

## 2019 Ventura County Aviation Career Day



*The Make Garbage Fly competition and (left) the First Place team from Westlake High School with Captain Brian Schiff.*

Alison Barker

The Ventura County Ninety-Nines are so proud that we have completed our 6th year hosting Aviation Career Day for Ventura County Middle and High School Students. This event started out on a whim in 2014 and we had no idea what we were doing but the event turned out so well we decided to do it again, and again and again.

When we set the date 9 months in advance, we try to take into account holidays, school breaks, etc., however what we have no control over is the weather. This year, I started to slightly worry about the weather forecast about 2 weeks before the event. It appeared we would have Santa Ana winds however at that time there were forecasted a week

prior to Aviation Career Day. As the days progressed, the Santa Ana forecast got pushed back. A few days before the event I started to really be concerned. The day before the event we were setting up and we had to keep the hangar doors closed because of the extremely strong, howling winds. Even the side door had to be kept closed due to the massive stack of tumbleweeds that were constantly blowing our way. We also saw a huge cloud of smoke develop in the east due to the fires and started to receive calls and emails asking if the event was going to be canceled.

We decided not to cancel. We knew that some schools may not be able

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



# Aviation Career Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be able to attend due to the school closures and power outages, and some of the exhibitors flying or driving in would need to cancel due to circumstances. We decided to keep the hangar doors closed during the event and hope for the best. We were pleasantly surprised that we had our biggest attendance ever! 600 students attended along with about 50 different exhibitors from all areas of aviation and aerospace. Despite all odds exhibitors were able to fly in and drive in all with the goal of inspiring youth. Many people told me they thought it was the best year ever. The students were very engaged and enthusiastic and everyone seemed like they were having a great time and so happy to be there. Students were



*Second Place*



*Third Place*

going from inside the hangar to outside on the ramp experiencing being at the airport, talking to all the different exhibitors and participating in all the fun and exciting activities.

We had a whole new group of schools attend this year that never attended before. One school in particular really impressed me – Opportunities for Learning Charter School in Oxnard – an independent study charter school that focuses on empowering underserved students. This is the first year the school

has attended Aviation Career Day and never participated in the Make Garbage Fly competition, however their students won both the second and third place Make Garbage Fly team awards. Quite an accomplishment! The First Place Team was Westlake High School and the First Place Individual was from Royal High School in Simi Valley.

The Make Garbage Fly contest is not easy. Students build a glider out of recycled materials following strict rules. Not only does the glider have to fly the farthest, it also has to perform a 360-degree roll before it lands. Students learn and apply aerodynamic principles to accomplish this. They are future aerospace engineers in the making!

This event is made possible by the following organizations: Commemorative Air Force So Cal Wing (CAF) provided the venue, supplies, event expertise, volunteers, docents, aircraft parking, and setup/cleanup crew, along with building the drone cages and providing drones for students to fly; The Ventura County 99s supplied the project management, planning and fundraising along with inviting and organizing the exhibitors, volunteer crew and organizing the Make Garbage Fly competition; The Ventura County Career Education Center handled all the school invitations as well as helping schools with busing and other needs, and helping the day of the event checking in schools; CP Aviation provided exhibitor hospitality along with event planning assistance and a balsa wood airplane building activity during the event; Department of Airports provided set up assistance and exhibitor contacts; and California Aeronautical University provided swag bags to students and assistance with flyers and marketing.

Thank you to all who volunteered, donated, participated and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



# Aviation Career Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

supported. We received generous donations and grants from Rotary Club of Camarillo, Parker Aerospace Stratoflex Division, Noah's Bagels on Victoria in Ventura, and Finance of America Mortgage in Westlake Village. Our announcer for the event was Captain Brian Schiff. VC99s volunteers included Jackie Babenco, Judy McCarthy, Glenda Cardona, Tracy Konas, Barb Filkins, Taylor McKinney and our "Make Garbage Fly" crew of Victoria Cabrera, Dianne Grizard and Janeen Gaul, and with website and donation assistance from Jennifer Engle, and planning team

member Rochelle Oslick, who also ran the CP Aviation booth. Other volunteers included Ron Reid and Loanda Cruz. Our VC99s exhibitor booth was "manned" by professional pilots Mary Lou Johnson, Stephanie Russell and Angelee Conroy. A very special thank you to LaTanya Barber who helped with all the set up and coordination of the event space and Dan Newcomb who made sure all the aircraft got parked and taken care of.

