

Our idea is to collect a list of names of our members who wish to participate in this project. If a member doesn't wish to participate, that's fine. But if she does want to receive the bear in the mail, we ask that she spend some time taking photos, adding to her costume, taking her flying, filling out her passport/scrapbook etc. Members with kids or pets who are interested in contributing/participating are more than welcome.

The idea is to keep the bear moving so we're considering putting a time limit on how long each member might have the bear.

It is our hope that each member will donate the cost of postage to send the bear on to the next member on the list of participants. In some instances, other members might be able to help out those financially unable to participate, and we'll be asking for help in scouting out airline-sponsored shipping where feasible.

One of the chapter officers will keep the list and direct the "flow of traffic" regarding the bear's next destination. She will also handle any suggestions for transportation donations and requests for postage assistance by any destitute participants.

Originally we thought the chapter might purchase the bear with chapter funds, and interested members could donate the various paraphernalia. However, Robin has kindly offered to donate the bear (or other ambassador), Kirsten has donated the passport/journal and Erin will donate the photo album/scrapbook. Any members willing to donate towards other expenses, such as shipping, knapsack/suitcase for the bear’s memorabilia, clothing or other would be greatly appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned around 10pm ET.

Our next chapter meeting will be online in a Yahoo! chatroom on Thursday, October 9th at 9pm ET. We hope you can make it!

Erin Recke,
Chapter Vice-Chair

NEW PRIVATE PILOT!

Gwen Davis recently earned her Private Pilot License! CONGRATULATIONS, GWEN!

“I am very grateful for this opportunity and also extremely happy that the AWE Conference was an inspiring success!”

-Michelle Bassanesi

YIPPEE!!!

www.aweu.org/ext_files/CURRICULUM_VITAE_Michelle_Bassanesi.pdf

Michelle Bassanesi reports:

“I am having so much fun teaching out of Rome Urbe Airport! I fly C152, C172 and P66Cs. My youngest student is 16 and my eldest is over 60 ;O) Teaching is giving me an invaluable “learning” experience!”

“Last week before leaving to Norway for the 4th AWE Conference I was called and given the fantastic news that I had won the French Connection Memorial Scholarship for aerobatics training as an instructor!”



HEADQUARTERS DISPATCH

CONFERENCE 2008 REPORT

By Donna Moore, International Vice-President

The 2008 Conference is now part of the growing history of The Ninety-Nines. The Alaska Chapters provided an opportunity for "Aviation Fun Under the Midnight Sun!" Ninety-Nines had the chance to renew old friendships as well as make new friends while sharing aviation stories and enjoying the splendid scenery of Alaska. Float planes, planes on skis – yes, Alaska is a pilot's paradise!

President Pat Prentiss reported that she has been successful in obtaining her goal of making The Ninety-Nines known in the aviation community, stating that the 99s is no longer aviation's best kept secret.

Several 99s ventured to Russia in the winter of 2007. Highlights of the trip were shared with those in attendance.

Chanda Budhabhatti invited us to India, March 12-29, 2009, for a tour sponsored by the India Section. For more information contact Chanda at chandag99tour@gmail.com.

The membership voted to accept the proposed Bylaws and Standing Rules Amendments that were presented prior to the meeting. The changes will be posted in the Directory and on The 99s website.

The Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum reported that the museum was selected by the Hampton Inns "Save-A-Landmark" program for a grant that will enable the replacement of the roof as well as placing Lexan coverings over the two stained glass windows. The Museum of Women Pilots has seen major changes in 2008 with the election of Carolyn Smith as Chairman

to fill the large vacancy left behind with the passing of Margie Richison.

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund reported that there were 20 scholarship and award winners in 2008. However, there was a drop in the number of applications being submitted. The Trustees reiterated, "if you need financial assistance to start, continue, or complete flight training; technical training, education or aviation and aerospace research and development, professional or otherwise, then apply!"

The Endowment Fund Trustees stated that current monies in the fund are at 40% of the goal of \$1,000,000 with a current balance of \$401,578.

Patience is a virtue and Chapters and Sections have now been rewarded with a Chapter Chairman's Manual that is applicable across the organization. Diane Pirman, Santa Maria Valley Chapter, has chaired this endeavor to standardize the manual. It has been approved by the International Board of Directors and will soon be posted on the website.

