

APRIL 2025

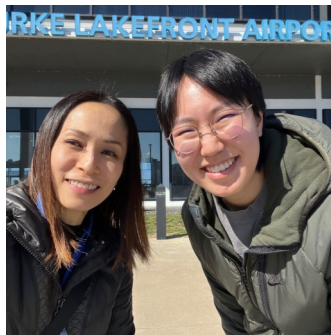
IT'S SPRING!

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN PILOTS

# ALL-OHIO 99 NEWS



Congratulations to EV Lechuga (L) for passing her PPL checkride at age 17! EV has patiently waited through a long winter of bad weather which kept her on the ground. There's no stopping EV now! Photo courtesy of EV. Right CFII Peg Ballou is pictured holding her AOPA awards for 2025 Best Great Lakes Flight Instructor and Best Great Lakes Flight School! Amazing! -Photo courtesy of Leota Lane



The March 9th meeting was held at Burke Lakefront Airport (CLE) and the members posed in front of the photos of women astronauts. Back row: Dalya, Ev, Margaret, Chris, Linda. Front row: Peg Ballou, Elly, Valerie, Debra, Leota. Photo courtesy of one of our members. Middle: Jun makes new friends wherever she goes. Jun reports that she was late to the meeting but was so glad she came because she met a new friend, Hein, a CFI from South Korea, who is working on her ATP. Last: Jun and Dalya showed Jun's boys, Jesse and Lucas, the displays of the achievements of women aviators. Last two photos courtesy of Jun.

Our deepest sympathy to the Scioto Valley Chapter and all 99s in the loss of long-time very active member and past chairwoman, Paula Rumbaugh!

Welcome to our newest members: SP Sophia and SP Devin. 513.444.8581  
New MFD flight instructor Kylie

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs in this newsletter are by our Official All-Ohio Photographer Kathy. Thank you to Kathy and Deb for their invaluable news assistance!

**SUNDAY APRIL 13TH MEETING AT BOLTON FIELD-COLUMBUS**

Spring is here and good flying weather is around the corner (I hope!). This is a good opportunity to check in with other 99s to see if they are flying or driving to a meeting. It is always more fun to have someone along to share experiences. To make it easy to find someone in your area, I have created a member listing by geographic areas (attached). Take a look and reach out to another member. It might be the beginning of a great friendship!

**The April 13 meeting will be held at Bolton Field.** I have arranged for us to tour Columbus State Community College Aviation Maintenance Technician training school at Bolton Field. We will see what it takes to learn how to repair aircraft and hear from Leota Lane and a CSCC instructor about the certifications, testing and recurring training needed to be an aviation maintenance technician. Not surprisingly, it is as rigorous as pilot training and even requires maintenance technicians to pass the PPL written.

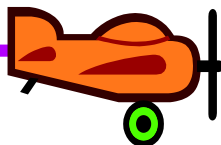
**The meeting on April 13 will begin at noon with lunch at JPs Barbeque that is located on the field.** If you fly in, let them know that you are having lunch at JPs and your landing fee will be waived. Following lunch, we will move to the CSCC facility for the tour and presentation and then hold our business meeting in one of the classrooms.

**How to Access the 99s Directory**

1. Go to <http://www.ninety-nines.org>
2. Click on the member login box. If you don't have a login yet, set one up.
3. Click on Directory in list on top right, type in All-Ohio Chapter in the Chapter box and click on Search. Note: You can search on any of the boxes. It's an easy way to find a specific member, find members nearby or a member in an area you will be visiting.
4. An alphabetical list of all of our members will come up.
5. If you want to send an email to all the members of All-Ohio click on Save as Excel. Once you have the Excel spreadsheet copy the email column and paste into the address of your email. Please do let the Chair know before sending out a mass email.
6. Remember that you cannot use information in the Directory for commercial or political reasons.

Please check out our All Ohio 99s YouTube Channel for some really cool videos about our members and our Facebook page. Click on these links and enjoy!

- [All Ohio 99s – YouTube](#)
- [All-Ohio Ninety Nines – Facebook](#)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY****NEWSLETTER EDITOR****NINETY-NINES WEBSITE:****[www.ninety-nines.org](http://www.ninety-nines.org)****NC SECTION WEBSITE: [NCS.org](http://NCS.org)****OUR WEBSITE: <http://allohio.ncs99s.org>****All Ohio 99s - YouTube****All-Ohio Ninety Nines - Facebook**

## All-Ohio Chapter

### Annual Report

April 2024 – April 2025



As of March 2025, All-Ohio has 63 current members. This includes 5 Life Members and 20 students. Over the past year, we have had a gain of 3 members. Currently, there are 5 members on Standby or Hold.

All-Ohio has always been fortunate to have a webmaster who keeps our NCS webpage up to date; however, our social media presence has been lacking. I'm happy to say we have a new Public Relations Chair who is very interested in revitalizing our Facebook and Instagram pages. Last year we started a YouTube channel and to-date have posted 6 videos highlighting members or meeting speakers. We have continued our mentorship program with modest success.

