

# AUX TANK

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

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**JANUARY 2009**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Chairman's Report ~ Jennifer Miller**

**Happy New Year to all!** The SFV99s wrapped up 2008 with our annual December festivities. Anne Marie Radel and her team of 20 or so helpers made our Cookies to the Tower a great success, with loads of boxed cookies delivered to our ATC and FBO friends near and far. Ruth Logan organized an aerotique and Rocky's fundraiser on the same day, providing a nice holiday shopping opportunity and a wonderful donation to the chapter from Rocky's. Kathy Smither and Anne Marie attended Gault Street School's holiday event, where Anne Marie presented our adopted school (located under the VNY flight pattern) with a donation from the SFV99s. Our chapter's own holiday bash at Lilian Holt's home was bustling with good cheer, and thanks go to Paula Sandling, Maureen Kenney and Lilian for organizing the event.

We are kicking off 2009 with two activities over the same weekend. On January 17, our chapter will be attending the Angeles Girl Scouts Cookies Kick Off to talk to thousands of girls about flying, The Ninety-Nines, and aviation badges. On the following Sunday, January 18, the SFV99s will be marching in the Pasadena Doo Dah Parade to have a little fun *and* to fundraise. Details have been sent out through our email list.

A handful of us will be attending the Southwest Section Winter Business Meeting in Sacramento on January 24. We will provide a report at our February 2nd birthday meeting, so join us to catch up and enjoy cake and coffee. On the horizon is the Greasy Thumb clinic at WHP on February 7, the B-17 raffle and a Poker Flight in the spring. We will be looking for lots of helpers in organizing the Poker Flight, don't be shy!

**Next meeting date:                      Monday, February 2, 2009                      7:00PM**

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)**

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.



Long time member Faith Hillman joins guests Kelsey Lomen, Mindy Jacobson, Leonie Darcel and Kelly Stacy at our January chapter meeting.

## Rose of Achievement

Aviation Explorer Kelsey Lomen for passing her written exam

## M.O.M. (Member of the Month)

Claudia Ferguson – Night Flying Seminar  
Bertie Duffy - See's Candy Fundraiser  
Anne Marie Radel – Cookies to Tower  
Lilian Holt, Maureen Kenney, Paula Sandling – Christmas Party

## Chapter Fly-In

Our Chapter Fly-In for January will be the San Gabriel Chapter Poker Flight on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Participants visit five airports with a barbeque meal provided at the last airport. At check-in, pilots receive information concerning the identities of the five airports and use flight planning proficiency and navigational skill to reveal the route. A donation of \$25 entitles the pilot to 2 poker hands and 2 meals. Mail your completed registration to the San Gabriel Valley 99s, P.O. Box 314, La Verne Ca. 91750. (See flyer in this issue.)

## \$3000 Career Scholarship

The Chapter Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for the SFV99s 2008 Career Scholarship Award. Information and applications are available on the SFV99s website: [www.sfv99s.org](http://www.sfv99s.org) in the Community Outreach section. Please note that members of The Ninety-Nines are not eligible for this scholarship.

## Wanted: PTP Stats!

As part of our chapter's participation in the Southwest Section's Pilot Proficiency Training Program (PTP), we gather annual statistics reflecting our members' activity in both flying and ground-based activities that enhance our proficiency as pilots. A PTP form is available on our website for your use. The form explains what types of flying and ground activities qualify. If you have participated in a qualifying activity (but have not yet filled out a form for it), please go to our website and avail yourselves of that form. Completed PTP forms should be returned to our chapter's PTP Chairman Kathryn Presson. You can mail the form to her at the address on the form, or if you have the capability to scan your completed form, you may email it to her at: [kpresson@socal.rr.com](mailto:kpresson@socal.rr.com). All statistics for calendar year 2008 must be submitted to the Southwest Section by no later than January 31, 2009, so Kathryn needs all of your information by January 23, 2009. Awards for the chapter exhibiting the greatest level of PTP activity are given out at the SWS Awards Banquet at the May Section meeting. Last year, SFV chapter was narrowly edged out by the Reno chapter. Let's do our best to reclaim that award!

