



AUX TANK

Newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Chapter
of the NINETY-NINES INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION of WOMEN PILOTS

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December

2002

A Message from Chairman Jaye:

Thank you, **Jeanne Kirhofer, Dolores Mathews and Coralee Tucker** for the very special seminar at our November meeting. It was gratifying to see so many chapter members turn out, as well as several guests. The evening was an unqualified success.

The BIG news is that we're now planning a Casino Night. If you want to be in on the ground floor, come to an initial planning meeting at the home of **Barbara Michaels** on Thursday, November 14th at 6ish PM. Barbara's address is in the roster. Bring something for yourself to eat. Casino Night is scheduled for March 1st. The last time the chapter held a Casino Night was 20 years ago and we earned a lot of \$\$\$.

Doo Dah is approaching – Sunday, November 24th. Contact **Jennifer Miller** if you have a contribution and/or if you're planning to fly in the parade.

We are now official sponsors of Aviation Explorer Post 747 – the group of young people shepherded by Ruth Logan. We are very proud of our affiliation with this dynamic group of future aviators.

The Van Nuys Open House on October 19th was a big hit. As reported by **Golda Neuman and Mary Glassman**, both kids and adults were tossing airplanes through the target hole all day in order to get a Vinnie cup.

We are going to create a poster from our airplane picture. See it at the December meeting.

Speaking of the December meeting, **Susan Skalla and Golda Neuman** are putting together a dandy selection of holiday items for your shopping pleasure. By the way, Sky Gems will be there with their jewelry. We'll have coffee and cookies, too. The meeting will be abbreviated so that you have time to spend your hard earned dollars! And that reminds me: PLEASE BRING COOKIES TO THE DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING.

Th-th-th-that's all, folks.

Jaye

Fly-Ins

Our next flyin will be to San Luis Obispo Airport on Sunday November 17. ETA is 11:00 AM and we will be having lunch at the Spirit of San Luis Restaurant. **Liz Dinan** (a long time member of our humble chapter) will be joining us for lunch and she is inviting the San Luis Chapter to join us for lunch.

Let us know if you are planning to attend. E-Mail **Ruth or Jeanne** or call Jeanne at 818-893-5806 or 818-787-5680 if you need a ride or have a seat.

If the weather is not VFR we will meet at ROCKY'S for lunch.

AVIATION EXPLORERS POST 747

RUTH LOGAN has invested many hours forming this organization for young people, who will be exposed to the many aspects of aviation.

CONGRATULATIONS RUTH !!!!!

At Monday's SFV 99s meeting, the membership approved sponsoring Aviation Explorer Post 747. Whiteman Airport is also a sponsor. There were questions prior to the vote regarding what sponsorship meant and exactly what this Aviation Exploring thing is all about. The following is a brief explanation for those who did not attend the meeting: Sponsorship will include paying for the Post's yearly charter of \$25. The Post will be allowed to use SFV 99s tax I.D. # to accept donations. This was cleared through the 99s National Office's Legal and Insurance Departments. Exploring is part of the Learning for Life Program, they were part of the Boy Scouts of America, but have now formed their own entity with their own non-discrimination policy. The Boy Scouts of America, Inc. is still responsible for the primary insurance. As far as any other responsibility, the 99s can become as involved as they would like to. Currently, there are several 99s already working with this group of great kids who ALL want to learn how to fly. Ruth Logan and Lois Peck started the group, and help plan meetings. There have been volunteer 99 pilots for field trips to the Santa Monica Museum of Flying last spring and this week-end (Nov. 9) to the Camarillo Commemorative Museum. Those pilots are Jeanne Fenimore, Jeanne Kirhofer, Ruth Logan, Lois Peck and Ceci Stratford. The Post has received plotters, E-6Bs, lesson plans and other donations from Bertie and Ceci.

The Exploring Program is for young adults (male and female) ages 14 to 20, and is carried out through an Explorer post. There are Police, Fire, Paramedic and Highway Patrol Explorer Posts, and now an Aviation Explorer Post. Its purpose is to provide experiences that will affect the positive development of youth at a critical stage in their lives and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Elected youth officers lead the post. Young adults join to gain insight through fun-filled programs and hands-on activities provided by adult committee volunteers,

youth participants, and other consultants from the community. The Aviation Explorers based at Whiteman Airport are interested in careers in aviation. The leaders provide them with the tools to meet their personal goals.

Post 747 is about to finish up their first year. During the past year they have worked hard and are close to completing the requirements for the Learning for Life Aviation Career Achievement Award. Three have signed up for the Congressional (that's the U.S. Congress) Gold Medal Award, with learning to fly as their goal. Besides meeting their goal, they will have to do community service, physical fitness and three exploration activities.

