

AUX TANK

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE NINETY-NINES INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN PILOTS

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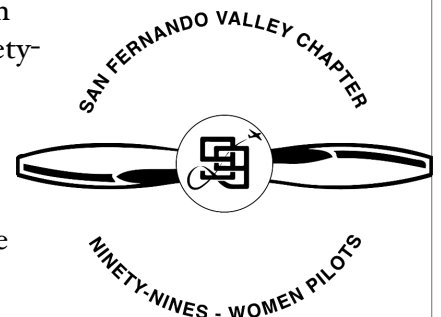
**The San Fernando Valley Chapter of Ninety-Nines
Founded on February 1, 1952**

June 2020

Our Mission

The Ninety-Nines® International Organization Of Women Pilots® promotes the advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight.

Established in 1929 by 99 women pilots, the members of The Ninety-Nines, Inc.® International Organization Of Women Pilots® are now represented in every area of aviation today. And to quote Amelia, fly “for the fun of it!”





NOTAMs

- Need to update any personal information? Here's who you need to contact:
 - SFV99s Website and Local Directory - [Pam Distaso](#)
 - Google Groups Email Subscription - [Maureen Kenney](#)
 - [International 99s Directory](#)
- Did you know you can always donate to our Chapter? [Click here to make a donation to the SFV 99s.](#) Also make sure to designate the The San Fernando Valley Chapter of The Ninety-Nines, Inc. when shopping on [Amazon, click here.](#)
- Need a name badge or a mentor? Please contact our Membership Chair - [Nina Yates](#)

FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

Happy June!

We're halfway through the year, and what a year it's been! June marks the end of our current Board of Directors term and next month, we'll install our new Board of Directors for the 2020-2021 term. I hope you'll join us for our Annual Awards Ceremony & BOD Installation on Saturday, July 18 at 11:30am via Zoom. Though we will not be physically together to celebrate, I look forward to seeing your faces online and applauding our Chapter's award winners and scholarship recipients.

As I look ahead, I'm encouraged by the growth of our membership and the active participation demonstrated by many of our newer members. Entering the back half of



2020, I'm excited to see and hear about how you'll continue to pursue your goals - whether they be personal, professional, aviation or some combination of the above!

Wishing you a great summer & blue skies!

Happy Birthday to:

Marilyn Perna

June 6th

Jenna Lohneis

June 15th

Morgan Gale

June 18th

Madeline Kurrasch

June 19th

Lilian Darling-Holt

June 24th

Jo Scott

June 28th

Be well,

Kimberly Chan, Chairwoman

Upcoming Events

- **Reminder:** No Chapter Meeting in July - see you August 11!
- **July 11 @ 8:30am:** International 99s 2020 Annual Meeting via GoToWebinar
- **July 18 @ 11:30am:** Chapter Awards Announcements & Board Installation via Zoom

Have you heard...

As you have heard Echo soloed May 28th at Brackett (POC)! Here is a picture with her instructor. Go Echo!!!

Nina Yates, Membership Chair



Coronativities...

Happy Anniversary
to:

Melinda Lyon
June 1978

Ruth Logan
June 1997

Alisa Liley
June 2014

Kim Jenkins
June 2017

Dana Rodehaver
June 2019



More pix of my
tomato garden.

Can't wait til they get
ripe!

Parsley and sage look
great, too!



