



# The Flyer

Newsletter of the Ventura County Ninety-Nines

[www.vc99s.org](http://www.vc99s.org)


January 2020

Chairman: Alison Barker  
Vice Chair: Robin Sullivan  
Secretary: Janeen Gaul  
Treasurer: Diane Grizard  
Past Chair: Judy McCarthy  
Newsletter: Pat McCollum

## Grand Finale to 2019



Alison Barker

The VC99s Holiday Awards dinner was so much fun! Not only did we present our fall scholarships, which is always a highlight of the event, we had the opportunity to socialize with members and meet their loved ones who we don't always get to see. We also learned more about the history of the 99s from Martha Phillips, past International President, we had a lovely buffet dinner, and along with some other of our VC99s traditions. We also collected donations of socks and toiletries for Samaritan House and aviation books for the CEC Aviation Class. More photos on page 2. 





# 2019 Grand Finale





**Alison Barker**  
Chapter Chairman

## skywriting

Happy Holidays and cheers to the New Year. 2019 was a very busy and successful year for the VC99s. We started the year out with the 19th season of our Pilot Proficiency class series. Pilots of all levels come from near and far to attend our classes, which is our biggest fundraiser supporting our scholarship program. In February we had our Valentines Flash Mob Fly-In to Santa Ynes Airport and brought Treats to the control towers at CMA and OXR. In April we had our first Progressive Hangar Dinner Party at Oxnard Airport, We will definitely be doing that again! In June was our annual Summer Awards Picnic, where we presented 2 scholarships, our 2019 women pilot of the year to Mignon Gery and awarded our honorary 49.5 to Barry Schiff. Next up was the 39th year of Wings Over Camarillo Airshow in August, and our famous pancake breakfast, silent auction and VC99s info booth, along with the expanded STEM Pavilion. Wings Over Camarillo is also a successful fundraiser for our scholarship program. Then right into our next big event - Ventura County Aviation Career Day in October,

with 600 middle and high school students attending The year was rounded out by our Annual Holiday Awards Dinner in December where we presented \$10,000 in scholarships to deserving female pilots.

We had many members complete ratings, first solos, and other accomplishments during the year. We had interesting speakers at our meetings such as Orbic Flying Eye Hospital, Jonna Doolittle Hoppes, Barb & Dale Filkins and Henry Bethel with his short film. Echo Niner Foxtrot. We had members featured in newspapers, magazines and on TV. One member had a baby and we got to have a baby shower for her. We had too many other fun chapter meetings, parties, section meetings and flying activities to list. The point is - we are a dynamic and fun group of passionate aviators who are making a difference in the world and having fun doing it. Kudos to all the wonderful members of the Ventura County 99s! Here's to a great 2020.



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

**Mindy Nye** was awarded the AE Memorial scholarship and passed her instrument checkride on August 27, 2019! Just three months later (November 15), she received her commercial certificate. Way to go Mindy! (You can read her aviation story on page 7.)



*"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish."*

John Quincy Adams





# Four Winners Announced at the December Awards Dinner

Lori Parker, Judy Phelps and Mignon Gery

The VC99s gave four scholarship awards at the VC99s holiday dinner! We had thirteen applications. As usual, we wanted every applicant to win and so did our judges.

Jayme Garone and Ashley Jue won the student pilot awards and Greta Liebeler won the advanced.

**Jayme Garone** grew up watching her father fly his 182, going to the Reno Air Races and being involved in other aviation adventures. She has always wanted to learn to fly so that someday she would have something special to



do with her dad. One of her aviation goals is to one day fly Angel Flights to be able to serve those in need by providing transportation to and from



critical medical appointments. Congratulations Jayme!

While working at the café at Santa Paula Airport, **Ashley Jue** wondered if she could learn to fly. After completing her AA at Ventura College she began working at CP Aviation and the rest is history. She has completed her first solo and is well on her way to complete her private certificate before going back to school to earn her Bachelors in Health Science. Way to go Ashley!

**Greta Liebeler** received the advanced award. She took her first flight lesson on a whim while visiting her grandmother Susan Liebeler after she was affected by the Woolsey Fire. After her first lesson, she was hooked on aviation, completing her private pilot certificate, tail wheel endorsement and EMT modules within ten months and is

now working on her instrument. She plans on earning her CFI by summer 2021, then A&P license after graduating college,

so she may inspire other women to become pilots, mechanics, and engineers. Go Greta!



**"Get out of Your Comfort Zone - Learn Something New"** is a new scholarship

award. The goal of this new award is to get us all thinking, what activity have I not done before that is out of my comfort zone? What would be a good for me to learn to become an even better pilot?

Winner **Robin Sullivan** is an individual who is accomplished, yet is not afraid to share what she has not yet done. She is an advanced ground instructor, teaches high school students about careers in aviation, is co-chair for the VC99s student pilot program, and is our VC99s Vice Chair. She mentors at every opportunity. Her goal for



this award is to do an overnight solo adventure to a new destination completely on her own from start to finish. No co-pilot, no friends meeting her there. Go for it Robin!

