

ATC Was My Co-Pilot - Minnetta Gardinier - Chicago 99s Aviation Expo 2026

Event Details

On Sunday, November 3, 2024, she was making a "routine" return flight from a 99s International Board of Directors Meeting in Oklahoma City (OKC). After a 6.5-hour flight down to OKC with a 45-55kt headwind, she was enjoying a very speedy 3-hour return flight thanks to great tailwinds. All was going well until the approach into her home base Iowa City (IOW). She suddenly experienced spatial disorientation. Due to a variety of factors, she failed to establish on the final approach path and experienced a spin in clouds while turning out for another approach attempt into IOW, pulling out just a few hundred feet from the ground as she emerged from the clouds. Great ATC support from Cedar Rapids (CID) assisted her with re-establishing her control of the flight and making a safe landing at IOW.

Sat, Jan 31, 2026 at 13:30 CST

Hilton Chicago/Northbrook

2855 Milwaukee Ave

Northbrook, IL



Contact: Michael Baraz

(630) 781-8890

Michael@Baraz.us

Select #: GL03141245

FPM D'Wayne Collins n/a

Minnetta

Minnetta Gardinier is a familiar face to many 99s and an avid fan of flying the Air Race Classic. She has accumulated nearly 3,000 hours over 20 years of flying her 1978 Cessna Cardinal Classic and has landed in 47 of the lower 48 States.

The Hilton Chicago/Northbrook is located south of Palatine Road (Willow Road) on the east side of Milwaukee Avenue.

A message from the National FAASTeam Manager

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