

Lynn Rippelmeyer



Retired Pilot

First woman to fly a Boeing 747 across the Atlantic

What did your job involve on a daily basis?

Flying an airplane! Where, for whom and for what reason changed throughout my career. Teaching flying was my first paying job as a pilot. The rest of my career involved getting people and / or cargo safely and comfortably from point A to point B.

How did you get into the transport industry?

My introduction to the industry was as a flight attendant, a role which I'd applied for because my best friend interviewed, was accepted and wouldn't move to New York alone! My introduction to flying happened when I helped a friend get his sailboat to his island in Vermont. Neighbours arrived in a Piper Cub seaplane to welcome him home, offered me a ride, which turned into lessons and as they say, the rest is history.

What do you like about having worked in the transport industry?

I love the people who work in this industry, the camaraderie, the large selection of schedules, the freedom, the travel, the constant opportunities to keep learning and growing.

What would your advice be for someone interested in becoming a pilot?

Make sure you love it and that it will still be something you can't wait to do even when it is called "work". Be willing to make some sacrifices. If you choose to have a partner in life, make sure he / she supports your love of flying. It can be an addiction!

Tell us something people don't know about you.

I entered junior rodeo events with my horse Lucky as a teen - barrel racing, pole bending, flag races, obstacle courses, you name it. That feeling of working with something so much bigger than yourself to go places and do things you could not do alone was so liberating. That sense of speed and freedom, and the view I got from riding him to the top of the near-by bluffs overlooking the Mississippi Valley below, is what gave me my first desire to fly. The ability I now have to see this beautiful world from such a unique vantage point – it was all because of a horse.