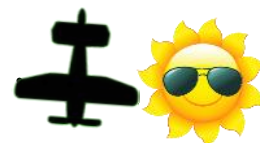




Colorado  
Ninety-Nines

# Crosswind Chatter



June  
2025

Newsletter of the Colorado Ninety-Nines  
International Organization of Women Pilots

## Upcoming Events

See page two  
for details.

## 99s Meetings

**JUNE 2**  
Business  
Meeting  
Google Meet

**JUNE 17-20**  
Air Race  
Classic Stop  
Sterling, Colorado  
(KSTK)



Best wishes to Jane Link!

## Air Race Classic Stop in Sterling

June 17-20



A team of volunteers is needed to create a successful Stop experience at the end of the 4th leg of this year's ARC in Sterling, Colorado (KSTK). In our Backyard!!

Charlie May is the wonderful Airport Manager at Sterling Municipal Airport in NE Colorado. Charlie has arranged for local volunteer support to assist racers with overnight ramp parking as well as local services in Sterling.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the exciting Air Race Classic, contact Lydia Baldwin:

[LydiaHBaldwin@gmail.com](mailto:LydiaHBaldwin@gmail.com)

Details on page 7



## See You There!



## Meeting Schedule for JUNE

June 2 Business Meeting  
Google Meet



6:30PM

June 17-20 Air Race Classic Stop in Sterling,  
Colorado (KSTK)



3 Days

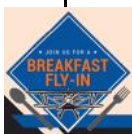


THERE IS NOTHING LIKE THE 99S



# Upcoming Events, Activities and Programs

Second Saturday



Join Wings Over the Rockies monthly fly-ins  
featuring planes, pilots and breakfast!  
At the Boeing Blue Sky Aviation Gallery  
Centennial Airport (KAPA)



MAY 30-JUN 1



Durango, CO Fly-in  
Arrive at Animas Air Park (OOC)  
A variety of things are planned.

MAY 31



Fly-in to Colorado Air and Space Port

JUN 2



Business Meeting  
At 6:30PM via Google Meet.

JUN 17-20



Air Race Classic STOP in  
Sterling, Colorado  
See page 7

JUN 21



EAA Longmont Fly-in  
Vance Brand Airport (KLMO)  
Flyer on page 8

JUN 21



Colorado Pilots Association  
Mountain Flying ground school  
June 21, August 16 and September 27

JUL 9-13



International Conference  
Burlington, Vermont



## There is Nothing Like The Ninety-Nines!



### Welcome new members!





# Author Sheila Young

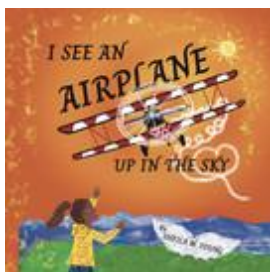


Sheila Young

Former Colorado Chapter member, [photographer](#) Sheila Young, visited the 2022 Spring Section meeting when the Chapter hosted it in Boulder.

"After a lifetime of wanting to fly and being discouraged because she was a girl, Sheila

M. Young finally began flight training in her 50s. Now, as a private pilot and photographer, Sheila launched her debut children's picture book, ***See An Airplane Up In The Sky*** on April 25, 2025. Appropriately, the soft launch will take place at the National Soaring Museum in Elmira, New York with fellow aviatrixes of The Ninety-Nines. The museum's gift store will also carry Sheila's book for sale.



Sheila wrote the book in Colorado, where she lived for 28 years, learned to fly and was a member of the Colorado 99s. She illustrated it in New York State where she grew up and recently returned to, and is now a member of the New York Finger Lakes Chapter of The 99s. Both states and The Ninety-Nines are represented in her illustrations, which are a combination of her aviation and nature photography and digital artwork. Sheila's self-published picture book, based on her own story and dreams, was written to inspire children, especially girls, to chase their BIG DREAMS!