## Happy January Birthdays

Michele Albiez	1/1
Helene Krongold	1/7
Jeanne Fenimore	1/24
Lorrie Blech	1/31

## Happy January Chapter Anniversaries

Mary Lou Neale	1941
Lorrie Blech	1971
Felicia Hoppe	1989
Lois Rifkin	1992
Ashley Steven	2007
Rhonda McNeil	2008



**Cookies to the Tower Chair Anne Marie Radel  
and our photographer Lilian Holt**



**Mike Radel is this year's proud recipient  
of the infamous SFV Bowling Ball**



**Our chairman Jennifer telling  
Santa she's "been good."**

# Safety

## Night Flying – presentation made at SFV 99s meeting Dec 2008

Due to the request of several of the members who were at the December 2008 meeting, this month, I'm sending along the content of the slide presentation I gave on night flying. My thanks to the one who reminded me that Special VFR is indeed available at night (pretty risky though) and the information has been updated accordingly.

Have a safe night flight!

Claudia Ferguson

Safety Chairman

San Fernando Valley 99s

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### Outline

- Pilot Training
- Pre-Flight
- Weather Considerations
- En Route
- Night Vision
- Emergencies
- Things to Think About
- Recommended Reading
- Discussion

### Pilot Training

- Night Flying requires some extra work
  - FAA requires night training for Private License
    - 5 hours
    - Otherwise, license restricted to “Day Only”
    - In the lower 48, “night” begins 1 hour after the sun sets and ends 1 hour before sunrise.
  - Currency
    - 3 takeoffs with full-stop landings at night every 90 days to be “night current”
    - Practice with CFI if you've been out of currency for a while
  - Consider some “hood” training to sharpen your instrument skills – disorientation accidents drastically increase at night

### Pre-Flight

- Thorough flight planning
  - Know your route – what's between points A & B?
  - Plan a safe route – over settled areas is best
  - Weather – can you handle what's forecast? Would it be better to go IFR?
  - Will you easily spot your destination at night? There's a beacon, but will you see it in a lot of clutter? (GPS helps, but what if it fails?)
  - Be familiar with the airport diagram for taxi (ask for “progressive taxi” if you are uncertain!)
  - Always have a “Plan B” to fall back on
- Lights, Lights, Lights!
  - Check FIRST– if they don't work, you're stuck!
    - Rotating beacon – must be on
    - Cockpit – all instruments should be illuminated
    - Position – wings AND tail (red, green, white)
    - Landing / Taxi – use only on/near the ground
    - Strobes / Anti-collision\* – use only in the air
- More Lights and Batteries
  - Make sure you have flashlights with fresh batteries
    - Hang a small white light around your neck for quick chart checks
      - No-brainer to find it
      - Not too bright (don't use a laser pointer!)
      - With a momentary switch (let go, it's off)
      - Red light distorts VFR charts
    - Have a bright light for your walk-around (the new LED flashlights are great!)
    - Have a spare set of batteries for every flashlight
- Thorough Pre-Flights

- ✎ Consider making a “night checklist” with the extra night items
- ✎ Make certain everything is in good working order
- ✎ Emergency landings MUCH tougher at night
- ✎ Organize your charts carefully before you go
- ✎ Put things in secure places where you can find them – fumbling around in a dark cockpit is very distracting and unsafe

### Weather Considerations

- ✎ Night air is calmer
  - ✎ Without the heating from the sun, the air at night is smoother and
  - ✎ Wind usually dies down at night
- ✎ Visibility is IMPORTANT
  - ✎ Night vision is not as good as day
  - ✎ A hazy / indefinite horizon can be deceptive (JFK Jr.) – check your instruments
- ✎ Special VFR is available at night - pilot and plane must be IFR qualified.
  - ✎ Very high risk, even in a familiar area
  - ✎ Better to call for an IFR approach or
  - ✎ Go to “Plan B” and land elsewhere with better visibility

### En Route

- ✎ VFR Advisories (aka “flight following”) – talk to ATC whenever possible
- ✎ Use all the eyes in the aircraft to help you
- ✎ Use your GPS, but cross check with VOR and lighted landmarks
- ✎ Choose an altitude that will keep you well above any obstacles
- ✎ Keep cockpit lights (comfortably) dim to avoid desensitizing the eyes
  - ✎ Time to desensitize ≈ few seconds
  - ✎ Time to re-sensitize ≈ 20-30 min
- ✎ Avoid long straight-in approaches
  - ✎ Use the glideslope if available
  - ✎ Fly the pattern instead to avoid “black hole” illusion which could result in landing short
  - ✎ Remember to “click” your mike to activate runway lights (5-7x)

### Night Vision

- ✎ Different part of the eye retina (rods vs. cones)
- ✎ Depth perception diminishes along with color and details
- ✎ There are some optical illusions at night that can cause spatial disorientation
- ✎ Vision effected by altitude - even as low as 5K’ (if you have O<sub>2</sub>, consider using it for a long flight)
- ✎ Get your vision and glasses checked regularly!
- ✎ Here’s an eye sensitivity demo to try:
  - ✎ Some night before you retire, try shutting 1 eye 5-10 minutes before you turn off the lights. After you turn off the lights, open the eye and compare vision between your eyes. Rods take a while to re-sensitize!

