HOSTED BY

St. Louis Regional AIRPORT

arc Air Race Classic

49TH ANNUAL AIR RACE CLASSIC 2026

ST. LOUIS REGIONAL AIRPORT

THE SPIRIT AND FREEDOM OF RACING

JUNE 23 - 26, 2026

OFFICIAL PROGRAM



Table of Contents

2026 ARC Sponsors	2
Racer Index	3
Sponsors and Advertisers Index	3
Letter from the President	4
Special Thanks to Our Racers and Volunteers Across the Country	4
Board of Directors	5
Assistant Directors	5
General Information and Schedule	8
Race Officials and Judges	6
Airplane Qualifications, Race Handicaps and Scoring	6
ARC Past Presidents	7
Air Race Classic Mission Statement	7
2026 Route Map and Race Mileage	9
2026 Stops	10
East Alton, Illinois (KALN)	10-11
Frankfort, Kentucky (KFFT)	12
Spartanburg, South Carolina (KSPA)	13
Douglas, Georgia (KDGH)	14
Tanner, Alabama (KDCU)	15
Magnolia, Mississippi (KMCB)	16
Russellville, Arkansas (KRUE)	17
Buchanan County, Missouri (KSTJ)	18
Prairie du Chein, Wisconsin (KPDC)	19
Mt. Vernon, Illinois (KLGD)	20-21
Team Biographies	25-58
Air Race Classic History	60
The Women Who Preserved Air Racing	61
Top Ten Winners of 2025	62
Intercollegiate Class Challenge	63
Awards and Prizes	64
Ten Years of Top Ten Air Race Classic Winners	65
Endowment Fund	66
Silent Auction	66
Where We've Been	68
2027 Route Map and Race Mileage	69
Volunteers – Behind the Scenes	70

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Worldwide Technology Raceway
ZenBusiness

arc Air Race Classic

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Racer Index

Ana Isabel Adona	46	Joy Halcott	38	Ploychomphu Nikomrat	31
Lucy Altwies	56	Laura Hall	28	Sydney Nimerick	53
Chloe Artus	54	Kaetlin Halseth	51	Michelle Noland	51
Hadley Ary	57	Isabella Hauri	40	Olivia Olinger	31
Ashley Asselin	42	Aspen Hood	64	Sydney Oyer	44
Lydia Baldwin	28	Hannah Isennock	49	Maggie Peacock	58
Aubrey Baril	27	Kaitlyn Jackson	29	Nguyen Pham	51
Jeri Barrientos	26	Alyscea Jackson	45	Kierstyn Pierce	25
Theresa Bazacos	25	Amy Jayo	34	Bailey Pierce	45
Susan Beall	32	Sarah Jelliss	55	Sofia Pirola	52
Joanna Bergey Shisler	34	Kate Kennedy	29	Jennifer Prutsman-Pfeiffer	33
Natalie Bianchino	55	Lila Knapp	27	Varvara Rahoizha	35
Annika Bobek	44	Lauren Kollar	43	Julia Rew	45
Josie Boelter	43	Phyllis Kollar	43	Nancy Rohr	30
Rachel Brindley	48	Rachael Kornoely	47	Jennifer Ropka	33
Josey Campbell	35	Esther Kotyk	56	Travasha Runyon	49
Melissa Carlson	50	Claudia Koutsantanou	44	Bisola Saliu	43
Bethany Carter	30?	Moriah Langford	41	Sophia Schappe	39
Isabella Castro	52	Lindsey LeBlanc	50	Katrina Schlenker	40
Malinda Caywood	32	Ashley Legoas	42	Allison Schlotthauer	52
Jocelyn Ciotti	53	Chloe Leonard	42	Kendal Schulte	56
Liana Curcio	50	Renn Ludford	52	Sarah Schumann	41
Christy De La Torre	52	Alisha Maake	27	Doralisa Sherrod	38
Taylor Deebs	58	Alexandra Marsh	44	M Alicia Sikes	30
Deborah Dreyfuss	38	Caroline Mason	57	Maddison Simkins	41
Megan Dukes	51	Lydia Maynard	44	Grace Soneral	47
Emma Dyer	47	Katrina McLeod	25	Sydney Sullivan	40
Elorah Erasga	46	Mary McMahon	26	Susan Tallieu	26
Ezri Faivre	29	Elizabeth Menozzi	30	Brenda Thibodeau	32
Megan Fessler	25	Davette Miller	34	Rebecca Treis	55
Lara Gaerte	32	Madelyn Miskell	49	Kennedy Troyer	48
Katelyn Gall	56	Blessing Mupinga	56	Jeanné Willerth	45
Minnetta Gardinier	26	Madison Myers	48	Mary Wunder	34
Campbell Glasgow	57	Souraya Nakib	31	Caroline Yuska	35
Grace Gray	39	Catherine Naudin	54		
Sophia Grimm	50	Jemayla Nelsonwood	38		

Sponsors & Advertisers Index

Abingdon Company	36-37	Commemorative Air Force	33	Pre Flight	60
AD toolbox	73	iFly EFB	39	Republic Airways	23
Aircraft Spruce	39	Lightspeed aviation	Inside cover	R&L Aviation	23
Air Power	39	LiveATC	67	SiriusXM	22
Bad Elf	72	MAProgress	33	The 99s	69
Beau Baird	39	Marolyn Wilson	46	Women in Aviation	33
Beechcraft Heritage	73	NorthWest Flight Service	24		

President's Welcome

It is with great pleasure that I welcome each of you to the 49th Annual Air Race Classic. This year, we celebrate the 97th anniversary of the first Women's Air Derby! Just as it was then, we celebrate the camaraderie of women pilots, as well as inspiring others to go beyond to reach their dreams. The current Air Race Classic is a 501(c)(3) organization focuses on encouraging and educating women pilots and preserving and promoting the tradition of female aviation pioneers. Each year, the Air Race Classic visits new airports and communities during our annual race. This year's race starts in East Alton, IL at the St. Louis Regional Airport. The Terminus is at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, in Mount Vernon, IL. It is my honor to work with each of the Air Race Classic Directors, Assistant Directors and Race Officials who volunteer thousands of hours annually planning, executing and managing the race. I am truly thankful for their generosity, talent, and commitment to all aspects of this event. Just as the original participants of the 1929 Women's Air Derby represented some of the best women aviators of their day, the lady racers who participate now embody some of the finest female aviators flying today, representing multiple facets of women in aviation in our country.

In addition to the ARC Board of Directors and racers, the Air Race Classic would not be possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of the hundreds of volunteers throughout the country. Committees across the United States have been planning for several years to welcome the ARC teams at this year's Start, Terminus, and each of the enroute stops. Enroute stops allow for flyby timing points, refueling, and planned overnight stops for the race teams. Since the race route changes every year, new and returning volunteers are recruited for each race. Those individuals may work as timers, shuttle drivers, safety check inspectors; anything that needs done to make the race a success. They may be former racers, aviation enthusiasts who follow their hometown racer or team, and pilots willing to travel to the stops to be a part of the competitive camaraderie that is the Air Race Classic. Along with our volunteers, scores of loyal fans across the country are eagerly anticipating the arrival of ARC racers in their hometowns. We are extraordinarily grateful for their enthusiasm and support; the perpetuity of this one-of-a-kind race is due to the dedication and efforts of everyone involved! I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each you who contribute to the success of the Air Race Classic, the premier transcontinental cross-country competition for women pilots!

Air Race Classic, Inc. President,
Donna Harris



Special thanks to all our ARC volunteers for making our race a success.

KALN ST. LOUIS, IL
KFFT FRANKFORT, KY
KSPA SPARTANBURG, SC
KDQH DOUGLAS, GA
KDCU DECATUR, AL
KMCB MCCOMB, MS
KRUE RUSSELLVILLE, AR
K59 ATCHISON, KS
KSTJ ST. JOSEPH, MO
KPDC PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, W
KMVN MOUNT VERNON, IL



The Air Race Classic, inc.

The Air Race Classic Board of Directors is a diverse group of volunteers who plan and organize each year's race. Each board member donates energy, time and resources to continue and enhance the traditions of the Air Race Classic. They cover all their own expenses related to the race and any associated meetings.

Members of the ARC Board are bound by a Code of Conduct and a Code of Ethics. These codes dictate the behavior expected of Board members as they interact with other members and with those outside the organization and set out principles to mitigate conflicts of interest when Board members are racing or serving as race officials. Board member adherence to these codes is taken very seriously, and a member can be removed for non-compliance.

The Board is composed of 9-12 directors plus assistant directors, with support from past presidents, former directors and a host of volunteers across the country. New members are invited to join the board based on the needs of the organization.

Board of Directors

Donna Harris
President | San Juan Capo, CA

Alicia Sikes
Safety Officer | Quakertown, PA

Amy Myzie
Flemington, NJ

Lin Caywood
Vice President | Frederick, MD

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Gretchen Jahn
Broomfield, CO

Marolyn Wilson
Whitesboro, NY

Lara Gaerte
Fort Wayne, IN

Robin Laws
Denver, CO

2026 Airplane Qualifications, Race Handicaps, and Scoring

The Air Race Classic (ARC) is an annual VFR all-women, cross-country event flown in official ARC daylight hours. Airplanes with at least 100 horsepower (HP) and not more than 600 HP may be flown in one of three classes: Competition, Intercollegiate or Non-Competition.

Competition and Intercollegiate classes include stock and modified stock, normally aspirated, piston-powered airplanes, rated for continuous operation at maximum engine speed. Intercollegiate Class also include airplanes that limit flying at full throttle for more than take off and are equipped with a G1000 or similar monitoring equipment. Non-Competition Class includes airplanes not qualifying in Competition Class per ARC rules and those teams, not racing, but flying the event solely for education, experience, and the camaraderie of the race. Each class follows the same rules and enjoys similar flying adventures over the 2400+ statute-mile course.

Handicaps are the basis for the ARC competitive races. This is a method to allow all ARC entry-qualified make and model airplanes to compete against one another in the same race. Prior to the race, each airplane is flown to determine the handicap for that particular airplane based on its current, demonstrated best speed. During the race, designated flybys incorporate special FAA-approved flight procedures that allow all teams to be timed at the start and finish of each race leg. Winners are determined after the airplanes arrive at and cross the final finish line. Official scores are calculated for each race leg by taking an airplane's ground speed, subtracting the airplane's handicap, then any applicable penalties.

Once the first plane launches from the Start, the teams have four days to fly all race legs and to arrive at and cross the Terminus finish line. You can follow the race and see each team's progress at www.airraceclassic.org and select the Follow ARC Racers to the Finish link.

ARC Judges



Melanie Abel
Terre Haute, IN



Susan Larson
Santa Fe, NM



Cathi Sweatt
Terre Haute, IN

Race Officials

RACE CENTRAL

Lorraine Denby
Sherry Kandle

SCORING

Amy Hills
Shelley Ewalt

ARC Past Presidents



VELDA KING MAPELLI
1977-1984



PAT JETTON
1985-1987



ESTHER LOWRY SAFFORD
1988-1990



BARBARA LEWIS
1991-1993



PAULINE GLASSON
1994-1996



GENIE RAE O'KELLY
1997-1999



DOTTIE ANDERSON
2000-2002



JUDITH BOLKEMA-TOKAR
2002-2005



VICKI HUNT
2005-2006



VALDEEN WOOTON
2006-2007



MAROLYN WILSON
2008-2014



LARA GAERTE
2015-2023

Air Race Classic Mission

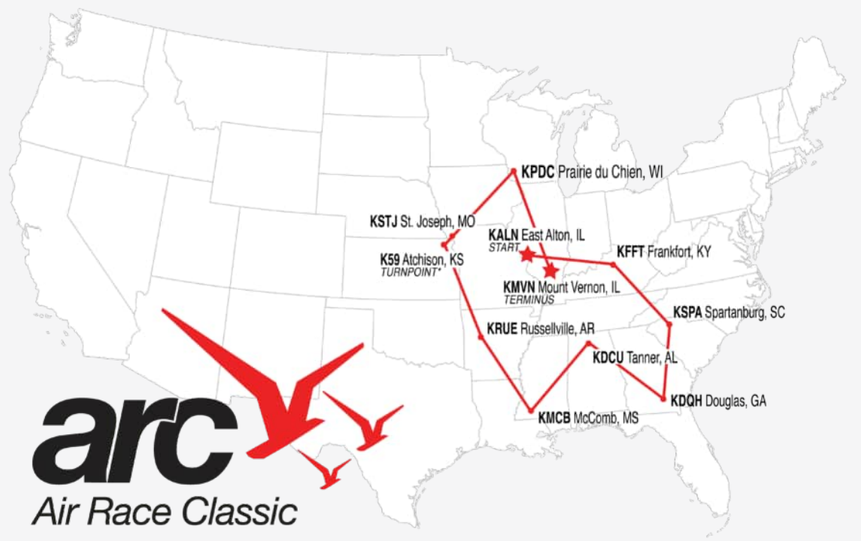
The Air Race Classic, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to: encouraging and educating current and future women pilots; increasing public awareness of general aviation; demonstrating women's roles in aviation; preserving and promoting the tradition of pioneering women in aviation.

49th Annual Air Race Classic

2026 GENERAL INFORMATION

SAT JUNE 20	**START: St. Louis Regional Airport (Alton/St. Louis, IL)** Arrival Deadline	 1000 CDT
SUN JUNE 21	All Contestent Briefing– **MANDATORY** Takeoff Banquet – **MANDATORY**	0900 CDT 1800 CDT
MON JUNE 22	All Contestants Briefing – **MANDATORY** Safety Officer's Briefing – **MANDATORY**	0800 CDT 0800 CDT
TUES JUNE 23	Takeoff Briefing – **MANDATORY** **START TAKE-OFF!**	0630 CDT 0800 CDT
FRI JUNE 26	**FINISH DEADLINE**	1700 CDT
SAT JUNE 27	**TERMINUS: MT. VERNON OUTLAND AIRPORT (MT. VERNON. IL)** Score Sheet Inquires – **DEADLINE**	 1400 CDT
SUN JUNE 28	All Contestants Breakfast (7am) & Debriefing– **MANDATORY** ARC Awards Banquet – **MANDATORY**	0900 CDT 1800 CDT

ALL times above are subject to change



2026 Leg Lengths

1	KALN	ST. LOUIS REGIONAL, ALTON | ST. LOUIS, IL	--- nm	--- sm
2	KFFT	CAPITAL CITY AIRPORT, FRANKFORT, KY	246	283
3	KSPA	SPARTANBURG DOWNTOWN, SPARTANBURG, SC	242	278
4	KDQH	DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL, DOUGLAS, GA	211	243
5	KDCU	PRYOR FIELD REGIONAL, DECATUR, AL	280	322
6	KMCB	MCCOMB/PIKE COUNTY, MCCOMB, MS	274	315
7	KRUE	RUSSELLVILLE REGIONAL, RUSSELLVILLE, AR	278	320
8	K59	AMELIA EARHART, ATCHISON, KS	277	319
9	KSTJ	Rosecrans Memorial Airport, St. Joseph, MO	17	20
10	KPDC	PRAIRIE DU CHIEN MUNICIPAL, PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WI	259	298
11	KMVN	MOUNT VERNON AIRPORT, MOUNT VERNON, IL	300	345
		[Total Distance]	2,384 nm	2,743 sm

Follow ARC Racers to the finish at airraceclassic.org

East Alton, Illinois

St. Louis Regional Airport | KALN

Welcome to St. Louis Regional Airport. Located in Illinois within the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan Area, St. Louis Regional Airport is just a short 30-minute drive from downtown St. Louis and only minutes from the scenic Riverbend area.

The airport features two intersecting runways with instrument-guided approaches and premium amenities, including a full-service FBO, 24/7 ARFF capabilities, and a Class D Air Traffic Control Tower. Regularly accommodating a wide variety of aircraft, from world-class business jets and military aircraft to helicopters and general aviation aircraft, you're certain to see some unique aircraft.

The airport has seen recent growth in activity with annual aircraft operations averaging over 42,000 primarily made up of flight training, general aviation, and business jets. The largest employer and tenant on the airfield, West Star Aviation, operates a world-class maintenance, repair, and overhaul facility which brings in the best business jets from around the world.

As the proud Start host for this year's Air Race Classic, St. Louis Regional Airport and the various partnering organizations are excited to provide for an unforgettable experience and race start. We're excited to have you here.

Stop Committee Danny Adams, Denine Anderson, Drake Blackwell, Crystal Geisen
Head Timer Margaret Wint
Airport Director Danny Adams





St. Louis Regional AIRPORT

Thank you 2026 Start Sponsors!

1st MidAmerica Credit Union
Agency for Community Transit
Associated Bank
Atomic Pinball and Arcade
Bethalto Animal Clinic
Burns & McDonnell
Bethalto Chamber of Commerce
EAA Chapter 864
Great Rivers & Routes
Hanson Professional Services
KCH Financial
Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois
Lewis & Clark Community College
Liberty Bank
Rustic Roots
Simmons Hanly Conroy Law Firm
Scott Credit Union
Stobbs & Sinclair LTD.
Truck Centers Inc.
West Star Aviation
World Wide Technology Raceway
Your Event Space

Good luck Racers!



Frankfort, Kentucky

Capital City Airport | KFFT

Nestled in the heart of the Bluegrass, Capital City Airport (KFFT) serves as the gateway to Kentucky's capitol city of Frankfort. Located just minutes from a historic downtown district and the banks of the Kentucky River, its scenic location beckons a pioneering spirit once displayed by its earliest explorers, now shared by today's modern aviators.

Originally designed to function as a post for the Kentucky Air National Guard in the early 1950s, Capital City Airport now operates under the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and coinciding Department of Aviation (KDA), making it one of the few state-owned and operated airports in the area. Its well-maintained 5,000-foot runway continues to accommodate various KYANG aircraft and now boasts a state-of-the-art Air Support Facility while also serving as the base for the Kentucky State Police fleet of aircraft and a thriving general aviation community.

Prominently located along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, Capital City Airport blends two of Kentucky's longest lasting heritages. It is a common trait among visitors to frequent Buffalo Trace or Four Roses, with numerous other distilleries and wineries located nearby. Downtown Frankfort is filled with local shops and restaurants, with scenic horse farms and picturesque countryside just around the corner. Capital City Airport is strategically resting between Louisville and Lexington, it is an ideal stop for travelers exploring the region or participating in events like the Air Race Classic.

However, what truly sets Capital City Airport apart is its people. A dedicated team of airport staff and aviation professionals work together to create a safe, efficient, and friendly environment. Wings Flight Training, a based Part 141 flight school, provides quality instruction while organizations like DreamFlight Charities, an aviation-related non-profit also based at CCA, look to instill a passion for flight while enabling the next generation of industry workers. Their commitment to the aviation community ensures that every visitor – from first-time flyers to seasoned aviators – feels at home upon arrival.

Whether arriving for competition or leisure, Capital City Airport provides a warm Bluegrass welcome and a memorable introduction to all the at Frankfort and Kentucky have to offer.

Stop Chairs Sue Glisson, Terri Donner
Head Timers Jonathan Woody, Mary Woody
Airport Director Drew Underwood





Spartanburg, South Carolina

Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airpor | KSPA

Welcome to SPA. The Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport is the City's largest-owned asset and is located in the southwest section of the City off Ammons Road. Staffed by eight full-time employees and one part-time employee, the airport serves over 100 local aircraft and 5,000 general aviation airports throughout the U.S., as well as corporate jets representing many of Spartanburg's largest companies.

Airport staff is responsible for the safe and efficient operations of the airport. Collectively, they provide oversight to all limited fixed-based operators engaged in flight instruction, aircraft rental, sales, and aircraft charter. Spartanburg Airport has a 5,852-foot by 100-foot paved Instrument runway, state-of-the-art 24-hour Instrument Landing System (ILS), lighted taxiway and directional signage, jet fuel and aviation gasoline at competitive pricing, tie-down and hangar storage, aircraft maintenance and repairs, aircraft rentals and flight instruction, aircraft sales, courtesy and rental cars, pilot's lounge and passenger waiting area, three video-conferencing-ready conference rooms, propeller balancing, and aircraft weighing.

Airport History

Airport was built in 1927 | 1st airport in SC 1st official air-mail delivery – May 1st, 1928 | Charles Lindberg – 12 Oct 1927 | Airport dedicated as a memorial airport – May 29, 1928 (Granite Monument from Pacolet Quarry) | Amelia Earhart – 1931 | Eddie Rickenbacker (famous WWI Ace) 1930's | Bob Cates (WWI Ace) | Robert Turner, Palmetto Aviation owner married Doris Bell in Ford Tri-Motor Airplane over the Spartanburg Airport in 1932. 1st recorded air wedding in SC. Eastern Airlines Opens – 1931 (Delta, Piedmont and Southern follow) | GSP opens in Oct 1962, SPA becomes General Aviation Airport | All weather instrument landing systems added in 1997

Services Provided for Glider, Balloon, Helicopter and Powered Aircraft Operations

Airport Maintenance | Hangar Storage | Fuel (100 Octane and JetA) | Charter Services | Flight Training

Airport Facts

Less than 1% of airport activities are recreational related.

Spartanburg downtown Memorial Airport is the City's largest owned asset

5th largest airport in the State and 3rd largest in General Aviation Airport

$10 million economic impact, GMU $35 million, GSP, GHY

Over 69,000 aircraft takeoff and landings and 45,000 visitors yearly.

Airport Development Plan to Rehabilitate Airport Structures Includes

New/Remodeled terminal building, preserving the old terminals historic character

More T Hangars

Extension of Ray 23 and safety area, protective zone

Improve safety for the community and aircraft

Public observatory area and children's playground

Stop Chairs Mary McCutcheon, Maria Lama
Head Timer Kat Evans
Airport Manager Terry Connorton



Douglas, Georgia

Douglas Municipal Gene Chambers Airport | KDGH

Nestled in the heart of South Georgia, Douglas and Coffee County offer a welcoming blend of rich history, small-town charm, and forward-looking growth. At the center of it all is the Douglas Municipal Airport—proudly serving as a gateway to our community and a key part of its heritage.

