

Linda Campbell Haynes



Once upon a time there was a little girl who went with her father to every air show that came to town. Airplanes, airplanes, airplanes every chance they had. Then one day this same little girl came home to tell her parents that she wanted to learn to fly. "What?" they said. "Well, you can do anything you set your mind and heart on -it can't hurt to try." So, I did!

It wasn't an easy road (or flight) for me. It took me 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years with many stops and starts. There were the normal issues of time and money (I bought a house, had some surgery) but finally I got my ticket! Unfortunately, for me, I am not a natural pilot but as I tell my students my best quality is that once I start a project, I do not quit. I took my ground school through Oakland Community College and then my flight training at Oakland-Pontiac Airport. I have also flown out of Oakland-Troy where I was a member of a small flight club.

Along the way I first heard about the 99s at Safety Seminar. At that time my parents were members of a travel club called the Nomads. They wanted me to meet a girl they had met at one of their meetings - Nancy Walters. Nancy invited me to a meeting at Pontiac Airport one cold January and since I had been to the 99 booth at Oshkosh the summer before, I was able to join on the spot! The rest, they say, is history.

In 1989, I met John Haynes. It was a blind date. John had recently moved to Detroit and had been given a list of possible dates with some information about each of the women. Since John was a pilot - my "resume" interested him and so I was given a call. We talked on the phone a few times and then met for our first date on St. Patrick's Day. I saw it as a good omen as I have a Scotch-Irish background. We were married on October 6, 1990 and have had a blast every since!

In the meantime, I finished a master's degree in library science, changed jobs from a classroom teacher to a school library media specialist, became involved in a women's bible study, and became more active with the Ninety-Nines. I have held the offices of Chapter Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Membership, 49 $\frac{1}{2}$, Scrapbook, and SMALL Rally co-chair. Through the Ninety-Nines, we met Allison Drum. Allison kindly invited us to fly with her on several occasions. We loved her airplane and when she asked us to join her as partners in the Cherokee 180 we jumped at the chance. It has been great flying with Allison. We have a lot of fun flying locally, on the Michigan Air Tours and especially in the Michigan SMALL Rally. I will never forget the first time I was the PIC for the SMALL Rally. Before the rally, I prayed that we would have a safe rally and that I would not do anything stupid. Well, with my famous navigator, John Haynes, we took first place. What a thrill!!!

Sometimes, I think about that little girl who went with her father to all of the air shows they could find. I think about how my life was influenced by those air shows and my father's love of airplanes. It has been a great journey so far and I look forward to the next adventure.

Wishing you **All**, Blue Skies, Tailwinds and Perfect Landings, Linda Haynes