



WINGNUTS

<http://www.midcolumbia99s.org>

Newsletter of the Mid-Columbia Ninety-Nines
International Organization of Women Pilots

March
2026

Upcoming Events

See page 2 for details

99s Meetings

Fri.– Sun., March 20-22—99s

Retreat at Suncadia
141 Sweetshop Lane

Fri-Sun., April 17-19 — NW Section

Board Meeting in Wenatchee.

See details on p. 5

Other Events

April 14-19—Sun 'n Fun, Lakeland,
FL

May 15-16—Pasco Air Jubilee Fly In

May 30—Aviation Career Day and
Job Fair—Richland



Check out all of the flying events on
pages 2, 7, and 8!



A Line from Lynn

It seems that spring weather is here. Get ready
for adventure!

We're meeting for a weekend getaway in
Suncadia, March 20 to 22. Our meeting will be 10

am on March 21. Kurt Kleiner, who spoke at the NW
Section meeting in Butte, will be our speaker.

Come for all or part of the weekend and bring your
swimsuit for hot tubbing.

Please RSVP by March 14 so we have time to
arrange everything. Hope to see you there.

Additional topic: Palms to Pines:

Have you dreamed of air racing? The West's air
race, Palms to Pines, is back for 2026.

<https://palmstopinesairrace.com/>

We have multiple members who have participated
in past races. Get in touch with Lynn, Sandra,
Aileen, or Marjy if you want the inside scoop.

Lynn

Mid-Columbia Chapter Meeting

March 20-22

141 Sweetshop Lane

Suncadia, Cle Elum, WA

Meeting at 10:00 AM on Saturday

Please let Marjy or Lynn know if you plan to attend.

MarjyL@charter.net or 509-302-9624

Flylynn001@gmail.com or 509-430-8763

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Changed since last issue

Meetings and Events


Actual 99 meeting dates

TYPE	DATE	THEME/ACTIVITY	LOCATION
99s Mtg.	Mar. 20-22	99s Retreat and safety seminar	Suncadia
Sun 'n Fun	April 14-19	Sun 'n Fun fly-in and aviation celebration	Lakeland, Florida
99s Board Mtg.	April 17-19	Northwest Section BOD Meeting	Wenatchee/East Wenatchee KEAT
Fly-in	May 15-16	Pasco Air Jubilee Fly In	Tri-Cities Airport –Pasco KPSC
Airmarking	May 23-25	Airmark Prosser MAY BE RESCHEDULED. SEE MINUTES. P. 3 Possible alternate—Desert Aire	Prosser Airport S40
Event	May 30	Aviation Career Day and Job Fair 99 will have a booth	Richland KRLD
Warbirds Weekend	May 30-31	Warbirds on Display	TBD
Young Eagles	June 13	Help with the Young Eagles	Richland KRLD
Fly in	June 13-14	Prosser Flag and Flight Festival 99s invited to have a booth	Prosser S40
99s Campout	June 20	Camping at Sisters	Sisters, Oregon 6K5
International Conference	July 9-12	International Conference	San Diego, California K SAN
Northwest Section	Aug. 27-30	Northwest Section Annual Conference	Driggs, Idaho KDIJ
99s Booth	Sept. 5	Promote 99s at booth during Airport Days	Cashmere, WA 8S2
Airmarking	Sept. 19	Paint Walla Walla Compass Rose	Walla Walla, WA KALW
99s Mtg.	Oct. 17	La Grande	La Grande, OR LGD
99s Mtg.	Nov. 14	Planning Meeting	Walla Walla, WA KALW
99s Mtg.	Dec. 12	Christmas Meeting	TBD

Future International Conferences

SAN DIEGO
JULY 9-12, 2026





AUSTRALIA—2027



Mid-Columbia Ninety-Nine Minutes

February 14, 2026

Ellensburg (ELN), WA

The regular monthly meeting of the Mid-Columbia Chapter of the Ninety-Nines was held at Mt. Stuart Aviation, the new FBO at KELN. Thanks to Aaron Greear and Brenden Weddington for help in setting up and promoting this meeting. We hope it's a start to welcoming female students from the flight school next door.

Chapter officers present were Lynn Harbinson, Chapter Chair; Sandra Phenning, Secretary; Marjy Leggett, Treasurer and Newsletter.

Chapter members present were DeAnna Ankrum (new member!) and her daughter, Temperance, Sue Purvis (NW Section Treasurer), Anne English, Cathie Day, and Sayla Padilla (new member!).

