



# AUX TANK

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

**AUGUST 2007**

## Celebrating Amelia

### Chairman's Report

July was the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Amelia Earhart's life. Since she flew out of Burbank Airport and Van Nuys Airport (Van Nuys Airport was called Los Angeles Metropolitan at the time), it was up to the San Fernando Valley Chapter of The Ninety-Nines to celebrate her life in a special way.

The Amelia Earhart Library in North Hollywood had a celebration of Amelia's life on July 21 and, of course, we were there in style. We had our display, and Ceci Stratford and Stacie Crowther were speakers. The library showed movies on Amelia's life and it was a special day! Other SFV99s participating were Bertie Duffy, Jeanne Fenimore, Lilian Holt, and



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## August Fly-In

It's Tehachapi Mountain Festival Time! The SFV99s will be flying to Tehachapi on Saturday, August 18 – ETA 10:00 A.M. The event features a parade, food, fun and lots of vendors at the park located within walking distance of the airport. And of course, no trip to Tehachapi is complete without lunch at the Apple Shed restaurant. Any questions, please call Jeanne Fenimore or Ruth Logan.

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...August

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Ruth Logan (Ruth's grandson, Logan, came to celebrate too). We also had a visit from Marcia Fuller, Merlee Levick, Genesis Rivas & Cecelia Heppes. It was a very fun day!

Julieann Sikora (pictured below) represented the San Fernando Valley Chapter, climbing Amelia Earhart Peak with 12 other 99s on July 24, Amelia's birthday. Lilian Holt and I flew



over the peak and honored the sturdy 99s who made the climb. Amelia would have been proud of all of the 99s who participated.

We have a busy schedule during the next few months. Our annual fly-in to Tehachapi for the Mountain Festival is on August 18. The Ninety-Nines International Conference in Boulder, Colorado is September 12-16. The Salute to Youth event in Palmdale is on September 21, and we are working with the Explorers on a pancake

breakfast in Hidden Hills on September 30. And don't forget the Southwest Section Meeting on October 4-7 in San Francisco. We will have more information about these events in the Aux Tank.

See you at the Airport

--Jeanne Fenimore

## Members of the Month

Michele Albiez, Ceci Stratford and Stacie Crowther received Member of the Month recognition at the August Meeting. Michele put together and emceed a fabulous Awards Luncheon in June. Ceci organized the Chapter's participation in the Amelia Earhart Day at the Amelia Earhart Library in North Hollywood. Ceci also welcomed 99s and friends into her home during the summer potluck, which Stacie did a terrific job of organizing. Great job ladies!



## Rose of Achievement

Marilyn Perna earned a Rose of Achievement for obtaining her instrument rating over the summer! At the August Meeting, Roses of Achievement were given to Julieann Sikora for climbing AE Peak, Mary Glassman for getting back her medical, and Lorrie Blech and Anne Marie Radel for racing in the Air Race Classic! They placed 17<sup>th</sup> out of 46 entries. Congratulations 99s for your great achievements!

## Guests

Guests at the August Meeting were Logan Summers, Caroline MacLeod, Marissa Freeman, Stephanie Higa, and Heather Ross. Thank you for joining us at our meeting. We hope to see you again!

The Aux Tank Editors would like to give special recognition and thanks to Pam Distaso, who combs over the newsletter each month prior to publication and finds our mistakes! Pam's proofing is invaluable!

## August Membership Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to our SFV99s!

1995	Pam Distaso
2002	Julieann Sikora
2005	Genesis Rivas
2006	Pnina Weiser

## Summer Potluck

Even though our annual summer potluck was held in August instead of July, we not only had a large turnout, but Mother Nature supplied a beautiful day. The food was plentiful and delicious with homemade salads, BBQ ribs, chicken, Mexican entrees, cakes and cookies. It was great to see some of our members who do not get to the meetings much anymore, to catch up with their lives, and to visit with friends from the Ventura Chapter and the CAF. Ceci and Chuck supplied their beautiful home for the event this year and Stacie Crowther did a great job hosting.

