



Mountain Waves

Dec. 2019 • Volume 31, Issue 4

www.renohighsierra99s.org

MEETING NOTICE: Our next chapter meeting will be on the second **Thursday, Jan. 9th** at **Atlantic Aviation** [655 South Rock Blvd.] in Reno at **6 p.m.**

PUSH TO TALK

Like many, I like to take January as a time of reflection and goal setting. This past year, members of the Reno High Sierra 99s have achieved great things; earning certificates and ratings.

Our chapter celebrated its 30th birthday with an amazing progressive hangar BBQ at the Dayton Valley Airpark in June; our main fundraiser, RARA, was again successful; and we awarded \$10,000 in chapter scholarships! By any measure, I think this past year was a success.

This January in particular I think is special. It's not only the start of a new year, but a new decade. My challenge to you my fellow aviatrixes, is to brainstorm some goals for the Reno High Sierra 99s for the next year, and the next decade. There are 57 of us, and I can't wait to hear what we come up with.

I look forward to seeing you (or hearing you via teleconference) at our next meeting and discussing your ideas.

Happy New Year...

Dani

RHS Chapter Awards \$10,000 in Scholarships

This was a banner year for our chapter as we awarded scholarships to six happy applicants:

- Two \$1,000 Discover Aviation scholarships sponsored by ClickBond went to *Coraline Debois* and *Nan Phonchana*. We look forward to watching them reach for the skies.

- *Michaela Flint* of the Reno Area 99s chapter received the Private Pilot scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 to finish her training at CXP.

- *Jade Baldwin*, our new member from Elko, was awarded \$3,500 to use toward her multi engine rating.

- *Traci Bracco*, also a new chapter member, was awarded \$1,000 to use toward her high performance endorsement.

- *Summer Benjamin*, our high school glider student, was awarded the \$1,000 JLM sponsored scholarship for her FAA written test and DPE checkride,

A big thank you to Elizabeth Collins, our chapter scholarship chairman, for organizing the whole chapter application and interview process. And many thanks to our panel of judges: Jean Star, Kristi Mansel, Moe Makowski, Mike Stuart JLM CEO, and Tracy Rhodes President of Reno EAA chapter #1361. It was a long day for all involved but extremely rewarding.

And we couldn't do this without all of you who work in our RARA merchandise tent #2 each September to earn the funds that we award in the fall. Thanks to you, also.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR for upcoming events....

- **January 9, Thursday** — RHS business meeting, 6 p.m., Atlantic Aviation at 655 So. Rock Blvd.
- **January 11, Saturday** — Santa Clara Valley 99s Fly-out to Whale Watching, Lunch at Watsonville Airport Restaurant 12 noon. Contact Pat Gregory plowers@pacbell.net for time & details.
- **January 21, Tuesday** — Girls Night Out Dinner at Mimi's in Reno, 6 p.m., RSVP to Candy Whitfield
- **January 22, Wednesday** — Reno Airport Tower Tour, 5-7 p.m., contact tower (775) 858-7300
- **January 25, Saturday** — SWS Winter Workshop, Palmdale, CA, Hosted by Antelope Valley 99s
- **February 13, Thursday** — RHS business meeting, 6 p.m., Atlantic Aviation at 655 So. Rock Blvd.
Safety seminar after the meeting.
- **March 5-7** — Women in Aviation, Inc. (WAI) Conference in Florida.
- **March 12, Thursday** — RHS business meeting, 6 p.m., Atlantic Aviation at 655 So. Rock Blvd.
- **March 13, Friday** — Reno National Weather Office Tour, 2 p.m. Contact Torry Johnson for details.
- **March 17, Tuesday** — Girls Night Out Dinner at Mimi's in Reno, 6 p.m., RSVP to Neita Montague

FUTURE SW SECTION MEETINGS:

- April 30-May 3, 2020 — SWS Spring Section Meeting hosted by Santa Clara Valley chapter.
- Sept. 10-13, 2020 — SWS Fall Section Meeting hosted by Tucson AZ chapter.
- **April 8-11, 2021 — SWS Spring Section Meeting hosted by OUR CHAPTER!**
- Sept. 23-25, 2021 — SWS Fall Section Meeting in Las Vegas co-hosted by NW & SW Sections

FUTURE 99s INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS:

- **July 7-12, 2020 — 99s Int'l Conference in Long Beach, CA on the Queen Mary**
- 2021 — 99s Int'l Conference in **Amman, Jordan**. Dates TBD.
- July 5-10, 2022 — 99s Int'l Conference in Charleston, South Carolina.



