

Guest Speaker: Dianna Stanger

Dianna Stanger is strongly motivated by her passion for aviation. She is Vice President of Operations for Whirly-Girls International, an organization dedicated to engaging women in rotary wing aviation. An Angel Flight South Central (AFSC) Pilot since 2001, Dianna holds the distinction of piloting the first ever AFSC helicopter mission. In addition to her Angel Flight missions, Dianna flies for Pilots 'N Paws and various other local charities in her own Waco UPF-7, Cirrus SR22, Hawker Beechcraft Premier 1A, and Eurocopter EC120.

While Dianna's compassionate nature finds expression through Angel Flight, her competitive side is fueled annually through participation in the Air Race Classic, the oldest transcontinental air race in the United States. By finishing first in the 2,400-mile competition in 2012, Dianna and her team were able to fund a scholarship for one deserving young woman to pursue an education in aviation through LeTourneau University.

It's not a surprise that Dianna is so aviation-minded -- she is a principal owner of Electro-Methods, LLC, a jet engine component manufacturing company in South Windsor, CT that has been in operation for more than 50 years.

A couple of years ago Dianna became the Calhoun County Airport Manager and opened a Cessna Pilot Center for flight training at the county-owned airport in Port Lavaca, TX. Her work with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to secure over \$3.5 million in airport improvements resulted in the Calhoun County Airport being named Texas' "Most Improved Airport" in 2010, just three months after Dianna was named airport manager.

Each year, Dianna sponsors a Kids Day at Calhoun County Airport for local schools where about 350 sixth graders are introduced to flight, weather systems, the Coast Guard, the Civil Air Patrol, and many other aviation-related experiences. She also works with TxDOT to promote the Texas Kid's Aviation Art Calendar by holding an annual art contest.

Nominated "Most Dedicated Female Pilot in the World" in 2011 by Women of Aviation Worldwide, Dianna does have interests other than flying. When she is not busy operating one of her aviation businesses or flying Angel Flight missions, there is always the seven-thousand-acre Wolf Point Ranch. Dianna purchased the vacant ranch in 1998 and has turned it into a thriving operation. Using the latest breeding techniques including cloning, the ranch is home to a herd of more than 1100 prized black Brangus cattle. Dianna is also a competitive equestrian and has been awarded over twenty US National Championships in only eight years of competition.