



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Patty Wagstaff Papers

2006

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Patty Wagstaff Papers
<b>Date:</b>	(bulk 1984 - 2004)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2005.0053
<b>Creator:</b>	Wagstaff, Patty.
<b>Extent:</b>	10.2 Cubic feet ((34 box))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Patty Wagstaff, Gift, 2005

### Preferred Citation

Patty Wagstaff Papers, Accession number 2005-0053, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

In 1991, Patty Wagstaff became the first woman to win the title of US National Aerobatic Champion, a title she then successfully defended in 1992 and 1993. Wagstaff, now based in St. Augustine, Florida, was raised in Japan and worked as a model and a shipwreck diver in Australia before moving to Alaska in 1978. There she began flight instruction in a Cessna 185 on floats and earned her private pilot license in 1979. Wagstaff moved quickly to earn her commercial and instrument ratings for single and multiengine aircraft and seaplanes. She entered her first aerobatic competition in 1984 and moved to the Unlimited category (most proficient) in only two years. Wagstaff was a six-time member of the US Aerobatic Team, which competes in world competition every two years, until her retirement from competition in 1996. Today, Wagstaff is a premier aerobatic pilot in air shows throughout the United States, performing dynamic and precise routines in her Extra 300L. She is also a commercially rated helicopter pilot, a flight instructor for unlimited aerobatics, and she flies for motion pictures and television. Wagstaff is a four-time winner of the Betty Skelton First Lady of Aerobatics Trophy and was the 1995 recipient of the National Air and Space Museum Trophy for Current Achievement in Aviation. She has written, with Ann Cooper, her autobiography, *Fire and Air: A Life on the Edge*. The aircraft in which she became US National Aerobatic Champion is the Extra 260, a German-built

aircraft which is on display in the Pioneers of Flight gallery of the National Air and Space Museum. In 2004, Wagstaff was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of ten cubic feet of magazines, newspaper articles, flight sequences, photographs, correspondence and airshow programs chronicling the aerobatic career of Patty Wagstaff.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics -- Competitions
- Aeronautics -- Exhibitions
- Extra 300L
- Periodicals
- Stunt flying

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Newspaper clippings
- Photographs
- Programs