

February 20, 2007

Next meeting:

March 20, 2007

6:00 p.m.

Sonex Aircraft, LLC
 511 Aviation Road
 Oshkosh, WI 54902



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WAI Oshkosh Does Disney!

Kathleen Witman, Kelly Nelson, Trish Diemer, and Mary Jones attended the 18th annual Women in Aviation Conference February 14-18, 2007, at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida. The record-breaking conference featured over 200 exhibitors, 3,200 attendees, 49 scholarship winners, and several personal development seminars. Speakers at the event included CEO of the Museum of Flight in Seattle and former astronaut Bonnie Dunbar; Virgin Galactic's Will Whitehorn; USAF Thunderbird pilot Maj. Nicole Malachowski; Jane Middleton, Finance Director for Rockwell Collins, UK; Capt. Betty Uhrig, Chief Pilot for Chevron Global Aviation; Lisa Piccione, Senior Vice President of the National Business Aviation Association; and USN Rear Admiral Wendi Carpenter.

Kathleen and Kelly spent an hour in the chapter exhibit booth showing off the Oshkosh Chapter on Friday, and had the opportunity to speak with other chapter leaders about fundraising and promotional ideas.

The fun weekend was capped off with a night at the Magic Kingdom, complete with the electric light parade and fireworks!

As always, the conference was a fantastic networking



Gregg Diemer, Trish Diemer, Kathleen Witman, Kelly Nelson, Mary Jones, and Lisa Turner at Walt Disney World.

experience, and sent us all home with a boost of motivation and positive energy! Photos are on the chapter website at www.oshkoshwai.org.

The 2008 conference will be held in San Diego, California, at the Town and Country Resort March 13-15.

Meeting Notes

Anyone who likes history would have enjoyed February's chapter meeting, hosted by Dave & Rosie Zuern. The Zuerns, collectors and history enthusiasts, own one of downtown Oshkosh's historical gems—the Brooklyn Firehouse—and the area's largest Charles A. Lindbergh memorabilia collection.

Built in 1870, the meticulously restored two-story, red brick building houses the McKnight & Carlson Wines & More store downstairs. The upstairs holds the Zuerns' extensive aviation collection (some call it a mini-museum), which they enthusiastically shared with the Oshkosh chapter and guests.

Prior to and after their speech, Rosie and Dave let us meander around the beautifully furnished rooms and see the many items, often grouped together or paired with other related items: Post-cards, cigarette lighters, watches, pens, pins, lunch boxes, menus, sheet music, cigars, poker chips, pencil boxes,

banks, busts, candles, car ornaments, toys, model planes, books, fabric, rugs, newspapers, matches, and just about any everyday item you can think of with the name or image of Charles Lindbergh and the Spirit of St. Louis.

The retired couple described how they first got into collecting Lindbergh memorabilia. "We were first interested in aviation items related to old airlines," said Rosie. That interest changed when a friend gave them some Lindbergh-themed items and they learned about a Lindbergh collectors society forming. They attended the first meeting of what became C.A.L./N-X-211 in 1983, and have since carried out the organization's mission to perpetuate the man, machine, and his trans-Atlantic flight, and to be keepers of the history through collectibles.

By evening's end, the group learned

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Announcements:

- EAA is again hosting "Women Soar" July 22-23 to coincide with the start of EAA AirVenture. The program is aimed at showcasing the opportunities available to young women through aviation and the sciences. If you know of any girls who might be interested in attending, more information is available at www.airventure.org by going to "Experience It" and selecting "Women Soar."
- Rose Dorsey will present Snapshots of Wisconsin Aviation History at our next meeting on March 20. We hope to see you there!
- Our May trip to visit the Gulfstream facility in Appleton has been cancelled. The meeting will now be held on May 15 at Sonex.

March is Women's History Month

March is Women's History month, giving us a chance to honor the trail-blazing women who have come before us and accomplished many things that we now take for granted.

In 1911 in Europe, March 8 was celebrated as International Women's Day. In many European nations, as well as in the United States, women's rights was a hot political topic. By the 1930s however, with the economic depression hitting on both sides of the Atlantic, and then World War II, women's rights went out of fashion. The movement saw a revival in the 1950s and 1960s with "women's liberation." In the 1970s, amidst calls for inclusion of more African and Native Americans in history classes, many women began to realize that they were also invisible in these courses.

