

Ventura County Ninety-Nines

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

the flyer



www.VC99s.org

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The Ventura County Ninety-Nines have a monthly business meeting and speaker on the evening of the third Tuesday of the month. Check this publication for the next meeting, or at our website for locations.

We also meet socially for breakfast at 8:30 AM on the first Sunday of the month at Flight 126 at Santa Paula Airport.

If you are reading a paper copy of this newsletter, it is printed from an electronic file and can be found--in color--at our website. You can register to get an email reminder of The Flyer via email at this site.



Lake Havasu Balloon Festival & Fair

Peggy Watson-Meinke

Wow! Another fantastic year flying at Lake Havasu. This year there were 78 balloons which included more special shapes than ever before. Mignon Gery and Marybeth Martin came to the festival. Their original plans were to fly an airplane into Lake Havasu airport as Mignon wanted to get a 250 miles cross-county flight in. However, the weather did not cooperate and so they drove in.

Saturday's balloon flight was from the island with intentions of flying over the London Bridge and to the mainland. The winds instead just took me over a narrow part of the channel that leads out to the huge lake. Mignon and Marybeth were there at the channel, with cameras ready, waiting for me to come down and do a "Splash-n-Dash". But beside the fact that I was crossing the channel at a section with the tallest trees, we were just going a bit too fast to drop in. Sunday's flight I managed to get over the bridge, but way too high to get a good photo. The winds were just not cooperating. About every 50 feet there was a shift in the wind that

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**NEXT
MEETING
FEBRUARY 16
SEE PAGE 5**

Lake Havasu Balloon Festival & Fair



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1... would take me off course. I will have to try again next year! There were times I had to really work the winds to keep from going out in the lake. The festival takes time months in advance to train boat drivers and boat crew how to rescue a balloon blown out to sea (well, in this case, the lake). The pilots are given a long yellow banner that says "Tow me" to drop over the side of the basket if they want to be towed to shore. I have had to be towed twice out of the 6 years flying there. It is kinda fun, but very stressful at the same time. A LOT can go wrong, and fast!

Other festival activities included a constant stream of sky-divers landing on the festival field all day long, my hangar-neighbor Henry was there with several other Ultra-Lite kites giving rides from the airport and around the festival and island, and then lots and lots of vendors and festival rides.



My special accomplishment this year was setting up for the "Glow" Sunday night next to a small pond on the festival field with about 30 other balloons. I passed my iPhone off to a crew person to take some reflection pictures that turned out great! Here are a few of my pictures. You can visit my Facebook page for many more, and check out Marybeth Martin's photo essay on page 7.



**VC99s'
Social
Breakfast**



**First Sunday of the Month
Flight 126 Restaurant at Santa Paula Airport
99s, FWPs, 49.5s and Friends Welcome**

Skywriting

Peggy Watson-Meinke
Chapter Chairman



In life, like in a balloon, we can never change the direction of air currents nor of the winds, but we can at any time change altitude so as to free ourselves from them and find a better path forward.

Bertrand Piccard

I love this quote. I met Bertrand back in 1985 at the Chateau d'Oex balloon festival in Switzerland when he was just the European hang-glider aerobatics champion. **Just????** That is quite an accomplishment, wouldn't you say? Well, he went on to fly airplanes, gliders, and motor-gliders. Then won the first trans-atlantic balloon race in 1992.

THEN, in 1999 he and Brian Jones made aviation history as the first to circumnavigate the world, non-stop, in a balloon. They traveled 25,361 miles from Chateau d'Oex to Egypt, lasting 19 days, 21 hours, and 47 minutes!

I like to say that I got the "flying blood" from my father who was a fighter pilot in the Air Force for 20 years, but Bertrand was born into a family of scientific exploration. His grandfather, Auguste Piccard set altitude records in the 1930's in a balloon, then went on to set depth records in the

ocean. Bertrand's father, Jacques Piccard along with Lt. Don Walsh of the US Navy, were the first people to explore the deepest part of the world's ocean – the Mariana Trench. Auguste's twin brother, Jean Piccard and his wife Jeannette also set many records in balloons. Jeannette Piccard was the first licensed female balloon pilot in the U.S. and the first woman to fly to the stratosphere. She held the women's altitude record for nearly three decades and according to several accounts was regarded as the first woman in space! Don Piccard is the son of Jean and Jeannette, as is one of the founders of the modern hot air balloon. He is currently living in Minnesota and is a Facebook friend of mine.

