



THE SOUTHWESTERLY

Quarterly Newsletter of the Southwest Section Ninety-Nines
Arizona • California • Hawaii • Nevada • Utah

October – December 2012

From the Governor...



Penny Nagy

The summer sure did “fly” by for me this year. I spent most of it traveling both personally and for the 99s. It’s nice to know that I have no other trips planned until the winter workshop in January.

Thank you to Santa Maria Valley for hosting another great section meeting. For those of you who did not attend the section meeting, I’d like to point out something that was brought up at both the board meeting and business meeting. Because of a group exemption tax issue the Southeast Section is having, we need to be very careful about how we promote our activities. The chapters in the Southwest Section need to show that we are not just a social organization. Does your chapter sponsor a Flying Companion Seminar? If so, put

pictures of the event in your newsletter. How about a Young Eagles Day or a Girl Scout Day? Include pictures of those activities in your newsletters. It’s very important that pictures of activities other than parties are included. Also, if your chapter uses the 99s mission statement, be sure that you are using the updated one.

Stay tuned for more information regarding the fall meeting, which will be held at McClellan in Sacramento on September 6 – 8, 2013. This is a section-sponsored meeting and many chapters have already stepped up to accept responsibility for various functions. We are still looking for a chapter to handle the silent auction. If you’re interested please let Carol Andrews know. The meeting is still in the planning stage, but it promises to be a fun one. It should be great flying weather, too.

The highlight of the section meeting was the dedication ceremony of the Santa Maria Memorial Garden. I can’t believe what the chapter accomplished in two short years. The mural designed by Sunni Gibbons is a must see. Whenever your flight takes you to Santa Maria be sure to visit the garden. What a wonderful place to take a lunch and just sit and reflect.

In October, I ventured to Palm Springs for the [AOPA Summit](#). Thank you to Candy Whitfield (Reno High Sierra), the International West Coast Tradeshow liaison, and to Rhonda Glennon (Santa Barbara), the volunteer coordinator, for handling the booth logistics. Thanks also to Christina Hutson (Coachella Valley)

for putting together the 99s luncheon. These three women did an outstanding job.

Thank you to all of the volunteers for manning the booth. Our booth proved to be a very popular place with both current and new 99s. We signed up 20 new and/or reinstated members and 28 interest cards were completed. I was unable to attend the luncheon but, by all accounts, it was a success. There were more than 60 attendees. Mark your calendars for October 2014 when AOPA will once again be returning to Palm Springs.

Among the topics at the board meeting in Oklahoma City is the need for flight instructors to monitor the 99s Flight Training forum. If you are interested please contact International Director Corbi Bulluck.

Mark your calendar for January 26, 2013, which is the date for the Winter Workshop in Redding, CA. I’m looking for topic ideas so let me know if there is something you would like to see presented. Carol Andrews will be presenting a seminar on her “Wings” program, and International Director Marjy Leggett will be doing her presentation on reviving dying chapters. Registration and hotel information is available on the section website.

Bakersfield chapter is hard at work getting ready for the spring meeting. After their great invitation at the fall meeting, a number of people have mentioned to me that they never realized how much there is to do in Bakersfield. Come early to take part in the white water rafting on Friday. It promises to be a fun meeting.

Continued on next page

This will be the first meeting where we'll all be receiving a postcard telling us to look at the section website for the meeting registration materials. **Please be on the lookout for the postcard.** If your chapter has members without computer access, I'm asking you all to, **please**, print out the registration materials for them and either give it to them or mail it to them. We want to make sure that everyone has access to this information.

In closing I want to mention that this is the last "Southwesterly" that will be mailed. Next year it will be available on the section website, so please print it out for your members without computers.

I hope to see everyone in Redding.

Penny

Reminder from our Circulation Manager

This is the last printed issue of the Southwesterly. We will now be on-line. Go to www.sws99s.org to get the issues. NO PASSWORD NEEDED! In the upper right hand corner under Quick Links you will find the Southwesterly link. Click on it and there you go.....the most recent issue plus the 3 previous issues! Thank you for your support all these years with subscriptions and chapter subscriptions.
Lynn Meadows.

Ratings and Certificates

Maria D'Amato (Bay Cities)
ATP

Carin Castillo (Bay Cities)
Private Pilot

Meadow Chase (San Diego)
Private Pilot

Milestones

Amber Whitmill commanded her first Angel Flight West flight in October

Krystene Zehnder Oliver (San Diego) won the Women in Corporate Aviation Scholarship to use toward her CFII



The 2012 aerobatic year has come to a close. Kathleen Howell (Antelope Valley) is also a member of the International Aerobatic Club. Kathleen flies an Extra 300 and competed this year in the Intermediate category. She attended 5 competitions throughout the year winning the "Happiness Is Delano" contest (Delano, CA) in September and the "Tequila Cup" (Marana, AZ) in November. Kathleen plans to compete in the Advanced category next year.