Activities for All-Ohio traditionally center around our monthly meetings. Speakers this year included a presentation by MacAir, one of the largest flight schools in Ohio; a retired USAF F-16 pilot and AA captain who shared his experiences; and an IFR private pilot who discussed his 10,000-mile solo trip along the northern USA boundary. Members had the opportunity to visit IWASM, and the Aviation Maintenance training facility at Columbus State Community College to learn how mechanics are trained and certified. We also repeated traditions with attendance at Port Bucyrus Airport Days and a holiday celebration with a White Elephant gift exchange. We are fortunate to have a talented artist in our group, Jun, who designed the logo that appears above for All-Ohio, and members spent one meeting affixing the logo to a shirt of their choice.

This year, in cooperation with the Scioto Valley Chapter, All-Ohio helped staff a table at the Jerry Mock Celebration at The Works in Newark and painted a compass rose at Delaware, KDLZ. The Women in Aviation Dayton Chapter invited us to participate in their annual Girls in Aviation Day at the NMUSAF. Our activity was making origami airplanes that flew beautifully and were a big hit. We also staffed tables at Wings and Wheels, and the Wayne County EAA Breakfast in NE Ohio. The ARC had a Newark stop this year and we helped marshal aircraft.

With 20 students we have far too many accomplishments to detail them all in this report, but I do want to mention a few. EV received the All-Ohio Checkride Scholarship and passed her checkride in March. She has been accepted to the Aviation Program at Sinclair Community College and starts this fall, where she will join Erin and Jun who also attend Sinclair. Erin earned her PPL and is working towards an instrument rating. Jun became a commercial pilot and is working on her CFI. Jun logged several cross-country hours when she flew solo from Dayton, Ohio to Dallas, Texas! Leah is attending Bowling Green State University. Leah became a private pilot in August and is working on her instrument rating. Ellen is working on her PPL at Ohio State University. Nicole earned her PPL. Lisa, a Captain in the Civil Air Patrol, is working on her instrument rating. All-Ohio has had 4 members apply for 99s scholarship and one awarded to date. Gabby was awarded a First Wings Scholarship and has applied for a Richard J Santori Memorial Scholarship. Two of our members applied for an AE scholarship and Jun's application has been forwarded for consideration. The chapter is fortunate to have an anonymous donor who funded checkrides for four All-Ohio members this year. Ali, who flies a Boeing 767 cargo has trained for ETOPS. One of our most accomplished pilots is Peg Ballou, a CFII and flight school owner who has flown for 50 years. Peg is the recipient of the AOPA 2025 Best Great Lakes Region Instructor. Her flight school was awarded 2025 Great Lakes Regional Best Flight School. Peg also received the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.



# CHAIRWOMAN'S FIRST WINGS APP CHECKLIST

## A Guide to Effectively Helping Your First Wings Applicants Score Well



### ELIGIBILITY: Are they qualified to apply?

- **MEMBERSHIP DATE:** Verify it in The 99s directory! Month/Day/Year should be entered on the app (not just the year or month/year). A min of 90 days continuous membership prior to the deadline is required.
- **FLIGHT TIME:** Have they flown at least five hours in the preceding 6 months? (Sim time does not count)
- **STUDENT CERTIFICATE & MEDICAL:** copies of both must be included in the application



### ESSAY: If what you receive does not contain the following elements, request a revision!

- The strongest applicants submit an actual standard format essay, which includes distinct components that help applicants craft their story effectively: An opener with intro "hook" to draw in and engage the reader that states their aviation goal, supporting paragraphs addressing the required essay components, and a closing paragraph. "Dear xxx" or "Hello, My name is ..." openers or "Thank you for your consideration" with signatures at bottom are letter format, not essays, and such writings often lack the components of one that give their story structure. The essay format also eliminates space wasting salutations, excessive carriage returns, and other components, so that they can construct a more focused and engaging submission.
- An entire paragraph should be devoted to addressing the question "How will you fund the remainder of your training?" The importance of answering this and stating HOW they will fund reaching their milestones to receive the payback cannot be emphasized enough Including this info is critical. The First Wings is worth up to \$6,000 and the avg Private Pilot costs \$15K+. Only \$5K is available for training reimbursement prior to the checkride. Thus, it helps but the lion's share of funding must come from the applicant. Trustees need to show how they can fund the approx \$10K necessary to finish! There must be no doubt that the applicant has the ability to fund the balance of their training not covered by the milestone payments and complete it within 18 months.
- Applicants should detail their budget for completion when addressing when they will fund their milestones: estimated hours they need to finish (the avg is about 75TT), their aircraft and CFI rates, as well as all funding sources and amounts should be presented.
- If they have had big breaks in training or accumulated many hours without much progress, this should be addressed in their essay. Have they got dozen and dozens of hours but no solo? Repeating lessons? Address it!
- Never accept recycled essays and letters of recommendation! Trustees compare current to past applications.



