

Spaceport 99s

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Donna Wilt, Treasurer

Sandy Parks, Spaceport Scholarship Chair
Leonora Hunt, Amelia Earhart Scholarship Chair
Christine Keefe, Membership Chair
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www.spaceport99s.org

OUR MISSION — The NINETY-NINES® INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN PILOTS® promotes advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight.

Established in 1929 by 99 women pilots, the members of The Ninety-Nines, Inc.®, International Organization of Women Pilots®, are represented in all areas of aviation today. And, to quote Amelia, fly "for the fun of it!"

Fall 2025

September 13th meeting: We will be meeting in a new location – Space Coast Regional Airport (KTIX). Our speaker will be Naiara Petralinda, who has flown all over the world. She will be telling us about some of her adventures. Mark your calendar now, so that you don't miss this interesting meeting. Full details will be sent to your email closer to the meeting date.

June Meeting Our Annual Meeting was held on June 14th at the Honeysuckle Restaurant in Titusville.

All current officers have agreed to serve for another year, so there was no installation ceremony. Christine Keefe was congratulated for earning her Commercial rating.

Donna Wilt reported the winner of our scholarship was Tikvah (Tiki) Karnes, who is working on her Commercial rating. In honor of the Chapter's 60th Anniversary this year, a second \$2000 scholarship was awarded to member, Christine Keefe., who is working on her CFI rating.



Kiki



Christine

Update from Kiki: , on Aug. 20: *I have completed my Commercial Checkride this morning! During the debrief the examiner did not have one complaint! This was my best checkride yet. It is hard to believe I have finally gotten to this point. God has taken me so far! I dreamed of the skies ever since I was young, never thinking I could ever actually achieve anything. But God had a plan and I couldn't give up.*

Thank you for your help in pursuing my goal of obtaining my Commercial Certificate before leaving for A&P school. I have finished debt free and ready to move on to my next step towards becoming a missionary pilot and mechanic.

Over the Summer: Two members celebrated Milestone birthdays.

Marcelaine Lewis passed the $\frac{3}{4}$ century mark (75 years) on a Disney Cruise.

Bobbi Lasher became a nonagenarian (90 years) at a small family celebration. Her youngest granddaughter, Joy, celebrated her 40th birthday at the same party.



Leonia Hunt became a First Officer of a Delta Airlines 717.



Special meeting: Five Spaceport 99s meet with seventeen female students from 2Fly flight school located at Merritt Island Airport, Florida. These students were mostly from India, but also students from Italy, England, Ecuador, Curacao, China, and the US. The 99s introduced themselves and talked about their flying backgrounds and then asked the girls to share about their interests in flying and goals. We gave away numerous copies of the Ninety-Nines magazine and showed a video on the history of the 99s. Hopefully the women are now aware of 99s organizations near their homes and the importance of women organizations for mentorship, scholarships, and support for those that fly.

One of the gals left the meeting early to take her check ride for her PPL. She passed with flying colors!



Jocelyn Bew passed her private pilot checkride on July 5th. Jocelyn won a Ray Scholarship from EAA chapter 724. For this training. This scholarship is funded by EAA HQ and pays up to \$12,000 for a teen to earn a Private Pilots license.



Jocelyn Bew

New Vice Chair: Over the summer Marcelaine accepted a fulltime High school teaching position in Leesberg. That along with that fact that she has a two hour drive to most of the Spaceport meetings, has required that she step down from being Vice Chair of the Spaceport 99s. Christine Keefe has volunteered to step up and fill this position. Thanks, Christine!!



Christine Keefe

[SAFE \(The Society of Aviation and Flight Educators\)](#)

Congratulations to Dr. Donna Wilt, the 2025 recipient of the "SAFE Founder's Award!"

Donna has worked tirelessly on the FAA ACS committee since 2016 and was instrumental in returning "minimum controllable airspeed" (MCA) to the FAA ACS. She also just completed a project with Michael Baum to complete and transfer the "Model Codes of Conduct" <https://bit.ly/SAFE-AMCC> to a permanent archive at Florida Tech. [#SAFEtoolkit](#) [#CFIpro](#) [#flySAFE](#) [#MasterCFI](#) [#FAA](#) [#SAFEpilots](#)



New horizons:

Dolores Vitullo, long time member, past Chair of Spaceport Chapter flew to New Horizons on February 2nd.

Evelyn Shapiro, long time member of Spaceport Chapter flew to New Horizons on July 12th.

Ric Lasher, flew to New Horizons on May 31st, after surviving 70 years of wedded bliss with Bobbi.

Welcome New members who joined the Spaceport Ninety-Nines this year.

Cheyenne	Wood	7/25/2025	Palm Bay
Astrid	Gibson	7/24/2025	Satellite Beach
Ally	Coughlan	6/28/2025	Vero Beach
Mia	DuPuis	5/24/2025	Melbourne
Lisa	Tasevich	5/22/2025	Maitland
Skye	Vriesenga	4/12/2025	Cape Canaveral
Gabriela	Gonzalez-Caligiuri	4/4/2025	Winter Springs
Monica	Mieles	4/4/2025	Longwood
Caitlyn	Fargnoli	4/3/2025	Melbourne
Alexandra	Gregoire	4/2/2025	Orlando
Elizabeth	Holloway	3/17/2025	Cocoa Beach
Hinano	Ishikawa	2/19/2025	Palm Bay
Joie	Reisch	1/20/2025	La Grange Highlands

Board of Directors (BOD) met in August and planned our upcoming year. The minutes of that meeting will be sent to you in a separate message in a few days.

Tentative Spaceport 99s Schedule for 2025/2026:

-We still plan to meet the second Saturday of the month for most meetings.

- September– possibly Naiara Petralanda in Titusville
- October - Southeast Section meeting in Daytona - ERAU
- November – Carly S. from Piper - FIT
- December – Toys for Tots – Merritt Island Airport
- January 10, 2026 Zonta Amelia Earhart month
- January 17, 2026 – Holiday party
- February – Sharon Crotty will host in Orlando
- March – TBD
- April – Sun 'n Fun / Section Meeting / no formal meeting
- May – Spruce Creek
- June – Induction lunch

Scholarship News:

99s Collegiate Women's Achievement Award

Deadline to submit your application for this \$3500 award is September 30th and you must be a Ninety-Nines member for a minimum of three months.

The award recipient will be chosen on the basis of merit, career aspirations, dedication, contributions to community, goals, volunteer service, character, accomplishments, academic standing, teamwork, and leadership skills. This Ninety-Nines member must have a minimum of 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale and be a sophomore or higher class rank.

All other details and information can be found at <https://www.ninety-nines.org/awards.htm>.

Amelia Earhart Scholarships

We intend to have the **Fall First Wings** applications on the 99s website by September 1, 2025, taking into account difficulties with the current website. First Wings applications are due to the Chapter AE Scholarship chair, Leonia Hunt, no later than October 1, 2025.

The applications for **AE Scholarships**, including **Flight Training, Vicki Cruse EMT, Academic, Technical and the Kitty Houghton Memorial** Scholarship will be on the 99s website no later than September 15, 2025.

AE Scholarships are due to the Chapter AE Scholarship Chair, Leonia Hunt, no later than January 1, 2025. All Guidelines and Instructions have been updated. Please check the 99s website for the most current information.

Please notify Leonia if you are planning to apply, she can be reached at leoniahunt@gmail.com.