I'm sure you will be proud of these great young adults. Thanks.

Aerotique for Dec. Meeting

Hope that everyone is planning on attending the Aerotique Dec. 2. We think you will be surprised at some of the unusual things that will be offered for Christmas and Hanukkah, and also as general gifts.

You may even want to bring your friends. In addition to our own members' items for sale, we will have Carol's personalized children's books and Evelyn's airplane jewelry from Sky Gems.

Hope to see all of you there with your money, checkbooks or charge cards. It should be a fun time.

Remember, also, that you could get that special something for the gift exchange at "Cookies to the Tower." **Golda Neuman and Susan Skalla**
Aerotique Chairmen

Future Women Pilots

Welcome our newest FWP, **Julieann Sikora**, who received her pin at the October meeting. Lois Peck is her mentor. Julieann has been training in a C-172.

Congratulations to **Leslie Rink**, FWP candidate, who just did her first solo October 26 in a C-152. Leslie is training out of Whiteman airport.

Congratulations to **Marie Winther**, FAI World Record holder. Marie has been a guest at our meetings, and is considering joining our chapter as FWP. Check out Marie's photo (she's on the left side of the middle group of three yellows):
www.jumpforthecause.com (see article from Marie)

2002 DOO DAH PARADE

It's not too late to sign up for the Doo Dah Parade! Contact Jennifer Miller for information (818) 559-7561. There is a \$50 minimum fee to enter, but we hope you raise more! Be sure to ask your friends, family, and co-workers to sponsor your march in the parade. We have decided to let our male friends join in the fun (it IS the Doo Dah Parade) so long as they come in drag. The entry fee is still \$50, and they need to provide me with their names ahead of time. If any men want to join without donning a wig and lipstick, we could use some linemen (bring those flashlights). It is also time to start thinking about repairing or building those planes. If you need suggestions or would like to work on your plane with other 99s, talk to Jennifer.

PARADE DATE: Sunday, November 24th (Sunday before Thanksgiving)

PARADE STEPS OFF: at 11:30AM

YOUR ARRIVAL: Arrive early to avoid traffic jams and crowds. The formation area is in Memorial Park located on Raymond Avenue, between Walnut and Holly Streets (2 blocks north of Colorado Blvd.). Be at the formation area by 9:30 AM and locate your fellow 99s. Jennifer Miller will check the group in at the check-in table, and obtain the entry stickers for each person in the group to wear.

PRE-PARADE: In the past the Pasadena Senior Center (located in Memorial Park) has served a Doo Dah Pancake Breakfast beginning at 8:00am. I have not received information regarding the breakfast yet, but I will look into it and provide/confirm the information later.

THE ROUTE: The parade begins at the corner of Holly and Raymond, goes south on Raymond to Colorado Blvd., and west on Colorado Blvd. to Pasadena Avenue.

WEATHER/CLOTHING: Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and clothing - it may be cool in the morning, but it usually warms up, so wear layers. As in the past, let's coordinate and wear black (or dark) pants and a white shirt. Bring plenty of water.

POST-PARADE LUNCH: at California Pizza Kitchen, 99 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena. It is walking distance from the parade area.

Jump for the Cause

The City of Hope will received about \$400,000 in proceeds from the funds raised for the Women's World Record in Skydiving. The FAI record was set on October 19th at 11:22 a.m. at Perris, CA. 131 women in formation, held for a remarkable 10.73 seconds, 7.73 more than the FAI requires. Check out www.jumpforthecause.com to see pictures!

One of your FWPs (me!) is the left one in the middle yellow group when facing center. We used 7 airplanes: a Casa in the lead, a Skyvan in the left trail position, and 5 Super Otters. The pilots were terrific and significantly contributed to our success. They flew these airplanes 14 times in the exact same formation. The first day's practice jumps were made from 12,500 MSL. The 2nd and 3rd days we turned on the oxygen and went to 16,000 MSL or 17,500 AGL. The 4th (last day) we went to 16,500 MSL or 17,999 AGL. As it turned out, we didn't need the extra altitude, but the double-digit time looks really nice!

If there's enough interest, I'll have a video, cheese, & wine party one evening.

Thank you again to those who made contributions!

Marie Winther
FWP

Note Cancellation

If any of you were planning to attend (as I was), the Aviation World's Fair next April has been cancelled.

