

Summer Scholarship Award Winners

Lori Parker and Judy Phelps

Ventura County Ninety-Nines are proud to be assisting two more dedicated pilots reach their aviation goals. For over 20 years, we have helped students and advancing pilots with training, nurturing, mentoring and financial assistance. Our Scholarships are presented in winter and summer and this year's summer recipients are . . .

Student Pilot Winner: Stephanie Robinson

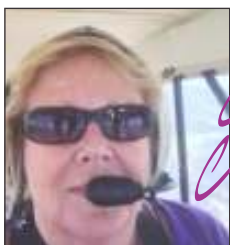
With the interest in aviation from a young age stemming from attending airshows, Stephanie was fortunate to have a friend of the family take her up for a flight when she was only 12. Even though she could barely see out the front window, this is when she set her goal to become a pilot. Now living close to Santa Paula Airport, she is able to focus on what she dreamed of years ago. Her philosophy can be summed up in one sentence, "Some women strive to have a fabulous shoe collection. I strive to have a fabulous collection of aviation adventures!" She is well on her way as she is close to completing her long cross country. Congratulations Stephanie!



Endorsement/EMT Challenge Winner: Mikayla Vovk

Mikayla took her first flight lesson in May of 2017 and is well on her way to becoming a professional pilot. She completed her Private Pilot Certificate in September 2017 and in April of 2018 passed her Instrument check-ride. She is currently working on completing the required hours to take the Commercial check-ride. She is a full-time employee at Silver Air, an undergraduate student in Political Science, and

a full-time student at CP Aviation. Her love of flying is above and beyond the norm and it is something she looks forward to everyday when she wakes up. Nothing is holding the young lady back. Congratulations Mikayla!



Judy McCarthy
Chapter Chairman

Skypiloting

For those of you who were not at our last meeting, July 17, I talked a little about the 2018 International Conference of the Ninety-Nines.

I can't think of a better way to spend July 4th then in our Founding City, Philadelphia. We were hearing the Liberty Bell being ring, inside Constitution Hall and on a boat in the harbor on the Delaware watching fireworks! How amazing!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**NEXT
MEETING:
AUGUST 21
KCMA
DEPT OF
AIRPORTS**

I am thankful our Chapter has the vision to send delegates to these International meetings, Southwest Section

meetings and Winter Workshops. Each time I go, I learn amazing things to bring back to share with the Chapter.


At the Conference there were many Seminars, talks and a Career Expo, It was the first time for that, with 175 women pilots registered for it! So as you can imagine there is something for everyone. Oh, and of course the "Fly Market" (think fun pilot stuff for sale).

The Business meeting was fast paced, and light hearted (thanks to Vice President Corby Bullock and the Minions). We also experienced the shortest Business meeting in history I think, we adjourned at 11:15! This year we only had one voting matter on the agenda.

You may have noticed some changes in the Ninety-Nines magazine, a new look and content, Our International Board are trying to appeal to the new and

younger pilots, with more social media and putting us out there (thanks to Director Terry Carbonell). Quote "We are trying to become more visible, more recognizable as a professional organization, not a social club."

The Board also introduced a Let's Fly Now program, (Not to be confused with the Fly Now Scholarship) in hopes of it spreading throughout the Sections and Chapters. Many 99s already fly Young Eagle flights for EAA. This is basically the same thing, for boys or girls only with 99s getting the recognition for what you do instead of the EAA.

Martha and Art Phillips, Judy Phelps, Lori Parker, Rochelle Oslick and I represented the VC99s and we had a blast doing it. Thank you. The icing on the cake for me? I won a full paid registration to Dayton, OH "The City of Flight" next year! Woo Hoo! So, who's joining me? 

Read more and see photos of the International Conference on page 6

Summer Kick-off Progressive Party of Appreciation


Pat McCollum

Knowing that VC99s will be scattered all over for the summer for work and play--International Conference, Oshkosh, Camarillo Air Show, we put together a evening (June 28) to appreciate several of the local vendors who support us every year with our Silent Auction.

First stop: **Epicurean Olive Oils**, where the owner, Paul Dutcher, tutored us on the best blends of oils and vinegars. We brought a large salad and could sample these blends on the spot. My all time favorite: Blood Orange Oil and Cranberry-Pear Vinegar.

