

THE FLYPAPER

APRIL 2006

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2008 International Convention Committee	
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FROM THE CHAIR

April finds us in the midst of spring break-up—a sloppy mess that eventually leads to summer in Alaska. It also means that many of us are checking airplanes, medical certificates and licenses in preparation for summer flying.

Summer flying then leads to thoughts of where to fly. Put your thinking caps on and let me know by phone (694-4571) or e-mail (flyquilt@mtaonline.net) if you have suggestions for fly-ins.

We have several activities already on the calendar. Take a look at the calendar on page two and make sure to save those dates.

I won't be able to attend the April meeting and understand from the schedule that I will be missing a really good program.

DETAILS

WHAT: ALASKA CHAPTER MEETING
WHEN: WED. APR. 12
WHERE: PEGGY'S CAFÉ
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHO: EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Our speaker for April is Captain Samantha Weeks, one of four F-15 women pilots based at Elmendorf Air Force Base. Samantha is a semi-finalist to serve a 2-year rotation with the Thunderbirds, the U.S. Air Force Demonstration Team. Guests are always welcome at our meetings. I'm sure you'll enjoy the program!

See you in May!

Melanie

99s ONLINE

Chapter Web site www.ak99s.org
 For Web site updates and additions, e-mail Caren della Cioppa at habataku@att.net.

National Web site www.ninety-nines.org
 The national site includes news updates, scholarship opportunities and mentor connections.



FLYPAPER FACTS

The submission deadline for the May issue is April 25, 2006. If you have an article, ad or information for the Flypaper, please contact Michelle Bartleman by phone 1-877-552-8926 or e-mail at michelle@loscher.ca. Ads in the Flypaper are free for members.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

October—September	(Full year)	\$15
February—September	(Half year)	\$10
June—September	(Summer)	\$5

The subscription cost is to cover printing and mailing. You can also read the Flypaper online at ak99s.org.

Spring
shows what
God can do
with a drab
and dirty
world.

~Virgil A. Kraft

ALASKA CHAPTER: April meeting

The speaker for the April meeting will be Captain Samantha Weeks, one of four F15 women pilots based at Elmendorf Air Force Base. Samantha is a semi-finalist to serve a two-year stint with the renowned U.S. Air Force Demonstration Team, the Thunderbirds. She will speak about her career, ambitions and experiences as a pilot in today's military. Her talk is a "must" for anyone interested in a flying career. Please invite friends and family. Everyone is welcome.

DETAILS

WHAT: ALASKA CHAPTER 99S MONTHLY MEETING
WHEN: WED. APR. 12
WHERE: PEGGY'S AIRPORT CAFE
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHO: EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Flying Companion Seminar

We will again be offering a Flying Companion Seminar for High School age girls and Girls Scouts. Date: Saturday, April 22 at UAA from 8:30 a.m. to about 4:30 p.m. Angie is looking for 99s to join in presenting this seminar to these enthusiastic young women. Contact Angie at 271-3422 during the day or 337-0253 in evenings.

2008 International Convention

The 2008 International Convention Committee meets the first Thursday of each month at Peggy's Café. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Angie at 271-3422 during the day or 337-0253 evenings.

Kenai Aviation Air Fair and Fun

The 6th Annual Kenai Peninsula Air Fair and Fun Flight will be held on May 13. It starts with a fly-in breakfast at the Soldotna Airport at 8:00 a.m. followed by a Poker Run to 8 different airports and then finishes with a BBQ from 1-3:00 p.m. at the Kenai Airport.

Vendor tables cost \$50 and there will be static displays at both airports. For more information contact Mary Bondurant at Kenai 283-7951 or Sharen Sleater at Soldotna Airport 262-4672.



WED. APR. 12 @ 6 P.M.
**Alaska chapter
 monthly meeting
 (Peggy's Cafe)**
 See details left.

SAT. APR. 22 @ 8:30 A.M.
**Girl Scout Flying
 Companion seminar
 (UAA Aviation Building)**
 For more information see left.

