

THE SOUTHWESTERLY

Quarterly Newsletter of the
Southwest Section of the Ninety-Nines

Arizona - California - Hawaii - Nevada - Utah

SUMMER 2026

GOVERNOR'S REPORT

They say time flies when you are having fun and the past two years have flown by!

We recently wrapped up our Southwest Section Board elections. I am happy to say we nearly doubled the number of votes - from 12% to 20% - still not nearly as many members voted as we had hoped for, but if we can double that for the 2028-29 board, it is a good start. I want to thank Susan Conner-Steeb and the Nominating Committee for all their hard work finding candidates and for working so hard to increase our vote totals. Thank you also to all the 99s who took the time to vote!

Here are your incoming 2026-2027 board members:

Governor: Luz Schaible, Ventura County Chapter

Vice-Governor: Stephanie Corbell, Ventura County Chapter

Secretary: Claudia Maciel, Monterey Bay Chapter

Treasurer: Janice Odell, San Luis Obispo County Chapter

Director: Glynnis Olgado, Las Vegas Chapter

Director: Samantha Resop, Phoenix Chapter

Nominating Committee:

Chair: Samarra Dalrymple, Fullerton Chapter

Donna Harman, Mt. Shasta Chapter

Tee Frisby, San Diego Chapter

Laura Del Favero, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Mary McMahan, Coyote Country Chapter

Normally, the new board members are introduced at the Spring Section meeting, but this Spring, our meeting, hosted by the Coachella Valley Chapter, was early. Please plan to attend the Fall Section meeting in Las Vegas, September 25-27 to meet your new board members. Registration is open under Events on the SWS website: [SWS99s.org](https://www.sws99s.org).

We had a wonderful time at the Spring Section meeting. Dana James and her chapter members outdid themselves. I'm looking forward to going back and spending more time in the low desert - particularly at the Palm Springs Air Museum - it was extra special because I noticed *Kathleen Snaper's* name on an exhibit. Kathleen is a 51-year member of the Las Vegas Chapter.

We are about a month away from the 2026 International Conference, held this year in San Diego. As the host Section, I encourage as many of you as possible to register for this year's conference. It's not too late! (<https://akatravelteam.swoogo.com/99s2026>). The conference committee has worked very hard planning this year's event. If you have never attended an International Conference before, this is the one you should attend - especially since you are a member of the host Section. Our new International Board members will also be introduced at this meeting. Two standing rules will be up for ratification: 1. to clarify the campaign period during elections, and 2. to ratify an increase in the dues of Student Pilots. A credentialing email will be sent out soon. Please take a few seconds to complete it. The business meeting is available on Zoom - host a Chapter event if you can't attend in person. As long as you are credentialed, you can vote! This is **YOUR** organization, please take the time to participate in the discussion and to vote.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as the Southwest Section Governor. I hope to see many of you in San Diego and also in Las Vegas this September!

-Anele

Section Officers

Governor:

Luz Schiable - Ventura County

Vice-Governor:

Secretary:

Claudia Maciel - Monterey Bay

Treasurer:

Immediate Past Governor:

Anele Brooks - San Luis Obispo County

Directors:

Nominating Committee Chair:

Samarra Dalrymple - Fullerton

Nominating Committee:

Donna L. Harman - Mount Shasta

Laura Del Favero - Santa Clara Valley

The Southwesterly

Editor-in-Chief

Laura Del Favero

Santa Clara Valley

southwesterly@sws99s.org

Editorial Policy:

The Southwesterly is the official publication of the Southwest Section of The Ninety-Nines, Inc., a non-profit organization (IRS code 501(c)(3)).

Neither the editor, the Southwest Section of The Ninety-Nines, Inc., nor its board of directors is responsible for the accuracy or authenticity of any of the content of this publication. The opinions expressed in the articles presented in this newsletter are those of the authors and shall not be construed to represent policies or opinions of The Ninety Nines, Inc.

Southwest Section Committee Chairmen and Board Liaisons 2024-2026

Flying Activities:

Airmarking

CWAA

Young Eagles

Flying Activities

Ilse Hipfel, San Gabriel Valley

OPEN

OPEN

Pat Gregory, Santa Clara Valley

Education & Chapter Development:

Air & Space Education

Fundraising

Membership

Sue Kerr, Mt. Shasta

Susan Liebeler, Ventura County

Claudia Maciel, Monterey Bay

Laura Del Favero, Santa Clara Valley

Communication:

Southwesterly Editor

Social Media/PR

Laura Del Favero, Santa Clara Valley

Stephanie Corbell, Ventura County

Kelsey Webb, Bay Cities

Jeanne Fenimore, San Fernando Valley

SWS Webmaster- Interim

SWS Web Team

SWS Web Team

SWS Web Team

SWS Website Advisor

Susan Tilley, Santa Clara Valley

Maki Honda, Santa Clara Valley

OPEN

OPEN

Mary McDonald, Bay Cities

Awards:

Awards Chairman

AE Scholarship

Linda Mae Hivert, Reno Area

Lori Parker, Sedona Red Rockettes

Ceci Stratford, Ventura County

Wendy O'Malley, Bay Cities

Other Scholarships

WPOY

Dot Norkus, San Diego

Marcie Smith, Santa Clara Valley

Pilot Careers:

OPEN

History:

Historian /Scrapbook

Oral History

Natalie Hurrell, Las Vegas

Pat Chan, Bay Cities

OPEN

Forest of Friendship

OPEN

Administrative:

Tax Compliance

Bylaws

Barbara Crooker, Mt. Shasta

OPEN

sws99s.org

CONGRATULATIONS

SWS MEMBER MILESTONES

Ghoncheh Angha, Instrument, Marin County
Stella Reenan, Private, Orange County
Celine Cote, First Solo, Orange County
Sanjal Gavande, PhD in Systems Engineering, Orange County
Miranda Keller, ATP, Orange County
McKenzie Callahan, Commercial Multi-Engine, Orange County
Andrada Costoiu, Private, Orange County
Shiman Zhang, Private, Sacramento Valley



Giovanna Eiler, Instrument, San Diego

SPRING 2026 FIRST WINGS WINNERS

Jennifer Dunstan - San Diego
Grayson Emery - San Diego
Megan Fitzgerald - Air Hearts-Utah
Alyson Zuidema - Mount Shasta



Jessica Carrera, Private, Orange County

2026 AEMSF WINNERS

Claudia Asmussen, Commercial, San Diego
Alyssa Christian, CFI, San Diego
Sara Gagne, CFII, Santa Clara Valley
Stacie Goodwin, Comm ME add-on, Reno High Sierra
Rachel Huff-Wagenborg, Instrument, Aloha
Elizabeth L'Heureux, ATP/CTP, Maui
Daniela Ponce, Comm ME add-on, Phoenix
Salvador Valdes, CFII, Santa Clara Valley
Kate Whipple, Academic, Las Vegas



Alli Hinmon - Comm ME and MEI,
Orange County

Please send flying accomplishments with optional picture to
southwesterly@sws99s.org.

YOUR 2026 ELECTIONS ARE COMPLETE!

The SW Section has a new board of directors for the July 2026 - June 2028 session.

Governor: Luz Schaible, Ventura County, CA

Vice Governor: Stephanie Corbell, Ventura County, CA

Secretary: Claudia Marciel, Monterey Bay, CA

Treasurer: Janice Odell, San Luis Obispo County, CA

Directors: Glynis Olgado, Las Vegas, NV

Samantha Resop, Phoenix, AZ

Nominating Committee:

Samarra Dalrymple, Fullerton – CHAIR

Donna Harman, Mt. Shasta, CA

Tee Frisby, San Diego, CA

Laura Del Favero, Santa Clara Valley, CA

Mary McMahon, Coyote Country, CA



Thank you to the 391 SW section members who voted by Email, Text or Mailed in ballot. This was a record year at 20% participation compared to 12% in the last election. We will continue to make the process simple and continue to push for better participation.

Special Thank you to the top 4 chapters for voting %:

By Count	Vote	% of chapter
San Diego Chapter	33	17%
Ventura County Chapter	30	26%
Orange County Chapter	23	22%
Santa Clara Valley Chapter	21	28%
Phoenix Chapter	21	13%
Fullerton Chapter	20	40%
Las Vegas Chapter	20	25%
	167	44%
By Percentage		
Rio Colorado Chapter	10	67%
Santa Maria Valley Chapter	5	45%
Coachella Valley Chapter	4	44%
Monterey Bay Chapter	13	39%
Mt. Shasta Chapter	10	38%
	41	11%

Blue Skies,
Susan Conner-Steeb, Nominating Committee Chair

PALMS TO PINES AIR RACE



AUGUST 14 - 15



CHAPTER NEWS

Reno Area Chapter

Reno Area 99s is continuing to make badges.

Two styles are available: round and the shape of your state

Price per badge is \$15.00.

If your chapter has more than one badge per order, please include only one shipping address and one payment (check).

PLEASE EMAIL your order to maread4@gmail.com
Include 99s in the subject line.

Payments are made to:
Reno Area 99s c/o
Linda Law 2509
Bohr Rd
Carson City, NV 89706

Order processing time is approximately two weeks.