From Leavenworth, we had Leah Hemberry and her daughter, Charlie Ricketts, as our guests. Charlie is in middle school and very interested in aviation.

Before our meeting started, Lynn Harden, Director of the McAllister Museum of Aviation at Yakima airport, talked to us about creating their new display of Women in Aviation. He was very enthusiastic about it and wanted our input. We directed him to the 99's Int'l website. He also mentioned that fuel sales at YKM help generate income for the museum.

The meeting started at 10:20 AM.

We had a nice long session of introductions because we had new members and guests. Much information was shared about the 99's and many stories about getting interested and training in aviation.

Airmarking - We are scheduled to paint at Prosser airport Memorial Day but Aileen said they are planning to reseal the area we would paint. It may still be too absorbent for us to paint at the end of May. We will work on getting more specific information from the Port of Benton and rescheduling.

Since we are probably not airmarking in Prosser in May, it was suggested we have a flyin to Desert Aire and try out their new cafe. It is under new ownership and has had good reviews.

The Northwest Aviation Trade Show is next weekend, 2/21-2/22. It is being held at the State Fairgrounds in Puyallup. The 99's have a booth that would like volunteers. The Lambert's non-profit, Aviation First Steps, also has a booth and would like volunteers. The 99's have asked for a donation toward the cost of the booth. Anne moved that we donate \$50, and Lynn seconded the motion. Marjy will give Sue a check to send on with our Section donation.

Our annual chapter retreat at Suncadia is March 20-22 this year. (It is usually in February but we moved to March for accommodations.) The meeting is Saturday morning, but everyone is welcome to come anytime Friday and stay through Sunday night. Please let Lynn know your plans so we can coordinate meals.

The Spring Board of Directors meeting for our Northwest Section is April 18 in Wenatchee (EAT). Registrations are due by March 15. (\$50 on [website](#).) Registration includes the meeting, lunch, a fire station tour, and Miss Veedol tour.

Some new members were interested in our Chapter T-shirts and pink jackets. They can text Dani Smith at 541.571.0735 or email at thirdday97838@gmail.com to order those items.

Education is part of our mission and International is encouraging each chapter to do more. Right now we are supporting Young Eagles with the EAA, wearing our chapter attire out and about, leaving contact info at FBO's, encouraging more ratings and attending FAAST webinars.

Continued on page 4

The Palms to Pines Air Race is scheduled for August 14-15, 2026. This is a smaller race than the Air Race Classic, and runs from California to Oregon each year. Our chapter has had members do this fun race many times. It's a great chance to learn new skills, sharpen old ones, and make new friends. See their [website](#) for more information.

The Air Race Classic is a more "serious" race and is held at various areas around the county. See their [website](#) for more information. They also sponsor a derby, which Lynn and Sandra did last year. It started when the Classic had to be cancelled during COVID. It's an excellent challenge for precision and planning. They have not published information for a 2026 derby yet.

The Fall Northwest Section meeting will be in Driggs, Idaho, this year, August 27-30. Since this area is close to Yosemite and Grand Tetons at a time those parks are very busy, you are encouraged to make hotel reservations ASAP. They have negotiated with the conference hotel to make the whole amount refundable if you decide not to go. See the [website](#) for more information.

We also discussed the Washington Passport Program. Marjy still has some booklets. Many other states are interested in this program because it has been so successful and popular. See FlyWashington.org. Idaho is now creating a similar program.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:22 AM. We did not follow with a lunch as most members had other commitments.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Phenning

ORDER YOUR MID-COLUMBIA 99S SHIRT AND JACKET

Order your shirt and jacket Mid-Columbia uniform from Dani Smith at thirdday97838@gmail.com Dani says, "Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of this and giving me the opportunity to work on this project for you. I don't mind letting ladies try the garments on BEFORE decorating so they can be sure that it fits. If someone orders a size, doesn't try it on, and then it doesn't fit, we can't be responsible for it, so I like to give them the option. That way if it doesn't fit we can either return the garment to our supplier or use it for something else, but once it's decorated, there's nothing we can do. So please know you are free to try the shirt and jacket on before I decorate it, if you have any concerns about the sizes.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Items may be ordered on an individual basis and do not need to wait for a group buy. Price and size charts are below. Contact Dani Smith at thirdday97838@gmail.com.



