

October 17, 2006

**Next meeting:**  
November 21, 2006  
6:00 p.m.  
Sonex Aircraft, LLC  
511 Aviation Road  
Oshkosh, WI 54902

## OFFICERS President

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## Websites of interest

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

Sporty's Free FAA Practice Tests  
[www.sportys.com/faatest](http://www.sportys.com/faatest)

## Chapter Meets With Ackmann and Funk

What a fun time the Oshkosh Chapter had on Thursday, October 19. First, we had the opportunity to have lunch at the Water City Grill with Wally Funk, Martha Ackmann, author of *The Mercury 13*, and Martha's father. It was delightful to meet them and experience their personalities first hand.

It was also interesting to learn how Martha came about writing the book. She figured if she didn't know about the Mercury 13, other people probably didn't either. Thus, she did the research and wrote the book. And Wally Funk's career as a pilot and NTSB inspector is one interesting story after another.

That evening, the Chapter attended Martha and Wally's presentations in Reeve Memorial Union at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh where Martha spoke in detail about the book, and Wally described what it was really like to be a member of the Mercury 13 testing process.

I don't know what vitamins Wally takes, but I want some, too! I thought she was literally going to



Kelly Nelson

Laurie Probst, Bob Warner, Noel Marshall, Mary Jones, Kathleen Witman, and Wally Funk after the presentation at UW-Oshkosh.

jump off the stage at one point!

What an interesting group of characters aviation brings together!

-Mary Jones

## Annual Report

### Happy Anniversary to Us

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since a group of about 20 people gathered at the EAA Lodge to talk about forming a Women in Aviation chapter in Oshkosh. We've done so much since October 25, 2005. Although we didn't become a provisional chapter until January 2006, here's a brief recap of the year:

- Participated in EAA Family Day
- Gave a Girl Scout presentation
- Volunteered as scholarship judges
- Held a hangar social at the Norris Hangar
- Made several field trips—Gulfstream, Basler Turbo Conversions
- Attended the Women in Aviation Celebrity Breakfast at EAA AirVenture
- Received media recognition on several occasions in the Oshkosh *Northwestern*
- Hosted a luncheon for Mercury 13 author Martha Ackmann and pilot Wally Funk and attended their

presentation at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

Additionally, we have a cool website, e-newsletter, brochure, and catchy chapter logo. We're off to a good start. Let's keep the momentum going!

### Official Chapter Status

The paperwork for becoming an official WAI chapter is almost complete. Trish Deimer waded through several tedious steps to complete and file the Articles of Incorporation and we received our filing number within a week. Phew!

Marion Blakely and Trish have completed the bylaws, and Kathleen Witman is finishing the final notes for the annual report. There will be copies of each document at the next meeting on November 21st. Comments are welcome. Thanks Marion and Trish for your contributions.

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## Announcements:

- If our Chapter has 10 member attending the 2007 WAI Conference in Orlando, we are eligible for a rebate. So far we have Kathleen, Kelly and Mary have confirmed they will be attending. If you are planning on going, or want to know more, contact Kelly ([knelson@eaa.org](mailto:knelson@eaa.org)). The deadline for the Early Bird conference rate is December 15.
- EAA is hosting a Girl Scout overnight on November 11. If you're available to help the girls earn their badges that day, please contact Betty at [betty@sonexaircraft.com](mailto:betty@sonexaircraft.com).
- An updated PDF of the chapter brochure with the 2007 schedule on it is available to download and print in the Members Only section of the chapter website. Please e-mail Kelly ([knelson@eaa.org](mailto:knelson@eaa.org)) for directions on how to log on, if you're not already familiar.

# 2007 Meeting Schedule

\*Dates, times, and activities subject to change.

