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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.



Havasu Balloon Festival

January 13-15, 2017

Janeen Gaul

Peggy Watson-Meinke took her beautiful StarLite Hot Air Balloon to the seventh annual Havasu Balloon Festival, and I went out to be a part of her crew. The festival activities take place on an island that is reached via the London Bridge. Activities include carnival rides, food and merchandise vendors, and the evening balloon glow.

Early Friday morning we laid out the tarps in a parking lot on the mainland, and stretched out the envelope (balloon) to begin inflation. Peggy had her eye on the shifting winds, and watched as a few balloons took flight. She noticed that most balloons headed out over the lake, not the direction she wanted to go. The morning flight was aborted, and we packed the balloon back into the trailer. The afternoon weather was still not favorable. Saturday morning we woke up to stormy weather, and all festival activities were cancelled. This was the first time in seven years that weather has been so uncooperative.

Sunday morning we gathered early for a launch from the island. Thankfully, the weather was cooperating and the sky was beautiful! As we lifted off, Peggy headed toward the London Bridge to attempt a Splash-n-Dash in the channel. We headed straight out over the bridge, hoping for a little bit of wind to blow us to

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**NEXT
MEETING
FEBRUARY 21**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 one side or the other of the London Bridge. We got lucky, and Peggy executed a picture perfect Splash-n-Dash on the north side of the bridge. This was the third time in seven years that she was able to accomplish this.

We landed in a parking lot, near the shore on the mainland for a change of passengers. Peggy lifted off again and we flew southeast over the mainland. The views were just gorgeous from aloft! After a spectacular flight, Peggy chose a landing site in a cul-de-sac of a senior living community. Lots of residents came out, some in their bath robes, with coffee cups in hand. They were very excited to pitch in and help Gary and the rest of the crew as the balloon was deflated. With everyone's help we kept the balloon out of the cacti that were planted on either side of the road Peggy had expertly set down on.

After packing the balloon up in the trailer we headed back to the festival grounds for the traditional post-flight tailgate party. Peggy shared the history of ballooning, and the balloonist's prayer with a champagne toast. It was a lot of fun



to participate in the traditions and comradery amongst the ballooning community. Later Sunday evening, Peggy successfully participated in the glow.

Despite the weather challenges on Friday and Saturday, Sunday turned out to be a fabulous day for ballooning at Lake Havasu! I encourage everyone to come out to a balloon festival and join in the fun. ✈️

Balloonist's Prayer:

The winds have welcomed you with softness.
The sun has blessed you with its warm hands.

You have flown so high and so well
that God has joined you in your laughter
and set you gently back again
into the loving arms of
Mother Earth.



Skywriting

Peggy Watson-Meinke
Chapter Chairman



Happy New Year VC99s!! I have to apologize for neglecting the Flyer the last two months. In November I had to make an emergency trip to Nashville as my father had fallen and broke his leg. It was good to spend time with him and help him through rehab. I came home then went back to Nashville again on December 15th as dad had suddenly take a turn for the worse as the result of a blood infection. Sadly, on the 21st he passed away, my son, Brandon and I were at his bedside. We had the funeral service and burial with Military Honors on Jan 6th. (If you get a chance, check out the tribute I wrote for him on www.tributes.com/James-Ward-Watson and check out the obituary and photos.) I returned to California on January 9th then turned around and left again for the Lake Havasu Balloon Festival just a day later. Whew. VC99 Janeen Gaul came to that event with two friends and has written an article, later in this issue. Now I am back from that trip trying to catch up on life.

As I was writing my father's tribute/obituary, and was going through his flying career and memorabilia, it was hard not to brag about what an amazing pilot he was. I found his original pilot log book he started in 1952 when he was flying his 1947 Aeronca Champ at 20 years old. It shows his first passenger was his girlfriend at the time (my mother) and his own mother. Then there was an entry about an "emergency landing" in a field. He never told me about that one! The entries go until 1954 then do not pick up again until 1975. There is a note at the bottom of the page stating

that 1955 – 1975 were military flying hours as shown in the summary page in front of the log book. And there it was, a folded military summary page of his flying record. He had 4,327 hours in a total of 18 different military jets, and 240 combat hours in Vietnam. The log book entries started up again in 1975 after retiring from the Air Force. There are several different ratings including CFI and CFII. I never knew he did that either. I guess he had to get those ratings in order to fly commercially. He then flew for a commuter airline around the Midwest for a few years. I remember him joking that he didn't like having to fly into Chicago O'Hare with an airplane full of passengers, in weather that the Air Force would never have allowed him to fly in with a jet just by himself. Ha.