## A Fitting Send-off

Jan Wood, a WASP and long time member of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, bid a fond farewell to her friend and companion "Little Cloud" in July of this year. The beautiful



Cessna 170 which took Jan on many adventures here and abroad was donated to the Museum of Flight in Seattle, Washington.

Jan had a wonderful going away party for her magnificent airplane attended by family and friends. Starting at the Van Nuys Airport Observation Area, we then proceeded on to the tarmac with individual pictures taken of

friends with "Little Cloud" and finally ended with a wonderful potluck at her home. Photos and memorabilia were on display throughout the house. We were entertained with stories from the many WASPs and friends attending. A plaque was presented to Jan by members of the SFV Chapter in recognition of her many years of dedication to the chapter. Champagne toasts were made to and by Jan. It was a warm and fitting farewell.



--Mary Glassman

## Macy's Fundraiser Report

Our Chapter participated in the Macy's Community Shopping Day on May 11. Besides having a great time, those in attendance witnessed a fabulous singing performance by our own Anne Marie Radel. To top it all off the SFV Chapter was among the top ten selling non-profits! The Chapter has received additional funds from Macy's coupled with the ticket sales. Thank you to all who helped to make this event a success. A special thanks to Whiteman Airport's Rocky's V Restaurant for providing a sound system.

--Ruth Logan

## Happy Birthday!

August 3	Lisa Hineman
August 9	Leslie Dinius
August 18	Felicia Hoppe
August 19	Jeanne Kirhofer
August 20	Del Rubio
August 21	Jaye Howes
August 23	Mary Glassman
August 31	Ayla Brown
August 31	Beverly Butcher

# Explorers

Aviation Explorer Post 747 now has eighteen members of which nine are girls! Hopefully the girls will all become FWPs. If anyone is interested in mentoring an Explorer, please contact Ruth Logan.

The Explorers had a great July. Sean Rozenberg received his Private Pilot ticket on July 12. Daniel Jones planned another fun flying over-night camping trip to Oceano. Ian Doolittle and his brother drove to Oshkosh for the annual EAA Air Venture. We are looking forward to hearing about his adventure.

On Saturday, September 8, Learning for Life is hosting an Exploring Recognition Luncheon at the Odyssey Restaurant at 12:00. The proceeds will benefit the Greater Los Angeles Area Exploring Program. The cost is \$30 for youths and \$50 for adults. Daniel Jones will be awarded Explorer of the Year at the function. If you are interested in attending or have questions, please contact Ruth Logan.  
--Ruth Logan

**Editor's Note:** Ruth Logan will be awarded the Explorer Leader of the Year at this luncheon!

## A Visit to Girl Scouts Camp

On June 28, Lilian Holt, Jeanne Fenimore and Ceci Stratford spoke to the Girl Scouts at Camp Mariposa. The girls were very interested as the three 99s talked about being pilots, The Ninety-Nines organization, Pancho Barnes and Amelia Earhart. The girls knew a lot about Amelia's last flight! Ceci, Jeanne and Lilian also talked about careers as A&Ps, Radio Technicians and Air Traffic Controllers. The girls were given Future Pilot Wings and information about Young Eagles flights.



**Next Meeting:**  
**Monday, August 27**  
This is the annual September Business Meeting.

## Budget Meeting

SFV99s are invited to attend the annual budget meeting on Monday, August 20, 6:30PM at Rocky's Restaurant, Whiteman Airport. If you have a committee, project or event that requires funds this fiscal year, please attend this meeting or let a board member know of your request.

Ely Rickabaugh wants to thank the Chapter for the lovely flowers sent to her while she was in the hospital. She said they really brightened her room and her day! She said to say "hi" to all her friends and tell them that she misses seeing them all. She is home now, and any and all phone calls or cards would be welcomed. She still cannot get around except with a walker or wheel chair, but she has therapy and is improving daily.

## New Traffic Watch Pilot

SFV99 Stacie Crowther has begun flying traffic watch out of Whiteman Airport. Stacie is thrilled to be using her recently acquired commercial pilot certificate. Way to go Stacie!

**Aviation Gifts by Ruth**

Find the best prices on flight jackets, aviation T-shirts, kids clothing and much more at ...

