

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ALASKA 99s

THE FLYPAPER

JANUARY 2006

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FROM THE EDITOR

Happy New Year! Hoping everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday with friends and family.

The Alaska Chapter Christmas party held on Dec. 14 at the Hilton was an unquestionable success. Not only was there good food in a great setting with a good view, but the evening also saw the return of the famed whirly bra. The coveted undergarment passed through several hands, or should we say busts, before finding it's new owner for another year!

We will be kicking off this year's meetings with a visit from Norm Legasse, Executive Director of the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum.

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

WHAT: NORM LEGASSE, DIRECTOR OF THE ALASKA AVIATION HERITAGE MUSEUM

WHEN: WED. JAN. 11

WHERE: PEGGY'S CAFÉ, ACROSS FROM MERRILL FIELD

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

WHO: EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

With our own Alaska Women Pilots exhibit in the works for the museum, this program should prove to be interesting. For details, see page 02.

Hope to see everyone there!

The Flypaper Editor

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 January issue is Jan. 25, 2005. If you have an article, ad or information for the Flypaper, please contact Michelle Bartleman by phone 1-877-552-8926 or by 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.



January meeting program details

The guest speaker for the January meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the Ninety-Nines will be Norm Lagasse, the new Executive Director of the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum.

During his career in the Air Force and Air National Guard, Mr. Lagasse has flown HH-3E (Jolly Green Giants) rescue helicopters, F-15's and HH-60G Pavehawk helicopters.

After retiring from the

DETAILS

WHAT: ALASKA CHAPTER 99S MONTHLY MEETING

WHEN: WED. JAN. 11

WHERE: PEGGY'S CAFÉ, ADJACENT TO MERRILL FIELD

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

WHO: EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

military in 2004, he and his family returned to Alaska.

Mr. Lagasse will talk about ongoing and new programs at the Museum.

Note from Angie from New Orleans

Dear 99s,

You would not believe the destruction down here. The need is still great. People have no jobs but still have mortgages on houses that don't exist. Some are living in trailers in front of ruined houses - if they were lucky enough to get a trailer and still have a house.

The streets are empty in many areas - no businesses, no traffic, no schools, no children for mile after mile.

I will try to share more at a future meeting.

UPDATE: Museum Display Committee

After a brief December meeting, some work has been going on behind the scenes during the holidays.

Sandi Sumner is working on an extensive grant proposal, which will hopefully prove successful and bring in enough money to fund the majority of the project.

Michelle Bartleman spent a couple days at the museum going through filing cabinets

and gathering artifacts that the Museum already has. We are working on putting together a temporary display until the permanent one is finished. Much of the information garnered from the museum, including photos and biographies has been scanned and is being compiled into an Alaska Women Pilot database.

Helen Jones is working on contacting the university in hopes that we will be able to arrange for students to help film and edit oral histories.

DETAILS

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL TENTATIVELY BE THURSDAY JANUARY 12 AT 8 P.M. AT THE AVIATION MUSEUM. AN EMAIL WILL BE SENT TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS WITH DETAILS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT WITH THE DISPLAY COMMITTEE, CONTACT MICHELLE AT 1.877.552.8926

Things are moving forward slowly, but surely. With the magnitude of this project, we want to get it right!



CALENDAR

WED JAN 11 @ 6 P.M
Peggy's Cafe
Alaska chapter monthly meeting

See details left.

THU JAN 12 @ 8 P.M
Aviation Museum
Museum display committee meeting.

This is a tentative date. Committee members, pay attention to your email for confirmation, or call Michelle at 1.877.552.8926 for more information.

FEB 15 18
Hotel Captain Cook
Alaska Air Carriers
40th Annual Convention & Trade Show

For more information call 277-0071.

APR 28 30
Valdez, AK
Annual May Day Fly-in

For more information contact Randy Maag 831-0275.

If you have an event you would like published in the calendar, please contact Michelle Loscher at 868.4736 or e-mail michelle@loscher.ca.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A CHAT WITH PAT MCGEE

Charter member of the Alaska 99s

By Sandi Sumner

Fifty-two years ago, on Jan. 19, 1954, eight women pilots met at Merrill Field and decided to charter the Alaska Chapter of 99s. Pat McGee is one of the eight women.

Helen Stoddard spearheaded the idea to form an Alaska Chapter and became the first chairwoman. Others on the roster included Ruth Jefford, Decema Slawson, Margo Cook, Lois Wise Knapp, Laurine Nielson, Helen Snider, and of course, Pat McGee.

I asked if she every chaired the group, and with a laugh, Pat said, "Oh sure. We all did. We passed the job around."

Like so many of Alaska's early women pilots, Pat got her wings elsewhere. She was raised in Idaho and at 17 she was hired by the forest service (first female hire) to work alone in a lookout station on top of a mountain. She was fascinated when B17 and B24 pilots zoomed past practicing formations.

"I watched them peel off—could see their eyes they were so close—I could almost reach out and touch them!"

Pat thought they were having so much fun she wanted to learn to fly too. She went to college and worked at Morris Knudson Construction to pay for flying lessons.

"I was always happiest when Friday came around because I was excited to go fly on Saturday. I rode the bus to Floating Feather Airport."

Pat recalls the day she soloed, about the time she turned 18.

"I felt so free. It was a neat thing. I could go more places! It was a fun thing to do."

Barely 18, the 1940s, a woman pilot? Rare indeed.

