



AUX TANK

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

NOVEMBER 2007

Challenge Air Fly Day

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This is what we are all about! On November 3, members of the San Fernando Valley 99s participated in a rewarding event, Challenge Air's Fly Day, at Whiteman Airport. This was Challenge Air's first event in Los Angeles, and it was a great success! Twenty-four volunteer pilots flew 116 children with



special needs and their family members, giving the kids a wonderful experience in the air and, for some kids, a chance to leave their wheelchairs, walkers or canes behind.



Ruth Logan, Ceci Stratford, Kathryn Presson, Stacie Crowther and Linda Worden stepped up as pilots at the event. Carin Counihan, Jeanne Fenimore, Jennifer Miller, Lilian Holt, and Julieann Sikora worked ground crew and other activities set up for the children. The SFV99s are looking forward to next year's event!

Photos (counter-clockwise from top): Participants meet the airplane loaders after attending ground school. SFV99 Carin Counihan prepares a participant for the flight. SFV99 Kathryn Presson presents her passenger with a flight certificate.

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.

Science Fair Fun!

It was a beautiful, warm, sunny day on October 28 on the campus of Monrovia High School, where the Mt. Wilson Vista Girl Scout Council was staging its first ever Family Science Festival. With exhibitors ranging from solar telescopes to search and rescue technology to **women's aviation** (the 99s, of course!), Girl Scouts of all ages, accompanied by their parents and siblings went from booth to booth with their Science Planet Passport completing activities and learning about careers in science, math, engineering **and aviation!** Hundreds of girls turned out for this Sunday afternoon event, and the San Fernando Valley 99s stepped right up to the plate, enhancing our usual information booth with model airplanes, textbooks and E6Bs to demonstrate the aerodynamics and science of flight. Children and parents alike were fascinated by an easel display of a Los Angeles Sectional chart as Jeanne Fenimore, Ceci Stratford, Kathy Crawley, Julieann Sikora and Kathryn Presson took turns explaining



aeronautical charts and the complexities of Los Angeles airspace. The highlights of the Festival were special appearances by actress and author Danica McKellar (*The Wonder Years*) and astronaut (and private pilot) Dr. Tracy Caldwell who recently flew

as a mission specialist on the Space Shuttle Endeavor. Positive women role models abounded at the Festival, and this was a tremendous opportunity for the 99s to inspire these young girls about the opportunities and joys of aviation. Thanks to our members who were able to turn out for this event!

--Kathryn Presson

Guests

Guests at the November Meeting were Chuck Ferguson, Chuck Kamphausen and Inez Morin. Thank you for joining us. We hope you will come again!

Girl Scouts Camporee

Woodley Park in the middle of the San Fernando Valley was the site for the SFV Girl Scout Camporee on October 19, 20 and 21.

Chapter members Jeanne Fenimore, Ceci Stratford, Jennifer Miller, Joanne Davis, Kathryn Presson and Mary Glassman joined many other groups on Saturday to interact and inform the girls about who we are and what we do. It was fun to see the widened

eyes as they found out that we were all pilots and that, yes, even they could learn to fly an airplane. There were "wows" and "really?" as Kathryn showed them a lovely framed picture she snapped on a flight over the mountains. We were also entertained by Joanne's aerobatics with a little wooden aircraft and her expertise at getting it out of the trees. We all hoped they enjoyed us as much as we enjoyed them.

--Mary Glassman



Photos (top to bottom): Girl Scouts have a lesson with Kathy Crawley. Girl Scouts at the Camporee learn about women aviators. SFV99s Kathy Crawley, Kathryn Presson, Julieann Sikora, Jeanne Fenimore and Ceci Stratford pose with Dr. Tracy Caldwell (third from right). Fun at Camporee!

Short Final...November



Rose of Achievement

Erin Thorpe earns a Rose of Achievement for obtaining her multi-engine rating on November 2. Erin is currently attending college at Purdue. Congratulations!

See's Candies Fundraiser

The Chapter is raising funds by selling See's Candies this month. This proved to be a successful event last year. If you were not able to pick up the order forms at the November Meeting, contact Bertie Duffy. Please turn in all orders to Bertie Duffy by November 26. Bertie will distribute the candies at the Cookies to the Tower event, so that you may make your deliveries in time for the December holidays.

