



Colorado
Ninety-Nines



Crosswind Chatter



September
2026

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

Upcoming Events

See page two
for details.

99s Meetings

SEP 26
Business
Meeting
8 AM
La Junta

SEP 26
Fly-out
La Junta
Tarantula Fest

Join the Colorado Chapter in a fly-out **September 26** to La Junta for their annual [Tarantula Fest](#). There is a parade, food vendors, souvenirs, tarantula t-shirts. So much fun!



See Page 11

See You There!



Meetings Schedule for September

September 20
99 Business Meeting La Junta



8:00AM

September
Fly-out to La Junta



9/26/26



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)



SEP 1



Poker Run Begins
See Page 9

SEP 19



Colorado Pilots Association
Mountain Flying ground school
See Page 5

SEP 19-20



Pikes Peak Regional Airshow

SEP 26



99s Business Meeting in La Junta
All are welcome. 8AM

SEP 26



Fly-out to La Junta for the
Tarantula Fest See Page 11

OCT 17



Poker Run Ends
See Page 9

NOV



Pilatus Tour
Date TBD

OCT 23-24



Fall Section Meeting
Tyler, TX
Hosted by Texas Dogwood
Registration

DEC



Holiday Party



There is Nothing Like The Ninety-Nines!



Welcome new member!

Ashton Anne French, Schelin Ireland, Kora Lynn McQuaig,
Makenna Joy Schlappi, JeyJey Silvers and Alyda Smith



Announcing the 2026 Ruehle Award Winners

The scholarship committee is pleased to announce this year's recipients of the Ruehle Award for Advanced Ratings. An increase in funding allowed us to award four scholarships instead of the two that were planned. We received a large number of applications from well qualified applicants, and are excited to be able to support even more women pilots!

Melissa Kocefas



I am a Denver based flight attendant, aspiring CFI, and future airline pilot flying out of Rocky Mountain Metro Airport in Broomfield, CO. As a first generation aviator, I'm excited to continue in this exciting career while inspiring others to do the same.

A decade ago, I began my career in aviation as a flight attendant on a whim and quickly fell in love with flying. In May 2024, I began flight training and knew that this was the path for me. With hard work and determination, I have been able to make my dream come true. I enjoy mentoring future aviators and believe being a CFI will be a great opportunity to do so. When I'm not flying, I enjoy running, skiing and reading. With the generosity of the Colorado 99s, I

am able to work towards CFII and multi-engine rating. I am very grateful for this scholarship to help build my future.

Stacy Pritts



I am genuinely humbled and incredibly grateful to receive the 2026 Colorado Ruehle Award for Advanced Ratings Scholarship. This generous scholarship is helping me complete my multi-engine rating, another exciting and challenging step in my aviation journey. I have enjoyed every rating I've earned, but flying a multi-engine aircraft has been a unique combination of challenge and fun. With my checkride coming up next week, this award has helped carry me through the final stretch and made this goal financially attainable.

Thank you for believing in me and for helping to remove financial burden of this part of my training. Your generosity means more than I can adequately express. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and honored to be a recipient of the Ruehle Award. Thank you for helping me continue to reach new heights!

Stephanie Stout



I am so honored to have been chosen for the Ruehle Advanced Ratings Scholarship. A few years ago, I was completely burned out after 25 years as a trial lawyer and I knew I had to make a change. I decided to become a flight instructor to share my lifelong love of aviation with as many students as possible. It has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. I plan to use this scholarship to complete my MEI rating so I can teach even more. My dream is to walk onto a commercial flight one of these days and see one of my students in the flight deck! I have been a proud 99 for several years and am beyond thrilled to continue to support the 99s and women in aviation. Thank you so much for this award. I promise to use it to help

as many budding aviatrixes reach their goals as I possibly can.

Jillian Warren



I am absolutely honored to have been awarded the Ruehle Award! Earning this scholarship allows me to obtain my commercial multi-engine rating, which I plan to begin training for this fall. I am excited to continue becoming a well-seasoned pilot, and to share my experiences with my students. The aviation community has been one of the biggest blessings of my life where I have met the most incredible people. It's an amazing experience to walk alongside the most supportive group of women in this industry. Aside from career goals, I aspire to encourage, mentor, and support other young women the same way I was. I'm excited to see where God continues to lead me, and I'm immensely thankful to the Colorado 99s for the support.

