

## Another Fabulous Valentine's Flash Mob Fly-In



Alison Barker

Our 7th annual Valentine's Flash Mob Fly-In to Santa Ynez Airport was Saturday, February 15, 2020. Pilots from surrounding chapters joined in the fun, including Ventura County, San Luis Obispo, San Fernando Valley and Bakersfield. We enjoyed beautiful flying weather and sunshine during our lunch on



the picnic tables, and everyone was festively dressed in their Valentine's colors. We had so many airplanes fly in we got our own special departure briefing from the airport manager. More photos on page 2.





# Valentine's Flash Mob Fly-In



VC99





**Alison Barker**  
Chapter Chairman

## skywriting

Happy Spring! We are certainly spoiled for good flying weather in Ventura County year-round – however, Spring is especially great flying weather. The Santa Ana winds and fires have died down, the overcast layer is not so bad, it's sunny but not too hot, and with longer daylight hours we can all get in more flying time.

The 20th year of our Pilot Proficiency Class series began on February 5th. All the classes so far have had record attendance. With the recent unfortunate aviation accident news, it reminds us that we should be continually reviewing and improving our own flying skills and also re-evaluating our own personal flying minimums. The extremely experienced and seasoned instructors that we hand-pick for our classes are an excellent

opportunity to learn skills and tips we had not thought about and to learn from experts on how to avoid undesirable situations and become better pilots. There are also classes that make flying easier and more fun- such as all the ForeFlight classes, mountain and back-county flying and flying through class bravo airspace.

Our March 17th General Meeting will feature a presentation from FAA ATC on hot topics such as "Special VFR" and "VFR-On-Top." This will be a great opportunity to have many of your questions answered!

Also, coming up in the next few months are 3 of our other most popular events: the Hangar Progressive Dinner Party on Tuesday, April 21, the Annual Member Meeting on Tuesday, May 19 and the Summer Awards Picnic on Saturday, June 13th. Mark your calendars and look for the invites being emailed. Also, information is always available on our website Events Calendar - [www.vc99s.org/](http://www.vc99s.org/). Oh, and don't forget to check out our spring scholarships and apply! There's something for every pilot.



## There's Always Someone to Congratulate In the VC99s

Congratulations to **Linda Ehrlich** for completing her Instrument rating on January 16, 2020 at St Pete-Clearwater International Airport in Florida.



## Ventura County Ninety-Nines Scholarship Program

The VC99's are happy to announce  
our Spring Scholarships.

We will be offering

\$3,000

Female Student Pilot Milestone Award

\$3,000

Advanced Milestone Award for Female Pilots

\$1,000

Get Out of Your Comfort Zone Award

Applications will be accepted May 1-15, 2020

Visit our Website at [www.vc99s.org](http://www.vc99s.org) for  
scholarship applications and requirements  
Questions? Email: [scholarships@vc99s.org](mailto:scholarships@vc99s.org)

# D-Day Squadron: Across the Atlantic in the Flabob Express 75 Years Later

Barb Filkins & Judy McCarthy


On February 18 the Ventura County 99s and guests were treated to a presentation at the Aviation Museum of Santa Paula, on the field of SZP. Bill, a retired Airline Captain (38 years) CFI A-I-R, 53 years GA Pilot and an FAA Designated Engineering Flight Test Pilot (DER), presented his



participation in DAKS over Normandy – the reenactment of D-Day on the 75th anniversary of that memorable day as crew member on the Flabob Express, a DC-3 based in SoCal. This trip of a lifetime started from Riverside' Flabob Airport in May 2019, wound its way to the Oxford, CT where the Express joined with the other members of the fleet, and crossed the Atlantic to the White

and spare parts (many of which are not commonplace today), specialized crew training including formation flying, proper emergency equipment, and the actual flight planning through an ever-changing and often daunting weather environment – the skies over the North Atlantic.

The question of the night: how would you like to fuel a DC-3 one five-gallon bucket at a time? Yep, that's what happened in Greenland. (And – no Virginia – 1800WXBrief doesn't necessarily work in Greenland or Iceland or Europe....)