[www.aviationgiftsbyruth.com](http://www.aviationgiftsbyruth.com)

## Salute To Youth

On Friday, September 21, the San Fernando Valley Chapter will again participate in Career Day at Palmdale Plant 42 for high school and middle school children of the Antelope Valley. The hours will be 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Marcia Fuller has attended the organization meetings and has the Hold Harmless forms that need to be signed for those pilots flying in for the event. In addition to displaying their airplanes, members will give information on aviation careers as well as how and why aviation is important to the well-being of the community.

If you are interested in flying or driving to this event, please contact Marcia Fuller as soon as possible: 818-765-6796.

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## 2007 AE Peak Climb

From Tuolumne Meadows following up Lyle Creek  
On the John Muir Trail and up to AE Peak  
13 women pilots on an adventure to triumph a feat  
Ages 36 to 66 all covered with deet.

It was on the journey that we learned how we came to  
be

Some were from No Cal, one from So Cal, NV, Mass  
and Tennessee

Sisters of aviation with a common thread

Desire to reach the peak without ending up dead.

Day one of the hike was such a delight – yes, for the first  
quarter mile.

We slowly spread out as we each had our pace and  
hiked up in single file.

For the first night, it was a familiar place to only the  
veteran five.

They informed us, they warned us of the bears and how  
they survive.....

Bear canisters full to the hilt with no room to spare.

So, we flung a bag into the tree and then said a prayer  
At 10pm, branches were a breakin', a crackin' and a  
squeakin'.

Mr. Bear had arrived as we were warned and he wasn't  
leavin'!

Finally, he gave up and went away.

At 1am, he was back to play.

This time he was successful and got the loot.

But Kitty screamed and he ran off on foot.

Hearts were pounding and we were very afraid.

Since Kitty was sleeping under the stars – did she  
become bear bait?

Kitty was OK and scared the big bear away.

She saved us that night and we packed up the next day.

Onward upstream we moved on the John Muir Trail.

Up the granite staircase, the hikers would prevail.

Set up base camp at the top of the hill.  
For our aching feet and legs – took another pill.  
Ibuprofen and arnica became our best friends--  
To help put the swelling and pain to an end!

Dehydrated foods didn't taste too bad!  
Just add a cup of boiling water into the bag.  
Getting the stove going was a challenge for me.  
My matches wouldn't light...so no fire for my team of  
three!

Lynn came to the rescue with the ignition.  
My team was able to get much needed nutrition!

Filtering water was a chore,  
As we soon learned our arms would be sore.  
"We must, we must,  
We must increase our bust"  
Became the daily chant of the thirteen,  
As we pumped our water out of the stream.

A day hike on the way up to Donahue Pass,  
Yielded a marmot, a huge moth, and a meadow of grass  
Looking northwest, what did we all see?  
Could it possibly be the peak of AE?  
Got out our maps – we still called them charts.  
Checked it up and down and concluded it was the part!

Excited that we confirmed our destination,  
We got out our cameras without hesitation.  
Click, click or whatever the digital camera sound.  
We knew that it was AE Peak we had found.

Every day, "Eat more carbs!" Cindy would say.  
All I could think was, "How much I was going to weigh!"  
Not to worry about gaining pounds,  
We burned it off hiking all that ground.

July 24<sup>th</sup> - The day of ascension had arrived.  
This was the make it or break it point in my life.  
Determined to reach the top, I started out slow.  
The altitude got to me with a thousand feet left to go.

I turned on my HAM radio when I saw a plane.  
"KI6HIA" someone called my HAM name.  
It was Jeanne Fenimore with Lilian Holt!  
Just hearing their voices gave me a jolt.  
Tears of joy ran down my face,  
As I looked to the sky into the vast space.  
I turned to Pat P. and she got emotional, too.  
We just couldn't believe we were talking to the 182!  
The Cessna got closer and made several passes.  
We waved, we shouted and we got ecstatic!!!  
More motivated than ever we began to climb to the top,  
No more breaks and we were going to make it non-stop.  
The last few yards we heard some people say,  
"You can do it, you are on the way!"