First Wings

The deadline for the fall First Wings Award is **October 1**.

You may be eligible for an award of up to **\$6,000** if you meet the following criteria:

- You are a current student pilot.
- You have been a member of the 99s since on or before July 1, 2026.
You have logged at least five hours of flight training in the six months immediately preceding the April 1 application deadline.

For the complete award description and instructions, visit the International 99s website, in the Members Area: <https://www.ninety-nines.org/first-wings-award.htm>.

An updated application form will be available on the international website on or about February 1.

Tips for a Successful Application:

- **Read all instructions carefully!** This includes the general FIRST WINGS Award Instructions AND the application form instructions.
- **Follow all instructions precisely.** If bullet points are provided in the instructions, ensure you address those points at a minimum; providing a little extra detail is also acceptable.
- **Download the application before entering any information.** The online form does not save your progress.
- You need a mentor (any 99s member can assist you). Contact **Jane Link** if you need help finding one.
- The Colorado Chapter is part of the **South Central Section**.
- Necessary documents can be captured with a phone or scanner. Ensure they are complete, clean, **readable**, and as straight as possible.
- The 99s Recommendation and Certification pages (Part VII and VIII) will be completed by the Chapter AEMSf scholarship chairman, Jane Link, *after* you submit your application to her on **October 1**

Email your complete application to the Chapter AEMSf chairman, Jane Link, no later than **October 1**.

Questions? Contact Jane Link at aescholarship@colorado99s.org or jane@webzlink.com for more information.

Attention Student Pilots!

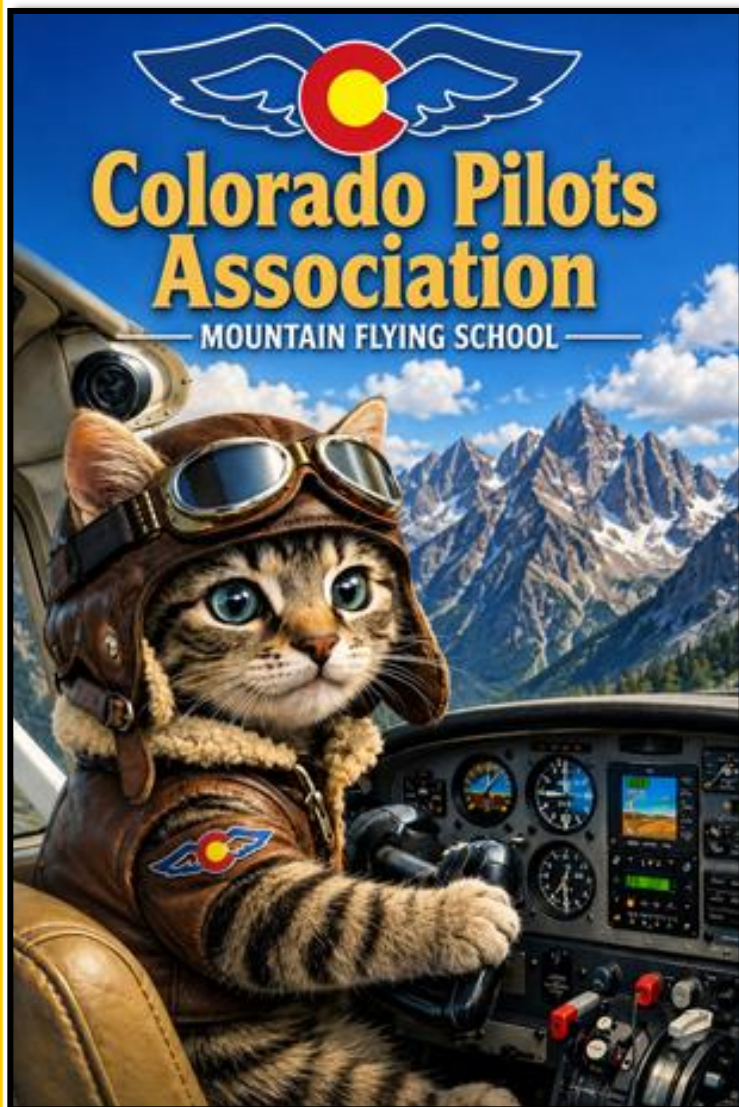
2026 Scholarships

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

- **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.

