



March 1, 2006

Next Meeting:
March 21, 2006
6:00 p.m.
at Sonex Aircraft, LLC
511 Aviation Road
Oshkosh, WI 54902

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Web Sites of Interest:
Women in Aviation, International
www.wai.org

Women in Aviation Resource Center
www.women-in-aviation.com

At Our Last Meeting...

Aviation photographer Bonnie Bartel gave a fascinating talk and PowerPoint presentation about her career as an aviation photographer on February 21st (see her speech on Page 2). Turnout at the presentation was less than expected, but not bad for our first event. Thanks to Kristy and Kelly for their public relations efforts and to everyone who was able to make the meeting.

Oshkosh *Northwestern* reporter Amanda Wimmer interviewed Bonnie beforehand and featured WAI-Oshkosh Chapter's official photographer in the paper the following day. Here's a link to the story in case you missed it:

http://www.thenorthwestern.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060222/OS_H0101/60221047/1128. Amanda also handles the coverage of non-profits for the newspaper and said she'd like to do a longer story

At Our Next Meeting ...

We will discuss the presentation, field trip speaker - what worked, what didn't, what topics/speakers would you like to see in the future, etc. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Don't forget to send your member bios and photos to Kelly this month! If you don't have a photo already, set up a time to have Bonnie take one. The bios will be used on the website.

Also, the Chapter photo WILL be taken at the March meeting - practice your smile ☺

Name your newsletter ...

*** VOTE ***

Email your VOTE to kwitman@eaa.org or
knelson@eaa.org

The Aviatrix
Our Voice, Women in Aviation
The Oshkosh AeroPress
Oshkosh AeroJournal
The Aviatrix Logbook (News or Press)
The Oil Rag
The Checklist
The Paper Airplane

Other News !

Female Aviators Rising in India

<http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2006/02/26/1407831.htm>

Female Pilots get their Shot in the Iraqi Skies

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/26/AR2006022601382.html>

Women Among Pilots Flying Aerial Display at Asian Aerospace

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/195213/1/.html>

Quote of the Month:

You haven't seen a tree until you've seen its shadow from the sky

...Amelia Earhart

Volunteers Still Needed for EAA Family Flightfest

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP ... WAI Oshkosh will be staffing the Make and Take Educational Activities table during EAA's Family Flightfest, Saturday, March 18 and Sunday, March 19. Volunteers are needed both days for a 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. shift, and a 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. shift. Please contact Kathleen for more information or to volunteer.



We'll be talking about our logo !



Aviation Photographer, Bonnie Bartel – her words to you ...



Aviation photography, like most aviation careers, is a male dominated profession. Having said that, it was never my intent to “break” into a non-traditional field. I am only doing what I was meant to do.

My passion for aviation started as a child. My mother loved to watch the airplanes take off and land at Mitchell Field in Milwaukee and took us children along with her. As a grade-schooler, I built models of Gemini spacecraft and followed every flight to Walter Cronkite’s commentary.

The year I graduated from high school in Fond du Lac, EAA came to Oshkosh with the aerobatic competition being held in Fond du Lac. I married a pilot, am the mother of three children and attended the Oshkosh fly-in almost every year. I was a stay at home mom and my only goal was to be a good wife and mother. I loved it with a passion ... but was unprepared for the empty nest. My marriage ended and I was faced with the questions ...

WHO AM I ... AND WHAT ON EARTH AM I GOING TO DO FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?

I took the position of administrative assistant in the EAA photo department ...at which time I discovered my passion for photography. When after 5 years I was promoted out of the department, it was time to spread my wings. I took an airline job in Appleton and then in Virginia. Working for the airlines allowed me to travel for the first time. My travels took me to Seattle, Atlanta, New Zealand, Paris, Aruba, and to my beloved Ireland three times ... ALWAYS WITH CAMERA IN HAND. My first professional camera was a Canon A2E.

When I turned 50, it was time to pursue my photography full time ... to quote, it’s only too late if you don’t start now.” I became a Walmart portrait photographer until my return to EAA two years ago as a staff photographer ... where I have the privilege to be Jim Koepnick’s protegee ... I am learning from the best of the best. Air to air photography is the highlight of my job and reaps the rewards of magazine covers and contest awards. A year ago one of my unmet goals was a magazine cover ... today I have 10. Last April I shot my first air-to-air ... last AirVenture I was given the responsibility of the air-to-air operations at the last minute and flew almost every day. This next April at Sun ‘n Fun, I will have my own photo plane and pilot. In the past conventions, I was the point person who kept the photo operations running effectively...this next year I will have a scheduler so that I can run the air-to-air operations. I use a Canon MarkII with a 70-200 image stabilized lens for air-to-air.

My normal day to day shoots, though not as high profile, require as much photographic skill and include new products: Article illustrations, merchandise for both magazine ads and web catalogues, employee badge photos, and web site/pr event documentation.

The switch from film to digital has opened up a whole new area of required knowledge involving metadata and Photoshop skills. The digital librarian aspect of the job is a necessary evil and my least liked requirement of the job.

A year ago I started my own business ... Bonnie Bartel Photography and specialize in portraits and weddings. At this point I average a dozen portraits or weddings a year. Ideally I’d like to double or triple that this year. My only formal training was a correspondence course on photography ... that I never did finish. However, I did read and reread every book in the course. My quest to improve my technical photo skills will never end.

My goals are much larger than they were two years ago. Who would have thought ... by following my passions of both aviation and photography ... I am having the time of my life.