Safety Note

I will not be able to attend the Nov. meeting due to a freak accident. This is a safety warning for all members who use bungee cords to tie their tails and rudders in place when the wind blows: I had an accident at Burbank last Friday when the bungee snapped off of my tail and hit me in the eye. Thanks to the Burbank airport paramedics and the ambulance team and the marvelous crew at St. Joseph's, my eye has been saved. I am not doing very well and it will be approximately five weeks before I know if I will regain my vision in the right eye. So, please do a safety article on the danger of those bungee cords, and I am sorry I will be missing another meeting.

Carol Scanlon SFV99

Follow-up

Thank you all for your get well wishes and prayers. This is the second day that I am able to check my email (for a very short period of time). The eye is starting to heal, and, I now have partial vision and can open the eye part of the way. I still am not allowed to bend, drive, fly, ride horses, jog, lift more than 2 pounds, over read or watch TV. for to long a period of time.(listening is still preferred) and the medications have only been reduced by one dose on one med. one time a day. But it is progress and I am not going to lose my eye! Seriously, thank you all for your prayers, get well wishes, phone calls and flowers. I have not really felt well enough to chat on the phone or respond during the last few weeks, but I am starting to feel like my old self, I will catch up with each one of you individually in the near future. Again, thank you so much. Your prayers and wishes have really helped in my recovery.
With my sincerest thanks,

Carol

Air Racing News

I received this from the East Coast. Check it out if interested.

We hope that you give yourself the gift of flight to come fly with us and enjoy the fabulous camaraderie that develops with shared flying adventures. We'll

be celebrating the amazing 100th anniversary of powered flight with historical venues, vintage aircraft flights, a chance to soar and awesome scenic splendor. For 2003 we've added divisions for turbo aircraft and air cruising to our speed and collegiate groupings. The cross country events will be: the 300-mile Renaissance Race, the 1800-mile Marion Jayne Air Race and the 1800-mile Marion Jayne Air Cruise. The entry kit is now available free from the web site at www.us-airrace.org and there is

Wishing you Blue Skies and Tailwinds,
Pat Patricia Jayne Keefer
President, U.S. Air Race, Inc.

Van Nuys Airport Open House

Mary and Golda would like to say THANK YOU to the following people for helping out at the VNY Airport Open House: **Lorrie Blech, Pam Distaso, Marcia Fuller, Linda Hernandez, Lilian Holt, Jeanne Kirhofer, Helene Krongold, Paula Sandling, Julieann Sikora, and Ceci Stratford.**

For those of you that were not present, we displayed and explained some of the 99s posters used at our Birthday Bash. Also, we operated a flying game for the visitors. It consisted of a big cardboard sky with an opening in the middle for the participants to fly (throw) a balsa wood airplane through. It was a big hit with the kids as well as a few adults. All of them were presented a Vinnie cup compliments of the Airport Office.

As for next year, a full-format VNY Airport Aviation Expo will return to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Los Angeles World Airports and the centennial anniversary of powered flight. The dates will be June 21 & 22, 2003. Mark your calendars now as we will need lots of help to support this event. The Expo will feature the first full-scale replica of the 1903 Wright Flyer aircraft.

Again THANKS to all who helped us this year.

Mary Glassman and Golda Neuman
Co-chairman



Paula, Golda, and Mary ready for business at VNY Open House



Michael Sandling
Ready for target practice



Bertie, Doris, Lilian, and Lorrie with our hostess from Edwards at the fireplace from Pancho Barnes motel lobby



At the gate where Yeager was injured the night before breaking the sound barrier

Holiday Party

At the home of

Paula Sandling

23814 Aetna St. Woodland Hills

Saturday, December 14

6:00 pm

White Elephant Gift Exchange
Potluck

Contact: Mary Glassman 818 998 2617
Golda Neuman 818 364 0512



Oooh, It's Dark Outside! Some Thoughts On Night Flying

Well, it's that time of year again when the clocks have fallen back and it gets dark much earlier than we might wish. If you're a "VFR day only" pilot or fly just to see the sights, the general absence of sunlight could definitely squash your plans to fly later in the day or evening. There is also some additional risk for our little single-engine airplanes because it's harder to deal with emergency landings at night. With due diligence applied however, there are some very nice advantages to flying after dark. Here are a few things you might like to think over about flying at night.

First of all, don't think you have to fly at night. If you're uncomfortable with the environment, i.e., a strange field, perhaps with inadequate lighting or imposing terrain, then the best thing to do is wait for daylight. This is analogous to not flying in bad weather. It's all a question of your experience level and your comfort level. If you don't feel safe, don't go!!! My husband and I recently took our Cardinal on vacation up to Montana. All of our flight legs were VFR-day because there were too many mountains and rough (and unknown) terrain. The risk factor was too great for our comfort level, though we have been flying for many years and there are more than a few flight hours between us.