Scholarships





Download Registration form for September 19, 2026



Brought to you by The Colorado Pilots Association

Location of the ground school: **Wright Brothers room**, Administration Building 7565 S Peoria St, Englewood, CO 80112 (KAPA) Centennial Airport, Colorado, a new location.

There are three fabulous classes.

Just click the dates below or scan the QR code to get your registration form.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHT

- Private Pilot Certificate
- Current FAA Medical or Basic Med
- Current BFR
- Current Aircraft Liability Insurance
- Minimum of 125 hours total time
- Minimum of 3 T/O and Landings in last 90 days
- Aircraft minimum of 180 HP without prior approval
- NO fixed pitch "CRUISE" props

Personal Items for the Cross-Country flight

- Set of warm clothing (including hat and gloves) in case of emergency landing
- Any FAA approved Medication (in case of any delays returning to Denver)

ENROLLMENT:

Pilots wishing to attend ground school are urged to pre-register within three days of the desired class. date.

Feature 297

On August 3, 2026, the NASA Artemis II crew spoke at Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre in Colorado. Chapter members, Gretchen Jahn, Stephanie Wells and Donna Miller attended this even with over 8,500 others.



New Rating for Kate



Kate Yorga has earned an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) certificate and received her type rating in an Phenom 300.



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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,

Moving?





2026 POKER RUN

*Fly or drive
to get your cards!*



★ *Dates:* ★
09/01 - 10/17

Terminus event:
★ **10/17** ★
**at KFLY AIRPORT
(EAA HANGAR)**

Cards must be turned in
by **10:00** and prizes will
be awarded at **11:00**

AIRPORTS TO PICK UP CARDS:

1. Casper, WY (KCPR)
2. Laramie, WY (KLAR)
3. Fort Morgan, CO (KFMM)
4. Akron, CO (KAKO)
5. Kit Carson/Burlington, CO (KITR)
6. La Junta, CO (KLHX)
7. Meadow Lake, CO (KFLY)



SCAN HERE FOR
MORE INFO!



Pikes Peak 99s



Contact info: info@pikespeak99s.org

Details for This Year's Poker Run

This year, we're excited to partner with the Pikes Peak 99s and the Wyoming 99s! Together, we're fundraising to support the Ninety-Nines' mission, including scholarships and program activities that empower women in aviation.

Locations: The 2026 Poker Run designated airports are:

Casper (**KCPR**)

Laramie (**KLAR**)

Akron (**KAKO**)

Fort Morgan (**KFMM**)

Burlington/Kit Carson (**KITR**)

La Junta (**KLHX**)

Meadow Lake (**KFLY**)

Meadow Lake (**KFLY**) is the terminus this year. The EAA Chapter 72 is hosting an all you can eat pancake breakfast from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The cost for breakfast is \$10 per adult, under 12 is free, and teens are usually half price.

Rules and Participation Details: Click [here](#) for this year's rules and how you can purchase your poker hand.

Cards must be turned in no later than 10:00 AM on the 17th with prizes being awarded at 11:00 AM.



Pikes Peak Regional
AIRSHOW

**FEATURING
HISTORIC WARBIRDS**

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP LINK

[for Pikes Peak Regional Airshow on September 19-20](#)

The shifts are 5.5 hours long, with two shifts per day.

In total, we need 12 volunteers to man the tent.

We need 3 volunteers per shift. We have a limited number of volunteer passes, so we will coordinate swapping them out during the day.

Anyone else who would like to volunteer must buy an airshow pass and can then help out at the tent.

Contact Annika York for questions. Her contact info is on the sign-up website.

Pikes Peak Regional Airshow

Pikes Peak Regional
AIRSHOW

**RETURNING
19-20
SEPTEMBER!**



Business Meeting In La Junta

Join the Colorado Chapter in La Junta, Colorado, for our 8AM September Business Meeting at La Junta Municipal Airport (KLHX).

Following the meeting, we'll head into downtown La Junta for breakfast and then join in the fun of the annual La Junta Tarantula Fest! The celebration includes a tarantula-themed parade, vendors and food trucks, an Education Pavilion, live activities and guided tarantula tours for those who would like to venture out and see the famous eight-legged residents in their natural habitat.

