



Colorado
Ninety-Nines



Crosswind Chatter



November/December
2025

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

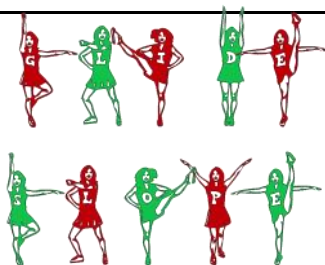
Upcoming Events

See page two
for details.

99s Meetings

NOV 2
Decorative
Compass Rose
FlyteCo Tower
12PM

NOV 6
Business
Meeting
Zoom



Decorative Compass Rose

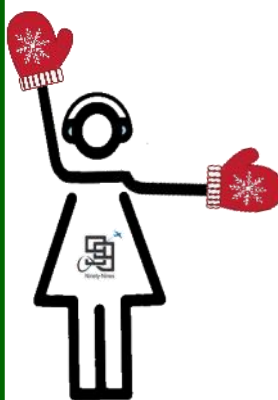


November 2, join us for a fun and creative morning as we paint an 8-foot decorative compass rose outside **FlyteCo Tower!**

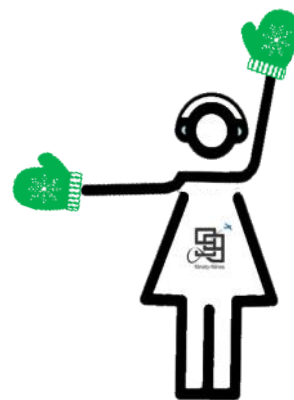
As you know, **FlyteCo Tower** is the old Stapleton Traffic Control Tower. It's easy to find, just look up! **3120 Uinta**

St., Denver. 12PM.

The old tower is historic and a fun visit. There are three restaurants and bars, bowling lanes and other games. It's fun!



See You There!



Meeting Schedule for September

November 2 FlyteCo Tower



12PM

November 6 Business Meeting
Zoom

6:30PM



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)



OCT 31



Happy Halloween

NOV 2



FlyteCo Tower
Compass Rose Painting
12PM

NOV 6



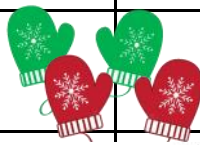
Business Meeting
Zoom 6:30
All are welcome.

NOV 27



Happy Thanksgiving

DEC 13



Holiday Party (TBD)

JAN 1



Happy New Year

JUL 8-12



2026 International Conference
San Diego, California



There is Nothing Like The Ninety-Nines!



Welcome new members!
Kailyn Reese McVay, Lexi Stramel
Grace Landaiche and Rosemary Rivera



The Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship

January 1, 2026 is the deadline to submit your application for an **Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship**. This scholarship provides funds for various aviation training and research opportunities, including:

- Additional pilot certificate or rating
- Advancement in an aviation or aerospace field
- Technical aviation training or certification
- Emergency Maneuvers Training

Members of The 99s who joined on or before January 1 of 2025 may apply (the exception is Emergency Maneuvers Training where one year of membership is not necessary). Other requirements such as flight and medical currency must be met to qualify for flight training. Read more about the scholarships and requirements in the instructions at the link below.

General requirements and instructions are now available in the Member section of the website. Use this link for more information and applications:

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

Be sure to read “Tips for Strengthening Your Application” at this link:

<https://www.ninety-nines.org/download/AEMSF/AEMSFWhyDidntMyAwesomeAppWin.pdf>.

The deadline to submit applications to the chapter AEMSF chairman, Jane Link, is **January 1 2026**. Contact Jane, aescholarship@colorado99s.org now to start your next aviation journey.



Amelia
Earhart
Scholarship

Two stylized, stick-figure-like characters are positioned on either side of the text. The figure on the left is wearing a red hat and has its arms raised. The figure on the right is wearing a green hat and also has its arms raised. They appear to be holding hands or a banner.



Attention Student Pilots!

