



# WINGNUTS

<http://www.midcolumbia99s.org>

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

MARCH

2024

## Upcoming Events

See page 2 for details

### 99s Meetings

Saturday, Mar. 16 at 10:00 am  
in Pendleton, OR.

Saturday, April 20 at 10:00am  
at East Wenatchee

Saturday, May 18— Air Mark  
Republic

## Other Events

May 11—Mountain Flying  
Seminar in East  
Wenatchee with Long  
Bach Nguyen

April 12-14— Northwest 99s  
Board Meeting in  
Bellingham, WA

June 1—Survival Course in  
Pasco



### A Line from Lynn



It seems more like spring and our March meeting is an outing to Elvis' Diner at PDT, 2016 NW Airport Road, Pendleton, OR.

They are opening early for us and we are meeting at **11 am on March 16.**

We are continuing to plan our June 1 Survival Training fundraiser. Please review Sandra's email from 2/27 to see how you can help. If you volunteered for something at the last meeting, plan to update us at the March meeting.

We also hope to have Cynthia present on Critical Incident Stress Management.

Please RSVP to me, Marjy or Sandra since we would like to be sure we will have attendees with the restaurant opening early for us.

Hoping to see you there .

*Lynn*

**99S MEETING**  
**March 16, 2024**  
**Pendleton, OR**



*Meet at Elvis's Diner*  
**SATURDAY, March 16 at 11:00 am**

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

FlyLynn001@gmail.com or 509-430-8763

MarjyL@charter.net or 509-302-9624

## Officers:

### Chairman

Lynn Harbinson  
(509) 430-8763  
BarryPez@aol.com

### Vice Chairman

Bonnie Molitor  
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MarjyL@charter.net

### Membership

Cynthia Armentrout  
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armentroutcynthia@gmail.com

# Meetings and Events

Changed since last issue

TYPE	DATE	THEME/ACTIVITY	LOCATION
99s Retreat	Feb. 16-19	Retreat, Meeting, & Safety Seminar	Suncadia near Cle Elum, WA
Trade Show	Feb 24-25	Northwest Aviation Conference & Trade Show	Puyallup, WA at Fair Grounds
99s Meeting	March 16	Meeting—Discuss airmarking and Survival	Pendleton, OR KPDT
NW BOD Mtg	Ap 12-14	Northwest Section Board of Directors Meeting All are invited	Bellingham, WA KBLI
99s Mtg	Ap. 20	99s Meeting	East Wenatchee, WA KEAT
Seminar	May 11	Mountain Flying Seminar by Long Bach Nguyen sponsored by Mid-Columbia 99s	East Wenatchee, WA KEAT
99s Mtg	May 18	Airmark Republic	Ferry County Airport, Republic R49
99s Activity	June 1	Fundraiser Survival Class	Pasco, WA at Columbia Basin College
Young Eagles	June 8	Young Eagle Flights at Richland Airport	Richland, WA KRLD
99s Booth	June 15-16	Moses Lake Air Show <a href="#">Moses Lake Air Show 2024</a>	99s Booth at Air Show
99s Booth	June 21-22	Wenatchee Air Show	99s Booth at Air Show
International	July 3-7	International 99s Conference	Vancouver, B.C. Canada
Fly in	July 12-13	99s presence at Joseph Fly In	Joseph, OR
99s Mtg	July 20	99s Meeting and camp out	Central Oregon (Sunriver or Madras?)
Air Race	Aug. 8-10	Palms to Pines Air Race	Santa Monica, CA to Madras, OR
99s Mtg	Aug. 17	99s Meeting & Tour Aviation Museum	Hangar 180 in Lewiston, ID KLWS
NW Section	Sept 12-15 or 26-29	Northwest Section Meeting	Olympia, WA
Young Eagles	Sept. 28	Young Eagle Flights at Richland Airport	Richland, WA KRLD
99s Booth	Sept	Richland Airport Day	Richland, WA KRLD
99s Booth	Sept	Cashmere Airport Day	Cashmere, WA 8S2
99s Mtg	Oct 19	99s Meeting	Yakima, WA KYKM
99s Mtg	Nov 16	99s Meeting—Planning Meeting	Walla Walla, WA KAIW
99s Mtg	Dec. 14	99s Mtg and Holiday Celebration	Moses Lake, WA KMWH

## Mid-Columbia Ninety-Nine Minutes

February 17, 2024

Suncadia/Cle Elum, WA

The regular monthly meeting of the Mid-Columbia Chapter of the Ninety-Nines was held in Suncadia, WA (Cle Elum) at Bonnie's son's beautiful resort home. This was during our 3-day retreat in the mountains. Thank you so much to Bonnie's son and daughter-in-law for hosting us, and to Bonnie for coordinating it all.

