



The Flypaper

The Official Newsletter of the Alaska 99s
October 2009



Notes from the Chair

Our September program was a huge success!! Eleven (99s and 49 1/2's) met Saturday the 19th for a tour of Anchorage Air Route Traffic Control Center (ZAN) on Boniface. We spent almost two and a half hours getting a personal tour and seeing the many parts of this air traffic control facility....flight data...flow control...the "floor"....and my favorite....meteorology! Our thanks to Mike Panone for setting it up and Mathea Doyle for keeping it organized.

Mark your calendar for the premier of the movie "Amelia" on October 23rd. Let's use this as an opportunity to promote interest in and for women pilots and our Alaskan 99's!

Ad astra, per aspera

Lani

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Next Meeting

6:00 pm

Wednesday

October 14, 2009

Peggy's Restaurant

Merrill Field

Calendar of Events

Wed., Oct. 14	Regular Monthly Meeting
Oct. 15 - 17	Aviation North Expo, Fairbanks
Sat., Oct. 17	Flying Companion Seminar at ANE, Fairbanks
Fri., Oct. 23	New "Amelia" (Earhart) movie opens in Anchorage
Oct. 31	Deadline to file Intent to Seek Election forms for the 2010 elections
Mon., Nov. 2	Articles & Information Due for November Flypaper
Tues., Nov. 3	Alaska Chapter Board of Directors Meeting, Stewart Title, 5:30 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 11	Regular Monthly Meeting
Tues., Nov. 17	Mat-Su Valley Chapter Regular Monthly Meeting
July 5 - 9, 2010	International Conference, Kona, Hawaii

Alaska Chapter 99s Officers

Chair	
Lani Kile	696-5453
Vice Chair	
Melanie Hancock	694-4571
Secretary	
Jay Laxson	
Treasurer	
Brenda Staats	522-5330
Committees	
Scholarship	
Helen Jones	222-9977
Flypaper	
Melanie Hancock	694-4571
Flying Companion	
Angie Slingluff	337-0253
Membership	
Mio Johnson	696-3580
Scrapbook	
Lavelle Betz	243-1898
Aviation Museum Display	
Pat Bening	
Sunshine	
Jean White	248-6967

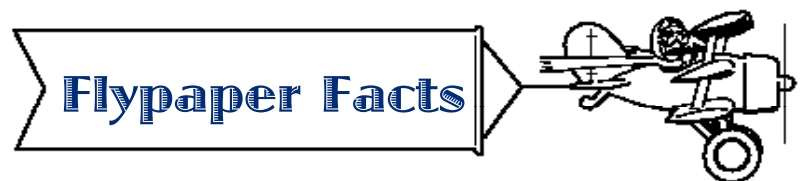
Fly-Ins, Airmarking & Publicity Committees need volunteers.

99s Online

Chapter Website (www.ak99s.org)

National Website (www.ninety-nines.org)

The national site includes news updates, scholarship opportunities, mentor connections, applications and more.



Deadline for the **November 2009** Flypaper is **Nov. 2, 2009**. If you have an article, ad or information for The Flypaper, please contact Melanie Hancock by phone at 694-4571 or e-mail at flyquilt@mtaonline.net. (Ads are placed in The Flypaper for members at no charge.)

NEW Subscription Rates:

Free via e-mail
Paper Copies \$15/year

Mailing Address:

Alaska 99s
P.O. Box 91962
Anchorage, AK 99509

October Program

Our October program will be presented by Carey Foster of One Sky Aviation. He will be providing us with a description of what Enhanced Vision System (EVS) is and how it works. Also covered will be the benefits of EVS to the pilot.

Carey began his aviation career in the Coast Guard while serving at Kodiak Air Station. He has been involved with numerous rescues all over the State of Alaska.