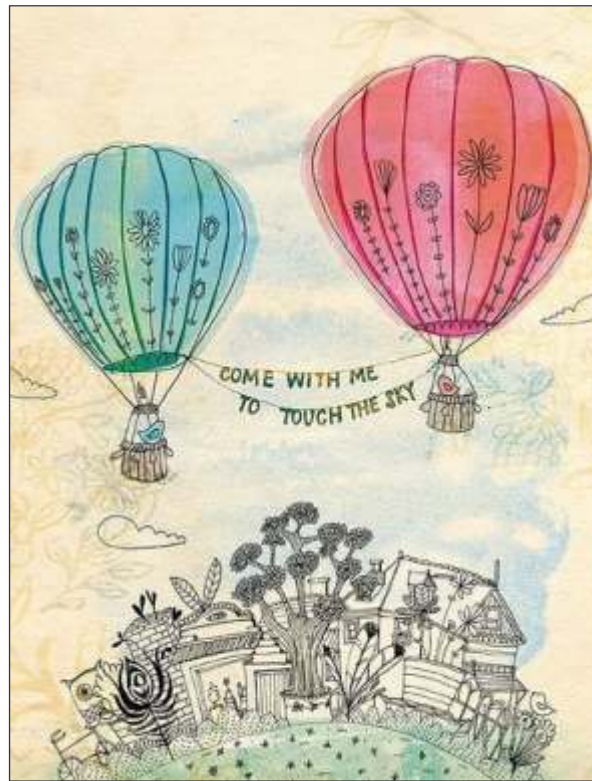
For you "Trek-ie" fans, Gene Roddenberry

named the Star Trek character Jean-Luc Piccard after Jean Piccard, and it is implied that the character is a descendant of one of the brothers

So, what is next for Bertrand? He is not done yet! He is currently working on a project to accomplish the first round-the-world SOLAR flight in history. The aircraft named Solar Impulse is a long-range solar-powered aircraft. In March 2015 he took off from the UAE and was set

to complete the circumnavigation by August. However during the leg from Japan to Hawaii the aircraft's batteries were damaged which took months to repair. The Solar Impulse is scheduled to resume the journey in April 2016. I will try to keep you posted on the progress!

Now, read that quote at the top again. Kind of takes on a new meaning, doesn't it?



4th Annual Valentine's Day Flash Mob

Fly-In to Santa Ynez Airport
Sunday, February 13 • 11 AM - 1 PM

Bring your Picnic Lunch
Competition for the Best Table Setup



There's Always Someone to Congratulate in the VC99s

Congratulations to Mignon Gery who was listed in the International Aerobatic Club's - Sport Aerobatics Magazine in January. Way to fly Mignon! And we see you're the only woman listed. ✈️

ANGLES
BY MIKE HEUER

2015 Third Quarter Achievement Awards Posted
BY LORRIE PENNER, IAC AWARDS CHAIR

Congratulations to the following individuals who have applied for and received Achievement Awards from flying in a non-contest environment (Smooth Achievement), or at a contest (Stars Achievement) in the third quarter of 2015.

As a reminder, First time Primary or Sportsman Stars or Smooth Award Applicant will receive their first award patch for free. Applicants for Glider or Power Primary or Sportsman Achievement Awards should fill out an application and only send payment for additional patches, pins or decals. The first patch will be shipped at no charge. Applications may be found at: <https://www.iac.org/legacy/achievement-awards-applications>

(NOTE: The first number depicted before the name indicates the number of people who've achieved that particular award.)