### 99s PARTICIPATION

The Trustees like to see members who have jumped in and become active with their chapter and engage with their sister members. Volunteering with a number of aviation organizations can be rewarding BUT this is an award for an active and engaged 99! Be specific and detailed- HOW do they participate? They can't make it to meetings in person? Applicants should create opportunities! The possibilities for remote involvement are many: newsletter reporter/editor, social media, use or create Slack/Google/Facebook/Email study or networking groups. They should be creative and seek to become engaged by whatever means possible. This is especially true when work or school conflict with in person participation.



### PRESENTATION

- Images Should be oriented properly, in color, cropped, and crisp. For best presentation, both sides of the pilot certificates should be on one page. The medical should ideally be included on this same page as well.
- Are the logbook pages totaled (pencil is OK) with the year written on each page?
- Crisp and organized pages present best. Apps like Cam Scanner tend to blur the pages and make large photo files out of the app. Use some of the Free PDF tools suggested in the instructions and Trustee Tips resources to create, organize, insert or re-order pages, sign, and compress apps to <10MB.



**CHAPTER RECOMMENDATION:** Trustees look to this letter to give additional information on the applicant that is NOT already in their essay. If your Chapter Chair letter is simply restating those same details, it reads as a redundant, lackluster recommendation that makes it seem as if you don't know the applicant very well. Your LOR should speak to their Ninety-Nines involvement and almost be an addendum to the essay that expands upon their story. It should tell the Trustees things



After the meeting we joined the Lake Erie Chapter (who meet the second Sunday of each month there) for a fascinating lecture by USAF Major (Ret) Cholene Espinoza. Major Espinoza is a graduate of the USAF Academy, a former U-2 spy plane pilot, a former USAF Academy flight instructor, a surgeon (MD), and a rescue team MD. She has dedicated her life to service to her country and had an amazing presentation, with many photos. It was an honor to meet this amazing 99! Thank you to the LE Chapter for inviting us!

A few All-Ohio members in the Dayton and Cincinnati area were able to meet for lunch on Saturday, April 5. Pictured are Gus and his mom Kristie, “new” All-Ohio member transferring from Connecticut Manu Ramesh , Betty, and Jun with her son Jesse. Jun’s son, Lucas, somehow was out of the photo and Kristie’s daughter, Emma, was our official photographer (maybe that’s why Gus had a special facial expression for the photo). Manu is moving to Cincinnati from the Connecticut Chapter. She wanted to meet local 99s. She is taking a job with AE Aerospace here and started flying 20 years ago. She has a Cessna 150 that she will be moving to Ohio so she can continue her training. Kristi trained years ago before she had her kids, who she is home-schooling. Her daughter is interested in mechanics so Kristie is certainly wanting to get her exposed to aviation. Kristi’s husband earned his ratings and now flies for an airline.—Photo courtesy of Betty






**This is Fifinella, the symbol of the Women Air force Service Pilots (WASPs) who flew planes during WWII. R: Columbus pilot Jerry Mock set a world's record for an around the world solo flight. She was also the first woman aeronautical student at the OSU!**

**Thanks to Leota for taking these photos at IWASM at Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland!**


### Enter: The Flying Housewife(s)

Geraldine "Jerrie" Mock, already a trailblazer as Ohio State University's first female aeronautical engineering student, earned her pilot's license in 1958 alongside her husband Russell. A few years later, the couple bought a used single-engine Cessna 180 plane, named *Charlie*. Mock, searching for a new challenge, decided to take on a solo flight around the world. She departed Columbus, OH heading east for Bermuda on March 19, 1964. She returned 29 days later on April 17, greeted by her husband, three children, and hordes of media attention. As a wife and stay-at-home mother, the press nicknamed Mock "The Flying Housewife" in much of the media coverage following her flight.



Jerrie Mock in the cockpit of *Charlie*, March 20, 1964. IWASM 2015.17.5.

But two days before Mock left Columbus, a woman across the country - also nicknamed "The Flying Housewife" - departed Oakland, CA in her twin-engine Piper Apache airplane. Joan Merriam Smith took part in Dr. William Lovelace's Woman in Space program testing in Albuquerque, NM. In 1961, though she did not pass all of the tests and was eventually disqualified from the program. She grew up idolizing Amelia Earhart and was in part inspired to learn to fly by Earhart's story. By 1964, the 27-year-old Smith had decided to complete the final flight of her idol. She began her flight on March 17, 1964 to follow the exact path around the equator that Earhart had taken 27 years earlier.



Joan Merriam Smith in her own cockpit. IWASM Archives.

**99S NEWS EDITOR  
P.O. Box 1253  
Mansfield, Ohio 44901-1253**

**FIRST CLASS**