Wow! When I look back on the calendar and see what has been going on for the past month or so I understand why I am pooped! Yet I am still enthusiastic, and feeling like we have accomplished some great things!

The first weekend of May was the Annual Alaska Airmen/FedEx Trade Show. With good weather and less wind than years past turnout hit an all-time record! We had a very busy table: lots of info on scholarships, the short filed clinic, Jackie and Charlotte’s Air Race info, Angie’s information on FAA career stuff, the Aviation Explorer Post we are starting, Sandi’s book for sale, plus the usual clever and fun crafts by Judy Foster and Melanie Hancock. While we switched out staffing the booth a few of us hit the vendor booths and passed out information on the 2008 International Convention that included sponsorship and advertising information, (all while shopping and collecting free stuff, of course!)

Four days later it was time to hit the road for Valdez and the first airmarking of the year. There was some confusion on departure date, and so I ended up heading out Thursday night in the RV alone, save for my trusty copilot Bluebell. These long summer days are great, and while there were whitewall conditions in Thompson Pass I was able to arrive at the Valdez Airport around 11:30 p.m. in mostly daylight conditions. It was my first trip driving the road over and I enjoyed it immensely. It rained Thursday night, and conditions were less than ideal for flying, so Patty Livingston and her husband Jim drove over as well, arriving sometime in the late evening/early morning. After some inspection, and a few passes of the runway/ramp sweeper the ramp was dry enough to begin painting. It was starting from scratch, so there was a lot of work involved laying out plumb lines, etc., but six hours later the 30’ high 20’ wide letters were done! The rest of the weekend was fun, but since no one else showed up to staff the registration table or sales table, I staffed registration (with trusty Bluebell in tow-she certainly learned how to behave around 500 new “friends!”) and we did not have a sales table, so no income from the event, but we did get a fabulous plaque thanking us for our volunteer efforts, and we got lots of great PR from the Fly-in organizers! They even arranged a Mother’s Day Fly-by of 99s and other pilots carrying Moms to celebrate the day. The weather on Sunday was not great and pilots who left early made it thru, but the weather took a turn for the worse in the afternoon so I ended up with four passengers on the ride back to Anchorage who were generous enough to buy gas for the return. They returned in the next few days to pick up their airplanes. As always, better safe than sorry!

The next weekend the Mat-Su and Alaska Chapters ran the spring Flying Companion Seminar out in the valley. I was not able to be there, but I am sure it was a grand success. I had to carbo-load that Saturday, and take one final bike ride around Lake Hood in preparation for the Gold Nugget Triathlon on Sunday. Yes, this “Slow, Fat Triathlete” lived her athletic dreams in the body she has now and finished! Next year I hope to do some serious training and be the “most improved,” it shouldn’t be hard!

The weekend of the 26-27th was spent helping Ellen Paneok adjust to her new digs at the Lakeview Home III at 3402 Wesleyan Dr. in Anchorage, off of Northern Lights between Bragaw and Boniface. It was a scary transition, (continued on page 2)
leaving the security of 24-hour nursing care and attention, but she is doing well now and would love to hear from you all. She may be reached via cell, 907 720-3245.

On Thursday, May 31st, in conjunction with the Professional Women Controllers, we hosted a reception at the Aviation Heritage Museum for Alaska Aviation Pioneer Betty Hickok Bacon. Many thanks to Pat Bening for all she did to make that a wonderful day for everyone.

Friday, June 1, the Aviation Museum hosted a book signing and program by Jonna Doolittle Hoppes, the granddaughter of Jimmy Doolittle. She was accompanied by her father, John Doolittle, and two of the original Doolittle Raiders. It was great!

And then Saturday, June 2nd, we ran the Short Field T/O and landing Clinic at the Palmer airport following the FAA pancake breakfast. Paul Claus did us the honor of being our briefing pilot, with great tips for the group, and then nine pilots participated in the event.

Thanks to all who volunteered to help out at the event! It was a great time and spot on with our mission of promoting aviation safety and education.

The scholarship deadline is fast approaching, so spread the work in your aviation circles to all women, young and old, who might be eligible.

Melanie is probably trying to figure out how the heck she is going to fit this lengthy ramble onto the front page, but there has been so much going on that I did not want to leave anything out!

Remember, our monthly meeting will not be held since we will meet on Tuesday, June 19th for the annual picnic with the Mat-Su Chapter out at Wolf Lake – be there or be square!!! Hope to see you all soon.

Berta
Mat-Su Chapter News

The joint picnic with the Alaska Chapter 99s will be held on Tuesday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Patty Livingston’s home at Wolf Lake.

Driving directions to Patty’s:  Take the Glenn Hwy. to the Parks. Turn right on Trunk Road. Go straight at the stop light. Turn left at the stop sign onto Bogard Road and go about 1/4 mil. Turn right on Engstrom (there’s a Firehouse on the corner). Go 2 miles and turn left on Hart Lake Loop. Take the first right onto Phantom Place and an immediate left into Patty’s driveway. The Mat-Su Chapter will have hot dogs and hamburgers. Please bring a dish of your choice (salad, fruit, dessert, etc.) for the potluck. Hope to see lots of you there!

For those who want to fly to Wolf Lake, here is some info: Wolf Lake Airport (4AK6), elevation 572 ft., CTAF 122.9. Asphalt runway 6/24, 3800 ft., R/W 6 left traffic. R/2 24 right traffic; Gravel runway 18/36, 2600 ft., left traffic patterns R/W 18 & 36. Wolf Lake is on the sectional and in the supplement.