Chapter officers present were Lynn Harbinson, Chapter Chair, Bonnie Molitor, Vice-Chair, Sandra Phenning, Secretary, Marjy Leggett, Treasurer and Newsletter. Cynthia Armentrout, Membership Chair was unable to attend due to illness. 😞

Chapter members present were Diane Lambert, Colette McCauley, Aileen Coverdell, Gabriella Damron, Holly Mellgren, Sue Purvis, Kate Mosley. (Sara Purfield joined us after the meeting was over.)

The meeting started at 10:15

Introductions and flying histories/stories were shared.

Lynn outlined future plans, beginning with the taco bar lunch following the meeting.

The March meeting is in Pendleton, though we do not have a location yet. Lindsay or Cassidy were going to set that up. The airport cafe, Elvis', might be able to host us. (541-276-3104, opens at 11:00)

Spring Northwest Section Board of Directors meeting is April 13 in Bellingham. Register by March 15.

Palms to Pines Air Race for 2024 will be August 8-10 from Santa Monica, CA to Madras, OR. Many of our chapter members are interested in doing this race. Lynn, Aileen, Sandra, Marjy, and Anne have done it in previous years.

The Northwest Aviation conference is next weekend, February 24-25. One of the speakers for our June 1 survival course, Andy Graham, will be presenting on February 24. The 99's have a booth and are often looking for volunteers.

Bonnie and Sue have organized a Mountain Flying course on May 11 at Pangborn Airport (KEAT). Long Bach Nguyen will come over to teach one day and fly the next.

Diane has secured lodging for us for the May 18 airmarking in Republic. Aileen is creating a supply list for this project. Bonnie is in touch with the Airport Manager at Republic to coordinate everything. We will tentatively add Memorial Day weekend as a back up in case the 18th doesn't work (Lynn and Aileen unavailable Sat/Sun of Memorial Day Weekend.)

### Survival Course Planning

Gabriella is in contact with 2 sources for wrecked car for the survival demo. She is following up with possible costs and options.

### Promotion

Diane will follow up with REI to post a flyer and get possible donations.

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Marjy will follow up with EAA for promotion, possible breakfast service the Sunday after the overnight portion of the course, and maybe vans for transportation.

Marjy will collect electronic sponsor logos for use in program flyers, power point slides, FB page, etc.

Aileen can do W-9's for sponsors that want them for tax purposes.

Sandra will send the promotion spreadsheet to all members to select businesses and clubs to contact.

Home Depot and Lowe's are both known to donate and will have many items on our desired survival kit list.

Bonnie has checked on buses and the cost looks to be \$3,000 or so. We will use the Lambert's van and possibly rent another van to bring down/eliminate that cost.

John Arnold is looking for nearby lands to use for overnight portion.

Kate has researched box lunch options. We all agreed CG Public House is the best option. Cost is \$18-\$22 per person and they will deliver. A per person cost of \$30 includes delivery and providing of lunches for speakers and volunteers.

A discussion followed about the day-only price. Something between \$150 and \$200. Costs to us will be food, van rentals (?), and any swag we choose to give away that was not donated. (Bonnie offered to buy the vests for participants.)

We debated doing an early or late registration price. More popular was a late registration "penalty".

We need to close registrations in time to order food and set up transportation for the overnight portion.

We need to arrange something for the spotter plane or planes.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

A fun weekend of walks, games, and many, many conversations followed. And, so MUCH great food!!

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Phenning

### ***SPECIAL NOTES:***

The publicity committee is looking for donations to put together a couple of survival vests with multiple pockets which can be filled with survival gear. We also would accept individual donations to give as prizes. We are **NOT** planning to pass out swag bags to all attendees. If you know of a store or business willing to donate a few of the items listed below, please contact Sandra at (509) 433-4348.

