



# The American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine 2024 Midyear Educational Conference

## Women in aviation

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## OBJECTIVES

- Know the first woman to fly
- Know the contributions of the WASP in WWII
- Know contributions of women in Space Flight

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## First woman to fly craddleofaviation.org

- Blanch Scott was the first woman to fly in 1910
- -when plane she was taxiing became airborne
- Harriet Quimby became the first US woman licensed as a pilot August 1, 1911
- the first woman to fly across the English channel April 15<sup>th</sup> 1912
- Controversial woman because she smoked, owned a car, flew a plane, and travelled extensively
- Killed July 1, 1912 at the Harvard-Boston Air meet when she was thrown from her plane.

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## The 99's craddleofaviation.org

In August 1929, at the Women's Air Derby (coined the Powder Puff Derby), a group of female pilots who shared a common bond decided to formalize their group. They sent out an invitation to join their group on October 9, 1929, and held their first meeting on November 2nd, 1929 at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, NY. The meeting was led by Amelia Earhart, who was later elected the first president.

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## Elinor Smith craddleofaviation.org

In 1927, Elinor became the youngest licensed pilot in the world. She was only 16. During her flying career, she set multiple solo endurance, speed, and altitude records, and was named by fellow fliers the 1930 female pilot of the year. Amelia Earhart was in the news, but pilots considered Elinor a better flier. Celebrated as "the flying flapper," Elinor was the first woman featured on a Wheaties cereal box. Elinor retired from flying at age 29 to focus on her family but resumed flying after her husband died in 1956. In 2000, at age 88, she became the oldest pilot to complete a simulated shuttle landing.

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## Elinor Smith craddle of aviation.org

- "...becoming a professional pilot was for me the most desirable goal in the world, and I was not going to allow age or sex to bar me from it."
- Born August 17, 1911 in New York City
- First flight 1917, at age 6, Smith took her first flight in a Farman pusher Biplane and was hooked on aviation.
- Growing up in Long Island, during the heyday of the golden age of flight, Elinor Smith had access to some of the best fields and famous flyers

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## Elinor Smith

[cradleofaviation.org](http://cradleofaviation.org)

- At 15 years old, Elinor took her first solo flight
- 1 yr. later at 16 Elinor became the youngest women to get a pilots license
- One of her earliest and most famous stunts 1928
- She flew under all 4 east river suspension bridges-a feat never accomplished by another pilot
- In 1928 she set a light plane altitude record of 11889 ft.
- In 1929 she set 4 world records
- In 1929 she set the Women's speed record 190.8 in a Curtiss Falcon over a closed course in Long Island
- 1930 Smith was voted the best woman pilot in the united States

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## Lee Ya-Chang

[cradleofaviation.org](http://cradleofaviation.org)

- Received pilot license 1933 from an aviation school in Geneva, Switzerland
- In 1935 moved to Oakland, CA and was with an instructor pilot for acrobats in and open cockpit when she slipped out of seatbelt and used parachute to land in San Francisco bay
- She became a member of the Caterpillar club, which was an exclusive club for those who made parachute exit from airplanes.
- 1936 received first Chinese pilots license
- Death in San Francisco 28 January 1998 at age 86.

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## The Flying Hutchinson's

[cradleofaviation.org](http://cradleofaviation.org)

- 1930 Col Hutchinson, his wife Blanche, and Daughters Kathryn and Janet Lee along with their mascot a Lion cub named Governor
- Flew to 48 state capitals promoting flight as safe
- Janet Lee became one of the first WASP pilots in WWII

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## Bessie Coleman

[cradleofaviation.org](http://cradleofaviation.org)

- Native American and Black descent
- Born January 26, 1892 to sharecroppers one of 13 children in Atlanta, Texas
- She worked in Cotton field as a child
- June 15, 1921 became the first female African American to get a pilots license. She had to go to France to receive training
- Tragically Bessie died at 34 when she was thrown from her airplane at 2,000 ft. April 30, 1936.

