

August 22, 2006

**Next meeting:**  
September 19, 2006  
6:00 p.m.  
Sonex Aircraft, LLC  
511 Aviation Road  
Oshkosh, WI 54902

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## Websites of interest

Women in Aviation, International  
[www.wai.org](http://www.wai.org)

Wings Around the World  
[www.worldwings.com](http://www.worldwings.com)

## Chapter Hosts First Summer Hangar Social

The Women in Aviation Oshkosh Chapter held its first member recruitment event on Tuesday, August 22, at Joe and Jeri Norris's hangar at Wittman Regional. More than 20 people attended. All enjoyed the exceptional summer weather, delicious food, lots of chapter participation, and the fabulous aviation setting. Plus Joe surprised the group by showing off his new toy, a beautifully restored 1942 Waco. What an amazing plane!

Another highlight of the evening was meeting our three guests. Judi Wyrembeck is a longtime EAA convention volunteer from Oshkosh, while Danielle Schoeneck is new to aviation. She's a first-year A&P student at Fox Valley Tech and works part-time at nearby Myers Aviation. Maria Tzougros, our third guest, drove more than an hour and a half from Madison to meet us. She announced that she was using the event to kickoff her return to aviation, which includes earning her private ticket. What an honor for us. All three women seemed interested in joining the chapter and, of course, we hope they do.

Thanks to Joe and Jeri Norris for sharing their world of aviation to the group, thanks to everyone for bringing appetizers and stories, and thanks to Bonnie Kratz for taking great photographs!

Photos from the event have already been added to [www.oshkoshwai.org](http://www.oshkoshwai.org) in the photos section under "Summer Hangar Social."



Standing (L-R): Marion Blakely, Maria Tzougros, Danielle Schoeneck, Fred Stadler, Noel Marshall, Mary Jones, Joe Norris, Greg Deimer, Kelly Nelson, Nate Nelson, Debi Walker, Betty Monnett. Kneeling (L-R): Carol Stadler, Trish Deimer, Jeri Norris, Kathleen Witman.

Bonnie Kratz



Joe's Waco in front of the Norris hangar, site of the chapter's first Summer Hangar Social.

Bonnie Kratz

## Meeting Notes

During the chapter meeting August 22, Kelly went over the new updates to the chapter website and newsletter, and Kathleen announced a change to our regularly scheduled October chapter meeting.

Recent updates to the chapter website include information on how to join Women in Aviation and our chapter, updates to the links section, links to more information in the meeting schedule, and information on our chapter outreach efforts. Among the more earth-shattering announcements of the night, Kelly also reported that the chapter website is now "Google-able" by typing in "WAI Oshkosh."

A members only section of the website has also been created fea-

turing a downloadable Member Spotlight form and chapter brochure (please print and distribute!), and a reference area with links to information sources regarding women in aviation. If you have anything to add, or suggestions for things you'd like to see added to the site in general, please let Kelly know. Likewise, if you would like access to the members only section, e-mail Kelly ([knelson@eaa.org](mailto:knelson@eaa.org)) for instructions.

Starting with June's edition of Aviatrix Logbook, the newsletter has been expanded to two pages. If you hear of any news or events that may be of interest to your fellow chapter members, please pass it along (with photos if you have them too!) to Kelly

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## Announcements:

- WAI is looking for a Chapter Relations Manager to replace Gerri Schultz who will be retiring. Responsibilities include working at trade shows and the WAI annual conference and serving on WAI education and membership committees. The position is located at WAI Headquarters in Alexandria, Ohio. Mail resume and cover letter to WAI, or fax to 937/839-4645.

## Reminders:

- The deadline to apply for any of this year's WAI scholarships is November 3! Visit [www.wai.org](http://www.wai.org) to see if there are any you're interested in.

## WASP Tribute Dedicated at the Highground

By Rose Dorcey

During World War II, an elite group of young, daring female pilots became pioneers and heroes. They served diligently and proudly, ferrying and testing aircraft, towing targets and training men to fly. They were the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), the first women trained to fly U.S. military aircraft. When the war was over, the government disbanded them and sent them home. In the late 1970s, the women finally received veteran status for their service.

On July 31, a WASP tribute was dedicated at The Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville, Wisconsin. Carol Hamilton, a Coachella Valley (California) Ninety-Nine, led an effort to place the tribute in Wisconsin. She said she wanted people to remember the pioneers who had a dream to fly and despite great odds, learned to fly.

"We hope this tribute will stand for centuries and be an inspiration to young women to remember the pioneers of women in aviation long ago, young women like themselves who dreamed to fly and despite great odds, earned the well-deserved right to do so," Hamilton said at the ceremony.