Carey and his wife started One Sky Aviation four years ago. Two years ago they started developing STC's for Max Viz, the manufacturer of the infrared sensors. They have grown to be the largest EVS STC development company in the United States. They are the only company to have certified EVS for general Aviation aircraft. Their STC's cover all of the Cessna High wing aircraft, Sikorsky S-76 helicopters, Bell 222 Helicopters, Robinson Helicopters, and more are coming.

Join us on Wednesday, October 14, for this interesting and informative program.

"I think I'll work all my life.
When you're having fun,
why stop having fun?"

Helen Thomas
Former White House Bureau Chief

Mat-Su Chapter News

The Mat-Su Chapter will not have a meeting in October. They will resume their regular meeting schedule in November on the third Tuesday, November 17. Program information should be available in the November Flypaper.

Mat-Su Chapter Officers

Chair	Toni Merrigan	373-6569
Vice Chair	C. J. Glasser	746-7358
Secretary	Elaine Base	357-1545
Treasurer	Patty Livingston	746-2919

Looking for Committee Chairs ..

There are several committees which currently have no one chairing them.

If you are interested in one of the positions, please contact Lani Kile at 696-5453 or Kile_Lani@asdk12.org.

If there is a chair currently listed and you are interested in working on one of the committees, let Lani know.

Operation Magic Carpet Golden Anniversary: Alaska Airlines Helped Roll Out a Magic Carpet to Israel

When Alaska Airlines sent them on "Operation Magic Carpet" 50 years ago, Warren and Marian Metzger didn't realize they were embarking on an adventure of a lifetime.



Warren, a DC-4 captain, and Marian, a flight attendant, were part of one of the greatest feats in Alaska Airlines' 67-year history: airlifting thousands of Yemenite Jews to the newly created nation of Israel.

The logistics made the task daunting. Fuel was hard to come by. Flight and maintenance crews had to be positioned through the Middle East. The desert sand wreaked havoc on engines. It took a whole lot of resourcefulness the better part of 1949 to do it. Despite being shot at and even bombed, the mission was accomplished—and without a single loss of life.

Known as the lost tribe of Israel, the Yemenite Jews had wandered the deserts for at least two centuries after being driven out of Palestine. Nomads, they had never seen an airplane and never lived anywhere but a tent. Ironically, their faith included a prophecy that they would be returned to their Holy Land on the wings of eagles.

"One of the things that really got to me was when we were unloading a plane at Tel Aviv," said Marian, who assisted Israeli nurses on a number of flights. "A little old lady came up to me and took the hem of my jacket and kissed it. She was giving me a blessing for getting

them home. We were the wings of eagles."

For both Marian and Warren, the assignment came on the heels of flying the airline's other great adventure of the late 1940s: the Berlin Airlift. "I had no idea what I was getting into, absolutely none," remembered Warren, who retired in 1979 as Alaska's chief pilot and vice president of flight operations. "It was pretty much seat-of-the-pants flying in those days. Navigation was by dead reckoning and eyesight. Planes were getting shot at.

The Tel Aviv airport was getting bombed all the time. We had to put extra fuel tanks in the planes so we had the range to avoid landing in Arab territory." British officials advised them that Arabs, angry over the establishment of the Jewish state, would certainly kill all the passengers and likely the whole crew if they were forced to land on Arab soil. Many planes were shot at.

Days often lasted between 16 and 20 hours and the one-way flights, in twin-engine C-46 or DC-4 aircraft, covered nearly 3,000 miles. "We'd take off from our base in Asmara (in Eritrea) in the morning and fly to Aden (in Yemen) to pick up our passengers and refuel," Warren said. "Then we'd fly up the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba to the airport at Tel Aviv to unload. Then we'd fly to Cyprus for the night. We couldn't keep the planes on the ground in Israel because of the bombings."

"One of our pilots got a little bit too close to Arab territory when flying into Israel from the Gulf of Aqaba and tracers started arching up toward the plane," Warren said. "Another one of our planes got a tire blown out during a bombing raid in Tel Aviv. One of our crews practically lived on their plane from the end of April through June."

