



AUX TANK

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

JUNE 2007

The Close of a Great Year

Chairman's Report

This has been quite a year for our Humble San Fernando Valley Chapter.

We received many awards and the hard-working members of our Chapter deserve them. Publicity, Aerospace Education, and Pilot Proficiency were all awarded to our Chapter by the Southwest Section. In addition, the San Fernando Valley 99s received "The William H. Spurgeon Award" presented for "Highest recognition for individuals and organizations contributing significant leadership to the Exploring program." What an honor!



We have almost worn out our display board with exhibits at the Van Nuys Expo, two Girl Scout cookie kickoffs, the Van Nuys Aviation Career Day, and the Macy's exhibit. This sort of exposure is good for The Ninety-Nines and shows the community that there is interest in their activities.

We have had many fundraisers with activities: a pancake breakfast, Macy's exhibit, Girl Scout Aviation Day, and of course the Traveling Space Museum. We have also received some very generous donations from members.

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Photo: Take 2 – The outgoing and incoming Board. R to L: Kathryn Presson, Jennifer Miller, Jeanne Fenimore, Anne Marie Radel, and Mary Glassman

CHAIRMAN
Jeanne Fenimore

VICE CHAIRMAN
Jennifer Miller

RECORDING SECRETARY
Kathryn Presson

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Mary Glassman

TREASURER
Anne Marie Radel

EDITOR
Mary Glassman
Jennifer Miller

PHOTOGRAPHER
Lilian Darling Holt

WEBMASTER
Pam Distaso

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.

Short Final

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It is good to report that a former scholarship recipient has chosen to repay to us his original scholarship award in the hopes that it would be a future benefit to other persons. All in all we have raised quite a bit of money.

The money does not stay around here for very long. We donated to the "Fly for the Cure" Cancer Program, to the Aviation Explorers, to The 99s Endowment Fund, and the Museum of Women Pilots.

We have honored two of our most treasured members, two of our three remaining WASP's in our Chapter. Jan Wood last year and Mary Lou Neale this year will be inducted into the Forest of Friendship; we now have all of our Chapter WASP's in the Forest of Friendship. We also aided the Mt. Shasta Chapter in their desire to induct former San Fernando Valley Chapter member, Audrey Schutte.

We have some excellent scholarship recipients this year. We want to congratulate Jim Griffiths and Ian Lewis, and wish them good luck in their future endeavors. Both of them received \$3000 towards their desire to further their aviation careers.

We have lots of plans for the future and lots of places to go. There is the Air Race Classic, The 99s International Conference in Boulder, Colorado, Section Meetings in San Francisco and Palm Springs, and of course we will be planning the big flight to Anchorage, Alaska in 2008. Other activities that we have planned are our continuing support of the Explorers, Traveling Space Museum, Girl Scout activities, and we will have an exhibit and provide speakers for the AE Celebration at the Amelia Earhart Library in North Hollywood. You can bet there will be more activities.

It has been a great pleasure to be your Chairman. I have been blessed with a great group of ladies joining me on the board: Jennifer Miller, Kathryn Presson, Anne Marie Radel, and Mary Glassman. These ladies and the committee members that they supervised have done an outstanding job for The Ninety-Nines as an organization and for our Chapter. I am looking forward to the next year and more wonderful things it will bring.

See you at the Airport

--Jeanne Fenimore

Members of the Month

Kathy Smither, Linda Worden, Ruth Logan and Kathryn Presson all received Member of the Month recognition at the May Meeting. Kathy and Linda worked hard all year collecting and assembling chapter members' participation in Aerospace Education activities, and Kathryn did the same for PPT. Their hard work paid off and the SFV99s won trophies for both awards. Ruth organized yet another successful fundraiser for the Chapter with the Macy's Community Shopping Day.

June Fly-In

The SFV99s' next scheduled Fly-In is to Harris Ranch (308) on Saturday, June 23, ETA is 11:30. If you have never been to Harris Ranch, it is along Interstate 5 near Lemoore Naval Air Station. The runway parallels the interstate. The tie down area is northeast of the runway and the restaurant is nearby. They do have fuel and it is currently \$4.85 a gallon.

If you need a ride or have a seat, please contact Ruth Logan at rlogan02@yahoo.com or Jeanne Fenimore at jeannefenimore@earthlink.net. Hope to see you there!

--Jeanne Fenimore

June Membership Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to our SFV99s!

