

# Spaceport 99s

Judi Oswald, Chairman

Christine Keefe, Vice Chair  
Sandy Parks, Secretary  
Donna Wilt, Treasurer

Sandy Parks, Scholarship Chair  
Leonie Hunt, Amelia Earhart Scholarship Chair  
Christine Keefe, , Membership Chair  
Ellie Hoffman, Safety Officer

TBD, Webmaster

[www.spaceport99s.org](http://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!"*

## Winter, 2026

### December, January, February

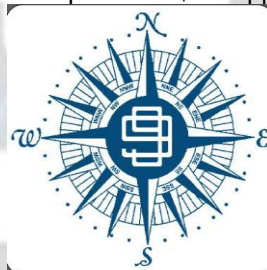
**New Fund raiser:** We now have a new fund raiser. All profits go to our Scholarship Fund.

**Show your pride in being a 99.**

Display this decal on your car, laptop, notebook, airplane, etc.

3 1/2" X 3 1/2" Adhesive Stickers, white background, blue compass rose, gloss laminated. rounded corners.

Price: \$4.00 each, plus \$1 for shipping. (up to 3 decals per each \$1 shipping fee).



Contact Judi Oswald at [Judi@spaceport99s.org](mailto:Judi@spaceport99s.org) to order or for more information.

We accept PayPal, Zelle, or your personal check. When you place your order, you will be given directions for using Zelle or the address for where to send your check. You do not need a PayPal account in order to send us your payment.

**September 13<sup>th</sup> :** We met at Space Coast Regional Airport, in the meeting room of the TICO Airport Authority. Dr. Niara Petralanda talked to us about Back Country flying and how to prepare for it.

**October 10, 11, 2025** – Southeast Section Meeting Daytona, Florida

Forty-one excited people attended the Southeast Section meeting in Daytona Beach, Florida. Spaceport was well represented with seven members in attendance: Carol Gosling, Sharon Crotty, Donna Wilt, Pat Ohlsson, and Judi Oswald. Mimi Hanley drove up from Melbourne and Denise Schmedeman drove in from Sanford to have dinner with us on Friday night at Carrabba's restaurant.

People came from all over the Southeast Section with one Director flying in from Washington state. She flew half way across the country in her own plane until weather prevented her from continuing and she picked up a commercial flight to make the meeting.

The two speakers were excellent – Mr. Foster (a former ATC from Boston Airport, now living in Florida) gave a very informative talk on the FAA's plans for airspace around several major airports. These changes will have a big impact on GA flying.

Dr. Leo Murphy, professor from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, talked about Amelia Earhart. This was an expanded and newly updated talk on the presentation he gave at our Spaceport chapter meeting at Spruce Creek two years ago. Everyone was enthralled with his lively presentation.

The 99 of Note Award was given out to one nominated member from each chapter, who represented a dedication to the field of aviation. Christine Keefe was the Spaceport's 99 of Note.

The new Aviation Manual was unveiled, which is available in the Library section on the International website. There is a lot of great information presented in the manual and much time and effort has gone into this.

The Board did mention that they are hoping to get everyone voting online. It was reiterated to press chapter members to switch to electronic voting as each paper ballot on the international level can cost upwards of \$40. Along with the cost, the return rate of the paper ballot is only just over 50%. It was stated that thousands of dollars are spent on these paper ballots with not much return.

The camaraderie of being around women pilots was infectious and I really enjoyed my first ever "big" 99s meeting and am looking forward to attending more.

Judi Oswald

Chair, Spaceport 99s

**November 8:** Meeting at FIT Aviation, Melbourne Airport. Carley from Piper Aircraft came up from Vero Beach and told us about her travels as Chairman of Aircraft Sales. She also reminded us that Piper conducts guided tours for the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays. However, you must call ahead and let them know what day you would like to visit.

## Special Awards Winners

**Barbara Walters-Phillips** received a National Aeronautic Association's (NAA) Distinguished Stateswoman of Aviation Award on Nov 6<sup>th</sup> at the Press Club in Washington, DC. Barbara is a member of the Spaceport chapter, President of EAA Chapter 74 in Orlando and President of the Orlando Youth Aviation Center where she organizes and provides instruction in Introduction to Aviation - a program for middle and high school students that meets on Saturdays at Orlando Executive Airport. She also provides a forum for teachers each year during AirVenture.



Barb & Pat Phillips

**Pat Ohlsson and Mary Bryant** were presented the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award on November 19<sup>th</sup>. This is the FAA's most prestigious award and is given to pilots who have exhibited exemplary aviation expertise, distinguished professionalism, and steadfast commitment for at least 50 years of piloting experience.



Mary Bryant and Pat Ohlsson (holding their plaques) are joined by other 99s who have received this prestigious award.

**Judi Oswald, Spaceport Chair** will be leaving us early next year. She and her 49 ½, Reg, have sold their home here in Florida and will be relocating to New Hampshire. We wish them happiness in their new home, but we will miss them. Judi will continue to fulfill the duties of Chair of Spaceport (except for attending our meetings in person) until our regular elections in May.

**Important Notice:** The chapter Board of Directors is currently considering candidates for our next Chapter Chair. if you would like to be considered as a candidate for Chair, or any other office of our chapter, **speak up and tell one of the current officers** so that your name will appear on the ballot,

## Upcoming meetings

**December 13<sup>th</sup>:** We will meet at the **Toys for Tots** Pancake breakfast at Merritt Island Airport. The cost of breakfast is a new, unwrapped toy which will be given to the Marine Corps Reserve and then will be distributed to local children who might otherwise not get a visit from Santa. As pilots, we are very fortunate people, this is a way that we can give back to our community.

**January 17<sup>th</sup>:** Will be our annual Holiday Party and gift exchange. **NOTE:** This is the **Third** Saturday of the month. Ellie Hoffman will be hosting us at her home.

**February 14<sup>th</sup>:** we will be meeting at Atlantic Aviation, Orlando Executive Airport.

**March 14<sup>th</sup>:** we're gonna try something new. First, everyone is urged to read ***Fly Girls by Keith O'Brien***. Then on the 14<sup>th</sup> we will have a **ZOOM** meeting and will discuss the book, led by Christine Keefe, our vice chair. The book is available at your public library, on line on Libby (<https://libbyapp.com/>), on Thrift Books ([thriftbooks.com](https://thriftbooks.com/)), and on Amazon.

**Full details about each of the above meetings will be sent to all prior to the meeting.**

**Chapter Assets:** if you are currently storing anything belonging to the Chapter, please make a list of what you have and send it to Sandy. It's important to know what we have and where it is, so that we don't buy duplicate items and waste chapter funds. Thank you.

**NOTE:** Bobbi's phone number has changed to 321-634-2733. The old number has been disconnected.