Aloha Chapter

HAWAII AVIATION EXPO

Inspiring Hawaii's Future of Flight

AUGUST 1ST, 2026
9am - Doors Open
Neil Blaisdell Center
Hawaii Suites



TICKETS AVAILABLE April 1st

4/1 - 4/30	\$35 PRESALE
5/1 - 7/31	\$40 REGULAR
8/1	\$50 DAY-OF

www.alohachapter99s.com

SAVE THE DATE!



Presented by
The Aloha Chapter 99s

Sponsored by



CECI STRATFORD, 50 YEARS OF FLYING

Can you believe that half a century ago Ceci Stratford decided to pursue getting her pilot's license? After soloing in November of 1975, her life took an amazing course that formed the remarkable woman she is today. She immediately bought a Piper Cherokee and flew on many trips throughout the western US--even Alaska! Her first husband, Mal Stratford, passed away in 1994 and five years later she met Chuck Kamphausen. Both men were avid supporters and Ceci was blessed to share her passion for aviation with both of them.

Ceci continued flight training to the CFI level. Throughout her years of flying, she was active in the Ninety-Nines where many friendships were formed, memorable experiences were had and special skills developed.

A well-known title Ceci has acquired—and she's very proud of—is “Queen of Scholarships”! She has forged ahead with a relentless goal to increase the number of women pilots and to encourage children to enter the aviation field. Ceci has flown more than 900 Young Eagles, several she still keeps in touch with. Along with her 99s' Southwest Section scholarship co-chair, Lori Parker, they've helped many women pilots pursue careers with help from scholarships given by the 99s as well as other aviation organizations. Some of her mentees are flying for the airlines or are corporate pilots, others are career CFIs or engineers, all enjoying the love of flying, like Amelia Earhart (and Ceci!). Every one of them shares her love of aviation and now mentor others to follow similar paths.

With that passion to teach others about flying, Ceci has generously contributed financially to AOPA, EAA, and Women in Aviation International flight training scholarship programs. Moving into what Ceci calls “her senior years,” (Not age! But 50 years of flying!), she continues what she's best at; mentoring future pilots and aviation professionals.

Ceci remarked to me, “I am extremely proud to have achieved that milestone! I just had to celebrate and throw a party in March so I could celebrate the mutual joy of aviation with my many pilot friends and supporters.”

At her party, Ceci was presented the FAA Wright Brothers Master Award. Several of her former mentees spoke and her 'special mentee', Captain Genevieve Anonsen, an Air National Guard F-16 pilot, presented Ceci with the Award. (Genevieve won Ceci's AOPA scholarship in 2015, enabling her start in the military.)

Congratulations Ceci. You are a gem among aviators and we are so proud to call you a Ventura County Ninety-Nine!



VENTURA COUNTY 99S' JUDY PHELPS: A FULL CIRCLE IN FLIGHT

By Arpi Arabian

Judy Phelps' celebration on April 25 was a rare experience. You could feel it the moment you arrived. A hum of connection, laughter and memories, and something underneath it all; gratitude and calm.

The Flying Spoon stands on the very ground where Judy's aviation journey first began. To celebrate her 30 years in aviation in the same space where that first spark was lit felt like a quiet, beautiful full circle. Past and present were meeting, acknowledging all that has unfolded in between.

As I moved through the space, listening to stories being shared, something became clear. Judy doesn't just value connection; she lives it. I heard how paths had crossed because of her, how introductions became friendships, how a shared love of flying opened doors to relationships that may never have existed otherwise. She has used the gift of aviation not simply to take to the skies, but to bring people together on the ground. Judy has created a vibrant community that reflects a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and journeys.

When Judy received the Santa Paula Airport Association award, the room settled into a collective pause--a shared sense of appreciation. Applause followed, but not just for the award; for the years of service.

Then, the aerobatic demonstration by Sammy Mason and Josh Corr painted joy across the horizon. It was playful, daring, and alive; a reflection of Judy's spirit.

Judy's legacy isn't just measured in flight hours or achievements, though those are many. It lives in the spaces she has created, the people she has brought together, and the sense of home she has offered to so many. Judy has shown what it means to lead with heart.



CHAPTER NEWS

Rio Colorado Chapter

Spring was in the air as pilots up and down the Colorado River hopped in their airplanes to fly in the Rio Colorado 99s Flying Poker Run. Participants included 99s from other chapters, such as Phoenix 99s and Fullerton 99s, as well as local pilots, with over 50 poker hands sold. After picking up playing cards at the outlying airports-Needles, Sun Valley, Kingman, and Indian Hills- everyone met up in Lake Havasu to draw their last card, being judged for best hand, and enjoying a lunch of delicious tri tip, pulled pork & smoked chicken sliders, with all the fixin's, from Coach T's BBQ.



The annual event raises funds for the Don & Tookie Hensley Memorial Scholarship Fund. One of Tookie's greatest joys was being a flight instructor: "I still love being able to make someone's dream come true!" What better way to honor them than to continue giving the dream of flight in their name?

