



# AUX TANK

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

**MAY 2008**

## Chairman's Report

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Pam Distaso

San Fernando Valley 99s had a great time at the Southwest Section meeting in Palm Springs at the Spa Hotel on May 2-4. The Spa Hotel is in the heart of Palm Springs and everything is within walking distance. The casino is across the street, and the spa the hotel is so famous for was well used.



Chapter members attending were: Stacie Crowther, Jeanne Fenimore, Maureen Kenney, Jeanne Kirhofer, Helene Krongold, Ruth Logan, Melinda Lyon, Doris Minter, Kathryn Presson, Anne Marie Radel, Paula Sandling, Kathy Smither, and Linda Worden.

The SWS business meeting was packed with information. A new (revised) ballot was mailed for the international election. We heard about the 2010 International Conference in Hawaii (note: our chapter is in charge of table decorations for the only banquet and we will be talking about this at future chapter meetings). The Southwest Section voted to propose a By-Law amendment that would speak to members who abuse the 99s Directory (printed and on-line versions). New SWS board members were installed, including the new Governor, Linda Mae Draper of the Reno Area Chapter, the Section Secretary **Maureen Kenney**, and the Chair of the Nominating Committee, **Julieann Sikora**. Congratulations to these ladies. Topping off the great weekend, the SFV99s won the Aerospace Education

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(Photo courtesy Nina Yates: Aviation Career Day at Van Nuys Airport)

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...May

Cont'd from Page 1

Award, once again beating Orange County, and we placed second in PPT, behind the Reno High Sierra Chapter.

We had a very successful Aviation Career Day at Van Nuys Airport on April 25. One



thousand four hundred students from thirty-five San Fernando Valley middle and high schools

enjoyed a day learning about aviation careers. I think every college and university was represented, and there were also static displays by the U.S. Coast Guard, Los Angeles Police and Fire Departments, and a few military planes thrown in. Jackie Forsting, Mary Glassman, Jeanne Kirhofer, Anne Marie Radel, Ceci Stratford, Nina Yates and I represented the chapter. THANK YOU to all these ladies!

See you at the Airport.

--Jeanne Fenimore

(Photo courtesy Nina Yates: Jeanne Kirhofer (far left) and Jeanne Fenimore (far right) talk to students at Aviation Career Day at Van Nuys Airport)

## Fenton Elementary School Career Day

I had the pleasure of participating in a Career Day Event on Thursday, May 8 at Fenton Elementary Charter School. Fenton is located in Lake View Terrace, almost under Whiteman Airport's traffic pattern. The school is totally refurbished and very high-tech. Each classroom has a teacher technology command center, which includes a computer, a projection

machine for DVDs and CDs, and a scanner that projects any picture onto a screen that is lowered from the ceiling at the push of a button. Every room had two walls lined with computers for students. The student population is mainly Hispanic and African-American.

What a treat it was to talk about the 99s, careers in aviation and Young Eagle flights to four appreciative groups of fifty kids each. The students were well-behaved and enthusiastic about aviation. My partner at the event was a big hit with everyone. I brought my 4 year-old granddaughter, Marissa Dahl, dressed in a "Chuck Yeager" green flight suit complete with patches. When we were introduced to the classes, I would turn to Marissa and ask, "What

do you want to be when you grow up little girl?" She would answer with a loud, "Pilot!"

Everyone would laugh and cheer.

Burbank Airport donated 300 notebook pouches that included a pencil, ruler, eraser and pencil sharpener. It was a very rewarding day.

--Ruth Logan



## May Membership Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to our SFV99s!

1946	Irma Story
1983	Bertie Duffy
1986	Marcia Fuller



## Rose of Achievement

Julieann Sikora received a Rose of Achievement at the May meeting for passing the Instrument check ride! Congratulations!



## Macy's Fundraiser - May 17

Only a few more days to sell tickets for the Macy's Fundraiser, and don't forget that we need some volunteers to work the event on Saturday. Please see last month's newsletter for all the details or contact Linda Hernandez.

## Members of the Month

Seven SFV99s received Member of the Month at the May meeting. Bertie Duffy was recognized for obtaining the projector donation and Maureen Kenney for obtaining the necessary cables and the projector case, while Paula Sandling was thanked for allowing the chapter the use of her projector these past several years. Anne Marie Radel did a great job organizing the B-17 event and special recognition was given to Kathy Crawley for the numerous hours worked at the event. Jan Wood officially represented the 99s on a B-17 flight. Ceci Stratford took the lead of organizing the chapter's participation at two career days.

## Career Days Continue

The SFV99s displayed the Chapter's booth at Van Nuys High School Career Day on April 30, 2008. It was manned by Ceci Stratford, Ruth Logan, Kathy Crawley and Jacki Harris who spoke with approximately 3,000 students that passed thru the outdoor display area. Many students were intrigued by the Young Eagles program and took the information sheets. Hopefully we'll see them on one of the fourth Saturdays at WHP! Also taking note of aviation, women pilots and the 99s activities, were many teachers who felt that the booklets geared towards them could be incorporated into their teaching and/or recommendations for students to pursue. A great day was had by all!

