



Spruce Creek Fly-In In the neighborhood

The Who, What, Where, When and Why of W.O.W.

By Lynn O'Donnell

The Women of Wings (W.O.W.) is a social organization that encourages and supports women with an interest in aviation who look to further their knowledge and skills, while building friendships and camaraderie in Spruce Creek. W.O.W. welcomes all women in the Spruce Creek community. Members of our group have a diverse group of interests and our conversations reflect those interests. We share a desire to learn about and participate in this unique atmosphere of aviation called Spruce Creek Fly-in. Our 70 members include pilots, friends or neighbors of pilots, mothers and sisters of pilots, aircraft or history enthusiasts, educators, curious women.

W.O.W gets together for monthly meetings in the Winter months. Discussion topics range widely: GPS use, human factors in aviation, how to be more than "just a passenger", and hangar talk (which is just plain old story telling with and without lies). The Downwind Café sees us often. Join us for weekly Friday breakfast get -togethers and informal "debriefs" on Thursday afternoons.

Sarah Bean, the founder of the group, had been instrumental in organizing women (a.k.a, herding cats) to help develop their skills and knowledge in aviation. Just last year, she helped put together a Private Pilot Ground

School here in Spruce Creek! Twenty (!) people took advantage of that and several have already earned their new licenses. Sarah and Bob Bean, who died on November 5, 2010, will be forever in our hearts.



W.O.W. sponsored the reception for Jeff Skiles, co-pilot from the "Miracle on the Hudson" flight, after the big day of EAA's Young Eagles flights.

You can find members of Women of Wings routinely volunteering time for events in the community like Wings and Wheels and Toy Parade. In 2011, volunteers provided their support to the Education Zone at the NSB Balloon and Sky Festival. Some members visit local schools and read aviation-related stories to classes.

A very special project in January funded two community outreach programs. Jean Boucher and Doris Kennedy created a gorgeous aviation-themed quilt which we raffled off during Wings and Wheels. With the proceeds, the Women of Wings will underwrite the cost of transportation to the EAA Air Academy for Cora Rand, an honor student at Daytona's Seabreeze High School, who was selected to attend the EAA Air Academy this summer. The Academy is an aviation camp for young people ages 12-18 where experienced instructors and dedicated staff share the knowledge and lore of aviation through hands-on workshop, classroom, and outdoor experiences.



The other outreach is for Girls Exploring Math and Science (GEMS). Their Summer Camp, held at Embry Riddle in June, is run by ERAU students and involves 80 female campers between 8 to 13 years of age. The camp this year runs from June 20th through June 24th. Every year, some interested participants are unable to attend due to the \$250 tuition fee. This year, W.O.W. has contributed funds for 3 scholarships to help young girls who are interested in attending but are unable to pay the fee. There is also an opportunity for

interested WOW members to help with some of the individual activities at the camp. Please contact Nancy Govoni for more information.

The W.O.W. team that met with Cindy Oakley-Paulik, University Director of Diversity Initiatives and Women's Center at Embry Riddle was the Ad Hoc Education Committee: Jan Burnside, Eileen Brady, Marcia Gitelman, Valerie Taylor and Nancy Govoni.



W.O.W. thanks the residents for coming out and Celebrating of Lives of our Friends Sarah and Bob Bean with our memorial bench out by the Tree. Come out, relax and enjoy the memories.

When you see a pink hat at Spruce Creek, you've probably found a W.O.W. member.