We are STILL looking for a few good women:

As we go forward toward our hosting the spring 2021 Southwest Section meeting from April 8-11, 2021...we are still looking for committee chairpersons for the following committees: Entertainment; Transportation; Fly Market Vendors, Publicity and Silent Auction Set-up.

Thank you to chapter members who have already stepped up: Candy & Jean for Registration; Neita & Steff for Hospitality; Melody for Educational Seminars; Lynn for Hotel Interface; Dani as Event Chairman.
We need to focus on a logo design, table decorations and theme.
All ideas greatly welcome! Contact Dani to volunteer.

A Fast Flight to SLO

What an incredible group of women we are, not just the RHS 99s but in all the 52 chapters of the Southwest Section (SWS) who gather twice a year to learn what others are doing both as chapters and as pilots.

Oct. 3-6 I was delighted to ride back seat with Lynn and Tom Meadows for a trip to San Luis Obispo, not only for the flight but for the opportunity to be surrounded by women pilots. It is energizing to be with student pilots, mentoring pilots, flight instructors, commercial pilots — many who fly all sorts of aircraft. There were 120 women pilots from the SWS in attendance — NV, AZ, CA, UT and HI.

Over 40 planes flew in and the ramp was full of airplanes with a 99s sign in each plane window. I especially like these chocks [**see photo below**]. This year the Los Angeles chapter was re-started and we celebrated with some of their members at this SWS meeting.

A Friday tour took us to Hearst Castle, a National Historic Landmark, where I'd never been and we saw the private airstrip, still in use, which saw landings by the famous, the rich and the powerful. This castle/creation was the joint effort of William Randolph Hearst, the publishing tycoon, and his architect Julia Morgan, and was built between 1919 and 1947. The winding drive up to the castle that sits so that it has views over its 127 acres and the ocean let us see zebras, deer, burros, cattle and foxes all roaming wild. Before the landing strip was built, Hearst and his various guests landed on the beach below [**see photos below**].

After the Saturday business meeting, we attended seminars on accident prevention held at the airport and watched spin training videos followed by a discussion by the CFI Grace Crittenden. Then there was a formation fly-by done by a local aviation group.

The Saturday night banquet was fun as awards were given for Woman Pilot of the Year (WPOY) in both the professional and non-professional categories. Sunday's flight home, with a fuel stop at Oakdale was pleasant in beautiful fall flying weather.

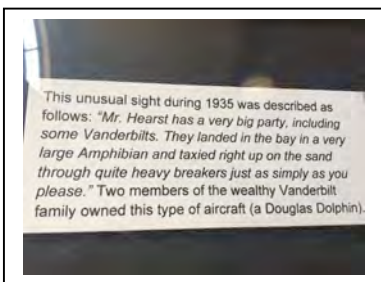
The SWS Winter Workshop will be hosted by the Antelope Valley chapter on Saturday, January 25th, in Palmdale, CA. This is a great excuse to fly! And for a compact yet relaxing couple of days to re-energize and to update our flying skills (or even drive) do consider attending the next SW section meeting. The SWS spring 2020 meeting is hosted by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter and will take place April 30 – May 3, 2020 in Los Gatos. The SWS fall meeting will be in Tucson, AZ Sept. 10-13, so a great excuse to practice and stretch your cross-country skills. I'll be there! — **by Neita Montague**



Chocks at SLO



Right: Douglas Dolphin plane owned by the Vanderbilts arriving at Hearst Castle beach.



Reno High Sierra 99s Neita Montague, Lynn Meadows, and Elaine Yeary at the San Luis Obispo SWS fall meeting.