Section Officers

Governor:

Penny Nagy - Sacramento Valley

Vice-Governor:

Carol Andrews - Sutter Buttes

Secretary:

Jeanne Pierce - Reno Area

Treasurer:

Sharon Raney - Sacramento Valley

Immediate Past Governor:

Linda Mae Draper-Hivert - Reno Area

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Barbara Crooker – Mt. Shasta

Alice Talnack - Monterey Bay

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Maureen Kenney - San Fernando Valley

Nominating Committee:

Janet Gageby - Reno Area

Michael Serasio - Monterey Bay

Candace Harding - San Joaquin Valley

Willa Young - Sutter Buttes

THE SOUTHWESTERLY

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**Southwest Section Committee Chairmen
and Board Liaisons 2012-2014**

Mission Statement: to promote world fellowship through flight

Flying Activities:

Airmarking

NIFA

Young Eagles

Flying Activities

Lynn Meadows, Reno High Sierra

Virginia Harmer, San Gabriel Valley

Pat Forbes, Santa Clara Valley

Lisa Erickson, Fullerton

**Mission Statement: to provide networking and scholarship opportunities
for women and aviation education in the community**

Education & Chapter Development:

Aerospace Education

Fundraising

Membership

Associate Members

Sister Sections

Sue Kerr, Mt. Shasta

Susan Liebeier, Ventura County

Kim Ernst, Fullerton

Lynn Meadows, Reno High Sierra

Kitty Houghton, Marin County

Communication:

Southwesterly Editor

Southwesterly Layout

Public Relations

SWS Website

Jeanne Pierce, Reno Area

Janet Coté, Sacramento Valley

Connie Charles, San Diego

Maureen Kenney, San Fernando Valley

Awards:

Awards Chairman

AE Scholarship

Other Scholarships

WPOY

Alice Talnack

Lori Parker, Ventura County

Dorothy Norkus, San Diego

Linda Mae Draper-Hivert, Reno Area

Pilot Careers:

Kristen Mansel, Bay Cities

Liana Hart, Las Vegas Valley

**Mission Statement: to preserve the unique
history of women in aviation**

History:

Historian

Photographer

Oral History

Forest of Friendship

Scrapbook

Anita Lewis, Rio Colorado

Lilian Darling Holt, San Fernando Valley

Pat Chan, Bay Cities

Dorothy Robinson, Bakersfield

Mari Hurley, Imperial So-Lo

Open

Administrative:

Tax

By-Laws

Nominating

Insurance

Barbara Crooker, Mt. Shasta

Lianne Oakes, Orange County

Pat Prentiss, Orange County

Maureen Kenney, San Fernando Valley

Open

sws99s.org

CHAPTERS ON

Bay Cities

The Bay Cities women have been very busy with a full calendar. They raised \$500 for scholarships by raffling off pieces of Connie English's art. They are a presence at most aviation events, like the Pine Mountain Lake Airport Day in October, where the EAA (including some female pilots) flew 60 kids in the Young Eagles program. The chapter had a booth at Warbirds & Mustang Days in Vacaville, still conduct their educational potlucks almost every month, and host winging parties.

Coachella Valley

The chapter held another Desert Center fly-in, camp-out in October.

Imperial So-Lo

In October, the Imperial So-Lo ladies participated in Imperial County Airport's "Airport Day", where they organized and led a "flying" parade over the area on the Wednesday before the event. Fifteen to twenty airplanes overflew the local elementary school playgrounds, where excited children were waiting to see the aerial parade. During the airport day event, they displayed their beautiful airplanes, had a booth with photo albums, offered games and small airplanes for the kids, and presented two \$1000 scholarships. December was cookie month. The ladies baked dozens of cookies, then gathered at the Gibson's home to fill trays for various airport managers, crews, border patrol, and firemen. In January they will begin planning for the Navion Airplane Presidential, a whole weekend over the Presidents' holiday when they host events at Douthitt and Imperial Airports.

Reno Area

The 49th annual Reno Air Races was the focus in September. They're looking forward to the 50th Anniversary of the races next year. The Reno Air Race Foundation granted them another \$1000 toward Aerospace Education again, and they've been using that money for Girl Scout and Pathways to Aviation events. Most recently they were invited back to Cottonwood Elementary in Fernley for their Nevada Day program where they taught 100 fourth graders about the elements of flight and aviation careers. Members also put on a program for the Boys and Girls Club in November. The next event is the Youth Aviation Adventure Program at the Minden airport in January.