APR. 29-30
**Annual May Day Fly-in
 (Valdez, AK)**
 For more information contact
 Randy Maag 831-0275 or go online:
[www.valdezalaska.org/
 events/flyIn/flyIn.html](http://www.valdezalaska.org/events/flyIn/flyIn.html)

MAY 6-7
**Aviation Trade
 Show & Conference
 (FedEx Hanger)**
 For more information go to
www.alaskaairmen.com

SAT. MAY 13
**Spring Flying
 Companion Seminar
 (Mat-Su)**

SUN. MAY 28
**Fly-n Breakfast
 (Long Lake, Near McCarthy)**

SAT. JUNE 3
**FAA Pancake Breakfast
 and Short-field clinic
 (Palmer, AK)**

TUES. JUNE 20
**Joint Alaska/Mat-Su
 Chapter Potluck Picnic**

AUG 6-9, 2008
**99s Women Pilots
 International Conference
 (Anchorage, AK)**

If you have an event you would like published in the calendar, please contact Michelle Loscher by e-mail at michelle@loscher.ca or call 1.877.552.8926

Two short flights in a Ping Pong ball

BY SANDI SUMNER
www.sandisummer.com

When I was in Fairbanks for the Master Pilot Award Banquet where Pearl Laska Chamberlain was honored with this award, Ninety-Nine Dee Rice kidnapped me (though I was a willing volunteer) at 8:30 a.m. Dee is a pilot with Warbelos in Fairbanks and her story is in my book, yet I had never flown with her, so when she suggested I come along on "two short flights today", I jumped at the chance.

I was staying at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks, planning to laze around there all day until the banquet that evening. I didn't even bother to bring a winter coat! (Now you know I'm a true blond if I'm in Fairbanks in March and I'm coatless.)

Before we hit the sky, Dee insisted on taking me to her place and making scrumptious sourdough pancakes.

By 11:00 a.m. we were in the office at Warbelos. I had solved my coat problem, having purchased a warm fleece jacket in the hotel gift shop, but my jeans, fleece top, street shoes and some lightweight yellow gloves likely gave me away as neophyte in the Fairbanks aviation community.

Dee and the guys who work on the ramp at Warbelos were pointing at me and laughing, especially because of the shoes I was wearing. The men rounded up a HUGE pair of Carhart bib overalls and Dee borrowed someone's oversize bunny boots. While the guys helped me into the bib overalls (over all my other clothes), Dee sat on the floor rolling up the pant legs about



Ninety-Nine Dee Rice is a pilot for Warbelos, in Fairbanks.

8 inches so I could walk without tripping. The crotch came down to my knees. I could barely move.

Once I maneuvered past the cargo inside the airplane, I told Dee the only way they'd get me out of the cockpit was to use the jaws of life and a crane! I was literally stuffed into the right seat beside Dee.

We were airborne in a twin Navajo by 12:30 p.m. after Dee insisted on a photo of me fueling the airplane. (I only spilled a drop or two).

Her first stop was in Tanana. She says, "I fly up river and down river." I had to ask which river, since Alaska's vastness is littered with rivers, frozen and covered with snow in the winter. She laughed and said, "The Yukon, of course!" On we flew into what Ellen Paneok always says is a ping pong ball.

My headset mouthpiece was contorted and Dee insisted on repairing it with her Leatherman tool while we continued in a whiteout.

**The truest
lengthening of
life is to live
while we live,
wasting no
time but using
every hour for
the highest
ends. So be it
this day.**

C. H. Spurgeon

CONTINUED ON PAGE 05

MINUTES: Alaska Chapter meeting March 8, 2006

1) INTRODUCTION

- There were 17 people in attendance.

2) BUSINESS

A) Treasurer's report

- Bank account for Museum display – Melanie checked into interest rates around town and First National seems to have the highest locally for a standard savings account.

B) Application for Ruth Jefford as Master Pilot

- Not complete yet. Looking for people who can write recommendation letters for her to go with the application. So if anyone knows Ruth or knows people who know her. John Olofsson suggested Mark Stella; Angie said that both the Mat-Su valley chapter and the Alaska chapter are nominating her. Angie said that the request for the nomination actu-

ally came from the FAA – they are just waiting for the application so that they can award it.

C) Revision of meeting minutes

- Corrections:
 - * Palmer Flying and Pancake breakfast: June 3
 - * Sponsorship for the Valdez Fly in - 250\$
- Roberta moves to accept the minutes as corrected. Mio seconds. All in favour, none opposed.

3) PROGRAM

- Introduction by Sandi Sumner and presentation by retired Air Force Colonel and Alaska Chapter 99 Jean White.

4) CONTINUED BUSINESS

A) Scholarships

- Scholarships are posted online – if you

know anyone who is working on a private license or an advanced rating, encourage them to apply.

B) Aviation Trade Show

- Volunteers needed to watch the booth at this years Alaska Airmen's Association Aviation Trade show. Sign up sheet was passed around.

C) New officers

- It is time to consider new officers for the group. Ballots must be in the June newsletter, because new names must be into the International Office by July 1. Melanie's time limit is up.