LADIES SIZES	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL
SIZE	2	4/6	8/10	12/14	16/18	20/22	24/26	28/30
BUST	32 - 34	35 - 36	37 - 38	39 - 41	42 - 44	45 - 47	48 - 51	52 - 55
WAIST	24 - 26	27 - 28	29 - 30	31 - 33	34 - 36	37 - 39	40 - 43	44 - 47
HIP	34 - 36	37 - 38	39 - 40	41 - 43	44 - 46	47 - 49	50 - 53	54 - 57

DISTRICT

WOMEN'S	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	3XL	4XL
SIZE	2	4/6	8/10	12/14	16/18	20/22	24/26	28/30
BUST	32 - 34	35 - 36	37 - 38	39 - 41	42 - 44	45 - 47	48 - 51	52 - 55

*Women's Fitted available in select styles.

Prices: Jacket

S-XL = \$85.00

T-Shirt

S-XL = \$30.00

**All Ninety-Nines are invited to attend the Spring Board Meeting!
In East Wenatchee! April 17-19, 2026**

Register Here

HOTEL: Hilton Garden Inn Wenatchee, 25 N Worthen St, Wenatchee, WA. Special rate: \$179 +tax for 2 queen beds or \$169 +tax for 1 king bed. The special rate **expires March 18**.

To book the hotel online, please follow this link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=EATYOGI&groupCode=91T&arrivaldate=2026-04-17&departuredate=2026-04-19&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

1. Adjust the Check-in and Check-out dates to fit your stay.
2. Enter the PROMO Code: **91T**
3. Select your room type.
4. Proceed to check-out.

To book the hotel by phone, please call **509-662-0600**

1. Let them know you are with the **Northwest Section 99s group**
2. Give them the group block code **91T**
3. Complete individual reservation with agent.

Please keep in mind that the cut-off date to book a room is **March 18, 2026**.

**This rate is not guaranteed at third party booking sites such as [expedia.com](https://www.expedia.com) and [hotels.com](https://www.hotels.com).*

Event Payment Options

Pay by Zelle (Preferred)

Send money with Zelle®

Scan in your banking app to pay

**NORTHWEST SECTION OF THE
NINETY-NINES**

at nw99treasurer@gmail.com



zelle®

Or mail check to: Sue Purvis
2117 S. Melody Lane
East Wenatchee WA 98802

Pay by PayPal



We will be having our BOD meeting at Douglas County Fire District 2 Station 1. 377 Eastmont Ave. East Wenatchee, Washington.

We will be staying at The Hilton Garden Inn. Address. 25 N. Worthen. Wenatchee, Washington which is right on the River Trail along the Columbia River, and also close to dining and shopping. Pybus Market is next door to the hotel.

There is free bus service in Chelan County. Wenatchee.

**99s Girls Weekend in Suncadia
141 Sweetshop Lane**

The weekend of March 20-22 is the weekend that the Mid-Columbia Ninety-Nines will be holding their meeting in the "Little House in the Woods" in Suncadia. Suncadia is just west of Cle Elum off I-90.

Bonnie has graciously arranged for us to spend the weekend in a large house owned by her son.

Arrive Friday for the weekend or just for the day on Saturday. Be sure to let Bonnie know if you plan to attend and which day(s) you plan to be there.

We will have the meeting on Saturday at 10:00, along with a safety seminar by special guest, Kurt Kleiner.

There is a \$400 housekeeping fee. Bonnie is asking everyone to donate \$20 to help with the housekeeping fee.

During your free time, there are lots of walking paths, places to explore, a hot tub, and even more!

There are enough beds to accommodate 10 people, but we can use air mattresses and sleeping bags if there are more. This is why it is important to let us know if you are coming and for which days. Also, we need to know for meal planning.



Contact Lynn at

flylynn001@gmail.com or text/
call (509) 430-8763 or

Bonnie at

bonniemichele@outlook.com if you
plan to attend.

There are 5 meals to prepare: Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday Lunch, Saturday dinner, and Sunday breakfast. Pick a meal and let Lynn know what you would like to bring to share with the group. Lynn and Bonnie will work on coordinating the meals.

Upcoming Events!

I would like to invite all 99s (and friends and family) to attend (and participate) in the upcoming **Pasco Air Jubilee Fly-In** on **May 15-16, 2026**. This Fly-In is celebrating the historic milestone achieved in 1926 by Varney Airlines. 100 years ago, the **FIRST** commercial airmail flight in the United States took off from Pasco WA bound for Elko NV. This was the birth of commercial aviation in the US and the beginning of United Airlines!

