

## Ventura County Ninety-Nines Honor Susan Liebeler with a Scholarship In Her Name

Carolyn Brown

For the Ventura County 99s, 2020 was our 20th anniversary of providing Pilot Proficiency Classes for the aviation community. The classes are the place to be to increase knowledge for pilots of all levels with some of the best instructors in the entire country. It is also the social event of the year for many pilots, providing them a chance to get together, share ideas, and have fun while learning. Wow, 20 years! That is quite an accomplishment.

2020 started out to be our best year ever for the Pilot Proficiency Class series. Classes were standing room only and we had the best lineup of instructors yet.

This success is due to the hard work and determination of one especially important member of the VC99s - Susan Liebeler. Did you know Susan has her own Wikipedia page? Susan Wittenberg Liebeler is an attorney and businesswoman, a former commissioner at the United States International Trade Commission in the administration of President Ronald Reagan, and a former federal judicial nominee to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. She is also the head fundraiser for the International 99s and a mentor to other 99 chapters. Her accomplishments are too numerous to mention

them all. We have been so honored to have her as part of our chapter since she received her pilot certificate at 55 years of age and want to recognize her fundraising efforts with her 20 years of organi-

zing the Pilot Proficiency Classes, the silent auction at Wings Over Camarillo Airshow, as well as the silent auction for International 99s that is held at Oshkosh.

The money Susan raises each year goes into our scholarship fund. Just last year alone, we awarded \$18,000 in scholarships to women learning to fly, women getting back into flying and women advancing their ratings.

Therefore, to honor Susan Liebeler, this year we are proud to announce the first ever Susan Liebeler Student Pilot Milestone Scholarship award. This scholarship, up to \$3,000, is available

for student pilots flying out of Ventura County Airports. Applications are available on our website at [vc99s.org](http://vc99s.org) and will be accepted from November 1-15, 2020.

Thank you, Susan Liebeler, for all you have done for pilots, the aviation community and the Ventura County Ninety-Nines in these past 20 years and even before that. And, no Susan, you do not have to be deceased to have a scholarship named for you.





**Alison Barker**  
Chapter Chairman


## skywriting

As we are entering the last few days before the election and also navigating the continuing unknown about COVID-19, I am reminded just how valuable our support system of friends and family is. The Ventura County 99s is an awesome group of female pilots that always uplifts and finds ways to celebrate each other whenever possible. Even though we can't meet in person, we have banded together and are continuing our traditions virtually. Even with the unknown about our fundraising efforts, we are still able to award scholarships. Unable to complete our Pilot Proficiency Class series this year, we are pivoting to hosting online classes via Zoom, which is opening up a new audience nationwide. I am inspired by so

many of you who are not letting anything stop your goals of becoming pilots, furthering your ratings, reaching for your dreams, and volunteering your time to help others. Keep it up people!

To change things up, instead of hosting a fly-out, our chapter is trying out a new event called "Geocaching Flying Challenge". This is a fun flying event that is social distancing friendly to help us brush up on our flying and navigation skills. We hope you will join in this friendly and fun challenge that you can complete anytime before Dec 1st. For more info contact [flyout@vc99s.org](mailto:flyout@vc99s.org).

The International Ninety-Nines is also hosting a flying challenge called "Flytationary". It's being managed by the Paradise Coast Chapter and runs until Dec 31st. For more info go to the member's section of the International Ninety-Nines website: <https://www.ninety-nines.org/members/>

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. Remember your sisters from the VC99s are here for you, so if you need anything, please reach out to me at [abarker@vc99s.org](mailto:abarker@vc99s.org). 

## Where do You Fit?

Robin Sullivan, VC 99s Vice-Chair

As you know, the Ventura County Ninety-Nines is a non-profit organization, and as such, we rely heavily on the volunteer efforts of our members to function and handle our day-to-day operations. We accomplish this through the various Teams (committees) that have been set up over time. Currently we have 28 Teams. Eleven of those Teams have current openings for Team members. The Teams that currently need members are listed on the left with the number of members needed in parentheses.

Make new friends and share the fun by volunteering your time as a Team member!!!

We encourage all members to participate by joining a Team that may interest them. For more information about our Team openings, please contact our Board members by emailing to [Board@vc99s.org](mailto:Board@vc99s.org).



- Community Outreach (5)
  - Membership (1)
  - Nominating (1)
  - Social Media (3)
  - Annual Picnic (2)
  - Aviation Museum of Santa Paula (1)
  - Video and Photos (1)
  - Website (1)
  - Liaison to International & Southwest Section (2)
  - Fly-outs (3)
  - Meet-a-Member (1)
- 

# There's Always Someone to Congratulate in the VC99s



**Victoria Cabrera** graduated from the Ninety-Nines Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative Program (PPLI). The International 99s continue to impress with all their support and mentorship to female pilots.



