

AUX TANK

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

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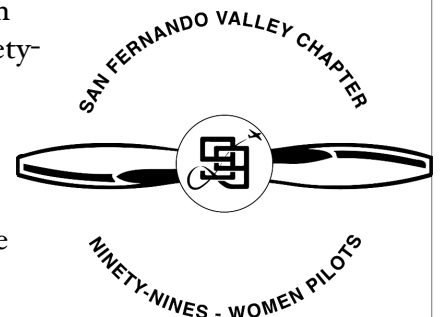
**The San Fernando Valley Chapter of Ninety-Nines
Founded on February 1, 1952**

August 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

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope this finds you all well and staying cool during this latest heat wave we're experiencing. August marks the beginning of our new Board of Directors' term after our Chapter elections in the Spring. We also awarded our Chapter Scholarship winners in July, whom you'll see highlighted below.

We're now five months into the Covid-19 global pandemic and while these months have been some of the most challenging we've seen in our lifetimes, our members continue to prove they're unstoppable and unflappable. As you'll see from our Atta Girls, our members are thriving and excelling in their flight training.



I'd also like to give special thanks to Marjorie Foster, who is serving another term as our incredible Aux Tank Editor. Marjorie volunteers her time and she works diligently to

make sure all of your submissions are included every month to showcase your amazing achievements, flights and other Coronativities. If you look forward to our monthly newsletter like I do, please take a moment to thank Marjorie when you can.

Happy Birthday to:

Lisa Hineman

August 3rd

Lisa Fusano

August 12th

Kim Jenks

August 19th

Faith Hillman

August 28th

Beverly Butcher

August 31st

So while it's still not safe for all of us to be together in person, I hope you'll continue to join our Chapter meetings, check in on each other, and keep your eyes skybound!

Your Friendly Neighborhood Chairwoman,
Kimberly Chan

Upcoming Events

- **September 8 @ 7:00pm:** September Chapter Zoom Meeting



Congratulations!

Former award winner Career Scholarship winner, Alex Carrillo used his Scholarship to obtain his CFI and accomplished his goal. Congrats, Alex!



Love is a Four-Legged Word...



Joseph (left most human), Mina (left most dog doing the over the shoulder booty shot), Rachel (second human from the left in a white shirt), Pam (front, center in an orange shirt), and Marta (front, center with green leash).

While I have had many communications with 99s members making me feel very welcome, I have only had the privilege of meeting one of you fine ladies in person.

That was Pam Distaso. I was able to meet her and her beautiful dog Marta. Joseph, my fiancé, and Mina, my 2 year old greyhound, were also in attendance.

We met at a Greyhound Walk back in July. It was quite an event as I am a first time dog owner.

Since the walk, Mina is less mobile.

She was forced to retire from her racing days at a track in Mexico due to a leg break. When Joseph and I adopted her, she had completely healed, but she still had a wire inside. She has since had the wire removed and is expected to recover in the next 4 weeks.



Adoption Day -

Greyhound Adoption Center in San Diego

Rachel
Enders



Successful surgery - August 10th. My baby doesn't like her cone...

Meet Rachel Enders, our newest FWP!

Rachel, or 'Rach', lives in Woodland Hills. Currently, she works in real estate development and is a law student at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law.

Happy Anniversary to:

Sylvia Sanderson
August 1978

Nina Yates
August 1987

Pam Distaso
August 1995

Julieann Sikora
August 2002

Nicolette Hanson
August 2014

Cristina Loga
August 2014

Marjorie Foster
August 2017

Ellie Seung
August 2018

Dana Sorenson
August 2019

She transferred from Torrance to Whiteman and so far, she's logged 4.5 hours. Her goal is to get her pilot certificate



before her older sister has her first baby. Her sister moved to Sacramento after she married for her husband's job and Rach misses her constantly. Her closeness to her older sister was evidenced by her sister's move to Santa Barbara during college. Rach intends to shorten the distance from her sister by air. Hopefully, her family will eventually trust her to fly them to Sacramento – much more fun than the current car rides.



Rach's little sister began taking flight lessons last year around the same time

Rach did. They took a temporary hiatus when a family friend, an airline pilot, crashed and died. The accident was weather-related,

just like Kobe's. Since then, Rach has vowed never to make a weather-related risky choice.

