

# AUX TANK

Newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the  
NINETY—NINES

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN PILOTS

## AUX TANK

February 2005

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The San Fernando Valley Chapter of the Ninety-Nines was founded on February 1, 1952.

The mission of the Ninety-Nines is:

- To promote world fellowship through flight.
- To provide networking and scholarship opportunities for women and aviation education in the community.
- To preserve the unique history of women in aviation.

## Southwest Section Update for February Status Report: "Wright on to Mars!"

From Maureen Kenney, our Chair: The current registration rate of \$129 is good through March 31. We need people to volunteer for committees - please email me with your preferences, and I will re-direct the email to the committee of interest. [mkenney@sdsio.jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mkenney@sdsio.jpl.nasa.gov) We are selling sponsorships of tables at the Saturday banquet - \$400. This will include a full-page sponsor page in the banquet program.

(Editor's Note: Took a look at the section data below and realized that, with 1559 members, Southwest Section represents more than 28% of the worldwide membership of the 99s! That's who we are hosting here at Van Nuys in May! Many thanks to Maureen, Michele, Stacie and everyone else who has generously volunteered to serve as organizers. The chapter thanks you for all your work so far which we know will make "Wright on to Mars" a memorable success.)

Section Statistics (from the February Dispatch from Headquarters, Oklahoma City). As of January 25, 2005:

Arabian	7	Mid-Atlantic	360
Australian	39	Nepal	4
Brazil	5	New England	167
British	10	New York-New Jersey	268
Caribbean	1	New Zealand	19
East Canada	142	North Central	841
Far East	8	Northwest	461
Finnish	8	Russian	16
German	17	South Central	922
India	9	Southeast	541
Israeli	10	Southwest	1559
Members at Large	16	West Canada	52
Mexico	7	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5489</b>

## Looking for Ms. Wright

Mentors for three new students who are joining the Future Women Pilots program are needed. Please let me know if you would like to become a mentor for one (or more) of these new students.

Thank you!

Linda Hernandez

[lecadet99@yahoo.com](mailto:lecadet99@yahoo.com)

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## Milestones:

Explorer Jesse Galeas became the newest, youngest private pilot in the United States on February 15! On that day, Jesse's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, he aced the oral and the flying portion of the private pilot practical test. Below is a picture of Jesse and Designated Pilot Examiner, Dennis Renzelman. Jesse says thanks to all his SFV99s "Moms".

-Ruth Logan



**Jesse Galeas and Dennis Renzelman**

**FWP Milestone:** Please join me in congratulating one of our newest Future Women Pilots, Kathryn Presson, on achieving a milestone: First Solo! February 11, 2005.

-Linda Hernandez

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## Agua Dulce Update

There was a public meeting on Sat Jan 22 with both sides expressing their opinion. This open forum continues in downtown LA, 9am Wed March 16th. I have enclosed information from the website regarding that. Also on the website is a link to the Discussion Draft No. 5 Feb 2, 2005. It goes into very specific detail (31 pages) as to what will happen if and when the airpark becomes a "Special-Use" airport with an **R** to mark it on the charts.... meaning they are not looking for you to come in there for a tri-tip sandwich or AVgas, so keep flying brother. Whatever your feelings on the matter, peruse the following and maybe even take a gander at the 31 pages from the website. [www.agudulceairpark.com](http://www.agudulceairpark.com)

The Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on January 22, 2005. The Commission is considering the modification of Special Use Permit Case No. 1404-(5), which authorizes the operation and maintenance of a private commercial airport.

The Airpark thanks the Commissioners for their time and consideration. Thank you also to all the community members, government officials, and others who came.

The hearing lasted three hours, during which county staff presented their report, and testimony was heard from opponents and supporters. The commission urged the various groups to continue to meet, and also urged the airpark to meet with the community at large.

When these hearing notes are available on line, we will post a link here.

The hearing has been continued to Wednesday, March 16, 2005, at 9:00 am, at 320 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing but wish to send your comments to the commission, please write to Sam Dea of the Planning Commission, 320 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012

## Did You Ever Bend A Wrench?

Every few years, or so, our Chapter has a "Greasy Thumb Day" to try to acquaint our members with some of the mechanical aspects of the aircraft we fly. Another way you can help to educate yourself on how your airplane works is to participate in an "owner assisted annual" on your own aircraft.

Provided that your mechanic is willing to have you looking over his or her shoulder and explain what they are doing, you can learn some pretty interesting things. You can also get smart enough to be able to describe any problems you may have and know that they have been repaired correctly.