On October 13, 2020 **Susan Ray** completed her very first solo flight

*Congratulations ladies!*



**Stephanie Corbell** passed her IFR checkride on July 31, 2020 (late reporting, oops, sorry).



**Alma Arroyo** completed her Private Pilot certificate at Camarillo Airport on August 30, 2020



**Luz Schaible** earned her Private Pilot certificate on October 11, 2020



# It's Scholarship Time!

Janeen Gaul

The 2021 Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship applications are now available on the International website. These scholarships are for licensed pilot members to advance in training and education in aviation and aerospace, including scholarships to complete additional pilot certificates and ratings, jet type ratings, college degrees, technical training and an Emergency Maneuver Training Scholarship established in memory of 99 member Vicki Cruse.

The application deadline for the AE Scholarship is January 1, 2021. If you are interested, please contact your AE Scholarship

team NOW. The application is extensive, and we are here to help you. Let's get an early start to make sure your application is in perfect shape. We had two winners from our chapter this year. Let's keep it going in 2021!

The next applications for the Fly Now Award for student pilots will be due April 1, 2021. Student pilots will need to join the 99s by January 1, 2021 to be eligible.

Your Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship team: Janeen Gaul, Wendy Lascher, Stephanie Robinson. Reach out to us at: [aescholarship@vc99s.org](mailto:aescholarship@vc99s.org)



## Ventura County Ninety-Nines Scholarship Program

The VC99s proudly announce our Fall Scholarship Award

We will be offering

**\$3,000 Female Student Pilot Milestone Award**

Requirements:

- Over the age of 17
- Living /working in Ventura County or training at a Ventura County airport (CMA, OXR, SZP, or NTD)
- A minimum of 5 flight hours within 90 days preceding the award application deadline

Applications will be accepted Nov 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)

On August 19, the VC99s Student Pilot Advancement Program had eight student pilots along with Robin and Lori on a Zoom meeting. The gals shared experiences, successes, challenges, and realized they had a lot in common with one another. We even have a new participant from SFV! Rachel M shared some excellent helpful hints from her successful private pilot checkride. Robin Sullivan taught the secrets of calculating Zulu time along with understanding load factors. These awesome ladies are on a roll!



# VC99s' 2020 Woman Pilot of the Year Peggy Watson-Meinke

Mignon Gery

It is with great pleasure that I get to announce the 2020 Woman Pilot of the Year. I remember being at the picnic last year, and as all the past recipients of the Woman Pilot of the Year Award went up to the front, putting on their WPOY hats, to stand up for the announcement I strongly remember thinking, "Wow, I would love someday to do so much for this chapter, to volunteer and to advocate, to be present enough to be able to stand up there with those amazing women!" As I put on my hat I do so with pride for this chapter. And I know that this year's recipient does so, too.

Peggy joined the VC99s Sept 2, 1998, and has been a continuous member since 2011. She has been a very active member of our chapter, she is flying ALL the time, she volunteers outside of our organization as well, and has made many presentations about flying.

Here are some highlights:

- She has held almost every board position, stepping up to fill board positions when others resigned early.
- She has been on many committees as well as the

membership and outreach teams.

- She has run the VC99s information booth at the Wings over Camarillo Airshow
- She has volunteered at the VC99s' Career day
- She participated in a panel presentation at the 99s Int'l convention
- She recently did a Zoom Presentation for 5th and 6th graders about flying
- She is a Board member of the Aviation Museum of Santa Paula assisting with museum fundraising
- Flying is her passion, just this year she has flown in Nevada, Utah, Wyoming and California just to name a few. Sometimes landing in celery fields!



She does all of this without wings, she is full of hot air and we love her, our Hot Air Balloon Pilot and our VC99s 2020 Woman Pilot of the Year is **Peggy Watson-Meinke**. Congratulations! 



*If I were king of the world, babies born in airplanes, balloons and blimps would, instead of choosing to be German, Maldivian or American, all get special heavenly blue passports with a stork on the cover labeled 'Sky Baby' and they'd be allowed to come and go anywhere they please.*  
American television journalist, Robert Krulwich

# 49.5 Award for 2020 Presented to Kevin Grizard

Alison Barker


The 49.5 tradition is a very special tradition for our chapter. For new pilots that may not know, a 49.5 is a spouse or partner of a 99 member who goes above and beyond in contributing to the 99s. We also often award an honorary 49.5 to someone that contributes a lot to our chapter, but is not related to a 99.

This year's 49.5 was awarded to Kevin Grizard, who is the spouse of our chapter's Treasurer, Diane. Diane started flying with her brother when she was 14, however she put her pilot license on hold when she married and raised their family.

When the kids were older, Kevin told Diane, "Stop looking up in the sky and go get your pilot's license." Which she gladly did!

