

Soaring Association of Canada

For Immediate Release

WOMEN TAKE TO THE SKY

Come soar with us Saturday August 10, Innisfail, AB

Considering that the first female pilot took to the Canadian skies nearly 100 years ago, it is surprising that today only 6 per cent of Canadian pilots are female. It all started in 1913 when Alys McKey Bryant flew her Curtiss biplane over Vancouver to promote the new era of aviation. Since then there have been some very accomplished Canadian female pilots, but their numbers are not large.

Certainly women have proved themselves equally capable of flying in stressful and even dangerous conditions. During World War II, female pilots ferried hundreds of aircraft across the North Atlantic. In 1973 Albertan Rosella Bjornson became Canada's first female airline pilot and more recently Roberta Bondar and Julie Payette joined the ranks of astronauts exploring the outer limits of space. In 2000 female pilot Maryse Carmichael joined the Snowbirds acrobatic team and in 2010, as Lieutenant Colonel, she became their very first female Commanding Officer.

On August 10, 2013 the Central Alberta Gliding Club at Innisfail, Alberta, in partnership with the Soaring Association of Canada, is hosting the second annual "Chics Take Flight" event. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for everyone to see and experience what flying can offer as a hobby and potentially as a career. Soaring is an ideal way to enter the world of aviation because while the techniques are similar to powered flight, it is done in a club atmosphere and is less expensive. If you can drive a car, you are two thirds of the way to be able to fly an aircraft.

The 'Chics Take Flight' event will take place at the Central Alberta Gliding Club from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and admission is free. There will be opportunities to fly in a glider with a qualified instructor at special event rates, as well as try out a soaring flight simulator. In addition there will be static displays and opportunities to meet female pilots, including Capt (Ret)Rosella Bjornson who was the first female commercial airline captain.

The Central Alberta Gliding Club is only 12 km from Innisfail, AB. From Highway 2N take Exit 365 (Hwy 54 W) Go 12.1 km and the airport will be on your left. GPS N52.08 W114.02

Come soar with us. Release your inner pilot!



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Links: <http://www.cagcsoaring.ca/>
<http://www.sac.ca/>
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Photo: A Central Alberta Gliding Club pilot-in-training begins her walkaround