If you do decide to fly at night, you'll most likely want to double check a few items on your pre-flight checklist. Make sure (not to sound trite) that your aircraft's lighting works as advertised. Check BOTH the inside and outside lights! Do the radio lights work? How about the navigation/position lights (both wingtips AND the tail!) and ESPECIALLY the landing light? Make sure (really sure) that you have two flashlights on board, and that they not only work, but that they are within your reach from the cockpit. You might consider carrying spare batteries (also within reach), just in case. Been there and been burned!! Groping around in the dark is not necessary if you do a little planning ahead of time. ☺

Things really do look different at night. Many's the time even highly-trained and experienced pilots have groped around in a multi-million dollar jet trying to find some poorly lit strip that they've been in and out of before. Big city strips in the middle of the big city are the worst as airport lighting tends to get "washed out" by the surrounding city lights. (Just try to find the Orange County Airport beacon at night!) If the airport has an approach (an ILS), you can use it and be sure of where you're headed. If you're talking to ATC, never fall for the old "vectors for the visual (approach)" routine. If you are in any doubt about an airport's location, 'fess up and have the controller help you. One night I heard a conversation between a Van Nuys controller and some poor soul who was certain that he was at Van Nuys. The controller was dubious and couldn't see him, but nevertheless cleared him to land. A few moments later the airwaves were filled with his expletives as he realized he was at Burbank. Oops! Of course, now that they have local radar in the towers, it's harder for this to happen at controlled airports. Taxiing can be an adventure, too, if there are no lights around. If you are lost, let the ground controller give you "progressive" instructions. They'd rather you did that than blunder around.

If you're headed for an uncontrolled field, be sure you know the procedure for turning on the runway lights. Normally (but not always), it involves multiple radio "clicks" with your mike button on the Unicom/CTAF frequency. If there's an AWOS, be sure to listen to it before you land because seeing the segmented circle and/or any windsocks will be much more difficult at night – especially if you aren't sure where to look.

Night time can be a great time to fly. The sight of the city lights around LA can be pretty spectacular. It's also easier to spot other aircraft because their position lights and beacons stand out against the dark sky. The air is generally more smooth when the sun isn't out there heating things up and causing convective turbulence. The best time for going places or for instrument training is at night. There are just fewer airplanes out there to take up ATC's time. Controllers are more prone to help you and to make special concessions at night. A good time for training, if you are a "night person", is between 2100 and 2300 (little activity and most of the airports are still open).

One final note, and that's about your eyesight. Having your radio panel lights down at a low level, red filters on flashlights, etc. is always a good idea. Perspective is easily lost at night, and by keeping your cockpit light levels to a minimum, you'll have a better ability to see the runway and judge your height above it when it comes time to land. It takes time for your eyes to adjust to the dark, as you well know, so help your eyes to help you. One little trick you can try sometime just to see what a difference it makes: some night as you go on your rounds to close up your home for the night, try closing one of your eyes about 2 minutes before you know you'll be turning off the last light. Then once that last light is out, open the closed eye and you'll be able to compare just how much more you can see with the one that was shut!

As always, let me encourage you to fly within your own personal safety limits. If you aren't comfortable with flying at night, make a few flights with your CFI, or just wait until the sun comes back out.

Have a safe flight!

Claudia Ferguson, Safety Chairman
San Fernando Valley 99s
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WEB SITES of INTEREST - www.ninety-nines.org (International)
www.sws99s.org (Southwest Section)
www.sfv99s.org (SFV99s OWN site)
<http://www.lawa.org/vny/welcome.htm> (this is a very useful site for SFV pilots!)

Each of these sites has links to other aviation sites and other 99s chapters!

Our meeting is the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. – July dark.
Meeting place is the Airtel Plaza Hotel, corner of Valjean and Sherman Way next to VNY.

Thursday NOON after the monthly meeting is the DEADLINE for the AUXTANK, each month!
Email (bduffy@lausd.k12.ca.us) contributions to Bertie Duffy

Calendar of Events and Coming Attractions

Thurs Nov 14	Casino night planning meeting
Sun Nov 17	Fly-in San Luis Obispo
Sun Nov 24	Doo Day Parade
Mon Dec 2	Chapter meeting - Aerotique
Sat Dec 7	Cookies to the tower
Sat Dec 14	Holiday Party
Sat Mar 1	Casino Night
Sat Mar 29	Flying Companion Seminar
June 21-22	VNY Expo

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