Unbeknownst to her, he secretly started shopping to buy an aircraft for her! So when she got her license she also got her very own airplane – a Cessna 182.


Kevin helps out the 99s at many events and activities and he also serves as Diane's navigator, technical assistant, mechanical troubleshooter, and everything else that allows Diane to fly.

It is with great pleasure that we have awarded the VC99s' 49.5 award to Kevin Grizard. 



## UPDATE




A huge congrats to 2020 AEMSF academic flight scholarship winner Carly Shukiar, of Ventura County Chapter. She is currently attending UNDAerospace and has completed her Commercial Pilot Certificate (ASEL/AMEL) and Instrument rating with a Complex endorsement. Carly says, "This was a long time coming, as these are the first official certificates and ratings I've received since I started flying at UND Aerospace. I could not have achieved this milestone without the incredible support coming from the Ninety Nines and the AEMSF Scholarship program. I am truly grateful for their support and mentorship! Thank you Ninety-Nines, for all you've done for me!" 

## FYI

Wikipedia

The history of aviation extends for more than two thousand years, from the earliest forms of aviation such as kites and attempts at tower jumping to supersonic and hypersonic flight by powered, heavier-than-airjets.

According to the Smithsonian Institution and Fédération Aéronautique Internationale the Wrights made the first sustained, controlled, powered heavier-than-air manned flight at Kill Devil Hills, four miles south of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina on 17 December 1903. 

# The Perfect Pandemic Get-Away

Janeen Gaul


So, we've all been getting a little restless with so many restrictions on travel and activities. But, we are so fortunate as pilots. We have the ability to fly wherever we want to in our GA aircraft!

Judy Phelps, Rochelle Oslick and I departed KSZP in N747PP recently with a socially distanced vacation planned. Two and a half hours later we touched down at KSGU, St. George, Utah. We picked up a rental SUV and headed for Kanab, Utah where we had rented a beautiful, spacious house. We stopped at the grocery store in town and got everything we would need for our meals during our stay.



presentation about the night sky. We saw a few planets, and the amazing Milky Way. We had almost forgotten what it's like to see so many stars!

During our flight home on day five, we had a great view of Lake Mead and Hoover Dam.

We thought this was a perfect get-away for these challenging times. We were able to enjoy some fun flying, three beautiful National Parks and some great outdoor activities while remaining safe and socially distanced. We didn't experience any crowds that made us uncomfortable. Maybe you can think of a National Park that you can get to in your aircraft. It's a great time to explore! 



The next morning, we packed lunches and made the short drive to Zion National Park. We had a fabulous day hiking all around the canyon. Day three took us to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. The views of the canyon and the fall colors were spectacular. On the fourth day, we explored Bryce Canyon National Park on a three-hour horseback ride. Every turn of the trail gave a different view of the beautiful "Hoodoo" formations of Bryce Canyon. Bryce is a certified Dark Sky Park, so we stayed late for a Ranger



# Lifting Spirits Flight

Peggy Watson-Meinke



On October 3rd Diane Grizard (VC99s' Treasurer) flew with me on our local "Lifting Spirits" flight at Lancaster, CA. She, and her husband Kevin, crewed 5 days for me last year at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Since this was the day we were supposed to start our nine-days of Fiesta flights in Albuquerque 2020, canceled due to COVID, Fiesta sent us basket banners to "Lift Spirits" in our local areas, and to say Thank You to first responders and essential workers. We ended up landing at the "Hero's Park" which couldn't have been planned any better!!



*Pictured above, Diane over Lancaster, you can see it's pretty smokey due to fires.*



*Left, 5 balloons flew from Lancaster. Three of the five Balloons are flown by women pilots.*

*Right, my husband Gary Meinke, with last year's honored 49.5 hat, me with my new 2020 Woman Pilot of the Year hat, and Kevin Grizard (Diane's husband) with his new 2020 honored 49.5 hat!! And all with matching StarLite Balloon Crew polo shirts I might add. What a team!*

VC99s



# Calendar of VC99s' Events

| DATE                | ACTIVITY                     | LOCATION       | CONTACT                |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Ongoing until Dec 1 | Geocaching Flying Challenge  | Ventura County | flyout@vc99s.org       |
| Nov 1-15th          | Scholarship Applications Due | www.vc99s.org  | scholarships@vc99s.org |
| Nov 5               | Board Meeting                | Zoom           | board@vc99s.org        |
| Nov 17              | General Chapter Meeting      | Zoom           | board@vc99s.org        |
| Dec 3               | Board Meeting                | Zoom           | board@vc99s.org        |
| Dec 15              | Holiday Chapter Meeting      | Zoom           | board@vc99s.org        |

## Submitting Articles

Article submissions should be sent to  
**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



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