November Membership Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to our SFV99s!

1972	Ely Rickabaug
1977	Jeanne Kirhofer
1986	Maggie McCurry
1989	Kathy Smither
1990	Virginia Harmon
2001	Wanda Schramm-Ogne
2003	Anne Marie Radel
2003	Leslie Rink

Happy Birthday!

November 3	Christina Merrick
November 4	Janice Martin
November 4	Genesis Rivas
November 6	Jan Wood
November 8	Maggie McCurry
November 12	Julieann Sikora
November 30	Kathryn Presson

Did you know?

Jeanne Kirhofer reported that while viewing Glendale's TV channel 6, SFV99 **Joanne Davis** was congratulated for spearheading Glendale Firefighters Association's raising \$9000 for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Way to go!

Members of the Month

Ceci Stratford, Ruth Logan and Claudia Ferguson were recognized as Members of the Month at the November Meeting. Ceci organized the Chapter's participation in the Girl Scouts Camporee and Science Fair. Ruth and Ceci worked on the Challenge Air committee. Claudia presented a safety seminar on survival at the November Meeting. Great job 99s!



And a special thank you to Paula Sandling for providing equipment for Claudia's Safety Seminar!

Turning Base...

Special December Meeting

The San Fernando Valley Chapter has a wonderful opportunity to show off at our next meeting; actually it will not be a meeting, but a FAA Safety Seminar, given by Tom Koff. Tom is an ATP and CFII. In the summer, Tom works for Talkeetna Air Service in Talkeetna, Alaska. His real job is landing on glaciers. Tom will be telling us about the best routes for flying to Alaska, things you must bring along, and even more important, what to leave at home.

In the winter, Tom lives in Southern California and gives Safety Seminars about flying in Alaska. (*Sounds like the best of both worlds to me.*) Tom will focus his seminar around the time frame that we will be flying to Alaska for the International Conference. We should get some great ideas of events to look for.

The Seminar will be held on December 3 at 7:00pm and it is open to the public. Please bring a friend or two. We will be meeting in the Concorde III room at the Airtel Plaza Hotel. It should be a very informative night. Remember that attendance qualifies for the wings program. The flyer will be on our web site at www.sfv99s.org.

See you at the Airport.

--Jeanne Fenimore

Next Meeting:

Monday, December 3

**Guest Speaker: Tom Koff
Flying in Alaska**

Cookies to the Tower

Don't miss out on the annual Cookies to the Tower on Saturday, December 1 at Rocky's Restaurant, Whiteman Airport. If you have not signed up but would like to come, please RSVP with Anne Marie Radel.

Please bring at least 3 dozen homemade cookies or treats and arrive at 9:30. After we have boxed up the cookies, we will enjoy a no-host luncheon. Don't forget to sign up to deliver the cookies to your favorite tower or FBO! Please bring a nice \$10 gift for the "Dirty Santa" gift exchange!

If possible, bake an extra dozen cookies and bring them to the Monday, December 3 meeting. We will be soliciting donations and using the cookies as bait!!

Holiday Party

Please join us at our annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 8 beginning at 6:30pm. Paula and Michael Sandling will be hosting this year. Bring a dish (side, dessert, etc.) to share and don't forget your white elephant gift (something from around your house that you can't wait to get rid of!). Please RSVP with Mary Glassman or Golda Neuman.



Doo Dah Parade

The new date is Sunday, January 20, 2008. For all who don't have planes, I will be hosting a "Build or Repair or Resuscitate Your Parade Plane Hangar Party" at my hangar WHP T-5 on Sunday, January 6 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. I will provide drinks & snacks & Smart Water!! This could be more fun than the parade!

--Anne Marie Radel

Aviation Explorer Post 747

All the Explorers want to say a big thank you to the San Fernando Valley 99s for their donation to the group. It is very much appreciated. The money will be used for flight training.

The Post had another successful flying camping trip to Kernville the weekend of October 20. The event was planned and executed by the Explorers with Explorer Dan Jones as Leader. It is so rewarding to see how much the group has grown in their confidence and ability.