We are honored to welcome the pilots of the Air Race Classic as they make their stop here in Douglas. Your journey represents not only skill and determination, but also a continued legacy of excellence in aviation, and we are proud to be a part of your route.

The airport's story dates back to 1928, when it was first established as part of South Georgia Junior State College. What began as a modest aviation field soon evolved into an important flight training base in the years leading up to World War II, contributing to a pivotal era in aviation history. Today, that same spirit continues as the facility serves as Douglas's municipal airport, supporting business, agriculture, and recreational aviation across the region.

Surrounding the airport is a community known for its hospitality, strong values, and quality of life. Douglas offers a supportive environment for growth, a dedicated workforce, and a close-knit atmosphere where relationships matter.

As you arrive, we hope you experience not only a well-prepared airport, but also the pride, history, and warmth of the community that calls it home. Welcome to Douglas—we're glad you're here.

Airport Director Christopher Davis





Tanner, Alabama

Pryor Field Regional Airport | KDCU

Pryor Field Regional Airport proudly welcomes the Air Race Classic coordinators, pilots, and teams to North Alabama. It is an honor to host such a distinguished group of aviators, and we are excited to be part of this inspiring event that celebrates skill, determination, and the enduring legacy of women in aviation.

Pryor Field serves as a vital gateway to North Alabama, blending rich aviation history with forward-looking innovation. Located between Decatur and Athens, Pryor Field has been a cornerstone of the region's aviation community since its establishment in 1941. Originally developed as a flight training airfield, then a military training base during World War II, the airport has evolved into a thriving public-use facility that supports business, industry, military, and recreational aviation alike.

Today, Pryor Field features a 6,107-foot runway capable of accommodating a wide range of aircraft, from general aviation to large cargo jets. Its strategic location near major highways and industrial centers makes it an attractive hub for economic development, connecting local businesses to national and global markets. The airport is also home to Pryor Flight Center, a modern fixed-base operator (FBO) that provides comprehensive services including fueling, hangar space, pilot amenities, and flight support.

Beyond infrastructure, what truly sets Pryor Field apart is its people. Under the leadership of dedicated staff and the airport authority, the facility continues to grow while maintaining a welcoming, community-focused atmosphere. Volunteers play an essential role in many of the airport's events and initiatives by contributing their time and passion to ensure success. From aviation enthusiasts to local organizations, their involvement reflects the strong community spirit that defines Pryor Field.

The airport is perhaps best known for hosting the North Alabama Airfest, a signature event that draws thousands of visitors and celebrates aviation through thrilling aerial performances and family-friendly activities. Events like Airfest highlight the airport's mission to inspire the next generation of aviators while fostering public engagement.

As Pryor Field Regional Airport continues to expand its capabilities and services, it remains grounded in its history and committed to serving as a dynamic aviation resource for North Alabama and beyond.

Stop Chair Denice Marco
Head Timer Addison Barbeau
Airport Director Adam Fox







Magnolia, Mississippi

Pike County Airport | KMCB

McComb–Pike County Airport, also known as John E. Lewis Field, serves as a significant component of the transportation infrastructure in southwest Mississippi. Situated just south of the City of McComb, the airport provides convenient access for general aviation and supports the broader economic and civic needs of Pike County. Its well-maintained runway and facilities accommodate a variety of aircraft, making it an important resource for both local and visiting pilots.

The airport supports a wide range of aviation activities that contribute to the region's connectivity and development. These activities include private and recreational flying, business and corporate aviation, and flight training operations. In addition, the airport plays a role in agricultural aviation, such as aerial application services, as well as infrastructure monitoring and inspection flights. Public service operations are also a key function, with the airport providing support for medical transport, law enforcement, and emergency response efforts when needed. Periodically, the airport also hosts community-oriented aviation events, fostering public interest and engagement in aviation.

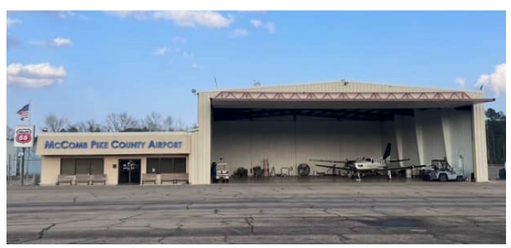
For nearly three decades, the airport's Fixed Base Operator (FBO) Air Services of Mississippi was owned and managed by Rick Simpson, whose 28 years of leadership helped establish consistent, reliable services for pilots and visitors. His tenure contributed to the airport's reputation for accessibility and dependable support. Recently, the FBO has undergone a transition in ownership and is now operated by Magnolia Air Works. Under its new management, the facility continues to provide essential services such as aircraft fueling, ground handling, and pilot accommodations, while maintaining a commitment to quality and customer service.

In summary, McComb–Pike County Airport remains a vital regional asset, supporting aviation activity, public services, and economic growth while continuing to evolve under new stewardship.

Airport Director James Lofton



MAGNOLIA AIRWORKS





Russellville, Arkansas

Russellville Muni Airport | KRUE

Russellville, Arkansas is a welcoming city that blends natural beauty, small-town charm, and vibrant community life. Nestled between the Arkansas River and the foothills of the Ozark Mountains, it offers easy access to outdoor adventures like hiking, fishing, and boating. Lake Dardanelle is a local highlight, drawing visitors and residents alike for its scenic views and recreational opportunities. The city is home to Arkansas Tech University, which brings energy, cultural events, and educational opportunities to the area. Russellville's downtown features a mix of local shops, restaurants, and historic character, creating a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Strong schools, a growing economy, and a focus on community development make it an appealing place to live and work. Whether enjoying nature, attending a local festival, or simply appreciating its slower pace, Russellville offers a balanced and fulfilling lifestyle.

Russellville Regional Airport (RUE) is a public general aviation airport located just two miles southeast of downtown Russellville. Opened in 1960, the airport provides non-commercial aviation services to the region. Prior to its construction, much of Russellville's early aviation activity centered around a small airfield located on the grounds of what is now Arkansas Tech University. That early airstrip, situated near the present-day university coliseum, served as the community's primary aviation hub and helped introduced flight training and general aviation to the Arkansas River Valley.

As aviation demand grew and aircraft technology advanced, the need for a larger and more modern facility became clear, leading to the development of the current airport site. Since its opening, Russellville Regional Airport has steadily expanded from a modest airfield with a short runway and minimal facilities into a key regional asset supporting business, agriculture, and recreational aviation.

Russellville, the largest city in Pope County with a population of 29,442, benefits from the airport's 5,505 x 75 foot runway, a full service fixed based operator, and two dedicated aircraft maintenance shops. The FBO also offers free Wi-Fi, a pilots lounge, showers, and courtesy vehicles, ensuring comfort and convenience for visiting aviators.

Stop Chairs Deft Talburt, Julie Zelnick
Head Timers Brad Kidder, Bill Rowlet
Airport Director Patrick Karp



Russellville REGIONAL AIRPORT



Buchanan County, Missouri

Rosecrans Memorial Airport | KSTJ

Rosecrans Memorial Airport (KSTJ) proudly serves as the aviation gateway to northwest Missouri, located just minutes from the heart of downtown St. Joseph. Home to the Missouri Air National Guard's 139th Airlift Wing and their fleet of C-130 Hercules aircraft, the airport features two well-maintained runways, including a primary 8,061 x 150 foot runway completely reconstructed in 2023. KSTJ accommodates a wide range of general aviation and military aircraft, supporting both local and regional air traffic.

St. Joseph is a city steeped in rich American history, famously known as the starting point of the Pony Express and the home of the legendary outlaw Jesse James. Visitors to the area can explore a variety of historic landmarks, museums, and a vibrant downtown district filled with unique shops, dining experiences, and cultural attractions that celebrate the city's heritage.

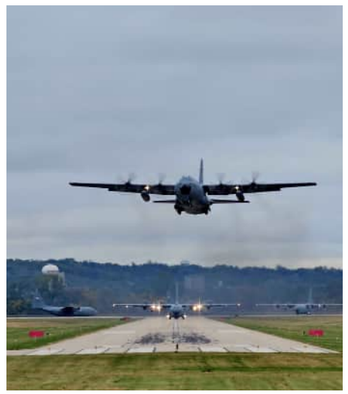
Rosecrans Memorial Airport combines modern aviation facilities with a strong sense of community. The airport is supported by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers who are passionate about aviation and committed to providing excellent service to all visitors. The airport also hosts a variety of popular aerial events for the community, ranging from the thrilling Pony Express STOL (Short Takeoff and Landing) competition to the award-winning Sound of Speed Airshow, which draws aviation enthusiasts from across the region.

We moved into our new terminal building in 2025, bringing airport offices and the airport restaurant into modern facilities. The airport is also currently completing construction on a brand-new state-of-the-art air traffic control tower, which will soon be operational, further enhancing the airport's capabilities and services.

As a proud enroute stop on the 2026 Air Race Classic, KSTJ is excited to welcome racers and guests, offering a warm Midwestern hospitality that reflects the spirit of St. Joseph. We invite all participants and visitors to experience the unique blend of aviation excellence and local charm that makes Rosecrans Memorial Airport and St. Joseph a memorable part of the Air Race Classic journey.

Stop Chairs Carole Sutton, Julius Rice
Head Timer Linda S
Airport Director Julius Rice







Prairie du Chein, Wisconsion

Prairie du Chien Municipal Airport | KPDC

Set along the mighty Mississippi River, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin delivers a one-of-a-kind experience for pilots and visitors, where every arrival feels like discovering a hidden gem. From the air, the region's stunning Driftless Area comes into full view, towering bluffs, winding rivers, and untouched landscapes create a dramatic and unforgettable approach. As pilots descend into Prairie du Chien Municipal Airport, they are met with sweeping vistas and a sense of place that is both striking and serene, making this stop as memorable as the journey itself.

On the ground, Prairie du Chien invites visitors to slow down and experience authentic river-town charm. Stroll through a historic downtown filled with locally owned shops and inviting restaurants, take in the scenic beauty along the riverfront, or explore the area's rich heritage. The welcoming spirit of the community is evident at every turn, with friendly faces and a genuine enthusiasm for sharing what makes this destination special.

For those arriving by air, Prairie du Chien is more than just a stop, it is a place that stays with you. The combination of breathtaking scenery, a pilot-friendly airport, and a community that embraces visitors creates an experience that is both relaxing and inspiring. Whether it is the unforgettable views from above or the connections made on the ground, Prairie du Chien stands out as a destination worth the visit, and one you will want to return to again.

Stop Chairs Chad Adams, Nathan Gilberts
Head Timer Deb McGee
Airport Director Todd Berry







WELCOME TO MT. VERNON OUTLAND AIRPORT

Creativity Redefined!

Although creativity had been on display on the east side of Mt. Vernon, Illinois since the 1930s, it was corporately defined in 1955 with the establishment of the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority.



Our airport namesake, USAAF Captain Earl Outland, flew C-54s around the globe charting navigation routes used for decades. After his military service, Earl returned home to manage the newly formed airport authority.

He instructed area business leaders, flew charter flights, and operated a successful Cessna dealership—transforming grass fields into expansive infrastructure of concrete, asphalt, and advanced systems.



Since then, creativity has continually evolved:

- Commercial airline service (1962)
- Instrument Landing System (late 1960s)
- Modern airline terminal (1975)
- Air Evac Lifeteam Superbase (2006)
- National Weather Service TAF (2018)

All while maintaining a full-service Fixed Base Operation, including aircraft maintenance, avionics, and an on-field restaurant.

FEATURED PROGRAMS/EVENTS

Midwest Aviation Expo | Jefferson County Hall of Honor | Outland Flight Instruction | Salute to Freedom | Mt. Vernon Soccer Club | Firefighting Training

Today, Mt. Vernon Outland Airport boasts the following:

- $40.8 Million Annual Economic Impact and 270 total jobs
- Nearly 30,000 Annual Aircraft Operations
- Over 100,000 Restaurant Customers served annually

In 2026, MVN tackles its biggest undertaking - the Air Race Classic Terminus. Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, the City of Mt. Vernon, and all of southern Illinois look forward to an exciting weekend of aviation. A warm welcoming spirit, ambassadorship for our region, and "can do" attitude will be evident.



WELCOME TO MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS

Creativity Redefined!

Mt. Vernon Illinois — Creativity Redefined!

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MVN Mt. Vernon Outland Airport

R & L Irvin Aviation



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Emmy Dillon

~3,800 hours, ATP, CFI, CFII, IFR, tailwheel, high performance and complex endorsements

International Cargo Airline Pilot, Air Race Classic Education Director, 2016 Air Race Classic Winner, 99s Chapter Scholarship Chair, B-25 pilot for the Commemorative Air Force, Patriots Jet Team music coordinator

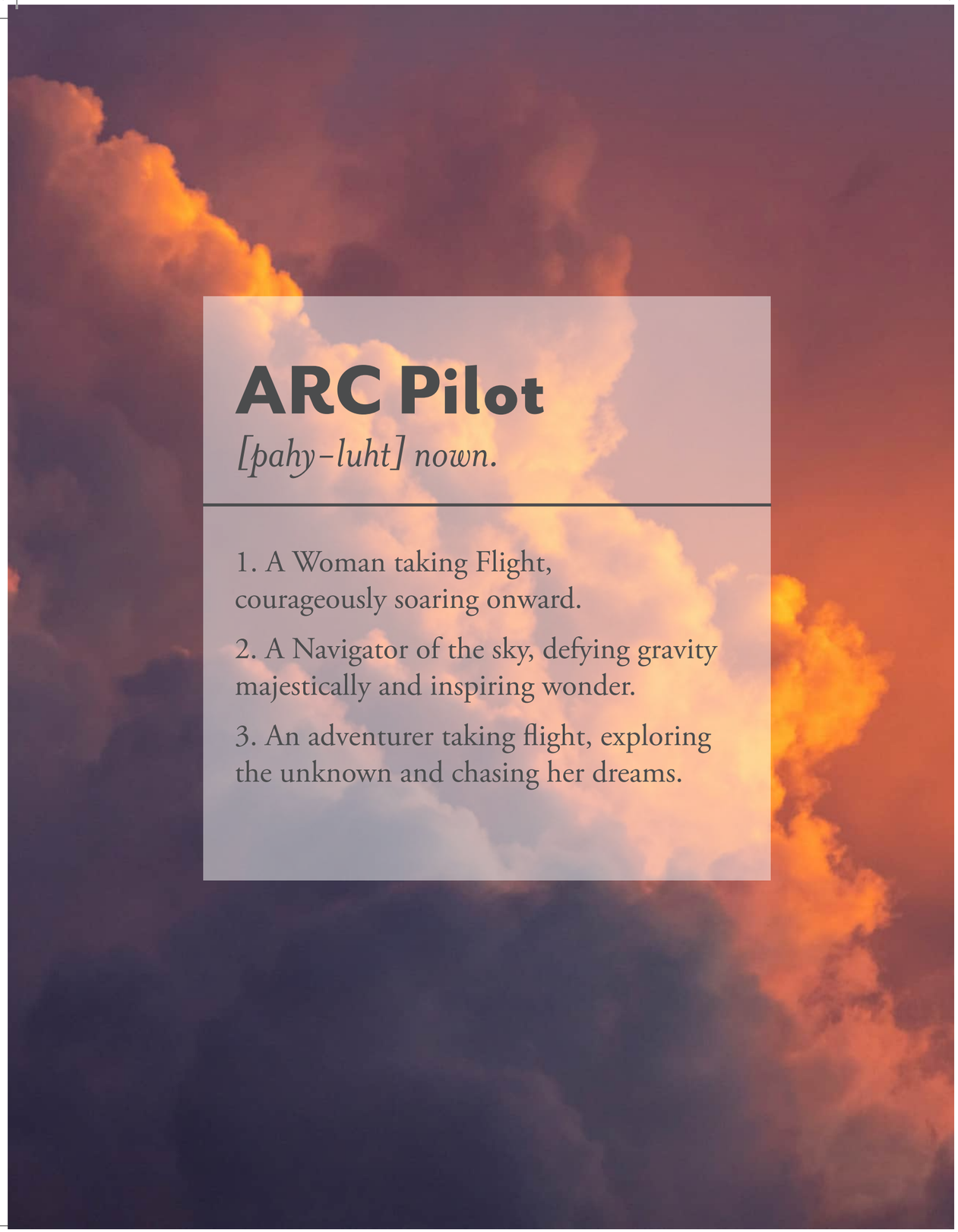
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Meet the 2026 Air Race Classic Racers

01 | Cherokee Chicks

THERESA BAZACOS & KATRINA MCLEOD
PIPER CHEROKEE PA-28-180D



Theresa "Terri" Bazacos (Pensacola, FL) is flying her 1st Air Race Classic! Welcome! Terri is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a current instrument rating; and 719 flight hours logged.

As a late achiever, Terri earned her doctorate in psychology at age 49. After completing a fellowship at a psychiatric state hospital, she taught at the secondary education level. Terri also organized and led a "Flight Without Fear" program for four years and is currently employed in a forensic role. Terri is racing "To inspire women by demonstrating that it is never too late to pursue their passions. I began flying at age 49, obtained an instrument rating at age 66, and am finally fulfilling a dream to race." When she's not flying, Terri enjoys spending time with family and friends, boating, and expanding her knowledge and experiences. Additionally, she has flown her aircraft across the southern United States, spanning from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. Terri is a member of the Emerald Angels of the Gulf Chapter of 99s.

Katrina "Kitty" McLeod (Mobile, AL) is back for her 2nd Air Race Classic! She is an Airline Transport Pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with complex, high-performance, tailwheel, aerobatic, and formation endorsements; Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument multi-engine credentials; and 2,300 flight hours.

Kitty is currently a Flight Examiner and Instructor Pilot in the HC-144B for the Coast Guard. Thank you for your service! Stationed in Mobile Alabama, Kitty trains students fresh out of Navy flight school how to fly the Casa. She was previously stationed in Miami flying search/rescue. Kitty is racing "to keep the memory of the female aviators who proceed us, as well to inspire the next generation of women. As a fellow military aviator, Jacqueline Cochran is such a huge influence in my life that we named our latest pup after her (who we met/adopted after a lunch stop at an FBO)." Kitty says she will always be on the quest to grow the most perfect tomato with the right balance of sweetness and acidity, to which the garden pests seem to love, as well! Kitty is a member of the Emerald Angels of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the 99s, and a member-at-large of WAI.

02 | Slayforce II

MEGAN FESSLER & KIERSTYN PIERCE
LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome to the first-time team of Megan Fessler (Longview, TX) and Kierstyn Pierce (Fishersville, VA)!

Megan is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with complex, high-performance and tailwheel endorsements; and 352 flight hours.

Before aviation, Megan attended culinary and Bible school, then worked full-time in the culinary world. After obtaining her Private pilot certificate and completely falling in love with flight, she couldn't find a reason to stop and has pursued this incredible field ever since. When asked why she is racing, Megan says, "I race because it challenges my skills as a pilot as well as my character. I also race to grow closer to my teammate, to represent Christ, and to represent LeTourneau and the State of Texas." Outside of flying, Megan enjoys playing golf, cooking, running, crocheting, and talking to people about Jesus." She loves teaching aviation what she has learned so far so that others, too, can be well equipped to fly and fly safely!

Kierstyn is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a tailwheel endorsement, and 117 hours in her log book!

Kierstyn is a student at LeTourneau University, pursuing a degree in Mission Aviation Professional Flight and Maintenance. She has flown gliders and is working on getting her A&P license. Kierstyn hopes to, one day, become a medevac pilot Like her father. Kierstyn is racing because "of the amazing experience I had in the ARC Air Derby. Racing allows an opportunity to be challenged, work as a team, and hone your craft as a pilot. I am also so excited that I get to race with my best friend and represent our school!" When she is not flying, Kierstyn enjoys playing the drums at church or filming drum covers for her YouTube channel. Fun fact: Kierstyn was flying planes before she could drive a car! Kierstyn is a member-at-large of Women in Aviation.

03 | Hawkeye Skyhoppers

MINNETTA GARDINIER & SUSAN TALLIEU
CESSNA CARDINAL 177B



Minnetta Gardinier (Iowa City, IA) is flying her 17th Air Race Classic! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a current instrument rating; and 2,915 flight hours.

In 2019, Minnetta retired from the University of Iowa having served as an Associate Professor (Pharmacology) and Associate Dean (Graduate College). She directed research in multiple sclerosis and taught graduate and professional students. She has flown every ARC race since 2008 because "each race is a new adventure, and each race introduces me to new flying experiences and new aviation friends. I return to the ARC each year for the great fun, friendship, and flying that it offers. New places each year. Landings in 47 states of the Lower 48. C'mon CT!" Flying is Minnetta's #1 hobby, and she volunteers with the 99s and EAA. Minnetta serves on the board of directors for the 99s. Her other interests include travel (preferably in her own plane), films and reading. She also enjoys attending theater, performing arts, and sporting events around the Iowa City area. Minnetta is a member of the Iowa Chapter of the 99s.

Susan Tallieu (North Liberty, IA) is racing her 1st ARC! Welcome! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a tailwheel endorsement; a current instrument rating; and 357 hours in her log book.

Susan is a nurse practitioner in hospital medicine at the VA Hospital in Iowa City. She has practiced medicine for 23 years specializing in critical care. Susan previously worked in lung transplant, ICU, emergency medicine, and lung disease research. When asked why she is racing, Susan said, "It is a unique challenge unlike anything I've ever done. I am excited to meet other women aviators, hear about their experiences with flying, and challenge myself through this experience." Susan enjoys flying to new places to see a new airport or visit a new town. She earned her tailwheel endorsement a couple of years ago and loved learning a new way to fly. Susan also enjoys hiking, biking, skiing, reading, and traveling, especially with her dog, and husband, too! She is a member of the Iowa Chapter of the 99s.

