

SHARE:


[Join Our Email List](#)


This past week has been so busy for 99s all over the Southeast Section. We had 3 **Let's Fly Now Events** and a very successful participation in the **NIFA Safecon 2018**. Thanks to all who came and gave of their time and talents.

NIFA

We had a stupendous 99 turnout from our Section for judges at the NIFA SAFECON 2018 competition hosted by Jacksonville University and held at Herlong Airport (KHEG). Chief Judge Dennis Wilt thanked the EAA and the Ninety-Nines for volunteering and stated that this SAFECON would not have been possible without the support of these two organizations.

99 Judges in attendance over the week long competition included
 Diane Bancroft - Suncoast
 Meredith Holladay - Firstcoast & Mommy Pilots
 Isabel Prado - Spaceport
 Janice Pelletti - Appalachian Aviatrixes
 Sarah Israel - Goldcoast
 Eileen Hamby - Alabama

Pam Sprang - Georgia Flying Belles
Cathy MacArthur - Daytona
Laurie Reeves - Firstcoast
Marilyn Shafer - Suncoast

Make plans NOW for next year because the NIFA SAFECON will be hosted by Sun 'n Fun and Polk State College and held in Lakeland! It will be November 4-8, 2019. I'm planning to check into another AirBnB (or Two?) since our \$36 per-night-per-bedroom rate was so popular and affordable for us this year and relaxing in a home living room to talk aviation was fabulous! Marilyn Shafer (probbmom@gmail.com) will continue each year to be the NIFA Chair and make these arrangements so contact her NOW to be put on the informational list for next year. This is by no means an obligation to attend but an interest in being kept up-to-date on the plans and arrangements for November 4-8, 2019.

The 2018 results having the top three teams going to Nationals at the University of Wisconsin in May 2019 are first place, Embry Riddle; second place, Auburn University; 3rd place Jacksonville University. Discussions at the business meeting brought up the suggestion for a separate drone competition (not to be scored within the final results of the SAFECON) since all the schools in attendance have a drone club. Polk State is looking into this event configuration. Another topic urged the NIFA Council to support and encourage more schools in our Region 9 (Alabama, Georgia, Florida) to participate. Some have financial issues and others have Provost concerns about the safety. If you have an aeronautical college/university/community college in your area, try to contact and offer support. The 2019 Chief Judge will be Aaron Rajanen and our NIFA Council Rep is Mark Masuna.

NIFA is a 501(c)3 organization and, like the 99s, operates on donations and volunteers. Marilyn Shafer is looking into donations of three unicom radios to be used by the event judges and chief judge during the Region 9 annual competition. There were some tailwind issues this year and pilots had difficulty contacting judges. This is a safety issue and unicom radios would be invaluable. If you have a contact or the ability to obtain a unicom radio for NIFA, please contact Marilyn Shafer (probbmom@gmail.com) with this information or to do a contact/follow-up.

Let's continue to increase the presence of the 99s at this important annual event. The college women pilots are increasing in this male dominated profession and our conversations and introductions are invaluable.

submitted: Marilyn Shafer, Southeast Section NIFA Chair -
Marilyn Shafer