SEE MORE HEARST CASTLE PHOTOS ON PAGE 9

Book Review

Whistled Like a Bird *By Sally Putnam Chapman*
1997, Hardcover, ISBN 0-446-52055-1

The subtitle of this book is "The untold story of Dorothy Putnam, George Putnam and Amelia Earhart" and it is written by Dorothy Putnam's granddaughter.

She had access to both her grandmother through interviews and also her grandmother's diaries. Sally Putnam Chapman doesn't mince many words talking about her grandmother (heir of the Binney family of Crayola crayon fame), her marriage to George Palmer Putnam (of publishing fame) and what happened when Amelia Earhart arrived on the scene.

The evolution of her grandmother's friendship with Amelia, to the final divorce from George by going to Reno, NV and then her subsequent three other marriages makes a fascinating story. Sally Chapman quotes much of her grandmother's diary which records her deepest feelings about her life with George, Amelia, and her desire to follow her own dreams. 30 pages of black and white family photos add to the touching story. — *by Lynn Meadows*



*Happy Birthday
Wishes*

- 1/1** Elaine Yeary
- 1/14** Elizabeth Collins
- 2/3** Lucinda Gunderson
- 2/12** Jenna Scolari
- 2/13** Kay Lyn Marble
- 2/20** Moe Makowski
- 3/1** Laura Starkey
- 3/9** Laura Ochs
- 3/10** Haley Colton
- 3/28** Sharon Aiken
- 3/31** Nikki Buckley
April Hepner
Dani Rhoda

RHS Chapter Officers 2019 to 2020

Dani Rhoda, *Chairman*
(775) 336-8090

Lynn Meadows, *Vice Chairman*
(530) 587-7281

Steff Steffenson, *Secretary*
(321) 961-2366

Melody Luetkehans, *Treasurer*
(775) 786-9945

Mimi's in November

We had a good turnout for our Girls Night Out (GNO) dinner on the 19th. New chapter member Nan Phonchana and her mom Tammy were there and also Syd Whisler, a high school glider pilot at Truckee. Other attendees included Candy, Laura, Sue W., Deb Ross, Louise Hose, Lynn, Jean and Michaela Flint who won our primary scholarship this year.

Nan had just won one of our ClickBond scholarships but Syd had a broken foot during the summer which curtailed her flying a bit. Laura had spent a week at RARA cooking 3 meals a day for a race team. Deb was recovering from a ski injury to her knee and Louise is building a motor glider at her home at the Dayton Valley Airpark. Jean was about to head to Montana for Thanksgiving to see her grands and great-grand.

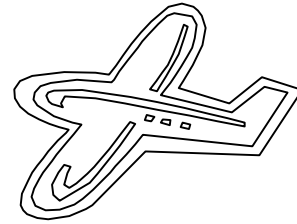
Our next GNO dinner will be on January 21st and we hope you can make it! Always a good time, and beside, everyone has to eat, right? Or just come for dessert, or coffee or conversation.

What Happens in Vegas...

On Oct. 23rd when the Meadows' were pre-flighting to leave VTG, Tom said "isn't that Katie?" And it was: Katie and her friend Kyle taxiing up in her red Cherokee. She was there to visit her relatives in the area. We took time for a brief photo [*see photo below*].

...What Happens in Elko

And on Oct. 26th the Truckee EAA chapter was giving Young Eagle rides to home schooled kids in Elko and who showed up? Heather McCoy. Her daughter Skylar was coaching her Winnemucca team that was playing the Elko team. Skylar now teaches in Winnemucca and mom was there to cheer them on. You just never know who you'll run into at an airport.



We're Flying High

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS...