04 | 16.5 Seconds

MARY MCMAHON & JERI BARRIENTOS
PIPER DAKOTA PA-28-236



Mary McMahon (Winchester, CA) is back for her 5th Air Race Classic! Mary is a Private pilot, single-engine land; an instrument rating, complex and high-performance endorsements, and 1,001 hours in her logbook.

Since 1989, Mary worked as an engineer in medical device manufacturing. In 2000, she decided to work for herself as a consultant. In 2011, she decided to "retire" and spend more time in the air. She returned in 2015 for a short contract but is now happily retired. Mary races for "the combination of the challenge, competition, and camaraderie." Mary recalls in one race that her team "was trying to get our fuel slip turned in and make a quick get around to the next stop. We made the next stop in time with 16.5 seconds to spare!" She thanks her wonderful, supportive husband who lets her do this over his birthday. Other than flying, she enjoys golfing and cooking. Ten years ago, she lived in Ireland and a few years ago in The Netherlands. She had the opportunity to fly in both countries while there. Mary is a member of the Coyote Country Chapter of the 99s.

Jeri Barrientos (Collinsville, OK) is flying her 4th Air Race Classic! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with high-performance and tailwheel endorsements; and 900 hours logged.

Jeri is a CEO and holistic financial planner focusing on wealth management by minimizing taxes and protecting retirees or those close to retirement. Growing up in a 3-generational family business provides additional experience to pass on to families and their businesses in business succession planning. Jeri says, "I am highly competitive against myself and want to achieve greater things in this life that is bigger than oneself. I love a challenge, meeting new women aviators, and mentoring others. And I would love to take over the world while helping others learn about aviation! The sky is our playground." Jeri grew up on a small airport, OK93, and has three children. She's formerly known as Jeri Springer! She loves nature, flying, traveling, and being active in her community. She wants to share the love of aviation and inspire other women by building the one and only T32 Curtiss Condor. Jeri is a member of WAI and a member of the Oklahoma Chapter of the 99s.

05 | Frozen Force

ALISHA MAAKE, AUBREY BARIL & LILA KNAPP
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
PIPER ARCHER TX PA-28-181



Welcome first-time team of Alisha Maake (Grand Forks, ND), Aubrey Baril (Delafield, WI) and Lila Knapp, (Lufkin, TX)!

Alisha Maake is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with Certified Flight Instructor credentials; and 247 flight hours logged.

Alisha is currently a student at the University of North Dakota, majoring in Commercial Aviation, with specializations in Aviation Safety and Business Aviation. While in school, she also works as a tutor for 1st generation college students, and as a barista at a local coffee shop. Alisha says, "I race to challenge myself. I believe that the aviation industry is one of continual growth, and the race allows me to do just that. Flying outside of my university, alongside other talented and intelligent women aviators is exactly the environment I want to be in to become a better pilot." Through her years at UND, Alisha was a part of and captained the UND women's soccer team. Through being a student-athlete, she was also a part of many clubs such as Hawkademy for leadership development, and The Hidden Opponent, which advocated for student-athlete mental health.

Aubrey Baril is a Private pilot with a current instrument rating, single-engine land; and 179 flight hours.

Aubrey is a sophomore at the University of North Dakota and is currently working on her Commercial license. All of her flying experience so far has been at UND, so she is super excited to expand her horizons with the Air Race Classic! Aubrey is "familiar with the Classic through prior races flying overhead, and also through Airventure Oshkosh. After talking to some of the Airventure volunteers, and then being admitted to UND, I finally had an opportunity to be the one racing and not just hear stories about it." Aubrey is happiest when near the water or in the mountains. She grew up splashing in nearby lakes and rivers, and now that has evolved into a love of the ocean and a hope that someday she'll live near a coast or a mountain range. Skiing, hiking, swimming, sailing, snorkeling, she loves it all. Aubrey is a member of the UND Chapter of WAI.

Lila is a Student pilot with 40 hours in her log book.

Currently, Lila is a student at the University of North Dakota and majoring in Commercial Aviation. She is working on her Private Pilot certificate and plans to get her Instrument rating this summer. Lila is racing because "the Air Race Classic is about much more than competition. I race to inspire women of all ages to pursue aviation, challenge limits, and confidently chase their dreams- both in the cockpit and beyond." When she's not flying, Lila enjoys reading, going to the gym, or anything that keeps her busy mentally or physically. Before moving to college, Lila played the French Horn for 7 years and was a part of a military marching band. Lila is a member of the UND Chapter of WAI.

MINNESOTA WING
AEROSPACE EDUCATION
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Registration Opens August 15th!
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06 | NoCo Challengers

LYDIA BALDWIN & LAURA HALL
PIPER CHALLENGER PA-28-180

Welcome back, **Lydia Baldwin** (Fort Collins, CO), to her 12th ARC! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with 570 flight hours.

Lydia is recently retired from a professional career as an intensive care nurse and hospital manager. The work she performed contributed to skilled, compassionate care and was a very satisfying profession for Lydia. She races "to enjoy an adventure with teammates, and 50+ more of my aviatrix friends. I race to challenge myself to think about the opportunities, possibilities and potential for success. I race because those who did so before me raced with grace, skill and poise and I admire their achievements." In ARC 2013, the Baldwin Family Flyers were weather-grounded at beautiful ridge-top Ogilvie Field in John Day, Oregon. It became a fun, challenging experience for Lydia's team. "We enjoyed the camaraderie of two other race teams, and camped out in the pilot lounge at the FBO hoping for clear skies the next day." Lydia loves living in beautiful northern Colorado with her husband Marc, who is also a pilot. Lydia was inspired to earn her Private Pilot certificate by her mother, Caroline, a 10+ time ARC racer, who has always inspired her to be confident, positive, thoughtful, and to enjoy life. Lydia is a Director and Treasurer of the Air Race Classic and a member of the Colorado Chapter of the 99s.



Welcome, Laura Hall (Fort Collins, CO) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with complex and high-performance endorsements; a current instrument rating; Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument single-engine credentials; and 758 hours in her log book.

Laura has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and practiced from 2015-2022. She has been flying since 2020 in the northern Colorado area. Laura currently works at Summit Flight Training in Greeley, CO. She is racing "for the fun and experience! Going to new airports and flying in new states is a particular goal for me in 2026. Being able to do this with a world class organization amongst my fellow female aviators is icing on the cake!" Laura has 3 dogs and hopes to have her own private petting zoo at some point in her life of rescues and animals that deserve a better life! Laura's hobbies include trying anything she hasn't tried before!

07 | Blue Raiders

KAITLYN JACKSON, EZRI FAIVRE & KATE KENNEDY
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
DIAMOND DA40

Welcome, Kaitlyn Jackson (Madison, TN) to her first Air Race Classic! Kaitlyn is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land; with single-engine flight instructor credentials; and 217 flight hours.

Kaitlyn is currently a full-time student in her senior year of university. She has a double major in Professional Pilot and French, and she participates in many on-campus clubs. She has also worked in a restaurant the last 4 years. When asked why she is racing, Kaitlyn says, "I fortunately had the opportunity to travel with my grandparents throughout my childhood. It gave me appreciation for seeing the world and also a love and curiosity for aviation. I race to inspire young girls who didn't grow up in aviation families, and never considered this as an option!" Kaitlyn loves playing soccer, learning new languages, and absorbing all media recommended to her. Her favorite part of sharing media is inspiring oncological questions that have everyone talking for hours. Kaitlyn is a member of the Air Raiders Chapter of WAI.

Ezri Faivre (Murfreesboro, TN) is back for her second ARC! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with a complex endorsement; single- and multi-engine instrument flight instructor credentials; and 1,300 flight hours logged.

Ezri has been instructing at Middle Tennessee State University for over two years as an MEI, Flight Standards Instructor and CFI Instructor. She primarily instructs in the Diamond DA-40 and the Piper Seminole. Ezri served in the USAF for six years as a Geospatial Intelligence Analyst and Targeting Analyst. *Thank you for your service!* Ezri is racing again because "I believe that the Air Race Classic is a testament to all the talented, driven and inspirational women in aviation. Getting the opportunity to fly across the country with women from all backgrounds and experience levels is an incredible journey that I cannot wait to embark on!" Her favorite aspect of the Air Race as a collegiate racer is getting the opportunity to mentor the ground support women in the program. Fostering a passion for both aviation and air racing and building her team through their shared interests is what it's all about! Ezri is a member of the Air Raiders Chapter of WAI.



Kate Kennedy (Acworth, GA) is also flying her first ARC! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with a complex endorsement; and 243 hours in her log book!

Kate is currently a student double majoring in Professional Pilot and Flight Dispatch. For work, she spends weekends at a barbecue restaurant as a server and catering manager. After she graduates, Kate aspires to fly privately for several years, then put her dispatch certificate to use at a major airline. About racing, Kate says, "As the first pilot in my family, I try to encourage the other young girls in my family to pursue their passions - even if it's in a field where they will have to fight to be seen and heard. I race to inspire my loved ones and remind myself why I love to fly." Kate describes her perfect day as taking a hike with her best friends, finding a spot with some running water, setting up her hammock, snacking on blackberries and cheese, then sitting in the sun all day while she tans and reads. She also enjoys shopping and going to concerts. Kate is a member of the Air Raiders Chapter of Women in Aviation.



"Each race you learn something new, and it definitely reinforces the reason why I love being a part of the aviation community."
Susan W

08 | OrcaHawks

ELIZABETH MENOZZI & JOYCE CARTER
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172C



Elizabeth Menozzi (Eastsound, WA) is back for her 2nd Air Race Classic! Welcome back! She is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land; with complex and high-performance endorsements; Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor credentials; and 675 flight hours.

Elizabeth is a fantasy fiction author and former supply chain professional with experience in demand and supply planning, finance, and project management across a diverse set of industries: software, professional services, computer hardware, energy conservation, aerospace, and consumer goods. Elizabeth is racing because "I love cross country flying and enjoy meeting other women in aviation, making new friends, and challenging myself." Elizabeth lives on a small island in the Pacific Northwest. When she's not flying, she enjoys trail running and writing fantasy and science fiction romance books. Elizabeth is a member of the Western Washington Chapter of the 99s and the Washington State Chapter of WAI.

Welcome, Joyce Carter (Wimberley, TX) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with complex and high-performance endorsements; a skydiver rating; single-engine Instrument Flight and Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor credentials; and 2,700 hours logged.

Joyce is a retired university professor, now living in the Texas Hill Country. As a CFI/CFII, she really enjoys teaching students, mostly in Cessna 152s, 172s, and Piper 28As. Joyce flies a Bonanza A36 all over the country with her family and for charitable volunteer flights. When asked why she is racing, Joyce says, "I race to test myself against myself, to meet like-minded pilots, and to make use of weather and performance data to squeeze out as much excellence as I can muster." When she is not flying or instructing, Joyce writes and sings songs and musicals, something she started doing during the pandemic. She publishes her music under the band name, Not for Naught. Joyce is a member of the Austin Hill Country Chapter of the 99s.

09 | Over the Moon!

ALICIA SIKES & NANCY ROHR
MOONEY M20J



Alicia Sikes (Quaktertown, PA) is racing her 9th Air Race Classic! Welcome back! She is an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP), with a current instrument rating, single- and multi-engine land; with complex, high-performance and tailwheel endorsements; jet and DC3 type ratings; Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument and Basic, Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor credentials; and 27,000 flight hours.

Currently a captain flying the Airbus 319/320/321 for American Airlines, Alicia has flown over 65 types of airplanes, including the MD80, B727, B737, B757 and B767. She was the one and only female B727 CA in TWA's history! Alicia is racing because, "It's fun! So completely different from what I do for a living. It's nice to be around so many female pilots for a change." Alicia has an undergraduate degree from University of South Carolina with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science with honors; 3 Master's degrees including Space Studies from UND, Systems Management/Information Systems from FIT, and Digital Forensics from Champlain College. In her spare time, she plays tennis, is a Director with the Air Race Classic, and a LOSA observer for AA. Alicia is a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the 99s and a member-at-large of WAI.

Welcome back, **Nancy Rohr** (Bear, DE) to her 8th Air Race Classic! Nancy is an ATP, single- and multi-engine land; complex and high-performance endorsements; a jet type rating; Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument, Basic, Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor credentials; and 4,700 in her log book.

Nancy flies for fun and transportation. She works for FlightSafety International in the Regulatory Affairs department to ensure the company complies with foreign aviation regulations. Nancy deals with aviation authorities all over the world. She is racing "for the spirit and love of flying as well as the camaraderie of like-minded women pilots!" "In 2012", Nancy loves to fly and finished her Maryland and Virginia Passport programs. She spends her free time in her garden and also loves to read about solar technology. Nancy is an Assistant Director with the ARC, a member of the Delaware Chapter of the 99s and a member-at-large of WAI.

Sponsor - Take Wing Leasing LLC

10 | MSU Purple Tails

OLIVIA OLINGER, SOURAYA NAKIB
& PLOYCHOMPHU NIKOMRAT
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO
PIPER ARCHER III PA-28-181



Welcome, first-time team of Olivia "Liv" Olinger (Rosemount, MN), Souraya Nakib (Farmington, MN), and Ploychomphu "Kelly" Nikomrat (North Mankato, MN)!

Liv is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a current Instrument rating; and 235 flight hours.

Liv is a full-time student at MNSU, majoring in Professional Flight. Previously, she worked as a lineman for 2 years out of Airlake Airport. Working at the airport gave Liv connections in the aviation community and opened her eyes to different aspects of aviation. Liv says, "I want to race because over the last 4 years in the aviation community, I have always felt out-numbered by the men. By racing, I want to show other girls who are starting their journey that it is possible and we deserve just as much as the guys in our fields." Liv is an avid reader and reads on a daily basis, mostly fiction books. She enjoys being outdoors and going on trips with my family and friends. She enjoys hiking and camping along with swimming. Liv is a member of the MSU Northern Lights Chapter of WAI.

Souraya is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a current instrument rating; and 215 hours logged.

Souraya earned a biology degree from the University of Minnesota intending to pursue medical school, but during her gap year, she realized it wasn't her path. She switched to aviation in January 2025, fell in love with flying, and is now committed to growing as a pilot through opportunities like the Air Race Classic. Souraya says, "I am racing in the Air Race Classic to challenge myself as a pilot, sharpen my precision and decision-making skills, and to be part of a community that empowers and inspires women in aviation while celebrating teamwork, perseverance, and a passion for flying." Aviation runs in Souraya's family—both her parents and brother are pilots, and she proudly caught the aviation bug, too. Growing up around flying sparked her love for travel, being outdoors, seeing new places, staying active, and experiencing new cultures and foods. Joyce is a member of the MSU Northern Lights Chapter of the 99s.

Kelly is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with Multi-Engine Flight Instructor credentials; and 366 hours in her log book.

Kelly is a flight instructor with experience in FAA compliance. As a former Delta Air Lines intern, she worked with flight charts, databases, and procedures to improve accuracy and reduce errors. Kelly currently audits records for a Part 141 flight school and supports aviation outreach through volunteer work. She is racing because, "I'm a first-generation U.S. college undergraduate and the first pilot in my family, and racing gives me the opportunity to gain experience, represent my background, and make my family proud. Also, as a former grand champion of 2019 in Taekwondo, for sure, I am a team player and very competitive!" Kelly really likes to read non-fiction books that are related to history, politics, and intelligence agencies! During her free time, Kelly likes to hang out with friends, take her dog to a park, and going to potlucks!

"The Air Race Classic provides a unique opportunity to challenge myself. After years behind the controls of my C-172, I will really be able to find out if I know my airplane as much as I think I do." Naiara P.



11 | I Think I Can

LARA GAERTE & BRENDA THIBODEAU
CESSNA SKYLANE RG R182



Lara Gaerte (Fort Wayne, IN) is back for her 10th Air Race Classic! She is an Airline Transport Pilot, single-engine land and sea, and multi-engine land; credentials for single- and multi-engine instrument flight instructor and Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor; endorsements for complex, high performance, and tailwheel; two jet type ratings, and 12,500 hours flown. She also holds her skydiver rating.

Lara is a mom, grandma, Master CFI, DPE, and corporate pilot. She has been making her living in aviation since 2000 when, she says, she was laid off from a safe but boring cubicle job. Although scary at the time, it was an opportunity to try aviation full time. Lara races for the personal challenge and accomplishment. She says, "racing focuses all of my flying skills on a singular goal: to obtain the best possible performance by my team and our aircraft. The precision required makes me a better pilot; but the teamwork and collaboration makes me a better person." She is an Assistant Director with the ARC, a member of the North Central Section of the 99s and a member-at-large of WAI.

Brenda Thibodeau (Fryeburg, ME) is racing in her 1st Air Race Classic! Welcome! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with 618 hours logged.

When Brenda made the decision to become a teacher, it was because she has the love of learning. After teaching, her husband and Brenda became owners of a potato farm. His love of flying was infectious and Brenda decided to give it a try. Learning to be a pilot was a full-time job, but well worth the effort. Brenda says, "After volunteering for several years with the ARC, it was time for me to race. I'm retired and have the time and finances this year. This will be a terrific learning experience and I am optimistic that I will be a better pilot from participating." Gardening brings Brenda great pleasure and appreciation for all things in nature. Teaching her grandchildren about the outdoors and how to enjoy it is so rewarding. Brenda's indoor hobby is cooking and doing calligraphy, both of which you can share easily with friends and family. Brenda is a member of the New England Chapter of the 99s.

Sponsors: Century Aviation, Sonrex, LLC

12 | Freakin Awesome

MALINDA CAYWOOD & SUSAN BEALL
CESSNA SKYLAND 182T





Malinda ("Lin") Caywood (Frederick, MD) is back for her 13th ARC! Lin is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land and sea, multi-engine land; with complex, high-performance and tailwheel endorsements; Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument, as well as Multi-Engine Instructor, and Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor credentials; a Remote Pilot Certificate for Drones; and 3,270 hours logged.

Lin has been a flight instructor since 2021 after a successful career in mortgage banking. She teaches independently and for Bravo Flight Training. In 2024, Lin was named Best Flight Instructor for the Eastern US by AOPA, and in 2025, was awarded a Distinguished Flight Instructor award by AOPA. Lin is racing because "it's so exciting to spend time with the highly motivated and accomplished women pilots who race. The camaraderie and the competition is thrilling. I've now landed my plane in all 48 contiguous US states, mostly due to the race." Lin spends a lot of her free time volunteering with the ARC as the Vice President. She also volunteers with Patient Airlift Services (PALS) and the 99s to give back while flying. Lin is helping her husband build a Bearhawk Patrol and she loves crafts of any kind. Lin is a member of the Sugarloaf Chapter of the 99s and the Blue Ridge Chapter of WAI.

Susan Beall (Riva, MD) is flying her 8th ARC! She is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land and sea; with complex and high-performance endorsements; and 845 flight hours.

As long as she can remember, Susan has wanted to fly. She is racing because "this is a passion for me and I feel fortunate to participate in an historic event. The Air Race Classic is an amazing adventure. I finished my first air race at KFDK, sweaty and disheveled. I fell out of the plane on my face. My race partner distracted the media as I attempted a quick fix. Inspired by the first women racers, we got a decent newspaper photo, symbolizing the adventure. Great race; unforgettable finish." Susan keeps busy with her business, but in her free time, when not flying, she loves to water ski and snow ski with her family. They live on the water and love to boat. Susan is a member of the Sugarloaf Chapter of the 99s and the Blue Ridge Chapter of WAI.

14 | Holding Short of Nothing

JENNIFER PRUTSMAN-PFEIFFER & JENNIFER ROPKA
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172C





Welcome first-time team of Jennifer "Jenn" Prutsman-Pfeiffer (Darien Center, NY) and Jennifer "Ginger" Ropka (Cherry Hill, NJ)!

Jenn is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land; with complex, high-performance and tailwheel endorsements; single-engine instrument flight instructor and Advanced and Instrument ground instructor credentials; and 2,678 flight hours.

Jenn has 30 years' experience in healthcare, forensic science and academia, teaching everything from criminal justice and death investigation to anatomy to forensic anthropology, and now flight instruction! When asked why she is racing, Jenn says, "First race! I love cross country flying with a mission. I want to participate in something that spans women's history in aviation." Jenn first flew at the age of 11 and chose playing volleyball with her high school team instead of flying lessons. When she decided that she was not going to medical school 6 years ago, Jenn chose to become a pilot! Jenn is a member of the Western New York Chapter of the 99s.

Ginger is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with 210 hours in her log book.

Ginger is a high school math teacher. She majored in math education and minored in physics education. Ginger suffered through a lot of physics and never got a chance to teach it. She took her first ride in a Cessna in college, in 1986 at Kent State University, before GPS. Ginger waffled between teaching and aviation after that. Ginger is racing because "I am competitive and I love a challenge. I have spent the past decade racing marathons, ultra running races and Ironman triathlons. I am always learning new things, trying new things and challenging myself. Currently, I am working towards my IFR rating to grow my knowledge and experience in aviation." Ginger is a lifelong learner...always trying new things like beekeeping, milling her own flour to make sourdough bread, gardening, etc. She enjoys running trails with her dogs. When she takes something on, she's all in and "kinda goes overboard". Ginger is a member of the Delaware Chapter of the 99s.

Sponsor: Ropka Law, LLC





15 | Wunder Where We are Going

MARY WUNDER & JOANNA BERGEY SHISLER
MOONEY EXECUTIVE M20F



Mary Wunder (Collegeville, PA) is flying her 16th Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with a current instrument rating; complex, high-performance and tailwheel endorsements; and 3,190 hours in her logbook.

