

## "A Visit" from Pancho Barnes A Re-Cap of the November Program



OK....it really wasn't a visit from Pancho Barnes; she passed away in 1975. The next best thing to her presence was viewing a fantastic DVD video on her aviation experiences. This is what was done at our recent November 17<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting.

The video covered her life starting from her being raised in a "society" atmosphere. She was born Florence Leontine Lowe in 1901. The last name of Barnes came from her "proper marriage" at age 18 to Rev. Barnes. This was not to last..She was a very assertive and adventurous person. She signed on to a freighter as a crewmember headed for Mexico. Long story short...she picked up the name Pancho from this escapade and it "stuck".

The "flying bug" bit Pancho when she took an air ride. Flying lessons followed and the rest as it is said, "is history".

Pancho participated in numerous air races, set speed records, organized Hollywood stunt pilots, flew as a test pilot, flew in Powder Puff air races, and operated the "Happy Bottoms Riding Club" (which included an air strip) near the Edwards Air Force Base in California. Many of her customers were pilots to include Bob Hoover and Chuck Yeager who flew out from the air base.

There was much more covered in the video than allows to be included here. For those who attended this meeting and viewed the video, it was an entertaining and informative evening. More information about Pancho along with information about purchasing a copy of the DVD can be found at: [www.panchobarnes.com](http://www.panchobarnes.com)

### More Fascinating Women In Aviation

In addition to Pancho Barnes, many other women over the years have been involved in aviation. Sue Hughes, of Powder Puff Pilot, one of our advertisers, submitted the following interesting facts regarding women's accomplishments. Some of these are:

- The earliest is balloonist Sophie Blanchard who, in 1805, ascended solo from Toulouse, France, making her the first woman to pilot her own balloon and eventually, the world's first professional woman pilot.
- Britain's Katharine Board, the world's only female Zeppelin pilot.
- Ruth Elder, who attempted the first transatlantic flight by a woman.
- The WASP, the first women to fly U.S. military aircraft during World War II.
- The Civil Air Patrol's first female national commander, Major General Amy Courter who presided over the CAP's 68th anniversary in 2009.

To celebrate the over 200 years of women in aviation, Sue Hughes a flight instructor who founded Powder Puff Pilot in 2008, has compiled a page-a-day 2011 calendar recognizing these accomplishments. The calendar, "***This Day in Women's Aviation***" includes not only the names indicated above...the "stars" are well represented, to include Jackie Cochran, Bessie Coleman and Amelia Earhart. The calendar also introduces many lesser known aviatrixes. It also recognizes accomplishments of flight attendants, astronauts, business executives, parachutists, and authors; including the journalist credited as "the godmother of in-flight magazines." Their uplifting, motivational stories make you start every day with "I didn't know that!"

For further information about Sue's calendar, refer to the Powder Puff Pilot ad on Page 4 of this newsletter.