What Warren and Marian thought was a temporary assignment turned into a 7-month mission of mercy. It also launched a marriage that has celebrated its golden anniversary. Warren and Marian were married in Asmara in January 1949. "I had met Warren when I started working for Alaska in July of 1948," Marian said. "We had both worked the Berlin airlift. I was sent to Shanghai and I didn't know where Warren was. I landed in Asmara after one flight and when the door of the plane opened, one of the guys who knew I'd been seeing Warren from time to time said he was in Tel Aviv and he'd be flying in the next day."

Before her Operation Magic Carpet flights in the Middle East, Marian, who retired from Alaska in 1952, assisted on flights from Shanghai transporting Jews who fled to China to escape persecution in Germany. When communists came to power in China, the German Jews took flight again to Israel.

"We had been doing a lot of trips, a lot of different kinds of trips," Marian said. "We realized this was going to be part of the history of Israel, but it seemed like more of an adventure at the time." In all, with the help of Alaska Airlines, charter carriers and the military, more than 40,000 Yemenite Jews were airlifted to Israel between late 1948 and early 1950.



The Metzgers in 1999

First-Ever Fly-In Musicfest National Event Brings “Stimulus” Home to Spinks Airport, Fort Worth / Burleson

The Flying Musicians Association's first major event, the Fort Worth Spinks Fly-In Musicfest on November 7, 2009, is shaping up to be a fun and spirited economic stimulus for the Fort Worth / Burleson area.

Flying Musicians from around the country will showcase live music on two stages. National names as well as local talent (from pros to talented schoolkids) will provide nonstop entertainment. The Fort Worth Songwriters Association will be running two jamming tents where impromptu jams will take place throughout the day, so bring your instrument or your voice! And plan on watching -- or even participating in -- a Native American Flute and Drum Circle.

It's an aviation theme – how could it be otherwise? – so there will also be excitement in the skies, as well: Aircraft flying, aircraft to look at, photograph, and sometimes climb into, and aircraft rides will be available. The John L. Terry Heritage Foundation will have their WWII-era B-25 Mitchell bomber, Pacific Prowler, and the C47 Dakota (known to civilians as a DC-3) Southern Cross, on the ramp for tours and flights all weekend.

The local Experimental Aviation Association Chapters will be giving free rides to kids (ages 8 through 17) on a first-come basis as part of their Young Eagles program, which has already introduced well over a million kids to flight. There will be vendors, food, aviation seminars, and music for the whole family.

A special guest, Ravi the Aviator (who is also a flying musician) will give his presentation “Making General Aviation Sexy” which he presented at the big Sun ‘n Fun and AirVenture airshows (and which he will be presenting in Florida at the AOPA Summit convention in October). Ravi might even play a few tunes for us as well! Spellbinding Florida-based author Denis Murphy, who wrote the true thriller, [PAN, PAN, PAN: A Survival Story](#), will be talking with us and signing copies of this book. If you're already hooked on aviation, Judy Tarver with FltOps will tell how to land an airline job.

And don't leave early! Fireworks will erupt as the final act performs.

Fort Worth is a destination all in herself: Fly or drive in on Friday and visit the historic Fort Worth Stockyards, the Texas Motor Speedway, the Bass Performance Hall, the Fort Worth Zoo, the Botanical Gardens, the fabulous museums, and resplendent downtown area. Visit www.fortworth.com for more information. Stay at one of the three hotels within walking distance of the airport and dine at the numerous restaurants. Enjoy the event on Saturday, relax with music and fireworks on Saturday night, then have a relaxing trip home on Sunday.

The Flying Musicians Association, Inc. was formed in 2009 by blending two passions, flying and music. Founded by two pilot/musicians, John Zapp and Aileen Hummel who have made it their quest to encourage, promote, educate and support these two passions, and especially to encourage adventure, awe, and experience through flying and music, generating and fostering the yearning for both amongst young people.

