

NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER NINETY-NINES NEWS

November 2007

THE CRUISE TO NOWHERE

By Marilyn Patierno

The Friends & Family Day Cruise aboard the USS George Washington (CVN 73) included Dick and I, along with three other guests of the ship's Surgeon General, Commander Royce Clifford. Royce is in charge of the entire medical facility aboard ship, was our host and is a fellow air racer.

We boarded the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Norfolk, VA on the morning of October 13, 2007 at 5:00 am. The flight deck area is 4.5 acres with 4 aircraft elevators, four catapults, and this massive ship can accommodate 6,250. Since we had VIP clearance, we were given the opportunity to go anywhere we chose on the ship.



It was a full day of activities commencing with breakfast. There were aircraft elevator rides from Hangar Bays to the Flight Deck, there was a Close-In Weapons System Demonstration, Crash/Fire/Rescue Demonstration, Air Power Demonstration on the Flight Deck as well as the Fleet Forces Navy Band to set the background for the Navy's 232nd Birthday Ceremony, which included a birthday cake.



The weather was perfect as we set sail and watched land disappear as the sun was just beginning to show magnificently red. With our camera ready, we didn't want to miss any part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. The carrier was constantly surrounded by helicopters and police boats. Anyone on the water or in the air, moving toward the ship, was quickly urged to change course.

Bleachers were set up for us on the Flight Deck. From there, we watched a wonderful air show with take offs and landings too very close for comfort. We also experienced a sonic boom as the F-18s passed by to perform beautiful aerobatics.



As we were about to depart the ship at 7:00 pm, our hostess was called to check out a passenger, who tripped and injured her leg. When that was completed, our group of six found a place to have a late-night snack and go over the unbelievable events of the day. This was the most unusual experience yet, one that we are still talking about.



WHO IS JEAN SCIBETTA

By Jean Scibetta

On a dark and stormy night, when rocks were soft and fish still had legs, I was born. I started out number two. From that point I had my ups and I had my downs.

At the tender age of six, I took my first solo flight. I had that swing going pretty high when I jumped and then came down. Mom got the gravel out from between my teeth and knew she was in for a long haul.

Fortunately I came of age in the era of muscle cars. The first one I bought was an Oldsmobile 442 – a dashing powder blue convertible. I drove it to college in Boston and was often seen cruising Route 1 in Cape Cod. I upgraded to a black 442 with gold pin stripes and cool leather seats. But, my favorite car was the 1984 Hurst Oldsmobile T-Roof – a limited edition I drove for about ten years. It was the last of its kind.

Around 1967, with a backpack slung over my shoulder, I hopped a bus on Route 46 in Lodi for JFK and started an adventure. By the next day I was staring at the Alps. With forty other people, I wandered through France, into Italy, and to Zermatt, Switzerland where I climbed the Matterhorn.

One Christmas, I gave my sister Ruth a gift I always wanted. We took SCUBA lessons at the local Boys' Club. I dove wrecks in the Atlantic

and even had the opportunity to try out one of the first dry suits. We dove Lake George in February.

I spent thirty-eight years of my life teaching high school students physics and computer programming. One of my favorite hobbies was setting off rockets with the kids. It was a great way to teach mechanics.

My Dad loved boating so we owned a series of cabin cruisers, docked on the Hudson and Hackensack Rivers. These boats held lots of people, but they were slow! I needed speed. Why not fly!

These are some of the reasons we filled a 10 cubic yard dumpster the camping, skiing and gardening equipment.

Jean has a ticket on Captain Lynn O'Donnell's flight to San Francisco, her last United flight as Captain. Have a great trip!!!!

SCHOLARSHIP STATISTICS

There were 25 applications with 5 incomplete. 11 females and 12 males applied.

OUR NEW FRIEND MONIKA

By Shannon Osborne

Monika Stahl is an Austrian pilot who comes from Klostereuburg, Austria (in the North of Vienna). She is visiting in New York for six months to strengthen her English skills at Hunter College in Manhattan. She has been a pilot for 12 years, and was instrumental in starting a section of the 99s in Austria.

As Monika likes to say, she is beginning her third life. This one involves her love of Art. You can view information about Monike and see some of her work at www.moneyart.at

Bev Weintraub and I met Monika at a coffee shop in Brooklyn for her first introduction to some North Jersey 99s. Bev is making plans to fly with Monika in the NY/NJ area and

encourages any other 99s to do so as well. Please join me in welcoming Monika to our section and call if you are looking for an interested aviation partner. Don't hesitate to reach out and invite her to join.

Monika can be reached at stahl@moneyart.at. E-mail her and she will respond and give you a phone number.



Monika's flying friends in Austria

CONGRATULATIONS

Shannon Osborne solo'd again. Ask her how it felt and she will begin to beam before she excitedly expresses how wonderful it felt. We are all so very proud of her, knowing how she's dealt with her challenge. We wish her many wonderful flights.

HOLIDAY DINNER

Please RSVP as soon as you can. It will be a big help in giving the San Carlo our requirements.

Remember to bring a gift for a mom and a child. Moms go to shelters with their children and very little else.

I've heard that suitcases make a wonderful make-shift dresser, keeping their possessions separate and covered. Whatever you offer will be very much appreciated.

MEMBERS

Our three valued members will forever belong to us. Kathleen Hilbrandt, Alice-Jean Starr and Lynn Ruzicka were pleased to hear that their Chapter Dues are covered by us.

SECTION TOURS

We have three good suggestions for tours during our Section Weekend:

Cricket Hill Brewing Co, Fairfield with tours and tasting Fri 5-7 pm

CNBC tour in Englewood Cliffs

High Point Brewery in Butler

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5, 2007 @ 6:00 pm
Annual Holiday Dinner
The San Carlo; 620 Stuyvesant Ave;
Lyndhurst, NJ 201-933-3400

January 7, 2008 @ 7:00 pm
Monthly meeting
AirFleet at Caldwell Airport (CDW)
973-575-8220

April 8 – 13, 2008
Sun 'N Fun, Lakeland, FL

May 2-3, 2008
Spring Section Meeting
Best Western Hotel, Fairfield, NJ
973-575-7700

August 7 – 10, 2008
International Convention
Hilton Anchorage Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska
907-272-7411

HAPPY THANKSGIVING