THE MOVE

Reno High Sierra

The Reno High Sierra members worked hard at the Reno Air Races again this year running Merchandise Sales Tent #2 near the reserved seating area. In October, members also helped with Young Eagle flights at the Lyon County Fly-In at Silver Springs Airport, the airport being owned by chapter member Kay Bennett and her husband Hale. In November, chapter members enjoyed a "Girls' Night Out" dinner at Mimi's in Reno, and held a safety seminar before their monthly meeting. The chapter finished off the year with a fundraiser at Amazon in Fernley, NV where they wrapped over 2,000 gift order packages.

San Luis Obispo

Recently, members participated in various events such as guiding tower tours at the San Luis Obispo Airport Days, attending the November [FAAST Safety Seminar](#) in Santa Maria, and supporting the Friends of Oceano Airport Toys for Tots drive. In December they conducted their annual "Cookies to the Tower" visit. At a recent meeting, the manager of the tower and a new woman controller were the speakers.

Santa Maria

These women need a rest after the big push to get that beautiful garden finished and hosting the fall section meeting. Once again, Santa Maria did an outstanding job on the section meeting. Anyone who has not seen the Memorial Garden really MUST go there. What a talented group of pilots we have !

Santa Rosa

This chapter celebrated their 40th anniversary in September with a luncheon at the Flamingo Hotel. Astronaut Dan Tani was their guest speaker.

REMEMBER:

Please send your chapter news to
southwesterlynews@gmail.com
by the February 15th deadline !!

New Horizons



Jacqueline Bennett Sprague
Long Beach Chapter
Dec 1924 – July 16, 2012

Jacqueline Bennett Sprague, 87, a native of Long Beach, California, passed away July 16, 2012.

Born just before Christmas in 1924, Jacquie's biological father died after the birth of her younger brother George. Her mother Aletha was eventually re-married to Joe Cote, a young Navy submariner. Just before her 17th birthday, Jacquie and her family were living at Hickham Field on Oahu when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor occurred. After being evacuated from Hawaii to the mainland, she enlisted in the USMC and served as a Marine Air Corps transport pilot. When the war ended, Jacquie returned to Long Beach, where she married and raised three sons with her husband, Don Sprague.

When their youngest son left home in the mid-70's, Don and Jacquie bought a Cessna and she returned to flying – this time, as a hobby. After Don passed in the mid-80's, Jacquie continued to be an active member of the Mormon Church, the Civil Air Patrol, and the Ninety-Nines.

Elynore Rose Rickabaugh
San Fernando Valley Chapter
Sept. 10, 1925 – Sept. 10, 2012

Elynore Rose Rickabaugh flew off to New Horizons on September 10, 2012, her 87th birthday.

Ely had been a long-time member of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, and was much loved by 99s all over our organization. She first joined the 99s in 1975, and was an active and enthusiastic participant in our activities. She served as chairman of our chapter, as well as serving on many committees throughout the years. She was everyone's favorite, and was inducted into the Forest of Friendship. She loved to air race and go to 99s conventions, and she made an adventure of everything she did.

Ely was well-known and made friends wherever she went. Even the controllers at Van Nuys airport, where she hangared her plane, referred to her by her first name when in the pattern rather than her N number. She had a dry sense of humor and loved to party. Yet she was also devoted to her two daughters and her husband Ron, a fellow pilot and business partner.

Ely is survived by her daughter Karalyn and son-in-law Joe Schuchert. She was one of those special people who cannot be replaced, and those of us who knew her will always remember her fondly.

Michele Albiez
San Fernando Valley Chapter

Anita Worel
Reno Area Chapter
June 17, 1922 – Sept. 15, 2012

Anita Conley Worel was born on June 17, 1922 in Vallejo, CA. In 1958 she went for a ride in a Swift. It was so much fun she that she started taking lessons in a Cessna 120 in which she soloed. In 1959 she made her second

solo in an Aeronca 7AC. In 1960 her third solo was in the PA-12. She immediately bought an Aeronca 11AC with 65 hp and no electrical system. It was pure fun. In 1964 she bought a Cessna 170. In 1966 she and her new husband, Jack Worel, bought an A35 Bonanza that she dearly loved. Over the years she also flew the Culver Cadet, Travel Air, Cessna 140, 172, 182, Beech Musketeer, Piper Clipper, Tri-Pacer, T-6, Navion, Fleet, Eagle and Bell Helicopter.

Anita joined the 99s in 1961 and held all chapter offices over the years. She was a member of the Redwood Empire Chapter and the Reno Area Chapter. She flew in the 1962, 1964, 1966 and 1971 AWTARS (Powder Puff Derby). She also worked "behind the scenes" for the PPD as a timer on many occasions.