Atta Girls:

Echo Liu completed her
short cross-country solo
flight!

Shantal Bustamante
completed her Knowledge
Test, Solo, Short cross-
country and Long cross-
country!

Lisa Fusano passed her
Commercial check ride!

Although she's resumed flight lessons, her sister has not. Currently, Rach does not have any further aviation goals other than to enjoy her achievement and bridge distances with her family. She has a tentative timeline to pass the Knowledge Test by November/December; pass the check ride by May.

She's lined up these goals with her school semesters so she can keep herself easily accountable. Rach hopes that as a practicing lawyer, she'll be able to visit friends and colleagues, as well as family.

Nina Yates

Have You Heard...

On July 15, 2020 Dana Sorenson successfully completed her Gold Award Final Interview and earned her Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouts!



For the Gold Project she designed and constructed four hardy planter boxes and gathered matching watering cans and flash drives (containing an original lesson plan, stop motion video, and

coloring sheet) and planting materials such as the seeds, soil, and drainage rocks.

Congratulations and well deserved, Dana!



When Your Flight Training Stalls, Just Keep Flying

Shantal Bustamante

I was born in California, but when I was young my parents moved back to Peru. My older siblings stayed in California, so I grew up in between Peru and U.S.A. I was always traveling and my favorite place on earth was and still is an airport. I always loved the smell and sound of the big airliners, but now I have come to fall in love with the small Cessna I train in.

When I was young, I looked up to the pilots flying such heavy aircrafts and believed they had the best job in the world, but I never thought I would be where I am now: On my way to becoming a pilot.

When I was 21, I was living in California and my sister passed away. She was my best friend and my world came crumbling down so I decided to move to Peru with my parents to heal. Four years later my father passed away from a sudden heart attack. I did not have enough time to mourn my dad's death because we were hit financially with the funeral bills and I knew I had to step up and take care of my mother and myself.



A good friend of mine knew about my situation and informed me of an airline holding Flight Attendant interviews. They offered a high salary which would allow me to care for my mother and pay off the funeral debt.

This was a prestigious airline in South America, so I had to pass a rigorous selection process. Then I had to undergo an intense 4-month training and I would only be offered the job if I passed all the exams. I had no aviation background and I was competing against people who went to school to become flight attendants. I had to study extremely hard and would sleep less than 5 hours per night, but it was worth it! I was offered a FA position and my beautiful journey into becoming a pilot started and I had no idea.

I fell in love with my job and discovered that my first true love was aviation. I was curious to know more about the Airbus I worked on: what was going on in the cockpit? How did this heavy aircraft fly? What were the flaps and spoilers for?



Out of the hundred pilots I worked with, I only flew with 3 female pilots. The lack of women in the cockpit was obvious and I started to question why more women were not attracted to becoming pilots. Later I started questioning why I had not become a pilot. I believed that the lack of female pilots and misrepresentation in aviation hindered me from discovering my passion earlier in life, so I decided to become a pilot and show the world that women also belong in the cockpit.

I decided to save all the money I could for a year and in 2018 I made the brave decision to use all my savings to move back to California and become a pilot. Things did not go as planned since I spent all my savings in the first 4 months due to the high cost of living in California and finding an apartment for myself. My flight training had to pause before it had even started. This was my first “stall” and I had no idea how I could afford the high cost of learning to fly, but I did not give up. I decided to wait and work hard to save up. I stretched every dollar I earned and after a few months I decided to enroll in ground school at Glendale Community College. I did not have enough to start flying and had no idea how I would make it but all I knew is that I needed to start somewhere and learning the theory was the first step. I passed ground school with an A and was lucky enough to get a spot in the flight lab. I had saved enough to enroll in the first flight lab, I did not know how I would pay the next semester but just kept flying.

I was lucky enough to have a great CFI and have learned so much from him. On August 23, 2019 I had my first solo and was blessed to have my family supporting me on that day. It was the best feeling in the world and I knew I was meant to fly.

A new semester began but I was placed with a new instructor. I felt he did not have my best interest in mind, so I decided to ask for a new instructor. It was very disappointing to learn I had wasted



expensive hours of flying with that instructor, but it was more disappointing to have to stop flying while a new instructor was being assigned to me. Around this time, I had also lost my job and had to pay my bills with the money I saved for flight training.



