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Aviation *for* Women

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Aviation International for Women



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The Coronado Speed Festival Matches Up Racing And Flying Women

Lieutenant **Katie McDonald** had no interest in the Navy before college. Her plan was clear: pursue a degree in biomedical engineering and be a doctor. Her plans change. At Boston University, she discovered the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program. Compared to her "half ride" academic scholarship, in which the funds only covered part of her academic expenses, the "full ride" scholarship the ROTC program could offer, which paid all of her academic expenses, was most enticing. At the time, it seemed as if the decision favored all directions. Little did she know that it would change her life. After more than five years in the Navy, McDonald admits that she's found her "niche" as a pilot.

Being a well-proclaimed thrill seeker, the cockpit seemed the best place for her. McDonald states, "The draws to excitement and danger—many rollercoasters, white water rafting, rappelling—I love it all." When McDonald switched from fixed-wing to helicopters, she experienced a very different thrill of flying. McDonald flies with a detachment from the San Diego-based HH-46 "Scorpions," currently onboard USS Princeton and deployed to the Persian Gulf Region. She currently flies the SH-60B Seahawk, similar to the Army's Blackhawk, an amphibious and anti-surface warfare helicopter. Flying a helicopter requires the pilot to be so close to the ground, and in McDonald's case, the water, that it's kind of like being on the back of a racing ship. For the past two years, McDonald has represented her squadron at the International Women in Aviation Conference. While attending the Conference, she had the opportunity to speak with the WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots). As McDonald learned to the women's military experience stories, she was amazed to be working in the same profession. "These women are in their 80s and still so spry, and full of life. Now that's inspiring. That's why I love being a pilot."

Cathleen Ann Marie Edellbrock, "Cameo," is a third generation family member to work at Edellbrock Corporation, an automotive company her grandfather started in 1938. Currently, Cameo holds the position of vice president of advertising and she is devoted to a variety of projects on a daily basis. Edellbrock's a true race enthusiast and manages races at boat.

At the time Edellbrock entered the vintage racing world, she was the only woman in her class, and with that came a variety of challenges. Even though most of the guys treated her like a little sister, there were some male drivers that couldn't stand being passed by a woman. Cameo's successes have in-



Katie McDonald



Cathleen Edellbrock

spired many young girls to venture into the racing world as she has. "It's so nice talking to young fans at the tracks, especially the young girls, who look up to me, and just so excited to talk to a woman that races."

Edellbrock has been involved with the Coronado Speed Festival since 1997. The event, October 6-7, takes place at the Naval Air Station North Island, where 125 racecars race in a two day event benefiting the military service men and women. Some of the world's oldest and fastest military aircraft will be on display and pilots will answer any questions people have about the aircraft. McDonald is looking forward to her first-ever opportunity to attend the Coronado Speed Festival on her home base, Naval Air Station North Island. The event is not only an annual racercar and military tribute event, but is the San Diego Navy's annual open house in October. The Coronado Speed Festival is co-produced by San Diego Fleet Week Foundation and General Racing Ltd. and is hosted by the Navy Region Southwest's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program (MWRP). Advance purchase general admission tickets are available by on the Fleet Week web site (www.fleetweek.usnfla.org/coronadospeedfestival). —