Mary was an air traffic controller, what she considers "the best job ever"! She would tell everyone where to go. Where else can you tell people what to do and they have to listen to you! She has been retired 19 years and now just flies and harasses the controllers. Mary is racing "because it's so much fun. I learned to fly in the 70s and racing gives me the opportunity to try new things and an excuse to get to different parts of the country. Plus, time spent flying with your girlfriends - priceless!!!"Mary is a permanent trustee of the 99s Endowment Fund. She also teaches Homeopathy - a form of alternative medicine. She calls Bingo when she is in Florida - they call her "Fast Mary". Mary is a Director of the Air Race Classic and a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the 99s.

Welcome, Joanna "Jojo" Bergey Shisler (Telford, PA) to her 1st ARC! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with complex and high-performance endorsements; and 707 flight hours.

Jojo worked in the family automotive business since she was a little girl. She has three younger sisters and to this day they all still sell cars and work together. They are fourth generation and have been in business for over 100 years. Blessed. When asked why she is racing, Jojo says, "My girlfriend has been asking me for years and I've always had excuses. So now, I have the courage and more hours and am feeling ready; no more excuses. I am looking forward to spending some time with a friend and woman I really look up to. I just hope I don't get addicted because I love racing." When she is not working, Jojo practices at improving her golf game. She loves to be outdoors and doing anything she can to be exercising. Skiing and snowboarding along with snowmobiling are some of Jojo's favorite winter activities; during the summer, she likes to be out riding her road bike and golfing. Jojo is a member of the Keystone Chapter of the 99s.

16 | Desert Eagles

DAVETTE MILLER & AMY JAYO
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172P



Welcome back, **Davette "Dede" Miller** (Mesa, AZ), to her 2nd Air Race Classic! Dede is an Airline Transport pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with a jet type rating; single- and multi-engine instrument flight instructor credentials; and 3,500 flight hours.

Dede is a retired corporate and airline pilot, flight instructor and Program Manager at Flight Safety. She has corporate experience flying a CE-550, CE-560, DA-900, CE-560XL, and MD-83. She also has airline experience flying a CRJ-700. Dede was at Southern Illinois University, Parks College and Flight Safety International. When asked why she is racing, Dede says, "I enjoy racing for the community, friendship and camaraderie it creates. I also enjoy racing because the race takes us to so many different parts of the country I would probably never get to experience. The race is also a way to improve piloting and aeronautical decision-making skills." Dede's hobbies over the years include camping, hiking, motorcycles, kayaking, exploring new EV technology, and spending time with family, friends and 3 grandchildren. Dede is a member-at-large of WAI.

Amy Jayo (Mesa, AZ) is also flying her 2nd ARC! She an Airline Transport pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with complex and high-performance endorsements; a jet type rating; single- and multi-engine instrument flight instructor credentials; and 18,035 hours in her log book.

Amy has been a CFI, a 135 pilot, a commuter pilot, and now an airline pilot. She has always dreamed of getting to where she is now and attributes it to hard work and lots of good fortune! Amy is racing again because "I race to be a part of this great piece of history! I race to hang out with my friend! And I race to test my skills and see the country from lower than 30000ft!" In her last race in 2005, Amy recalls "going to the "Chocolate Shop" in West Lafayette, IN! Spend enough time there and you don't care they don't have chocolate!" She has an amazing husband and, right now, 2 crazy dogs! Amy loves to hike in the desert with them. She also loves to spend time with her family; it's what keeps her grounded!

18 | The Golden Girls

JOSEY CAMPBELL, CAROLINE YUSKA
& VARYA RAHOIZHA
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
CIRRUS SR20



Josey Campbell (Williamston, MI) is flying in her 1st Air Race Classic! Welcome! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with complex and high-performance endorsements; and 347 flight hours.

Josey is a first-generation pilot, currently studying at Western Michigan University. She recently obtained her Commercial multi-engine certificate and is very excited to graduate this spring with a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Flight Science and Aviation Management and Operations. When asked why she is racing, Josey says, "I race for many reasons! I love this organization and the values it represents. I aim to encourage growth in myself and others, as well as the aviation industry as a whole. The time spent with like-minded women is an amazing opportunity and so fun!" Outside of flying, Josey likes reading, going for walks, and hanging out with friends and family. She greatly enjoys taking friends and family up in the air with her, and she hopes to have many more opportunities to do so. She has a niece that's almost 2, and Josey would love to teach her how to fly! Josey is a member of the WMU Chapter of WAI.

Caroline Yuska (Carmel, IN) is back for her 4th Air Race Classic! She is an instrument-rated Private pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with 310 hours logged.

Caroline is a recent graduate from Western Michigan University with a bachelor's in Aviation Flight Science with an Aircraft Dispatch and Scheduling Certificate. She is working on her CFI rating and plans to instruct at WMU to build hours for the airlines. Caroline says, "I race to promote the importance of having women in aviation and to gain the priceless experience that the Air Race offers for young pilots like myself. The challenge of the race has pushed me to become a better pilot and I know it is something I will forever look back on with pride." Caroline enjoys reading, baking, hiking, and have a dream of flying "heavies" across the Atlantic one day. She caught the aviation bug from her high school world history teacher and never looked back, with the support of her teacher and so many other amazing women Caroline has met along the way. Caroline is a member of the WMU Chapter of WAI.

Varya Rahoizha (Saint John, IN) is racing in her 1st Air Race Classic! Welcome! Varya is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a current instrument rating; complex and high- performance endorsements; and 1,831 hours in her log book.

Varya is a Student Recreation Center Customer Service Specialist. She was promoted to lead others and be the first to help guests when they arrive at WMU College of Aviation. Varya works with prospective students and their families to assist them in their college search journey. When asked why she is racing in the ARC, she says, "I am racing with Western Michigan University. I want to build experience and get to fly with other amazing women." In her free time, Varya likes to hang out with her friends. She also loves going to the gym as much as she can. She is involved in clubs at WMU, such as Women in Aviation and ALPA. Varya is a member of the Western Michigan Chapter of Women in Aviation.

"I race for the thrill of flying. It's a wonderful way to meet other women with the same interests and be in a competitive environment." Cathi S.





LET THE RACE BEGIN

AIR RACE CLASSIC

Two determined women shoulder to shoulder in a small aircraft - one navigating to the next checkpoint while the other is adjusting the fuel/air ratio in order to get the best speed their airplane can put out. Today, they are fighting against headwinds, tomorrow, they're punching it to the finish line.

Since 1929, this all-women's air race takes four days and 2,400 miles over every kind of terrain the USA offers. The reliable GMT movement keeps each racer on track over the 9 point race course. In case of instrument failure, her Abingdon watch is equipped with an E6B flight computer so she is prepared for any situation.



The official watch of the Air Race Classic

ABINGDON

arc Air Race Classic

19 | Let's Fly Girls

DORALISA SHERROD & JEMAYLA NELSONWOOD
GRUMMAN TIGER AA-5B



Welcome, first-time team of Doralisa "Chady" Sherrod (Orlando, FL) and Jemayla Nelsonwood (Lakeland, FL)!

Chady is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a complex endorsement; and 765 hours logged.

Chady started as a teacher, then spent 25 years as a Physical Therapist Assistant. She began flying with hang gliders, then sailplanes and ultralights, eventually earning her Private pilot certificate. She flew twice to EAA AirVenture in a Cessna 150 and once to the Bahamas in a light-sport aircraft. Chady is racing because "I want the opportunity to meet other women pilots and improve my skills as a pilot. I also hope that through racing, I can inspire more young women that I meet through the Young Eagles program." Chady says competitive softball and flying have always been part of her life—her mom flew, and Chady loves flying hang gliders, airplanes, and giving Young Eagles rides.

Jemayla is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with a complex endorsement; single-engine instrument Certified Flight Instructor credentials; and 850 hours logged.

Jemayla is a CFII in Lakeland Florida. She did her flight training in Redmond, Oregon. She is in the cadet program with Alaska Airlines and plans to fly for Horizon Air once she reaches her required hours. She has trained in a Cessna 150, 152 and 172, as well as a Piper Seminole. When asked why she is racing, Jemayla says, "I have never done an airplane race before and want to gain experience flying and see what airplane racing is like. I look forward to meeting other women pilots and learn from their experiences. I would also love to explore the country from up in the air having only ever flown in a few places." When she can find the time, Jemayla likes to be outside, hiking, running or exploring, and camping outdoors. She likes to cook and bake and has even thought about opening a bakery. Jemayla was born and raised in Maine and hopes to end up back there someday. She hopes to become more involved in the local aviation community. Jemayla is a member of the Northwest Chapter of the 99s and a member-at-large of WAI.

20 | DC3-1

DEBORAH DREYFUSS & JOY HALCOTT
CESSNA SKYLANE 182T



Deborah ("Debi") Dreyfuss (Potomac, MD) is racing her 14th Air Race Classic! Welcome back! She is an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP), with a current instrument rating, single-engine land and sea, and multi-engine land; with complex, high-performance, tailwheel, and formation endorsements; Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 4,400 flight hours.

Debi has wanted to fly since age 6 when her uncle took her for a ride in his 172. After her divorce, Debi started and owned Designs Unlimited Architectural Graphics/ Commercial Signage for 20 yrs, sold it in 1998, then had a second career selling advertising. She made some good investments and retired in 2007. Debi remarried in 2009 and continues to collect ratings. Debi is racing "for fun, camaraderie, and the competition. That, and I need to convince my spouse that I really need a reason to keep my 182 in my fleet of 3 planes. Team DC3 loves the rush. Members may change but the thrill doesn't!" Debi is retired and travels 2 weeks out of every month. She funds the "Debi Dreyfuss Dare to be Different" award for the local 99s chapters. Debi has a Texas taildragger, a glass panel 182, and a 2013 Piper Mirage. She has rescued over 300 animals thru Pilots N Paws, throughout the US and the Bahamas. Debi is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of 99s and the Capital Region Chapter of WAI.

Joy Halcott (Baltimore, MD) is flying her 3rd Air Race Classic! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with high-performance and tailwheel endorsements; Basic, Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor credentials; and 568 flight hours.

Joy is an Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Director of Facilities Management, Community College of Baltimore County, Dundalk Campus. She has worked for this organization approximately 16 years. Joy is racing "for myself, to fulfill a dream; for others (especially young girls) to encourage, and for aviation to promote awareness and educate. In 2024 race, I told everyone, every day, that my team was going to win. When we won, I said, 'I can't believe we won!'" She volunteers with Civil Air Patrol and several other nonprofits, and is currently pursuing an Instrument rating with Harford Flying Club. She has 3 children, loves to read, work puzzles, and hang out at the beach. Joy is a member of the Maryland Chapter of 99s.

Sponsors: Silver Eagle Training Facility; Miller and Long Construction; Kraemer Aviation

22 | AirDawgs

SOPHIA SCHAPPE & GRACE GRAY
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY-CARBONDALE
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome, Sophia "Sophie" Schappe (Festus, MO) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She holds a Private pilot certificate, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; a complex endorsement; and 262 hours logged.

Sophie is currently in her junior year at Southern Illinois University. She is working on her Commercial certificate and plans to get her CFI credentials after that. She would love to become a CFI and work for SIU. After she has gotten her hours built up, she wants to go to the airlines. Sophie is racing because "I have fallen in love with this field. Being a woman in a male dominated field has had its challenges. I want to be someone that other women feel comfortable coming to for help. The Air Race seem like the perfect opportunity to gain experience and connections that I can use to help others." Being involved at the airport is incredibly important to her. Sophie is the President of the Ambassadors at the airport and serves on the Student Safety Council, and works as an aviation receptionist at the airport. Sophie is a member and Treasurer of the SIUC Saluki Aviators Chapter of WAI.

Grace Gray (Carbondale, IL) is back for her 2nd Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land, with a complex endorsement; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor credentials; and 305 hours logged.

Grace is currently a CFI at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She graduated with her Bachelor degree in Aviation Management and my Associate degree in Aviation Flight in May 2025 and loves working for the program in which she completed her training. Regarding air racing, Grace says, "This race is a true test of overcoming adversity and persevering, on the ground and in the air, a lesson I can attest to that has taught me greatly. No matter what the outcome is, having the opportunity to race with these women is the greatest win of all." In her free time, Grace enjoys being outdoors, especially where she resides in Southern Illinois because there are many hiking trails. She also has a passion for cooking because there are so many recipes that allow her to try new things.









"I race for the adventure, challenge and a chance to be a part of women's aviation history. Also to encourage girls to pursue and have fun in STE(A)M fields." Monica W.



23 | Liberty Belles II

ISABELLA HAURI, KATRINA SCHLENKER
& SYDNEY SULLIVAN
LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome back, **Isabella Hauri** (Peoria, IL) to her 2nd Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; and 300 hours in her log book.

Isabella earned her private pilot license in high school and now attends Liberty University to complete her flight training. Her goal is to fly for the airlines, but she is looking forward to working as a flight instructor first. She also works as a dispatcher at Liberty which has been very rewarding experience. Isabella is racing because "I discovered my love for aviation after reading a book about the first women's air race derby. Competing in this race allows me to honor the pioneers of aviation and grow closer to other women who share a similar passion. Most of all, I race to glorify God who has led me every step of the way." Isabella enjoys anything that lets her be creative. You can often find her sewing, playing piano, listening to old country music and reading about history. She also, of course, loves taking her family and friends up for sky-high rides. She is on her school's NIFA team and, unexpectedly, developed a love for the E6B. Isabella is a member-at-large of WAI.

Katrina Schlenker (Carbondale, IL) is back for her 3rd Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with a complex endorsement; single- and multi-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 355 hours logged.

Katrina is currently finishing her Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics, along with a minor in Global Intercultural Communication and Engagement. She works as a flight instructor at Liberty University, and is wrapping up her final track season, serving as a team captain. When asked why she is racing, Katrina says, "It's a joy to meet women from so many diverse backgrounds in Aviation, hear their stories, and learn about their passions. Racing is such an adventure, allowing me to gain valuable flight experience while being a part of a team of women I will cherish for years to come." Outside of aviation, Katrina has been running competitively for 11 years. For the past four years, she has had the privilege of competing on Liberty's Cross Country and Track team, where she specializes in the 3K steeplechase. The program and coaches have truly had a lasting impact on her life!

Welcome, Sydney Sulllivan (Flowery Branch, GA) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a current instrument rating; and 236 flight hours.

Sydney is a full-time student at Liberty University, majoring in Commercial/Corporate Aviation, minoring in aviation safety. Currently, I am working on my commercial license. I have really enjoyed the time that I have been in aviation; it has grown and stretched me! Sydney is racing because "I want to grow as a pilot and also grow closer to the women pilots around me!" She is also working on her private helicopter certificate so that, one day, she can fly her Papa in a helicopter because he is the one who inspired her to become a pilot!

Sponsor: Liberty University

24 | Liberty Belles I

SARAH SCHUMANN, MORIAH LANGFORD
& MADDISON SIMKINS
LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome, Sarah Schumann (Lynchburg, VA) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; and 288 hours logged.

Sarah is currently studying Aeronautics at Liberty University and is working toward her Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) certificate. Sarah also serves as an aviation Safety Worker with the Liberty University School of Aeronautics and hopes to pursue a career in aviation safety. Sarah is racing "to represeent Liberty University and to make meaningful memories with my team". Sarah enjoys flight training and working with the aviation safety team, where she contributes to a strong safet culture at LUSOA. Outside of aviation, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, cooking, and being outdoors.

Moriah Langford (Clermont FL) is back for her 3rd Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land; with a Remote Pilot Certificate for drones; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 327 hours in her log book.

Moriah Langford is a junior in the School of Aeronautics at Liberty. She became involved with aviation in high school and has recently finished her CFI/II and has started instructing at Liberty this past spring. For Moriah, "this race is an opportunity to sharpen my skills as an aviator and learn from those around me. I have competed with the Liberty Belles for the past two years and have loved my time in the race. The routes, people, and places have made it unforgettable." Moriah enjoys being outside as much as possible whether that is running in the sunshine, taking a hike, or being at the pool. She also loves to travel, especially with her family of six. She is the oldest of four sisters who are some of her best friends.

Maddison Simkins (Gig Harbor, WA) is flying her 1st Air Race Classic! Welcome! She is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land; with complex and high-performance endorsements; and 224 flight hours.

Maddison Simkins is an aspiring Commercial pilot working on her Certified Flight Instructor certificate. She hopes to bring some students from zero to hero someday. She also has a strong desire to fly King Airs, doing some cool operations somewhere someday. Maddison say, "I am racing because I love working as a team and traveling with other amazing women in aviation. I personally think that flying with other people is way more fun than flying solo." Maddison thoroughly enjoys doing random side quests, specifically quests that require adventures outside. She goes wild for cloud watching and gets a kick out of sitting on nice patches of grass. You can catch her on cloud nine with a good cup of coffee or a Red Bull as well!

Sponsor: Liberty University



"Racing has become my annual birthday ritual. What could be a better celebration of life than flying around the country with 150 of your best girlfriends." Terry C.

25 | Liberty Belles III

CHLOE LEONARD, ASHLEY ASSELIN
& ASHLEY LEGOAS
LIBERTY UNIVERSITY



Welcome, Chloe Leonard (Alexandria, VA) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; and 211 hours in her log book.

Chloe is a full-time student at Liberty University. This is her junior year and she has been training with Liberty's flight program for 2 years. She is currently working on her Commercial pilot certificate. Chloe says, "I race because I want to expand my flight experience, fly in new environments, and improve my decision-making while working with a team of other female aviators." Chloe enjoys hiking, running, reading, and spending time outdoors. She loves learning new skills and is currently learning to play the guitar. She also enjoys swimming and going to the beach.

Ashley Asselin (Chicopee, MA) is back for her 3rd Air Race Classic and she is hoping for many more! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with complex and high-performance endorsements; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 975 hours logged.

Ashley has 3 degrees and chronic hip paid from 5 years in the Army. Thank you for your service! She enjoys yapping about airplanes and is a drone mechanic in the military. Ashley is racing because "from the East to the West, Jesus is the best! I race to glorify God with my unparalleled skills." She enjoys overexerting herself in the gym and binging Ferrero Rochers after running. You can hear her laugh from 3 miles away! Ashley loves the thrill of competing, and her hobbies include wrestling, running, weightlifting, and painting.

Ashley Legoas (Lynchburg, VA) is also back for her 3rd Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with a complex endorsement; a Remote Pilot Certificate for drones; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 743 flight hours.

Ashley has a degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After realizing that office life wasn't for her, she decided to go back to school and graduated from Liberty University's aviation program last year. Now, she is instructing full-time! When asked why she is racing, Ashley says, "I'm always up for a challenge, and I love being in an environment that supports women! Every race has helped me learn so much and made me a better pilot. My team learned a silly lesson about making sure to pack quarters to do laundry. Last year, we traveled all over La Grande, Oregon to track down some quarters!" Ashley is a lover of the outdoors! From riding horses to rock climbing and fishing, you can often find her on a fun adventure exploring somewhere new.

Sponsor: Liberty University



"I enjoy the challenge! It's not every day that you get to push yourself, and your airplane, to the limit."
Melanie A.

26 | Josie's Genes

PHYLLIS KOLLAR & LAUREN KOLLAR
CESSNA SKYLANE 182T



Welcome back, **Phyllis Kollar** (Apollo Beach, FL) to her 2nd Air Race Classic! She is an Airline Transport Pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with complex and high-performance endorsements; a jet type rating; and 2,315 hours in her logbook.

Phyllis is a registered nurse with over 40 years of professional experience in hospital, medical, and school nursing. In addition to her nursing career, Phyllis worked as an SIC under Part 91 for a private jet company for 3 years. When asked why she is racing, Phyllis says, "I'm racing to share an unforgettable challenge with my daughter. The Air Race Classic allows us to strengthen our bond, pursue a common goal, and be part of a supportive community of woman pilots." Since moving to Florida, boating has become as much as a passion to Phyllis as flying. She especially enjoys weekend trips around Tampa Bay and the Gulf, trading runways for waterways. Phyllis is a member of the Florida Suncoast Chapter of the 99s.

Welcome, Lauren Kollar (Apollo Beach, FL) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land, with a high-performance endorsement; and 356 hours logged.

Lauren is a senior at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University graduating in Fall 2026, majoring in Aeronautical Science with minors in Applied Meteorology and Communications & Broadcast Media. She is a Republic Airways student ambassador where she hosts and plans events for the Republic cadet program. Lauren is racing "because I think it would be an amazing opportunity to bond with my mom over flying. We haven't had much time to fly together so I look forward to having this experience with her." At ERAU, Lauren is a member of Tri Sigma sorority, Alpha Omicron Alpha (AOA), and the Flight Line Assimilation program (FLAP). AOA is an honors society for the College of Aviation. FLAP allows her to mentor students struggling with flying. She has held Executive Board positions in both AOA and FLAP. Lauren is a member of the Florida Suncoast Chapter of the 99s. Sponsors: Saddle Brook Medical Center, PA; Bergen Laparoscopic and General Surgery

27 | Saluki Aero

JOSIE BOELTER & BISOLA SALIU
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY-CARBONDALE
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome to the first-time team of Josie Boelter (Lomira, WI) and Bisola Saliu (Murphysboro, IL)!

Josie is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; a complex endorsement; and 289 hours in her logbook.

Currently, Josie is a student at Southern Illinois University where she is studying Aviation Technologies and Flight. She is working on getting her CFI right now and hopes to work at SIU as a flight instructor. She also plans to get her A&P before she graduates next year! Josie is racing "to gain more experience, become a better pilot, and create memories doing what I love. I'm excited to test my skills and network with some very influential people!" Josie really wants to be a seaplane pilot later in her aviation journey! She is utterly obsessed with floatplanes, seaplanes, and anything that takes off on the water. Josie loves being outside, reading, thrifting, and being creative!