In 1978, in California, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women established a "Women's History Week" celebration, set to coincide with International Women's Day. The response was positive, and many other groups determined to begin their own local Women's History Week projects, as well as support an effort to convince Congress to declare a national Women's History Week.

Three years later, the United States

Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. Schools focused on that week for special projects and exhibitions honoring women in history, and the National Women's History Project began distributing materials specifically designed to support Women's History Week, as well as materials to enhance the teaching of history throughout the year to include notable women and women's experiences.

In 1987, at the request of the national Women's History Project, Congress expanded the week to a month, and has issued a resolution every year since then for Women's History Month. The President also issues a proclamation of Women's History Month each year.

To further extend the inclusion of women's history in the history curriculum, the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in History in America met through the 1990s. As a result a National Museum of Women's History was also established in the Washington D.C. area.

For more information on Women's History Month and the amazing women in aviation history, visit www.oshkoshwai.org and click on the scrolling Women's History Month banner for links to resources available on the web.

President's Letter

I have to say, coming off the 2007 International Women in Aviation Conference, I am jazzed. I had the opportunity to talk to some past scholarship winners while I was there, and all of them had amazing, inspiring stories. Kathleen and I also chatted with some other chapter leaders and got some fantastic ideas of ways to promote our chapter and raise funds for things like scholarships. As we dive in to our first year as an official chapter, I'm excited for all of the things we have planned, and all of the possibilities we have to make a difference.

The conference was like an energy drink for my life, and I tried to make the best of my buzz as soon as I got back. A few weeks ago I contacted the director of the UW-Oshkosh Women's Center who graciously offered to forward a flier announcing our March meeting to the members of her listserv. She and I have also set up a meeting in April to discuss other ways that our chapter can partner with the Women's Center in the future, which I am really excited about. I have also exchanged e-mails with the president of the Wisconsin Soaring Society out of Hartford who has agreed to make an appearance at one of our meetings to talk about soaring and also discuss ways that our two groups can work together. E-mails have also been sent to a few people in the aviation department at Fox Valley Tech in hopes that we can create a relationship with them as well.

I think we're off to a great start in 2007, and I hope that we'll be able to replicate even just a taste of that energy drink for you at each meeting!




Bonnie Kratz

The February meeting was held at the renovated Brooklyn firehouse owned by Lindbergh collectors Dave and Rosie Zuern.

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volumes about Lindbergh's vast accomplishments, excellent planning skills, sharp engineering mind, and innate sense of direction.

"He could see things ahead," said Dave, "like planning ahead, particularly for his famous trip."

For example, when he got to Paris he still had 80 gallons of gas left. Dave added, however, that the aviator wasn't a particularly good student, evident from the copy of his grades obtained from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, dated 1922.

The group also learned about collecting. While there are many ways to collect, the Zuerns prefer to acquire items at antique malls around the country, classified advertisements, buying, selling, and trading within the society. They

also receive donated items. "Sometimes people contact us," said Rosie, "and simply want a home for their items."

As a thank you, we raised \$40 in donations that evening for the Firehouse Bell Fund. The Zuerns hope to someday raise enough money to place a bell in the building's bell tower. Bonnie Kratz, the chapter's photographer, also took scores of pictures of the event, which will be presented to the Zuerns as a way of saying thanks for sharing their passion with our chapter.

A special thanks to Noel Marshall for connecting the group with this dynamic couple and to everyone who made the evening memorable.

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Member Spotlight: Debi Walker



1. Job title: Administration, Aircraft Maintenance/Operations & Autofuel STC Coordination, EAA

2. What I enjoy most about my job: It's different every day, challenges me, and allows me to use my experience

3. When I am not at work I am: Reading, watching movies, traveling, and helping veterans.

4. Aviation affiliation: Family of engineers, pilots, air traffic controllers and I am USAF Aircraft Maintenance, Retired

6. Favorite Airplane: KC135 and C130—so many configurations and uses

7. One thing most people don't know about me: So many interests/experiences, so little time

8. My greatest accomplishment in life so far: Experiences I would not trade for anything.

9. One thing I want to do before I die: Travel more, especially Asia

10. The person I most admire: Anyone who has the courage to achieve in non-traditional roles

11. The latest CD that I bought: Relaxation in the Skies

12. My most favorite food and/or restaurant: A GOOD steak

13. My least favorite place to be: Boring meetings not accomplishing anything

14. My favorite place to be: Underwater diving, and flying with only the sound of the engine and the wind

15. Why I joined Women in Aviation: To further interest women in the aviation fields; there are so many possibilities.