

Skill and Speed: Gardinier will show off racing plane during Kentucky Aviation Museum appearance

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It's an American air race with an impressive legacy. Every pilot is a woman, and several women from Kentucky have been competitors.

Skill as a pilot takes priority over flat-out speed. And a competitor from the 2016 race is speaking on Saturday, Sept. 17 at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky in Lexington.

Minnetta Gardinier will speak about the Air Race Classic and her participation in the 2016 and previous races. An avid pilot and experienced air racer, Gardinier conducts medical research at The Carver School of Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa when not flying. She will visit Lexington in the plane she flies in the Air Race Classic.



Minnetta Gardinier will speak about the Air Race Classic and her participation in the 2016 and previous races (Photo Provided)

The first Women's Air Derby was conducted in 1929 as part of the National Air Races. Competition continued up to World War II, when the race was suspended until 1947. Called the All Women's Transcontinental Air Race, this group continued the race until 1977. In that year, the Air Race Classic (ARC) assumed operations, and in 2002 became a non-profit educational organization to continue the competition.

The annual race covers 2,400 statute miles and extends over four days, as the pilot/co-pilot teams follow VFR (Visual Flight Rules) and are in the air during daylight hours. A handicapping system specific to each participating aircraft produces competition among the planes and challenges for the pilots.

The 2016 air race included airspace over western Kentucky, and Frankfort's Capital City Airport served as a checkpoint in a previous Air Race Classic.

Gardinier will have a presentation for young people at 4 p.m. on Saturday Sept. 17 at the aviation museum. At 7 p.m., she will offer another talk as part of the Museum's Quarterly Lecture Series. A buffet will be served at 6 p.m. (\$15 for members, \$20 for future members). Reservations are required for the buffet (859-231-1219); the lecture is open to the public.

The Aviation Museum of Kentucky is located at 4029 Airport Road, adjacent to Blue Grass Airport in Lexington. It is the official aviation museum of the Commonwealth as well as home to the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame, and operates as a non-profit corporation. For more information, visit www.aviationky.org, or call 859-231-1219.

From Kentucky Aviation Museum Communications