Second stop: **Cantara Cellars** where appetizer plates were shared and we indulged in a smooth glass of wine. Owner, Chris Brown kept the winery open later than usual for our festivities. My favorite: Frankenvine

Lastly: **Marie Callender's** for coffee and dessert--pie, of course! My favorite: Lemon Cream Cheese

Ninety-Nines and 49½s dropped in at one or all stops to "appreciate" the product(s). Some 99s were scattering across the country the very next day. Thanks to these local companies that support the 99s! 



There's Always Someone to Congratulate in the VC99s

Congratulations to **Erika Ames** for completing her Commercial Multi-Engine rating on June 1st at California Aeronautical University, KOXR



Wendy Lasher passed her Private Pilot Check-ride on Wednesday, July 11th flying out of CP Aviation at Santa Paula Airport (SZP). Clear skies, Wendy!



(Left) After 6 instructors, and a number of major life challenges in the last 2 years, **Dale Summersille** resumed flight training in Northern California. She has persevered and soloed on Friday, July 6th.

(Right) Also out of CP Aviation in Santa Paula, **Stephanie Robinson** happily completed another milestone toward her private pilot's license on Sunday July 15th: her Solo Long Cross Country.




Congratulations to all our lady pilots! 



Thank You Rotary Club of Camarillo Alison Barker

A huge thank you to the Rotary Club of Camarillo for awarding the Ventura County 99s a generous grant to be used for Ventura County Aviation Career Day. This grant means so much! This is our 5th year and we would not be able to continue the event without community support.

Aviation Career Day will be Friday, October 26th at Camarillo Airport. All High School and Middle School students are invited. There is no cost to attend and we are always looking for aviation businesses and professionals that would like to participate by having a booth, exhibit or display. 

For more Aviation Career Day info:
email: vc99soutreach@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/vcaviationcareerday

Our July Meeting

Alison Barker

At our July General Meeting at the Aviation Museum of Santa Paula we were treated to a presenta-

tion by Valerie Suberg and Nate Morrissey of The Orbis Flying Eye Hospital.

The Orbis Flying Eye Hospital (FEH) is unlike anything we've seen before. It's a state-of-the-art teaching facility and hospital complete with operating room, classroom and recovery room--all onboard a highly modified MD-10 aircraft donated by FedEx. It travels around the globe performing vision-saving surgeries to people in the poorest regions of the world who would not otherwise be able to receive such care. World renowned eye surgeons, nurses and others volunteer their time and expertise to share their knowledge and skills in the quest to end avoidable blindness.

A main part of their mission is to provide training to doctors and nurses on how to perform these surgeries in their own countries. Onboard is a 46-seat classroom and Mobile Simulation Center. Those sitting in the classroom can watch live surgeries being performed in the surgical room and can even interact with the doctors and ask questions during the surgery. This allows local doctors to practice and learn complex surgical skills before operating on their own patients.

Valerie Suberg is the Senior Manager of Aircraft Maintenance for the Flying Eye Hospital and she travels onboard the MD-10 everywhere it goes. Before Orbis she was a mechanic for FedEx for 31 years at their Oakland facility. She has been a 99 since 1978 and is a member of the Santa Rosa Chapter.

We learned that it's quite a process to bring the



MD-10 into a new region. Being almost completely self-contained, it carries all necessary supplies, runs off its own

generators and produces its own hospital-grade oxygen. The only things the aircraft needs are water, jet fuel and a suitable runway. Before and after each trip it must be carefully loaded and Valerie must carefully calculate the weight and balance. She has her own maintenance workroom in the lower portion of the aircraft where

she oversees the operations and makes sure the aircraft is airworthy. Valerie loves talking about the MD-10 and Orbis and answered audience questions for quite some time after the presentation.

Nate Morrissey is the Aviation Outreach Volunteer, for Orbis. He is also a FAA FFAST Team program manager out of the Long Beach FSDO. When he first heard about the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital, he was so impressed by their operations he contacted them to offer his time as their outreach volunteer. He organizes media, outreach and donor events for Orbis and his goal is to get the word out about the amazing things they are accomplishing. They plan to bring the FEH to Oshkosh next year and it will be available for public tours. Until then, you can take a virtual tour of the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital at their website: www.orbis.org



Read a story and see photos by the Getty Images photographer, Leon Neal who joined Orbis in Peru.
www.leonreal.com/albums/50ghkb/the-orbis-flying-eye-hospital-in-peru

A great Orbis story, and fantastic photos!