D) Logo ideas for Convention

- Exuberant presentation by Janet Oxford of logo ideas for the 2008 Convention. Discussion followed. No concrete decisions made.

E) Meeting adjourned

2006 Valdez May Day Fly-In & Air Show

Schedule of Events – Preliminary

Friday, April 28th Valdez Welcome

- 12:00 - 8:00 Registration Desk Open
- All Day Discover Valdez & Prince William Sound (details at registration)
- 6:30 Burgers, Brews & Hangar Flying



All Day Saturday and Sunday

- Registration / Information desk
- Ticket sales for Airplane raffle
- Ticket sales for 50/50 drawings
- Airplanes on static display
- Vendors and Concessions
- Whitney Museum open at Airport

Saturday, April 29th Fly-In

- 7:45 Pilot Safety Briefing - Poker Run
- 8:00 Prince William Sound Poker Runs - Departures
- 8:00 - Noon Airplane Rides
- 10:00 Pilot Safety Seminar - Unusual Attitudes
- 12:00 Pilot Safety Briefing - Competition Events
- 12:30 Flour Bombing Competition
- 1:00 STOL Competitions
 - Light Touring
 - Heavy Touring
 - Bush Class
 - Experimental
- All day Door Prize Drawings
- 5:00 50/50 Drawing
- 7:00 Dinner & Awards - Landing Lights Restaurant

Sunday, April 30th Air Show Day

- 8:00 - 11:00 Airplane Rides
- 9:00 - 11:00 Pancake Breakfast
- 10:30 Pilot Safety Briefing
- 11:00 Air Show Opening
 - o Skydiving
 - o Aerobatics
 - o Bush Challenge STOL
 - o Demonstrations
 - o Presentations
 - o Raffle / Door Prizes
 - o Fly-Bys
- Note: See Main Stage for specific performance times.
- 3:45 Group Photo - Center Field
- 4:00 F-15 Eagles Flyby - Closing
- 4:15 Weather Briefing
- 4:30 Departures

Contact Numbers:

Safety Officer - Jeff Glenn 831-0533
 Event Coordinator - Randy Maag 834-2132
 Airport Manager - Steve Searles 255-9217
 Vendors / Exhibitors - Melissa Drew 835-5063

CONT'D: Two short flights in a ping pong



Author Sandi Sumner takes a wack at filling up the tanks of a Twin Navajo, before heading out into the Alaska skies with Ninety-Nine Dee Rice.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 03

We seldom saw the ground but Dee was flying with instruments, not concerned about the weather. She kept busy with charts and adjusting whatever you need to adjust to stay on track for our destination (blond, not a pilot).

Before landing in Tanana, I nearly dozed off because the noise from two engines and the whiteout made me sleepy. Dee touched down on a snow-covered runway in Tanana and Dee disappeared through the window on her side of the cockpit while I ate a snack.

On we flew to Ruby, one of the checkpoints on the Iditarod Trail. There was the mighty Yukon River below. Dee circled the village of Ruby, then made a perfect landing on another snow-covered runway set atop a mountain with 360 degree views. No doubt there was ice underneath the snow at both Tanana and Ruby, but Dee never allowed the Navajo to get away from her. (A couple weeks later, during the running of the Iditarod, Ruby had fierce winds and many pilots were stranded there for a couple days before they could fly out.)

Again, I remained planted in the cockpit while Dee off-loaded all the remaining cargo and reset all the passenger seats because there were people from Ruby waiting to fly with us back to Fairbanks.

No one complained while Dee worked, and they waited in 10 to 20 below zero weather on the frozen tundra.

Soon we were airborne again, with a happy, smiling group of people. An hour and a half later, we landed in Fairbanks again. We had one hour to freshen up and get to the banquet.

"So much for two short flights" I said to Dee. She laughed as she dropped me off at the Westmark again and went home to clean up for the dinner.

I am writing this piece for the Flypaper because it's my way of acknowledging every woman pilot who has ever flown in Bush Alaska in the winter. All of you are hard-working, dynamic superstars in my book!

And I'd fly with Dee Rice again, anywhere, anytime, even on "two short flights" inside a ping pong ball.

April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go.

~Christopher Morley,
John Mistletoe

THE FLYPAPER THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ALASKA 99S

May and June. Soft syllables, gentle names for the two best months in the garden year: cool, misty mornings gently burned away with a warming spring sun, followed by breezy afternoons and chilly nights. The discussion of philosophy is over; it's time for work to begin.

[PETER LOEWER]



The Alaska Chapter 99s
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