

Chairman's Chatter Box

By Becky Davies

Another Southwest Section meeting is in the books. There was a fairly small turnout in Claremont, under 100 delegates. The facilities were lovely, if a little disorganized. They didn't hold enough rooms but the San Gabriel ladies located a spare bed for me. I ended up sharing with a new friend, Julee Garrett, chair of the Mt. Shasta 99s.

As for the meeting, there was not a lot of business. Alice is creating a new on-line registration system for section meetings starting after Sac Valley's next spring. We heard quite a bit about the 2020 International Conference to be held in Long Beach on the Queen Mary!

Of course there was time devoted to Penny. Pat Prentiss, Barbara Crooker and I led the discussion of the process involved in memorializing Penny and her love for the 99s. The idea of an interactive education station in her honor at the Museum of Women Pilots was very well received. Treasurer Irene Engard is collecting checks.

Again, the hostesses came up with some great side activities. We attended a dinner theater featuring a musical version of "Bonnie and Clyde". Interesting. Best, though, was our trip to an escape room. We had enough for two teams, so each group was locked in a room where we had to work together to find clues and solve puzzles to get ourselves out within an hour. My team cleared the door with 41 seconds to spare. It was an amazing experience!

It was strange being the only representative of the Sutter Buttes 99s. I look to seeing a much more impressive delegation in Sacramento in the Spring

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ON BECOMING AN AVIATION SAFETY INSPECTOR

By Jeanette Hibpshman

As some of you know, I have been approached by the FAA to apply and become an Aviation Safety Inspector for General Aviation. You know, the scary person that meets you on the ramp and says, "Hi, I'm from the FAA and I'm here to help!". Actually, that statement really isn't far from the truth as I've come to know several people at my FSDO office via working for a Part 141 school. They really are people who love aviation, want to see it done safely, and are trying to make a difference.

I had two requirements left to acquire and become eligible to apply: 1) get my MEI and 2) reach 1500 TT. Well, getting my MEI was the easy part...I just had to spend the money. The second part has become tricky since western PA weather can be challenging. That's when the GIFT Academy reached out to me and I accepted.



I flew out to Dallas, Texas where an attendee picked me up on her way from Austin. We finished the 2.5-hour drive to Vernon and got settled in for the night. The next day, I met most of the ladies as they trickled in and I taught some IFR ground school while waiting for weather to clear. No flying happened that day for me. Darn, I think I brought the low PA clouds with me! Monday morning was clear however and I ran from sunrise

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to sunset giving discovery flights and working with ladies who had a multitude of backgrounds: one was recovering from a stroke, another suffered from motion sickness, and yet others just had a severe fright of doing something wrong. It was a challenging day and

at the end, my mouth was tired from talking so much! But that's not the end...each day we would pick a new restaurant and all head out to eat. The social aspect of women getting together with a common goal and sharing stories is really where this trip benefited me.

It still blows my mind that there are so many bad instructors out there. Some that try to hit on women they work with, some that put women down for the questions they ask, others that use scare tactics as a way to instruct. I learned that what GIFT Week offers women is so much more than cheap flying. Attendees do pay a nominee fee per hour for the plane plus they pump their own fuel and the instruction is all free - donated by the volunteers. You can't get much cheaper flying than that! But more importantly, the attendees get an environment that is judgement-free where they can let their guard down and really begin to learn, and more importantly, build CONFIDENCE! It was great fun for me to watch some of the students go from being jumpy and scared to touch the yoke and asking if everything they did was okay, to relaxing, having fun, smiling and not even realizing they were fully controlling the plane as I had them do fun exercises like kissing the top the cowl to the horizon or following the turns of a river while maintaining an altitude, or my favorite, flying around irrigation circles (not even realizing I was teaching them the beginnings of 'Turns Around a Point!').

I went down there thinking I was going to fly 60-70 hours and be ready to apply for a new job. I came back logging 21.2 hours but having my cup full of experiences I won't forget, new friends I'll have for life, and an appreciation for how important my job is as an instructor and mentor. And that's a job I want to continue doing for the rest of my life!

A FOND FAREWELL TO PENNY NAGY

Saturday, October 13, 2018, was a beautiful fall day in northern California. More than 80 family and friends gathered at Willa and Fred Young's pristine hangar in Marysville, to pay tribute to friend and Sutter Buttes member Penny Nagy, who passed away suddenly on August 26th after a courageous battle with cancer.

Thirty-two 99s attended, including former International President Pat Prentiss, from Orange County 99s, who gave a fitting eulogy. A carload from San Fernando Valley included current Southwest Governor Jeanne Fenimore. Coming from Arkansas was Jody McCarrell, who hosted Penny a year ago at her home in DeQueen. Eight Sutter Buttes members were there, as well as 99s from the Bay Area, Reno, Sacramento and Redding.

Penny's sister, Cathy Quick, gave an interesting account of Penny's life, followed by many memories shared by friends and colleagues from H&R Block and the State of California, where Penny had worked for the past 20 years. Lunch was catered by Aroma Catering of Marysville, and Lee shared wine from Penny's extensive collection, and guests toasted one last glass to their friend.

Penny was born in 1948, and had just celebrated 50 years with the Lee, the love of her life. She learned to fly in the 80's along with her mother and father, and shared many good times flying their C172 with them. She spent many years as a member of the Sacramento Valley 99s, and briefly with a former chapter from Placerville, before joining Sutter Buttes 2 years ago. She served four years as Southwest Section Governor and offered financial expertise to the Section on items with the IRS. Penny served on the International Nominating Committee as well as the Board for the International Museum of Women Pilots. She had friends wherever she went and was known for her smile and positive attitude. An Educational Learning Center at the Museum in Oklahoma City in her name is being considered to honor her contributions to the 99s.