

AUX TANK

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE NINETY-NINES INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN PILOTS

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**The San Fernando Valley Chapter of Ninety-Nines
Founded on February 1, 1952.**

September 2019

Our Mission

The Ninety-Nines is the international organization of women pilots that promotes the advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight, and to quote the 99s first elected president Amelia Earhart "TO FLY FOR THE FUN OF IT."

Originally established in 1929 by 99 women pilots, the members of the Ninety-Nines, Inc. are now represented in every area of aviation today.





Friendly Reminders

Voluntary Chapter Donations of \$25 are kindly requested and due in September. Please make checks payable to the SFV99s and mail to our PO Box, bring to the October Chapter Meeting, or pay via PayPal on our website. Thank you!

Calling all Mentors: To sign up as a mentor for our new members and student pilots, please contact our Membership Chair Nina Yates (ninayates@pacbell.net). And on the flip side, if you are in need of a mentor, name badge or any other membership questions, please reach out to Nina.

FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

Dear Members,

And just like that, September comes to a close! The month flew by in a blink with the school year starting and many of you beginning your next flight training endeavor. As you'll see from our Atta Girls further on, a few of our members passed check rides and written exams in their advanced ratings - plus, we had a few new Student Pilots join our Chapter! Welcome and congratulations to you all.

A highlight for the Chapter this month was our 99s Day at Dodgers Stadium. On a beautiful Sunday afternoon on September 8, 42 members from San Fernando Valley Chapter, Los Angeles Chapter and even Bay Cities Chapter gathered to watch the boys in blue take on the San Francisco Giants. It was great fun to watch the game together and have a friendly rivalry with



our Bay Cities sister who flew down just for the game, Renee Sandell. Unfortunately for Renee, the Dodgers swept the game 5-0.

On September 14, we had a wonderful turnout to attend the Burbank Air Traffic Control Tower tour. BUR Controllers John Young and Felipe Cuevas gave us an informative presentation on the logistics, procedures and occupational aspects of the tower operations. Then we all got to go up to the cabin to watch the controllers in action and see commercial jets takeoff and land. It was a special treat and an exciting afternoon.

Happy Birthday to:

Susan Sloan
September 4th

Alisa Liley
September 13th

Marjorie Foster
September 17th

Gabriella De Asis
September 27th

Coralee Tucker
September 27th

I hope you'll join us at our upcoming events - we have a terrific event calendar lined up for you. These events are created with the intention of advancing the Chapter's mission of helping women fly, getting to know each other, making new friends and being supported by women who share the same passion for aviation. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Warmest Regards,

Kimberly Chan

SFV99s Chairwoman



Upcoming Events

Happy Anniversary to:

Golda Neuman
September 1991

Jan Archibald
September 1992

Maureen Kenney
September 1997

Lisa Fusano
September 2013

Gabriella De Asis
September 2014

Geny Haase
September 2014

Katherine Cooper
September 2018

Tuesday, 10/8 @ 7pm: Chapter Meeting (FlyAway)

Guest Speaker Mike Strombeck, Aviators Insurance

Mike will discuss common pilot errors and associated insurance claim situations - you will not want to miss this meeting!

Thursday, 10/17 @ 7pm: Aviation Trivia Night (Macleod Ale Brewing Co.)

Macleod Ale Brewing Co., 14741 Calvert St, Van Nuys CA 91411

\$5 donation requested per player

Come solo and join a team, or come with your own posse of pilot players

Trivia to include checkride / BFR refreshers, pop culture, film & tv and more!

Saturday, 11/2 @ 7:30pm: LA Kings v Chicago Blackhawks (Staples Center)

\$65 per ticket

Wear your sweaters and scarves and get ready for a fun hockey game

Tuesday, 11/12 @ 7pm: Chapter Meeting (FlyAway)

Saturday, 12/7 @ 9:30am: Cookies to the Tower (Vista / WHP)

Kick off the holiday season with us boxing up cookies, enjoying lunch and a White Elephant Exchange!

More info to follow

Tuesday, 12/10 @ 7pm: Chapter Meeting (FlyAway)

Saturday, 12/14 @ Time TBD: Holiday Party (Lilian's)

More info to come

How many of you have been “ramp checked” by the FAA?



Are you scared to death of this possible event, afraid of the FAA and of possibly losing your pilot certificate? It was many years ago for me and I was really stressed out! It all turned out ok, because I had the proper documents. But I remember my hand shaking uncontrollably as I presented them to the Inspector.

My next experience with being “ramp checked” by the FAA happened recently at Corona Airport. This nice looking, well dressed young man in a dark suit, holding a clipboard, approached us after we chocked the Cherokee. He said, “Hi, I’m Jarrod from the FAA Riverside Office and I’d like to see your documents.”

This time I wasn’t all stressed out. I knew exactly what he wanted and knew where to find my paperwork - my Pilot Certificate, driver’s license, aircraft airworthiness certificate, aircraft registration, and aircraft operating manual with weight & balance, and pulled the documents out of their protective pockets in the airplane and my purse.

Jarrod looked at everything and checked boxes on a sheet on his clipboard. Then asked for my Medical Certificate. I told him I now had Basic Med and showed him the little form AOPA provided me when I completed my Basic Med. No problem. I think he would have accepted just my word for being on Basic Med. He thanked me as he walked away, probably looking for someone else to “ramp check”.

I couldn’t believe how easy it was! So, my recommendation to you if you see a well dressed person with a clipboard coming towards you after you land, smile and be open to what they are asking. If you’re polite and prepared, it can be an interesting and easy process. Know where your aircraft and personal documents are and show him/her your confidence and professionalism.