Dad just did not realize what an impact he would have on several family members for the next three generations. Besides his brother becoming a pilot, I had his flying spirit and got my pilot license in 1986. Then his nephew, David Shoemaker, who as a kid always admired the model airplane collection of six of the fighter jets dad flew, decided to join the Air Force and become a pilot like his Uncle Ward. My dad pinned him upon graduating from the Air Force Academy in 1996. He is now a full Colonel and the wing commander for a squadron of F-16s at Luke AFB in Arizona! And then my son Brandon, who also admired those model jets up on the shelf, is attending the

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Skywriting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 University of North Dakota for his Aviation degree. He is a Private Pilot, currently working on his instrument rating, and taking a special interest to UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles). Funny thing is, when Brandon came home for the summer after getting his pilot certificate, he got checked out at CP Aviation and rented a plane. Like my dad, his first real passengers were his girlfriend and his mom (me).

My dad didn't even mean to influence anyone into flying. But look what happened to me and two young men. It happened because of six model airplanes set in his bookshelf. As 99s it is our goal to influence kids, women, and people all around us to the joy of flying. Look how much more opportunity we have to influence by being a

99 and providing scholarships, setting up museum displays, helping with airshows, the list goes on.... I brought home those six model fighter jets of dad's and I plan to set them up on the bookshelf in my hangar. My hope is that kids will come around during the Santa Paula first Sundays Open-House, and look at them, and inspire them to fly - like it did for David, Brandon, and me.

Even though dad wasn't responsive the last week in the Hospice Center, Brandon stayed with him every night to help keep him comfortable and so he would not be alone. While there he wrote a pretty long poem which he read at the memorial service. Here is the last verse:

So this isn't goodbye
Nor is it the end
I'll fly in your name
And I'll tell you all about it
When I see you again



UPDATE: THE VIEWPORT *at Camarillo Airport*

The Ventura County 99s, in collaboration with the Department of Airports, are currently building the final phase of The Viewport. We are building a 60-foot walkway along with a separate entrance on the left side of the Waypoint Cafe. The walkway will be lined with dedication bricks similar to the taxiway and bench

section of The Viewport. Your tax deductible donation of just \$150 for a dedication brick will help to raise the funds necessary to build the walkway and gardens to complete the final phase.



Need more information?
bricks@theviewport.org
805-312-9299



There's Always Someone to Congratulate in the VC99s

In January, Lisa Kienholz completed EMT
(Emergency Maneuver Training)
module 3 at CP Aviation.



Upcoming Scholarship Opportunities

Lori Parker & Lisa Kienholz

We listen to your suggestions. Over the years, we have changed the applications to make them simpler. You said that the milestone concept is great but it would be nice to receive some money upon winning the scholarship. There is now a kick start payment made within a week of winning. You wanted electronic submissions--we now encourage applicants to email their applications. You wanted variety. We work to mix up the opportunities for licensed as well as student pilots.

In spring of 2017, there will be a \$1,000

scholarship available for advanced training called the Endorsement Challenge - whether your goal is a tailwheel, high performance, complex or seaplane endorsement or possibly an emergency maneuvers training module, this is for you. This scholarship is open to 99s in Ventura, San Fernando or Santa Barbara. The application deadline is May 15th.

There is also another student pilot scholarship with a deadline of March 1, 2017. So if you didn't win, please reapply!



Join us!
**VC99s'
Social
Breakfast**



**First Sunday of the Month
Flight 126 Restaurant
at SZP**

**99s, FWP's, 49½s and
friends always welcome**



Ventura County Ninety-Nines 17th Annual Pilot Proficiency Classes • 2017



The Ventura County Ninety-Nines return for the 17th annual season of Pilot Proficiency Classes with the new classes and instructors that you asked for! The classes are open to all pilots, student pilots and instructors. Register at www.vc99sclasses.com or <http://ennect.com/e2848> where you'll find detailed information about the classes and instructors.