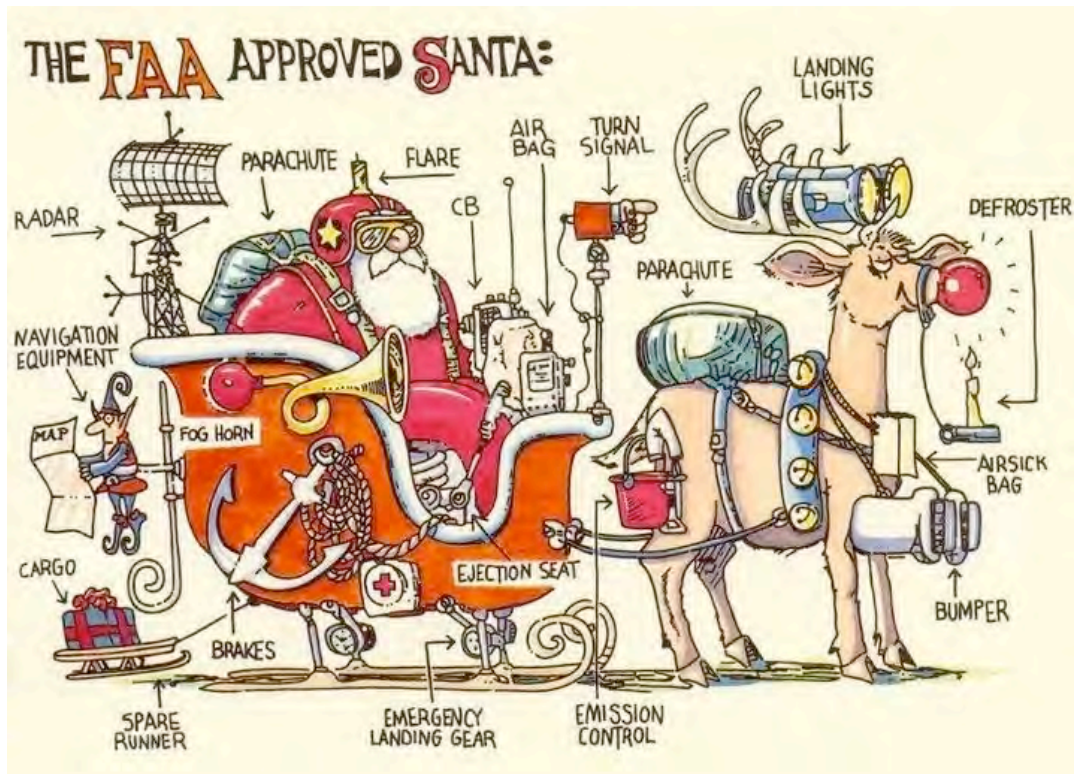
- **Nan Phonchana**—Nan is a high school student who is beginning her aviation journey and is also very active in CAP and sports. Welcome to RHS 99s! **See photo on page 11.**
- **Jade Baldwin**—Jade lives in Elko with her husband Garth and young daughter. She flies at the El Aero FBO there. We are happy to have you in RHS 99!
- **Torry Johnson Hinder**—Torry is a student pilot finishing up soon. She also has time to be a realtor, too. The RHS chapter is glad you found us.
- **Traci Bracco**—Traci lives in Reno but spends lots of her time at a ranch in Elko. She's currently learning to fly in a C-182. Welcome to our chapter.

WHAT'S NEW IN OUR CHAPTER...

- **Leah Ochs & Neita Montague**—Leah and Neita flew in the RTAG poker run in competing airplanes. Ask them how they did!
- **Anna Marshall**—Anna earned her helicopter PPL in early October at AUN. Nothing like starting out at the +10 difficulty level. Congratulations to you!
- **Dani Rhoda**—Dani and her husband Merlin spent part of November in Mexico doing their annual cave diving trip. Bet it was warmer than here in Reno.
- **Katie Greenwood**—Katie spent part of December in Texas doing King Air training. It was probably warmer down there than here, too.
- **Leah Ochs**—Leah has left her job at ClickBond but loves her new job at RIX. Closer commute with more time to be with baby Lainey.
- **Haley Colton**—Haley graduated last May from UNR and just got her first job using her engineering degree so she took it! Unfortunately it is in Las Vegas so we probably won't see much of her. Wishing you the best of luck.

Santa and the FAA....

Just in case you were wondering if Santa Claus is in compliance...here's the scoop...