Bill's presentation was stirring. The audience enjoyed videos of the beautiful journey, formation flight over Normandy, and other absolutely breathtaking moments! We also shared the heartbreak – due to a last-minute mechanical problem – of the Flabob Express not being able to participate in the actual D-Day ceremony due to carburetor issues. And, as Bill continually noted, the lessons learned on his epic journey also apply to us GA pilots in our C150s, C172s, etc. as well which is why this talk also secured FAA WINGS credit for attendees. 

Cliffs of Normandy, France for the recreation of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day during June, 2019.

Bill held the audience spellbound as he described the camaraderie that surrounded the successful trek undertaken by fifteen 75 year-old aircraft, both DC-3s and C-47s, to seven countries and back. This adventure was a remarkable feat of long-range planning as well as meeting numerous challenges enroute: uncertain reliability of older aircraft, availability of fuel



## Safety Tips, Tricks & Rules of Thumb with Barry Schiff

Yolanda Langley

Well our 20th year of the Ventura County 99s' Chapter of Proficiency Classes was kicked off with a BANG by the incredible Barry Schiff on February 5th 2020.

Barry and Brian Schiff are in my opinion, the most entertaining, knowledgeable and rank in my personal Top 3 favorite speakers that our Proficiency seminars provide. For those who don't know, Barry Schiff holds 15 type ratings, he is a retired Lockheed L-1011 and Boeing 747 Captain

for TWA and his 28,000 plus hours of flying have been accumulated in more than 361 different types of aircraft! He has also been inducted into the National Flight Instructors Hall of Fame and



Living Legends of Aviation. He is definitely someone you want to pay attention to when giving tips, tricks and rules of thumb for aviation.

His "Tips" were reminders of decision making and basic common sense, which is something some pilots take for granted once they have considered themselves seasoned. One very easy and basic tip touched upon your decision making: try and avoid the dreaded "Get-there-itis" and "Fly as if an FAA agent is watching you." Every move as PIC should be as if your examiner was in the right seat with you.

He also reminded us to never rely on trying to memorize checklists. Do not use them as a to-do list. Develop a method of your own flow pattern then, when you are done, go through the checklist

one by one. Focus on each item on your checklist.

His advice if you ever needed to ditch a plane is to land ahead or just to the left or right of a vessel if possible, open the door and lock it so it never re-closes on impact, and leave your seat belt on until the cockpit fills with water so there is no disorientation when it is time to evacuate, especially if you need to ditch at night.

He touched on practicing stalls and maneuvers with a heavy load and possibly doing night flight reviews with your examiner, which would give you a whole different perspective instead of the typical "beautiful day" BFR.

He also suggested something that I would find very helpful... Hire an A&P mechanic for about an hour or 2 to learn about your airplane and how everything works. Brilliant!

He left the class open to discussion and more safety tips were discussed during the class. He finalized the seminar starting to talk about his experience with "the old Texas catheter story" but alas, time ran out. We might have to wait for the next seminar to hear that one!



### Save The Date! Saturday, June 13

The VC99s Summer Awards Picnic  
will be June 13, 2020 at  
Conejo Creek Park North in Thousand Oaks.  
Invitations will be sent in April.  
We will also be taking a new group picture  
for our info board at The Viewport at  
Camarillo Airport.

Please mark your calendars for  
Saturday, June 13 and  
plan to be there!





## iPad & ForeFlight Basics with Judy Phelps

Carolyn Brown

Let me start this by saying, 'There is no way I can do justice to Judy's presentation by writing about it'. She covered iPads and ForeFlight basics from start to finish.

Judy started with the different iPads on the market and recommended getting one with at least 128GB or higher and cellular capability if you are planning to use it for ForeFlight. Cellular capability



gives you a GPS signal. Get a good case for the iPad because you will drop it. She covered power, mounting in the plane, the dangers of overheating or getting too cold - either of which can stop the iPad, and basic iPad settings.

Then we dipped our toes in the ForeFlight ocean. As this was the Basics Class, we didn't get too deep but many of us were still struggling to keep afloat. Judy touched on what capabilities the different subscriptions offered, settings, downloads, and the data you need to input to make your flight planning more accurate.

