



Spaceport 99s

Ellie Hoffman, Chairman

Mary Anne Demmer, Vice Chairman
Sandy Parks, Secretary
Bobbi Lasher, Scholarship Chairman
Ellie Hoffman, Safety Officer
TBD, Webmaster

Carol Gosling, Treasurer
Mary Anne Demmer, Membership Chairman
Laura Sherwood, Air Marking Chairman
Mary Anne Demmer, Education Officer
www.spaceport99s.org

2016-2017

End of the year wrap up

Sept 24th: Girls in Aviation Day at Melbourne Airport. The Spaceport 99s set up a table and talked to LOTS of young girls about Aviation. Flight simulators, building balsa planes and drones were very popular with the girls.



Oct 24th – Larson Motorsports: We were shown around the Larson Motorsports facilities by Elaine Larson and her husband. Elaine drives her race car faster than we fly our planes!



Elaine in her race car- a really snug fit!



Elaine and the 99s.

Nov 12: The Treasure Coast 99s loaded into their airplanes and flew to Sebastian Airport X26 to attend the meeting of the Spaceport 99s for a presentation featuring Al Hallonquist - Aerospace Historian, speaking of the Mercury 13 (female astronaut program). These women trained at the same time the Mercury 7 male astronauts and had to pass all the same physical and psychological tests as the men. But during the 1960's, the world was full of prejudices, and NASA was no different, despite all their work, these women were not allowed into space. Also in attendance of this meeting were members of the Daytona Beachin' Eagles, and FL Goldcoast Chapters. *(Written by Marcy Lannon of the Treasure Coast 99s. Thanks, Marcy!)*

We were also pleased to have Governor Myra Bugbee join us for the day.



January 14th: Our Chapter Holiday Party was held at Sandy Park's home in Melbourne. Of course, the food was delicious, the fellowship was great and the gift exchange was fun.

February 11th was a super day. The weather was perfect and it was a 99s meeting day. The Spaceport Chapter and the Beachin' Eagles Chapter met at the ticket window of the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) at 0930. Everyone got their tickets and we all set off to explore (a total of 36 people). There was no way to keep all those folks together, so we split into small groups and went our own way. Everything at KSC is spectacular and well presented. However, the Atlantis Exhibit is by far the most impressive.



About 1 we all met at one of the restaurants for lunch and a much needed chance to sit down. After the refueling stop, we headed out again. KSC closes at 6 pm, otherwise some of us would have spent the night.

May 20: We met in the conference room of Spruce Creek Realty, 9 members and 5 guests attended. We brainstormed ways to expand our membership and attendance. Thanks, Pat and Lenny Ohlsson for your hospitality.



Officers: Our officers for this year: Ellie Hoffman, Mary Anne Demmer, Sandy Parks and Carol Gosling, did such a great job, that we convinced them to continue for another year. They all agreed. Thanks!

Award Nomination: Our chapter nominated Laura Sherwood for the **Ninety-Nine of Note Award**. Here is the nomination letter written by Ellie, so that everyone can appreciate how much Laura does for the Ninety-Nines and for Aviation.

Please accept this letter to nominate Laura Sherwood for the “Ninety-Nine of Note Award” for the Spaceport Chapter. Laura’s passion for flying started at a very early age. Like many aviators of her generation, her favorite TV show was Sky King. Her first exposure to the 99s was with her Aunt Evelyn. Aunt Evelyn was a 99 and took her for her 1st airplane ride when she was in high school. She got to fly right seat from Vero to Palm Beach and she was hooked! It wasn’t until she was in her mid- thirties that she earned her private ticket. She joined the 99s as a student and has been an active member ever since.

Laura’s service to aviation only begins with the 99s. She has been a key member of the Air Operations for Sun N Fun for 25 years. She works directly on the flight line and sorts out aircraft, directs aircraft traffic, and marries up the planes with their motorcycle escorts. Each year she works in the same area, directing Warbird traffic, which is now known as Laura’s Corner. Last year she received the Chairman’s Award for her dedication. She is well known in that community and highly respected. She has held all elected positions in the Spaceport Chapter and has been the chair three times. She has long served as our Air Marking chair and has trained and mentored many others, including a boy-scout working on his Eagle Scout Badge! She has personally supervised over 100 compass roses. This fall she will be training the 99s from our newest Florida chapter, the Beachin’ Eagles. Laura has organized numerous Hospitality Suites with amazing success. Her latest effort was when the Spaceport Chapter hosted the SE Section meeting in May 2016. It was truly enjoyed by everyone who stopped by. She also completed all of the legal paperwork for our chapter to receive our 501(c)(3) status (a Herculean task!). Laura’s commitment to our chapter has been one of the keys to our long running success and our ability to remain a vibrant chapter. Laura also volunteers at Science fairs and does a lot of charity work for her church. She is always willing to help and takes every opportunity to mentor our young aviation enthusiasts. It is with great pride that we nominate Laura for the “99 of Note Award” for 2017.

Annual Meeting: Our Annual Meeting will be held on June 10th at the Dixie Crossroads Restaurant on Garden Street, Titusville at 11:30 am. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

Sad news:



Julianne (Julie) Dearth, 90, of Palm Coast, FL, passed away on May 19, 2017. Julie was born on March 12, 1927 in Columbus, Ohio.

Julie wanted to learn to fly airplanes at a very early age and obtained her Private Pilot's License in 1945 and in 1948 she earned her Commercial Pilots License with Flight Instructor Rating. Julie enlisted in the first group of woman to join the United States Air Force after World War II. She was selected for the first co-ed Officer Candidate class. She joined the All Ohio Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, the International Organization of Woman Pilots, as a life member. She is currently a member of the Spaceport Chapter. After service, Julie worked for three major California Aircraft companies.

Julie moved to Maryland where she worked and retired from Fairchild as Director of Quality Engineering. She went on to breed and show miniature Schnauzers. Julie retired to Palm Coast, Florida, where she enjoyed playing tennis and at the age of 65 became an avid golf player. She enjoyed playing golf on all the Palm Coast golf courses.

Julie was known for her extraordinary caring and generosity. She was always there for her friends, putting their needs above her own. She will be greatly missed.