The spring First Wings Award deadline is 1 April, 2026. If you are a student pilot who has been a member of the 99s since on or before 1 January 2026, and have logged at least five hours of flight training in the six months prior to the application deadline of April 1, 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 February.

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 April, 2026

Still have questions? Contact Jane Link at aescholarship@colorado99s.org for more information.

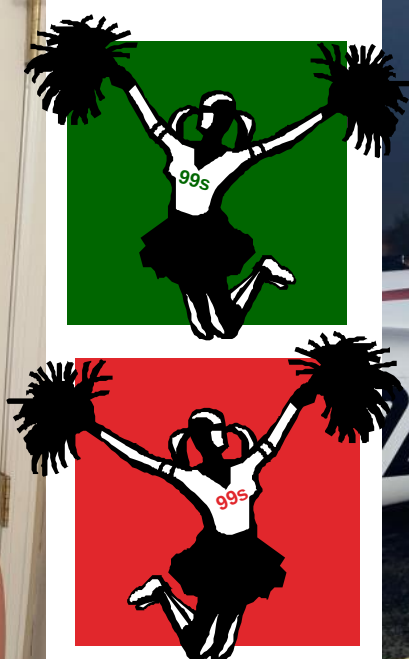
Attention Student Pilots!

Congratulations Anastasia

We're so proud of **Anastasia McCune** for passing her Instrument checkride on October 16! Anastasia is Vice Chairman of our Colorado Chapter, and a recipient of this year's Ruehle Award for Advanced Ratings scholarship. Not only did she finish up her instrument rating, she's nearly done with her Commercial requirements. She's pictured here with her instructor Brittany Blish, who is also a member of the Colorado Ninety-Nines. "Thank you to everyone who helped me along the way at flight school and also all my friends and family for their support and encouragement! I also have to thank the Colorado Ninety-Nines for their scholarship support!"



Checkride pass! I'm an instrument rated pilot!



Feature 495



Colorado members attending the Fall Section Meeting. Jan McKenzie, Sue Osborne, Gretchen Jahn, Amanda Willson and Terry Fiala.

New Zealand



Gretchen Jahn gave a fabulous presentation on New Zealand.

She owned a brand new 1981 Piper Turbo Arrow IV, purchased in 1982, and made several trips to Mexico without incident and many trips in and out the highest airport in the country, Leadville, Colorado. She flew her Piper many times, back and forth, from Colorado to the family farm in Ohio.



At the Poker Run

A very well-attended Poker Run finale was held upstairs at the Rocky Mountain Metro terminal. Members from Wyoming and Colorado Springs Chapters were there as well.

Those who signed the attendance sheet were Linda & Todd Wright, Margot Plummer, Jackie Kudron, Gretchen Jahn, Riley Kromer, Kate Yorga, Nita Tallent, Kate Palmer, Amanda Wilson, Melissa Kurrle, Sarah, Nguyen, Dan Hensley, Phil Lauter, Annika & Jeff York Pacific Hobbick, Caleigh Vineale, Terry & Jason Fiala, Eric Topkin, Anastasia McCune, Brittany Blish, Mike Linn, Scott Yorga, Tess Zuccardi, Amanda Fox and Karen Larson.



Anita's 101st Birthday



Happy 70th Anniversary Whirly Girls

By Penny Hamilton

[Grit and Lace](#) | [Penny Rafferty Hamilton, Ph.D.](#) | [Substack](#)



Founded in 1955, the Whirly Girls, International Women Helicopter Pilots, began with only thirteen members: Hanna Reitsch from Germany (1938 first woman in the world to fly a helicopter); Ann Carter (America's first woman helicopter pilot); Pat Swenson; Nancy Livingston Stratford (1947 helicopter rating); Marilyn "Lyn" Grover Heard Alexander; Dr. Valerie Andre (highly decorated French pilot and physician); Ethel Sheffler; Jacqueline Auriol (French Record-setting aviator), Marilyn Himes Riviere (U.S. first woman helicopter instructor); Edna Gardner Whyte; Clara Livingston; Mary Rosholt; and Jean Howard-Phelan-Whirly Girl #13. (Founder and Whirly Girls President, 1959-73).