Lastly, Judy went through the individual tabs across the bottom of the ForeFlight screen covering the many capabilities of the tool.

It was a well attended and a very much appreciated class.



## Reflections of a Test Pilot with Tom Morgenfeld

Diane Grizard

As with many pilots, Tom's father was an aviation enthusiast who created a wonderful bond between them. He entered the Navy in the second fleet, flew 1000's of hours off of land and aircraft carriers. During that time, with one other distinguished pilot from each flying branch of the military, a total of seven pilots, he helped design the cockpit for the F-18 and standardize the placement of the avionics in the aircraft that we all use today. After the second fleet he started testing planes in England. There he learned "Personal Responsibility." In England you were expected to read the book on the plane, then go fly the plane.

Did you know the USA had a Russian Squadron? In Tonopah NV after the new fighter pilots were done with Top Gun. They were brought to see and fly against Russian Migs that had been acquired

and repainted. The difference in quality of our planes to theirs, was that ours are works of art from nose to tail. The Mig was highly worked in the front but had boiler bolts in the back of the plane. He said it was a sweet plane to fly. That helped to season our young pilots and took away that first time seeing a Mig or other planes they had studied.

Lockheed Skunk Works employed him to test and work with the engineers to develop the planes that were needed for the military. He says Question everything, never assume...ask ...ask ...ask. Keep training you can never know everything about your plane. Remember your Personal Responsibilities. At this time, he is not counting his hours flying - he is sure it is over 35,000. I highly suggest that the next time you hear of him speaking you go.



## Annual Pilot Refresher with Michael Church

Lori Parker



Have you ever wondered by the FAA changed the wording from 'biannual' to flight review? They did not want to limit the perception that flying with a CFI is a good idea only once every two years...

Michael shared many important tips on practicing not only just before the flight review, but to consistently practice and refine our skills. He reminded us that it is easy to fly, however it is difficult to fly well. Theory and avoidance training are not sufficient.

With one leading source of GA fatalities is loss of control while maneuvering, good questions to ask ourselves are:

- At what bank angle do you begin to feel unsure?
- What should you work on?
- What makes you uncomfortable?

Fear is an enemy of perception. Learn aggressive turns. Know how to perform steep bank turns of 60 degrees, not just 45 degrees. Fly with an excellent instructor and become competent. Your life could depend on it.

Remember: If you can imagine an emergency scenario you should train for it.



## Winter Workshop 2020

Lori Parker

Southwest Section Winter Workshop was a Success!

This year's January Winter Workshop in Palmdale focused on Student Pilot Mentoring. Over 50 Ninety-Nines attended the meeting with one member coming all the way from Texas to bring back ideas to her section. Lori Parker and Ceci Stratford facilitated a round-table discussion that focused on best prac-

tices for informal mentoring, from the initial email from International announcing that a member has just joined the chapter through the successful PPL checkride. Notes from the program will be

distributed to all Chapter Chairs and Membership Chairs in the Southwest Section with the goal for each chapter to design an effective support program for student pilot members as well as new members joining a chapter.





## Preparing for the Private Pilot & Instrument Practical Tests with Michael Phillips & Ken Wittekiend

Carolyn Brown

Michael Phillips and Ken Wittekiend did it again. They took the fear out of what is probably every pilot and potential pilot's scariest moment – the dreaded Practical Test. This year the duo added a third party – David Tushin. David is an ATP, CFII, and Gold Seal Instructor. He is the Chief Flight Instructor at Liberty Aviation in Camarillo and the owner of Checkride Prep where he specializes in guiding students through checkrides with a focus on passing the oral exams.



For each class the team shared information on

- documentation and equipment required for you and your plane
- the type of questions you can expect to be asked during preflight, run-up, and your flight
- the back-up documentation you are allowed to have with you
- the back-up documentation you should take with you
- the role of your Instructor
- the role of the Examiner
- some common errors
- what the outcomes of the flight can be and your options with that outcome

And the bottom line is

"Perfection is a myth. You do not have to be perfect." Be the Pilot-In-Command because you are. The evaluator is just along for the ride. All the flying and decision making is your responsibility. You are in charge.