3rd Quarter

1198 Dave Watson	Primary Smooth
1199 Don Hendrickson	Primary Smooth (free patch)-s
1200 Wayne Roberts	Primary Smooth
723 Dave Watson	Primary Stars
724 Jonathan Apfelbaun	Primary Stars
725 Barrett Hines	Primary Stars
726 Ron Smith	Primary Stars
727 Malcolm Pond	Primary Stars
728 Wayne Roberts	Primary Stars
912 Dave Watson	Primary Stars
913 Mignon Gery	Sportsman Smooth
914 Dennis Parks	Sportsman Smooth - with CFI
915 Wayne Robertson	Sportsman Smooth
1535 John Shavinsky	Sportsman Smooth
1536 Barrett Hines	Sportsman Stars (free patch)
1537 Ron Smith	Sportsman Stars
1538 Wayne Roberts	Sportsman Stars
508 Dave Watson	Sportsman Stars
509 Wayne Roberts	Intermediate Stars
734 Barrett Hines	Intermediate Smooth
735 Sean E. Van Houten	Intermediate Stars
736	

Thought You Should Know: Phrases that Came From Aviation

Researched by
Stella Jones

Early aircraft's throttles had a ball on the end of it, in order to go full throttle the pilot had to push the throttle all the way forward into the wall of the instrument panel. Hence "**balls to the wall**" for going very fast.

During WWII, U.S. airplanes were armed with belts of bullets which they would shoot during dogfights and on strafing runs. These belts were folded into the wing compartments that fed their machine guns. These belts measure 27 feet and contained hundreds of rounds of bullets. Often times, the pilots would return from their missions having expended all of their bullets on various targets. They would say, "I gave them **the whole nine yards**," meaning they used up all of their ammunition. ✈️

AT OUR
FEBRUARY
MEETING

NASA's Manny & SOFIA

Judy McCarthy

Please join us for this very special program, featuring Manny Antimisiaris, Pilot for the NASA Armstrong highly modified Boeing 747SP that serves as a platform for Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, or SOFIA, flying observatory.



Antimisiaris' first joined NASA as a Systems Safety Engineer, evaluating up-coming test flights and analyzing the hazards involved and mitigations to make those flights safer. He has been flying SOFIA since 2010. He flew several of SOFIA's "first light" and early science missions. Manny also flies NASA



Armstrong's Beechcraft B200 King Air and is a mission navigator on the NASA's DC-8 airborne science flying laboratory.



This is a program you won't want to miss, everyone is invited!!



AT OUR
JANUARY
MEETING

What's Happening at CMA and OXR?

Linda Ehrlich



On January 19, Todd McNamee Director of Ventura County Department of Airports talked to us about all the activities going on with Camarillo

and Oxnard Airports. Todd presented many statistics about the airports, the new hanger expansion and gate entrances, increase in charter

business and new aviation school going opening at Oxnard, online driver training program, hanger inspections, and the plans for repaving the runways at both airports. He also discussed the drone operations near the airport and talked about the maps on the website for the Drone Zone. Todd and the Department of Airports have also been avid supporters of The Viewport and have offered to sponsor a cover over the picnic area. Stay to for more on that project. If you would like more information about the airports, Todd would be happy to talk to you.



WE LOVE FLIGHT

Happy Valentine's Day

Ventura County Ninety-Nines 16th Annual Pilot Proficiency Classes • 2016



The Ventura County Ninety-Nines return for the 16th annual season of Pilot Proficiency Classes with the superb new classes and instructors that you asked for! The classes are open to all pilots, student pilots and instructors. Register at www.vc99sclasses.com where you'll find detailed information about the classes and instructors.