The Tarantula Fest takes place September 25–26, with many of the downtown festivities planned for Saturday. It should make for a wonderfully unusual Chapter outing—and one we're not likely to forget!

Additional Chapter meeting details will be shared as they become available.



[Fly-out Sign-up Sheet](#)



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 31, 2027

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!





TRACON Tour Coming in October

The Colorado Chapter is planning a tour of the Denver **TRACON** facility in October. The tentative dates are October 22 or October 29. Details, including the final date, time,

attendance limit and registration requirements, are still being worked out. Watch here for more information!



Chapter Picnic

What a fantastic to have our Chapter picnic, the Sky Harbor hangar. Some fabulous cookies! Those attending were: Amanda Willson, Kate Yorga, Riley Kramer, Lea Hadzick, Stephanie Wells, Maria Stenquist, Anastasia McCune, Jane Link, Helen Song, Delaney Koogle, Luca Mueller, Gretchen Jahn & Karl Sutterfield, Jan McKenzie, Jackie Kudron, Margot Plummer, Addison Lyster, Kylie Moroles, June Stewart, Haven Hill-Schmick, Minolt Galche, Linda & Todd Wright, Marylou & Ray Pohl, Camille Stillman, Britteny Laughlin, Diane Dandeneau and Brooke Wilson.



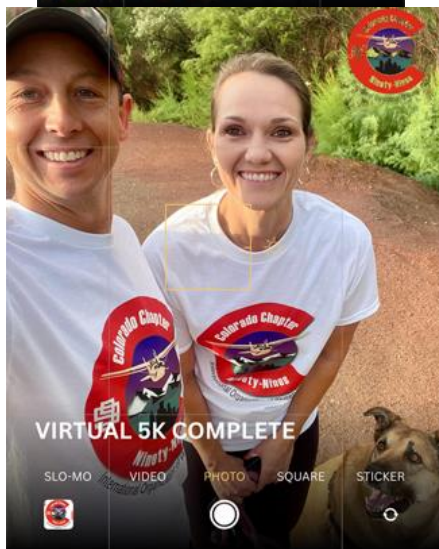
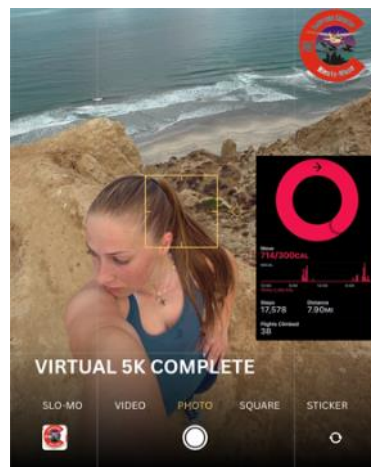
Virtual 5K

By Brittney Laughlin

This year, the Colorado 99s organized their first annual virtual 5K, which was a resounding success! With 39 participants registering at a fee of \$35 and an impressive \$324 in donations, this event has effectively supported the chapters' mission of outreach and community engagement. Participants, ranged in age from 19 to 79, and joined from various locations across the United States, including Las Vegas, California, Wyoming, South Carolina, and, of course, Colorado. They all managed to complete the 5K in their own way! It was exciting to receive finisher pictures, showcasing participants on trails, mountain tops, and beach trails. Each participant received a commemorative finisher medal, an event T-shirt, and an aviation-themed bib. Additionally, participants were automatically entered into a raffle, with the chance to win an air foil jacket, and flight lift bag donated by Flight Outfitters, as well as four hats and four \$50 gift cards donated by Bold Aviator.

This event's immense success is all thanks to the tireless efforts of Lea Hadzick, Social Media and Membership Chair, who provided exceptional advertising across multiple social media platforms and in-person promotions at various events, and Brittney Laughlin, Fundraising Chair, for organizing the Virtual 5K, securing sponsorships, and coordinating the event from start to finish.

The Colorado Chapter looks forward to building on this successful inaugural event and making it even bigger next year!



SOUTH CENTRAL MEETINGS

Fall Section Meeting

October 23-24

Tyler, TX

Hosted by Texas Dogwood

[Registration](#)



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