

March 18, 2008

**Next meeting:**  
April 15, 2008  
6 p.m.

Sonex Aircraft LLC  
511 Aviation Road  
Oshkosh, WI 54902



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## The 2008 WAI Conference

The 19th Annual International Women in Aviation Conference, held March 13-15 in San Diego, California, was the largest yet, boasting record-setting attendance and exhibitor participation. "By all accounts, this has been one heck of a successful conference," said Dr. Peggy Chabrian, president of Women in Aviation International (WAI).

Attendance for the three-day event reached a new high of 3,320. In the exhibit hall, 151 companies and organizations represented all aspects of the aviation community—from maintenance to engineering to commercial and military flight operations. WAI also awarded over \$700,000 in scholarships over the course of the weekend.

This year's event did not disappoint in terms of the amount of excitement, enthusiasm, and energy that was shared among the attendees. Six WAI Oshkosh Chapter members attended this year's conference: Kelly Nelson, Rose Dorcey, Bonnie Kratz, Kathleen Witman, Trish Deimer, and Elissa Lines.

The conference featured dozens of educational and professional development seminars on such topics as aircraft maintenance, flight safety, history and aerobatics. Attendees also learned of diverse aviation careers, such as avionics and mechanics, in addition to airline and corporate flying. Representatives from universities with aerospace programs were on hand, along with FAA staff and NAFI.

The day before the conference started, early arriving attendees were able to get an up-close look at military aviation Wednesday at Naval Air Station North Island and the USS Midway aircraft carrier museum. About 350 people attended the



Military Day tours provided by the U.S. Navy. Throughout the weekend, attendees were afforded other special opportunities for tours and training, visiting the King Schools facility for a tour, and participating in an FAA Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic (FIRC) or FAA Maintenance Recurrent Training.

Kelly and Rose presented a short presentation on creating and maintaining a chapter newsletter during Wednesday's Chapter Leadership Workshop, and Bonnie gave a well-attended presentation on her career as an aviation photographer during Friday's educational sessions.

Next year's conference is scheduled February 26-28, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia, and it is sure to be equally as exciting and energizing as the previous 19—hope to see you there!

## Meeting Notes

The March meeting was held at the Oshkosh Public Library in the Waters Building. Thanks to Kathleen for getting us the space, and the opportunity to see the chapter's women in aviation displays for Women's History month!

At the meeting we covered the chapter's outreach activities for Women's History month, including the library displays and the display/outreach activity on March 1 at the UW-Oshkosh Women's Center. Feedback from the library has been very positive, and they say they are always looking for displays, so they would be happy to hear any other ideas we come up with. Laurie and Kathleen "womanned" the display at UWU March 1 and said the overall turnout for the event wasn't as big as expected. Bonnie also had photos on display at the Women's Center all month.

Kathleen reported back from the 99s meeting held March 8. She visited the meeting to represent our chapter. We will

be working with the group to get a compass rose painted at Wittman Regional Airport in the near future—hopefully before AirVenture this year.

Those reporting back from the conference in San Diego shared copies of the Conference Daily and the program. Next year's conference is scheduled Feb. 26-28 in Atlanta, and it won't be long before it's time to start planning that trip! Kelly and Rose also got a lot of positive feedback from their newsletter presentation, and Bonnie's session on aerial photography was a hit.

Kathleen solicited ideas for EAA's Women with Wings Exhibit and ways to incorporate more women into the EAA museum in general. Let her know if you have any suggestions!

We also discussed a new fundraising idea heard at the conference: Booking a chapter cruise. Kelly will be talking to a travel agent to find out more. Stay tuned for details!

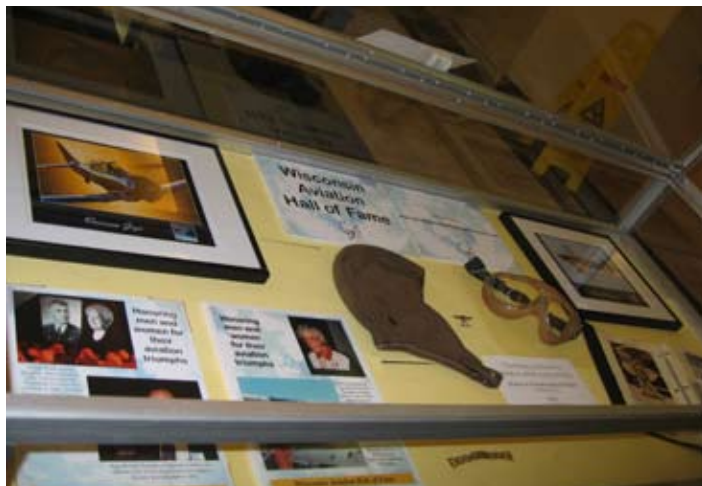
## Announcements:

- Mark your calendars! The 2009 International Women in Aviation Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia, February 26-28.
- Rose has created a business card template for each chapter member to edit and print for their own use when they're out 'n about representing the chapter, or if they meet someone who would be interested in our chapter. If you have questions or issues, or if you haven't received the file, please contact Rose.
- The 99s are holding their annual pancake breakfast in Watertown on June 7. This would be a great (and fun!) group outing, please let Kelly know if you are interested in attending.