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## Barbra Kibbee Jayne

[caraddleofaviation.org](http://caraddleofaviation.org)

- The first US woman to test US navy Fighter Aircraft-1943-F6F Hellcat
- 1941 became instructor pilot at the exclusive Long Island Aviation country club in Hicksville, NY.
- During WWII Barbra flew as a courier pilot for Grumman. She flew parts, people and passengers for them.
- She passed away October 17, 1999 in Rancho Santa Fe

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## WASP WWII experience women's air force service pilots

[afhistory.af.mil](http://afhistory.af.mil)

- 1942 General Hap Arnold agreed to train and Use women
- Training facility Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas
- 5 July 1943 General Arnold put Jackie Cochran in charge of all women Aviators with Nancy Love as Executive
- August 1943 the WAFS and WFTD merged and the female aviators became known as WASPs
- Female aviators were trained on all aircraft and the only deficit was they were not trained on Acrobatics
- This program graduated 1,074 pilots which ferried 50% of the Combat planes within the US during the war years
- WASPs flew to 126 bases and also flew towing targets for gunnery practice

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## WASPS

[afhistory.af.mil](http://afhistory.af.mil)

- The WASPs also served as instrument instructors for the Eastern Flying Training Command
- 38 female pilots died
- -11 in training
- -27 flying missions
- 1944 General Arnold wanted to commission female pilots as 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants in the military this was met by serious opposition in congress and did not occur 21 June 1944, the Ramspeck committee rejected having military women pilots.
- 23 November 1977 president Carter signed a bill giving WASPs military benefits
- 10 March 2010 president Obama awarded WASPs Congressional gold medal of honor

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## Amelia Erhardt

[paramountbusinessjets.com](http://paramountbusinessjets.com)

- First woman to fly across Atlantic SOLO and NONSTOP
- She wanted to fly around the world tragically her plane went missing on the last leg of her flight 2 July 1937
- Missing aircraft may have been found 30 January 2024 by a crew with deep sea probe

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## First Astronaut

[afhistory.af.mil](http://afhistory.af.mil)

- Valentina Tereshlova June 1963
- She wrote a letter to soviet space center volunteering for the Cosmonaut team
- NASA January 1978 had 6 females for the space shuttle mission
- Previously women could not be astronauts because one of the requirements was candidates had to be graduates of military test pilot school

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## Eileen Collins

- First US woman in space
- 1995 piloted space shuttle STS-63
- 1999 first woman commander of space shuttle

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## Willa Brown

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

- First African-American Commercial pilot
- First African-American pilot in Civil air patrol
- 1939 formed National Airmen's Association of America to get African American into military aviation jobs
- She became a feeder program for the Tuskegee Airmen

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## Facts

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

- Jackie Cochran was the First woman to break sound barrier with Chuck Yeager as chase pilot, 20 May 1953
- Dr. Sally Ride—June 7, 1983 first US woman in space STS-7
- 1960 only 12, 400 female pilots in US (3.6%)
- The number doubled by the end of the decade 30,000 female pilots (4.3%)
- Today in the US we have 6% female pilots
- Geraldine Mock, 1964 first woman to fly around the world in single engine Cessna 180
- Mary Barr, 1974 became first female pilot in forest service
- Ensign Mary Crawford, June 1981 became first naval Flight officer
- Charlotte Lawson, 1983 became first female smoke jumper captain

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## Facts

### Ninety-nines.org

- Captain Beverly Burns first woman to captain 747 aircraft cross country
- Captain Lynn Rippelmeyer first woman to captain 747 on transatlantic flight
- “Today, Woman pilots fly for airlines, for the military, and in space, Command helicopter Mercy flights, haul Freight, stock high mountain lakes with fish, seed clouds, patrol pipelines, teach students to fly, maintain jet engines, and transport corporate officers.”

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## Mae Carol Jemison

### biography.com

- 1<sup>st</sup> black female in space—1992
- She was engineer, physician, and astronaut
- She served as mission specialist on Space Shuttle Endeavour 1992
- Today she works as a scientist and public speaker

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## Being the First personal history by Liz Clark

- Survival School
- Sleeping arrangements
- Command not wanting Women in their Ops
- Flight Surgeon Experience

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