Sheila's desire is for her book and speaking engagements about overcoming adversity to take off and help change the statistics of only 8% of all pilots being women and only 1% of them, women of color! Follow her on Instagram @ Sheila.M.Young for flying inspiration and news about her book launch events in New York and Colorado in May 2025."

Used with permission from the current ***Straight and Level***.



"Mike echo oscar whisky! I repeat!  
Mike echo oscar whisky, how do you  
copy? Over"

## Chapter Contacts

**Chairman**  
**Amanda Willson**

**Vice Chairman**  
**Anastasia McCune**

**Secretary**  
**Jacepine Hokanson**

**Treasurer**  
**Jan McKenzie**

**Crosswind Chatter Editor**  
**Margot Plummer**

Have you moved or changed your email address? If you are a member, go to: <https://www.ninety-nines.org/members/> Otherwise, contact our Webmaster, **June Stewart:** [webmaster@colorado99s.org](mailto:webmaster@colorado99s.org)

# Moving?





# Going Shopping

Are you interested in Ninety-Nines gear to wear to our next event, or just out in the community to show your Ninety-Nines spirit?

Ordering is a breeze. Or rather, winds calm.

- 1) Go to our Chapter website at <https://www.colorado99s.org/>.
- 2) Find the rightmost blue column labeled 'Other Links'.
- 3) For shirts, hats, jackets etc, click the link that says 'Ninety-Nines eStore'.
- 4) For name badges (that say your name, chapter and Ninety-Nines logo) click the 'Order Badges' link and follow the instructions in the pdf.
- 5) Sport your spiffy new gear at our next event!



# Help Wanted

We are still looking for members to fill the following committee chair positions. Each role is for two years, so through May of 2027.

**Youth Outreach** - This role involves finding/creating/facilitating events, information, or other outreach channels to connect youth to aviation. Example activities could include creating aviation-related activities/presentations for local Girl Scouts or Cub Scouts, coordinating *Let's Fly Now* events where youth are offered a free short introductory flight, or participation in local school events.

**Membership** - This role involves welcoming new members into The 99s through phone/email, sending membership renewal reminders, reporting to the board/chapter current information on the number of chapter members, and sending out membership packets to new members.

**Archivist** - This role would involve creating, managing and preserving historical records and/or artifacts. Examples could include creating video, photo, or print records of events. No specific video/photo skills are required - this role would be great for anyone who enjoys things like scrapbooking, memory books etc - putting your own creative twist would be fine!

It would be possible to share one of these jobs if you have a friend in mind to partner with, or are open to working with a new friend you haven't met yet! If you have any questions or think you are interested, please contact Amanda Willson at [chairman@colorado99s.com](mailto:chairman@colorado99s.com).





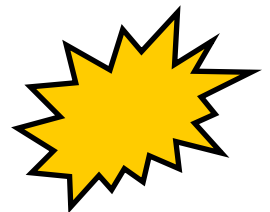
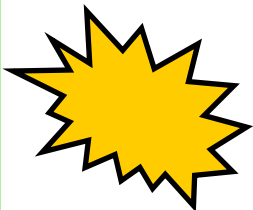
# Scholarships for 2025

With the new year come a new round of scholarship awards! Here are your important deadlines for this year.

- July 31 - [Ruehle Award for Advanced Ratings](#) application deadline (awarded by the Colorado Chapter for advanced ratings)
- October 1 - [First Wings Award](#) application deadline (awarded by The 99s International organization for primary training)

Watch for more details in the coming newsletters and emails! If you have questions in the meantime, contact [scholarship@colorado99s.org](mailto:scholarship@colorado99s.org).

# Scholarships



## PPLI

[Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative](#)

Not only do companies need women to step up as leaders, the worldwide aviation industry is slowly making strides to have more women in leading positions. As a professional pilot you can make a difference and can become a leader in your own right. Would you like to learn how to be an Aviation leader also?

The Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) is a mentoring program which will connect you with other supportive fellow Ninety-Nines.

It will help you to develop and enhance your leadership talents and qualities. And it will assist you to strengthen and advance your career progress.



