



AUX TANK

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

DECEMBER 2008

Holiday Greetings! **Chairman's Report**

We had a lively chapter meeting on December 1, and it was nice to see some of our long-time members and a number of new guests in attendance. I want to thank Claudia Ferguson, our Safety Chairman, for presenting a safety seminar on "Night Flying" after the business meeting.

The holidays are upon us already and we have a couple of fun activities to help celebrate. I know there will be a large crowd at Cookies to the Tower on December 6, and hopefully many of you will enjoy the Aerotique at Rocky's immediately following Cookies. The Chapter will celebrate 2008 with a holiday bash on December 13 at Lilian Holt's home beginning at 5:00pm. Be sure to RSVP with Maureen Kenney at mdkenney@yahoo.com or Paula Sandling at pbsandling@aol.com, and bring a potluck dish and a white elephant gift. I know the suspense of unwrapping the bowling ball is building for many! Finally, the Van Nuys Airport will be bringing holiday cheer and Santa to Gault Street School on December 18. Chapter representatives will present the school with a donation from the SFV99s and members are welcome to attend. A big "thank you" goes to Paula Sandling and Lisa Hineman for making donations to the Chapter for the Gault Street School event.

The New Year will bring more adventures and activities for the Chapter. On January 17, we will set up our booth at the Los Angeles Girl Scout Cookies Kickoff where we will talk to the troops about careers in aviation and aviation badges. The following Sunday the Chapter will participate in the Doo Dah Parade. Anne Marie Radel will have all the details. Bertie Duffy is organizing a Greasy Thumb Clinic for February 7 and will have more information in January. Finally, the Chapter will begin working on a Poker Flight for the spring.

I appreciate everyone in the Chapter pitching in on activities and keeping our "little" chapter humming along. As we heard from a story told at the December meeting, the San Fernando Valley Chapter definitely has a reputation of being very active and full of fun. I thank Kathy Smither, Jeanne Fenimore and Maureen Kenney for volunteering to take over the Aux Tank. After the holiday crazy is over, the Aux Tank publication will get back on schedule.

To you and your family, have a happy holiday season!

--Jennifer Miller

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.

Rose of Achievement

A virtual Rose of Achievement will be given to Erin Thorpe for becoming a student aviator at Pensacola.

Chapter Fly-In

Our December flying event will be delivering cookies to towers after we package them on December 6th at Rocky's.

Chapter Holiday Party

Come to the biggest event of the year for the SFV99s! Our Holiday Party is Dec 13, Saturday, at 5 pm. The party is at Lilian Holt's home, in Hidden Hills. Please RSVP to Lilian at lilian_darling@yahoo.com, so that your name will be on the list at the guard gate. Directions will be emailed soon.

Winter Business Meeting

The Southwest Section will hold its Winter Business Meeting on Saturday, January 24 in Sacramento at the Lions Gate Hotel near McClellan Air Park. The cost to attend the meeting is \$26.00 and includes lunch. For room reservations at the hotel, call (866) 866-7100 and mention Group Code SS99. Rooms are \$99.00 per night if reservations are made by January 9. For more information visit the Southwest Section's website or www.sacramento99s.org. A number of SFV99s will be attending and several airplanes will be flying.

--Jennifer Miller

Air and Space Education

SFV99s! Let's maintain our tradition of excellence in Air and Space Education. I have received very few emails about your exploits this year. Get going, list your

accomplishments and send them to me at mdkenney@yahoo.com. I am continually compiling the list - and we WANT that trophy from Southwest Section!

Maureen Kenney

Girl Scout Cookie Kickoff

On January 17, 2009, the Los Angeles Girl Scout Council will host their annual Girl Scout Cookie Kickoff. The event will be held at the Hollywood Park Racetrack, in the infield.

Our Chapter will have a booth at this event which is expected to draw as many as 3,000 girls from the Los Angeles area. We will talk about flying, careers, and the Explorer program.

The event is from 11:00am until 3:00pm, with setup starting at 10:00am.

We will have a sign up sheet at the January meeting, and please come help, or contact Jeanne Fenimore at jeannefenimore@earthlink.net, or Ceci Stratford at cecipilot@sbcglobal.net

Notes from our Members

I recently passed my FOI (Fundamentals of Instruction) test with a 98% so I am very excited about that. I also flew my first few flights in the left seat of the helicopter. Its a surreal feeling to realize that a dream I have been working towards for 2 years is quickly becoming a reality. My lesson plans and instructor book are taking a while to put together, but it's all worth it to know that someday, sooner than later I hope, I will be teaching others to fly also. I literally could not ask for anything more out of life! As always thanks to everyone for their support in all of this!

--Koreen Dickson

Reminder

Next meeting date: Monday January 5, 2009

Chapter Meetings are held at the **Van Nuys FlyAway** in the community room on the second floor. **Enter the FlyAway main terminal building, take the elevator to the second floor, and turn right.** You may park in the front 30 minute parking lot (we will not be ticketed during our meetings), or in the parking structure for a small fee (\$1.00 for two hours or \$2.00 for four hours).