<b>January 16</b>	<b>Speaker:</b> Gene Chase 6 p.m. at the EAA AirAcademy Lodge
<b>February 20</b>	<b>Chapter meeting</b> 6 p.m. at Sonex Aircraft, LLC
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Speaker:</b> Rose Dorsey, Wisconsin Aviation History 6 p.m. at Sonex Aircraft, LLC
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Chapter meeting</b> 6 p.m. at Sonex Aircraft, LLC
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Tour:</b> Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., Appleton TBD
<b>June 19</b>	<b>Chapter meeting</b> 6 p.m. at Sonex Aircraft, LLC
<b>July</b>	NO MEETING
<b>August 21</b>	<b>Summer Hangar Social</b> TBD
<b>September 18</b>	<b>Chapter meeting</b> 6 p.m. at Sonex Aircraft, LLC
<b>October</b>	<b>Muncil's</b>
<b>November 21</b>	<b>Chapter meeting</b> 6 p.m. at Sonex Aircraft, LLC
<b>December</b>	<b>Holiday Gathering</b> TBD

# Member Wins Photography Awards

Bonnie Kratz has won second and third place in the General Aviation category for the 2006 Aviation Week & Space Technology Photo Contest. Her photos will be featured in a special winners' section of the December 18/25, 2006 issue of *Aviation Week* magazine.

The winning photos were of a Newport 28 replica over Lake Poygan during EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2006, and EAA's Pitcarin Mailwing flying just south of Fond du Lac. Watch the [www.oshkoshwai.org](http://www.oshkoshwai.org) for links to the photos and article when they are published.

Congratulations Bonnie!



## MEETING NOTES

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### Girl Scout Outreach Project

In addition to offering the Women in Aviation Aerospace Badge Kit to local Girl Scouts, our chapter will also partner with EAA and its Girl Scout Program at the EAA AirVenture Museum. Crystal Schroeder from EAA's education department just revamped the program and will host the first Girl Scout group for an overnight on November 11. EAA offers two fee-based programs, an over-

night program and a day program. WAI-Oshkosh's role will be to assist Crystal and others from the education department in teaching the girls about aviation, and to let local troops know the program is available. If you're available Saturday, November 11, to work with the girls, please contact Betty Monnett at [betty@sonexaircraft.com](mailto:betty@sonexaircraft.com). Betty will be at the museum from 12-4 p.m.

## Member Spotlight: Kelly Nelson, Vice President



**1. Job title:** Associate Editor, EAA Publications, and Administrative Assistant, Basler Flight Service

**2. What I enjoy most about my job:** The people and the aviation culture. It's so different from everything else I've experienced;

I can't imagine a day when the uniqueness of this industry won't interest me.

**3. When I am not at work I am:** Hanging out with my hubby, doing whatever. I generally spend too much time trying to clean my house. Emphasis on the *trying*.

**4. Aviation affiliation:** Private Pilot since 3/2006, slowly building time toward an instrument rating. Member of EAA and WAI. I fly a cheap Cessna 172 through the employee flying club at Basler.

**6. Favorite Airplane:** The sexiest GA airplane alive is the Beech Baron.

**7. One thing most people don't know about me:** I was an exchange student in Germany my junior year in high school, am fluent in German, and want to raise my kids bilingual. I also used to be in a German folk dancing group. I polka with pride.

**8. My greatest accomplishment in life so far:**

Earning my private pilot certificate (It's hard work!), and finding a job in my chosen field right out of college.

**9. One thing I want to do before I die:** Besides traveling to all the really cool places in the world, I want to do something important/noteworthy. When I die, I want it to be a local news story (at the very least).

**12. The person I most admire:** My mom.

**11. The latest CD that I bought:** Keith Urban's "Be Here" –it has our wedding song on it.

**12. My most favorite food and/or restaurant:** I love ice cream, and German home cooking: schnitzel, goulasch, sauerkraut...yummmmm

**13. My least favorite place to be:** a doctor's office.

**14. My favorite place to be:** Germany. I'd love to travel Europe with my husband and my camera.

**15. Why I joined Women in Aviation:** Because women working in the aviation industry is pretty rad. It fascinates me how few women are pilots, and I think we aviatrixes need to stick together. I'm also real big on mentoring newcomers because I know I could have used some of that myself, back in the day!

### A Look at 2007

One of the goals for 2007 is to let more people know we exist. There's a whole lotta aviation enthusiasts in Wisconsin and it's up to each of us to tell them who we are.

Like many jobs worth doing, it helps to have the right tools. Here are a few tools you can use to promote WAI Oshkosh.

- Color chapter brochures;
- The WAI-Oshkosh website—[www.oshkoshwai.org](http://www.oshkoshwai.org);
- A great schedule of events planned for next year;
- Your own testimonials.

If you haven't seen the slick brochure yet, you can get some at the November 21 meeting. Thanks for putting it together, Kelly.

Thanks to everyone who submitted their ideas for chapter events and speakers for 2007.

—Kathleen Witman, President