## Out 'n About... by Kathleen Witman

At the February WAI-Oshkosh board meeting, the group discussed outreach projects for Women's History month. We planned to exhibit chapter information at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Women's Center, but we wanted to do more. I remembered that the Oshkosh Public Library had sent me a bibliography of books about female pilots last year and thought they might be interested in including a women in aviation theme as part of their women's history exhibit. Unfortunately, I had lost the bibliography during a computer upgrade. With hesitation (and embarrassment) I contacted the library's assistant director Joan Mueller for another copy and asked would the library consider including books and movies about female aviators in its exhibit. Not only did she give me a copy (which will be up on the chapter website soon!), but one of her coworker's contacted me a few days later about exhibiting.

The library pulled all the books and movies (we discovered there aren't many movies featuring female pilots—an opportunity for some aspiring filmmaker) and displayed them with some personal



items, artifacts from EAA, and framed material from the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame. We also added some of Bonnie Kratz's framed photographs of female pilots. The library created four eye-catching displays that garnered lots of attention from patrons and a spike in those books being checked out.

The new partnership between the Oshkosh Public Library and WAI-Oshkosh was a win/win for all. The library highlighted an area of its collection and

they invited us to exhibit again in the future. They also let us hold our March meeting in the beautifully renovated Waters Room and said if we ever wanted to do a presentation about WAI to local teens, they'd be glad to host it. What more could you ask for from your local library!

If you weren't able to make it downtown to see the displays, photos are up on the chapter website at [www.oshkoshwai.org](http://www.oshkoshwai.org).

## WomenVenture 2008 and Women Soar

### WomenVenture 2008

July 28-August 3, 2008

Announced at the WAI Conference in San Diego this month, this year's EAA AirVenture ([www.airventure.org](http://www.airventure.org)) will include a special initiative to promote the role that women have played in aviation and to encourage more women to become active in aviation. A host of activities will highlight women's role in aviation while inspiring other women to join the pilot ranks. Seminars, speakers, and networking functions will allow women show-goers to learn about women's remarkable contributions to aviation as well as career paths and other life-enhancing benefits of aviation. The event will culminate on Friday, August 1, 2008, kicking off with the WAI Celebrity Breakfast at the Nature Center, followed by a massive gathering of women pilots in AeroShell Square—no doubt the larg-

est assemblage of women pilots in history.

[www.airventure.org/womenventure](http://www.airventure.org/womenventure)

### Women Soar You Soar

July 28-29, 2008

Ever wonder what it's like to fly a plane? Or soar into space? EAA's Women Soar *You Soar* is the ideal place for high school girls to find out. Now in its fourth year, the unique program introduces 150 girls to more than 30 women, from engineers to fighter pilots, working in a variety of aviation and aerospace fields. It's a two-day event filled with career exploration, discovery, inspiration, and fun. Activities include flight simulation, workshops, wing rib assembly, mentor sessions, and more.

[www.airventure.org/womensoar](http://www.airventure.org/womensoar)

## Emergency Maneuver Training Scholarship

The International Aerobatic Club (IAC) and CP Aviation are offering a scholarship to receive Emergency Maneuver Training (EMT).

The scholarship aims to promote aviation safety through unusual attitude and aerobatic training. It includes three modules of the EMT course: stall/spin awareness, in-flight emergencies, and basic aerobatics. The course will be

taught in a Citabria and Decathlon. To be qualified the recipient must be a member of IAC and hold a private pilot certificate.

CP Aviation is a family-owned business located in Santa Paula, California. They maintain a fleet of aerobatic airplanes ranging from a Citabria to a Pitts S-2B, and numerous Cessnas. CP is also home to three of the country's Master CFI-Aerobatic instructors, Rich Stowell, Judy

Phelps, and Patrick Dugan. For more information on the scholarship visit [www.cpaviation.com](http://www.cpaviation.com) and click on "scholarship".

The scholarship application must be received by June 15, 2008, and will be awarded during EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2008. It must be used within one year of the date awarded; transportation, lodging, and meals are not included.

## Upcoming Events

### Movie Night

The Aviation Heritage Center in Sheboygan Falls will be showing "Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines" on Friday, April 11 at 7 p.m. on their 36-foot movie screen. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. Local aviation historian Dan Miller will introduce the film and provide some aviation facts related to it. The movie is free, beverages, candy, and popcorn will be available for purchase. Organizers suggest you bring your own lawn chair, sleeping bag, or blanket. Some folding chairs will be available.

For more information contact Lorri Rommelfaenger at 920-467-2043 or visit [www.sheboyganaviation.com](http://www.sheboyganaviation.com).



### Pancakes and Flying Tigers

EAA Chapter 766 is hosting a pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 12 at the Aviation Heritage Center in Sheboygan Falls. All proceeds from the breakfast will go to the center. Breakfast will be served from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. with a free presentation from Lt. Col. Ted Mullin, a World War II Flying Tiger. Mullin is originally from Sheboygan and will talk about his experiences in WWII, as well as sharing other aviation stories.

For more information contact Lorri Rommelfaenger at 920-467-2043 or visit [www.sheboyganaviation.com](http://www.sheboyganaviation.com).

### Southern Wisconsin AirFEST

The Southern Wisconsin AirFEST will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 24-25, in Janesville, Wisconsin. The Canadian Snowbirds, the U.S. Air Force F-15 West Coast Demonstration Team, the U.S. Navy F-18 East Coast Demonstration Team, The U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, aerobatic pilot Mike Goulian, and many more have all been confirmed to appear. For more information visit [www.swairfest.org](http://www.swairfest.org).

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