

Lansing Airport Aviators Inducted in the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame

The Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame has inducted 2 new aviators with long time roots to IGQ to its distinguished list of honorees. Cynthia Madsen—flight instructor, air racer, dedicated volunteer to a number of aviation organizations and most recently, the Ninety-Nines and the Ford Hangar Foundation; and Tom Milton—pilot, aviation mechanic, educator and long- time Lansing resident, were recently inducted into this prestigious group of Illinois Aviators. Trustee DeLaurentis and Airport Staff attended the induction ceremony in support of our 2 inductees. Other inductees also included 2 down-state organizations involved in Aviation History and Aviation Education and their presentations gave us ample ideas for our Historic Ford Hangar concept. At this time we ask that all would join us in recognizing Cynthia Madsen and Tom Milton for their tireless commitments to the aviation community.

CYNTHIA MADSEN



Most organizations have a core group of people that get things done. Cynthia Madsen is one of those people. Cynthia caught the aviation bug as an adult, started flying, earned her private pilot license in 1985 and just kept on going.

Active in the Ninety-Nines since 1986, she has held offices in the Chicago Area Chapter including Chapter Chairman, organized air meets, worked at air markings, events and information booths; and served on numerous

committees. Cynthia has also been active at in the North Central Section of the Ninety-Nines, including a term as Vice Governor and then Governor, and served on committees and as a member of the Board of Directors in the Ninety-Nines International.

In addition to her work with the Ninety-Nines, Cynthia is passionate about sharing her love of aviation with others. In 2003 she became a certified flight instructor. She taught Aviation 101 and served as a Charter Board member of and Secretary to Advisory Board, Project: HigherEd at South Suburban College. She has flown over 100 Young Eagles rides, participated in Girl Scout programs and taught flying companions courses.

Cynthia is a Charter Board Member and Secretary to the Historic Ford Hangar Foundation in Lansing, Illinois. The Ford Hangar was originally built by the Ford Motor Company in 1927. The Foundation was formed to oversee the restoration of the landmark hangar.

Cynthia is also a passionate air racer, flying 13 Illi-Nines Air Derbies, 17 Chicago Area Chapter Air Meets, 2 Keokuk Air Derbies and the Buckeye Air Rally. She has also helped organize and host several air derbies and taught proficiency air race clinics.

We salute Cynthia for her tireless activity on behalf of the pilots of Illinois and the organizations which she supports.

THOMAS MILTON



Tom Milton did more than just bring aviation into the classroom. He got kids excited about aviation by setting up a full-time high school aviation classroom in a hangar in an old World War II Navy Hangar in Chicago. A pilot, aviation mechanic and educator, he taught Aircraft Mechanics at the Chicago Vocational High School. Milton spent many hours arranging extracurricular activities for his students. This included attending fly-ins and arranging introductory flights for the students.

Milton was also active in the Homewood Flossmoor Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol for many years, first as a cadet and later teaching Cadet's Pilot Ground School and becoming Deputy Commander of Cadets. He is an active Aviation Safety Counselor for the FAA and volunteers as a Technical Inspector for the EAA.

However, some of Tom's volunteer efforts for aviation are rather unique. Milton authored and presented Aircraft Rescue Seminars for the Lansing Fire and Police Departments. This is very important work since many first responders are not familiar with aircraft.

Tom Milton is also known throughout Illinois and nationally for his work with gyroplanes. He has served as an Officer and Director of his local Popular Rotorcraft Association (PRA) Chapter 18, the Greater Midwest Rotorcraft Club, for over 35 years. He continues to present educational programs at Chapter 18 meetings. On a national basis, Tom has served for over 35 years as an officer and director of the PRA, an association dedicated to sport rotorcraft safety and education.

We salute Tom Milton for his work at Chicago Vocational High School and his efforts on behalf of the gyroplane and homebuilding community.