In closing, Susan Larson stated that her primary focus as President will be the development of additional tools for Sections and Chapters, and to further increase publicity for The Ninety-Nines.

99S AT AOPA EXPO

An invitation is extended to 99s and guests to attend the annual breakfast held in conjunction with AOPA's Expo, this year in San Jose, California, November 6-8. The breakfast will be held on Saturday morning, November 8, from

7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registrations will be accepted on the Santa Clara Valley Chapter's website, www.santaclaravalley99s.org. A fantastic speaker and delightful camaraderie are in store for all. For more information contact Sue Bal-
 lew at skytrekker10@sbcglobal.net or 415-845-1058. Details will be available soon.

IRS FORM 990-N FILING REQUIREMENT

By Kris Irvin-Herron, International Treasurer

The deadline for the first filing of the new IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard) is approaching for those Sections and Chapters who are required to file it. As explained in the April 2008 Dispatch, U.S. Sections and Chapters that are not required to file (and are not filing) the “paper” Form 990 or 990-EZ will be subject to the new online-only filing requirement.

Since all Sections and Chapters should be following the International Ninety-Nines, Inc. fiscal year end of May 31, the first report will be due October 15, 2008. If any Sections and Chapters are using a different fiscal year end for tax purposes, the report would be due the 15th of the fifth month after their fiscal year end (41/2 months).

The new form is due on an individual entity basis, therefore a separate report will need to be filed for each Section and Chapter not already included in a Group filing. Chapters should check with their Section Treasurer or Tax Advisor to find out if they are included in a Group filing. Chapters should have their own employer identification number (EIN) that should be used for filing their report. Chapters should not use their Section's EIN. The Form 990-N will already be populated with the legal name of the organization. For Chapters this may be the Section because the Section holds the tax exemption for the Group. You cannot change this-

name; however you can enter the Chapter name in the DBA line of the form. **YOU WILL- STILL USE THE CHAPTER EIN!**

For those that need to file the form, detailed instructions have been posted in the Members Only section of our website (www.ninety-nines.org) under “FORMS...” A BIG thanks to Ellen Nobles-Harris for preparing these instructions and sharing them with us.

I have been made aware of some problems with some Sections' Group Tax Exemptions. If you enter your Chapter EIN and receive an error message that the EIN was not found in the IRS list of organizations eligible to file the e-Postcard, you need to contact your Section Governor or Treasurer to help you to determine the proper number. The Section is required to file an annual report listing the Chapters under their Group Exemption and the EIN in the IRS records are listed on this report. If you have questions after reading and studying the Form 990-N instructions on the 99s website, you can email me at KHerron99@aol.com or go to the IRS website www.irs.gov.

2008 FALL SECTION MEETINGS

Mid-Atlantic – October 17-19, Leesburg, Virginia.

Contact: Marilyn Schuyler,
mlschuyler@aol.com
 Board Rep: Lisa Cotham

New England – October 17-18, Chicopee, Massachusetts

Contact: Georgia Pappas,
georgia@alongtheway.com
 Board Rep: Donna Moore

New York-New Jersey – October 17-18, Ronkonkoma, Long Island, New York

Contact: Nancy Neumann,
flygirl3828@yahoo.com

Board Rep: Virginia Harmer

North Central – October 10-12, Newark, Ohio
 Contact: Gaye Wohlin, dgwohbi7@aol.com
 Board Rep: Kris Irvin-Herron

South Central – September 12-14, Amarillo, Texas
 Contact: Jan McKenzie, mckenjn@yahoo.com
 Board Rep: Susan Larson

Southeast – October 3-4, St Petersburg, Florida
 Contact: Nancy Wright,
wright99@tampabay.rr.com
 Board Rep: Joan Kerwin

Southwest – September 25-28, Ogden, Utah
 Contact: Janna Vail, bjvail@besstek.net
 Board Rep: Donna Moore

AIRMARKING CORRECTION

By Ellen Nobles-Harris, Airmarking Chairman

A correction to the Airmarking comments in the July 2008 "Dispatch." You do not have to notify the FAA of the survey date and the local annual change in variation for the location of the compass rose you are painting. You do need to paint

it adjacent to the North Arrow of the compass rose (reference AC 150/5300-13, Appendix 4, Paragraph 6.c). This is a sample (it will differ with the location of the compass rose) of what you should paint close to the north point:

Survey 5/2000 Var + 0° 8' W/year This translates to survey done on 5/2000 and that the variation increases by 0 degrees, 8 seconds West per year.