2/8 Wed 7-9pm	Using Unusual Airports and Making Unusual Approaches with Barry & Brian Schiff	\$35
2/11 Sat 9:30- 11:00am	Movie: A morning screening of <i>Heroes on Deck: World War II on Lake Michigan</i> , a film for audiences who love aviation, history and stories of heroism	\$10
2/11 Sat 1-2:30pm	Movie: An afternoon screening of <i>Heroes on Deck: World War II on Lake Michigan</i>	\$10
2/15 Wed 7-9pm	Around the World: Lessons in Risk Management for Every Pilot with Adrian Eichhorn	\$35
2/22 Wed -7-9:30pm	ForeFlight 101 – Intro to the Basics with Mike Jesch	\$35
2/25 Sat-9:30am-11:30am	Flying In and Around Los Angeles and San Diego Class Bravo Airspace with Gene Hudson	\$35
2/25 Sat-1:30-3:30pm	Anticipating and Coping with the Dreaded Vacuum Failure with Gene Hudson	\$35
3/1 Wed 7-9:30pm	Stalls, Spins and Unusual Attitudes: Keeping the Sunny Side Up with Judy Phelps & Rochelle Oslick	\$35
3/4 Sat 9:30-11:30am	Weather: Beyond the Standard Briefing with DPE Doug Stewart	\$35
3/4 Sat 1:30-3:30pm	True Confessions: The Mistakes I've Made with DPE Doug Stewart	\$35
3/8 Wed 7-9:30pm	The Art of Flying IFR: Situational Awareness with DPE Doug Stewart	\$35
3/11 Sat 9:30-11:30am	Preparing for the Private Pilot Practical Exam with DPE Ken Wittekiend & Master CFII Michael Phillips	\$35
3/11 Sat 1:30-4:00pm	Preparing for the Instrument Practical Exam with DPE Ken Wittekiend & Master CFII Michael Phillips	\$35
3/15 Wed 7:00-9:30pm	Understanding VFR Charts & Aerospace with Judy Phelps	\$35
3/18 Sat 9:30am-4:00pm	Annual Pilot Refresher with Michael Phillips	\$70
3/22 Wed 7:00-9:00pm	Seven Deadly Sins with Mike Jesch & Gary Schank	\$35
3/25 Sat 9:30am-4:00pm	IFR Refresher Clinic with Judy Phelps	\$70
4/1 Sat 9:30am-3pm	Foreflight 201 – VFR with Brian Schiff	\$70
4/5 Wed 7-9:30pm	Effective Pilot/ATC Communications with Controller William Broadwell	\$35
4/8 Sat 9:30am-3pm	Foreflight 301 – IFR with Brian Schiff	\$70
4/19 Wed 7:00-9:00pm	Airline Techniques for GA Pilots Part II with Mike Jesch, John Ringel, Gary Schank, Brian Schiff and Moderator Michael Phillips.	\$35
4/22 Sat 9:30 -11:30am	The Possible Turn: Surviving Low-Level Engine Malfunction with Master CFI Aerobatic Michael Church	\$35
4/22 Sat 1:30 pm-3:30pm	Staying Alive: 5 Subjects to Keep You Flying For Another Day with Michael Church	\$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. 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 26th. 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 or <http://ennect.com/e2848>

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- Feb 2 Board Meeting – 5:30pm, DOA, Camarillo
Feb 5 Social Breakfast, 8:30am, Flight 126, SZP
First Sunday at Santa Paula 10:00am
Feb 21 General Meeting – 5:30pm, DOA, Camarillo

MARCH

- Mar 3 Board Meeting – Dept. of Airports, CMA
Mar 21 General Meeting – Aviation Museum, SZP

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Jan 13-16 Lake Havasu Balloon Festival, Arizona
April 28-29 AOPA Fly-In to Camarillo
July 12-16, 2017 Int'l Conference – San Antonio, TX
July 4-8, 2018 Int'l Conference – Philadelphia, PA

OTHER AVIATION THINGS:

- 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

Deadline to receive: 25th of each month



5th Annual Valentine's Flash Mob Fly-In to Santa Ynez Airport

Sunday, February 12th
11 AM - 1 PM

Bring your
picnic lunch

Competition for the
Best Table Setup