Waterproof matches	Aluminum foil	Water purification tablets
Safety pins (various sizes)	Insect repellent stick	Folding saw
Fishhooks and line	Chapstick	Signal mirror
Knife ((small, multiblade)	Soap (antiseptic)	Band-aids
Small compass	Fire starter	Needles (sailmakers, surgeons, etc.)
Bouillon cubes	Plastic or metal whistle	Magnifying lens
Salt	Nylon cord	Space blanket
Snare wire	Small flashlight	Glow stick
Gloves	Toilet paper	Duct tape



# Welcome to Our Newest Members!



## Josie Hill:

I am a Student Pilot going for my Private License and then my Instrument Rating. I got into it because my grandpa was into planes and both my brothers work in the aviation field. And nobody in my family flies so I wanted to be the one to actually learn. I currently live in Pasco and work for the local Sheriff's Office, while going to College. My goal right now is just flying as a hobby with the potential of doing some sort of search and rescue in the future. It also looks great on a resume so I'm hoping this will help me with my future career aspirations with going into Federal Law Enforcement.

## Gabriella Damron:

Hello all my lovely lady pilots! My name is Gabriella and I am 24 years old. I am currently a student pilot and am waiting on my medical (which I've been hearing is a common struggle of patience for some of us Mid-Columbia gals - we got this! ) so I can bust out some solo flying and finish up for my private license. In the meantime, I've really been enjoying all the new things I get to see and practice during my cross country flights!

I am originally from Southern California near the Mojave Desert and fell in love with watching planes in the sky during recess while pilots from military bases nearby practiced overhead. Throughout life, I had my career goals set elsewhere and didn't know I wanted to learn to fly myself until about a year and a half ago when I really started getting curious and looking into it.

I've been told I must have started giving off the pilot bug/vibes as I began running into an astounding number of pilots everywhere! Everyone I talked to was so encouraging and filled with passion for aviation, it didn't take long before I was convinced to give it a try and have absolutely fallen in love with flying myself.

Since moving from California I have lived in a few different locations across Washington, but am currently settled in Pasco and am flying out of Bergstrom. I work at a dairy farm in nutrition management and my days are generally filled with ordering and sampling our feed, managing deliveries, checking on the babies and making sure to give those mommas the udder scratches they deserve. If you are ever in the area and would like to come hang out with the cows or learn more about the industry feel free to reach out and come take a look around!

Goal wise, I am not set on what path I will take but have a definite interest in air ambulance or aerial firefighting. It is also a huge goal of mine to eventually be able to provide scenic tours for individuals/families that might not be able to afford the experience of seeing the world from above, and in sharing my love for flying hopefully inspire future pilots that might not be aware of all the opportunities that exist within aviation.

For those of you I have already met, you have all been so welcoming and kind and I just want to thank you for that! For those I have not, I am excited to meet you and learn about your pilot journeys thus far!



***Welcome to the Mid-Columbia Chapter, Josie and Gabriella!***



## 99s Girls Weekend in Suncadia

Twelve members and one Friend of the Ninety-Nines showed up at the Mid-Columbia Ninety-Nines February retreat in Suncadia.

The three-day weekend provided a relaxing time for the chapter members to get to know one another, relax, and play games after their regular 99s meeting. Some went into the hot tub, others took a walk around the forested area, and others spent time visiting.

The meeting was highly successful with most of the time spent on planning for the upcoming Survival Course and Mountain Flying Clinic.

The Mid-Columbia Chapter thanks Bonnie and her son Jason for providing this little weekend getaway for our chapter.



Sara relaxes on the couch



Steve looks a little surprised  
as Diane waves to the camera



Everyone gathers around the table as  
they prepare to start the meeting.

# News from our Members

Bonnie, Sue, Marjy, Sandra and her husband Gary, and Diane and her husband Steve attended the 2024 Northwest Aviation Conference and Trade Show in Puyallup over the weekend of February 24-25.



Sandra and Sue at one of the seminars

Diane and Steve, members of the elite jacket winners from the Fly Washington Passport Program, had their photo taken with other jacket winners from across the state at the Northwest Trade Show.



Steve and Diane are holding the sign

Currently, our chapter membership stands at 45. This is a huge increase from the 21 that we had just a few years ago. Thanks you and welcome to all of our new members and our long-time members!

## Did you know.....

- You can register now and book your hotel for the 2024 International Conference in Vancouver, B.C.? Go to [Join 99s | Conference \(The Ninety-Nines, Inc.\)](#) .

## Future International Conferences



SAN DIEGO  
2026



## DECODING METARS—WHAT DO ALL THOSE NUMBERS MEAN?

**KSEA 271753Z 30004KT 9SM -RA OVC025  
04/M01 A3009 RMK AO2 DZB40E50RAB50  
SLP198 P0000 60000 T00391006 10044  
20028 55005 \$**



Does this make sense to you? Probably not. Did you know you can disregard almost half of the METAR report?