Bisola is a Commercial pilot; single- and multi-engine land; with complex and high-performance endorsements; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; a Remote Pilot Certificate for drones; and 845 flight hours.

Bisola is a CFI/CFII, airport operations specialist, and Master's student at Southern Illinois University. She graduated in 2024 with a Bachelor's in Aviation Management and a concentration in Flight. Her career has opened doors she never imagined, and instructing students brings her deep joy and fulfillment. Josie says, "I race to challenge myself, sharpen my skills, and inspire other women, especially young girls who look like me, to pursue aviation. The Air Race Classic lets me combine competition, teamwork, and passion while showing that hard work, perseverance, and faith truly pay off." Bisola enjoys hiking and outdoor activities, mentoring young aviators, volunteering with aviation organizations, and promoting safety culture. She is passionate about faith, community service, and empowering the next generation of pilots through leadership and example. Bisola is a member of the SIUC Saluki Aviators Chapter of WAI.

Sponsors: Republic Airways; St. Nicholas Brewing Co.; Harbaugh's Café; Quatro's Deep Pan Pizza; Southern Illinois Airport; and Runway Three-Six

28 | Boiler Up, Hangar Down

ALEXANDRA MARSH & ANNIKA BOBEK
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
PIPER ARCHER PA-28-181



Welcome back, **Alexandra "Alexa" Marsh** (Santa Monica, CA) to her 2nd Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with a current instrument rating; complex and high-performance endorsements; single- and multi-engine Certified flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 722 flight hours.

Alexa is a current student dispatcher and flight instructor at Purdue University. She is also a student at the Purdue University School of Aviation and Transportation Technology and received her instrument rating, Commercial pilot certificate and multi-engine ratings at the school. When asked why she is racing, Alexa says, "I race because it excites me, and I find that this is probably one of the most empowering and unique experiences I will have in my career. I look forward to learning a lot!" Some of her hobbies include playing trivia, trying new sports and she loves to travel. Alexa also studies Spanish at school, and likes to practice speaking Spanish and listening to music. Alexa is a member-at-large of WAI.

Welcome, Annika Bobek (Fishers, IN) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with complex and tailwheel endorsements; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor credentials; and 407 hours logged.

Annika is a sophomore, majoring in Professional Flight. She currently works at Purdue Aviation LLC. as a flight instructor, and she works at the University as a Student Safety Assistant for the University aviation Safety Team. She also instructs in the Hawker 900 XP simulator, and is a teacher's assistant in safety classes. Annika is racing because "I've always been drawn to competition. As a former competitive volleyball player, I would travel across states just for the chance to compete. The idea of testing my skills in a high-stakes environment was so appealing to me, and that same drive for competition has transferred across passions." Outside of aviation Annika is an avid traveler. She loves the outdoors including hiking, and any opportunity to explore. Her favorite place to travel is anywhere with palm trees and a beach. Annika is a member of the Purdue Chapter of WAI.

29 | Little Apple Aviators

LYDIA MAYNARD & SYDNEY OYER
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY POLYTECHNIC
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome, Lydia Maynard (Salina, KS) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; and 190 hours logged.

Lydia works at Kansas State's admissions front desk and, as part of that job, she also conducts tours. Being able to take prospective students around the campus and through the flight center always makes her so happy, especially to see how interested the new students are in coming there to fly. As a first-time racer, Lydia says, "I think it is such an incredible opportunity to meet other women in the field and to experience flying in new, unseen places. I also think it is very important to bring back the knowledge my teammates and I have gained and share it with other girls at Kansas State University." Lydia is originally from Atlanta, Georgia, and came to fly at K-State in 2024. One of her favorite hobbies is baking. Each week, she tries to test recipes and make a new treat! When she is not flying, she loves to watch basketball and do needlepoint. Lydia is a member and Treasurer of the Wheels Down South Chapter of WAI.

Sydney Oyer (Gardner, KS) is back for her 2nd Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with complex and high-performance endorsements; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument and Instrument Ground Instructor credentials; and 770 flight hours.

Sydney is a CFII at Kansas State University. She began flying at a Part 61 flight school in Kansas City when she was 17. By the age of 18, she had received her Private pilot's certificate, then decided to move to a Part 141 school to receive a degree in aviation. Sydney is racing because "my dad was interested in aviation and airplanes, and I remember being around them often as a child. Once I decided to give flying a try, I was hooked immediately and discovered a passion I never knew I had." She enjoys staying active, being outdoors, spending time with family and friends, and traveling! Sydney has a passion for teaching and sharing the joy of flight with others.

30 | High Plains

ALYSCEA JACKSON & BAILEY PIERCE
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY POLYTECHNIC
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome, first-time team of Alyscea Jackson (Kansas City, MO) and Bailey Pierce (Hiawatha, KS)!

Alyscea is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; Advance Ground Instructor credentials; and 236 hours logged.

Alyscea is a flight student at Kansas State University Salina studying professional aviation. Long-term, she hopes to build a strong career in the flight deck. Alongside her training, she works as an aeronautical data analyst at Garmin, where she has developed a strong foundation in aviation systems. Alyscea says, "I race because aviation challenges me and pushes me to grow. The Air Race Classic represents skill, teamwork, and perseverance, and I'm proud to be part of a tradition that empowers women in aviation." Outside of aviation, she enjoys going to the gym, though she groans at weightlifting, she loves running and pushing herself. When she is not at the gym, she is at home reading fantasy books, crocheting or watering one of the many plants scattered through her house. Alyscea has two loving cats who love to eat her plants!

Bailey is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; and 208 flight hours.

Bailey is a student at Kansas State University working toward her Commercial rating. She has experience flying throughout the Midwest, and last summer, she completed a mountain flying course where she flew through the valleys of the Colorado mountains. When asked why she is racing, Bailey says, "I race because it pushes me to plan better, fly more precisely, and learn from other pilots while still having fun in aviation." Outside of flying, Bailey enjoys traveling, spending time with friends, and being involved in aviation organizations. She also serves as the President of the Kansas State WAI chapter and enjoys meeting other pilots who share the same passion for aviation. Bailey is a member of the Kansas State University Polytechnic Chapter of WAI.

31 | SHEnanigans

JEANNE WILLERTH & JULIA REW
CESSNA SKYLANE 182S



Welcome back, **Jeanne Willerth** (Lee's Summit, MO) to her 7th Air Race Classic! She an Airline Transport pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with a current instrument rating; complex and high-performance endorsements; single- and multi-engine Certified Flight-Instrument, and Basic, Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor credentials; a Remote Pilot Certificate for drones; and 4,300 hours logged.

After careers in business and teaching, Jeanne became a flight instructor. She also presents seminars for AOPA. Jeanne was the 2015 CFI of the Year for the Kansas City FSDO and FAA Central Region. In 2012, she was the National FAASTeam Rep of the Year. She loves teaching and mentoring young women in aviation. Jeanne is racing because "my mom was a flight instructor and taught me to fly when I was young. In 1973 she took me as her co-pilot in the Angel Derby, the All Women's International Air Race, and got me hooked on racing!" In 1998, she took her mother as her copilot in the ARC, along with her teen daughter as a team member. They were the first triple generation team to compete in women's cross country air racing! Jeanne is a member of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the 99s and a member-at-large of WAI.

Welcome, Julia Rew (Kansas City, MO) who is racing her 1st Air Race Classic! She is also an Airline Transport pilot, single-engine land and sea, and multi-engine land; with complex, high-performance and tailwheel endorsements; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 1,530 hours logged.

Julia is currently a flight instructor and just earned her ATP. She started taking flight lessons to get over a fear of flying she had developed in her 20's. Julia never thought she would be an Airline Transport Pilot and trying to make this a full-time career. She is always looking for that next step/skill in aviation. Julia is racing "to meet fellow female pilots, do something different than instruct, get out of my comfort zone and have some fun!" She originally went to school for photography, so she loves all things involving travel! She loves scuba diving, hiking and climbing, photography and taking a scenic flight where she goes. Julia is a member-at-large of WAI.

Sponsors: Windblade-Aviator Oxygen Systems; Wildblue Aircraft Sales; Central Air Southwest

32 | Pretty Fast

ANA ADONA & ELORAH ERASGA
CESSNA CARDINAL 177B



Welcome, first-time team of Ana Adona (Des Plaines, IL) and Elorah Erasga (Niles, IL)!

Ana is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; and 349 hours logged.

Ana's first job after college was at a Starbucks in HNL. She became a flight attendant for United Airlines in 2013 and flew for 5 years before moving to a leadership role at the corporate office. In 2025, she quit her desk job and went back to being a FA in order to train full time as a pilot. Ana is racing because "I am very fascinated with flight planning and it brings me joy when I successfully and safely execute a flight. I would like to expand and share this experience with other women who have a common goal. I also believe this will enhance my CRM skills which is a critical attribute of a safe pilot." Ana was born and raised in the Philippines and moved to the United States in 2010. Her hobbies largely involve the great outdoors: camping, hiking, skiing and sporting clays. She is currently working on her commercial certificate and plans on surpassing 300 PIC hours before the start of the race! Ana is a member of the 99s and WAI.

Elorah is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with 250 hours in her logbook.

Elorah is currently an inflight crew scheduler with United Airlines. Previously, she was a flight attendant on her gap year after college. Elorah took the plunge and started her pilot journey in 2020 when she had to make the pivotal decision not to go to law school and pursue a career in aviation instead. When asked why she is racing, Elorah says, "It's my first time joining a race, let alone an air race. I'm racing the same reason I'm flying – it makes me feel alive. It excites me and appeals to my competitive side. Who doesn't love a good brain exercise, figuring out the best course to the same destination on a time crunch, sign me up (I did!)!" When not flying, Elorah likes living life offline. She enjoys activities that do not require a screen or wifi, like wall climbing, biking, running, reading and hanging out with her friends and family; the only exception is binging completed series and classic movies. Elorah also loves playing with her dogs, Pogs and Cotton.

Sponsors: Krisry International; CS Staffing; Tramper Aviation; NBCW



"I enjoy the flybys and camaraderie. I love flying and being able to see new places; it's always an adventure! Each race has provided me with learning experiences and has improved my skills."
Susan W.



33 | Cherry Capital Cruisers

RACHAEL KORNOELY, EMMA DYER & GRACE SONERAL
NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172SP



Welcome, first-time team of Rachael Kornoely (Grand Rapids, MI), Emma Dyer (Montague, MI), and Grace Soneral (Traverse City, MI)!

Rachael is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with an instrument rating; complex and high-performance endorsements; and 216 hours logged.

Rachael is an Aviation and Applied Sciences student at Northwestern Michigan College finishing Commercial Pilot training. She is a Women in Aviation ambassador, student mentor, Aviation Society planner, and she works 30 hours a week as a barista to support her training. Rachael is racing "to prove to myself that I am a capable pilot. Confidence has been my biggest challenge, and racing is my way of showing I have the courage to take on something big. I also want to help blaze a trail for future racers at Northwestern Michigan College." Outside of aviation, Rachael loves adventuring—usually hiking, running, or trying new restaurants. She also enjoys caring for her plant collection and relaxing among her plants with a cup of coffee and a good book.

Emma is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with a complex endorsement; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 660 hours in her logbook.

Emma has been a flight instructor for two years now and has recently become a stage check instructor. She is currently working on her Multi-Engine Instructor add on. Emma did most of her training in Vero Beach Florida and the other half in Michigan. Emma is racing because "this race has always been something I've loved to watch and it makes me feel so alive. I feel special to have the honor of racing like so many women before me. Flying this race feels like an opportunity to test my skills as a pilot, and join in on the legacy and heritage of women aviators since 1992." Emma also says, "Seeing the world from an airplane really gives you perspective in a way that many people don't get to experience." She loves to teach and to see others experience the joy of aviation. Emma says she was blessed with this opportunity in life, and will never take it for granted.

Grace is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with complex and high-performance endorsements; a current instrument rating; and 213 flight hours.

Grace's journey began in helicopters before she transitioned to fixed-wing to continue her training. She works at Costco to fund her flight training. Grace's major accomplishments include earning her Private pilot certificate and instrument rating, with high-performance and complex endorsements—and more on the way! When asked why she is racing, Grace says, "I race because it's a privilege. I race for my family, friends, and all the little girls who dream of flying. But most importantly, I race for the glory of God! 'So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.' — 1 Corinthians 10:31" Grace is a youth group leader and Aviation Society President dedicated to inspiring girls to chase their calling. She has served on three mission trips as a fluent Spanish interpreter. When she's not flying, studying, or on "President duties", you can find her at the pickleball courts or the beach! Grace is a member of the Northwestern Michigan College Chapter of WAI.

Sponsor: Northwestern Michigan College

34 | The Flying Sycamores

RACHEL BRINDLEY, MADISON MYERS
& KENNEDY TROYER
INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
DIAMOND DA40XL



Welcome, first-time team of Rachel Brindley (Brazil, IN), Madison "Maddie" Myers (Terre Haute), and Kennedy Troyer (Middlebury, IN)!

Rachel is a Private pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with a current instrument rating; complex and high-performance endorsements; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 605 hours logged.

Rachel is currently a flight instructor at Indiana State University Flight Academy and Hoosier Aviation, both at KHUF in Terre Haute, IN. She is also a licensed pharmacy technician on the side (when the weather isn't so good). Rachel says, "I race in the Air Race Classic because of my passion for aviation, my commitment to supporting women in the field, and my desire to inspire the next generation of young women in my community. I participated in the Air Race Classic in 2023 as a team liaison and loved the experience!" Rachel is a 2nd-generation pilot. Her dad is a 737 captain at Southwest Airlines. He took her on her discovery flight in 2021 and the rest is history. Rachel is a Southwest Airlines Destination 225° cadet and received most of her flight training through them. Rachel's dream is to fly a trip with her dad at SWA.

Maddie is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with a complex endorsement; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 355 flight hours.

Maddie began flight instructing at Indiana State University in January 2026, teaching private, instrument, and commercial students at all experience levels. She says it's exciting to see students take the next step in their training and achieve their goals. Her favorite aircraft to instruct in is the Cessna 152. Maddie is racing "for my family. My mom, dad, and sister have been my number one supporters since I started pilot training in 2023. One of my earliest childhood memories is taking my discovery flight when I was 10 years old. It's always fun to take my dad flying to different airports in Indiana on the weekend." Maddie's hobbies outside of aviation are baking, traveling, hanging out with family and friends, and going to concerts! She has traveled to over 20 countries and spent 6 weeks in Spain during the summer of 2022. Maddie was a competitive distance swimmer for 12 years before going to college.

Kennedy is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land; with a current instrument rating; and 460 hours in her logbook.

Kennedy is a professional flight student at Indiana State University where she earned her Instrument and Commercial ratings. She earned her PPL at her local airport back home and is passionate about flying and building connections in the aviation community. When asked why she is racing, Maddie says, "I race to honor the history of women in aviation and to fly and compete alongside women in aviation. I also race for the experience and the unique opportunity the Air Race Classic gives to female aviators. I'm excited for the memories to be made." Outside of flying, Kennedy is involved in Alpha Eta Rho (Iota Chapter) where she is pledge master, and Zeta Tau Alpha (Gamma Chi Chapter) where she serves as service chair. Kennedy also enjoys running, exploring new places, and being with friends and family.

Sponsor: Indiana State University; ISU Flight Academy



"Every ARC race is another year at Fly Camp. You see good friends you only see once a year, and spend a couple of weeks having a great time doing something we all love. What could be better." Marolyn Wilson



"The camaraderie is incredible. There is always more to learn about the airplane, weather, aviation rules, team coordination, and personal capabilities. It's fun to "collect" airports, become more proficient and go fast!" Gretchen J.

35 | Southern Sky Magnolias

MADELYN MISKELL, TRAVASHA RUNYON
& HANNAH ISENNOCK
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172N



Welcome, first-time team of Madelyn "Maddy" Miskell (Senoia, GA), Travasha "T" Runyon (Tyrone, GA), and Hannah Isennock (Newnan, GA)!

Maddy is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with a tailwheel endorsement; and 255 hours in her logbook.

Maddy is a sophomore at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She restored airplanes through the Ron Alexander Youth Aviation Program, worked at Academy of Aviation as a mechanic apprentice, and is working on her Instrument rating. Maddy is a Cadet at PSA Airlines, with the end goal of flying for Delta Air Lines. When asked why she is racing, Maddy says, "I've wanted to race since I was 14! My goal is to carry on the legacy of those who have paved the way before me and make my own mark in the racing world. I'm passionate about the challenge and the growth that comes with pushing myself to be better every day." Maddy is passionate about flying and working on planes. Aviation has played a big role in her life, and she is proud to be the fourth generation of pilots in her family. Maddy also enjoys working with youth and teaching them about aviation. When she has free time, she likes to dance, sing, and get lost in a good book. Maddy is a member of the Georgia Flying Belles Chapter of the 99s and the Atlanta's Gone with the Wind Chapter of WAI.

T is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land and sea, and multi-engine land; with complex and high-performance endorsements; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument and Advanced Ground Instructor credentials; and 903 hours logged.

T has been a flight attendant for the past almost 12 years and is excited to be transitioning to the flight deck. Currently, she is also a flight instructor. Having a dual role is definitely fun. T says of air racing, "I race to honor the women who made it possible for us to take our place in the cockpit and to carry that legacy forward with purpose. As a woman of color in aviation, visibility matters. I fly to grow as a pilot and to show every little girl watching: you belong here. The sky is only the beginning." T loves learning about and experiencing different cultures, and speaking new languages. She is a huge foodie who enjoys reading and dancing. Most of all, she is passionate about showing her daughter and other girlies that they have no limits. T is a member of the Atlanta's Gone with the Wind Chapter of WAI.

Hannah is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a current Instrument rating; and 220 flight hours.

Hannah is a full-time graphic designer working in the sign industry for the past 12 years. At 32, she decided to finally pursue her dream of becoming a pilot. Hannah is currently working through her ratings with the intention of one day getting to spend her days in the cockpit rather than in front of a computer. When asked why she is racing, Hannah says, "What excites me about this race is getting to be part of a piece of history. It's also a unique opportunity to see parts of the country I would never have reason to visit from a unique perspective. I'm also looking forward to working with my teammates, learning, and sharing knowledge with them." When not at work, studying, or training for a new rating, Hannah enjoys making art. She is a sculptor, digital artist, and she enjoys building and painting scale models. Hannah is a member of the Georgia Flying Belles Chapter of the 99s and a member of the Atlanta's Gone with the Wind Chapter of WAI.

36 | Whiskey Row Racers-Prickly Pear

SOPHIA GRIMM & LIANA CURCIO
EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY-PRESCOTT
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome, first-time team of Sophia "Sophie" Grimm (Prescott Valley, AZ) and Liana Curcio (Prescott, AZ)!

Sophie is a Commercial pilot certificate, single-engine land, with an instrument rating; and 277 hours logged.

Sophie is currently a senior student at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Prescott. She is working on her CFI certificate. Sophie has been working as a student flight line dispatcher this last year. Sophie is racing "because I want to inspire women that their dreams are possible and the sky is the limit." She enjoys downhill skiing, hiking, playing the cello, and playing with her cat, Murphy. She also loves laying in the sun and enjoying a good book. Sophie is a member-at-large of WAI.

Liana is also a Commercial pilot, single-engine land, with single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 515 hours flight hours.

Liana is a Certified Flight Instructor at ERAU Prescott. She did all of her training from at ERAU. Currently, she is working on her Commercial multi-engine add-on as she instructs full-time. Liana says of air racing, "I want to race to gain all different types of flying experience outside of flight instructing. I am excited to fly in new places surrounded by other women with the same interests as me." Hobbies that Liana enjoys outside of flying include anything outdoors like skiing, kayaking, hiking, or being in the sun. She also loves a good nap! Liana is a member-at-large of WAI.

Sponsor: ERAU-Prescott

37 | Pitch, Please!

LINDSEY LEBLANC & MELISSA CARLSON
PIPER CHEROKEE PA-28-235



Welcome, first-time team of Lindsey "Linnsy" LeBlanc (Manhattan, KS) and Melissa Carlson (Manhattan, KS)!

Linnsy is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; complex and high-performance endorsements; and 360 hours logged.

Linnsy is currently a full-time flight school student. Before entering aviation, she graduated with a Master's degrees in Finance and Project Management and worked for a legacy print media company. She later started her own international small business in art sales. When asked why she is racing, Linnsy says, "When I pivoted to aviation and joined the 99s, I learned about the ARC and immediately wanted to be part of such a historical event that brings together women from all backgrounds and skill levels. What an amazing way to network and make friends with women who all share a love of aviation!" Linnsy has been a military spouse for 20 years and 1 thing she is incredibly proud of is her years of volunteer service to the Army, assisting military families. She has been blessed to have been recognized with a number of awards for such volunteer work. Linnsy will always be proud to have had a positive influence for military families. Linnsy is a member of the Northeast Kansas Chapter of the 99s.

Melissa is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with complex and tailwheel endorsements; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; an Airplane and Powerplant certificate; and 1,200 flight hours.

Melissa graduated from FIT in 2008 and ERAU in 2019. She joined the Army as an aircraft powerplant repairer in 2010 and deployed to Afghanistan in 2012. Thank you for your service! In 2016, Melissa worked for Southwest Airlines as a Ground Ops. She completed her A&P in 2022, became a CFI in 2023 and CFII in 2025. Melissa is racing because "a continued love for aviation and an especially driven teammate. Racing sounds adventurous and a great networking opportunity to meet women pilots across the country." Melissa and her husband adore their fur baby D.O.G. (Dee-oh-gee), a 11-year-old pitbull mix. They also spend time playing Call of Duty and exploring their new home in Kansas. Reading is a side hobby that Melissa says she needs to be better about. However, excess time is spent studying and prepping for the airlines. Melissa is a member of the Northeast Kansas Chapter of the 99s and the Music City Chapter of WAI.