1991	Helene Brown
1997	Ruth Logan
2001	Jennifer Miller
2001	Natasha Pavlova
2005	Leslie Dinius
2006	Joanne Davis

Awards Luncheon

On June 9, the "San Fernando Valley Awards and Installation Luncheon" was held at The Smoke House Restaurant in Burbank. This is the special day to thank the members who have worked so hard for the Chapter, congratulate the individuals who have received our Career Scholarships, and install the Board for the upcoming year

After members, friends and guests had dined on a delicious lunch, the awards program began. Career Scholarship Co-Chairmen Melinda Lyon and Jeanne Fenimore introduced our two scholarship winners for 2007. Jim Griffiths, a flight instructor at Whiteman Airport, will be working for his MEI multi-engine instructors rating. Ian Lewis, an air traffic controller from Point Mugu, wants to obtain an instrument rating to enhance his flying and in which he feels will also help him in his duties as a controller.

John Jones was honored as our "Friend of The 99s" for his outstanding support to the San Fernando Valley Chapter and the Explorer program. Of course, it goes without saying what a great pancake flipper he is also.

It was a surprised and flustered photographer who received the well-deserved Shubert Memorial Service Award. Lilian Holt tearfully accepted the honor and we all enjoyed watching "her" being posed for pictures.

Our last, but certainly not least, award was bestowed on a fairly new member who has taken off since she found her wings. Stacie Crowther was also surprised and pleased being named Pilot of the Year. In four years she has obtained her private, instrument, and commercial ratings, and loves to fly Young Eagles whenever she can.



Award Winners Ian Lewis, John Jones, Stacie Crowther, Jim Griffiths, and Lilian Holt

The Installation of Officers completed the program: Jeanne Fenimore - Chairman, Jennifer Miller - Vice-Chairman, Kathryn Presson - Recording Secretary, Anne Marie Radel - Treasurer, and Mary Glassman - Corresponding Secretary.

A very special THANK YOU to Michele Albiez, our Awards Luncheon Chairman and Mistress of Ceremonies, for all her hard work making this a wonderful afternoon for all.

For those of you who are wondering what happened to our 49 ½ Award, this year our honoree could not attend the luncheon so it will remain a mystery to us all until he/she can join us for the honor.

Ceci & Chuck's Annual Potluck Hangar Party

Join Ceci and Chuck on Sunday, June 24 from 12:00 – 4:00 at Whiteman Airport Hangar G2 for their annual potluck. Bring a dish to share. Please RSVP to Ceci or Chuck at (805) 527-3696 or cecipilot@sbcglobal.net.

Awesome Aviation

Explorer Post 747

Our numbers and demographics are in constant flux. Currently, we have fourteen members – 50% female! The most exciting feature of our current group is that we have a great mix of “seasoned” Explorer pilots and all levels in between, ranging from some experiencing their first flights to two who are close to their checkrides.

The “seasoned” pilots are assuming leadership roles. It was brought up at a meeting a couple months ago by Dan Jones that we really should be doing more group flying – like camping, you know fun stuff. The adult Advisors (really seasoned pilots) said fine – but the Explorers had to plan the whole trip. Well – they did. The Adult Advisors stood back in amazement.



Daniel Jones took the helm in planning and organizing. Ashley Steven, Brandon Crain and Ian Doolittle rounded

out the leadership team. Ashley was in charge of contacting everyone and keeping them apprised of departure times and which plane they would fly in. Brandon was in charge of food. Ian was in charge of checking weather and deciding the best time to depart Whiteman. Daniel led two meetings; one in flight planning to Kernville and the other in weight and balance. It was at the weight and balance meeting that they all realized with only three planes, eleven people and one dog – someone was going to have to drive the camping gear up. Saturday morning Bill Logan flew Christian, Janet and Ashley up, Ian flew Rosie and Diane (everyone on board was under 18 – including the pilot). John Jones, Ruth and Brandon flew up after the Awards Luncheon. Daniel drove the gear up. On the return flight Daniel flew passengers back to Whiteman and John drove the gear back. During our stay at

Kern Valley Airport, the Explorers played volleyball, roasted marshmallows, told ghost stories and had campfire games. To see these kids who didn't even know where the airport



was a short time ago, plan and execute such a wonderful, fun flying trip certainly warmed the cockles of my heart. I think the pictures speak for themselves.