# Deadline July 15, 2025



# Attention Student Pilots!

The fall First Wings Award deadline is 1 October. If you are a student pilot who has been a member of the 99s since on or before 1 July 2025, and have logged at least five hours of flight training in the six months prior to the application deadline of October 1st, you may qualify for an award of up to \$6000. See the First Wings Award description and instructions on the International 99s website, in the Members Area:

<https://www.ninety-nines.org/first-wings-award.htm>

An updated version of the application will be available on the international website on or about 1 September.

If you are preparing to apply here are some tips:

- Download the application before filling any fields – the online form does not save any information you enter. Read the instructions carefully. Where bullet points are part of the instructions, be sure to cover those points at minimum – a little bit extra will be fine, too.
- If you need a mentor (any 99s member can help you!), contact Jane Link to help you find one.
- The 99s Recommendation and Certification pages (Part VII and VIII) are completed by the Chapter scholarship chairman, Jane Link, after the application is submitted.
- The Colorado Chapter is in the South Central Section.
- Necessary documents may be captured on a phone or scanner, but make sure they are complete, clean, **readable** and straight as possible.
- Email your application to the Chapter AEMFS chairman, Jane Link no later than 1 October

Still have questions? Contact Jane Link, [aescholarship@colorado99s.org](mailto:aescholarship@colorado99s.org) or [jane@webzlink.com](mailto:jane@webzlink.com) for more information.

Still have questions? Contact Jane Link at [aescholarship@colorado99s.org](mailto:aescholarship@colorado99s.org) for more information.

# Attention Student Pilots!

# 48th Annual Air Race Classic



Fairhope, Alabama to Spokane, Washington, June 17-20

The **2025 Air Race Classic** will take off from Fairhope, Alabama on June 17, and follow along a 2400 mile course, across the Central states, across the Continental Divide, and on to the Terminus at Spokane, Washington. A team of volunteers is needed to create a successful Stop experience at the end of the 4th leg of this year's ARC in Sterling, Colorado. In our Backyard!! Charlie May is the wonderful Airport Manager at Sterling Municipal Airport in NE Colorado. Charlie has arranged for local volunteer support to assist racers with overnight ramp parking as well as local services in Sterling. Chapter member Kate Yorga will be serving as the Head Timer for Sterling in this year's ARC.

At this time there is a need to identify a Stop Chair to serve in a lead role for Sterling - KSTK.

Are you interested in helping to make this ARC Stop in our aviation community an efficient, welcoming, safe, and fun setting over a few days in June? Are you available to help? Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!! Please contact Lydia Baldwin with your questions, availability, and interest. Thank you in advance for your support. [LydiaHBaldwin@gmail.com](mailto:LydiaHBaldwin@gmail.com)







# LONGMONT FLY IN

**Saturday, June 21, 2025 • 8 am – Noon**

**Vance Brand Airport • 229 Airport Road • Longmont, CO**



## FEATURING

**Pancake Breakfast • Swap Meet • Silent Auction  
Aircraft Displays • Vendor Booths • Door Prizes**

**All proceeds benefit EAA Chapter 648 Youth Education - 501(c)(3)**



[EAA648.org/flyin](http://EAA648.org/flyin)

[info@eaa648.org](mailto:info@eaa648.org)







# Meet the Future Woman Pilot Scholarship Recipients

The Future Woman Pilot Scholarship committee is pleased to introduce you to our 2025 scholarship recipients – Shayla Miller and Alisha Olson!

## Shayla Miller

I am incredibly honored to receive the Future Woman Pilot Award. This will be an exponential help to me in pursuing my goals in the aviation world. After earning my Private Pilot License, I plan to continue pursuing ratings and licenses with the overall goal of one day being a pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

Knowing that The 99s believe in me and want to support my journey means so much and it pushes me to keep going and stay focused on my goals. It also inspires me to one day pay it forward, which is why I would love to potentially become a flight instructor. I have had multiple instructors throughout my training and each one has impacted me and invested a great deal into my learning and I hope to one day be able to do the same for others. I am truly appreciative of this award and excited to continue my career in the aviation world.