38 | Whiskey Row Racers-Saguaro

NGUYEN PHAM & KAETLIN HALSETH
EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY-PRESCOTT
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome, first-time team of Nguyen "Yen" Pham (Prescott, AZ) and Kaetlin Halseth (Prescott, AZ)!

Yen is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; a complex endorsement; and 211 hours logged.

Yen is currently a Junior at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott. She came into the college with no flight experience and is currently half-way through her Commercial training. Yen says, "I want to build real-world cross-country flight planning experience and be able to work in a team efficiently, as well as getting to know all the amazing people who are participating and had participated in the race to learn how to be a better pilot and teammate." Yen likes to be spontaneous and travel places with her friends and family, as well as going to the gym and being active. She is also big on collecting, and at the moment, she loves to collect Pokemon cards. Yen is a member of the ERAU Prescott Chapter of WAI.

Kaetlin is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land, with a high-performance endorsement; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor credentials; and 615 hours logged.

Kaetlin is a CFI at Embry-Riddle, instructing in the Cessna 172. She has also logged time in the 182 and Piper Cherokee, with training in Prescott, Arizona and South Texas. She is passionate about aviation and dedicated to helping others succeed. Kaetlin is racing because "as a former college athlete, I have always thrived in competitive environments. Being a flight instructor has sparked my passion for aviation and working with others. This race lets me combine both - pushing myself while doing what I love in the air!" Outside of flying, Kaetlin enjoys hiking, golf, and pickleball. Aviation runs in her family-her dad is a pilot, and her mom is an air traffic controller at the airport where Kaetlin works. Kaetlin says it's always fun getting to talk to her mom on frequency! Kaetlin is a member-at-large of WAI.

Sponsor: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Prescott

39 | M&M Velocity

MICHELLE NOLAND & MEGAN DUKES
PIPER ARROW PA-28R-180





Welcome back, **Michelle Noland** (Farmington, MN) to her 4th Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with a current instrument rating; complex and high-performance endorsements; single- and multi-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument and Advanced Ground Instructor credentials; and 900 hours logged.

Michelle first started flying when she was a senior in high school, and she graduated from Minnesota State University Mankato, with a Bachelor's in Aviation Management. She's currently a flight instructor at Alfot Aviation in Minnesota. Michelle is racing "to meet new people and to gain the experience and knowledge that you get from competing in the Air Race, as well as to better my cross-country planning and flying abilities." Michelle is passionate about building knowledge in aviation. When she is not flying, she dedicates her time to riding and competing with her quarter horse, Duke. Michelle is an Assistant Director with the Air Race Classic, a member of the Minnesota Chapter of the 99s and the Stars of the North Chapter of WAI.

Megan "Megs" Dukes (Bloomington, IN) is racing her 1st Air Race Classic! Welcome! She is an Airline Transport pilot, single- and multi-engine land, and helicopter; with complex and high-performance endorsements; single-engine helicopter Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 230 hours logged.

Megs took a helicopter demo in 2004 and loved it! By the end of 2005, she had her CFI and was working at the same school as the demo. She's flown helicopters all over the country from tours to EMS to News. The last 13 years, she has been flying oil & gas out of Louisiana and is currently a captain in the S92. Megs says, "This is my first race. I am thrilled to be a part of it! I am looking forward to learning more about the Air Race Classic, meeting the race community, testing my flying and navigation abilities in the airplane." Megs loves traveling., hiking, reading, doing cross stitch, hanging out with her family, including her two cats, and flying airplanes. Megs is a member of the Indiana Chapter of the 99s and a member-at-large of WAI.

40 | Comanche Cowgirls

ALLISON SCHLOTTHAUER & CHRISTY DE LA TORRE
PIPER COMANCHE PA-24-180



Welcome back, **Allison Schlotthauer** (Purcell, OK) to her 2nd Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with complex and high-performance endorsements; single- and multi-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument and Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor credentials; and 1,230 hours logged.

Allison has been working as a flight instructor in central Oklahoma for about two years. She teaches students from their first lesson all the way through multi-engine instructor. She would like to continue to diversify her experience by obtaining her tailwheel endorsement and seaplane rating within the next year. Allison says, "I race to gain experience and be involved in the aviation community. I want to experience different airports, flight environments, and refine my flying skills. The other racers are another reason. I like to be around like-minded, motivated individuals." Outside of flying, Allison enjoys rock climbing and distance running. Allison is a member of the Oklahoma Chapter of the 99s and a member-at-large of WAI.

Welcome, Christy De La Torre (Oklahoma City, OK) is flying her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with complex and high-performance endorsements; and 305 flight hours.

Christy works on the surgical team for a Lasik practice in Oklahoma City. Christy is a certified ophthalmic technician, and holds her ophthalmic scribe certification as well as her ophthalmic surgical assistant certification. Christy is racing because "joy is found in working toward your goals rather than the achievement of the goal. Racing is an opportunity to work towards a better version of yourself. The ARC in particular is an opportunity to build strong friendships with other women and gain crucial aviation experiences." Christy is currently working towards her aerobatics endorsement. Her goal with aviation is to compete and perform in aerobatics as well flight instruct. Christy's favorite plane is a P-51 Mustang; she would really love to own and fly one once she has earned that responsibility through her training and achievements. Christy is a member of the Oklahoma Chapter of the 99s.

41 | Duval Dashers

SOFIA PIROLA & RENN LUDFORD
JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome to the first-time team of Sophia Pirola (Jacksonville, FL) and Renn Ludford (LaSalle, IL)!

Sophia is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with a current instrument rating; a complex endorsement; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 287 hours logged.

Sophia is a third-year at Jacksonville University and a CFII. Currently, she serves as an aviation tutor, mentoring her peers in both ground and simulator lessons. Sophia is focused on building a strong professional foundation as she prepares to transition into full-time flight instructing. Sophia is "dedicated to racing to challenge my flying and decision-making skills in a high-stakes environment. It's a unique way to apply my CFII knowledge, promote Jacksonville University's aviation program, and join a legacy of women who have paved the way in competitive flight.." Outside the cockpit, Sophia stays grounded through yoga, working out, and hiking, reading and exploring nature. Sophia is proud to be the first pilot in her family, representing Jacksonville University and the next generation of female pilots! Sophia is a member of the Southeast Chapter of the 99s and the Jacksonville University Chapter of WAI.

Renn is also a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with a complex endorsement; a current instrument rating; and 212 hours logged.

Renn is a student at Jacksonville University with the goal of working as a CFII at JU's flight school. In the future, she hopes to fly for the airlines or the Navy. Renn says, "Competing in this race would allow me to challenge my aeronautical decision making and crew resource management skills by taking on different roles in the cockpit, constantly adapting to the changing weather conditions, and ultimately making the best decisions in the moment." Renn is a very outgoing and adventurous person who hopes to compete on the show Survivor one day. She enjoys cooking, pickleball, basketball, and skiing. Although she dislikes running, she is training to run a half marathon next February. Renn is a member of the Jacksonville University Chapter of WAI.

Sponsor: Jacksonville University



"I race for the love of flying, the camaraderie, adventure and challenge. There is nothing like the joy of flying low and slow over this beautiful country." Julia M

42 | Billiken Blues

SYDNEY NIMERICK, JOCELYN CIOTTI & ISABELLA CASTRO
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
PIPER ARCHER III PA-28-181







Welcome, first-time team of Sydney Nimerick (Austin, TX), Jocelyn Ciotti (St. Louis, MO) and Isabella Castro (Inver Grove Heights, MN)!

Sydney is a Commercial pilot, single- and4 multi-engine land, with a current instrument rating; a complex endorsement; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor credentials; and 342 flight hours.

Sydney is a flight instructor and student at Saint Louis University, where she is studying Aeronautics with a concentration in Flight Science and graduating in May 2026. She is currently working toward her CFII and tailwheel endorsement while instructing students and continuing to build her experience. Sydney says, "Participating in the Air Race Classic and representing SLU is an incredible opportunity to demonstrate skill and teamwork while growing as a pilot, building confidence, and connecting with others in aviation. I'm excited to meet and learn from other female pilots and be a part of this historic race!" Sydney's main passion is aviation, and she enjoys flying as much as possible and continuing to build her experience! Outside of aviation, she enjoys staying active, reading, baking, traveling, and trying out new restaurants. Sydney is a member of the Parks College of St. Louis University Chapter of WAI.

Jocelyn is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with single-engine Certified Flight Instructor credentials; and 265 hours logged.

After obtaining her certifications at Saint Louis University, Jocelyn began working as a Certified Flight Instructor during the final semester of her undergraduate degree program. She also serves as a University Ambassador for Republic Airways, promoting employment opportunities to aviation students. Jocelyn is "racing this year to gain unique flying experience, improve my crew resource management skills, and be a part of a historical event that promotes the success of women in aviation. As the current president of a WAI International chapter, the third facet is the most important to me." Some of the other aviation organizations she is involved in include Alpha Eta Rho, Experimental Aircraft Association, the Greater St. Louis Business Aviation Association, and Wings of Hope. Outside of aviation, Jocelyn enjoys exercising, running, cooking, reading, and drawing. Jocelyn is a member of the Parks College of St. Louis University Chapter of WAI.

Isabella is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with 112 hours in her log book.

Isabella is a Flight Science student at Saint Louis University, and at the time of racing, she will be working on her instrument rating. She earned her Private pilot certificate before starting freshman year, and she has loved working with her SLU instructors and being at the airport with her friends and classmates! Isabella is racing "to gain experience and to learn from those who I fly with and from those who I race against. I love a challenge, and was particularly drawn to the challenge of planning the flights for the best conditions and waiting for the best opportunity, rather than just getting in the air ASAP." Isabella rode horses from ages 2-17, and started competing at 8. She ultimately had to choose between flying and riding horses, but she still visits the horses whenever she can! Isabella loves music, both listening to it and playing on the guitar and piano. She loves spending time outside with her two dogs, Lincoln and Coco. Isabella is a member of the Parks College of St. Louis University Chapter of WAI.

43 | Windy City Flyers

CHLOE ARTUS & KATELYN GALL
LEWIS UNIVERSITY
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome, Chloe Artus (Frankfort, IL) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; and 512 hours logged.

Chloe is a first-generation pilot and college student, and is currently pursuing her CFI credentials. She works as a student dispatcher supporting Part 141 flight operations at Lewis University. Chloe is racing "to challenge my skills, celebrate the legacy of women in aviation, and connect with an incredible community of aviators. The Air Race Classic represents precision, teamwork, and the spirit of adventure that first inspired me to pursue flying." Chloe enjoys traveling, singing, and roller skating. She loves to volunteer and stay connected with local Women-in-Aviation chapters, and currently serves as president of the Lewis University Women in Aviation Chapter. Chloe is a member of the Chicago Area Chapter of the 99s and the Chicago's Leading Edge Chapter of WAI.

Katelyn Gall (Channahon, IL) is back for her 3rd Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with a complex endorsement; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 905 hours logged.

Katelyn is currently employed as a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI/CFII) at Lewis University, working on building towards R-ATP minimums. Her goal is to continue her flying career at the airlines later this year! Katelyn says, "I race to follow in the footsteps of the women who have competed before me, and I hope to inspire other women who want to pursue a career in aviation. Furthermore, I race to challenge my flying abilities and to gain more experience." Some of Katelyn's hobbies include hiking, running, and reading. She enjoys exploring the outdoors and spending time with friends. This is her third time competing in the Women's Air Race Classic for Lewis University, and she couldn't be more excited! Katelyn is a member of the Chicago's Leading Edge Chapter of WAI.

44 | The Redliners

CLAUDIA KOUTSANTANOU & CATHERINE NAUDIN
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S





Welcome, first-time team of Claudia Koutsantanou (Denver, CO) and Catherine "Katie" Naudin (Superior, CO)!

Claudia is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with a current instrument rating; complex and high-performance endorsements; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; a Remote Pilot Certificate for drones; and 699 hours logged.

Claudia is a CFII with a background in aeronautical science and computational mathematics. Her experience includes instructing, cross-country flying, and being a competitor in NIFA. Claudia is passionate about precision flying and competition. There are no other pilots in her immediate family, but aviation has become her full-time career. Claudia is racing "for the challenge and precision it demands. Air racing pushes my decision-making, situational awareness, and flying skills to the limit. It's also an incredible way to connect with other passionate aviators and be part of a tradition that celebrates skill, discipline, and adventure." Outside of flying, Claudia enjoys fitness, traveling, and exploring new places. She is passionate about mentoring and helping others pursue aviation. She also has a strong interest in math, problem-solving, and staying active outdoors. Claudia is a member of the Colorado Chapter of the 99s and the ERAU Daytona Beach Chapter of WAI.

Katie is also a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with complex, high-performance and tailwheel endorsements; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 754 hours logged.

Katie is a certified flight instructor (CFI, CFII) currently teaching at Epic Flight Academy's Denver Centennial location (KAPA). Originally flying as a hobby, she decided to leave the corporate world and pursue flying professionally in early 2025. Katie says, "Flying is my passion, and I'm entering out of pure love for it. I hope that racing will push my limits, inspire more women to pursue aviation, and sharpen my cross-country skills for safer, more precise flying. My love of flight honors my grandfather, who was an Air Force Veteran; it's my way of staying close to him." Outside of flying, she is happiest outdoors, whether it's trail running, hiking, yoga sessions, and discovering new places and foods. Katie is a member-at-large of WAI.

45 | The Real Housewives of KCPS

SARAH JELLISS, REBECCA TREIS & NATALIE BIANCHINO
PIPER ARCHER PA-28-181



Welcome, first-time team of Sarah Jellis (St. Louis, MO), Rebecca "Becca" Treis (St. Louis, MO), and Natalie Bianchino (St. Louis, MO)!

Sarah is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land, with a complex endorsement; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor credentials; and 434 hours logged.

Sarah is currently a flight instructor at Ideal Aviation and acquired ratings through Saint Louis University Park's College and Ideal Aviation. Both schools are based out of St. Louis Downtown Airport! Sarah says, "I am so excited for my first Air Race Classic to meet other women in aviation and try something new!" Sarah loves a good adventure and is a huge fan of going outdoors for camping, hiking, rock climbing, and swimming. She also loves to read and crochet. Sarah is a member of the Greater St. Louis Chapter of the 99s and the St. Louis Women With Wings Chapter of WAI.

Becca is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land, with complex and tailwheel endorsements; a current instrument rating; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor credentials; and 430 flight hours logged.

Becca is currently working as a CFI at Ideal Aviation. Their school offers fixed wing and rotorcraft training with both Part 61 and Part 141 tracks. Becca is racing because "I wanted to try something new in aviation and get involved with aviation organizations I have not had experience with. My team and I are looking forward to meeting new people and having this experience together." Outside of flying, Becca loves to be at home with family. She enjoys gardening, being outside, cooking, reading, and crafting; basically, anything that lets her get creative or spend time outdoors. Becca is a member of the St. Louis Women With Wings Chapter of WAI.

Natalie is also a Commercial pilot, single-engine land; with a current instrument rating; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 302 hours in her log book.

Natalie works for Ideal Aviation and has done most of her flight training there. When asked why she is racing, Natalie says, "My first instructor competed in this race in 2018. She has so many exciting stories and made many friends during the race. I am looking forward to meeting new people and trying something new in aviation!" Outside of her love for aviation, you will find Natalie on the golf course trying to perfect her swing, binge-watching "Survivor," or out shopping! She is always up for fun and a little adventure! Natalie is a member of the St. Louis Women With Wings Chapter of WAI.

Sponsors: Ideal Aviation; St. Louis Downtown Airport KCPS

"The race is an exciting challenge. It's a great opportunity to learn more about flying and this wonderful country, and to enjoy the excitement and the camaraderie of the ARC community." Caroline B.



52 | Flying Flashes Navy

LUCY ALWIES & KENDAL SCHULTE
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome, Lucy Altwies (Alexandria, VA) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; and 230 flight hours.

Lucy is a Junior Professional Pilot major at Kent State University. Her first flight was in June 2022 through a flight academy in Virginia. Lucy fell in love with flying and loves being a flight student at Kent! Lucy is racing "to learn how to be a better aviator, and to have the opportunity to compete against other racers. I love how much competition fuels learning and can't wait to take it to the next level with the ARC!" Lucy is currently an active member of the Kent State precision flight team and participates in landing events and computer accuracy events, which have grown her overall skills as a pilot. For the past 2 years, Lucy has also competed in the Air Race Derby which has fueled her desire to race in the Classic! Lucy is a member-at-large of WAI.

Kendal Schulte (Carbondale, IL) is back for her 2nd Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor credentials; and 338 hours logged.

Kendal has been flying planes since she was 16 and has been interested in airplanes since she was 12. She recently passed her CFI check ride and cannot wait to start spreading the joy of flight and sharing her passion with others. She also works as a dispatcher at the Kent state University airport. Kendal says, "I want to race again because my first race (2025) was the most fun experience I've ever had. I loved spending time with so many smart and beautiful women that share the same passion as I do." Kendal recalls from last year, "I remember doing my first departure fly-by last summer in Arkansas and there was a LLWS airmet out and that was the bumpiest flight I've ever been on! it wasn't scary or dangerous to be flying in those conditions, just a bumpy ride! I literally saw my copilot's legs detach from her seat!" In fall 2025, Kendal passed an FAA aircraft dispatch course through Kent State University! Because she is only 21, Kendal received a letter of aeronautical competency and can get her Aircraft Dispatcher plastic certificate when she turns 23! She is very proud of this; it was not easy but SO worth it!! Congratulations, Kendal! Kendal is a member of the KSU Flying Black Squirrels Chapter of WAI.

53 | Flying Flashes Gold

BLESSING MUPINGA & ESTHER KOTYK
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome, Blessing Mupinga (Stow, OH) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; a complex endorsement; single-engine Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument credentials; and 338 hours in her logbook.

As a flight instructor, Blessing provides individualized dual flight and ground instruction in the Cessna 152 and Cessna 172 in accordance with FAA standards and approved training syllabi, with a strong focus on safety and building foundational piloting skills. Blessing says, "This will be my first time competing, but I'm extremely excited to apply everything I've learned in a real-world, high-performance environment while building confidence and decision-making skills." Blessing loves learning new things and having new skills and knowledge under her belt. She is a very big fan of cooking and baking, and watching movies and TV shows that are thought provoking.

Esther Kotyk (Uniontown, OH) is back for her 2nd Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single-engine land, with a current instrument rating; and 333 hours logged.

Esther is a Professional Pilot major with a Spanish minor at Kent State University. Driven to keep pushing forward, she is excited to become a Certified Flight Instructor and inspire the next generation of aviators to fly with skill, confidence, and passion. Esther is racing again because "I'm grateful for the support from the 99s and WAI early in my training. Their mentorship has been invaluable. The Air Race Classic offers a unique, educational experience that will help me grow as a pilot and uplift others while honoring their impact on my journey." Esther enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling to different places, and embracing unique adventures. She loves soaring to unfamiliar heights through aviation, meanwhile meeting incredible aviators along the way. She is always excited to challenge herself and experience something new. Esther is a member of the All-Ohio Chapter of the 99s and the KSU Flying Black Squirrels Chapter of WAI.

63 | War Eagle Women-Blue

HADLEY ARY, CAROLINE MASON
& CAMPBELL GLASGOW
AUBURN UNIVERSITY
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Welcome, Hadley Ary (Auburn, AL) to her 1st Air Race Classic! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a current instrument rating; and 270 flight hours.

Hadley is a senior majoring in Professional Flight at Auburn University and is currently working on her Commercial License. She obtained both her Private Pilot License and Instrument Rating at Auburn. Hadley's sister and their mom are in the aviation industry and have inspired her to pursue her dreams of flying. When asked why she is racing, Hadley says, "I race because I watched my first flight instructor compete in the Air Race Classic, and it inspired me to pursue it myself. I'm excited to challenge myself, fly with purpose, and proudly represent Auburn Aviation while honoring the legacy of women pilots and inspiring the next generation." At Auburn, Hadley serves as the Assistant Director of the Striped Wings Ambassadors, and as the Media Director for both the Auburn Ninety-Nines and Women in Aviation-War Eagle Chapter. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, being with friends and family, and reading. Hadley is a member of the Alabama Chapter of the 99s and the War Eagle Chapter of WAI.

Caroline Mason (Auburn, AL) is racing in her 1st Air Race Classic! Welcome! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with a complex endorsement; single-engine instrument flight instructor credentials; and 690 hours logged.

Caroline is a flight instructor at Auburn University. For her 16th birthday, Caroline's dad gave her a discovery flight and she's been hooked ever since. She went on to get her Private pilot certificate in high school, and then finished up her flight training at Auburn University. Caroline is racing because "I love the challenge of pushing myself to be the best version of myself. I'm excited for the opportunity to grow in knowledge and experience from the ladies that have paved the way for us. I also love the community you gain from this experience." In her spare time, Caroline loves going on adventures with her friends, and running. She has recently gotten into triathlons and completed her first Ironman last year! She also loves hiking and camping. Caroline is a member-at-large of Women in Aviation.

Campbell Glasgow (Franklin, TN) is racing in her 2nd Air Race Classic! Welcome back! Campbell is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a current instrument rating; and 354 hours in her log book.

As a recent graduate from Auburn University in the Professional Flight program, Campbell plans to instruct at Auburn and then continue her career in the commercial airline industry. Campbell says, "Racing is an opportunity I am beyond grateful for. It allows me to represent my incredible school as well as spend quality time with other women in the program all while doing something I love - flying!" Last year, following the weather cancellation of our first two legs, her team got stuck in Monroe, LA. While they were there, they picked up a new teammate: a plush toy bird they endearingly named "Stormy." Stormy traveled all the way through the race and back home! While Campbell's interest in aviation was sparked by her mother, who is an airline flight attendant, Campbell is a first-generation pilot! In her free time, she works as a manager of a local coffee shop and coaches a middle school girls' travel basketball team. Campbell is a member of the Alabama Chapter of the 99s and the War Eagle Chapter of WAI.