New member bio: Diane Carrillo is one our brand new girls. Diane is a student at Amelia Earhart Continuation School in North Hollywood. She became interested in aviation while attending AE High. Diane met Ninety-Nine and Explorer Ashley Steven while attending the Career Day at Syncro on April 20. Her enthusiasm for aviation and learning to fly increased with each encounter with women pilots. She has turned her life around. Diane is #7 of nine children, her single mom and siblings were forced to move just a few months ago to Woodland Hills. She makes the trek to AE High School in order to finish out the school year. When she graduates this week, she will be the first female in her family to graduate from high school AND not be pregnant. She has gone from failing grades to tutoring other students. Diane has already registered in community college. During the camping trip Diane came to me and said, “Miss Ruth – tell me how do I get from where I’m at now to becoming an airline pilot.” I said, “Have a seat.”

Happy Birthday!

June 3	Betty Irwin
June 3	Merlee Levick
June 6	Marilyn Perna
June 10	Elysee Alexander
June 19	Madeline Kurrasch
June 24	Lilian Holt

Amelia Earhart Day

On Saturday, July 21, the Amelia Earhart Library in North Hollywood will host "Amelia Earhart Day" to commemorate Amelia's birthday and her last flight. Events of the day will include a documentary, speakers (including our own Ceci Stratford), booths, kids' activities, 1930's era music, a dramatization about Amelia, and young adult activities. The SFV99s will participate in this event and will have a booth. We need volunteers, so mark your calendar and contact Ceci Stratford to sign up.

Summer Pot Luck

The SFV99s Annual Potluck will be held on Saturday, August 4 at Ceci Stratford's home. Please contact Stacie Crowther (818) 848-9718 with questions, RSVPs, number of guests and the category of dish you will be bringing (main course, salad appetizer or dessert).

Salute To Youth

The sixteenth Annual Salute to Youth at Palmdale Airport will be on Friday, September 21. The hours will be 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The San Fernando Valley 99s have traditionally manned (womaned) a booth for this event, and hope to do so again this year. There will be 2,400 Antelope Valley High School students attending this very informative event. There will be companies and institutions presenting different career opportunities including aviation and aerospace. Volunteers are needed to bring out the display and be available to answer questions during the event.

We will be allowed to fly in and have our planes on static display. If you have never flown into Palmdale, it is a great experience – the runway is HUGE. Don't land on the numbers – you'll taxi forever. Go a mile down the runway then set it down. It's a hoot. Palmdale is still considered a military installation, so pilots wanting to fly in will need to fill out all the Prior Permission Request (PPR) forms. Please contact Marcia Fuller for further information and copies of necessary forms.



Rose of Achievement

Erin Thorpe earned a Rose of Achievement for obtaining her instrument rating and commercial certificate in May! Congratulations Erin!

July Membership Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to our SFV99s!

1987	Laura Ricks
1998	Merlee Levick
2005	Melanie Stoner

Guests

Guests at the June Meeting were Shanda Mullins, Lonna Gibson, Stephanie Higa, and Sallye Stotsbery. Thank you for joining us at our meeting. We hope to see you again!

Happy Birthday!

July 6	Linda Hernandez
July 8	Jackie Forsting
July 10	Ruth Logan
July 22	Pam Distaso
July 23	Lois Rifkin
July 26	Jennifer Miller

San Fernando Valley 99 Forest of Friendship Inductee

MARY LOU COLBERT NEALE

Mary Lou Colbert's desire to fly was fueled by stories from her Father's World War I pilot friends. Her father was Admiral Leo Colbert, Director of the US Coast and Geodetic Survey. Mary Lou also had several encounters with Ruth Nichols, an early aviatrix, who visited Mary Lou's college as a famous alumna; she also met Amelia Earhart when Amelia was Airmarking charts for the Government. Mary Lou's interest in flying had always been keen.

When the CPT (Civilian Pilot Training) program came along in 1940, Mary Lou was fortunate enough to be accepted into Primary Training, with the quota of one girl for every 20 boys; Mary Lou survived into Secondary Training, where girls were practically non-existent.

There was one instructor who had a fixed idea that women did not make good

pilots. Overcoming that prejudice was a real challenge.

After graduation from Secondary Training, Mary Lou bought a plane and piled up hours to get a commercial rating.

When World War II and the WASP program came along, Mary Lou was the first trainee signed up by Jackie Cochran, she literary camped on Cochran's doorstep when she heard about the program.

Mary Lou graduated from Houston with the first class and was stationed at Love Field, Dallas, TX and Palm Springs, CA ferrying planes for factories to bases or points of embarkation.