Working at the Reno Air Races was also a highlight for many years of Anita's life. She got to know many of the pilots and workers through volunteering for the Reno Area Chapter. (Reno was first named the Fallon Chapter.)

She married Jack Worel at Fallon Airport right after the 1965 San Diego/Fallon Fun Race. She was late to her wedding as she had to throttle back due to low fuel and ran out of gas while taxiing, but she finished and wasn't last.

Anita had moved from Reno to Napa several years ago and has been missed at the Races. Her daughter, Linda, says she would read the chapter newsletter to her mom as her eyesight was poor. That would lead to a recollection of many stories and memories of her flying days. She passed away on September 15, 2012. Her warm smile and laugh will always be remembered.

From Anita's biography in the 1996 Ninety-Nines yearbook.

Kathy Walton



Ruby May Sheldon

Phoenix Chapter

Oct. 20, 1917 - Nov. 28, 2012

Ruby May Sheldon, 95, of Phoenix, AZ died on Nov. 28, 2012.

Ruby learned to fly when she was thirty-two years old. She went on to become a pilot for the U.S. Geological Survey, where she flew UH-1 helicopters from a floating ice research station 400 miles off the northern coast of Alaska. During her career she flew a Douglas DC-3 as well as other specialized aircraft for data collection, including the Grumman OV-18 Mohawk. The pinnacle of her career was flying for the USGS doing a variety of remote

sensing missions from the Panama Canal to Alaska. In 1974 she became the first pilot to receive a Helicopter Instrument Instructor certificate issued by the FAA, and was honored by an exhibit in the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum. Ruby logged over 15,000 flight hours in airplanes, seaplanes and helicopters. In 2009, Ruby was inducted into the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame.

Ruby was an organizer and participant in the Air Race Classic for many years. She flew her last race with pilot, Judy Bolkema-Tokar, at age 92. That was the 25th Air Race Classic in which she competed. In addition to her helicopter certificate, helicopter instructor and instrument instructor certificate, she held a private pilot, ATP, CFI, MEI land and sea rating.

Her accomplishments were not only related to aviation; she was a volunteer with the American Red Cross and Children's Disaster Services of the Church of the Brethren. She will be sorely missed by the members of the Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren where she worshiped and served, and by her fellow 99s.

Pete Distaso

49 ½ San Fernando Valley Chapter
August 12, 1945 – June 23, 2012

Pete Distaso passed away peacefully after a lengthy struggle with lung disease. Pete is survived by his wife Pam, twin sons Chris & Greg, 5 grandchildren, brothers Stephen and Michael, Aunt Dot, and many loving cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A retired industrial electrician, Pete supported projects that designed and built robotic spacecraft (such as Galileo, Cassini, and Mars Odyssey) at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

After taking a short flight with a friend in 1993, I came home standing beside myself with excitement. Pete asked if I wanted to learn to fly. I said, "yes, but, out of our budget, not realistic, etc." While not directly interested in flight himself, Pete said to me, "If you want to do it, girl, make it fit in the budget, and go do it." I did. On good weather days, he would nudge me out of the house, saying that it was a good day to "get some air." Flying made me happy, and that made him happy.

Submitted by his loving wife of 31 years, Pam Distaso

Look for a postcard in your mail sometime in March or April, reminding members to register for the spring section meeting !

Our apologies to Candice Tuttle, who had her name misspelled in the July-September issue.

“Famous & Fun - St. Patrick’s Poker Run”

The **Antelope Valley 99s** will hold its 23rd annual Poker Run Flight and BBQ on Sunday, March 24, 2013. The BBQ will be based at WJF near Lancaster, CA. Rain or shine, we always have fabulous prizes, great food, and lots of fun!

BBQ tickets should be purchased before March 21. Day of event, BBQ tickets will be sold based on available food.

RSVP EARLY: WE SELL OUT !!

For more information, contact
Lynne: (626) 484-2898, or
lkhsia@aol.com

Leigh: (661) 609-4412, or
auburnaviatrix@pobox.com

2013 Calendar/Activities

January 26th

Southwest Section Winter Workshop
Redding, CA

February 15th

Deadline for articles for
the next Southwesterly issue

March 4th - 10th

[Women of Aviation Worldwide Week](#)

March 14th - 16th

[WAI Conference](#)
Nashville, TN

May 3rd - 5th

Spring Section Meeting
Bakersfield, CA

July 10th - 13th

International Conference
Bozeman, MT

Does your chapter have items for sale?

Dorothy Norkus (San Diego Chapter) is gathering this information
into a database which can be accessed from the 99s website.

Contact Dot at av8trxx@aol.com
for more information.