



Evergreen Aviation Museum
The Captain Michael King Smith Educational Institute

For more information please contact Nicole Wahlberg, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Evergreen Aviation Museum, 503-434-4006 or email nicole.wahlberg@sprucegoose.org.

FOR RELEASE

February 25, 2005

A Celebration of Women in Aviation

Evergreen Aviation Museum celebrates the contributions of women to the field of aviation during Women's History Month.

MCMINNVILLE, Ore. – Sat, Mar. 12, 2005 - In honor of Women's History month, the Evergreen Aviation Museum is recognizing women in aviation with special activities throughout the day.

The museum is honored to host a series of presentations and exhibits featuring women in aviation. The celebration begins at 9:00 a.m. when the museum doors open. Guests will be able to view the new W.A.S.P.s (Women Aircraft Service Pilots) exhibit titled *Fly Girls*. The exhibit will be on display until Sept. 30. It is on loan from Texas Woman's University.

Festivities will continue with a 9:30 a.m. performance by McMinnville's Second Wind Music Group. The first presentation, *African American Women Freedom Fighters*, by noted lecturer Ron Weber will begin at 10:00 a.m. It will be followed by a presentation at 11:00 a.m. by Gene Nora Jessen titled *The Powder Puff Derby of 1929*. During this presentation Jessen will discuss her book that captures the story of 20 women pilots who planned and executed the first major female cross-country airplane race in August 1929. The third presentation begins at 1:00 p.m. It features Beverly Fogle's presentation about her adventures flying a Cessna 172 into the Russian Far East and piloting a MiG 25 at Mach 2.4. Fogle's presentation is titled *Russian Adventures*. The final presentation of the day is *Women in Aviation History* by Kim Lansdon and Trish Hanna at 2:00 p.m.

"It is a true honor to feature women in aviation," said Lynda Wiegand, Special Event Coordinator. "We are looking forward to spending the day featuring the contributions of these amazing female aviators and inspiring future aviators."

For more information on the events or to attend, please contact the Evergreen Aviation Museum Events Department at 503-434-4023.

The Evergreen Aviation Museum is best known as the home of the world's largest wooden airplane, the *Spruce Goose*, SR-71 *Blackbird* and Grumman F6F-3 *Hellcat*. In addition, there are more than 60 historic aircraft and exhibits on display, along with artwork, traveling displays, the newly remodeled Spruce Goose Café and the museum store. The Evergreen Aviation Museum's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily except when it is closed for

Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Easter. The Museum is located at 500 NE Captain Michael King Smith Way, across the highway from the McMinnville Airport and about three miles southeast of McMinnville, Ore., on Highway 18. Regular visitor admission is required. Call (503) 434-4180 for more information, and visit www.sprucegoose.org.

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Women in Aviation Activities scheduled for Mar. 12:

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Fly Girls - History of the W.A.S.P.s exhibit opens

In celebration of Women's History Month, the museum will be opening the History of W.A.S.P.s exhibit on loan from Texas Woman's University. The exhibit serves as a tribute Women Aircraft Service Pilots. The exhibit will be on display until Sept. 30. Details about the exhibit can be found at <http://www.twu.edu/wasp/exhibit.htm>.

9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Second Winds Music Group Performance

The local band consists of 45 people and is directed by Pat Ley. Second Winds specializes in patriotic marches, light concert, and swing era music.

10:00 a.m.

Ron Weber presentation titled "African-American Women Freedom Fighters"

Weber researches, writes and speaks on Black History. He lectures for government agencies each year, writes weekly and monthly columns in newspapers throughout Oregon and is currently writing some television documentaries on exceptional African Americans. He has received several national awards on Martin Luther King, Black History Month and Women's History Month.

11:00 a.m.

Gene Nora Jessen's presentation titled "The Powder Puff Derby of 1929"

Jessen is author of "The Powder Puff Derby of 1929" and has a long history in aviation. Her many accomplishments include serving as a commercial pilot, the Presidential appointment to the FAA's

Women's Advisory Committee, one of 13 women in the 1961 astronaut research program, aviation columnist for The Northwest Flyer and Idaho Statesman, International President of the Ninety-Nines, Idaho Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum Board Secretary, and an inductee in International Women in Aviation Pioneers Hall of Fame in Dayton, OH.

1:00 p.m.

Beverly Fogle's presentation titled "Russian Adventures"

Fogle is an active pilot both locally and internationally. Her aviation experience includes being a Certified Flight Instructor since the early 1970s, serving on airport advisory committees and airport planning groups, Regional Coordinator of the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians and a member of The Ninety-Nines (an international organization of women pilots).

2:00 p.m.

Kim Lansdon and Trish Hanna presentation "Women in Aviation History" at the B-17 *Flying Fortress*.

Kimberly Lansdon is a local private pilot. She is currently working on an instrument rating and plans to pursue commercial and flight instructor certificates. She is the chairman of the Oregon Pines chapter of the Ninety-Nines, International Organization of Women Pilots. Trish Hanna is the Governor of the Northwest Section of Ninety-Nines. She has been flying for 20 years. She is instrument rated, and has a wide variety of flying experience including the outback in Australia, and a recent flight over the Lewis and Clark trail to Oregon from Missouri.