Ceci Statford



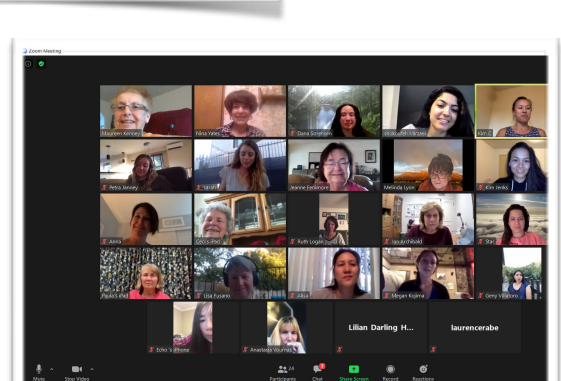
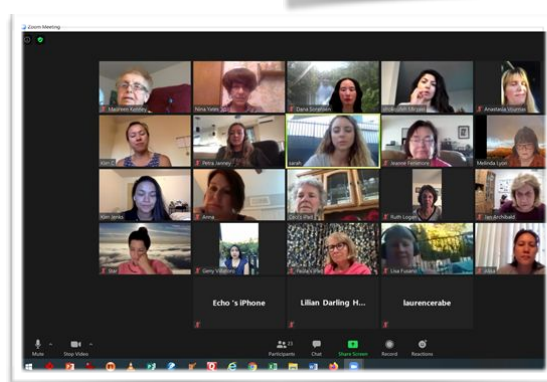
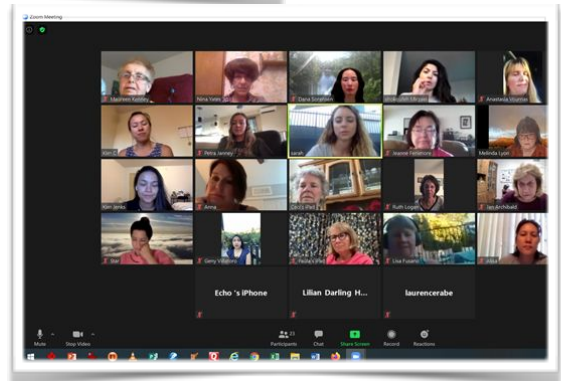
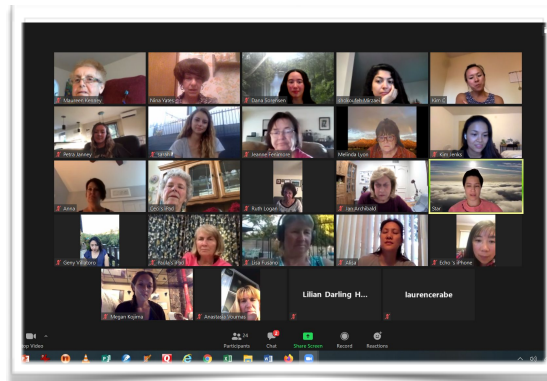
June's Zoom Chapter Meeting

Atta Girls:

Echo Liu completed her
first solo flight!

Annelie Hubinette
graduated from Glendale
Community College with an
A.S. Pilot Training & A.S. in
Aviation Administration
with a 3.8 GPA!!
Annelie also passed her
Commercial Check Ride
and she passed the FIA
93% and FOI 98%!

Marjorie Foster graduated
from Glendale Community
College A.S. in Pilot
Training with Honors!



How I Survived Coronavirus : Summer Flying Camp

Megan Kojima

It's the first Tuesday of June, 2020. Quarantine is still in place in California but not in Ohio, where I'm at a flight training summer camp. I wake up and roll out of bed, search for coffee, gather my flight bag and my sanity, and barely look in the mirror as I walk outside and see the airplanes lined up in a cute little row waiting for me to wake them up. My CFII is right behind me, who woke up five minutes after I did. Our plan for the morning is to practice approaches and holding patterns for my instrument rating before flying back home to Wielzen Skypark, airport 15G. I've landed here only once or twice before, and need a tiny bit of coaching. The runway is.... *different* from my home airport KVNY.



Runway 03 is a modest 2,410 feet long and 37 feet wide stretch of pavement with barely a centerline that has nearly faded away through time. Other flight schools aren't allowed to send their students here to solo because of the length and precarious nature of the runway itself. On takeoff, a patch of trees creates a short field obstacle that gives an imperative to climb quickly and adjust for density altitude for any passengers that you happen to be transporting. I have also landed here with two people in the backseat, with another pilot in the right seat, and we had to maintain a certain climb rate and airspeed necessary to soar over those trees. This was a very hands on lesson entitled *High Density Altitude and the Following Effects*.



Forget about the tower helping you out with traffic here; this is an uncontrolled airport, the first non-towered airport I've really had experience with. I feel like a city mouse going to visit her country mouse friend; how do I announce myself on the radio CTAF again? Do I just say hello and wait for an answer? Where are all the buildings? How am I supposed to

know where I am if all I see for miles and miles are the same-sized square patches of farmland and a few houses in between? (Thank goodness for ForeFlight.)