The Rio Colorado chapter awarded \$12,000 in scholarships at this year's poker run to four worthy student pilots to begin flight training. Mother-Daughter duo, Paola and Andrea DePaso, exemplify that it is never too late or too early to start flying and that aviation is a family-friendly pursuit. High school student Brice Chambers is striving to achieve his goal of becoming a commercial pilot, inspired by his late father's encouragement to chase his dream and do what he loves. Kelly Urich



Urich, who recently moved to Lake Havasu and was introduced to the 99s, is pursuing a dream that she once did not realize was possible. The Rio Colorado 99s take pride in supporting them on their journey.

Rio Colorado 99s extends heartfelt thanks to our incredible sponsors and partners that helped make the day possible: Velocity Aviation FBO LHC for partnering with us to provide the luncheon, along with a gift card for aviation fuel, and providing cool swag for giveaways. Appreciation is given to all who contributed to our aviation-related raffle basket: Velocity for the fuel, UniAviation for the headset case, AirCRAFT Spruce for a gift Card, Hangar 24 Restaurant for a gift card, a case of Aeroshell 100W aircraft oil from Aviatrix LLC, and donations from ACS Products, Red Onion, Havasu Olive & Garlic company, and many more. The collective support transformed the day into a meaningful fundraiser that will continue to uplift and inspire future generations of aviators.



POKER RUN & FLY IN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

POKER RUN 8:00AM-12:00PM

FLY-IN 12:00PM-4:30PM

HOSTED BY

BAKERSFIELD NINETY-NINES

OPEN TO ALL SOUTHEAST SECTION MEMBERS

POKER RUN INSTRUCTIONS

5 CARD RALLY

STARTS AT 8AM ANY AIRPORT

ENDS BY 12PM AT KBFL

FLY TO ALL AIRPORTS IN THE ORDER OF YOUR CHOOSING

AT EACH AIRPORT YOU WILL RECEIVE A POKER CARD SEALED IN AN ENVELOPE AND SOME LOCAL GOODIES.

cast



1 HAND	\$30
2 HANDS	\$55
3 HANDS	\$65



Airports

MKMIT: MINTER FIELD SHAFER

L45: BAKERSFIELD MUNICIPAL

LI9: WASCO AIRPORT

KDLO: DELANO AIRPORT



KBFL: BAKERSFIELD MEADOWS AIRPORT

-TAXI VIA A THEN EXIT A7 TO CAU RAMP

1450 BOUGHTON DRIVE

BAKERSFIELD, CA, 93308

Judging hands will take place during lunch.



EVENT SCHEDULE

11:00 - ARRIVALS + GROUP WELCOME

12:00-14:00 - LUNCH + MINGLE

14:00 - ANNOUNCEMENT POYER WINNERS + PRIZES

14:30 - GUEST SPEAKER IN ROOM 209

15:30-16:30 - SAFETY SEMINAR WINGS CREDIT

16:30 - COFFEE + TEA, DEPARTURES BEGIN

EACH PARTICIPANT
MUST PRE-REGISTER
BY THE DEADLINE.



*Register
Here*



Fall Section Meeting Registration is Open

Registration is now open for the 2026 Fall Southwest Section Meeting, taking place September 25–27, 2026, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

We're excited to bring members together for a weekend of fellowship, meetings, aviation, and fun in Las Vegas.

You can register now for the conference at:

<https://conferences.sws99s.org/events/2026-fall/>



Upcoming SWS and International Meetings

Date	Meeting	Host/Location
July 8-12, 2026	2026 International Conference	San Diego, CA Registration link
Sept 25-27, 2026	2026 Fall SWS Meeting	Host: Las Vegas Chapter Location: Las Vegas, NV Registration link
January 30, 2027	2027 SWS Winter Workshop	Host: Santa Clara Valley Chapter Location: San Carlos, CA
April 2-4, 2027	2027 Spring SWS Meeting	Hosts: Marin County & Santa Rosa Chapters Location: Petaluma, CA





OUR MISSION — THE NINETY-NINES® INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN PILOTS® PROMOTES ADVANCEMENT OF AVIATION THROUGH EDUCATION, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND MUTUAL SUPPORT WHILE HONORING OUR UNIQUE HISTORY AND SHARING OUR PASSION FOR FLIGHT.

SOUTHWESTERLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Feb 20 submissions due for the Spring issue
May 20 submissions due for the Summer issue
Aug 20 submissions due for the Fall issue
Nov 20 submissions due for the Winter issue

This newsletter is a publication of the Southwest Section of the Ninety-Nines. Forward submissions and photos to be included in the upcoming newsletter to southwesterly@sws99s.org

Editor
Laura Del Favero
Santa Clara Valley Chapter