After 26 months as a WASP, she ferried surplus trainers from Arkansas to Virginia and Maryland. She then received her instructors rating and instructed briefly.

Mary Lou then moved to New York and wrote Aviation articles for a living.

In the meantime, that CPT instructor, who thought that women did not belong in the air, was now in the Navy flying students around a boring flight path in primary trainers. To this day he loves to tell the story of his consuming envy and chagrin when he learned of Mary Lou's whizzing from coast to coast. How do we know this? He tells it quite often. He is Mary Lou's husband of over 60 years. After the war her Navy Man returned from Guam. Marriage and four children put an end to flying for almost 20 years.

Mary Lou Colbert Neale reactivated her pilot's license in 1967 and joined the San Fernando Valley 99s. Mary Lou Colbert Neale has been one of the San Fernando Valley 99s most treasured members.

International Directory

The deadline for updates to the 2007-2008 International Membership Directory is July 1, 2007. If you have changed your address, phone numbers, e-mail or 49-1/2 please send your changes to International Headquarters at 1-800-994-1929 or www.ninety-nines.org/info_update.

Next Meeting:

Monday, August 6

Please note that the September Business Meeting will be held on August 27 due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Personal Locator Beacons or “Here I Am, Come Rescue Me!”

Recently, while I was reading about a couple of pilots who crashed in the mountains during a training exercise, I came across a statement by the instructor pilot: “I’ll never fly again without a PLB”. Having been in the Aerospace business long enough to be pretty good with acronyms, I remembered what that was – a Personal Locator Beacon - and that I’d written a safety article about them a couple of years back. The instructor pilot had good reason to want that PLB. His student had a broken leg, both of them had back injuries, and it took 26 hours to find them. That sounds painful to me, especially when you think that they could have been found in under 26 minutes IF they’d had a GPS-PLB with them.



US Government agencies (including NOAA and the FAA) have all recognized and accepted the Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) and just in case you missed what I wrote before, I’m going to review it again, though I normally wouldn’t repeat myself so soon. These nifty little radios were approved by the FCC for aviation use in July 2003. They operate on the 406 MHz frequency and once activated, can alert search-and-rescue agencies of your identity and exact location in as soon as five minutes and no more than 90 minutes. Whoa! Speaking as a long-time member of the Civil Air Patrol, that’s VERY cool! The signal is digital and can be stored by the SARSAT satellites (the 121.5 MHz analog signal isn’t stored) for later relay to a ground station, making it much more reliable. Here’s some more about them.

The ELTs we are currently mandated to have in our airplanes broadcast just a continuous “whoop whoop” signal on 121.5 (or 243 MHz for the military). There’s nothing in the signal beyond that, which has over the years led to thousands of false alarms and not nearly enough lives saved. The signal is not very strong – it’s good for a radius of about 12 nautical miles, which means a rather large search area (452 sq. nm.) for rescuers, and potentially a long wait for you if you’re on the ground needing help – like those guys who crashed recently in the mountains. The FAA has a study going (still!) to determine when these little dinosaurs are going to be allowed to be phased out in favor of 406 MHz units. Don’t throw yours out yet, please, they are still required and better than nothing. They don’t have all that much longer to decide, however, as the International COSPAS – SARSAT Program (that’s the search and rescue satellite folks) has made the decision to phase out 121.5 MHz satellite alerting on 01-Feb-09. This is according to their website: <http://www.sarsat.noaa.gov/emercbncs.html>. It also says “All pilots are highly encouraged both by NOAA and by the FAA to consider making the switch to 406!”



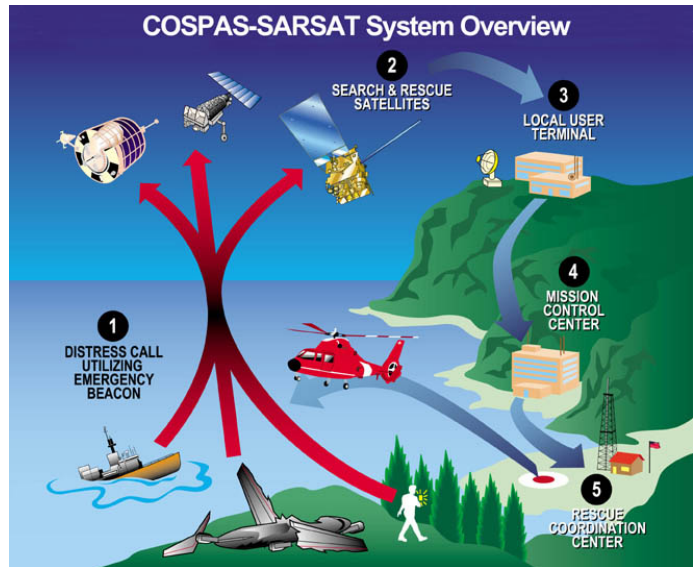
PLBs are definitely the next step in technology, and they’re already in use by more than just the aviation community. Hikers, skiers, boaters, and anyone who regularly heads away from populated areas are all starting to make good use of these great little (they’re small enough to hold in the palm of your hand) radios. It turns out that they send a lot of digital information on their signal. This info is picked up by rescue satellites (SARSAT / COSPAS) and ultimately relayed to a rescue coordination center. Oh, and by the way, they also transmit on 121.5 so that our existing rescue equipment can find them.