--Jacki Harris

## Happy Birthday!

May 3	Helene Brown
May 21	Lois Peck
May 25	Anne Marie Radel
May 28	Claudia Ferguson
May 29	Marcia Fuller

## Guests

Lisa Perry, Kendra Wilson, and Marissa Freeman were guests at the May meeting. Thank you for joining us. We look forward to seeing you again.

## Joint Annual Meeting

Van Nuys Propeller Aircraft Association /  
Van Nuys Airport Association

Wednesday, May 28 5:30pm

The New Van Nuys Fire Station #114  
16617 Arminta St.  
(off Stagg east of Balboa)

The cost is \$15.00 per person before May 21, or \$20.00 at the door (includes dinner).

Visit the new Fire Station and hear a presentation by Steve Augerbright, developer of the new Van Nuys Prop Park.

For more information go to

[www.vnyprop.org](http://www.vnyprop.org).

# Turning Base...June

## 2008 Awards & Installation Luncheon

Smoke House Restaurant  
June 14 (11:30am)

Come join us for our annual Installation/Awards Banquet at the Smoke House Restaurant. The restaurant is located at 4420 W. Lakeside Drive, Burbank, CA 91505. Take the Barham Blvd. off ramp on the 101. The restaurant is on the corner of Barham and Lakeside, across from Warner Bros. studios. There is some limited street parking; there is a charge for parking in the restaurant lot. The fun begins at 11:30. A no-host bar is available. We will be in the Toluca Room (same as last year). When you arrive, please check in with our Treasurer (who will be strategically placed in the doorway).

If you have not yet signed up, call or email me, and let me know how many are coming, and your dinner choices. We have Sirloin of Beef (\$25.50) or Caesar Salad with Blackened Salmon (21.70). Also, we can arrange for a veggie dish if you want one. Then, just send a check for the food to our Treasurer (NOT to me). See you there!

--Michele Albiez



Next Meeting:

Monday, June 2

## Chapter Shirts

We have chapter shirts! Dolly Maufra of Flying Machine Embroidery is willing to make us chapter shirts. The shirts will have the 99s compass rose, with the name *San Fernando*



*Valley Chapter* above and *The Ninety-Nines* below the rose. Our official chapter shirt will be **blue**, but there are several colors to choose from should you want more than one.

The cost is \$35.98 plus tax and postage. If several of you order the shirts together, the shipping will be lower. Several of us bought these shirts at Section in Palm Springs and we will have them available at the next chapter meeting for you to see.

For more information on these and other shirts that Dolly has, go to [www.flyingmachineembroidery.com](http://www.flyingmachineembroidery.com).

(Photo: sample shirt; SFV99s official chapter shirt will be blue)

# Down Wind...

## Aerospace Education

Send your activities list for March and April to Maureen Kenney ([mdkenney@yahoo.com](mailto:mdkenney@yahoo.com)), committee chair. Be sure to include where, when, what, if it was participation or presentation, and mention any other members of the chapter that also participated. I will repeat this request monthly!

--Maureen Kenney



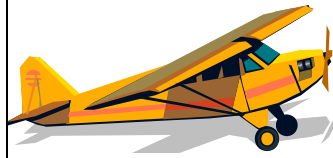
(Paula Sandling and Jeanne Fenimore display the Aerospace Education Award at the May meeting)

## Aviation Explorer Post 747

Our group is going strong. We will have our monthly plane wash on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The Post washes one SunQuest plane each month, as a thank you to Joanne Kratzer for her wonderful support. We would like to wash other planes the same day as a fundraiser. Let me know if you are interested in having your aircraft washed for \$35. Either e-mail your request to [rlogan02@yahoo.com](mailto:rlogan02@yahoo.com) or call 818-364-1224.

--Ruth Logan

## Chapter Fly-In



Paula and Michael Sandling have opened their Pine Mountain home again, this year for the Memorial Day weekend. A fly-in is scheduled for May 24 – 26; arrival on Saturday and departure on Monday. A day trip into Yosemite National Park is in the works.

Paula asks that you bring your own sleeping bag and a towel. The cost of food will be divided after a trip to the local grocery store. Please RSVP with Paula if you plan on attending. If you have been before, you know this is a great weekend get-together. We hope you can make it!



## Caring Counts

As reported in last month's newsletter, Lisa Perry attended our May meeting introducing the Caring Counts program sponsored by Clay Lacy with participation from Pentastar Aviation, Hawker Beechcraft, Maguire Aviation, Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Hotel and Van Nuys Airport.

The campaign Caring Counts collection drive of personal size hygiene items for children, adults, and families who are homeless, has been very successful to date, distributing to many of the non-profit agencies that help those in need.

Lisa will be attending our June 2 meeting to collect any of these items you may have available to donate. So please remember to bring them with you to the meeting.