Wreaths Across America

Every year on the second Saturday in December ceremonies are held around the world at our National Cemeteries for our war veterans and their spouses who are buried in them. The time coordinates with Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC at 12 noon. The Fernley National Cemetery celebration is held at 9 a.m. Wreaths of greenery and red bows are purchased by the public and placed on the graves right after the ceremony. Our former chapter member Joan Hubbard and her husband Jim are interred at Fernley. The Meadows go almost every year and make sure a wreath is placed for the Hubbards. Nearly 8,700 vets are buried at the Fernley National Cemetery. Below are some photos at the December 14th event.



Getting to Know Torry Johnson Hinder

...flying
would be a
wonderful
hobby to
share...

Welcome to my first mid-life crisis. Man, did I pick an expensive one! Seriously, my name is Torry Johnson. I hail from Canada, Toronto to be specific. I hold an Engineering Physics degree and an MBA from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Wanting a career in high-tech, I headed south of the border in 1987 and never looked back.

My first job was in Boston working for a small market research and consulting firm. I won't bore you with the details but Intel was one of our consulting clients. The Pentium® processor team lured me to Santa Clara about eighteen months before the first Pentium® came to market. I had a blast working with computer manufacturers both domestically and internationally to ensure that they had products ready to launch co-incident with the Pentium® coming to market.

Friends introduced me to a wonderful man named Sandy and it didn't take me long to realize he was 'the one.' We married 15 months later and our first child, Chase, came along the next year. His sister, Sidney, arrived three years later. At 40, I decided it was time for my first retirement, so I left the working world to be a stay-at-home mom. Sandy, a naval aviator, had been stationed at Fallon and had fallen in love with northern Nevada. Not being happy with the quality of education in California, we relocated to Genoa in 2004.

Fast forward several years and the kids are teenagers, wanting to do anything but spend time with their parents and I decided it was time for a second career. With high-tech being lean in this neck of the woods, I decided to try my hand at real estate. I've been quite successful, but I have to admit that commercial real estate is infinitely more appealing...much more analytical and much less emotional.

Contemplating retirement, Sandy and I have concluded that flying would be a wonderful hobby to share. He is in the process of bringing his license current as I earn my PPL. Needless to say, two sets of eyes/ears in the cockpit is infinitely more enjoyable, not to mention safe. I look forward to getting to know all of you. What a wonderful group of supportive, hard-charging, take-no-prisoners women I've joined!

Reno Tower Tour

RHS 99s and family members toured the Reno tower on Friday, December 13th. Despite the ominous date, all was moving along like clockwork at KRNO. Leah brought her dad Bob. Heather brought her sister and nephew, Cindi and Eric. Coraline, Sandy (Torry's 49 ½), and Torry rounded out the group. Our mid-morning tour was NOT action packed, which was a good thing. It gave us plenty of time to ask questions of the two controllers on duty. We were gentle with a third controller who was in training.

The view from the tower is spectacular. It stands about 200 ft. tall. With the runways being to the west, it's hard not to take in the jaw-dropping view of the Sierra Nevada. Also to the west is the old tower which pales in comparison to the new one. All runways were open that day and we chose a quiet time with little activity.

In our 45-minute visit we had about a half dozen commercial airliners either land or depart, a couple of jets, and a Skyhawk. The one piece of drama was the cargo plane diverted from Mather due to weather. Thanks to Heather for delivering Christmas goodies to the staff. They were very appreciative!

Please join us for our next aviation activity — a tour of the Reno National Weather Office on Friday March 13th at 2 p.m. We'll get a tour, learn about our area's unique weather and then watch a weather balloon being released. — **by Torry Johnson**

See photo on page 11.

2019 Reno High Sierra Holiday Party

A huge THANK YOU to Steff and Ruben for opening their home to us for our annual chapter Christmas party. We could tell which house it was hosted at by the large inflatable helicopter with spinning rotor blades that was in the front yard among the other festive decorations. Steff's mother from Denmark was among the 50+ guests in attendance. A large thank you also to Nan's dad, Tom Johnson, for cooking the holiday ham complete with peach sauce. A plethora of side dishes filled the kitchen island and no one went away hungry.