WED Feb 3	7-9:30pm	"Understanding Airspace and VFR Charts" with Judy Phelps	\$35
SAT Feb 6	9:30am-4pm	"IFR Refresher Clinic" with Michael Church	\$70
WED Feb 10	7-9pm	"Lessons GA Pilots Can Learn from Airline Accidents" with Barry Schiff & Brian Schiff	\$35
WED Feb 17	7-9:30pm	"ForeFlight for Beginners" with Gary Reeves	\$35
SAT Feb 20	9:30am-3:30pm	"Annual Pilot Refresher" with Rayvon Williams	\$70
WED Feb 24	7-9:30pm	"Practical Tips for Preparing for the Private Pilot Oral Exam & Check Ride" with DPE Dennis Magdaleno	\$35
SAT Feb 27	9am-3:30pm	"Don't Wing It With WingX" with Mike Jesch	\$70
WED Mar 2	7-9:30pm	"Navigating Through & Around LAX & SAN Class Bravo Airspace" with Michael Phillips	\$35
SAT Mar 5	9:30am-4pm	"ForeFlight Basics: from Preflight to Postflight" with Brian Schiff	\$70
WED Mar 9	7-9:00pm	"Instrument Flying Tips and Techniques" with Gary Schank	\$35
WED Mar 16	7-9:30pm	"Pilgrimage to AirVenture: Oshkosh or Bust" with Tom Koff	\$35
SAT Mar 19	9:30am-12:30pm	"Survival Techniques and Equipment" with Doug Ritter	\$35
SAT Mar 19	2-4 pm	"Ditching and Water Survival" with Doug Ritter	\$35
WED Mar 23	7-9:45pm	"Alaska...No Reservations" & "What Were They Thinking? Emotion and Cognition in Decision Making" with DPE Ken Wittekiend	\$35
THUR Mar 24	6pm-9pm	"Special Program for CFIs, DPEs & CFI Trainees" with Ken Wittekiend & Michael Phillips	FREE
WED Mar 30	7-9:30pm	"Mountain Flying Safety" with Gary Reeves	\$35
SAT Apr 2	9:30am-4pm	"Right Seat Ready" with Jolie Lucas & Jan Maxwell	\$70
WED Apr 13	7-9:30pm	"Practical Tips for Preparing for the IFR Oral Exam & Check Ride" with DPE Dennis Magdaleno	\$35
SAT Apr 16	9:30am-12:30pm	"Weather Tactics" with Bill Frank	\$35
SAT Apr 16	2-4pm	"Advanced IFR Refresher & Chart Clinic" with Bill Frank	\$35
WED Apr 20	7-9pm	"Airline Techniques for GA Pilots" with Mike Jesch, John Ringel, Gary Schank & Brian Schiff	\$35

Please register early and no later than 24 hours in advance, for all the classes to make sure you get a seat and any course materials. There is a fee for all classes except the March 24 event. There are several discount pricing options and season passes for 99s and immediate family members, active full-time military, CFIs, and those who want to attend multiple classes. Early bird pricing available for those who buy season passes before February 24th. We welcome walk-ins on a space available basis.

All classes meet at
555 Airport Way
in the upstairs meeting room of the
Department of Airports at KCMA.
Ample free parking for your plane or car.

Advance On-Line Registration & Payment Recommended.

Many of our classes require you bring materials to class.

For class details/requirements as well as complete presenter information, please go to www.vc99sclasses.com



Lake Havasu Balloon Festival Photo Essay

Marybeth Martin



Calendar of Events

- Feb 4 Board Meeting – 5:30pm, DOA, Camarillo
 Feb 7 First Sunday Breakfast – 8:30 AM Flight 126, Santa Paula, Open House – Santa Paula Airport
 Feb 16 General Meeting – 5:30pm, Aviation Museum of Santa Paula
 Mar 3 Board Meeting – 5:30pm, DOA, Camarillo
 Mar 15 General Meeting – 5:30pm, DOA, Camarillo
 Apr 3 First Sunday Breakfast – 8:30 AM Flight 126, Santa Paula, Open House – Santa Paula Airport
 Apr 3 Open House – Santa Paula Airport
 Apr 7 Board Meeting – 5:30pm, DOA, Camarillo
 Apr 26 General Meeting – 5:30pm, Santa Paula Airport Museum

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Feb13 Annual Valentines Flyout/Flash Mob to Santa Ynez Airport
 Apr 22-24 Southwest Section Spring Meeting – Flabob Airport, Riverside
 July 6 - 10 International – Ottawa, Canada
 July 2017 International – San Antonio, Texas

OTHER AVIATION THINGS:

- EVERY First Sunday of the Month 10am-2pm
 Aviation Museum of Santa Paula Open House and antique aircraft on display and EAA Young Eagles flights at Santa Paula Airport
 EVERY First Saturday of the Month at 9am
 EAA Young Eagles Flights at EAA Hangar, CMA
 EVERY First Monday at 7PM, Camarillo City Hall
 Aviation Advisory Commission meets
 EVERY Second Thursday at 7PM, Camarillo City Hall
 The Aviation Authority meets
 EVERY Second Saturday (except December)
 The Camarillo Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) meets at the EAA Hangar, CMA

Article and Photo Submission Address:
 vc99sflyer@vc99s.org

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