Sponsor: Auburn University



"I race for the estrogen rush at each fly-by and to update my skill set, particularly my decision-making. Bonding with my co-pilot is an added bonus." Susan L.

64 | War Eagle Women-Orange

AUBURN UNIVERSITY
TAYLOR DEEBS, MAGGIE PEACOCK & ASPEN HOOD
AUBURN UNIVERSITY
CESSNA SKYHAWK 172S



Taylor Deebs (Houston, TX) is flying in her 1st Air Race Classic! Welcome! She is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a current instrument rating; and 266 flight hours.

Taylor is a Junior at Auburn University majoring in Professional Flight. She comes from a family with no aviation background, and started flight training at Auburn. Taylor fell in love with aviation and has had many incredible opportunities. She is racing "to become a better pilot and to honor the legacy of women in aviation. Racing enhances decision making, leadership skills, and inspires others. Teamwork is so valuable in aviation and to be a part of a team while doing something I love is an unmatched opportunity." Outside of aviation, Taylor loves to be active, whether it's running, hiking, or playing pickleball with friends. She ran a half marathon this past year and plans to run another! Taylor loves having a creative outlet, enjoying crafting and sewing whenever she gets the chance! Taylor is a member of the Alabama Chapter of the 99s and the War Eagle Chapter of WAI.

Maggie Peacock (Auburn, AL) is back for her 3rd Air Race Classic! She is a Commercial pilot, single- and multi-engine land; with complex and high-performance endorsements; a Remote Pilot Certificate; single-engine instrument flight instructor credentials; and 310 hours logged.

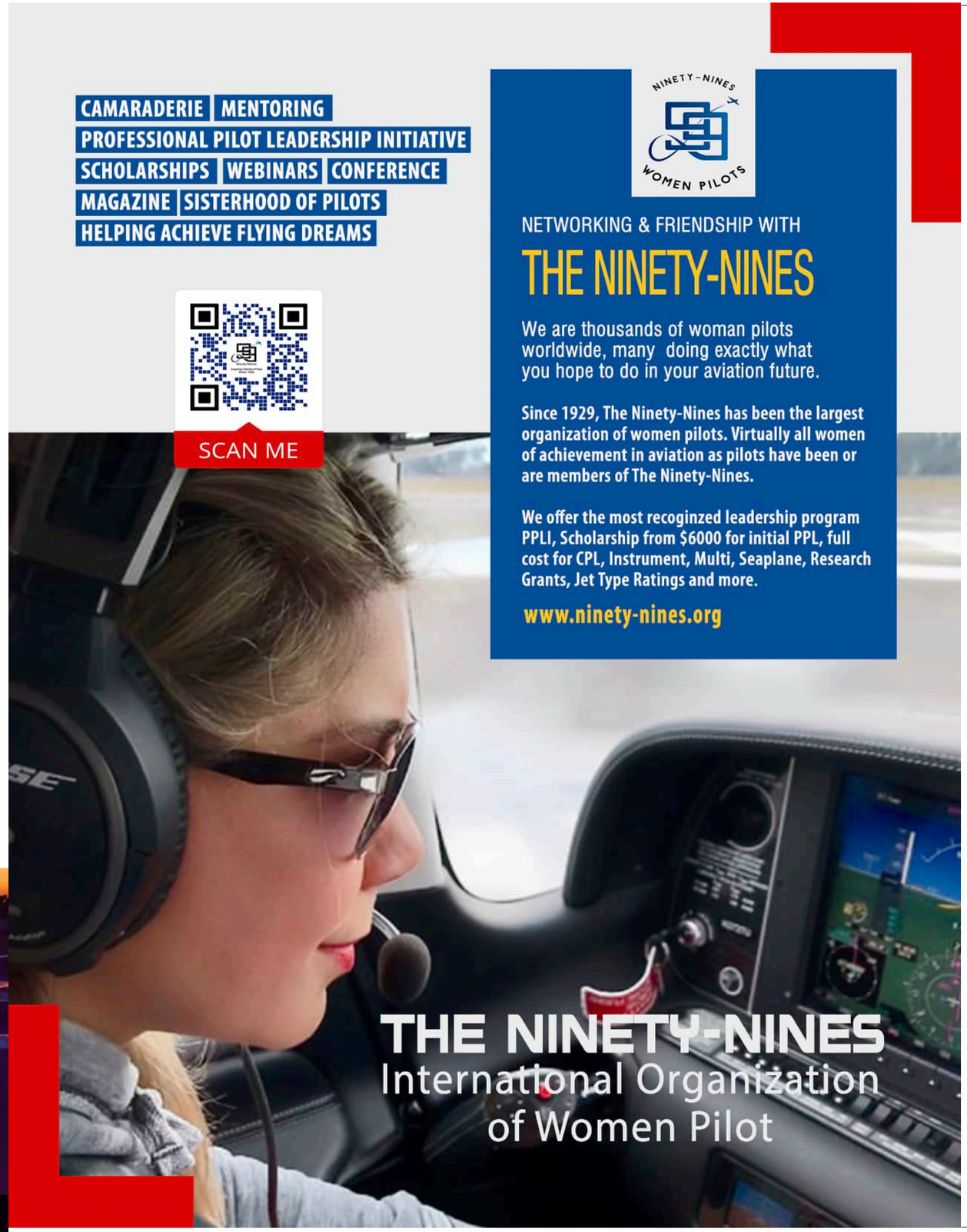
Maggie is currently a certified flight instructor for Auburn University! She graduated from Auburn as a professional flight major in December 2024 and is so excited to now be working as a CFI. Maggie loves sharing her passion for aviation as an instructor, but has the ultimate goal of flying for the airlines! When asked why she is racing again, Maggie says, "I race for the community that the Air Race Classic provides. Meeting women from all over with such a wide variety of experiences is unmatched! This race makes me feel like I'm challenging myself in a whole new way each time which I love and I get to do it alongside some of my best friends." Outside of aviation, Maggie loves to do anything active and outside! Her main interest is going on walks and chatting with friends, but she also enjoys playing pickleball, tennis, and going on hikes. She recently got into watercolors which she says is so fun! As long as she is surrounded by people, she is happy!

Aspen Hood (Virginia Beach, VA) is racing in her 2nd Air Race Classic! Welcome back! Aspen is a Private pilot, single-engine land; with a current instrument rating; high-performance endorsement; and 395 hours in her log book.

At this time, Aspen is still a student! She is currently finishing up training for her Commercial license at Auburn, and she hopes to flight instruct after graduation. One day, she hopes to fly at a major airline. Aspen says, "The Air Race Classic had always been a dream of mine to compete in. After last year's race, I can confidently say it is one of a kind! The entire journey was one of the most incredible and rewarding experiences I have ever been a part of. I am so excited to see what this year's race brings!" Outside of flying, Aspen loves spending time with friends and family whenever she is able. Any outdoor activities, like going to the beach, spending time on the boat, or even just walking, makes her happy. She enjoys reading and is trying to get more into cooking! Aspen is a member of the Alabama Chapter of the 99s and the War Eagle Chapter of WAI.

Sponsor: Auburn University





Air Race Classic History

Women's air racing all started in 1929 with the First Women's Air Derby. Twenty pilots raced from Santa Monica, CA to Cleveland, OH, site of the National Air Races. Racing continued through the '30's and was renewed again after WWII when the All Women's Transcontinental Air Race (AWTAR), better known as the Powder Puff Derby, came into being. The AWTAR held its 30th, final and commemorative flight in 1977. When the AWTAR was discontinued, the Air Race Classic, Ltd., (ARC) stepped in to continue the tradition of transcontinental speed competition for women pilots and staged its premier race. The Air Race Classic was reincorporated in 2002 into the Air Race Classic, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.



The early air races were the "on to" type, with noon and night control stops, and the contestants more or less stayed together. In that manner, weather and flying conditions were practically the same for each entrant and the race officials could release standings to the media after each day of racing.

The current race routes are approximately 2,400 statute miles in length, and the contestants are usually given four days, flying VFR in daylight hours, to reach the terminus. Each plane is assigned a handicap speed – and the goal is to have the actual ground speed be as far over the handicap speed as possible. The pilots are thus given the leeway to play the elements, holding out for better weather, winds, etc. The objective is to fly the "perfect" cross-country. In this type of race, the official standings cannot be released until the final entrant has crossed the finish line. Actually, the last arrival can be the winner.

Scoring techniques evolved over the years, and in 1952 the AWTAR began using the handicap system of scoring. The Air Race Classic has continued to use this type of scoring throughout its history. The '29-30's races flew shorter legs and made more stops than the current races. Now the legs are 280 to 320 statute miles, and seven or eight control stops are designated for either landing or fly-by. The race has been in 44 states, stopping in over 300 cities, and Canada. The races are open to all women with fixed wing aircraft from 100 to 600 horsepower. In earlier days, the fastest airplane with no specified handicap was in a good position to win, if it held together over the long haul and there was no big navigational error committed. Now the handicapping system is used – each plane flying against its own speed. Supposedly, any entry has an equal chance of victory, depending on the accuracy of the handicapping. All participants are true winners in their own right, flying the best possible race.

At a time when some people are inclined to down-play and have only negative views of general aviation, it is encouraging each summer when dozens of women pilots casually get into their airplanes and safely race each other over trans-continental routings. There is a spirit of camaraderie in spite of the keen competition, and the Air Race Classic proves a boon to aviation in general. At the same time, it gives the fliers the opportunity to hone their flying techniques. Many other people are drawn into the annual events through sponsorship, ground/air assistance, timing, officiating and as spectators.

Award wise, the Air Race Classic started in 1977 with an $8,550 purse for the top-ten crews, with additional leg prizes for those finishing outside the selected group of ten. The awards have been increased over the years, so that the current top-ten purse is $20,500.

Over 40 years later, the Air Race Classic remains a venue for competitive flying. Louise Thaden is quoted as saying, "... added skills are developed, self confidence is increased and enduring friendships are made". And Blanche Noyes added, "Flying is ageless."

We are proud and honored to celebrate over 90 years of women's air racing!

History courtesy of Glenn H. Buffington and Carolyn J. Van Newkirk, Ed.D.

The Women Who Preserved Air Racing



Since the first Air Race Classic in 1977, over 1,000 women pilots have flown the ARC. Racers have flown to hundreds of airports across the United States and kept alive the pioneering spirit of America's female aviators. Thousands of supporters have volunteered their time, money, and enthusiasm to sustain the vision of our founding ARC Board of Directors. Today, the Air Race Classic is the longest running all-women transcontinental air race. Join the adventure and keep the ARC flying.

The ARC Medallion



Owning an ARC medallion is a privilege reserved for any racer who has flown at least one leg of any Air Race Classic. The medallion comes in gold or silver vermeil. It can be worn on a chain or as a pin. Esther Lowry Safford designed it for the first Air Race Classic in 1977. A white stone can be inserted on one of the "flowers" that surrounds the design for each Air Race Classic flown. Blue stones are reserved for ARC Board members and a medallion that is surrounded by rubies denotes someone who has served as President of the Air Race Classic.

Medallions will be on sale during events. Order today at president@airraceclassic.org for pick up at the Terminus.



2025 Top Finishing Competition Teams

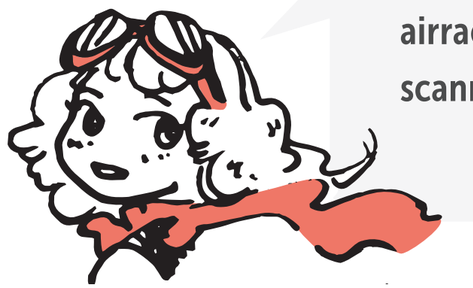
1ST. PLACE **SKYBOUND SCOTTS** | Scott and Rebecca Carroll

2ND. PLACE **FREAKIN AWESOME** | Lin Caywood and Susan Beall

3RD. PLACE **IS THIS HEAVEN** | Minnetta Gardinier and Brenda Frye

4TH. PLACE **THE SKUNKS** | Annabelle Kellogg and Gretchen Jahn

5TH. PLACE **SIGHT SEEIN** | Teresa Camp and Denise Robinson



Track the 2026 ARC Racers by visit airraceclassic.org or scanning the QR!



2025 Top Finishing Intercollegate Teams

1ST. PLACE **FROZEN FORCE**
Helena Lind, Charlotte Fuller & Caroline Kelley; UND

2ND. PLACE **LIBERTY BELLES 1**
Megan Cotter, Ashley Asselin & Isabella Hauri; Liberty University

3RD. PLACE **WAR EAGLE WOMEN-ORANGE**
Campbell Glasgow, Emily Brutko & Maggie Peacock; Auburn University

Intercollegiate Class

Air Race Classic makes a special effort to include collegiate women in the race. The chance to learn from the collective wisdom of other women racers is an invaluable experience.

To expand its collegiate presence, Air Race Classic established the Intercollegiate Class in 2024. Intercollegiate teams compete with each other to win the highest score in the Intercollegiate competition. Intercollegiate teams have the opportunity to win top finishing prizes such as cash, medallions, and leg prizes! In addition, ARC Collegiate Liaison works to encourage universities to grant college credit for race participation. Purdue University and Lewis University have granted college credit in the past.

To participate in the Intercollegiate Class, it's important that all team members have a close affiliation with the college or university they represent. This includes students, faculty, and flight instructors. Specifically, the team Pilot must be a registered undergraduate student at the time of team registration.

2026 Awards and Prizes

Air Race Classic Winner's Trophy

This trophy is awarded to the highest-scoring team in the Competition Class. The trophy features a soaring bird reflecting the Air Race Classic logo.

Air Race Classic Intercollegiate Challenge

This trophy is awarded to the highest-scoring team in the Intercollegiate Class. The trophy features a soaring bird reflecting the Air Race Classic logo.

Claude Glasson SOS Award

The lowest-scoring team without penalties will win the perennially treasured "Turtle" award and a $100 cash prize.

99s Terminus Leg Prize

The Ninety-Nines Inc., International Organization of Women Pilots, award a $100 cash prize to the race team with the highest score on the 9th or Terminus leg. The winning team must be members of The Ninety-Nines. The 99s' history with air racing dates back to the 1929 national Air Races when Amelia Earhart and several other competitors met under the grandstand at the finish line in Cleveland, OH. They vowed to form an organization for women aviators and that group became the Ninety-Nines. Today's Air Race Classic grew out of that first Women's Air Derby. This award is designed to inspire racers to continue to fly that perfect cross country on the final terminus leg of the race even though the race has been long and hard.

Fastest Women in Aviation Award

Women in Aviation International is pleased to offer this award to the highest-scoring team made up of all WAI members. The winning team will receive $500 to share and a plaque for each team member.

Fastest Beech Award

The Beech Aero Club is pleased to offer this award to the team flying a Beech airplane with the best finish in the 2026 ARC. The winning team will receive a certificate for each team member and the team is invited to the annual Beech Party at the Beech Aero Club/Beechcraft Heritage Museum. Your VIP Guest ticket will include admission, lunch, dinner, and tour. The museum is home to Louise Thaden's 1936 Bendix trophy and Gene Nora Jessen's 1962 Musketeer N2303Z (serial number M-6) that she piloted around the country when Baby Beech was introduced.

Fastest Cessna Award

The Cessna Flyer Association is donating trophies to recognize the highest-placing team flying the fastest Cessna.

Esther Lowry Safford Rookie Racer Award

Esther Lowry Safford was one of the original six extraordinary women who founded the Air Race Classic. She remained an avid supporter of the race and, prior to her death, she established the Rookie Racer Award for a pilot or co-pilot flying her first Air Race Classic. The awardee is selected based on a short essay, "Why I Fly". The winner receives a $500 cash prize.

Other ARC Awards:

Flying Family Team

Safety Award

Best Stop

2026 Awards

The Top Finishing Competition and Intercollegiate Class Race Teams

Each member will receive an ARC Award medallion, and teams receive cash prizes based on the number of teams entered in each class and will be announced after registration close and before the start of the race. Each member of the winning team for each Class will receive an Elise watch in either silver or gold, donated by Abingdon Watches. All Top teams will each receive a subscription to iFly EFB app.

1ST Place	$3,000
2ND Place	$2,000
3RD Place	$1,000
4TH Place	$800
5TH Place	$500

Leg Prizes

For each leg of the race, prizes are awarded to the four highest scoring teams (Top Finishing winners not eligible).

1ST Place	$40 and two charms
2ND Place	$30 and two charms
3RD Place	$20 and two charms



Ten Years of Winners

2025 Competition Class: Lauren Scott & Rebecca Carroll | Lin Caywood & Susan Beall | Minnetta Gardinier & Brenda Frye | Annabelle Kellogg & Gretchen Jahn | Teresa Camp & Denise Robinson. Intercollegiate Class: Helena Lind, Charlotte Fuller & Caroline Kelley (University of North Dakota) | Megan Cotter, Ashley Asselin & Isabella Hauri (Liberty University) | Campbell Glasgow, Emily Brutko & Maggie Peacock (Auburn University)

2024 Competition Class: Deb Dreyfuss & Joy Halcott | Raj Karwa & Sarah Krammen | Alicia Sikes & Nancy Rohr | Lin Caywood & Susan Beall | Rebecca Carroll & Gretchen Jahn | Susan Tholan, Marisa Jordan & Lenora Lewis. Intercollegiate Class: Alyssa Sheehan & Peyton Turner (Kent State University) | Maya Marenda & Graci McDaniel (Southern Illinois University Carbondale) | Morgan Mallow & Reyna Dodd (Purdue University) | Lily Hume, Emily Hartzell & Caroline Yuska (Western Michigan University)

2023 Peyton Turner & Laura Wilson (Kent State University) | Graci McDaniel & Meadow Boden (Southern Illinois University Carbondale) | Lin Caywood & Mary Wunder | Cynthia Lee & Linda Evans | Bobbie Rothen, Gretchen Jahn & Kristy Pottol | Abby Hagan & Ashley Baldwin (Auburn University) | Nir Levi & Carmel Haas | Alex Small & Morgan Mallow (Purdue University) | Jeanné Willerth & Emmy Dillon | Kali Hague & Robin Laws

2022 Laura Wilson & Alex Johnson (Kent State University) | Katie Truedson, Cassie Thompson-Pride & Connie Leege | Ashley Zook & Elisabeth Millspaugh; Mel Shrewsbury & Lauren Heisey | Lara Zook-Gaerte & Donna Harris | Minnetta Gardinier & Jeneanne Visser | Naiara Petralanda & Lauren Thompson | Deb Dreyfuss & Joy Halcott | Margaret Wint & Sue Glisson | Bunnie Ambrose & Alexa Baumgartner

2021 Canceled due to the pandemic.

2020 Canceled due to the pandemic.

2019 Corbi Bullcuk & Stephanie Wrenn | Caitlyn Miller & Kendall Higdon (Auburn University) | Jan Aarsheim & Elin-Mari Heggland | Ailsa Moseley Cutting & Sarah Wendt | Madi Bright, Rachel Chaput & Morgan Carney (Jacksonville University) | Susan Carastro & Marie Carastro | Lara Gaerte & Donna Harris | Mickael Ashworth & Megan Shaffer | Susan Larson & Amy Ecclesine | Jo Alcorn & Gretchen Jahn

2018 Mariah Ferber & Paige Kessler | Debby Rihn-Harvey & Chris Dale | Candie Oldham & Susan Westervelt | Debi Dreyfuss & Morgan Mitchell | Lauren Quandt, Shelby Satkowiak & Kelly Erdman (Western Michigan University) | Dee Bond & McKenzie Krutsinger | Aly Bond, Josie Cotugno & Yasmine Abu Arab (The Ohio State University) | Corbi Bulluck & Stephanie Wrenn | Mattie McKenna & Ashley Tucker (Auburn University) | Alicia Sikes & Nancy Rohr.

2017 Dee Bond & McKenzie Krutsinger Rachel Hutzell and Becca Dooling (ERAU-Prescott) | Minnetta Gardinier & Jeneanne Visser | Caroline Baldwin & Lydia Baldwin | Jenn Lowe & Hannah Burright (ERAU-Prescott) | Lorraine Denby & Amy Myzie | Lara Gaerte & JoAnne Alcorn | Emma Kishel, Dana Atkins & Jenna Annable (University of North Dakota) | Brittany Danko, Katelyn Griffin & Jami Higdon (Indiana State University) | Shelby Satkowiak, Lauren Quandt & Maria Walston (Western Michigan University)

2016 Emmy Dillon & Abbie Pasmore (ERAU-Daytona) | Lydia Kost, Kayleigh Bordner & MiJin Kim (Indiana State University) | 92Romeo Petralanda & Virginie Rollin | Dana Atkins, Tina Druskins & Emma Kishel (University of North Dakota) | Terry Carbonell & Ellen Herr |Lauren Thompson, Jessica Karlsson & Lauren Brown | Caroline Baldwin, Lydia Baldwin & Cara Baldwin | Corbi Bulluck & Ramona Banks | Alicia Sikes & Heather Hill | Katie Wagner, Analise Nelson & Alicia Isacson (Liberty University).

2015 Stephanie Armstrong & Jessica Reed (Southern Illinois University-Carbondale) | Jennifer Pinkowski, Carly Namihira & Christina Druskins (University of North Dakota) | Malinda Caywood & Robin Hadfield | Claire Schindler & Erica Diels (ERAU-Prescott) | Pam Rudolph & Tookie Hensley | Sarah Wendt & Abigail Pasmore (ERAU-Daytona) | Mary Wunder & Juliet Lindrooth | Catherine Sweatt, Melanie Abel & Katelyn Walters | Candie Oldham & Susan Westervelt | JoAnne Alcorn & Gretchen Jahn.