To celebrate this special occasion, the Pasco Aviation Museum is inviting vintage, antique, warbirds, and unique aircraft to be on display on the ramp in front of Bergstrom's and the museum. Everyone is welcome! So far, we have commitments from the Pembertons in Spokane, Hangar180 in Idaho, possibly a Varney Speedmail from California and several local aircraft owners. The featured aircraft on display will be a restored Laird Swallow biplane, just like the one that flew 100 years ago as the **FIRST** commercial airmail flight in the country. The museum is also displaying a vintage stagecoach, and we have invited food trucks to serve lunch. Stay tuned for more to come.



May 15-16, 2026 | **BREAKING NEWS** | Pasco, WA

PASCO AIR JUBILEE FLY-IN

PASCO AIRMAIL
1926 2026
CENTENNIAL
100 yrs
AIRMAIL to AIRLINES
PASCO was FIRST!

SAVE THE DATE!
May 15 (Friday) -16 (Saturday), 2026
Pasco Aviation Museum 4102 N. Stearman Ave. Pasco, WA
Vintage aircraft on display, historic horse-drawn stagecoach, food trucks, and more! Free admission.

FUN FACT:
On April 6th, 1926, a Laird Swallow biplane took off from Pasco carrying 200 pounds of U.S. postal mail, becoming the **FIRST** airline to deliver airmail in the United States!

PASCO AIRMAIL CENTENNIAL

Pasco Air Jubilee Fly-In ***May 15-16, 2026***

Aircraft on static display, vintage stagecoach on display, food trucks and more

Free Admission

East General Aviation ramp in front of the Pasco Aviation Museum

Tri-Cities Airport Pasco WA

Malin Bergstrom

More Upcoming Events!

Saturday, May 30
99s are invited to have a booth

LOOK WHAT FUN AWAITS YOU!

June 13-14
99s are invited to have a booth

Aviation Career Day & Job Fair
Richland Airport (RLD)

Saturday, May 30
9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Open to the public

Calling All Aviation Employers, Recruiters, and Industry Vendors!

- Showcase your company to aspiring aviation professionals
- Network with students, job seekers and fellow industry leaders
- Promote career opportunities, training programs and services

Contact Jon Ray at 509-392-3370 or restonhigh@gmail.com

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PROSSER FLAG & FLIGHT FESTIVAL
PROSSER AIRPORT
JUNE 13-14, 2026

WEEKEND EVENTS

Keynote Presentation by
Greg 'Boss' Woodbridge 3K commander of the Blue Angels
Julie Clark's T34 Flight Demonstration

Balloon Launches
See Airplanes, Hot Air Balloons, Helicopters, and Drones.
Aviation displays, food, refreshments, activities for kids,
and more stuff we haven't thought of yet.

Schedule your BasicMed exam with [Dr. Nancy Wells](#) at
(509) 788-3856

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1st 50 aircraft that fly-in receive a
numbered commemorative coin

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT
BU BLAHUT
BU3071@prosser16.com
(509) 391-0766 (call or text)

NWS 99s Fall Section Meeting
Teton Valley, Idaho
KDIJ

August 27-30, 2026
Join us! Celebrating Female
Pilots of the Northwest

Come for the mountains. Stay for the fellowship.
Nestled beneath the iconic Teton Range, Driggs offers wide-
open skies, mountain charm, and the perfect backdrop for
connection, conversation, and adventure with fellow 99s.
Whether you're soaking in the scenery, partaking in
adventures, exploring town, or sharing stories with friends old
and new, Teton Valley is ready to welcome you.

Join the
Facebook Group
to stay up to date
with all the
event details!

Join the 2026 Fall Meeting
Private Facebook Group

EASTERN IDAHO
PILOT ASSOCIATION
WOMEN PILOTS

Northwest Section Meeting!
August 27-30
Register Now!

Welcome to our Newest Members!

DeAnna Ankrum—Joined December 12, 2025. DeAnna is a student pilot working on getting her endorsement to solo. She lives in West Richland and is a substitute teacher. Her goal is to earn as many ratings as she can and become a commercial pilot.

Annalisa Berg — Joined June 24, 2025. Annalisa lives in Soap Lake and attends Big Bend Community College where she has earned her private SEL license, Instrument Rating, Commercial, and is working on her CFI with plans to earn her CFII with the immediate goal of instructing at Big Bend. The fascination of flying struck Annalisa when she was 12 years old. She thought it would be fun to fly, so went on a Discovery Flight and immediately fell in love with flying. With such a passion of flying, her instructor suggested Annalisa make it a career. She hopes to fly for the airlines, but looks forward to the day when she will have children of her own. When that time comes, Annalisa plans to be a stay-at-home mom, but will continue to maintain her flying skills with instructing and hopefully teach her kids to fly. At this point, the possibilities are open, but she also dreams of flying for Life Flight or doing overseas missions.