VC99s Annual Awards Picnic

Mignon Gery

On June 9, 2018 the Ventura County 99s hosted their annual awards picnic. We were so pleased to have approximately 75 people in attendance including VC99 members, 99s from other chapters, guests and VIPs. This year's decor theme was based around lemons from my backyard and model airplanes. It made me think of the beautiful Ventura County countryside and flying over all of the local orchards. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the freshly squeezed lemonade too.

The emcee of the day was Judy McCarthy and she did a fantastic job of keeping the Agenda soaring right along. Master of the BBQ was of course Art Phillips with his pit crew, and Art added chicken drumsticks to the tri-tip and garlic bread menu. I believe that the drumsticks were a big hit!



The scholarship team awarded flight training scholarships, and new Board members were introduced. The Woman Pilot of the Year was awarded to

Sheila Collier (very deserved). Master CFII Michael Phillips was bestowed the infamous 49½ recognition and hat!

Replace-ment hats, name



badges and plaques were given to our members and VIPs who lost all of their possessions in the Thomas Fire.



Once again our picnic was very fun, and it cannot happen without the great group of volunteers who help with set up and clean up.

This year was my sixth year as VC99s membership chairperson and my sixth picnic to organize and run. I have enjoyed planning and decorating the picnics and I could not have done all of it without the help of Sheila Collier and Jen Engel, my "Team". I have resigned the membership chair position and am very pleased

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Annual Awards Picnic

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Peggy Watson-Meinke will be taking over the membership chairperson position. Peggy will be a fantastic membership chairperson along with her supportive team members Sheila and Jen.

I have loved being VC99s membership chairperson. I set a goal of increasing our membership by 10% and was able to exceed that goal. In that position I was able to connect with our membership, get to know new members, work closely with student pilots and facilitate


recruitment opportunities. We have an amazing chapter full of wonderful women, we work hard to support the mission of the Ninety-Nines through education, scholarships and mutual support of pilots.

I am proud to be a part of the Ventura County 99s and I look forward to future opportunities. 



First Sunday. Social Sunday. Friendship and Fun.



July 1, 2018, First Sunday is always a great way to spend the day! Anywhere from 3 to 15 VC99s and 49½s drive or fly in an hour+ before the festivities and meet at Flight 126 (on the airport) for a delicious breakfast and the 99s' renowned camaraderie. Discussions are all over the map--flying (of course), Barbie dolls, work issues, craft projects, life events, etc. You get the picture--we tackle the problems of the world over a cup of coffee and with a lot of fun. 



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Ninety-Nines Flying Forward!

Lori Parker

"We the people" meaning Judy Phelps, Judy McCarthy, Lori Parker, Rochelle Oslick, Martha Phillips (and Art of course) attended the 89th International Conference of the Ninety-Nines in the City of Brotherly Love--Philadelphia, PA.

We learned about the many exciting programs which are propelling the 99s forward on the professional and general aviation fronts. This year was the first Career Expo attracting numerous airlines and pilots alike. 'Let's Fly Now' has officially taken off as an alternative to the EAA Young Eagles program, giving credit to the 99s who fly females of flying age. Terry Carbonell is illuminating the 99s on all the social media platforms, bringing the 99s to the forefront of noteworthy aviation organizations. Mary Wunder is a 'wonder' of course, helping to raise over 2 million dollars to the Endowment Fund. Numerous scholarship winners were announced with several in the Southwest Section, making us proud to support these women in achieving their aviation dreams. Go 99s!

What else made this meeting fun? Great videos highlighting Ninety-Nines in action from all of the world, Corbi Bullock showing a hilarious PowerPoint instead of strictly reciting the meeting rules, wonderful




tours, the memorable fireworks show, seeing *Come From Away* in New York, and the pride of over 200 Ninety-Nines coming together to support and celebrate women pilots.



Visitors from Down South



Some of the San Diego 99s and 49½s traversed busy Class Bravo airspace on Saturday, July 21st to enjoy tri-tip at the Waypoint and to see the Viewport. Great visit! 

Caught Flying

Rick & Suzy McWilliams in their R-44 at SZP



Balloon Adventures 2018

Peggy Watson-Meinke

As wonderful as flying is, it is also the far-away places it takes you and the people you meet along the way that makes it so special. Here is a recap...

The year started off in January at Lake Havasu, AZ.

Luckily, I got there early and did a school presentation on Thursday morning. I say “luckily” as we never got to fly the weekend event. The winds just howled all weekend.

In February I flew in Pahrump, Nevada. We had winds there as well and was only able to fly one day.