I breathe, pull the throttle out completely on final, and perform a short field landing onto runway 03. The first time I attempted this last month I really overshot the runway and created an embarrassingly large traffic pattern, but this time I read just my turning habits to accommodate for a tiny airport. It's a nice landing and I am almost proud of it. In the next few days at this flight school, I will indeed become an expert in short field takeoffs and landings.



Welcome to the Widget Pilot Academy, established 2020.

Set in the pastoral landscape of Wadsworth, Ohio, this impromptu summer flying club was recently formed by a group of like-minded flight attendants who realized that pouring Diet Coke and explaining why we don't know if a passenger will or will not make their connections wasn't enough challenge for us. We are pilots at heart, and we acted on that realization, recruiting other friends and colleagues to join us in the friendly skies behind the yoke instead of the galley. Ironically, the pandemic of Covid-19 has given us the opportunity to take a temporary voluntary leave from our jobs and have flight training be our number one focus. Weltzien Skypark became the obvious choice for many to train; the airport offers ridiculously cheap rates for members (\$74 an hour for Cessna 150 wet) and has been an establishment in the city for many years, serving those hobbyists and career-minded locals passionate about flying.

When I arrived to Cleveland airport, I was picked up in a Cessna 172 by another pilot and flown to Skypark like a fancy complementary taxi service. The airport at Skypark is able to house all 15 of us, and we fly together all day long, eat together, work out together, all the while bonding as if this was a normal summer camp. If one of us needs help with the written exam questions or a specific maneuver, there are 15 pilots to talk to about it. It truly is like camp: I sleep on a bunk bed or a mattress depending on what's available, and share the only shower with the other students. We take turns cooking dinner for the entire group, and since our group is a cultural hodgepodge, the dinners are always drool worthy. Thursdays are designated movie nights in a room with the large projection screen and comfy recliner chairs. Last week was *Sully*, predictably, and this week is *Just Mercy*. When a pilot passes a check ride, they will be met around the corner by a barrel of water dumped on them in true traditional flight school celebration.

The support between pilots here rivals any tight knit sports team. We are all in this together, churning out private pilots, IFR ratings, commercial check ride successes, life-long friendships established. It's remarkable how quickly pilots are created here due to the intense yet light hearted environment of this flying bubble world.

We even had t-shirts designed, so it has earned official summer camp status.

This place encourages adventure flying. Due to the fickle weather tendencies of Ohio, pilots might have to become an expert in sky reading to determine whether or not to fly that day; the airport has no METAR reading so the exact conditions of the air are not precisely known. From flying away from incoming thunderstorms, diverting to another airport and staying overnight due to bad weather in the area, to scenic flying cross country to Niagara falls, flying at Skypark is always going to improve your decision making skills as a pilot. The airplanes here get flown nonstop from sunrise to sunset and sometimes much later. I flew back to Skypark at 1:00am coming back from a cross country one night and almost couldn't see the airport since it is such an inconspicuous runway! There's always something new to learn here and flying in this airspace makes me a more conscientious and self aware pilot.



My greatest takeaway from staying in Skypark with my fellow widgets is that culture matters. Nearly half of the pilots training here are women, and our demographic is more cosmopolitan than I've ever seen in an actual flight deck at any major airline. I believe that this is a slice of the future; more women and people from different backgrounds entering into the flight deck offering more perspectives and experiences, a nuanced and more interesting texture of personalities. It's so exciting for me to be a part of this group, and I am delighted when I can motivate others to join a much needed movement towards inclusivity in the airlines. You might think to yourself "Of course I know anyone can fly!" but unless you see your own face representing the job, you might not actually take the first steps towards doing it. You might not think



there's a place for you. The mission of this club is to cultivate an inclusive and positive environment for future pilots, to encourage anyone to pursue their dreams because the airplane doesn't care what you look like or where you came from. The only thing the airplane truly cares about is watching your airspeed and more right rudder.



Motivating younger people to fly is one of my passions right now; creating an environment of accessibility to anyone who has hidden potential that they might not have been able to previously explore. I'm so thankful for this group of people and this opportunity to fly that actively cultivates this type of positive energy. Flying is expensive but if you research and make the right connections it is

definitely attainable. I hope to go back and forth to Skypark this summer to gain more knowledge, fly more hours, and congratulate more flight attendants on their way to the other side of the door!