Valeria Chesnyak— Joined January 25, 2026. Valeria has her private pilot license and is working on her instrument rating. She now lives in Richland, but grew up in Europe, unaware that an ordinary person could fly planes. When she found out that it was possible for her to learn to fly, she said it was a calling—something she just had to do. At this point, Valeria has no specific goal other than to be a good, safe pilot.

Sayla Padilla —Joined January 19, 2026. Sayla has her private pilot license and is working on her Instrument Rating. Ever since she was a little girl, she dreamed of being a pilot. When the teacher would ask what she wanted to be when she grew up, unlike the other girls, she said she wanted to be a pilot. She hopes to one day be a professional pilot flying for Alaska Airlines. The Othello resident is a busy girl, going to college, working, taking flying lessons, and participating in the the National Guard. Her dream for lady pilots is for unity and that all of us can continue to help and support each other, and to stay in touch.

Elise Robert —Joined August 27, 2025. Elise is a student pilot very close to soloing. She is a senior in high school in Yakima. Her interest in flying piqued after taking a Young Eagle flight. “It was a cool experience, and flying seemed like fun,” she said when asked why she started flying. Her dad thought it was cool, too, so bought a Cessna 172, which both Elise and her dad use for their lessons. Elise’s goal is to be a professional pilot flying international flights.

The Mid-Columbia Chapter welcomes you and invites you to come to any of our meetings.

Treat the run-up like a flight.

We're all pretty good at using checklists...

Except when it comes to doing a simple run up. We tend to butcher the checklist.

It's not the normal procedures, but the abnormal and infrequent ones that get us in trouble.

For example, a pilot jumped in his aircraft to run it up after it had gotten a new engine and prop. There was an error in the installation and the aircraft jumped the chocks and plowed into an open hangar, taking another aircraft with it.

Here's the kicker: the guy didn't adjust his seat prior to run up! Why bother, right? He wasn't going to fly. He could have stopped the aircraft if he'd treated the run-up as a flight.

Here's another unfortunate story:

A Blackhawk pilot went out to do some checks and instead of using the auxiliary power unit, he accidentally started the engines...with a crew chief on top of the helicopter. She died when the rotors broke free of the

Continued on page 10

**SAFETY
CORNER**

Attention Student Pilots!

The Spring First Wings Award deadline is April 1st, 2026. If you are a student pilot who has been a member of the Ninety-Nines since on or before January 1, 2026, and have logged at least 5 hours of flight training in the six months before the application deadline of April 1, you may qualify for an award up to \$6,000. See the First Wings Award description and instructions on the International 99s website in the Members Area: <http://www.ninety-nines.org/first-wings-award.htm> .

If you are preparing to apply, here are some tips:

- · *Download the application before filling any fields—the online form does not save any information you enter. Read the instructions carefully. Where bullet points are part of the instructions, be sure to cover those points at minimum—a little bit extra will be fine, too.*
- · *If you need a mentor (any 99s member can help you), contact Michelle McEntire to help you find one.*
- · *The 99s recommendation and certification pages (Part VII and VIII) are completed by the Chapter Scholarship chairman Michelle McEntire after the application is submitted.*
- · *The Mid-Columbia Chapter is in the Northwest Section.*
- · *Necessary documents may be captured on a phone or scanner, but make sure they are complete, clean, readable, straight as possible, and all going the same direction.*

Email your application to the Chapter AEMFS chairman Michelle McEntire no later than April 1st.

Still have questions? Contact Michelle McEntire at mich.mcentire@gmail.com

Continued from page 9

blade tie downs. He died after the helicopter shook itself to pieces still tied down with metal chains.

Remember there is no such thing as an "easy" run up. Do a full pre-flight, adjust your pedals, put on your seat belts and clear the aircraft. And untie the aircraft any time you start the engines, even the auxiliary engines (APUs).

It's really easy to make a mistake when you are doing a non-standard maintenance run up. The normal checklist doesn't apply and we tend to skip items you don't need, which is when things get dangerous.

As a way to counter that, make sure you read the entire checklist, even the items not required, but verbalize "not required" and then move on to the next step.

Or, better yet, have a separate checklist just for run-ups and/or repositioning the aircraft.

Sarah Fritts

P.S. Have you picked up your copy of [Fly Smarter and Safer: Expert Tips From Military Aviators to Help you Succeed in the Sky?](#)

It's full of useful tips to help you become a better pilot.

This article from "Sara at Think Aviation," was written by Sarah Fritts, an airline pilot who flies out of Portland, OR.