March, April, and May consisted of taking out two rows of fabric from my balloon to be replaced and for the Annual to be done. Yes, balloons get an annual done just like airplanes.

The end of May thru the first weekend of June, my friend Maria and I attended a balloon event in Grants Pass, OR with about 30 balloons. We had 4 days of great flying there.

From Oregon we drove down the coast to the Sonoma Valley Balloon Festival (about 25 balloons). Another great event with great flying and beautiful countryside. We got weathered out the last day which was compensated with great wine tasting tours. I made it a point to get to my favorite winery, Rombauer Vineyards. It was beautiful, but sad driving through the still burnt and parched areas ravaged in the 2016 fires.

Every July 4th, the Southern Calif Balloon Assoc (our local balloon club), attend a rally in Bear Valley Springs, CA. It is a private event and only 10 to 15 balloons fly there. This was the 28th year and it has NEVER been weathered out. I always seem to come from that event with the best pictures of the year!


I have just returned from the 38th Annual Riverton Balloon Rendezvous, WY (July 20–22). I was a little concerned that I would not

have crew as Gary did not come. However, it ended up I had two families to crew for me. When I arrived at the event, I was met by a fellow Ninety-Nine who was helping on the event committee! I introduced myself

as a 99 as well. Patsy Marcus Buchwald is a Past Chair in the Wyoming Chapter. I flew the Friday morning media flight as well as a Saturday morning flight and Saturday night glow. Sunday we were weathered out so several of the pilots and crew were invited to the local Indian reservation to pet and feed the Buffalo!! The herd was wild, so we had to stay on the flat bed of a wagon pulled by a tractor. Once the tractor stopped they eventually walked up to us to take the pellets of food the ranchers provided us. Only a few of the

bravest buffalo would approach us and eat out of our hands, but the whole herd got real close to check us out. It was quite intimidating.

The month of August will be busy with family staying with me for a few weeks. I will also be getting ready for the second year of our Starlight Balloon Dinner Glow, at the Santa Paula Airport on August 25th. This is the annual fundraiser for the Aviation Museum of Santa Paula.

You can see, I am keeping busy in “retirement”. As painted on Maria's balloon trailer, *“Life is a high-flying adventure. Get out there and share the ride!”* 



What is the Viewport?

Alison Barker

The Viewport is the cute little community park located on the airport ramp side of the Waypoint Café at Camarillo Airport. Many of you may have visited The Viewport while you were waiting for your table at the Waypoint Cafe, and just assumed it was part of the restaurant. It's actually a community park built by aviation enthusiasts who wanted to share their love of aviation with the community.

Prior to being built, the Waypoint Café ended at the patio seating area. If there was a wait for a table, which is common, you had to wait in the parking lot. On the airport side, there was no fence and no safe area for kids



to run around and look at aircraft. Karen Johnson (left), chairman of the Ventura County 99s, wanted to build a community park somewhere on the airport, however she died tragically in an aviation accident.

When Linda Ehrlich became the chairman of the VC99s, she took it upon herself to bring The Viewport to life in Karen's memory.

In 2014, with collaboration from The Ventura County Department of Airports, The Waypoint Café, The Ventura County 99s and also donations from the EAA Chapter 723, The Commemorative Air Force SoCal Wing and Campbell Construction, The Viewport was born. A miniature runway was built so kids could run around. A replica of the control tower was built, with streaming audio of the tower frequency so visitors can listen to the pilots and controllers talk to each other. Personalized bricks, benches and tables were sold to raise funds and to honor people who loved the airport and aviation. The benches and tables also provide a place for families to sit and enjoy the park. There's storyboards where guests can read about the organizations that contributed to the park and learn more about our aviation community.

A continuing issue was that people thought they had to eat at the Waypoint Café to visit The Viewport.



Not so! In Phase 2 of the project, an awning was built over the tables for shade. More personalized bricks and benches were sold to raise funds, and a new entrance from the parking lot with an ADA compliant walkway was added so that guests can enter from the parking lot and enjoy The Viewport without entering through the Café.

Now, The Waypoint Café, along with The Viewport is a popular destination in Ventura County. Families can come out to Camarillo Airport, bring the entire family, watch aircraft and have a great time running around the miniature airport and reading the inscriptions on the bricks, benches and tables. They can also learn a little about aviation and the airport.

Many members of the VC99s helped during this 4-year project. Linda Ehrlich was the project manager. Sheila Collier and Alison Barker sold personalized bricks, benches and tables and along with Paula Heinz, handled the financial record keeping.