A unique feature of the Whirly-Girls organization is that each member is assigned a number upon joining that is hers forever. The Whirly Girls logo was inspired by a U.S. Army helicopter recruiting show in the early 1950s. Four helicopters performed a square dance, choreographed to the song, "Turkey in the Straw." Two of the helicopters were painted with big cartoon character, "Betty Boop," eyes with blonde mops for hair to represent female helicopters. The now iconic logo is still sported today by Whirly Girls members worldwide.

In 1968, a scholarship program in memory of Doris Mullen (WG #84) began. Over the years, Whirly Girls has expanded flight training scholarships. In the early years, a major initiative of the International Women Helicopter Pilots was medical and hospital heliport development and expanded use of helicopters in medical and emergency services. In 1998, Women in Aviation International honored Whirly Girls in their Pioneer Hall of Fame.



70 years ago in 1955, Jean Ross Howard-Phelan founded and guided Whirly-Girls. In her retirement photograph, she is wrapped in a quilt made for her by grateful members of the International Women Helicopter Pilots. (American Helicopter Museum)



Dora Jean Dougherty Strother, Whirly Girl #27, was a World War II WASP and B-29 Superfortress demonstration pilot. In 1961, as a Bell Helicopter test pilot, she broke a helicopter altitude record (at 19,406 feet) in a Bell 47G-3. She is congratulated by Bell chief test pilot, R.C. Buyers, (at left) and company president, E.J. Ducayet, (at right). She earned the first doctorate in aviation science from New York University and received many awards during her career for achievements in flight and engineering. In 1979-81, Dr. Dora Jean Dougherty Strother was Whirly Girls President. (Smithsonian Institution archive)



Happy Anniversary to Whirly-Girls worldwide.

Used with permission from Penny Hamilton on Substack [Grit and Lace](#).



Feature 297

By Terry Fiala



Pikes Peaks Chapter members Annika York, Kate Palmer and Melissa Kurrle

Feature 495



Jane Link, Terry Fiala, Sue Osborne, Gretchen Jahn and Amanda Willson at the Section Meeting in Albuquerque.

Feature 198



Wyoming Chapter member Nita Tallent and Amanda Willson

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



Moving?



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 January 15, 2026

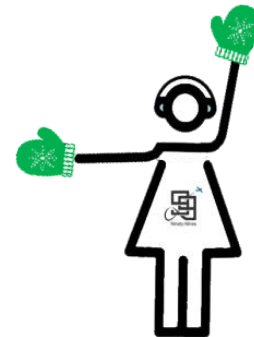
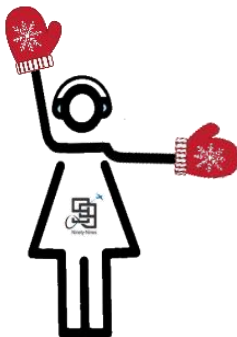


Going Shopping

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!



SOUTH CENTRAL MEETINGS

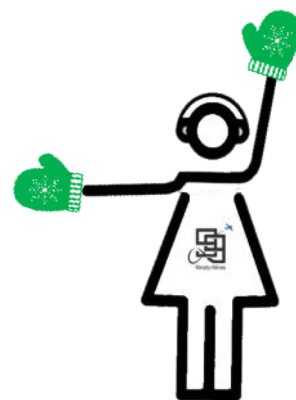
2026 International Conference

July 8-12

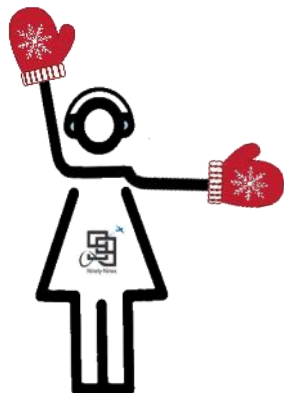
San Diego, California

Spring 2026 Section Meeting

Air Capital-Kansas



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