It was bittersweet after reaching the top.  
The weather moved in and we experienced raindrops!  
"Hurry down!" our leaders advised,  
"Before the lightning makes us all fried!"  
We scurried,  
We hurried  
We felt robbed of our celebration  
But we knew what we accomplished – we felt jubilation.  
Before we left the top, we did remember,  
To place a memento in the container.  
A blue AE scarf autographed by each climber,  
Something to find for the future AE Peak hikers

After the rigorous 11,982 foot ascension,  
I got tired and was defeated by pure exhaustion.  
The strenuous accomplishment resulted with hypoxic signs--  
Uncontrollable laughter, stumbling, happiness but still no whine.  
Others concerned about my well-being had me sit down.  
But I kept laughing as if being entertained by a clown.  
Lynn gave me a hug and I got a grip on reality.  
We needed to get back to camp before we had a fatality.  
Being in the open meadow or on the granite rocks,  
We would be prime targets if the lightning bolts struck.  
Racing through the woods, we couldn't see the path,  
Cindy stayed calm as she knew she had to guide us back.  
Her quick thinking got us back on the trail,  
As we struggled through the heavy down pour but never any hail!  
We gathered wet wood on way back to our tents,  
So that we could make a fire to dry out after the day's event.  
In the pouring down rain, we had to do more labor,  
We needed to dig trenches so we didn't flood our tent neighbors.  
Once that was done, we could finally get warm.  
But how does that happen in the middle of a storm?

Later that day, the sun shone through the clouds to bring blue sky.  
We were pleased as we prepared our meal for our last night.  
Campfire was ready to dry out our wet clothes  
I melted a sock but not my toes!

My boots didn't get to be as dry as I had wished.  
The next day, my boots squished and squished.  
We wanted to depart by 7am.  
But we all got behind yet again.  
A seven hour trek out, we were told.  
The weather was beautiful but still cold.  
We descended the staircase and got to the first meadow.  
I picked up my pace and trekked downhill solo.  
I enjoyed the solitude and basked in the sun,  
As I walked all those miles and tried to have fun.

Later, I caught up to Kitty  
As she was sitting.  
Together, we made great timing although not in a race  
We wanted down that mountain so we established a quick pace.  
We got back too early and Tom was not there.  
There was no cheering and no one to care.  
That was OK since we were first to the showers.  
We were able to clean up and smell like fresh flowers.  
Back to the main camp for the "Welcome Back" dinner,  
Prepared by Chef Tom, for we all were winners!  
Although I departed before the fine feast,  
I thanked and praised each new friend, to say the least.  
Before I left, Tom took a picture of each us with a sign,  
"We are proud of you AE Hikers. We are proud of the 99s!"

--Julieann Sikora 2007 AE Commemorative Climb Participant



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## Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Reference
August 18	Fly-in to Tehachapi ETA: 10:00	Jeanne Fenimore or Ruth Logan
August 18-19	Fly-in to Camarillo (Camarillo Air Show)	<a href="http://www.camarilloairshow.com">www.camarilloairshow.com</a>
August 20	Budget Meeting & Board Meeting	Rocky's at WHP -- 6:30 pm
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 8	Explorers Recognition Lunch - 12:00 Odyssey Restaurant	Ruth Logan
September 12-16	International Conference – Boulder, CO	<a href="http://www.ninety-nines.org">www.ninety-nines.org</a>
September 21	Salute to Youth - Palmdale	Marcia Fuller
September 30	Pancake Breakfast fundraiser in Hidden Hills	Lilian Holt
October 1	Chapter Meeting Dinner in the Main Dining Room	Airtel Hotel -- 7:00 pm as early as 5:30
October 4-7	Fall Southwest Section – San Francisco	<a href="http://www.sws99s.org">www.sws99s.org</a>
October 21	Storage Clean-up Day	Jeanne Fenimore
November 3	Challenge Air Event – WHP	<a href="http://www.challengeair.org">www.challengeair.org</a>

[www.sfv99s.org](http://www.sfv99s.org) (San Fernando Valley 99s)  
[www.sws99s.org](http://www.sws99s.org) (Southwest Section)

[www.ninety-nines.org](http://www.ninety-nines.org) (International)

## AUX TANK

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