When you buy a PLB – and the price is now around \$650.00 (they’ve dropped over 30% since the last time I wrote about these), you are required to fill out contact information (you can do it online at: <http://www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov/>) that is stored in a database with the ID number of your PLB. That way, if it goes off, when the signal is received at the rescue coordination center, they can immediately call your contact number. This is a great help in case of false alarm, but more specifically, it can help rescuers get information about your flight plans. Better yet, the newer PLBs come equipped with a GPS capability, and these radios can digitally transmit your exact GPS position. That’s a location radius of about 0.05 nautical miles, a search area of 0.008 square miles, and five-minute notification time! Without GPS, the signal can be located via satellite triangulation to within about 2 nm, which is still LOTS better than the 12 on an ELT. Still, if I were stuck on a snowy mountain with injuries, I’d be glad for whatever could shorten the search time!



Here's an illustration of how the system works (courtesy of AvWeb):

Of course, there are some folks who might say that a cell phone would do the same thing, but I think I would point out that cell phone coverage is not necessarily guaranteed when you get away from cities (and not too many people are running around with satellite phones yet), and cell phones don't have automatic GPS location info, and don't have a shock-resistant or waterproof case like a PLB. Also, a PLB involves no cost for registration or monthly subscription fees. I looked at one on the web that comes with an 11 year battery, which means the FAA will require you to replace it at its half-life, or 5.5 years. That's LOTS better than the current 2 years on the ELT.



I don't yet have one of these, but am seriously thinking that the next time I have some funds to invest in my airplane, they would be wisely spent on one of these little PLBs with GPS. What a great way to increase the probability of my being found should something go wrong. Guess what I'm putting on my list this Christmas... ☺ Hmm. I wonder. D'you think Santa flies with one of these?

Have a safe flight and may you never need your PLB for real!

Claudia Ferguson, Safety Chairman
San Fernando Valley 99s
Aviation Safety Counselor
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For more info, check out these websites:
<http://www.sarsat.noaa.gov/emercbns.html>
<http://www.magazine.noaa.gov/stories/mag96.htm>
http://www.equipped.com/plb_legal.htm
http://www.sportys.com/acb/showdetl.cfm?&Product_ID=10797&DID=19
<http://www.rei.com/category/40002203.htm>

The advertisement for "Aviation Gifts by Ruth" features a stylized satellite in the sky. The text reads: "Aviation Gifts by Ruth", "Find the best prices on flight jackets, aviation T-shirts, kids clothing and much more at . . .", and "www.aviationgiftsbyruth.com". The background is a map with various numbers and letters.

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Reference
June 23	Fly-In to Harris Ranch ETA: 11:30	Jeanne Fenimore or Ruth Logan
July 1	Deadline to update International Directory	www.ninety-nines.org
July 20-26	AE Hike – Yosemite	Lynn Meadows, Reno High Sierra Chapter
July 30	Board Meeting	Rocky's at WHP -- 6:30 pm
August 4	Summer Pot Luck Ceci Stratford's home	Stacie Crowther
August 6	Chapter Meeting Dinner in the Main Dining Room	Airtel Hotel -- 7:00 pm as early as 5:30
August 27	Chapter Meeting – September Annual Business Meeting Dinner in the Main Dining Room	Airtel Hotel -- 7:00 pm as early as 5:30
September 12-16	International Conference – Boulder, CO	www.ninety-nines.org
September 21	Salute to Youth	Marcia Fuller
October 4-7	Fall Southwest Section – San Francisco	www.sws99s.org

www.sfv99s.org (San Fernando Valley 99s)
www.sws99s.org (Southwest Section)

www.ninety-nines.org (International)

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