This award will be offered again in the spring, this time expanding to 99 members who belong to chapters within a 100 miles radius from Camarillo airport. Start thinking what YOU want to do that is out of your comfort zone!





# Opportunities for Learning

Alison Barker, Janeen Gaul and Diane Grizard

Our 6th annual Aviation Career Day was on October 25, 2019. In our 2nd year we added the Make Garbage Fly competition which is a contest where students make a glider out of recycled materials and bring it to Aviation Career Day for a fly off. Students can enter as a team or as an individual. For the first 2 years of the competition, the goal was to fly the farthest. When one student brought the same glider 2 years

in a row and won, we decided to increase the difficulty and require the glider to also complete a 360-degree roll. This is not easy. The objective of the contest is for schools and teachers to use it as a classroom project to teach students about aviation and aerodynamics. The students win \$900 in cash prizes and trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Over the past 5 years we have had different schools and different students win, with varying numbers of entries each year.

In 2019 we had a new school that came to the Aviation Career Day for the very first time and they also entered the Make Garbage Fly contest without ever experiencing it before or seeing it in action. And to top it off – they won 2 of the prizes!!! The school is called Opportunities For Learning, located in Simi Valley, CA. We were so impressed by the students and teachers we visited the school to see what it's all about and to interview the students and teacher.

Opportunities For Learning (OFL) is a public charter high school that offers students a flexible, personalized approach to education. Students may

be behind on credits, disconnected from school, want to graduate early, need to tend to responsibilities outside of school, or simply want a non-traditional learning environment.



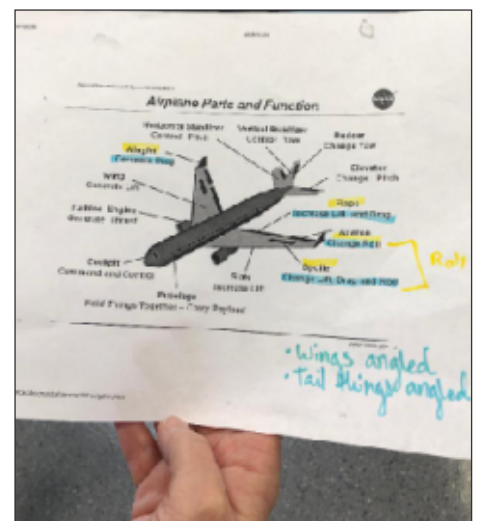
Science and physics teacher, Greg Goldin, found out about Aviation Career Day and the Make Garbage Fly contest at a VCOE event. Although he had no background in aviation, he brought the idea back to OFL and

asked the students, "Who's interested?" Five students said yes and it wasn't just because of the free pizza for coming to the lab!

The five students are Julian Huerta, Henry Zamora, Ryan Guerrero, Josiah Brown and Isabella Mecham. None had any prior knowledge of aerodynamics. The teacher gave them the idea but they had to do all the research on their own. They found websites such as NASA that taught them about aerodynamics, and they forged ahead making their gliders.

I asked them how they chose their materials and Josiah pointed to his glider which featured a soda can and he said, "I drank this."

I asked Bella how she got her ideas and she said she did extensive research on the NASA website as well as other websites, then they



CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 6



# Opportunities for Learning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

pictured their ideas and then started building models out of stuff lying around the classroom trying different things.

They followed engineering principles such as reverse engineering and weight and balance and added creativity and playing around to come up with their designs. One student accidentally made one wing lower than the other and found this actually helped his glider do its barrel role.

Josiah and Isabella's gliders actually got stolen from their table at Chick-Fil-A on the Tuesday before the event and instead of giving up and quitting, they made another glider that turned out even better than the first. That's very flattering that

someone would actually take their glider made out of garbage!

Josiah's glider kept flying straight up instead of forward so he researched and experimented and decided to try adding extra weight to the nose. He saw an empty soda can so he crushed it up, added it to the nose and the problem was solved!

I asked the students if they thought they had a chance to win and they all said they did not think they had the slightest chance to win, but they decided to try it anyway.

What did they learn?

- Fortune favors the bold
- You can do it if you put your mind to it.
- Persistence pays off

Our sincere congratulations to Opportunities For Learning!



## Jackie Cochran

Lindsey G. P. Bell

The youngest of five children, Jackie Cochran was born Bessie Lee Pittman on May 11, 1906 in Pensacola, Florida. Although she'd later claim to have been adopted, and even instructed relatives to corroborate the story, a preponderance of sources indicate that she was not. At the tender age of six she worked in a cotton mill, and by the age of ten had found live-in work at a beauty salon before going on to three years of nursing training. She married Robert Cochran and had a son also named Robert, who died at the age of five.