FlyAway: 7610 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys
(cross street is Saticoy)



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Safety

You Got An Attitude (for Aviation)??

Let me start off by saying that this isn't about the attitude of your aircraft in the air. Rather, this article contains a few thoughts I've had about our own mental attitudes and how they influence a successful flight. Ever hear that "attitude is everything"? Sure! Ever think about that with respect to how you approach flying? Your attitudes about your flying can make major differences in how things turn out. There are probably hundreds of different things that could be said, but let me just go over a few. Hopefully, it'll give you a little to think about (and not put you to sleep).

Have no fear! An attitude of confidence goes a long way toward insuring that you have a great flight. Confidence comes from knowing you can handle whatever might come up during the course of your trip. In other words, truly being the "pilot in command" of the aircraft and the situation. What gives you that confidence is practice and keeping your skills current. Also keep to your own personal flight limits. If conditions are outside of your limits, such as too much wind, stay on the ground and go another day. Why put yourself in an unpleasant situation? If you find you're losing your confidence in your skills, then it's time to go up and spend some time working on them, perhaps with an instructor. The goal is to always be the master of the machine (not something many of us girls were taught when we were growing up, eh?), not be a back-seat passenger

waiting for something to happen. It's tough to think straight when you're scared, and that's most likely a time when you'll really need to be able to think. Trade timidity for capability and confidence by training, then fear will never get the best of you. The fact that you have your license to fly proves you have the capacity to handle your airplane. That fact and the training to keep your skills sharp will keep your confidence level high. You owe it to yourself and your passengers.

Be cool! Have you ever observed somebody losing their temper and thought how really stupid they looked and how useless it was for them? That kind of angry attitude never helped anybody. Maintaining a cool and professional attitude in the cockpit is a good way to help insure that you have "smooth sailing" when you fly. ATC will appreciate it and you'll get more out of your dealings with them. None of us reacts well to having another angry person in our face. Whining and bitching don't work well, either, no matter how right you may be. If you find yourself in a disagreement with a controller, keep your temper (you don't want to make yourself look bad, for one thing) and make the best of the situation. If further conversation is needed, you can ask for the controller's "initials" (their operating ID – they must give them to you if you ask) and a phone number so you can resolve the problem after you land.

Keep learning! I don't know about you, but one of the things I love about flying and aviation is that I'm always learning something new about aviation from things I read about it and from every pilot I talk to. Keeping an attitude of curiosity is a great asset. You never know when you'll hear something that will set off the proverbial light bulb in your head. Useful facts are always out there waiting to be discovered (or reinforced!). Let me encourage you to talk to your instructor, read at least 1 aviation periodical (see references below), talk to other, more experienced pilots, attend safety meetings, join AOPA, etc. You're already a part of the 99s and that's great! Participate in our Chapter activities. Education is a big part of the mission of the 99s. NEVER be afraid to ask questions, and don't ever stop asking them!!!

Think safety! (You didn't think I'd stop without that one, did you? ☺) I've been writing a lot about safety for a long time now (this is my 20th year!), and I can't encourage you enough to adopt an attitude of safety. You know the usual litany:

- Always keep checking, even if you're "sure".
(this applies to pre-flight, WX, traffic and lots of other things)
- Slow down, take your time and don't rush!
- Don't rely on memory – use that checklist.

The unfortunate thing about common sense is that it isn't all that "common". If you find yourself falling prey to "get-there-itis" or "well, maybe it's not THAT bad", it might be best to think things out again – preferably out loud in a conversation with a disinterested party. We all do a certain amount of "risk management" every day. Even getting up in the morning has its risks! Sheesh! A little common sense and your safety attitude will go a long way toward insuring you have lots of happy flying.

Have a safe flight!

Claudia Ferguson, Safety Chairman
San Fernando Valley 99s
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Aviation info can be found here (and lots of other places):

<http://www2.faa.gov/library/>
<http://www2.faa.gov/safety/>
<http://www.aopa.org/>
<http://www.aviationsafetymagazine.com/>
<http://avweb.com/>

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Reference
December 6	Cookies to the Tower -- WHP at Rocky's 9:00 am -- 1:30 pm	Anne Marie Radel
December 13	Chapter Holiday Party -- Lilian's house (5pm)	Paula Sandling & Maureen Kenney
December 18	Gault Holiday Celebration (9:45 to 11:15)	Kathy Smither
December 29	Board Meeting	
January 5	Chapter Meeting	
January 17	Los Angeles Girl Scout Cookie Kickoff	Jeanne Fenimore
January 18	Doo Dah Parade	Ann Marie Radel
January 24	SWS Winter Business Meeting (9:00am)	
www.sfv99s.org	(San Fernando Valley 99s)	
www.ninety-nines.org	(International)	
www.sws99s.org	(Southwest Section)	

AUX TANK

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