Pictures from the event can be viewed on the Ventura County Ninety-Nines Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/vcaviationcareerday/](https://www.facebook.com/vcaviationcareerday/). If you would like to participate next year as a volunteer, organizer, sponsor or exhibitor, please email us at [vc99soutreach@gmail.com](mailto:vc99soutreach@gmail.com).



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## AE Scholarship Application Deadline is January 1, 2020

Janeen Gaul

Each year Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarships are awarded to qualified members for advanced flight training, technical training, or towards one year of a college degree in aviation or aerospace. Two specialized scholarships are also awarded: an Emergency Maneuver Training Scholarship established in memory of 99 member Vicki Cruse and an International Scholarship for pilots in developing countries, in memory of Kitty Houghton.

Up to \$20,000 is available to members to complete an additional pilot certificate, rating or pilot training course. Up to \$20,000 scholarship is available to members to complete an aviation or aerospace technical training or certification course. Funding of up to \$10,000 per academic year is awarded for academic scholarships. Students may re-apply each year for continuing support through graduation. Additionally, one fully paid scholarship

is available to provide emergency maneuver and spin training plus an introduction to aerobatics in memory of 99 Vicki Cruse. This scholarship is available to any licensed pilot member of The 99s without regard to existing ratings, financial need or length of membership. Applicants for advanced flight training, technical training, or academic scholarships need to have been a member since January 1, 2019 to apply.

If you are interested in applying for any of these scholarships, please contact your Chapter AE chair, Janeen Gaul at [jcgaul3@gmail.com](mailto:jcgaul3@gmail.com). It's time to get started on your application now! Good luck!



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**“When everything seems to be going against you,  
remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.”**  
**Henry Ford**



**Alison Barker**  
Chapter Chairman

# skywriting

November 2, 2019, marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of The Ninety-Nines. The organization started on November 2, 1929, at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, Long Island, New York. All 117 women pilots at the time were

invited to assemble for mutual support, the advancement of aviation and to create a central office to keep files on women in aviation. Louise Thaden was elected Secretary

and worked to keep the group together as they struggled to establish themselves and to grow. Those early purposes continue to guide the organization today.


In 1931, Amelia Earhart was elected the first President, and the group selected the name "Ninety-Nines" to represent the 99 charter



members. Membership was immediately opened to other women as they became licensed pilots. In recent years membership has been opened to include women with student pilot certificates.


An anniversary celebration dinner with a Roaring 20s theme was held Saturday, November 2, at The Ninety-Nines Headquarters Building at Will Rogers Airport in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Members, Friends of The Ninety-Nines, and guests were invited. Martha Phillips, VC99 and past International Chairman attended. We hope to have a report in the next newsletter.

Thank you to the founding members of The Ninety-Nines who trailblazed the path for us all to follow--not only for their persistence and bravery becoming pilots in those early days in aviation but

for organizing the Ninety-Nines and bringing women pilots together for mutual support and camaraderie. Thank you also to all the leaders who kept the group moving forward and growing in the last 90 years. We have grown to 6,000 members worldwide with 155 chapters in 15 countries. Here's to the next 90 years! 

## November Meeting

Our General Meeting will be Tuesday, November 19th at The Aviation Museum of Santa Paula. Jonna Doolittle Hoppes, granddaughter of Jimmy Doolittle, will be our speaker for the evening. Jonna is a dynamic speaker and since 2005, she has toured the United States and Europe delivering the same message, "If we don't record our stories, they will be lost." Here is her website: <http://jonnadoolittlehoppes.com>.