## Alisha Olson

I'm a Colorado native, born and raised in Greeley, and I attended Colorado Mountain College in Vail. During my time at CMC, I was fortunate to receive scholarships and grants that allowed me to graduate with my associate degree in 2023, debt-free. Now, I'm lucky enough to continue my education in aviation.

Receiving the Colorado 99s scholarship means so much more than financial assistance, it's a powerful reminder that there is a supportive community behind me. This scholarship brings me one step closer to completing my private pilot license and does so without adding to my student loan burden, which is incredibly meaningful. I'm deeply grateful to the Colorado 99s not only for their support, but for the work they do to uplift and inspire future women aviators. It is because of donors and scholarships that I have been able to obtain my college degree and now my private pilots license. I am grateful and fortunate to share these beautiful Colorado skies with everyone. Thank you again to the Colorado 99s and all aviation organizations for keeping the skies safe and providing opportunities for everyone.



Please join us in congratulating the recipients and wishing them great success for their pilot training!



# Mountain Flying

HIGH ELEVATION AIRPORT OPERATIONS GROUND SCHOOL



## Brought to you by the Colorado Pilots Association

Flying the Colorado Rockies, with more than 50 mountain peaks exceeding 14,000 feet, and into more than a dozen public-use airports located near the communities and recreational areas located there, can be an exhilarating experience. But it can also be a hazardous experience for those unaware of the unique weather related variables encountered in mountain flight and the effects on aircraft performance. In Colorado, accident statistics show that pilots without the skills needed for safe flight over mountainous terrain often get themselves into situations which are beyond their capability to handle. The mountain flying course is a program developed by the Colorado Pilots Association to improve that capability.

The ground school course was originally developed by the Colorado Pilots Association in 1986. It is presented in Colorado at least twice each year and occasionally at out-of-state locations. It is taught by Colorado pilots who live and fly the mountains in business and recreational flying. Through the years it has evolved into one of the premier safety training courses of its kind.

**This year's dates are: June 21, August 16 and September 27**

The course takes the student on a simulated flight over several mountain passes and into a number of high elevation mountain airports. Instructors take time to discuss factors affecting the safety of flight at each step on the route and make extensive use of aerial photography and a technical workbook to illustrate information needed for a safe flight. The workbook is part of the course materials provided under the registration fee for the course.

[Colorado Mountain Flying](#)



# Flying IMC in Colorado

A CFII's Perspective on Risk, Readiness, and Real-World Learning By Kate Yorga (Director)

A recent flight in actual instrument down to minimums made me reflect on my own experience and comfortability in flying in extreme conditions. As a CFII based in Denver, I've come to learn that flying in **Instrument Meteorological Conditions (IMC)** here presents a unique set of challenges compared to other regions. With over 1,100 total hours and about 30 in actual IMC, I don't pretend to be the most seasoned IFR pilot out there, but each experience I hold has contributed to my growth. Colorado holds about 10 days, on average, where actual instrument is a possibility. This makes our IMC conditions complex, rapidly changing, and terrain-driven. That combination makes for a uniquely risky and rewarding environment.

## The Risk Profile of IMC in Colorado

Flying IFR in the Rockies introduces several layered hazards:

1. **Rapidly changing weather:** Colorado conditions can shift very quickly. Cold fronts can blow in fast bringing risks of icing and thunderstorms, or a combination of both. Ceilings are equally unpredictable - what looks marginal one moment might drop to zero-zero or lift to VFR within minutes.
2. **Icing:** Part of the reason we only have about 10 days of flyable actual, is because of the icing threat. When flying a plane that is not certified into known icing, we have to be especially careful of the low temperatures aloft that are often present in Colorado. April in Denver, for example, can bring moisture-laden clouds with freezing temps at relatively low altitudes. Additionally, winds aloft forecasts are rare to update, and are often inaccurate. This causes an overreliance on PIREPs, which may not be available or relevant to us as small single engine airplanes.
3. **Terrain:** Our high elevation and mountainous terrain demand extra situational awareness. This also comes with the risk of having a higher MEA. I frequently file for 9,000 or 10,000 feet MSL, which brings further risks of hypoxia and icing

