

Lois L. Montague

I was born in Passaic, N.J., June 15, 1946. Becoming a pilot never entered my list of possibilities until Jim and I were married in 1968. I grew up in a rustic log cabin on 210 acres of land only 45 min. from N.Y.C. I never even got close to an airport until I was in college and took a commercial flight from NY to MI to take the MI boards for my dental hygiene major. Graduated in 1968 as a RDH, got married and finished out Jim's enlistment time in the Air Force in Japan until 1969.



, Lois Vice Chair. and Rebecca Chairperson

I always had a passion to do missionary work, and Japan gave me an opportunity to live in a foreign country for over a year and get insight as to what it would involve. We loved it and traveled as far as we could with every minute we had. I did volunteer work on base as a DH for a while, but it wasn't quite what I had in mind. We lived off base and mingled among the people and that was one of the biggest educations of my life. Even though we were in the Air Force, flying was still not in my list of dreams or possibilities.

Jim's father was a well-seasoned instrument rated pilot, and after returning home from Japan, I had my first ride in a small (big to me) plane. Jim wanted to get his license, and

encouraged me to take ground school with him. It was there, during a one week, "crash" course that I got excited and saw it as a possibility. Jim finished all the requirements and got his license in 1970, and inst. rating shortly after, but time, money, work and children soon crowded out the reality for me. We enjoyed many years of flying together, and I always knew my day would come.

We have three children, all of them grown, two are married, and our oldest Jerod now 31 years old has cerebral palsy, which has been a big factor of involvement for me. Our other two children got their PP license, and I knew it was getting past time for me, and there would never be a perfect time. But shortly after getting started, my father became sick with cancer and we cared for him in our home until he passed away nine months later. That was in 1999. We had been planning to build an 11,000 sq. ft. home for the severely handicapped, like our son Jerod, so we began the project. I could see that in spite of how busy we were, I had to do it! We had the plane, a MXT-7 180 Maule, tricycle gear, and it was either use it or sell it, so I got going. I took lessons with Joni Dimond out of Frankenmuth, and got my license in October of 2000 as a Grandma! Last August I finished up my instrument rating, and have since flown with Jim to Tucson, Phoenix, Tampa, and Harrisburg, PA, in IMC weather. It really is a two-person job when you don't have an auto-pilot, and other helpful instruments. I found that there will never be enough time, money or the right circumstances, but if your desire is there, it WILL happen!

I enjoy flying the Young Eagle flights, and giving people their first plane rides. Being involved with the 99's since 1997 has been a rewarding time, and am presently serving as VC person with Rebecca Duggan as C person. We are still building "Kindred Spirit", and hopefully will have it finished this year. It is a very large project, but it will give a number of young severely handicapped adults a home for the rest of their lives. In my extra moments, I enjoy being a Grandma, reading, oil painting, sketching, and sewing. God has been faithful and blessed us more abundantly than we deserve, and all that I am and have, I owe it all to Him!