--Mary Glassman

## Portable Aviation Transceivers – aka “Hand-held Radios”

I've owned and used a portable aviation transceiver (hand-held radio) for a very long time now, and for some years



I've been meaning to write an article related to some of the reasons why I

keep one with me when I'm at the airport and also when I'm flying. Of course, I'm not going to tell you to rush right out and buy one, but if you already own one that you haven't used in a while, you might want to dust it off, make sure the batteries are charged/new, and put it back into service. If you've ever thought about buying one, here are some good reasons to own one.

Primarily, I have it for safety reasons, but it can also be a time, money & fuel saver (no kidding – keep reading!), and a learning tool. And I will also admit that sometimes when I'm working in my hangar, I turn it on just for the sake of curiosity – to see who's in the pattern – and a certain entertainment factor (it's amazing what you hear sometimes! hee hee).

One of the foremost reasons for owning one of these useful little radios is as a backup in case the electrical system in my Cardinal should unexpectedly stop working (been there, done that). One of the things I had my “radio wizard” install for me is a connector from one of my aircraft external comm antennas. The connector is located in the glove box and there's a wire that locks onto the antenna connector on top of my hand-held radio. It extends the range of communication from a mile or two to 5 or 6 miles.

Whether or not you have such a connection, having a portable transceiver to use in a situation where you need to save your aircraft battery can be a life saver – especially at night, when you will want to use your landing light. You'll still have comm capability

and that can really ease your stress level in a situation when things are not working normally.

Another safety consideration is that should you ever be in a survival situation – on the ground after an off-airport landing – you will be able to quickly check to hear whether your ELT is functioning, and you will also be able to communicate with another aircraft that might be in the area to help speed your rescuers to you. By the way, don't forget to keep extra batteries for your hand-held in your emergency kit.

I said before that I wasn't kidding that my hand-held radio is actually a time, money & fuel saver.

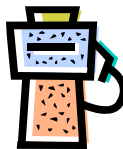


When I was based at VNY, I used to tune into the ATIS and write down the information before I ever started my pre-flight. I would also call the Ground Controller and request my IFR clearances. That way, they'd be waiting for me once I taxied out and was ready to copy. (I'd be willing to bet the controllers were glad to

put the clearance requests into the system.) These are 2 things I could have done with my in-panel radios once the engine was running, but saved



myself a tenth or two on the Hobbs. These days, with the price of avgas going to the “realm of the supernatural”, and just general operating costs or rental prices are higher than ever, saving a tenth or two each flight translates into some fairly significant money after a while.



When I first purchased a portable radio, many years ago, it was before I had my Instrument Rating. One of the things I found as I listened to it was that it improved my situational awareness, my knowledge of ATC procedures –

especially for IFR – and my general ability to understand what controllers were saying. I used to listen to the low altitude radar approach controllers giving instructions to the airliners and other planes making instrument approaches. Once I started making them myself, I knew what to expect to hear, which was really helpful in a learning environment. It was also a great confidence builder. I don't know about you, but when I first started flying, the radio was pretty intimidating until I had spent a lot of time listening to it.

Situational awareness is also a skill worth working on (I've written articles on that in the past). Of course, nothing beats actually being in the air, but if you have a handheld radio, you can turn it on when you're doing something that will allow you to listen, and learn a lot. It's interesting how after just a few minutes, you can get a pretty good idea of what's going on in a particular area. If you're used to doing this on the ground, it's just that much easier when you're busy flying.



Of course, I have to admit that sometimes my little radio is on just because I'm curious about what's going on at the airport. At Corona, where I'm based now, we have no tower, so everything that goes on there is on just 1 frequency. If I'm poking around at my hangar, I like to listen to the hand-held radio to see what the local traffic has to say.

Fly Safely!

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

Date	Event	Reference
May 17	Macy's Shopping Day – Fundraiser	Linda Hernandez
May 17	Air Rally – WHP Airport Assoc.	Kathy Smither -- 9:00 am
May 24 – 26	Fly-in to Pine Mountain Lake	Paula Sandling
May 29	Chapter Board Meeting	Rocky's -- 6:30 pm
May 30	Traveling Space Museum Kennedy Middle School, San Jose, CA	Ivor Dawson
June 2	Chapter Meeting Dinner in the Main Dining Room	Airtel Hotel -- 7:00 pm
June 14	Awards & Installation Luncheon Smoke House Restaurant, Burbank	Michele Albiez -- 11:30 am
July 7	Chapter Joint Board Meeting	Kathryn Presson's home -- 6:30 pm
July 19	Summer Potluck – Ceci Stratford's home	Stacie Crowther -- 4:30 pm
July 21	Chapter Meeting (August Meeting due to International) Dinner in the Main Dining Room	Airtel Hotel -- 7:00 pm
August 6 – 10	99s International Conference, Anchorage, Alaska	www.ninety-nines.org

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

www.ninety-nines.org (International)

## AUX TANK

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