The Explorers volunteered at the Challenge Air Event on November 3. The feedback I have heard from them is that for some it was a life-changing event. Several had never been close to handicapped kids. They found the entire experience very rewarding. AND they worked their butts off.

Congratulations to former Explorer Erin Thorpe, who passed her multi-engine check-ride on November 2, 2007. We are all so proud of her. She has advanced so fast in her flight ratings that it is hard to keep up with her!

--Ruth Logan

Shopping Earns \$\$ for SFV99s

The website www.AviationGiftsbyRuth.com features unique aviation gifts at great prices. Items include flight jackets, T-shirts, jewelry etc. This year I have expanded the greeting card selections to include Holiday cards along with ornaments. As an added incentive to shop at my on-line store, I will donate 5% of every item purchased by an SFV99 to the Chapter. All I need for you to do is make a notation in the special instructions on the shopping cart (SFV99). If you want to pick up items at the next meeting, Cookies to the Tower, Holiday Party, airport or ? – indicate that in the instructions and I'll deduct the shipping charge. Any questions, please feel free to call me at 818-356-0797 or e-mail ruth@aviationgiftsbyruth.com.

--Ruth Logan



Get Well Wishes

Supportive "Get Well Wishes" are "winging" their way to former member Bev Woodward, members Doris Minter, Ely Rickabaugh, Maureen Kenney and "Special Friend of the 99s" Maria Schwartz. We are gently holding you in our thoughts and hearts.

Aviation Accident Survival or... Well, what do I do now???

Last month, I was requested to write an article about accident survival. At the November meeting, it was my privilege to present the information found in this article. I've converted my slide presentation to better accommodate this for the Aux Tank, so if you missed the meeting, you won't miss out on the information. ☺ For those who were there (and it was great to see you all again), this will be a reminder. The websites discussed are also listed at the end.

Accident Prevention

The best way to survive an accident is not to have one in the first place (Duh!). There are several areas that fall under this topic:

- ↪ Careful aircraft maintenance: Make sure all systems - engine, electrical, fuel, etc. - are in good condition. Also check to make sure seat belts & shoulder harnesses are in good condition. Are they old, dirty and frayed, or can they withstand an accident?
- ↪ Thorough pre-flights: try to find problems before they find you!
- ↪ Thorough flight planning: know your route - what's between your departure and arrival points? Plan a safe route - over settled areas is best (don't get any farther from civilization than you are comfortable with). Finally, the weather. Can you handle what's forecast along your route of flight?
- ↪ Pilot flight training!! Practice emergency procedures with your CFI. The more familiar you are with the way your aircraft performs, the better your chances of making it safely to a full stop.

Surviving A Crash

Well, assuming you determine that you are not going to have an option about descending "right now", you'll need to scope out the possible places to land. If you have to land off-airport, land on a road if possible. It's much better than trying to land on an unknown surface that may have rocks, holes, soft dirt, trees, etc. Also, know the minimum controllable airspeed, glide ratio and best glide speed for your aircraft so you'll have a better idea of just how far you can expect to go. By the way, a good habit to get into whenever you're in the air is to look for places that will serve as emergency landing areas.

If you are too far from land (and not flying a seaplane), here are a few things to think about when you have to ditch. Land parallel to waves (also the shore), not the other way! Consider

taking life jackets for all on board when you plan a flight that will put you over water for more than just a few minutes. They don't weigh much. Plan for a fixed gear plane to flip over and sink quickly. If you are worried about the door(s) being jammed, unlatch the doors and wedge something in to keep the door open. Keep in mind also that ocean water will be very cold (any time of the year) and it will disable you quickly! Even swimming a hundred yards or so may be more than you can do if you aren't an experienced swimmer. Those life jackets will be extremely valuable in keeping you alive.

Injuries after landing will likely be more severe than you anticipate. Plan for cuts, bruises and maybe even broken bones. Cinching up your seat belt and shoulder harness as tight as possible may keep you from hitting your head on the instrument panel.

Weather Considerations

If you're in the mountains, summer or winter, it's going to be cold at night. Keeping warm will be critical and if your flight route takes you over mountains, put some warm jackets/parkas and hats into the airplane. Be sure you have shoes and socks, too. It's important to keep your head, feet and hands warm.