Elizabeth presented four of our scholarship winners with their awards: Summer Benjamin, Nan Phonchana, Jade Baldwin and Traci Bracco. Michaela Flint arrived at the tail end after working her job all day. Beside socializing and eating, the annual gift exchange...with two steals allowed...was popular afternoon entertainment. Aviation themed gifts, liquid refreshment gifts, books and glassware seem to be very popular. And Summer seems to be the best gift chooser in the group...as evidenced by the number of times her gifts were stolen from her. Lynn also passed out the chapter 30th anniversary booklet she prepared for members as a gift.

We were happy to see Mark and Leah's little girl Lainey. And to meet several of our new chapter members and their 49 1/2s. We even had grandparents and sisters and moms and a dad in attendance. We didn't count them but Ruben had several of his helicopter collection on display. A few members left before we had the group photos taken, but see below for photos of our chapter.



L to R — *Front row:* Nicole, Melody, Nan, Lynn; *Middle row:* Eileen, Steff, Laura, Jade, Jean, Kay Lynn, Neita, Kristi; *Back row:* Deb, Summer, Heather, Elizabeth, Traci, and Torry. *Missing from photo:* Anna, Vivian and Leah.



L to R — *Front row:* Tom, Ruben, Gary, Mike; *Back row:* Chris, Jere, Jon, Paul, Garth, Sandy.



Mission Fish is Our Other Fundraiser

Yes, we have made over \$24,500 in over 8 years on our eBay non-profit site called Aviatrix_Group. Go to our chapter website (ww.renohighsierra99s.org) and click on the link that takes you right there.

We usually only sell aviation and military items: clothing, hat/lapel pins, patches, jewelry, posters, art prints, headsets, airline collectibles, ball caps, DVDs/CDs, mugs, toys, E-6Bs, pilot supplies, books, etc. But to keep this fundraiser going, we need constant donations from you, your friends or thrift stores!

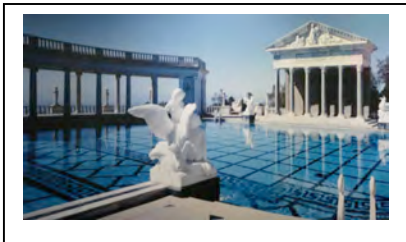
At the end of the year each donor will receive a letter on our chapter letterhead listing their donations and what they sold for. To date we have 100% positive feedback and are "power sellers"! So get your items to Lynn at a meeting or at Mimi's.



SOLD! **Left to Right:** Husky ball cap donated by Heather; silver bell donated by Moe; humorous sign donated by Neita; Marine crew patch from the Truckee Airshow donated by Lynn.



More photos at Hearst Castle...



- the outdoor pool
- the living room
- a guest bedroom
- the guest dining room
- the 99s tour group



Why I Want to Be a Pilot

— *essay by a ten-year-old boy*

I want to be a pilot when I grow up because it's a fun job and easy to do. That's why there are so many pilots flying around today.

Pilots don't need much school, they just have to learn to read numbers so they can read instruments. I guess they should be able to read road maps so they can find their way if they get lost.

Pilots should be brave so they won't be scared if it's foggy and they can't see, or if a wing or motor falls off, they should stay calm. Pilots have to have good eyes to see through clouds, and they can't be afraid of lightning or thunder because they're closer to them than we are.

The salary pilots make is another thing I like. They make more money than they can spend. This is because most people think plane flying is dangerous, except pilots don't because they know how easy it is.

There isn't much I don't like, except that girls like pilots and all the stewardesses want to marry pilots so pilots always have to chase them away so they won't bother them.

I hope I don't get airsick because I get carsick and if I get airsick I couldn't be a pilot and then I'd have to go to work.

RHS Photo Gallery



Giovanna & Trace Libby's little girl Emma in her aviator onesie.



Neita's new glider coming this spring to Air Sailing



Nan with another 1st place in Judo.



View from the RNO tower.

Another Museum...