WASP Dorothy Swain Lewis, an accomplished author, artist, equestrian and pilot, created a statue of a woman pilot that represents their service to their country. An inscription at the base of the bronze reads, "We live in the wind and the sand and our eyes are on the stars."

Cholene Espinoza was the keynote speaker. Espinoza is a former U.S. Air Force U-2 pilot, an author, and United Airlines captain. She said that it's rare to have the opportunity to meet the pioneers who blazed the trail for her and others like her, and sees the tribute as one that will encourage youth to consider aviation as a career choice.

Of over 1,000 women who served as WASP, approximately 250 are still alive. Most of the nine WASP who attended drove three hours from EAA AirVenture Oshkosh where they held a weeklong reunion. Each had the opportunity to say a few words to the audience. In a moving remembrance, the Highground's liberty bell rang as the names of the 38 WASP who died in the performance of duty were read.

The tribute is one of five to be dedicated throughout the country. Sister tributes are located at Avenger Field, Texas; U.S. Air Force Museum, Ohio; U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado; and at the Confederate Air Force Museum in Texas.

The Highground overlooks miles of forested hills and valleys in Central Wisconsin. The 140-acre Highground Veterans Memorial Park relies on volunteers and contributions. It receives no federal or state funding. The greatest priority of The Highground management team is to honor and serve veterans and their families by providing a place open to healing and education. Other tributes on the grounds include the World War II Globe, Gold



Carol Hamilton and WASP Dorothy Swain-Lewis at the WASP memorial July 31.

Rose Dorcey

Star Families, Legacy Stones Walkway, The Doughboy, and a Viet Nam tribute, Fragments.

Donations to offset the costs of the WASP tribute are still needed, and can be sent to The Highground earmarked "WASP tribute." For more information visit: [www.thehighground.org](http://www.thehighground.org)

## Member Spotlight: Marion Blakely



**1. Job title:** Camp Administrator / Administrative Assistant, EAA Museum & Resident Education

**2. What I enjoy most about my job:** I enjoy working with staff, families, and the public to help them enjoy a fun and educational experience at EAA. With the variety of activities in the Education office, this varies from renting the Lodge to quilters and other groups, scheduling school programs and overnight visits, promoting and expediting Air Academy, Fantasy Flight and other camps, arranging for food service, and during May and December, stepping back into the classroom as an instructor for the 1000+ students here for Space Week programs.

**3. When I am not at work I am:** Involved in church activities, 4-H, Fond du Lac

Agri-Business Council, or the Fond du Lac County Historical Society, reading, cooking, in my garden, or talking on the phone to my children and grandchildren. (You'll notice cleaning my house is NOT on the list!)

**4. Aviation affiliation:** EAA member, Women in Aviation-Oshkosh Charter member

**6. Favorite Airplane:** 1<sup>st</sup>-1946 Ercoupe N99216, 2<sup>nd</sup> B-17 Aluminum Overcast

**7. One thing most people don't know about me:** As a couple of "city kids", my husband and I learned how to and ran a Registered Jersey dairy farm for 25 years that grew into one of the top ten Jersey herds in Wisconsin.

**8. My greatest accomplishment in life so far:** We raised three children who are all wonderful people; college graduates, married, and employed.

**9. One thing I want to do before I die:** I would like to travel to all 50 states, Europe, and Australia.

**10. The person I most admire:** My

mother, who after dropping out of high school in the Depression to help support her family, went back to school after being widowed in her 50's, and had a successful career as a much-loved nurse while continuing to volunteer in many community groups.

**11. The latest CD that I bought:** "Canticum", by the Swedish Choir that visited our church, and Josh Groban.

**12. My most favorite food and/or restaurant:** Seafood, anywhere.

**13. My least favorite place to be:** anyplace with smoke

**14. My favorite place to be:** In the kitchen cooking for my family

**15. Why I joined Women in Aviation:** I work in an aviation museum, with education programs, and while I'm not a pilot, aviation has part of my family and friends for many years. I enjoy encouraging young women to get involved in this exciting and challenging field, and helping them find ways to make it happen for them.

## MEETING NOTES

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for inclusion in the chapter newsletter. Thank you to those who have contributed already!

The next meeting has been moved to October 19, a Thursday. Martha Ackmann, author of *Mercury 13: The Untold Story*, and Wally Funk, one of the Mercury 13, will be speaking at UW-Oshkosh as part of their speaker series. Nate Nelson has arranged a room for us in Reeve Memorial Union from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. we will all move to the Reeve Ballroom to listen to Martha and Wally. The cost to attend the presentation is \$2, the chapter will cover admission for members.

The October meeting will be one of our last meetings before the end of the year, so we have a lot of brainstorming and planning to do for 2007-be sure to bring your ideas to help us have another great year!