ENDOWMENT FUND TRUST

By Barbara Strachan,
 Endowment Fund Chairman

The Endowment Fund gives a big thanks to our outgoing Chairman, Carolyn Van Newkirk, for her many years of dedicated service to the Trust.

We welcome to the Endowment Fund our newest Trustee, Marcia Gitelman, who will be serving as Secretary. She joins Barbara Strachan, Chairman; Nancy Aldrich, 1st Vice Chairman; Judy Tokar, 2nd Vice Chairman; and Gayl Henze, Treasurer.

CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR 2009 MIDTERM ELECTION

The International Nominating Committee is looking for candidates for the 2009 midterm election. Interested persons are sought for two Director positions. Forms and information are available on The 99s Website in the Members Only section or by contacting any of the committee members listed below. The deadline for filing the Intent to Seek Election form is December 31, 2008.

Trish Hanna, Chairman, rnthanna@msn.com
 Rita Adams, rvadams99@aol.com
 Sonia Bortolin, bortolin@bellsouth.net
 Barbara Harris-Para, bhpara@embarqmail.com
 Martha Phillips, martha99s@yahoo.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2008

October 1 – Due date for 99 News submissions for the November/December 2008 issue.

October 2-5 – Powder Puff Derby Reunion, Denver, Colorado.

October 3-4 – Southeast Section Fall meeting, St. Petersburg, Florida.

October 10-12 – North Central Section Fall meeting, Newark, Ohio.

October 15 – Deadline for filing IRS Form 990 or 990-EZ for Chapters and Sections.

October 17-18 – New England Section Fall meeting, Chicope, Massachusetts.

October 17-18 – New York-New Jersey Section Fall meeting, Ronkonkoma, Long Island, New York.

October 17-19 – Mid-Atlantic Section Fall meeting, Leesburg, Virginia.

October 24-25 – International Board of Directors meeting, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

October 31 – Deadline to submit ‘Intent to Seek Election’ forms for the 2009 midterm elections.

November 6-8 – AOPA Expo, San Jose, California.

December 1 – Due date for 99 News submissions for the January/February 2009 issue.

October 31 – Deadline to submit Bylaws and Standing Rules proposed amendments.

Future International 99s Conferences

July 22-26, 2009 – Chicago, Illinois, USA

July 5-9, 2010 – Kona, Hawaii, USA

July 2011 – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA

NOTES FROM THE NORTH: More About Handling Setbacks and Other Curve Balls Life Throws at You.....

By Kirsten Brazier

Given the recent flurry of discussions on the Pro 99s Network on the topic of furloughs, it seems appropriate to once again share my own experiences handling setbacks and other life changes.

Not many of you know this, but this spring relations between myself and my business partner degraded into a nasty dispute over ownership of our company, DaxAir. We had decided to part ways, but we couldn't agree on satisfactory terms, which essentially rendered us incapable of either selling the company assets or operating this season.

This has been particularly devastating for me as it was a life-long dream come true to own and operate a Beech 18 on floats and it has been a labor of love on many fronts. Everything we worked so hard to achieve seemed to just blow apart, leaving me at a total loss as to how to proceed with either my life or my career.

Fortunately I am a survivor by nature, and determined to achieve my dreams, so with the help and support of some incredible 99s, I was able to create some new options for myself and begin the long and painful process of rising from the ashes.

And, I have the incredible good fortune of a hard-won AE Scholarship for a Certified Mountain Course in the Bell 206 helicopter to look forward to! Hanging on to that wonderful piece of news has given me something to really look forward to, and I am so proud to have been selected for the award.