Around November 2019 I was assigned a new flight instructor, but unfortunately, he didn't have much time to squeeze me in between his students and again I wasn't flying. He went on holiday vacation, but he promised he would be back in January of this year and would make time to fly with me, but by the time

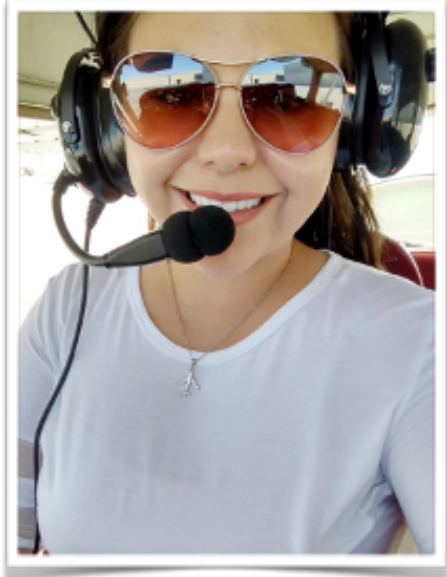
he was available I had run out of money. I told him I would have to pause to be able focus on my new job, work overtime and try to save up more money. My flight training had hit its "second stall" and on top of it all, I received terrible news in my personal life that left me emotionally exhausted.

Two months later Covid-19 hit us, and my flight school was temporary closed. I was not flying, I did not have the money to fly nor did I have a flight school. I started to question if leaving everything to become a pilot was worth it, I started to question if I would be able to do this or if I could ever afford becoming a commercial pilot. I was emotionally drained and decided it was best to give up on this dream. It hurt me to feel I had failed at the one thing I wanted the most.

I hurt me to look up in the sky and see an airplane flying so I decided to block everything related to aviation to ease the pain.

Fortunately, this did not last too long because I came to my senses. I have never been a quitter and I was not about to start now. I learned it would be more painful to give up on aviation than to overcome all the obstacles. My flight training had come to a stall, but I was going to take the controls and keep flying.

Flying does not start when you are in the airplane, it is a process that starts way before, when you are preparing for that flight. So I decided to start by changing my perspective and then develop a plan to get back in the airplane. It took me 5 long months, but I got back in the airplane. I worked hard and saved every penny. My flight school is still closed



and will open next year, so I contacted my first instructor for independent lessons. I knew I had to keep flying and this past July 28, I flew my first flight away from the airport.

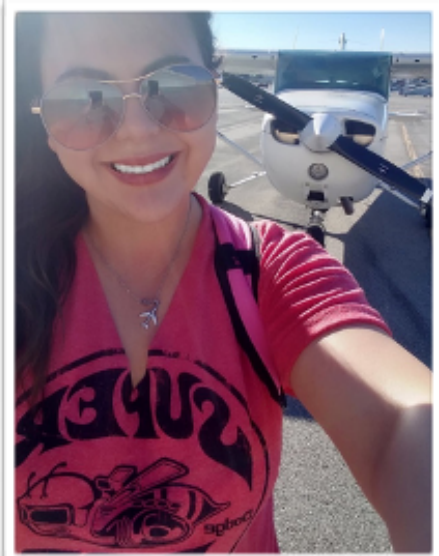


I also understood the importance of not rushing into the airlines and enjoying flight training, so I was lucky to take my mom on my training flight to Catalina Island.

I have come to learn that many student pilots decide to quit aviation when they pause their flight training and now I understand why. This is why my goal is to inspire other female student pilots to pursue their dreams.

I decided that if I was coming back to aviation, I had to be committed and make a strong comeback. Once I had something to account for, I rejoined all the aviation groups I was once part of including the Ninety-Nines. I wanted to come back strong and lead through my example. On August 11, 2020, I flew my first long cross country (from Whiteman Airport to French Valley Airport) and that was also the day I had my first Ninety-Nines meeting after my small break from Aviation. I am thankful for this group because it creates a space for support among female pilots and hope to have the opportunity to inspire others. I know how hard it is to stop flying and to keep motivated when everything is going wrong, but I can assure you that working hard to get back in the plane is the most empowering feeling in the world.

Life is like flying: It is beautiful and exciting but you can encounter some turbulence along the way, you must take the controls and keep going. If your flight training stalls, remember to keep flying!