To join please visit <http://FlyingMusicians.org>.

New Horizons



Former longtime Alaskan Marian Metzger died Sept. 18, 2009, in Lynnwood, Wash. She was 87. Marian was born July 31, 1922, in New Brighton, Pa., and grew up in nearby Beaver Falls. She obtained her pilot's license in 1940 and during World War II worked at Curtis Wright as a propeller inspector.

After Curtis Wright closed its doors in 1946, Marian unsuccessfully tried to find work as a pilot and instead decided to become an airline hostess. She started with Pennsylvania Central Airlines. In the spring of 1948, she was hired by Alaska Airlines, and she met her future husband, Warren, on her first flight. They were married in Asmara, Eritrea, Africa, in January 1949 while taking part in Operation Magic Carpet, the historic Jewish airlift. Retiring as a hostess after starting her family, Marian maintained close ties within the aviation industry. She was an honored member of the Eastern Star, the D.A.R. and Beta Sigma Phi. A founder of The Nexus Foundation, she worked tirelessly to encourage research and education related to naturopathic medicine, health and religion. In Seattle, she joined the Tahoma Clinic and worked under world-famous naturopathic physician and crusader Dr. Jonathan Wright. A dynamic woman of great personal charisma, she was loved and admired by many, but is best remembered for her ready laugh, her kindness, courage and sense of adventure. She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, aviation legend Warren Metzger. She is survived by her brother, Paul of Arlington, Texas; daughter, Darragh of Lynnwood, Wash.; sons, Warren Carl II ("Chip") and Timothy of Anchorage; daughters-in-law, Kimberly and Christa; and son-in-law, Dameon Willich; as well as six grandchildren, Peter, Ava, Raymond, Warren David, Kenan and Elise. The family will host a celebration of her life on Oct. 17. For more information, please contact Chip at wcmak@acsalaska.net, Darragh at darragh@clearwire.net, or Tim at themetzgers@alaska.com. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the charity of the donor's choice.

Shirley Upton came to Alaska in 1954 with her husband Glen. She was a homemaker and eventually a secretary to her husband at their business "Alaska Curtainwall and Glass."

In retirement Shirley was very active in the Alaska 99s. She loved to fly. She also actively served as a volunteer and board member for the local CPC Pregnancy Center in Anchorage.

She faithfully attended two local churches in the Anchorage area: Lake Spenard Baptist Church and Faith Christian Community. At Lake Spenard Baptist Church she often sang as a soloist and with other members in the choir. Over her lifetime, she supported many missionaries, praying and supporting them financially.

Shirley was preceded in death by her husband Glen. She is survived by her son Gary Upton, sons and daughters-in-law Gregg and Judy Upton, Kim and Maureen Upton; grandchildren Crystal, Valisa, Kimberly and Laura; and sister Pat LeClair.

In lieu of flowers and in honor of Shirley, family and friends may donate to one of the following organizations:

CPC Pregnancy Center
2900 Boniface Pkwy., No. 2
Anchorage, AK 99504-3132

OR

American Institute for Cancer Research
159 R Street NW
P. O. Box 97167
Washington, DC 20090-7167



Minutes of the September 9, 2009 Member Meeting of the Alaska Chapter 99's

Meeting was called to order by Chair Lani Kile. Introductions were made around the room and each member answered the "Question of the Day: What is your favorite airport or float plane lake?" The 12 members present offered some interesting favorites - Merrill Field was the most mentioned, naturally.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 12th meeting as submitted in the September 2009 Flypaper was by proposed Angie Slingluff and seconded by Helen Jones. The motion passed.

The Treasure's Report by Brenda Staats: "The report is unchanged from last month and is strong and doing well".

