

Women in Aviation - Timeline

- 1784** Elisabeth Thible becomes first woman to fly in a hot air balloon..
- 1798** Jeanne Labrosse is first woman to solo in a balloon.
- 1809** Marie Madeleine Sophie Blanchard becomes first woman to lose her life while flying -- she was watching fireworks in her hydrogen balloon.
- 1880** Mary Myers is first American woman to solo in a balloon.
- 1903** Aida de Acosta is first woman to solo in a dirigible.
- 1906** E. Lillian Todd is first woman to design and build an airplane, though it never flew.
- 1908** Madame Therese Peltier is first woman to fly an airplane solo.
- 1910** Baroness Raymonde de Laroche obtains a license from Aero Club of France, first woman licensed in the world.
- 1910** Blanche Stuart Scott, without permission or knowledge of Glenn Curtiss, the airplane's owner and builder, removes a small wood wedge and is able to get the airplane airborne -- without any flying lessons -- thus becoming first American woman to pilot an airplane.
- 1910** Bessie Raiche's flight qualifies her, for some, as first woman pilot in America -- because some discount the flight of Scott as accidental and therefore deny her this credit.
- 1910** Baroness Raymonde de la Roche becomes first woman in world to earn a pilot's license.
- 1911** Harriet Quimby becomes first American woman licensed pilot.
- 1911** Harriet Quimby becomes first woman to fly at night.
- 1912** Harriet Quimby becomes first woman to pilot her own aircraft across English Channel.
- 1913** Alys McKey Bryant is first woman pilot in Canada.
- 1916** Ruth Law sets two American records flying from Chicago to New York.
- 1918** U.S. postmaster general approves appointment of Marjorie Stinson as first female airmail pilot.
- 1919** Ruth Law becomes first person to fly air mail in Phillipines.
- 1921** Adrienne Bolland is first woman to fly over the Andes.
- 1921** Bessie Coleman becomes first African American, male or female, to earn a pilot's license.
- 1922** Lillian Gatlin is first woman to fly across America as a passenger.
- 1928** Amelia Earhart is first woman to fly across the Atlantic -- Lou Gordon and Wilmer Stultz did most of the flying.
- 1929** First Women's Air Derby is held. Louise Thaden wins, Gladys O'Donnell takes second place and Amelia Earhart takes third.
- 1929** Florence Lowe "Pancho" Barnes becomes first woman stunt pilot in motion pictures (in *Hell's Angels*).
- 1929** Amelia Earhart becomes first president of the Ninety-Nines, an organization of women pilots.
- 1930** Amy Johnson becomes first woman to fly solo from England to Australia.
- 1930** Anne Morrow Lindbergh becomes first woman to earn a glider pilot license.

- 1931** Ruth Nichols fails in her attempt to fly solo across the Atlantic, but she breaks world distance record flying from California to Kentucky.
- 1931** Katherine Cheung becomes first woman of Chinese ancestry to earn a pilot's license.
- 1932** Amelia Earhart is first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.
- 1932** Ruthy Tu becomes first woman pilot in the Chinese Army.
- 1934** Helen Richey becomes first woman pilot hired by a regularly scheduled airline, Central Airlines.
- 1934** Jean Batten is first woman to fly round trip England to Australia.
- 1935** Amelia Earhart is first person to fly solo from Hawaii to American mainland.
- 1936** Beryl Markham becomes first woman to fly across the Atlantic east to west.
- 1936** Louise Thaden and Blance Noyes beat male pilots also entered in the Bendix Trophy Race, first victory of women over men in a race in which both men and women could enter. The next year, they would not let women compete.
- 1937** Amelia Earhart lost over Pacific.
- 1938** Hanna Reitsch becomes first woman to fly a helicopter and first woman to be licensed as a helicopter pilot.
- 1939** Willa Brown, first African-American commercial pilot and first African American woman officer in the Civil Air Patrol, helps form the National Airmen's Association of America to help open up the U.S. Armed Forces to African American men.
- 1939** Jacqueline Cochran sets international speed record; the same year, she is first woman to make a blind landing.