



Squawk

New England Section 99s

International Organization of Women Pilots

Governor's Message

Good morning, Everyone -

We're finally getting some long awaited for snow in Maine. This state depends on it for income for all the outside activities there are here. Without it, the economy suffers. This is, of course, not to mention the Covid situation. Vaccines are starting to become available, so we're headed in the right direction.

Some of us pilots have stayed in due to the cold, while others are very busy developing Aviation programs. Wait until you see what Erin Meltzer is doing in Fryeburg. What an inspiration!

We have other news of local flying and some International news, too. I hope this edition of our Squawk keeps you warm today.

Sincerely,

Mary

Mary Build CFI
Governor
New England Section of the 99s

**Eastern Slope Aviation Academy
Erin Meltzer, Katahdin Wings**

The Eastern Slope Aviation Academy was developed to fill a need in the Mount Washington Valley for focused, affordable education and guidance in aviation. Born from several years of hosting summer STEM aviation camps, ESAvAc is organized and registered as a 501c3 charitable non-profit with recent funding secured through a variety of grants and tax deductible donations.

Last year presented its share of challenges while still in our infancy, but we managed to build a strong board of directors and governing bylaws, purchased an FAA approved Redbird Flight Training Device (simulator) capable of providing qualified training time, renovated and repurposed an underutilized room at KIZG as a classroom and simulator base, and procured a defunct Grumman trainer we've dubbed the "Ramp Bird Refurb" project that will provide hands-on experience for students interested in airframe, powerplant, and avionics.

Building on our commitment to education, we've partnered with the Mountain Washington Valley Career Technical Center to adopt the AOPA STEM Aviation curriculum for high school freshmen interested in pursuing a career in aviation, which helped launch MWVCTC to become the leader of 5 high school STEM Aviation programs in New Hampshire, with FAA grants guaranteed through the next 5 years. We have already provided simulator training to 13 STEM Aviation students from Kennett High School in the fall semester, and we will have have 15 more STEM students and more in the spring semester.

Plans for the near future include reaching out to area schools in both Maine and New Hampshire to make them aware of STEM aviation opportunities and offering membership to the general public as a way of reaching more potential aviation students who might be further along in their career aspirations or those who simply want to take flight. We'll soon have a Cessna 172 available for training, and we're planning to add another aircraft to our training fleet as funding is secured. Instruction will be given by one of several CFIs who have expressed interest in teaching our students as we work towards formalizing our staff, and we're working with our local FSDO to be sure of full compliance.

The Eastern Slope Aviation Academy is looking forward to the future. The sky's the limit!

I do have an Instagram page for the academy and the handle for that is @easternslopeaviationacademy.

Instrument Ratings

Kaylee Smith, Katahdin Wings, and Jessie Zuberek, Eastern New England, are pursuing their instrument ratings, despite delays caused by New England cold and winf and weather.

Ninety-Nines International Conference

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS FROM THE 99s INTERNATIONAL BOARD

After much discussion with The 99s International Conference and Career Expo Committee, we have determined that the July 2021 Conference in Long Beach should not be held as an in-person meeting. It was our fervent hope that by this spring, the pandemic would have eased, Conference planning could resume, and we could plan on being able to safely travel to California this summer. That hope is not realistic at this time, and with the health and safety of our members always the top priority, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the in-person Conference. The Southwest Section and the 2021 Conference Committee have been preparing for this Conference for several years now, and we share their disappointment and offer them our heartfelt thanks for their dedication to this project during unprecedented times.

Although the in-person Conference will not take place, The Ninety-Nines Annual Meeting *will* be held online on July 10. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! Details and registration information for the online Annual Meeting will be sent later.

While we can't gather in person on the West coast this summer, we hope to see you on the East coast next summer! The 2022 International Conference will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, July 6-11, 2022, at the beautiful and historic Francis Marion Hotel on King Street, close to Charleston Harbor and just 12 miles from Charleston International Airport. Founded in 1670, Charleston is known for its beauty, history, dining, and shopping. The Conference

will offer great speakers, seminars that appeal to pilots of all types as well as guests, networking opportunities, and the chance to reunite in person with your Ninety-Nines sisters. Put the Conference on your “return-to-travel bucket list” and watch for registration information this fall.

DOES NEW ENGLAND SECTION WANT TO HOST THE CONFERENCE IN 2025 or 2026? Something to consider at our next Section Meeting!

The 99s International Conference Committee is beginning to think about locations for future Conferences. There are no sites selected after 2024, when we will be in Vancouver. Do you think the New England Section would be interested in hosting in 2025 or 2026? Perhaps you could discuss with the Section at your spring meeting?

We were last in your Section when we met in Providence in 2012, which was a great conference. In the future, we hope the burden on the Sections is a little lighter since we have begun the International Conference Committee handling some of the more burdensome chores.

Thanks and best regards,
Cathy Prudhomme

Hilton Foundation Grant to the Ninety-Nines Endowment Fund

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation has awarded a half-million-dollar grant to the Endowment Fund of the Ninety-Nines. The grant will enable the Ninety-Nines to increase outreach activities, develop more high-quality pilot proficiency education programs, and share the group's passion for aviation and the Ninety-Nines with others.

The full press release is here: https://mcusercontent.com/8f1693d56698349f3356ded0c/files/3c97cc53-daf0-45b4-a586-eb7511638988/Hilton_Foundation_Grant_to_Endowment_Fund.pdf

The Mercury 13: Sixty Years After

The 99s Museum of Women Pilots is hosting an online event on Feb. 27 from noon - 2:00.

Celebrate the 60th anniversary of The Mercury 13 - the women who were *almost* the first U. S. women astronauts.

In 1960-1961, twenty-five women pilots underwent the same physical and psychological tests conducted on the original Mercury 7 astronauts. Thirteen completed the medical program, but were denied the opportunity to pursue additional training.

The three surviving Mercury 13, as they would come to be known, will be recognized for the 60th anniversary of their accomplishment. Gene Nora Jessen and Wally Funk will be with us to share their personal experiences; Rhea Woltman will join us if she is able.

You will be awed by the accomplishments of 19-year-old Alyssa Carson who, at the age of 3, announced she was going to Mars.

A special keynote speaker will be announced, pending final arrangements.

Janet Ivey, of the Emmy award-winning PBS series Janet's Planet, will emcee the event.

Purchase tickets and a commemorative patch here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-mercury-13-sixty-years-after-tickets-131127197979>

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Ninety-Nines
413-329-8527

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE NEW ENGLAND SECTION NINETY-NINES!

We are a community of women pilots offering support, education, adventure, history, scholarship opportunities, professional networking and mentoring.

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