## Learning From the Right People

The greatest influence on how I teach instrument flying came from my own instructor. She consistently challenged me to grow - often by stretching my personal minimums in controlled, thoughtful ways. That meant regularly flying in actual IMC whenever the weather was worthy. She gave me the space to build judgment and confidence by making real decisions in the real world, and always debriefed with a clear focus on safety and growth.

As a CFII myself, I try to do the same with my students. For example, on a recent flight (pictured) with one of my students, Anastasia McCune (Vice-Chairman), the weather was right at ILS minimums and shifting frequently. The conditions were questionable. But after a thorough weather briefing and noting that several alternate airports were reporting near-VFR conditions, we set off into the clouds. I was watching the outside air temperature gauge like a hawk the entire flight, ready to make the call to divert if icing became a threat. That kind of real-world decision-making and experience is vital in a developing instrument students repertoire, for now Anastasia is much more comfortable in operating in IMC conditions and has experience to ensure safe decision making. As well as having a cool story (that we both can't stop talking about) to tell of flying an ILS all the way down to minimums!



Continued on next page.





# Flying IMC in Colorado

## The Power of Sim Training

I recently completed a type rating where every approach in the full-motion sim was flown to minimums in challenging conditions. If I hadn't experienced those scenarios in the sim, I might not have trusted the system or myself enough to be comfortable flying similar approaches in actual. I highly recommend that everyone find a time to get into a realistic simulator and practice flying to minimums. This way, you can gain exposure without the added risks of flying!

## My Advice to Aspiring IFR Pilots

Experience is everything - but experience comes in more than one form:

1. **Knowledge:** In order to be safe, we have to have some level of understanding of conditions, general trends, shifts in weather, and the associated hazards. Aviation is one of those beautiful things where there's always more to learn. Use the abundance of resources out there to gain experience (ex: watch videos, read about weather patterns, study weather figures).
2. **Simulation:** Practice in a safe, and controlled environment where you're allowed to make mistakes without risks and can pause to reflect and think; even better if you can pair this with an instructor!
3. **Experience:** Get out in these conditions with a qualified instructor and practice! Any chance I get, I take my students out. This allows them to become safer pilots in the long run, as well as having a more diverse palette of training.

I stress all three with my students. You can't just read about decision-making or watch a video on icing—you have to see it, feel it, and make the call yourself. My role as an instructor is to create an environment where that learning can happen safely.

## Final Thoughts

Flying IMC in Colorado is not for the complacent. But for those who approach it with respect, preparation, and curiosity, it's one of the most powerful learning laboratories in general aviation. The sky here will humble you - but it will also make you sharp, thoughtful, and resilient.

To any new CFIs or IFR students: Surround yourself with mentors, seek real-world experience (safely), and never stop refining your judgment. That's what makes the difference between being instrument rated and instrument ready.



## Kate Yorga - Director

I have been a member of The 99s for the past four years, since I started my journey to become a pilot. I am currently a CFI at Western Air Flight Academy, as well as a part time professor and recent graduate of the Metropolitan State University of Denver. I will soon be flying Citation Excels in the corporate world! My involvement with The 99s and the female pilot community has been nothing short of inspiring, including the 2024 Air Race Classic and several other events.





Colorado Chapter Ninety-Nines  
3379 Mill Vista Rd Unit 4303  
Highlands Ranch CO 80129-2421



Place Stamp Here

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## **SOUTH CENTRAL MEETINGS**

### **International Conference**

**July 10-13, 2025**

**Burlington, Vermont**

**Hosted by the New England Section**

**Fall Section Meeting**

**October 23-26, 2025**

**Albuquerque, NM**

**Hosted by Rio Grande Norte Chapter**



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