FAR Part 43.3(g) states that the "holder of a pilot certificate under Part 61 may perform preventive maintenance on any aircraft owned or operated by that pilot which is not used under Part 121, 129, or 135." Appendix A of FAR 43 defines preventive maintenance. And there is a very long list of things that you can do yourself to your aircraft which can help you when it's time to pay the mechanic's bill. Among other things, you are allowed to: replenish hydraulic fluid, repair upholstery, replace seat belts, change tires, repack wheel bearings, change oil, replace the battery, and a bunch of other things (see the Appendix for the complete list). Keep in mind that any maintenance that is performed on your aircraft must be entered in a log and signed. So, if you change your engine oil, don't forget to make an entry in the engine log and sign it.

In the past dozen years I've done the preparation work on my Cardinal to get it ready for the mechanic's annual inspection. I open up all the inspection ports under the wings, pull out the seats and floor carpets, uncowl the engine, and, when the mechanics are all done, put everything back together. Under the mechanic's supervision, I lubricate cables and actuators in the wings and fuselage, change the ELT batteries, help change the oil, and help inspect for damage or wear throughout. It's always an educational experience. It always makes me feel better to know that the airplane has been thoroughly inspected when we're finished.

As a caveat, keep in mind that there are quite a number of things that require a mechanic's license to do. These include major repairs to the engine, propeller, and airframe involving complex assembly or disassembly of components, anything having to do with control surfaces or airfoils, etc. If you have the skill, there are more complex maintenance procedures you can accomplish under the direct supervision of a licensed mechanic. So, if you want to learn how to do something on your aircraft and your mechanic is willing to teach you, there's no time like an annual inspection, when everything is apart, to pick up a new skill or two.

## Did You Ever Bend A Wrench? (continued)

Let me encourage you to get out there the next time your airplane is down for annual inspection and get your thumbs a little greasy (or a lot!) and bend a wrench or two. I suspect that when it's complete, you'll vote the experience to be very worth the effort.

Fly safely!

Claudia Ferguson  
Safety Chairman, SFV 99s  
FAA Safety Counselor  
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## 2005 Aviation Safety Symposium Slated in Long Beach

This year's FAA aviation safety symposium in Long Beach, California has something for all aviation enthusiasts. The symposium, scheduled for March 22-23 at the Queen Mary, includes speakers from the FAA, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Civil Aeronautical Medical Institute (CAMI) and Cirrus Aviation. Among subjects covered will be sport pilot/light-sport aircraft; human factors issues in aviation; general aviation; air carrier and helicopter accidents and related maintenance issues; equipment installations and approvals; FAA regulations; and other current aviation issues. An industry tradeshow will be open between sessions. World champion aerobatic pilot Patty Wagstaff will also appear. This event qualifies for both Wings and Aviation Maintenance Technicians awards. The symposium also qualifies as required training for IA renewals in accordance with 65.93(a)(4). IA's should bring documentation for renewal, as FAA Inspectors will be available both days for on site renewals. For more information, visit [www.faasafety.gov](http://www.faasafety.gov) or contact George Mahurin at 562-420-1755 ext. 136

## Flying Companion Seminar

The FCS will be Saturday, March 26 from 9am to 4pm. It will be held at Hollywood Aviators on Valjean. This is a one day mini ground school for non pilots. It is designed to explain what is happening, make the passenger more comfortable, and teach them to help the pilot and even use the sectional. Please let any friends know about the class. Every one of you know of someone who could benefit from the information presented. The cost is \$60 and includes lunch and snacks.

A reservation is necessary - contact Bertie Duffy at 818 769 2894 or [aviatryx@yahoo.com](mailto:aviatryx@yahoo.com).

## Young Eagles Dates

Here are the dates for the Young Eagles flights at Whiteman:

March 26  
May 28  
July 23  
September 24  
November 26

We meet between 10:00 and 10:30 in the grassy area at Whiteman Airport.

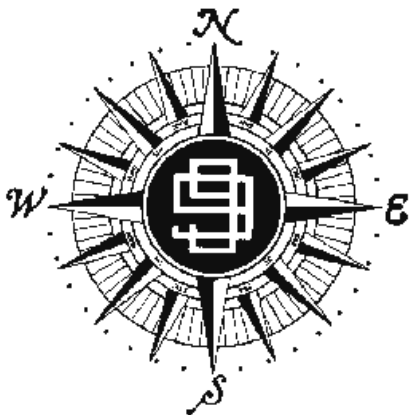
Kids must be between 8 and 17 years of age. They will need permission slips signed by their parents. I will have those and some flyers with additional information at the next 99s meeting.

If you have family, friends, or neighbors, please send them over! If you want to fly kids, let me know.

- Ceci Stratford

## SFV 99s: Dates to Remember and Upcoming Events

March 22-23 2005	FAA Flying Safety Symposium, Long Beach
March 26, 2005	Flying Companion Seminar, VNY
April 9, 2005	Poker Flight
May 13-15, 2005	Southwest Section: "Wright on to Mars"



SFV99s Members at Santa Ynez Flyin