"A car or plane doesn't know if it's a man or woman driving!" Pat said with her usual smile and upbeat attitude.

No doubt her mother's adventuresome friends, who often visited their family farm in Idaho, influenced Pat.

Before long Pat met Guy McGee, a serviceman in the Marines during World War II who spent four years in a Japanese prison camp on Wake Island.

They were married in 1947, and by 1948 they were on their way to Alaska to work for Morris Knudson.

Pat recalls there wasn't a house to rent anywhere, so their first home was a 27 foot trailer with no bathroom. When the construction season ended, Pat and her husband decided to stay and make Alaska their family home.

Guy and Pat were married 56 years when he passed away in 2003.

Their son Kirk became a pilot and flight instructor at Wilbur's Flight Service at Merrill Field.

Pat remembers writing a note to his teacher from time to time saying: "Kirk has flyitis again so he won't be at school."

Pat and Kirk often hopped in the cockpit and flew to Big Lake when he had



Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man (or woman!)

- - - Benjamin Franklin

SMILE!



This photo was snapped at the December Alaska Chapter Christmas party held at the Hilton. Looking good girls!

Every man should be born again
on the first day of January.
Start with a fresh page.
Take up one hole more in the
buckle if necessary, or let down
one, according to circumstances;
but on the first of January let
every man gird himself once
more, with his face to the front,
and take no interest in the things
that were and are past.

— Henry Ward Beecher

UPDATE: 2008 Convention Committee meeting notes

Here are the meeting notes from the December meeting:

The Theme for the 2008 Convention is "Aviation Fun Under the Midnight Sun"

The Hilton Hotel has suggested they can cater a banquet offsite and made several suggestions. The Committee decided to explore the options of having the Saturday evening (Convention) banquet at either the Fed Ex hangar or the AK Railroad depot at the Ted Stevens International Airport.

The welcoming BBQ will be hosted by the Alaska Air-men's Association.

We will approach the Aviation Heritage Museum about having it there. An alternative site might be the ERA hangar on the Kulis side of the airport.

The Friday evening Amelia Earhart Scholarship banquet will be held at the Egan Center.

We will explore **destination management companies** to handle any before and after tours. We will suggest that the Fly By Night Club be an option but let the destination management company handle the details.

Spouse Tour to Challenger Learning Center. Link it to inviting a NASA astronaut to be guest speaker (preference is Eileen Collins).

Potential budget extras:

- Offsite catering
- Buses – explore using city buses to the Saturday evening banquet
- Fashion Show – Liz Keister / Perry Green Furs

- Goodie bags – use the general aviation safety theme and create small, simple "Alaska GA Survival kits".
- Advertising – Postage, CDs
- Funding for NW Section meeting

Entertainment at the Banquet:

- Sourdough Chorus or Sweet Adelines (for AESF banquet)
- NASA speaker, preferably Eileen Collins.

NW Section Meeting

Simultaneous meeting just before convention.

- Ask MatSu or Cook Inlet Chapter to help coordinate.
- Have it in Fairbanks? Or Kenai at the Challenger Learning Center?

Please keep in mind these are preliminary notes from the meeting. If you would like to get involved, see details at left.

DETAILS

THE 2008 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETS THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT PEGGY'S AIRPORT CAFE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ANGIE SLINGUFF @ 337.0253 OR MIO JOHNSON @ 696.3580.

A CHAT WITH PAT MCGEE – cont'd

“flyitis.” Isn’t that the kind of mother we should all have?

Their daughter Kim and family live in Anchorage and works as an investigator for the district attorney’s office.

Pat served as Chairman of the Alaska Purchase Centennial held in 1967, to honor 100 Alaska bush pilots.

She recalls that one of those bush pilots, Bob Reeve, phoned her to ask who was going to be at this dinner. She glanced at the printed program and mentioned a name, to which Reeve blurted out, “Well, if that son-of-a-bitch is going to be there, then I’m not!” Pat calmly responded. “Okay.” But Reeve ended up buying two tables and he showed up.

Pat also worked with the aviation division of Fish & Wildlife and counted Tom Wordley among her close friends.

“He was a neighbor and he often called and asked if I’d like to come fly with him.”

Of course, Pat said YES!

Pat continued to fly when there was money to rent a plane at the Seven Star Flying Club at Merrill Field, and put fuel in it, which wasn’t too often.



Pat McGee is pictured on the far left, going through scrapbooks along with charter members (l-r) Decema Slawson, Lois Knapp, Ruth Jefford and Helen Snider.

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS CLIPPING

She calls herself a “recreational pilot” but she kept busy with the 99s, painting the Compass Rose at several airports across the state, working on Fly-In breakfasts, and helping with the “Pinch Hitter” courses, now known as the Flying Companion program.

Pat now owns a youth hostel in Talkeetna and another in Anchorage, so she’s not sitting around watching the grass grow.

She has traveled to 38 states and 20 foreign countries. It slipped my mind to ask if she speaks any other languages. Nothing would surprise me about this upbeat, enthusiastic lady.

Year’s end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.

— Hal Borland

RUTH JEFFORD: She’s our little calendar girl!

Alaska Chapter 99s charter member Ruth Jefford will be featured in the First National Bank of Alaska’s 2006 calendar for the month of January. You can pick up one of these calendars for free at FNBA branches.



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The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective.

[G.K. CHESTERTON]

The Alaska Chapter 99s
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