## Treats to the Towers 2020

Alison Barker

Thanks to VC99s's member and student pilot, Jayme Garone for volunteering this year, we brought treats to all 3 Air Traffic Control towers in our county. On Feb 13 we visited Oxnard and Camarillo's Towers and on Feb 21 we visited Pt Mugu Naval Air Station. Jayme made beautiful homemade Valentine decorated cupcakes and also purchased airplane and aviation themed cookies made by Anytime Sugar Cookies. Bringing treats to the towers is an important and also fun field trip. It's a chance to thank the controllers and let them know we appreciate all they do to assist us and for the patience they have with us student pilots. It's also a valuable opportunity for all levels of pilots to gain insight into a controller's job and what they see and deal with from their perspective. We were



able to ask a ton of questions, see airplanes and helicopters take off and land also learn some tips on what not to do and what helps them out. We had a chance to visit PtMugu TRACON, where we met the controllers who help us with flight following, along with visiting the tower where they control the big military aircraft.





# Flying VFR Through & Around LAX & SAN Class Bravo Airspace with Michael Phillips

Alison Barker



Michael Phillips has been a flight instructor since 1975. Many pilots in Ventura County have relied on him for flight instruction, currency, aviation advice and mentoring. It's obvious that he loves aviation and he's here to make us better pilots. Tonight's class

was an opportunity to get more comfortable with flying through and around SoCal's busy and complicated airspace. I loved all the interaction among the audience and all the ideas and tips being shared. Main takeaways from the class are:

1. The devil is in the details. You need to be able to read the charts and pay attention to all the rules listed on your given route.

2. There are ways to not talk on the radio, but why would you do that? Talk to SoCal approach. Get flight following, even consider filling IFR if you can – it may be easier.

3. Controllers are there to help you. Ask for help if you need it– Do not violate airspace.

4. There are many different routes you can take. Each have altitude restrictions/minimums and

other rules. Don't fly at the minimum altitude. Consider what a safe altitude is if you have to find someplace to land over the high density population.

5. Transitioning through the class Bravo airspace is an opportunity to grow as a pilot.

6. Practice a few times, it gets easier.

7. There are resources out there! The Southern California Airspace Users Working Group was formed to keep the SoCal airspace open to GA aircraft by developing the Special Flight Rules Area. Their website includes all types of information such as VFR transition routes, LA practice areas, reference materials, NOTAMS, news, and even info on aviation events.



## Weather Brief & Watermelon

Lori Parker and Robin Sullivan

Why did we name the student pilot workshop Weather and Watermelon? Well... it rhymed.... plus it offered the attendees a little snack while the topic of weather briefing options were discussed. As we know, there are lots of ways now to learn about upcoming weather. Today's amazing apps and the new updated 1800WXbrief website provide pilots more accurate, easy to understand information than ever before. Thank you Kathleen, Brenda, Jayme, Cindy and Robin L. for attending!

Stay tuned for the next student pilot advancement program next quarter ...



## Future VC99s Meetings/Events

- Mar 5 **Board Meeting** – 5:30 – Dept of Airports, Camarillo. All members are welcome.
- Mar 17 **General Meeting** – 5:30 – Dept. of Airports, CMA, speaker Jackie Babenco and ATC
- Apr 2 **Board Meeting** – 5:30 – Dept of Airports, Camarillo. All members are welcome.
- Apr 21 **General Meeting** – 5:30 – Progressive Hangar Party, CMA
- May 7 **Board Meeting** – 5:30 – Dept of Airports, Camarillo. All members are welcome.
- May 19 **General Meeting** – 5:30 – Dept. of Airports, CMA, Budget Meeting & Team Speed Dating

## Other Aviation Happenings

**First Sunday** Santa Paula Airport Open House

**Aug 15-16** Wings Over Camarillo



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## Spring Fly Now Scholarship

Up to \$6000 available to Student Pilot Members of the 99s

Membership join date to be eligible January 1, 2020

Applications due to your Amelia Earhart Scholarship Chair by April 1, 2020

Janeen Gaul jcgaul3@gmail.com

Applications are available on our website vc99s.org

Contact Janeen with any questions!



### 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