Jacquie Biloff and Charlotte Luckett, Mat-Su members, have registered to fly the Air Race Classic in June. The race, formerly known as the Powder Puff Derby, has been flown by women since 1929. Please visit Air Race Classic’s website at www.airraceclassic.org for more information about the race.

There will be no meetings in July and August. The regular meeting schedule will resume in September.

Jacquie Biloff and Charlotte Luckett, both members of the Mat-Su Valley Chapter 99s, have entered the Air Race Classic. The race was formerly known as the Powder Puff Derby and has been flown by women since 1929. Set to begin on June 17, 2007 at Wiley Post Airport in Oklahoma City, the route wanders northwest, east, south and then northeast, terminating in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada four days later. Jacquie and Charlotte will be flying the race in Jacquie’s Cessna 180.

The Anchorage Daily News and The Frontiersman will carry information on the race as events unfold.

For information on the race, visit: http://www.airraceclassic.com/
2008 Convention Committee

Meetings are continuing on a biweekly schedule. Generally, meetings are held on Monday evenings at Stewart Title, 2601 Denali Street, Anchorage, at 5:15 p.m.

For more information about how you can help or the date of the next meeting, contact Angie Slingluff at 337-0253 or akwoman@ak.net. There are endless opportunities to be involved with this event, so don’t be shy about volunteering to help.

Scholarships

The deadline for submitting applications is rapidly approaching. June 15, 2007 is the magic date. If you or someone you know meets the requirements for the scholarships listed below, be sure to get an application submitted.

Three scholarships are available this year: (1) One Advanced Scholarship for $1,000 (female private pilot seeking an advanced rating, (2) One $500 Student Scholarship (female pilot who has soloed) awarded by the Alaska Chapter, and (3) One $500 scholarship will be given by the Mat-Su Valley Chapter, the Ruth Jefford Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a woman who has soloed and is seeking her private license.

Award winners will be announced June 30 and the scholarships will be awarded on Wednesday, July 11, at the annual picnic meeting of the Alaska Chapter 99s.

Application forms are available at the Alaska Chapter 99s website: http://www.ak99s.org/

The colors of the Flag may be explained: Red is for Valor, White is for Hope, Blue is for Loyalty.

Member Updates

Ellen Paneok has been released from the hospital and has moved to the Lakeview Home III, 3402 Wesleyan Drive, Anchorage (off Northern Lights Blvd. between Bragaw and Boniface). She may be reached directly by phone (907-720-3245).
Short Field Clinic

The Alaska Chapter 99s and the Mat-Su Valley Chapter 99s sponsored a Short Field Clinic on Saturday, June 2, following the FAA Pancake Breakfast at Palmer. We had nine pilots participating in the clinic.

Thanks to all the 99s who helped make the clinic a success!

Above: Caren della Cioppa, Toni Merrigan and Gayle Kase of Mat-Su 99s returning from the gravel strip at the end of the Short Field Clinic.

Left: Paul Claus giving the safety briefing prior to pilots heading out to get in their airplanes to participate in the Short Field Clinic.

Doolittle’s Raiders at Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum

The Aviation Heritage Museum hosted a book signing and program by Jonna Doolittle Hoppes, the granddaughter of Jimmy Doolittle, on Friday, June 1, 2007. Jonna was accompanied by her father, John Doolittle, and two of the original Doolittle Raiders. Berta Degenhardt, Alaska Chapter Chair was able to attend.

(Pictured at right are: Tom Griffin, John Doolittle, Berta Degenhardt and Richard Cole.)
Airmarkings* and Fly-Ins

*Airmarking is the name of the airport painted on a paved surface at the airport.

The first airmarking and fly-in of the season was the Valdez Air Show. Although the weather was not quite ideal, the airmarking was accomplished by Patty Livingston, her husband, 49 1/2 Jim Woodley, and Berta Degenhardt. These three people deserve a round of applause and a big thank you for a job well done.

Above: Crew of three (left to right: Berta Degenhardt, Patty Livingston and Jim Woodley) at work in Valdez.

Left: 99s Caren Counihan, Berta Degenhardt and Audrey Cole with Berta’s sidekick, Bell, at the Friday night dinner.

A view of the finished product:
The New Valdez Airmarking -- a job well done!
Election of 2007/08 Officers

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find your official ballot for the 2007/2008 election. (NOTE: Ballots have only been sent to those who are on the International Roster as current members). The ballot is a post card which has been addressed and stamped. All that you need to do is mark your selections and drop the card in the mail. Please be sure to mail the ballot as we will not have a regular business meeting in June.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than Saturday, June 23, 2007.

July Picnic

The Alaska Chapter normally holds it’s annual picnic and installation of officers in August. At that time it has been our practice to award scholarships. However, in an effort to let the winners have more “summer time” to use their scholarships, we are moving the picnic to the July meeting, Wednesday, July 11.

There will not be a Flypaper issued in July, so be sure to check the website or your e-mail for details. The Chapter will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, fixins and drinks. Please bring a “covered dish” of your choice for the potluck (salad, chips, dessert, etc.). Hope to see you there.

Alaska Aviation Pioneer Honored

On Thursday, May 31, the Alaska Chapter 99s, in conjunction with the professional Women Controllers, hosted a reception for Alaska Aviation Pioneer Betty Hickok Bacon. The reception was held at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum.

Special thanks to Pat Bening for her efforts to make this a great day for everyone involved.

Gold pan plaque presented to Betty Hickok Bacon by the 99s.

Betty Hickok Bacon (center) with Lavelle Betz (AK 99) and John Butto (for whom both women worked while employed at Elmendorf Air Force Base).