Note - I keep the aircraft documents in a plastic protector in a pocket in the airplane. My Pilot Certificates and Medical info are in a plastic credit card holder in my wallet - really easy to access.

Ceci Stratford

Atta Girls:

**Marjorie Foster, new Editor
of Aux Tank**

**Shokoufeh Mirzaei, passed
Commercial Written Exam**

**Mindy Nye, passed
Instrument Check Ride**

**Kim Jenks, passed IFR
Written Exam**

Welcome to our Newest Member

Dana Sorenson is our newest FWP member. She's an 11th grade student at William S. Hart High School with a career goal of biochemistry. One of her extracurricular activities is playing clarinet in her school marching band. In the past she's volunteered for the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Aviation Explorers, Hart High School Marching Band and Saint Kateri Parish. She's taking flight lessons at American Airports Corp at WHP and has logged over 17 hours.

Nina Yates





You Got An Attitude?? (for Aviation, that is...)

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 ensuring 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 or potentially risky (for you) 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 (perhaps not something some of us girls were taught when we were growing up?), 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. A great number of aviation accidents are the result of pilot error exacerbated by panic. 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 ensure 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. Escalating an argument is counterproductive. Whining and grouching 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 don't forget everything you say to ATC is recorded) and make the best of the situation. If further conversation is needed, you can ask for the controller's "initials" (their operating ID – they are required give them to you if you ask) and a phone number so you can resolve the problem after you land and secure the aircraft.

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 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 31st 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.

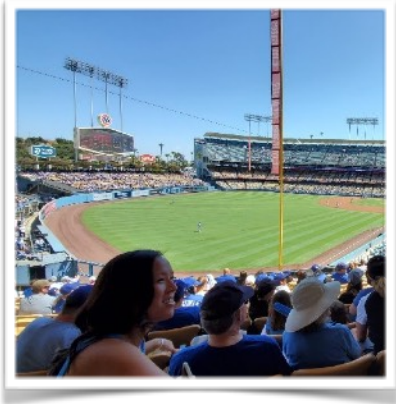
The unfortunate thing about common sense is that it isn't all that "common". If you find yourself falling prey to "get-there-itis" or "well, maybe it's not THAT bad", it might be best to think things out again – preferably out loud in a conversation with a disinterested party. We all do a certain amount of "risk management" every day. Even getting up in the morning has its risks! 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,
FAA Safety Counselor
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September Adventures



Let's Go Dodgers! September 8th



BUR Tower Tour September 14th



Joan Merriam Smith



Trixie Ann Schubert

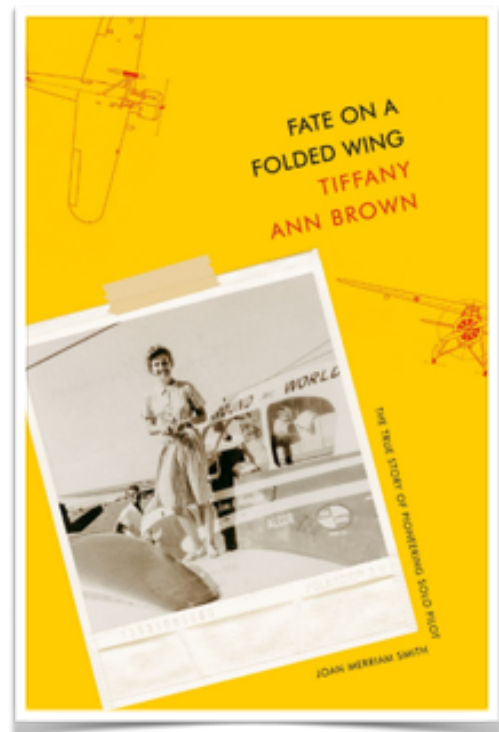
Interesting Read... *Fate on a Folded Wing* by Tiffany Ann Brown

Fate on a Folded Wing is a story about Joan Merriam Smith. The author is Tiffany Ann Brown, the granddaughter of SFV Charter Member Trixie Ann Schubert. This is the book that Trixie was working on when she and Joan were killed in a plane crash in 1965.

The book is available now on the Amazon Kindle e-reader and the paperback book will be available soon.

Check out the website at: www.fateonafoldedwing.com.

Jeanne Fenimore



To read the full article go to

[https://signalscv.com/](https://signalscv.com/2019/08/scv-pilot-helps-200-kids-discover-flight/)

[2019/08/scv-pilot-](https://signalscv.com/2019/08/scv-pilot-helps-200-kids-discover-flight/)

[helps-200-kids-discover-](https://signalscv.com/2019/08/scv-pilot-helps-200-kids-discover-flight/)

[flight/](https://signalscv.com/2019/08/scv-pilot-helps-200-kids-discover-flight/)

“SCV pilot helps 200 kids discover flight”

by Emily Alvarenga

*The Santa Clarita Valley Signal August 25,
2019*

Excerpt:

Lisa Fusano never thought she'd be where she is today — a pilot with her own plane, giving more than 200 kids the opportunity to soar through the skies. She's able to do this as part of the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program, which allows children between the ages of 8 and 17 to experience their first free ride in an airplane. Fusano said after she'd been a single mom for about 10 years, struggling to provide for her children, she found an inspiration that changed everything for her.



Fusano stands next to the plane she flies out of Whiteman Airport in Van Nuys for the Young Eagles.

Emily Alvarenga photographer