The desert can be extremely cold at night in the winter. In the summer, plan for extreme heat. The amount of water you have with you will determine your ability to survive.

Calling For Help

Even before you get to the ground, it's time to call for help. If you're in touch with ATC, when you realize you've got a problem, tell them. They may be able to vector you to a safer landing spot than the one you think you see. They can also start a track on you that will help searchers find you. Here is a list of communication options you have when you need rescue:

- ↪ Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) - the very BEST option!
 - ↪ Free NOAA registry - just go to their website:
<https://beaconregistration.noaa.gov/rgdb/>
More info on the FCC website here:
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/ind>

ex.htm?job=service_home&id=personal_locator

- ✧ Works with GPS – it can help find you in as little as 5 min
- ✧ Price is about \$650 and falling
- ✧ Designed to be crash-proof
- ✧ Activate it BEFORE you land (keep in the door pocket or in easy reach for your flight)
- ✧ ELT – required option – designed to activate in a high “g” landing (a crash)
 - ✧ Battery current? Keep the most recently replaced one in your E-Kit as a spare.
 - ✧ Test for operation now and then – they won’t let you know if they aren’t working.
- ✧ Handheld aircraft band radio
 - ✧ Use it to maintain contact with rescuers
 - ✧ Have spare batteries!
 - ✧ Know ATC freq’s for your area so you can call an aircraft flying overhead
- ✧ Don’t rely on your cell phone!
 - ✧ Coverage may not be there especially if you land in a remote canyon
 - ✧ Not made to be crash-proof

Rescue

IF it is known you are down, the Civil Air Patrol, USCG Aux, Sheriffs and many others will be looking for you. Thinking back to the recent all-out search for Steve Fossett, there are valuable lessons that can be learned. The most important is that since they had no idea which way he went; they had to start with his departure point and draw a huge circle, representing how far he could have gone in any direction. The area of that circle was huge, and a lot of people had to search a lot of area looking for a needle in a haystack – which may actually be much easier to find than a little airplane on the ground (just look at all the previously undiscovered wrecks they found!).

If the search area can be narrowed down, it can make all the difference to you. If you plan a flight over unpopulated areas, file a Flight Plan and stick to it! If you deviate, update ATC or Flight Service. Also, tell people where you are going - family, friends, the kid at the fuel pit, etc. When a search is opened by the authorities, they will try to find anyone who saw or spoke to you before you left. Another way to make sure someone knows where you are is to talk to ATC whenever possible. That’s a given if you’re going IFR, but if not, ask for VFR Advisories (aka “flight following”). This is

NOT a flight plan and if you quit talking to them unexpectedly, a search will not be started for you. However, if you have a problem, you’ll be able to tell them quickly what’s wrong and they may be able to help.

Survival Kits & Equipment

Deciding what to pack is usually is determined by the useful load of your aircraft, how many people you have on board and your route of flight. If you’re going from VNY to SBA along the coast, there’s no need to take more than first aid supplies as you won’t be over anyplace further than about 5 minutes from the nearest human. If you’re headed for Montana or Colorado, that’s a completely different thing.

✧ The Basics are:

- ✧ Water – 1 gal/person minimum – more in summer
- ✧ Emergency medical/1st Aid – band aids won’t do it – have a well-supplied kit
- ✧ Warmth – space blankets, warm clothes (jackets, hats, gloves, socks) fire starters
- ✧ Survival Equipment – survival knife, mess kit, tarp
- ✧ Signaling/communication devices

Things to think about, while we’re on the subject...

Check your survival kit quarterly. Make seasonal changes if needed, and replace any supplies that have gone bad. (I once found some old chocolate bars in my kit that had gone to dust – yuck!)

Another VERY important thing to consider is this: can you actually USE the stuff in your kit? Why not practice making a fire from tinder and using the survival knife & other tools. Read the survival and 1st aid manuals BEFORE you need them! Take a 1st Aid class if you can. Think about how you would help yourself if you were injured and no one could help you. Flying alone over rough terrain does not increase the risk of surviving.

Emergency Kit – this is what I keep in my Cardinal – It’s in a big “gym bag” that weighs about 40 lbs, depending on how much water is taken. I keep it tied to the floor in the baggage area so that it won’t come loose in turbulence or an accident.

