

Women pilots establish new aviation record

On March 8 and throughout the week of March 6 to March 12, 2010, to celebrate the Centennial of Licensed Women Pilots, women pilots from eight countries on three continents introduced a record number of girls and women, age 2 to 70, to the joys of flying. They conducted the flights in balloons, gliders, ultralights, airplanes and helicopters.

During women pilots' week, a total of 225 girls and women were introduced to aviation by women pilots flying 20 types of airplanes built by 15 different manufacturers. On the 100th Anniversary, March 8, 2010, women pilots shared their love for flying with 74 girls and women. Some male pilots who believe, as did Charles Voisin, the flight instructor of Raymonde de Laroche (first woman to earn a pilot license), that a woman's place in an airplane is at the controls, also celebrated the anniversary by introducing 85 girls and women to aviation throughout the week.

During the event, women pilots were also competing for awards in three categories. A jury composed of Rose Dorcey of EAA, Amy Laboda of Women in Aviation, and Susan Larson, Ninety-Nines, selected the recipients of the Most Unusual Flight Award. The recipients in each category are as follow:

Most women introduced to aviation by women pilots in one location during Women Pilots' Week 2010:

- 1st place – Panama City (KPFN), FL, USA – Pilots: Joan Evert, Linda Artman, and Mary Sittman

- 2nd place – Medicine Hat (CYXH), AB, CANADA – Pilot: Terri Super

- 3rd place – Gonzales (L38), LA, USA – Pilot: Janet Gonzales and Christine Richmond



Most women introduced to aviation by women pilots in one location on March 8, 2010:

- 1st place – Panama City (KPFN), FL, USA – Pilots: Joan Evert and Mary Sittman

- 2nd place – Kpong, Ghana – Pilot: Patricia Mawuli Nyekodzi

- 3rd place – Deblin, POLAND – Pilot: Aleksandra Popielarz

Most unusual flight (criteria include type of aircraft, location or destination, pilot or passenger uniqueness)

- 1st place – Kpong, Ghana – Pilot: Patricia Mawuli Nyekodzi

- 2nd place – Longmont, CO, USA – Pilot: Gail Schipper

- 3rd place – Bozeman, MT, USA – Pilot: Vicki Danhof

“It was really fun to be involved,” said Katie of London, England. “Thank you for organizing this event! I loved it!” said Eve of St. Louis, USA.

While responding to the challenge spearheaded by Mireille Goyer, an Airline Transport Pilot in Vancouver, Canada, women pilots in Botswana, Ghana, Poland, England, Scotland, France, Luxembourg, Canada and the United States discovered how much fun sharing their passion for pi-

loting aircraft with other women really is.

However, many women pilots registered to participate could not take off due to local wintry weather and expressed regrets to not have been able to introduce women to aviation during the event. The event organizer herself, who had planned to fly in Paris, France, Los Angeles, USA, and Vancouver, Canada as part of the celebration, was unable to conduct the Vancouver flight leaving two ladies and a girl disappointed.

Since the year of the Centennial of Licensed Women Pilots has just started, Mireille Goyer is offering a new challenge: 2,010 girls and women introduced to aviation by a woman pilot in year 2010.

“In the last 100 years, the percentage of women doctors and women lawyers went from negligible to around 20 per cent. Our goal is to grow the women pilots' population to at least that level within the next 100 years,” Mireille Goyer said.

To participate, pilots must register at www.CentennialOfWomenPilots.com and submit a flight report after completing the introduction flight. Male pilots who believe women belong at the controls of an aircraft are also welcome to demonstrate to their female passengers that men do want to share the cockpit with women.

Awards for most women introduction flights in one location, most women introduction flights by one woman pilot and most unusual flight will be awarded for the year. The number of flights completed will be updated on the website as reports are received.

For more information on the mission, contact Mireille Goyer at mireilleg@centennialofwomenpilots.com or visit www.CentennialOfWomenPilots.com