FROM NEWSROOM TO HANGAR

One Woman's Story of Retooling Her Life for a New Career in Aviation

By Bettina Edelstein
I was running in place, grinding my gears. I didn’t have a clue what to do next.
I charted a new course and moved to Vermont to learn how to fix airplanes.
From the 30th floor, you could see aircraft flying the Hudson River Corridor.
I felt a pang. My pilot logbook had been in a safe-deposit box for two decades.
That initial flight was brief, but it was enough to spark a curiosity that would take me in an entirely new direction.
An A&P? The challenges were fierce. But my second go-around with aviation made me realize I wanted to engage with the material world, understand how things work.
We worked inside the hangar …

…and outside on the ramp.
Starter-generators, alternators, carburetors...
Shimmy dampers, gascolators, magnetos...
Continental O-300 reciprocating engine overhaul
Huey helicopter, left.

Sabreliner jet.

Beechcraft Baron twin, right.

OV-10 Bronco.
The beloved Cessna 172.  
The aerobatic Fouga jet.
Studying everywhere I could, I was constantly playing catch-up while trying to stay on track.

I was the newbie who’d never held a socket wrench before. Now I had a big box of tools.
Looking ahead to a future in aviation in Vermont.