### Emergencies

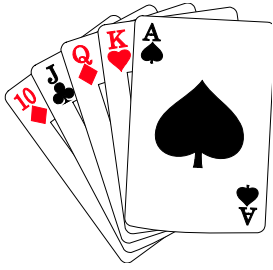
- ✎ If you have to land off-airport
  - ✎ Land on a wide road if possible
  - ✎ Be aware you won’t see power lines
  - ✎ Know aircraft airspeeds
    - ✎ Minimum controllable
    - ✎ Best glide speed
  - ✎ Be sure landing light is on (taxi light, too, if you have one) once close to the ground
  - ✎ Turn off any anti-collision strobes

### Things to Think About

- ✎ The view is spectacular!!!
- ✎ The sky is less crowded – only 5% of GA flies at night
- ✎ ATC isn’t busy
- ✎ Night landings will test your landing technique – some depth perception is lost (and can you land without the landing light?)
- ✎ If you’re not comfortable flying in the dark, wait for daylight! ☺

### Recommended Reading

- ✎ LOTS of web sites out there:
- ✎ AOPA: <http://www.aopa.org/asf/hotspot/articles/5079.html>
- ✎ AvWeb: <http://www.avweb.com/news/airman/190849-1.html>
- ✎ FAA: <http://www.faa.gov> Search: night flying
- ✎ Retina Rod Cells: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod\\_cell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_cell)



# San Gabriel Valley 99s 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Poker Run January 31, 2009



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**Starting Point:** Saturday, January 31, 2009 (No Rain Date)  
**Starting Time:** Cable Airport (CCB), Upland, California  
 8:00 am

Participants visit five airports in order with a barbeque meal provided at the last airport. At check-in, pilots receive information concerning the identities of the five airports and use flight planning proficiency and navigational skills to reveal the route. Provide correct route information to obtain take-off time, additional airport details, and the first card for each poker hand. All airplanes must be at the last airport and pilots checked in by 3:00pm. Winning poker hand(s) will be announced at the barbeque.

**NOTAM:** **Weather conditions must be VFR for this event.** If not, pre-paid poker hands are dealt and winning hand(s) are awarded prizes. (Winners need not be present). Call Virginia Harmer by 8:30 am on the 31<sup>st</sup> if unsure of weather conditions.

A donation of \$25 entitles the pilot to 2 poker hands and 2 meals. Additional meals and additional poker hands may be purchased for \$5 each. At the final airport, cards may be purchased for \$1 each at the poker table according to general poker rules.

Call Virginia Harmer (cell 909-214-8437) or (909-987-0087) or Linda Rever (cell 626-482-4820) or (626-683-9995).

Completed registration forms accepted at check-in on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

OR

Mail completed registration form no later than January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

San Gabriel Valley 99s  
 PO Box 314  
 La Verne, CA 91750

San Gabriel Valley 99s is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible.

-----PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY - Mailed form must be postmarked by January 12, 2009-----

Pilot Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Total participants in aircraft \_\_\_\_\_

Aircraft Type \_\_\_\_\_ Tail Number \_\_\_\_\_

2 meals + 2 poker hands	\$25.	x	1	=	\$25.00
Additional meal	5.	x	—	=	_____
Additional poker hands	5.	x	—	=	_____
TOTAL				=	_____



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## Calendar of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Reference</b>
January 24	SWS Winter Business Meeting (9:00am)	
January 26	Board Meeting	Jennifer Miller
January 31	Fly-in to San Gabriel Poker Flight	Jeanne Fenimore / Ruth Logan
February 2	Chapter Meeting (7:00) ~ Chapter Birthday Celebration	
February 7	Greasy Thumb at WHP	Kathy Crawley
March 15	Antelope Valley Poker Flight	<a href="http://www.freewebs.com/av99s">www.freewebs.com/av99s</a>
<a href="http://www.sfv99s.org">www.sfv99s.org</a>	(San Fernando Valley 99s)	
<a href="http://www.ninety-nines.org">www.ninety-nines.org</a>	(International)	
<a href="http://www.sws99s.org">www.sws99s.org</a>	(Southwest Section)	

## AUX TANK

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