



Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929

November/December 2017



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*Reigniting
the passion
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Cajun Airlift • Fly Now Winners • AWESome Adventures

Woman Wise



BY ANGELA CARSWELL
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Southwest Section

The backcountry surrounding Cascade, Idaho, provided the backdrop for individualized flying adventures at the Woman Wise AWESome Adventures.

AWEsome Adventures

Cascade, Idaho, provided the perfect backdrop for a three-day, action-packed event full of flying, seminars and female-empowering workshops. Christina Tindle created Woman Wise AWESome Adventures to provide coaching, training and adventures for women pilots that boost passion, competence and confidence.

The program lets you choose your adventure: Do you want to fly floats, do you want to learn aerobatics, maybe fly a taildragger or get comfortable in a 172?

Weeks before the seminar, Christina asked us what we wanted to get out of our weekend and what our learning style is. We each received a tailored experience based on our needs. My aviation goal is to be a wildlife pilot, so I wanted to get a good handle on the fundamentals of backcountry flying.

Christina began the program by introducing the Woman Wise instructors, who all had a positive attitude and years of experience. We learned about our classmates and why each of

us joined this adventure of a lifetime.

From there, we continued to ground school and safety. Rich Stowell, an accomplished 20-year Master Instructor – National CFI & FAAS Team Rep of the Year, gave us an inside look at aerobatics and emergency maneuver training.

My adventure started in ground school, going over checklists for a Kit Fox. I was so excited to get into this airplane. The first time I met my instructor, Fred Williams of Adventure Flying Services, I knew we were going to have a blast. He was patient, knowledgeable and cared about the quality of learning he was giving his students.

We met early the next morning and took off for the beautiful Idaho backcountry. Fred took me to strips that gave me an opportunity to learn how to judge an abort point and what to look for on a backcountry field: winds, integrity of landing strip, animals, patches and field overview. These are tools I will use every day as a wildlife pilot.

Fred also taught me how to manage my energy while making a keyhole landing and gave critical pointers on how to land a taildragger safely in canyon winds. Thanks to Fred's communication and teaching style, I received a backcountry introduction that provided a strong foundation for my backcountry pilot tool belt.

After the day's flying, Christina asked that we look inward for self-discovery. An overall tone during the initial introductions was a lack of confidence while flying. However, after our tailored flights and excellent flight instructors, the group was no longer lacking confidence.

Christina provided a beautiful space for growth, positivity and goal setting. Through her teachings and fantastic hand-

picked instructors, barriers came down and friendships developed. We were a great group of women inspiring each other.

I met Logan, who has been flying in the backcountry her whole life but wanted to learn tailwheel; I met Lori, who just bought a Piper Cub and flew in the backcountry with Fred. I met Christine, who is a DPE in the Chicago area. I met Meredith, who was at the event to film. She took her first flight and is now a Student Pilot member of The 99s. If you are looking for an awesome adventure and a great group of women, I encourage you to join us in beautiful Cascade, Idaho, for friendship, confidence building, great instructors and flying tailored to your learning style.

Blue skies and tailwinds, until next year.

The Most AWESome Aerobatic Training

BY SUE LIN

Eastern New England Chapter

I had two reasons to fly to Cascade, Idaho, in July. First, I wanted to see Idaho, and second I wanted to fly upset recovery with Rich Stowell.

I'm a relatively new pilot, and the idea of spinning toward the earth yelling "no" was not an option. I wanted to be able to fly my plane all the way to the ground and land straight and level.

Rich was an instructor at Woman Wise AWESome Adventures, so I decided to attend.

On the first day, he gave a talk and demonstration of aerobatic flying while talking us through the whole demonstration. The next morning, I went to his hangar for my pre-flight. Understand, I volunteered to fly with him and wanted to fly with him, but my hands literally shook as he took me through what we would do during the flight.

When he invited me out to his plane, I told him I might not remember everything he said. He understood and didn't expect that I had. We did stalls, Dutch rolls and steep turns. The last turn, he told me to point the nose down, further, further. Then he asked me to level the plane. I couldn't. He announced I was now in a spiral. Oh! That was what I was most afraid of!

Then he told me what to do to get out of it. I followed directions and was

immediately flying straight with the blue side up. We probably did eight recoveries from all kinds of crazy attitudes, and I never felt afraid or nervous.

The first time, I methodically moved the stick until I was straight. He commented I might like to recover more quickly, like my life depended on it.

Another time he said, "Throttle." I pushed it full in and recovered. He mentioned the recovery would have gone better if I'd pulled the throttle to idle,

as I was supposed to. Well, he did say "throttle"! The next time his instructions were to "retard throttle."

After landing (a taildragger!), I exited the plane and was shaking again, but from excitement and confidence. I'd easily recovered from being in upside down and twisted around positions.

I knew that no matter what came up in my plane, even though I'd made mistakes, I could and did recover from some pretty crazy stuff. I can do it.

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Sue with Rich Stowell before her flight in the Super Decathlon.