2014 Dianna Stanger, Joyce Wilson & Erin Cude | Valdeta Mehanja & Nancy Snyder (ERAU-Daytona) | Melody Dowlearn and Alicia Isacson (Liberty University) | Emily Applegate & Zia Safko | Megan Grupp & Jessica Dyer (Liberty University) | Gayle Schutte & Tanya Gatlin | Terry Carbonell & Ellen Herr | Camelia Smith & Julia Matthews | Susan Larson & Amy Ecclesine | Kristin Garcia & Marlene Wessel (ERAU-Prescott).

Look back on all 40+years of Air Race Classic Top Ten Winners (1977-2023) **airraceclassic.org/winners-list.htm**





The ARC Silent Auction

A long-time tradition, the ARC silent auction is held as a fundraiser to support the future of the Air Race Classic. The auction is an opportunity to purchase interesting aviation-related items, as well as many other items. You can be a part of this annual event whether you are a racer, volunteer or someone cheering ARC on from the sidelines.

Auction items are donated by corporations, groups and individuals. Aviation-related items are always appropriate, but not required. Past purchases have included aviation technology, training courses, aviation prints, hats, shirts, books, jewelry, collectibles, gift cards, and much more!

Do you have something to donate? Your gift is tax deductible and will make a difference. For more information, contact **silentauction@airraceclassic.org**.



The Air Race Classic Endowment Fund

Celebrating 48 years of continuous women's air racing, Air Race Classic is looking forward to a continued bright and successful future. To ensure this legacy, the Board of Directors has established an Endowment Fund with a goal of raising $500,000.

"Those monies will be prudently invested, and once the goal is met, the principal will be retained, and revenue earned will be allocated to the Air Race Classic Board for distribution to help defray the costs of running this race," said Carolyn Van Newkirk, former member of the Air Race Classic Board of Directors. "It is our hope that the legacy will last indefinitely."

With your help, we can continue to be a part of aviation history, helping women pilots face new challenges, accomplish goals and share the experience. If you would like to help us keep the challenge alive by supporting the Air Race Classic with your contribution, send your donations to:

ARC ENDOWMENT FUND

Air Race Classic
713 Mathew's Street
Fort Collins CO 80524

LiveATC.net

"LiveATC.net lets you LISTEN to LIVE ATC transmissions from almost ANYWHERE in the world."
— Alex Beam, The Boston Globe

LiveATC.net will put listeners right in the cockpit of the Air Race Classic (ARC) race planes, as they hear the racers maneuver for position, line up for flybys, execute high-speed low passes over each timing line and then either zoom off to the next stop or stop the clock, cool their engines down and land for fuel and a well-needed rest.

LiveATC.net is the world's leading provider of ATC audio streams. We carry over 1,500 ATC audio streams from around the world and deliver them right to your browser or smartphone. LiveATC.net is an excellent training resource as well as a source of entertainment for a large audience of pilots and aviation enthusiasts. LiveATC.net archives all transmissions, providing a great training resource for pilots.

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Visit www.LiveATC.net and contact us for information on adding your local airport!

Where We've Been

ALABAMA
Fairhope – 2015 Terminus; 2025 Start
Gadsden - 2015
Huntsville - 1991 Terminus
Mobile - 2011 Terminus
Muscle Shoals – 1993, 2022
Pell City - 2023
Tuscaloosa – 2010

ARIZONA
Bullhead City - 1991
Casa Grande - 1983
Holbrook - 1992
Kingman - 1987
Mesa - 2006 Start
Page - 1985
Prescott - 1996 Start, 2016 Start
Tucson - 2000 Start
Williams - 2001
Winslow – 1990

ARKANSAS
Arkadelphia – 2016
Bryant - 2019
Conway - 1996
El Dorado - 2011
Fayetteville – 1990, 2013
Fort Smith – 1980
Harrison - 2025
Hot Springs - 1978, 2001, 2002, 2010
Jonesboro – 1987, 2023
Mena - 1992
Mountain Home – 1991
Pine Bluff - 2022
Russellville - 2009
Texarkana - 1985
Walnut Ridge – 2005

CALIFORNIA
Agua Dulce (fly-by) - 1987
Alturas - 1989
Calexico (fly-by) – 1983
Concord – 2014 Start
El Cajon - 1983 Start
Rancho Murrieta (fly-by) - 1987
Redding - 1985 Start
Rio Bravo - 1987
Sacramento - 1989 Start
Salinas - 1988 Start
San Diego - 2001 Start
Santa Monica - 1979 Start
Santa Rosa - 1977 Start, 1986
Stockton - 1979
Temecula Valley - 1990 Start
Thermal - 1992 Start

COLORADO
Burlington - 2002
Denver - 2009 Start
Durango - 1996
Grand Junction – 1978
La Junta - 2013
Lamar – 2004
Loveland – 2024 Terminus
Sterling - 2025

FLORIDA
Cross City - 2023
Daytona Beach - 1985 Terminus, 1996 Terminus, 2016 Terminus
Destin/Fort Walton Beach - 1978 Terminus
Fort Myers - 2010 Statr
Homestead – 2023 Terminus
Lakeland – 2022 Start

GEORGIA
Albany - 1985
Americus - 2016
Athens - 1996
Gainesville - 1984 Terminus
Jekyll Island - 1981 Start
LaGrange - 2019
Moultrie - 2022
Rome - 1998
Waycross – 2010

IDAHO
Boise - 1977 - 1986, 1997 Start
Coeur d'Alene - 1982, 1995
Homedale - 2025
Idaho Falls – 1988
Jerome - 2025
Mountain Home - 2013
Twin Falls – 1984

ILLINOIS
Cahokia - 1994 Start
Carbondale – 2024 Start
Champaign/Urbana - 2016
Danville – 1995, 2014
Decatur - 1993, 2008
Freeport - 1999
Galesburg – 1981, 2018
Jacksonville - 2009
Kankakee – 1988
Lawrenceville - 2015
Marion - 1980
Mattoon – 2000
Monee - 2024
Mount Vernon – 1990, 2022
Peru – 2003

INDIANA
Auburn - 2018
Bloomington - 1992
Columbus - 1987
Elkhart - 1997 - 2010
Evansville - 1977 - 1986
Frankfort (fly-by) – 2005
Indianapolis - 2017
Jeffersonville - 2015
Lafayette - 1989, 2005 Start & Terminus
La Porte - 2024
Seymour - 1994, 1999
Terre Haute – 2022 Terminus
Washington – 2022

IOWA
Atlantic - 2009 Terminus
Burlington - 1991
Cedar Rapids - 1977, 1986
Decora - 2017
Denison - 2007
Dubuque - 1994
Fort Dodge - 1995
Iowa City - 2011 Start, 2014
Marshalltown - 1989
Mason City - 1988, 2008
Ottumwa - 2023
Spencer - 2017
Waterloo – 1980

KANSAS
Abilene - 2017
Belleville - 1990
Dodge City – 1984, 2024
Garden City - 1981, 2000
Great Bend - 2011
Hays – 1992
Herington - 2023
Hutchinson - 1983
Independence - 1994
Lawrence – 2006, 2022
Liberal – 2009
McPherson - 2025
New Century - 2000
Olathe - 1978
Pittsburg - 1993
Pratt - 2001 - 2003 Start
Salina - 1980
Winfield - 1987
Wichita - 2004 Start & Terminus

KENTUCKY
Bowling Green - 2007
Frankfort - 2008
Lexington - 1981
Louisville - 1983
Owensboro- 1996
Paducah – 1984

LOUISIANA
Bastrop – 2006
Shreveport – 2005

MAINE
Bangor – 2007
Fryeburg – 2018 Terminus

MARYLAND
Frederick - 2010 Terminus, 2017 Start

MASSACHUSETTS
Hyannis - 2000 Terminus
Mansfield - 2008 Terminus
Plymouth - 2000 (fly-by)

MICHIGAN
Cadillac – 2018, 2024
Flint - 1999
Grand Rapids - 1983 Terminus
Kalamazoo - 2015
Menominee - 2003, 2006 Terminus
Sault Ste. Marie – 1997, 2019

MINNESOTA
Albert Lea - 2003, 2006
Bemidji - 2017
Detroit Lakes - 1991
Duluth - 1997
Eveleth – 2004
Fairmont - 2019
Faribault - 2018
Fergus Falls – 1994
Mankato - 2023
Minneapolis – 1979
Owatonna - 2024
Winona – 2005

MISSISSIPPI
Greenville - 1994
Grenada - 2009
Gulfport – 1978
Hattiesburg – 2019, 2022
Meridian – 1985
Starkville - 2025

MISSOURI
Cameron - 2010
Cape Girardeau - 1998
Columbia - 1983
Hannibal - 2004
Jefferson City - 1982, 2007
Joplin - 1984
Kaiser Lake - 1999
Kirksville – 1992, 2015
Lee's Summit - 2019
Moberly - 2024
St. Joseph – 1998
Warrensburg – 2016

MONTANA
Bozeman - 2008 Start
Cut Bank - 1982
Great Falls - 1979
Havre - 1995
Miles City - 1982, 2008

NEBRASKA
Ainsworth - 1989
Alliance - 2011
Beatrice – 2005, 2018
Grand Island - 1977, 1986, 2003
Hastings - 2023
Holdrege - 2013
Kearney - 1988
Lincoln - 1982
McCook - 2007
Norfolk – 1994, 2014
North Platte - 1978, 2004
Ogallala - 1998
Scottsbluff – 1984, 2014
Sidney – 1981

NEVADA
Elko – 1985, 2014
Jackpot - 1989
Las Vegas - 1978 Start
Laughlin - 1991 Start
Reno - 1995 Start
Winnemucca – 1988

NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque - 2016
Farmington - 1987
Fort Sumner - 2001
Gallup - 2001
Las Vegas - 1990, 2002
Moriarty - 2000
Roswell - 1996
Santa Fe - 1985, 1998 Start, 2017 Terminus
Santa Teresa - 2006
Silver City - 2002 Start
Socorro (fly by) - 2002
Tucumcari – 1992

NEW YORK
Binghamton - 1993
Elmira - 2007
Ithaca – 2000
Penn Yan - 2018
Perry-Warsaw (fly-by) - 1999
Saratoga Springs – 2008

NORTH CAROLINA
Asheville - 1993
Greensboro – 1981
Hickory - 2015
Kill Devil Hills - 2003 (fly-by)
Manteo - 2003 Terminus

NORTH DAKOTA
Bismarck – 1979
Grand Forks – 2023
Jamestown – 1997, 2011

OHIO
Athens – 2005, 2014
Batavia - 1998 Terminus, 2001 Terminus
Columbus - 1994 Terminus
Coshocton - 2017
Dayton - 2003
Mansfield - 2000 Terminus
Newark – 2018, 2024
Toledo - 1977 Terminus, 1986
Willoughby - 1999 Terminus
Youngstown – 1989

OKLAHOMA
Ada - 1999 – 2006, 2022
Alva - 2018
Ardmore - 2017
Bartlesville – 2005, 2024
Burns Flat - 1978, 1999
Elk City - 1990, 1992 Terminus
Norman - 2011
Oklahoma City - 2007 Start
Ponca City – 2002, 2023
Shangri-La Afton - 1981 Terminus
Woodward – 1998, 2013

OREGON
Burns - 1995
Klamath Falls – 1979, 2014
La Grande - 2025
Medford - 1977 - 1986
Sunriver - 1982 Start

PENNSYLVANIA
Altoona – 2003
Connellsville - 2015
Franklin – 2008
New Cumberland - 2014
Philadelphia - 1989 Terminus
York - 1990 Terminus, 2014 Terminus

RHODE ISLAND
North Kingstown - 1993 Terminus

SOUTH CAROLINA
Columbia - 1980 Terminus
Greenville - 1987
Winnsboro – 2002

SOUTH DAKOTA
Aberdeen - 1995, 2008
Brookings – 2011, 2013
Huron - 2004
Philip - 1991
Pierre - 1982
Sioux Falls- 1981
Spearfish – 2011, 2013

TENNESSEE
Dyersburg - 1992
Fayetteville - 2001, 2002
Jackson – 1982, 2019 Start
Knoxville - 1982 Terminus, 1997 Terminus
Murfreesboro - 2016
Sparta - 2009
Tullahoma – 2005, 2022
Union City – 2015

TEXAS
Abilene - 1980
Borger - 2011
Bryan - 2006
Childress - 1985
Corpus Christi - 1980 Start, 1993 Start
Dalhart - 1987
El Paso - 1983, 1999 Start
Lubbock - 1983
Lufkin - 2009
Midland – 1998, 2016
Ozona – 2006
Plainview - 2017
San Angelo – 1999
Sulfur Springs - 2023
Sweetwater – 2009, 2018 Start
Tyler – 1993
Waco - 2016
Wichita Falls – 1996

UTAH
Logan - 2013
Ogden - 1977, 1986
Provo - 1991
Vernal (fly-by) – 1991

VERMONT
Burlington – 2007

VIRGINIA
Danville - 2003
Chesapeake-Portsmouth - 2002 Terminus
Fredericksburg –2015 Start

WASHINGTON
Pasco - 1984 Start, 2013 Start
Spokane – 2025 Terminus
Walla Walla – 1979

WEST VIRGINIA
Huntington - 1980, 1988 Terminus, 1990, 1995 Terminus
Lewisburg - 2007
Morgantown - 1993
Parkersburg - 2010
Wheeling – 1997

WISCONSIN
Ashland - 1994
Milwaukee - 1979 Terminus
Minocqua-Woodruff - 1991
Racine - 2009
Sheboygan – 2004
Wausau -2019

WYOMING
Casper - 1978
Cheyenne - 1977, 1986
Evanston - 1997
Gillette - 1995, 2004, 2025
Laramie - 1988
Newcastle – 1997
Pinedale - 2014
Rawlins - 1989, 2011, 2013
Rock Springs – 1984, 2025
Sheridan - 1979
Worland – 1991

CANADA
Saint John - 2007 Terminus
Sault St. Marie – 2019
North Bay – 2019
Brantford – 2019
Welland – 2019 Terminus
Toronto – 1999

Join us next time for our
49TH ANNUAL AIR RACE CLASSIC
Summer of 2027



2027 Leg Lengths

1	KAUO	AUBURN UNIVERSITY REGIONAL, AUBURN, AL	--- nm	--- sm
2	KMBT	MURFREESBORO MUNICIPAL, MURFREESBORO, TN	201	231
3	KIDL	INDIANOLA MUNICIPAL, INDIANOLOA, MS	257	295
4	KGCM	CLAREMORE REGIONAL, CLAREMORE, OK	290	334
5	F05	WILBARGER COUNTY, VERNON, TX	224	258
6	KTCC	TUCUMCARI MUNICIPAL, TUCUMCARI, NM	221	255
7	KSJN	ST. JOHNS INDUSTRIAL AIR PARK, ST. JOHNS, AZ	288	331
8	KPGA	PAGE MUNICIPAL, PAGE, AZ	176	203
9	67L	MESQUITE, MESQUITE, NV	126	145
10	O43	YERINGTON MUNICIPAL, YERINGTON, NV	275	316
11	KMAN		299	344
		[Total Distance]	2,357	2,713

Check us out at airraceclassic.org



Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make the 2026 ARC a success!

The Air Race Classic is an annual event that takes a year-round effort by hundreds of volunteers, who spend countless hours making sure all the pieces fall into place. That effort begins with the all-volunteer Air Race Classic Board of Directors, whose members oversee the organization and its events. They also provide guidance to ensure the future of the race. Assistant Directors widen the scope and range of expertise, providing experience that more fully supports the ARC's mission and goals. All Directors and Assistant Directors of this 501(c)(3) corporation shoulder the responsibility and reap the reward of sponsoring the race because they believe in its value to both general aviation and women in aviation.

Supporting the race is an ever-expanding network of volunteers who work with the Board and Assistant Directors across these divisions, generously dedicating numerous hours throughout the year to ensure a safe, competitive, educational, and festive event. The ARC volunteer network is what makes this event happen year in and year out. Thank you to the men and women involved in our volunteer network!

The Air Race Classic organization continuously strives to upgrade its operations to meet aviation challenges of today's changing world. We have implemented new tools for race timing and scoring and offer live tracking of race teams en route.

Working on this event is almost as exciting as flying it. The ARC's energy and enthusiasm are contagious. If you would like to be part of the behind-the-scenes activity that supports this race, please join us by contacting info@airraceclassic.org.

Our divisions include:

AIRPLANE | Airplane Entry; Inspection; New Airplane Technology

EDUCATION | Briefings; Educational Videos; First Timers/Refresher; Public Education/Youth; Safety

FINANCING | Advertising; Endowment Fund; Grants; Sales; Silent Auction; Sponsors

GOVERNANCE | Judging; Rules; Treasury

HANDICAP | Coordinate Handicap Flights; Recruit & Train Handicap Pilots; Calculate Handicap Speed

MARKETING | ARC Program; ARC Promotion; Awards & Prizes; Press Releases; Publications; Racer Promotion; Social Media; Trade Shows & Conferences

RACERS | Credentials; Entry Administration; Mother Bird Program; Scholastic Outreach

ROUTE | Enroute Stop Volunteer Coordination; FAA Waivers; Flyby Design

SAFETY | Race Central; Race Safety Oversight; Safety Officer

SCORING | Scoring; Timing Coordination; Timing Technologies

START/TERMINUS | Route Selection; Start/Terminus Liaison

SUPPORT | ARC History; Documents and Databases; Thank Yous; Website



2026

ARC AIR DERBY

THE CO-ED CREATE-YOUR-OWN RACE CHALLENGE

WHY FLY THE ARC DERBY?
An exciting and fun opportunity to fly around the world, to challenge your piloting, flight planning, and navigation skills. (Teams must consist of at least 2 pilots with at least one female pilot or student pilot).

RACE ALMOST ANY AIRPLANE!
Open to any airplane under 12,500 lbs., including light sport, experimental, powered glider and turbo charged that has the range to complete the minimum leg length.

YOU DESIGN YOUR OWN ROUTE .
Each Team designs their own route. The Team then estimates the time it will take to fly each leg and the entire route, and then strives to fly it as close to their estimated time as possible.

Registration Opens August 15th!
Scan the QR code to learn how to register for the 2026 ARC Air Derby!

Contact Us:
derby.airraceclassic.org
info@airraceclassic.org
@airraceclassicincARC

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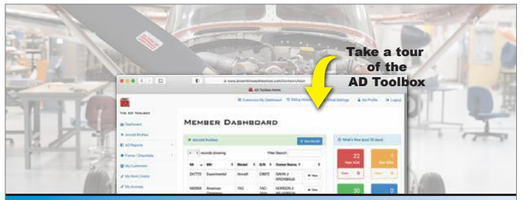
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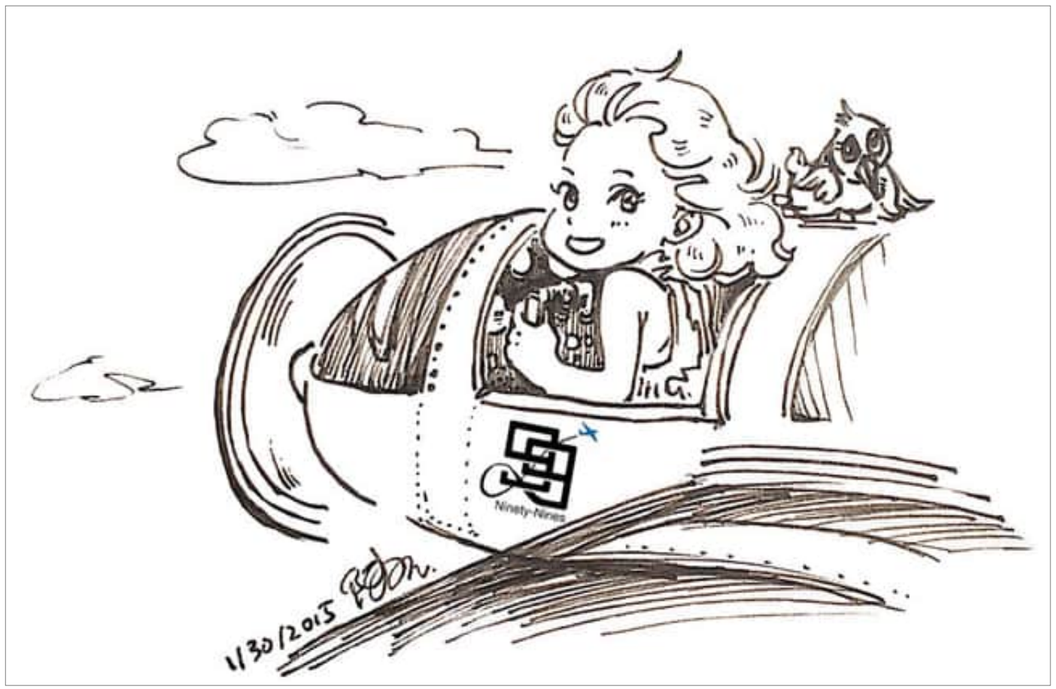
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Beechcraft
HERITAGE MUSEUM



A world class aviation Museum, rich in aviatrix history situated on a picturesque campus adjacent to the Tullahoma, Tennessee Municipal Airport (KTHA)

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June 26-28, 2026

2026 arc Air Race Classic TERMINUS

MVN Mt. Vernon Outland Airport

Welcome to the finish line of an extraordinary journey!



Mt. Vernon is deeply honored to serve as the Terminus for the 2026 Air Race Classic - the proud conclusion of a momentous cross-country tradition that celebrates courage, skill, perseverance, and the legacy of women in aviation.

As racers cross the final threshold into Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, they carry with them not only miles traveled, but history made. We are grateful to be the community where this chapter ends, achievements are celebrated, and lifelong memories are made.

Blue skies, safe landings, & congratulations to all!

MVN Mt. Vernon Outland Airport
MtVernonAirport.com

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