All VC99s, 19.5s, and guests are welcome to attend. To attend, please register at: <https://www.vc99s.org> 



## Save the Date

### Holiday Awards Dinner

December 15th - 5-9pm

Invitations will be emailed soon.

Fall scholarship winners will be announced.





## Ballooning Is Tougher Than It Looks

Diane Grizard

At the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, I learned what it is to be a Balloon Pilot! Yes, I thought it can't be that hard, the balloon goes up and then floats around and down again. Ha! Was I wrong! It starts with talking people into getting up at 4am to drive out to the launch field. Then a 5am pilot brief with 500 other pilots in the cold, to learn the complicated wind and fog as well as where not to land due to non-participating land owners.

Back to the trailer to lift a very heavy balloon and even heavier basket out of the trailer. After laying out tarps to put the airship on the fun begins. The envelope is opened and attached to the basket which is on its side so that a cold fan can start inflating. The burners are ignited as the balloon starts to inflate itself, the pilot (VC99, Peggy Watson-Meineke) climbs the side of the basket at the same time working the burners and making sure she does not light us on fire while we are holding the envelope open making sure not to get it burned. As it stands we all breath a sigh of relief except for the pilot, she must keep it inflated and

not allow it to float, while constantly watching out for wind gusts.

During the flight Peggy must educate her passengers to the safety protocols and be a tour guide while dealing with wind changes and possible wind gusts. Different altitudes can mean wind shift which can change her direction when it is time to land--like on our flight. The wind became 22 miles an hour. Peggy decide to land behind a hill but the wind had created a rotor since the previous balloon had landed there slamming the basket into the ground only to pop up again damaging the envelope. With full burners on she got out there. The next landing area she found was an empty field (except for the cactus and sagebrush). Luckily she saw a 10 foot bush she put the basket through to slow her down for the drag to a stop. Having no help she had to get the balloon deflated fast. This wind was not in the briefing.

That was fantastic piloting! So anyone that thinks piloting a balloon is easy is greatly mistaken! Great pilots just make it look that way.

VC99

# Why Go to a SWS Meeting?

Judy McCarthy & Luz Schaible

## Judy's perspective:

The Ninety-Nines SWS (think 5 states CA, NV, AZ, UT & HI) have meetings twice a year, one in the Spring, one in the Fall.


October 4-6, 2019, some 125 Women Pilots converged on KSBP hosted by the SLO Chapter. Why? Community.

"Community is much more than belonging to something, it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter," said Brian Solis. I love this quote and I truly believe it.

I have made friends--lifelong friends--at these meetings, they are my 99 sisters. Plus its fun. Our SLO99 sisters had great plans for us, Spin training seminar by our very own Judy Phelps and a Formation flying seminar including a formation flyover. We did fun things and went to fun places like Morro Bay, Hearst Castle & The Madonna Inn. We had a informative "Business Meeting." that was kept short and to the point.


The Spring SWS Meeting will be May 1 – May 3, 2020 in Los Gatos, hosted by the Santa Clara Chapter. Mark your calendars.

## Luz's perspective:

From a first-timer perspective, the SWS meeting was a great experience...from flying there from Santa Paula as a passenger in a Cessna 172, to sitting in a room full of amazing women pilots from near and far, absorbing many nuggets of aviation knowledge and interesting tidbits like rudder wiggles and landing tips from the engaging presenter and classes I attended. The bonus on this trip is that I got to build friendships spending time with and getting to know my fellow VC99s. 



## October Meeting

For our October 15th General Meeting we were treated to a slide show presentation from Barb and Dale Filkins, on the process they went through to build and test fly their Velocity V-Twin Experimental Aircraft. Never heard of a Velocity? Well there's is #4 so not many have been built yet. They are on the cutting edge! The Velocity V-Twin is a four-seat retractable tricycle landing gear, composite construction aircraft with a twin-engined pusher configuration and the canard layout. They built the aircraft at the Florida factory spending many hours handcrafting parts and lovingly assembling the aircraft. Next, it was the test flying experience which led to even more tweaks and fixes before the aircraft was ready to fly home to Oxnard Airport. Barb is the PIC on the Velocity and even flew it at 2019 Wings Over Camarillo. Thanks for a great presentation Barb and Dale. 



