

May 2015



Fellow Twirly Birds:

We will start this newsletter with a link to the Helicopter Association's ROTOR magazine. The spring 2015 edition contains part one of a two part series featuring Twirly Bird, Nancy Miller Livingston Stratford, written by Twirly Bird Marty Pociask.

<https://www.rotor.com/Publications/RotorsupregsupMagazine.aspx>

The 2015 Twirly Bird reception was held the first day of Heli-Expo in Orlando, Florida, and by all accounts it was again a pleasant and memorable gathering for Twirly Birds and their guests.

Pictures of the 2015 reception are on the Twirly Bird web site, <http://twirlybirds.org/>. Let me again remind you that this web site is the result of the blood sweat and tears of Twirly Bird Roger Gould. Roger is continually challenged by those of us who have little or no knowledge of web sites, the internet, or perhaps even electricity, yet we expect him to maintain and update our web site.

During the Orlando reception we remembered those Twirly Birds who have gone west; Jim Atkins, Frank Huglin, Rod Kvamme, Lew Erhardt, Vern Albert, Barbara Garbell, Owen Niehaus, Bob Nokes and Del Smith.

It was quite humbling to note some of their many accomplishments and contributions to the helicopter industry.

The previous newsletter noted the vertical flight contributions by our new Associate Twirly Bird, Elizabeth, (Libby) Meade so I will not repeat what you can read on our Web site. (February 2015 Newsletter). Libby was accompanied by her husband Kenny whom so many of us know as the guy behind the scenes who worked tirelessly at numerous Heli-Expos over the past years. Twirly Bird and Helicopter Association Chairman, Matt Zuccaro took the podium to reflect on Libby's quiet, competent dedication to the HAI and the Helicopter Industry. Twirly Bird and the Helicopter Association's Chief Operating Officer, Ed DiCampli echoed Matt's remarks noting Libby's

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assistance to him when he joined the HAI staff. Several of HAI's past Chairmen, and the present Chairman, Twirly Bird Gayle Wilson attended the reception to honor Libby.

Perhaps the most notable reminder of the respect and esteem for Libby was the 2012 donation by Twirly Bird and Les Morris recipient, Roy Simmons, who donated \$50,000.00 to the Helicopter Foundation International Pilot Scholarships in honor of Libby. After much deliberation, Roy decided that the money would be put to better use in a scholarship fund rather than honoring the Twirly Bird request for a grant that would be used to pay the bar bill at future Twirly Bird receptions.

Joining Libby as a new Twirly Bird Associate was Kelley Parlier, President of YES Communications. Kelley has distinguished herself and her company as the go to organization for corporate communication, marketing management, and trade show assistance particularly for aircraft operators and equipment manufacturers. Kelley is a licensed pilot with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Dakota in Public Relations and Aviation Services.

Kelley and her team have not only contributed to the Helicopter Industry but she has generously given her time to the Twirly Birds providing professional advice and direction to improve the annual Twirly Bird reception at Heli-Expo.

The high point of the evening was the presentation of the Les Morris award to Twirly Bird Nancy Miller Livingston Stratford.

Twirly Bird, and Les Morris recipient, Sergei Sikorsky presented the award to Nancy by first recounting his memories of Les Morris. Sergei's father and Les Morris were founder members of the Twirly Birds. Although Les Morris is known as the first helicopter test pilot and first helicopter instructor, Les made it quite clear that Igor Sikorsky was really the first helicopter test pilot and flight instructor.

The previous newsletter recounted many of Nancy's adventures in aviation, and by now you have probably read the first part of Nancy's biography in ROTOR magazine.

One picture on the Twirly Bird website includes Nancy Stratford surrounded by fellow Whirly Girls. The Whirly Girls were invited to attend the Twirly Bird reception to help us honor Nancy, who is Whirly Girl No. 4.

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A few attendees observed that the three honorees at this year's reception were ladies. Slats Slattery (god rest his soul) might have gone into retreating blade stall if he heard about this most recent Twirly Bird reception.

Following the reception, Nancy took the time to autograph several of her books, CONTACT BRITAIN, and then donated the proceeds to the Twirly Birds.

Contact! Britain! A Woman Ferry Pilot's Story during WWII in England, a 220-page account of her ATA service. The book is available through <https://www.createspace.com/3479823> or Amazon, where it has a 4.9 out of a 5.0 rating.

A public apology to Nancy Stratford is in order from the Twirly Bird President. I was asked to proof read the Les Morris award prior to the final casting. Of course I diligently checked "Nancy Miller Livingston Stratford" and gave the final approval. Just before the reception, I once again checked the plaque and read "In recognition of **his** outstanding contribution to vertical flight as a pioneer helicopter pilot." It was much too late for a new plaque; Nancy was presented the award; however, at my expense I arranged for a new plaque with **her** in place of **his**. Nancy was encouraged to keep both plaques as a reminder of the challenges she faced as a pioneer helicopter pilot.

The April/May 2015 issue of Vertical magazine contains an article by Twirly Bird, Bob Petite, about the history of Ft. Wolters, Texas, home of U.S. Army primary flight training from 1956 until 1973. Bob writes that 41,000 helicopter pilots were trained at Ft. Wolters! Some of the pictures included with that story were contributed by Twirly Bird, Don Braebec.

Vertical Magazine supports the Twirly Birds. Vertical magazine is an award winning helicopter industry publication. You can also receive their daily helicopter news through their web site dailynews@verticalmag.com

From the Twirly Bird bylaws:

GENERAL MEMBER: Those who have soloed a helicopter or other vertical take-off aircraft in sustained complete flight over 20 years ago.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Those who have been selected by a duly appointed committee of General Members as having made significant and noteworthy contributions to helicopter or other vertical take-off flight through exemplary dedication and devotion.

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Twirly Birds! Please introduce a qualified friend to the Twirly Birds; better yet buy him or her a membership as a gift.

Please nominate a qualified individual as an Associate member. There are many non pilots who have contributed so much to this industry. The Associate Committee will consider all who are nominated to join as Associate members.

The award committee is also soliciting nominations for the Les Morris award. This important and prestigious award recognizes a fellow Twirly Bird for their outstanding contributions to Vertical Flight. Please send me your nominations: srs@jma.com or call 408 348 5780.

Please send us your news, and updates for this newsletter. Your fellow pioneer helicopter pilots would appreciate hearing from you.

DUES: Annual dues are \$10.00. Dues are used to pay for mailing the newsletter to those Twirly Birds whom do not have an e-mail address. Dues are also used to buy TB pins, TB certificates, and partially fund the reception at Heli-Expo. Please send your dues to Treasurer Dennis MacBain, 4525 Leon Street, San Diego, CA 92107 (Life time memberships are available for \$500.00.)

News Flash: Twirly Bird Jim Ricklefs who just celebrated his 101 birthday has stated that he is seriously considering paying for a life time membership in the Twirly Birds if we can get 10 other Twirly Birds to join him.

The Twirly Birds have funded an endowment at the University of Texas at Dallas for the Twirly Bird Archives. Please consider sending your records, papers and memorabilia to be preserved and cared for in the Twirly Bird Archives.

Twirly Bird Archive Contact:

Paul A. Oelkrug
Coordinator for Special Collections
The University of Texas at Dallas
800 West Campbell Road MC33
Richardson, Texas 75080-3021

KEEP YOUR ROTOR IN THE GREEN!
Steve Sullivan

If you are not receiving this newsletter via e-mail please send your e-mail address to Dennis MacBain, macdennis@att.net, so that we can get you on the e-mail list.