



Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929



GRAND MARSHAL

Martha Phillips at the Wings Over Camarillo Airshow

p. 22



plus
VICTORY!
FALL FIRST WINGS AWARDS
EMILY HOWELL WARNER





She Was Hooked!

Andrea Amberge's Biography Co-founder of the German Section

By Annelie Brinkman, *San Diego Chapter*

In Germany at the age of 18, Andrea Amberge was still in high school and working for a taxi service as a receptionist when a coworker mentioned he was going to drive to a local airfield. He asked Andrea if she wanted to come along. While he took a flying lesson, she waited and looked around. A pilot came up to Andrea and asked if she would like to join him for a short flight. Andrea was very shy in those days so she answered "no," but he insisted and asked if she would help him pull his Piper PA-28 out of his hangar. That's when she decided to take him up on his offer and go for a ride.

Once in the air, he demonstrated how to bank the plane, make it turn to the right and to the left, up and down. Andrea was hooked; it was so much fun and an unforgettable experience. Once they landed, Andrea made up her mind that one day she would become a pilot. The following weekend Andrea started lessons to learn how to fly a glider. Okay, it was a substitute for the real thing, but she didn't have enough money back then to take lessons in a power plane. She knew that one day she would get there: because she was hooked!

In 1983, Andrea Amberge got her Private Pilot's License.

In the mid 1990s, Andrea was enjoying dancing salsa all over the world. Salsa is a popular form of social dance that originated in New York with strong influences from Latin America: particularly Cuba and Puerto Rico. One of her dance partners mentioned he knew of a female pilot by the name of Marion H von Löwenstern. Marion was in contact with three other female pilots in Germany. They had been thinking of starting a German Section for the International Organization of Women Pilots, The Ninety-Nines, but didn't have enough members since it takes five licensed women pilots to start a chapter or section. They encouraged Andrea to join The Ninety-Nines and on December 4, 1997, the German Section was founded.

Headquarters was notified of the founding of the section. Five members of the International Board of Directors – including the President, Lois Erickson – traveled to Frankfurt, Germany, to initiate and celebrate the newly founded German Section. The new section members, along with the International Board of Directors, held a grand celebration at the Schlosshotel Kronberg in Frankfurt. Since it was Christmas time in Germany, the section founders took the International Board members to the Weihnachtsmarkt – a fair held during the Christmas season each year – and enjoyed local libations such as Glühwein. All had a great deal of fun, and perhaps a few headaches the next day.

Andrea has now been flying for 42 years. She flew 30 years with Lufthansa, the German airline, and the last 11 years as Captain on the Airbus A340. She was based in Frankfurt Airport (EDDF). She retired from Lufthansa in October 2019 but wasn't finished pursuing her passion.

Andrea now flies out of Reichelsheim Airport (EDFB), a small airfield northeast of Frankfurt. Her ratings include Instrument Rating Instructor and Type-Rating Instructor in the Citation C551 and C550. Additionally, she is an examiner in the Citation C550. Presently, she flies ambulance services with Citation and has Helicopter Ratings in a Robinson R44 and R66.

To add to the excitement of flying, Marion is a writer and producer of art house movies and asked Andrea to be in her new film "Doctor Harriet's 4" as helicopter pilot. The movie will be filmed in November 2022 at their home airport in Reichelsheim.

It has been a long and exciting journey for Andrea, from visiting that small grass strip years ago to where she is today. No doubt, she would do it all again in a minute. 🐾