And the Award Goes to....

Award Winners:

Pilots of the Year

**Shokoufeh Mirzaei &
Annelie Hubinette**

Mary Glassman Service Award

1st Place

Kimberly Jenks

2nd Place

Annelie Hubinette

3rd Place

Sarah Weiss

Mary Glassman Service Award

The San Fernando Valley Chapter has awarded a Service Award for many years. Previously it was named for Trixie Ann Schubert, a Charter member who was active and promoted service to the Chapter. Last year we renamed the Service Award for Mary Glassman and longtime member. Mary was an active member of the Chapter and believed in service to the Chapter. Mary and Trixie Ann will be missed.

This year we honor 3 remarkable ladies. All three of these ladies became members in 2017, stepped up and have worked hard for the Chapter.

Please join us and congratulating these wonderful 99s:

1st place - Kim Jenks

Kim has attended Chapter and Board Meetings, attended fly-ins, and Chapter Social events, including the reenactment of the first Air Derby and received PR, and the Dodger game.

She was our Chapter Treasurer.

But her most valuable service to the Chapter is she makes the 99s necklace that we sell as a fundraiser.

2nd place - Annelie Hubinette

Annelie attended Chapter and Board meetings, attended several Committee meetings, attended 3 Chapter Social Events. She is a Chapter officer. She attended and was Chair for the WHP Open House. She introduced 2 members to the Chapter.

3rd place - Sarah Weiss

Sarah has attended Chapter and Board Meetings. She has participated in Fly-ins, Socials, and she is a Chapter Officer.

She participated in the reenactment of the first Air Derby & received PR for it. She introduced two members to the Chapter, hosted a special event & has taken several 99s for flights to build time.

Jeanne Fenimore

San Fernando Valley Career Scholarship

Brad Baxter, 24, grew up in Georgia and attended George Southern University (SMU) earning a degree in Biology.

More Award Winners:



Friend of the Ninety-Nines

Diana Sanchez

VNY Public & Community

Relations Director

Aviation Career Scholarship

Brad Baxter

The Kimberly Johnson

Memorial Award

Michael Rothman

Brad is currently in the US Army Reserves; he serves as an Aeromedical Evac pilot out of Los Alamitos NAS. He has his

Private, Instrument and Instrument Helicopter ratings. His goal is to eventually become an Airline Pilot.

He plans to use his Scholarship to earn his Commercial rating.

We wish Brad all the best in reaching his goal.

Jeanne Fenimore



Kim Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Michael Rothman is a Private Pilot with an Instrument rating. He has 260 hours. Michael is 25 and has over 260 hours.

He has a degree from CSUN in Communication. He also had a degree in Aviation Management from Glendale College.

Michael has always wanted to be a pilot and dreamed of being an Airline Pilot someday. He started his flight training at 13. His family went through financial troubles for many years, so he had to stop flying for several years. Through student loans and part-time jobs, he was able to earn his degree and stay flying for a bit.

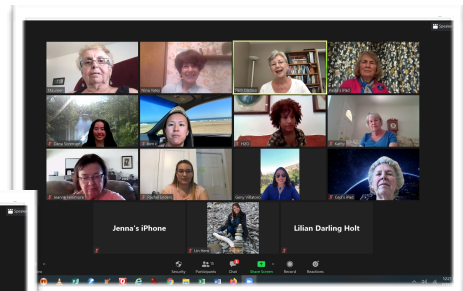
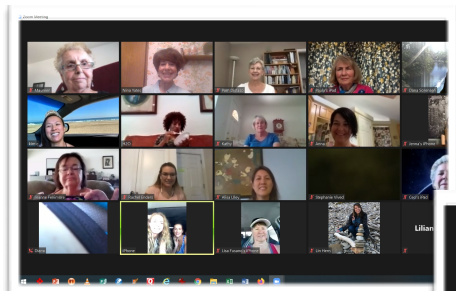
Michael plans to use his Scholarship for his Multi rating and plans to earn his Commercial rating.

We know Michael will reach his goals and prove to be a wonderful pilot.

Jeanne Fenimore

Where's Amelia? (99s' Version of Where's Waldo)

Zoom Awards Ceremony



Zoom August Chapter Meeting