Once I forced myself to admit the company was lost and I needed to move forward in order to survive, I immediately reviewed my resume and compiled a list of likely targets for employment. I phoned, faxed and emailed as many companies I could think of, each and every day – Sundays were fair game too! Determined to remain in the bush flying field, I prioritized potential employers in this area, but also built a list of palatable alternatives, knowing that my next move did not need to be a permanent one. Rather, my immediate concern was survival since I haven't earned a steady income since we started our company in 2003.

Funnily enough, I still have a current PPC on the Beech 99 which some of you may recall from reading about my misadventure over the winter, recounted in an earlier edition of *The Leading Edge*. I viewed this as one of the compromises I might need to make on a temporary basis, but I targeted the few companies in Canada that operate them, and almost immediately hit pay dirt.



I was offered a job by Kenn Borek, a large company that flies a variety of aircraft all over Canada's north, the Maldives and also does a fair bit of work in the Antarctic over the winter. The company's core business is with the Twin Otter, but they also do medivac with King Airs and scheduled work, primarily utilizing Beech 99s and Banderante. I could have gone to the Maldives on the Twin Otter on floats with all my float experience, but instead I elected to go to the Arctic on the Beech 99, with the company promise of a checkout on the Twin Otter on wheels/skis in the near future.

Considering my destitute situation, it seemed a pretty good deal. The company would pay my way to and from wherever I chose to reside in Canada, to wherever I ended up basing, and a typical rotation is two weeks in two weeks out. There was base pay, daily pay, benefits, and not only that, a program to reward hard workers and extended rotations. If I wanted to work more, I could. My base pay would start the moment I arrived in Calgary for ground training, and the daily pay the moment I arrived in the north. Basically, all I had to do was show up at the airport in Red Lake and the company would take care of me from there! Even still, it was really difficult to tear myself away from everything we had worked so hard for, harder still to admit defeat. Two teary phone calls to two really wonderful 99s who have both been in similar situations (and who shall remain nameless to protect the stories they shared in confidence) helped me come to my senses. From the time I made my final decision, I had only two days to pack up my entire life into two storage lockers, arrange for temporary dog care, close down the air base and tie up a few loose ends related to the business before hopping on an airplane and bidding farewell to this chapter in my life. Next thing I knew I found myself on an airplane on my way to Calgary for company training and new-hire paperwork. Less than a week later I was on my way to Iqaluit, Nunavut, and later Inuvik, Northwest Territories to begin a new chapter.



I've experienced a few difficulties and great expense trying to rotate into different bases with my dog, and I quickly found myself banned from the crew houses, solely on principal – not because of any wrongdoing on Ash's part. For her part, Ash has been incredibly patient with all the instability, and has adapted admirably to being crammed into a box and shipped all over the Arctic on a jet. In the end I've had to compromise and stick with the base in Inuvik for now, where one of the local pilots and his wife have taken us into their home until I can get back on my feet again and decide where we're going to live. I've been able to work extra days out of here, which turned out to be fortunate as my car elected to catastrophically break down, twice!, when I returned to Red Lake to retrieve my belongings from storage. Apparently the powers that be decided my sense of humor needed testing - I guess what doesn't break us makes us stronger.

For the past two and a half months I've been flying steadily, logging almost 200 hours as Captain on the Beech 99. If the company comes through with the Twin Otter as promised, it seems as there might be some longer term opportunities with this company. At the very least I am able to work as much as possible to rebuild my finances and consider what new direction I would like to take in life.

In the meantime, I am studying the flight manual for the Bell 206 helicopter, and the mountain training materials for the mountain course I was awarded. The company has agreed to give me the time off I need to complete the training and I am looking forward to doing that within the next few weeks. Through my present job I've been able to meet and network with other helicopter pilots to see what opportunities might exist for me in this field.

Suddenly, anything seems possible.

I would like to encourage any of you that might be experiencing any setbacks or furlough, to reach out to your chapter and its leaders for help. Most of us have been there, done that, and couldn't have gotten through it without the strength of our friends, family and never forget - the 99s. No matter the curve ball life tosses you, you have the strength, courage, skills and determination to succeed and there are many helpful 99s that can give you support along the way. If any of you need some of that support, I hope you will reach out – and be rewarded.

Your Chapter Chair, Kirsten Brazier
kirstenbr@yahoo.com