# Silent Auction Report

Lori Parker, Stephanie Robinson & Luz Schaible

The 2019 VC99s silent auction at the Wings Over Camarillo event was a huge success. Nearly everything sold the first day! Thank you Susan Liebler for getting the ball rolling, Luz Schaible and Stephanie Robinson for doing a fantastic job running the auction, along with our fabulous team of volunteers; Angelee Conroy, Joy Gabbard, Janeen Gaul, Lindsay Hadley, James Hadley, Wendy Lascher, Judy McCarthy, Julia Rajchel, Martha Phillips, Stephanie Russell, and Ceci Stratford. The fun started with a pre-event planning get-together a week before to organize everything for the two-day event. (One bonus was to get a first look at what items were available for auction this year.) That set the stage for a smooth-running auction which allowed the volunteers to watch a plane or two perform during the airshow.

From the time the gates opened, attendees headed to the booth to see the great items available this year to start bidding and also to purchase raffle tickets. It was great to see happy winners walking away with their new treasures, gift certificates and the dream to win the raffle. Raffle

prizes were EMT or Tailwheel Training from CP Aviation, Two Alaska Airline tickets to anywhere they fly, and a Seaplane Rating from Promark Aviation Services in Burnet, Texas. Three great opportunities. How does one choose? You don't! Buy tickets for all three!

Thanks to all who helped secure donations. Without you, we wouldn't have been able to earn money for our scholarship outreach programs. The VC99s ROCK!

**VC99s**



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## Finding 99s Friends I Didn't Know I Had

Pat McCollum

This summer, my rugby-playing grandson had an amazing opportunity to participate in a training camp with the national rugby team of New Zealand (it's a huge honor to be invited). Being a minor he had to have a chaperone and neither of his parents could take the time off. Pick me!! With 6 weeks notice, I was on a flight to Auckland.

A week before departure, I was planning my solo itinerary for the week after I dropped off Logan at camp. "Hmmm. There's gotta be 99s in New Zealand." So I looked up a 99 in Wellington (Migs Wright) and told her about my plans and maybe she would like to meet for dinner and talk flying (and I'm thinking I'd have someone to talk to and not eat alone).

The reply email I got was amazing! The condensed version of her very long reply said that I had to stay in her home, and she's contacted other 99s in Christchurch and Auckland and they want to meet me for dinner or stay in their homes, too. You'd think I was Amelia Earhart herself!

I met several 99s for a delightful dinner in Christchurch. We had quite the evening.

When I got to Mig's gorgeous home in Wellington she had dinner ready, a suite prepared and a full day's tour of the capitol city planned.

The Auckland 99 and I just couldn't get our timing aligned though we really made an effort.

One email hooked me up with friends I didn't know I had, and I bet there's more out there. **VC99s**

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## Future VC99s Meetings/Events

- Nov. 7 **Board Meeting** – 5:30 - Dept. of Airports, CMA
- Nov. 19 **General Meeting** – 5:30 – Aviation Museum SZP
- Dec. 5 **Board Meeting** - 5:50 Dept of Airport, Camarillo. All members are welcome
- Dec. 15 **Holiday Awards Dinner** Invitations will be emailed soon
- Jan. 2 **Board Meeting** - 5:50 Dept of Airport, Camarillo. All members are welcome
- Jan. 21 **General Meeting** - Details TBD

## Other Aviation Happenings

**First Sunday** Santa Paula Airport Open House

### Submitting Articles

Article submissions should be sent to [vc99sflyer@aol.com](mailto:vc99sflyer@aol.com)  
Please send your article only once, and no more than 4 photos per article

#### Due Dates:

25th of February, April, June, August, October & December