- ✧ Water - 1 gal/person min.
- ✧ Water purifier (needed for ANY natural water – there is giardia in all lakes, streams & rivers)
(http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/giardiasis/factsht_giardia.htm) and who

- knows what else. You don't need to be sick on top of everything else...
- ✧ Military Survival manual and Red Cross 1st Aid manual
- ✧ Red Cross 1st Aid Kit – a large one
 - ✧ Bandages – many sizes
 - ✧ Hand sanitizer
 - ✧ Tape
 - ✧ Diaper liners (sounds silly, but most wounds are very bloody and these can help you deal with that – sanitary pads work very well, too)
 - ✧ Tylenol/Advil
- ✧ Roll of TP (you'll be VERY glad you have this)
- ✧ Communication
 - ✧ Handheld aircraft band radio with extra batteries
 - ✧ Signal mirror
 - ✧ 2 Flashlights w/ extra batteries. (LED flashlights use less power (last longer) and are very bright. Self-energizing flashlights are a good idea, too.)
 - ✧ Spare ELT battery (replaced at recent annual but still good)
 - ✧ Whistle (sound carries much further than your voice)
- ✧ Tools
 - ✧ KA-Bar (USMC standard issue) survival knife – can be purchased on the web (<https://www.kabar.com/index.jsp>)
 - ✧ Compact saw
 - ✧ Small tool box – this actually resides under the back seat and not in the kit
 - ✧ Fish hooks
 - ✧ Compass
 - ✧ Firearm (if terrain dictates)
- ✧ Shelter & Heat
 - ✧ Metal butane lighter stored in air tight can. Waterproof matches are there as a backup, but are a lot less easy to use. (Bic disposable lighters are great, too. Keep in a metal container in case of leakage.)
 - ✧ Fire-starting tinder/lint (the lint from your clothes dryer will work very well for this)

- ✧ Space blankets 1 per person at minimum
- ✧ Rope, twine, wire, heavy duty Velcro (double sided – 1 side sticks to the other)
- ✧ Tarp for making a rough tent or ground cover, plastic bags of various sizes (big ones can serve as a poncho if needed)
- ✧ Insect repellent (stick) and sun block
- ✧ Food
 - ✧ Hot cocoa mix (water purifier chemicals taste terrible!)
 - ✧ Protein bars (cycle these frequently)
 - ✧ Mess kit
 - ✧ Rolls of antacid tablets (will help you cope with the lack of food and an excess of stomach acid – I learned about this from someone who was in a crash and wasn't found for several days)

Recommended Reading

There are LOTS of web sites out there, but not many are aviation-related. Just google “accident survival” and you'll see a bunch. When I was researching this article, I found some very useful information at the following:

- ✧ www.equipped.org
- ✧ <http://www.firstaidadvice.info/> (first aid for U.S. military)
- ✧ <http://www.wilderness-survival.net/>
- ✧ <https://www.redcrossstore.org/>
The site above has some ready-made kits that you can buy if you'd rather not put your own together.

Hopefully, you'll never have anything to do with crash landings or need any of your survival gear, but (along with the Scouts) it's always good to be prepared.

Have a safe flight!

Claudia Ferguson, Safety Chairman
San Fernando Valley 99s
Aviation Safety Counselor
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Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Reference
November 26	Chapter Board Meeting	Rocky's at WHP -- 6:30 pm
December 1	Cookies to the Tower Rocky's at WHP	Anne Marie Radel
December 3	Special Chapter Meeting: Alaska Flying Presentation Dinner in the Main Dining Room	Airtel Hotel -- 7:00 pm as early as 5:30
December 8	Chapter Holiday Party Paula Sandling's home	Mary Glassman & Golda Neuman
January 4	Chapter Board Meeting	Rocky's at WHP -- 6:30 pm
January 6	Airplane Building Party for Doo Dah Parade WHP T-5	Anne Marie Radel -- 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
January 7	Chapter Meeting Dinner in the Main Dining Room	Airtel Hotel -- 7:00 pm as early as 5:30
January 20	Doo Dah Parade	Anne Marie Radel
January 26	SWS Winter Business Meeting – Tucson, AZ	

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

www.ninety-nines.org (International)

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