The meteorological reports have several components—the main weather section and the remarks section.

You've probably looked at the remarks section before and given up on trying to decode it.

There are two sections to the Remarks section: **“Automated, Manual, and Plain Language Remarks”** and **“Additive and Automated Maintenance Data.”**

The Additive and Automated Maintenance Data section has “no direct impact on the aviation community.”

This means you can disregard almost half of a METAR report. You are permitted to disregard the following confusing parts of a METAR:

RMK AO2 SLP088 P0002 60014 T00500050 10078 20050 51015

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Note: if you really must know what these mean, the “60014” means in the last 6 hours, 00.14 inches of rain fell.

The T00500050 is another way of telling you the temperature and dewpoint. The “0” stands for a positive number, so in this case, the temperature and dewpoint are both 5.0 degrees Celsius.

If you saw a T11001110, it would mean the temperature was -11.0 and the dewpoint was -10.0 degrees Celsius.

The P0002 means 00.02 inches of precipitation fell in the past hour.

There is one more piece of information that is cool to know, but useless to you as the pilot. That is the \$ at the end of the METAR. The \$ means the automated system needs maintenance.

### Not all of the Remarks section is useless.

The first couple of lines right after the “RML” usually contain good pieces of information.

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You will see variable ceilings, variable visibility when different types of precipitation began and ended, and significant cloud types.

In other words, it gives you additional information about the weather that the main report doesn't tell you.

Take this example for instance:

**RMK AO2 CIG 035 RNW 34 SLP199 P003 60005 T00830050 TSNO**

This means there was a Ceiling (CIG) at 3500 feet. You will only see this in the remarks section if that number is **lower** than the main report.

The main report showed a Broken layer of 4200 feet.

That 700-foot difference could be important!

**To Learn Even More, Check out this Article:**



The Complete Guide to Understanding METARs

## Want more resources?

**Learn how to quickly read and understand NOTAMs** with [NOTAMS Made Easy](#). This self-paced online course will teach you how to sort through NOTAMs with confidence.

**Don't want a full course but still need help?** Get the 27-page, searchable PDF with all the NOTAMs, METARs, and TAFs acronyms decoded. [Decoding NOTAMs, METARs, and TAFs](#)

**Check out my list of aviation resource suggestions** on the [Think Aviation Resource Page](#).

*This article was written by Sara from Think Aviation is a commercial pilot who flies out of the Portland International Airport. You can subscribe to her articles for free and receive them on email. Her articles are written clearly and are easy to understand, often explaining parts of aviation that are confusing to most pilots. She also has books for sale on her website.*

***Thanks to all of you who have paid your dues!***

Make checks out to: **Mid-Columbia Ninety-Nines**

Please send your **\$10** to :

Mid-Columbia 99s  
c/o Marjy Leggett  
4019 Horizon Drive  
Pasco, WA 99301



To be a member of the 99s, sign up at

[www.ninety-nines.org](http://www.ninety-nines.org)

**We have a lot of activities coming up which will involve some expenses. Your dues donations help us pay for these activities. If you haven't paid, yet, please send in your dues donations.**

## WE ARE A BUSY GROUP!

The Mid-Columbia Chapter is a busy chapter. We have multiple events planned for the upcoming months. If you would like to help with any of the following, please contact **Lynn, Sandra, Bonnie, or Marjy**.

- May 11—Hosting a Mountain Flying Course in Wenatchee
- June 1—Hosting a Survival Clinic in Pasco
- June 8—Young Eagles in Richland
- June 15-16—99s Booth at Moses Lake Air Show
- June 21-22—99s Booth at Pangborn in Wenatchee
- Sept—99s Booth in Richland
- Sept—99s Booth in Cashmere



MID-COLUMBIA 99'S PRESENT

# OUTDOOR SURVIVAL COURSE



**SAVE THE DATE**

## SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST, 2024

Save the date! This training features presentations from two survival experts, Andy Graham and John Arnold. Limited to 50 participants. Optional overnight outdoor experience. Course fees and final details coming soon. This event is a fundraiser for aviation scholarships.

For more information please contact  
OutdoorSurvival99@gmail.com



SCAN ME



## Long Bach Nguyen Basic Mountain Flying and Weather



**SATURDAY, MAY 11**  
**Part One: 9:00—12:00**  
**Part Two: 1:00—4:00**

**PANGBORN AIRPORT, EAST WENATCHEE (KEAT)**  
**MEET IN HANGAR NEXT TO THE FBO**