When the marriage ended, she kept her surname and "Jackie," as her friends called her, stuck. She again sought work as a hairdresser and eventually accepted a salon job at Saks Fifth Avenue in NYC. Floyd Odlum, founder of Atlas Corp and CEO of RKO



Studios in Hollywood – who was both fourteen years her senior and one of the richest men in the world – fell in love with her and helped her promote her own cosmetics line: Jacqueline Cochran Cosmetics by encouraging her to take up flying. Odlum and Cochran married in 1936.

Cochran needed only three weeks to learn to fly at Roosevelt Field in Long Island, NY, then piloted her own plane around the country to promote her cosmetics line. Marilyn Monroe endorsed her lipsticks. In 1937, Cochran was the only woman to compete in the

Bendix Transcontinental Race, which she won in 1938, and worked with friend Amelia Earhart to open the race to women. Later that year, she set a new women's world speed record. She continued cementing her legacy by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



# Jackie Cochran

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

setting altitude records, being the first woman to fly a bomber across the Atlantic (a Lockheed Hudson V), being the first woman to land and take off from an aircraft carrier, the first pilot to make a blind (instrument) landing, the first woman to fly a jet aircraft on a transatlantic flight, the first pilot to fly above 20,000' with an oxygen mask, the winner of 5 Harmon Trophies, and in 1953 became the first woman to break the sound barrier (she clocked an average speed of 652.337 mph). In 1964, she exceeded Mach 2. By 1938, Jackie Cochran was already considered the best female pilot in the United States and upon her death in 1980 had amassed more speed, distance, and altitude records than any other pilot—male or female—in history. The distinction remains hers in 2019.

She was instrumental in the founding and running of the WASP in 1942. Please see the article from the WASP exhibit that ran in the May/June 2019 issue of The Flyer for more information. She simultaneously served as the sixth President of the Ninety-Nines ('41-'43).

After the war (1948), Cochran joined the U.S. Air

Force Reserve as a lieutenant colonel. She received the Distinguished Flying Cross three times between 1947 and 1964. In 1969 she was promoted to colonel and retired in 1970.

In 1956, Cochran ran for a Republican seat in Congress representing California's 29th Congressional District. After defeating five male opponents to win the Republican nomination, she lost the general election to the (first Asian) Democratic candidate, Dalip Singh Saund (51.5% -48.5%). Friends of Cochran said that, unaccustomed to failure, the loss haunted her.

Jackie Cochran died at the home she'd shared in Indio, CA with her late husband, Floyd Odlum, on August 9, 1980 and was buried at the Coachella Valley Public Cemetery. Her local airport, Thermal Airport, was then renamed the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport in her honor. In 1996, the USPS issued a commemorative 50-cent Jackie Cochran stamp. She was the first woman enshrined at the National Aviation Hall of Fame (1971) and upon her death became the first woman to have a permanent display at the United States Air Force Academy.



## I'm an Amelia Earhart Scholarship Winner!

Mindy Nye

I received my PPL in April 2017, and began studying IFR in May 2017. I took and passed the FAA instrument written test in June 2018. I've read more instrument books than I can count! My flight training was intermittent as finances would allow. Everything changed one day, when I got the call from the 99s that I would be a recipient of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship.

At that time, I was working for a private aviation company with very little free time for flight training. I knew that if I wanted a career as a professional pilot, I would need to put my all into this training. I did a complete re-design of my life. I moved up to



Oregon and became a full-time student.

The training that I've received here in the Cascade Mountain Range has proved to be priceless. In Oregon, the weather conditions typically contain rain or strong winds. I was introduced to more complex maneuvers for handling emergencies. I also found the night flying to be much more

challenging with the absence of city lights. Overall, I feel I have become a much better pilot.

On August 27, 2019, I passed my instrument checkride with flying colors! I would like to extend my eternal gratitude to the 99s and all who assisted in helping me reach this milestone.



**CP AVIATION**

**Your Aviation Adventure Starts Here**

**Introductory Flight Lesson Only \$99!**



✓ Great Instructors  
✓ Great Aircraft Rates  
✓ Friendly People  
✓ Great Weather  
✓ Private Pilot, Instrument, Commercial, CFI and Tailwheel Training  
✓ & Emergency Maneuver Training

**We Teach the World To Fly!**

Santa Paula Airport 805.525.2138  
www.cpaviation.com

**Cessna Pilot Center**

## Future VC99s Meetings/Events

- Jan 2 **Board Meeting** – 5:30 – Dept. of Airports, CMA. All members are welcome.
- Jan 21 **General Meeting** – 5:30 – Dept. of Airports, CMA, speaker Tim Just & Drones
- Feb 6 **Board Meeting** – 5:50 Dept. of Airports, CMA. All members are welcome.
- Feb 18 **General Meeting** – 5:30 – AMSP @ SZP
- 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

## Other Aviation Happenings

**First Sunday** Santa Paula Airport Open House  
**Aug 15-16** Wings Over Camarillo

## 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