Melanie Hancock had reported that 13 women signed up for the Flying Companion Seminar at the table staffed by volunteers at the Alaska State Fair. Liz spoke with an anxious, fearful wife of a pilot and confirmed that there is a great need for the support and encouragement that this program offers. A free seminar registration was won by Sara Wright of Eagle River.

The last day of the Northwest Section meeting and conference, an award was presented to the Mat-Su Chapter for their airport air marking. Records compiled on the Alaska 99s web site lists about 40+ airports where the Alaska 99's have airmarked or painted compass roses. The Merrill Field Air Marking coordinated by Patty Livingston and completed by 10 Ninety-nines and friends.

Margaret E. Fisher's estate bequeathed \$1000 to the Alaska Chapter 99's. Gloria will send an appropriate note of thanks and research Margaret's interest in and association with the 99's.

Pat Bening is overseeing the Aviation Museum project of researching women who have made significant contributions to aviation in Alaska. With over 100 candidates she is requesting that every member "adopt" one or several women to research. A work session is scheduled for Saturday Oct 10th at 10:00 AM at the Aviation Heritage Museum. A motion to disburse \$300 for museum work - displays and for lunch on the 10th was proposed by Pat and seconded by Liz. The motion passed.

Catalogs from Serographics were passed out with a suggestion that fleece jackets, shirts or vests can be ordered with a new smaller logo if anyone is interested in coordinating their "look" for the Fairbanks Aviation North Expo. Grizzly also has the 99s logo on file. Cost will be \$10 or \$20 on top of the item ordered depending on which company is used. On a similar note, Brenda mentioned that there are 6 vests left over from the International conference - sizes 1X and 2X that need disposing of in a "good will" manner. Lani proposed a motion to give Brenda the option of her choice in this matter, it was seconded by Liz and passed.

Alaska pilot Leah Sommer is participating in the 10th annual Reno Air Race. Lani gave her a 99s patch that she will wear on her flight suit.

The Aviation North Expo 2009 will be in Fairbanks October 15-17th at the Princess Riverside Lodge. A Flying Companion Seminar will be presented by the members of the Anchorage and Mat-Su Chapters. Emily offered to assist with the simulator training. Several members are carpooling and have room for folks looking for transportation. Gloria composed handouts/flyers that folks are welcome (encouraged)

Minutes of the September 9, 2009, cont.

to distribute. Registration fee for the Flying Companion Seminar is \$99 and can be accomplished on line at: www.AviationNorth.org or call 877-427-5599.

The BOD meeting will be on Monday Oct 5th 5:30pm at Stewart Title. An invitation to anyone interested in “doing” (adding information and doing regular updates to) the web page is welcome to come for training.

Anchorage Air Route Traffic Control Center Tour is on Saturday September 19th at 10:00am. Those intending to do the tour must provide their name, driver’s license number and US citizen status to either Mike Pannone or Mathea Doyle. Lani will work with Margaret who needs clearance due to her Aussie citizenship status.

WASP recognition by Senator Lisa Murkowski for 5 of the members with “Alaska connections” was discussed. A decision to call Senator Murkowski’s office to determine if any plans for individual letters might be considered - Liz will follow up.

Lani presented an email from a fellow 99 who is raising funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society - Caren Della Cioppa is running her 5th marathon with Team In Training. Donations can be made online at <http://pages.teamintraining.org/vtnt/pfchanges10/dcellaciop>

The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm and was followed by the program.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Laxson, Secretary



It's time to Register for the Aviation North Expo. October 15 – 17, 2009, Riverside Princess Hotel-Fairbanks, AK: www.aviationnorth.org.

Market your airport at Aviation North Expo. The Aviation North Expo (ANE) is considered the best annual education event for airport professionals, consultants, pilots, general public and more, in Alaska. It's time to make the trade show the best airport event in Alaska. The ANE Application for Exhibit Space and the ANE Advertising Reservation Form, can be found at www.aviationnorth.org. Please consider participating in these opportunities at ANE and forward your completed application to rachel@aviationnorth.org.