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Viewport CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Mary Lou Johnson, Lori Parker and Sheila Collier painted the Compass Rose. Yolanda Langley helped organize brick purchases, Nalena Rider provided landscaping, and Pat McCollum created the storyboards. Other community volunteers were Rick Fleck of Camarillo Aircraft Service who painted the stripes, numbers and Camarillo stencil on the runway and Ace Charter High School who built the storyboard stands. In Phase 2, the VC99s dedicated a bench in honor of Martha Phillips, Immediate Past International President of The Ninety-Nines Inc. and a member of our chapter. In Phase 1 the VC99s dedicated a bench in honor of Karen Johnson, past chapter chair.

If you haven't been to The Viewport lately, take a few minutes to check it out. Make sure to read all the wonderful personalized bricks with heartfelt messages to loved ones, family, and some very funny. Check out the inscribed benches and tables – some with poems and inspirational messages. Enjoy a morning or afternoon watching the many different types of unique

and noteworthy aircraft that visit. Let the kids run around and dream about being a pilot. Learn about aviation history. If you are a member of one of the organizations that contributed to this wonderful community park, or had a hands-on role as a volunteer in some respect, you can take pride in what you have accomplished. Oh, and go ahead and enjoy a meal at The Waypoint Café. The food is fabulous and if there's a waiting list. You now have something to do while you wait. 



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Introducing Our New Membership Chair

Peggy Watson-Meinke



I would like to introduce myself as the new 2018-2019 Membership Chair. I have big shoes to fill as Mignon Gery has done an excellent job the past few years. Along with Sheila Collier and Jen Engle, I am sure we will work as a team to continue the good work.

One idea I would like to move forward with is to feature a new member in each newsletter. A picture of the new member and a picture of the

airplane/aircraft she is flying would be great, along with a short biography on how she got started flying and why. Look for me to start contacting new members, and if no new member that month then most recent newbies. It is just a way I would like to introduce our new members and make them feel welcomed and important to us.



"The most difficult thing is the decision to act. The rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life and the procedure. The process is its own reward."

Amelia Earhart

1897-1937



NOAA Tour

Pictured left to right are 4 attendees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration facility tour; Mr. and Mrs. Courtney, Luz Schaible, and Robin Sullivan. Missing from picture is Lilli Dellinger and Mary Troup.

This is the fourth tour organized by Mary for members and others to the NOAA facility in Oxnard. The tour took place on Monday, June 17th. There seem to be an improvement in each tour conducted by David Sweet, our NOAA guide. The participants had more questions for David, than previous tours. And, so far, everyone has come away having much more appreciation of our weather forecasters and the work they do. The facility covers San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and Kern counties.



SAVE THE DATE:
Friday, October 26, 2018

5th Annual Ventura County Aviation Career Day.
Please mark your calendars.
Want to join the fun? Email: vc99soutreach@gmail.com



Future VC99s' Meetings

- Aug 2 **Board Meeting** • 6:00, Dept. of Airports, CMA
- Aug 21 **General Meeting** • 5:30, Dept. of Airports, CMA
- Sept 6 **Board Meeting** • 6:00, Dept. of Airports, CMA
- Sept 18 **General Meeting** • 5:30 Aviation Museum of Santa Paula, SZP (Progressive Hangar Party)
- Oct 4 **Board Meeting** • 6:00, Dept. of Airports, CMA
- Oct 16 **General Meeting** • 5:30, Dept. of Airports, CMA

Special Meetings

- Oct 26 **Ventura County Aviation Career Day**
- Dec 2 **VC99s Holiday Awards Dinner**

Other Aviation Events

- Aug 31 – Sept 3 **LA Fleet Week**, San Pedro, CA
- Sept 12-16 **Reno Air Races**, airrace.org
- Sept 28-30 **Miramar Air Show**, San Diego, CA
www.miramarairshow.com
- Oct 6-7 **Central Coast Airfest**, Santa Maria, CA
www.centralcoastairfest.com
- Oct 20-21 **Huntington Beach Airshow**, Huntington Beach, CA www.airsupport.com
- Nov 3-4 **SBD Fest**, San Bernardino, CA
www.sbiaa.com

To see this, and earlier versions of our newsletter--in full color, or to learn more about the Ventura County Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, Inc. check out our website:
www.vc99s.com



The Ninety-Nines is the international organization of women pilots that promotes advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight.