



The Windsock

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International Organization of Women Pilots
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Push To Talk

I recently took a day off work to knock a little rust off so I can get back to my instrument training. I called on Candace who is a CFII and a member of our Chapter, and she graciously agreed to spend about 4 hours with me. I designed a flight plan that required 4 approaches (localizer, VOR with a DME arc, and 2 RNAV approaches for those who have done instrument training), along with a procedure turn and a hold at a VOR. They were relatively close together in Watsonville and Marina and then back to Reid Hillview, which meant I didn't have a lot of time between approaches and would be a bit task saturated. My goal was to see what I remembered and where I need improvement so I can practice with safety pilots and get ready to finish up my training.

Candace observed everything I did and probed me when I veered out of checkride tolerance when I didn't verbalize that I saw it happen. She took notes and gave me a great debrief so I could develop an action plan. I am grateful for her help. One of the benefits of being a member of the 99s is the connections we make with other pilots, the way we support each other, and the way we celebrate each other's accomplishments.

Speaking of celebrations, if you missed the Chapter picnic in August, you may not have heard that our Chapter Secretary, Sal, passed her checkride and is now a CFII! Way to go, Sal! Sal was my frequent safety pilot early on in my instrument training and I am impressed with how thoroughly she researches and learns topics. On my first instrument flight without my instructor, we did 4 instrument approaches on the way to a Chapter fly out to lunch and back and she was quite entertained with my poor approach into Redding, joking with the tower about it. She will be a great instructor.

Our next fly out will be to the Sacramento Executive Airport for EAA1714's Halloween Fly-In on Oct. 24 from 12pm – 4pm. The Sacramento Valley 99s will be there, so it's a great opportunity to meet 99s from the Sacramento Valley. Costumes are encouraged and EAA will have treats, activities, airplanes (that's us!) and food trucks. Let's support this EAA community event...and celebrate Laura's birthday which just happens to be that day! If you have an open seat, please consider offering it up to a student pilot or Chapter member without a plane. The more, the merrier.

I hope to see you soon!

Mary McEnroe
Chapter Chair
ChapterChair@SCV99s.org



Congratulations Sal!

Sal got her CFII rating this past August. Thanks to the SCV Chapter for their support!



August fly-in to Minden-Tahoe Airport



Taildragger Cafe at
Minden-Tahoe with the
Reno Area 99s

September Airport Days

Palo Alto Airport Day



Reid-Hillview Airport Community Day



International Forest of Friendship 2026

The International Forest of Friendship is a park in Atchison, Kansas that is a living, growing, memorial to the world history of aviation and aerospace. Founded by 99s with the city (which also hosts the house where Amelia Earhart was born) in 1976, the park has trees for all US states plus many countries. A cement plaque is put for each honoree near the sidewalk by the appropriate state or country tree. California has a redwood (very young, not sure the original tree made it in Kansas...).

This year, our chapter honored member Nancy Sliwa and her husband Steve into the Forest. Marcie Smith and Susan Larson (Rio Grande chapter) were there to support them along with several Reno 99s (Nancy's summer home). Nancy and Steve's stone was placed in the Nevada section of the forest by a Big Tooth Maple. This year's activities were especially nice as they celebrated the 50th year of the forest.

Friday 9/11 evening reception at the Amelia Earhart Hangar museum at Atchison Airport, which has a nice pictorial picture of Amelia's life and a replica plane of the one she was lost in over the Pacific. There was also a very nice ceremony to remember the victims and rescuers of 9/11 by the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars).

Saturday 9/12 at the Forest: Parade of flags, induction of Honorees, a picnic lunch for all; followed by activities for children at the park. There were 53 inductees this year, all with amazing stories.

Saturday 9/12 evening 50th Anniversary Gala at the Atchison Event Center. A lovely buffet with two speakers (both honorees this year): Carol Foy who with Carol Anne Garratt flew around the world in 2008 in a Mooney 201 in only 8 days to raise money for ALS; and Lt. General Kirk Pierce, who told a very interesting story of flying for United on 9/11 and is a great proponent of the Civil Air Patrol.

Check out ifof.org for more information.



Nancy and Steve accepting their award

International Forest of Friendship 2026

Nancy and Steve's story:

Steve and Nancy Sliwa exemplify a lifetime devotion to aviation, aerospace innovation, and service to the global flying community. Together, their careers reflect the breadth of aviation—from soaring and air racing to advanced aerospace research, education, and leadership.

Steve Sliwa's aviation journey began early, soloing gliders as a teenager and becoming a Certified Flight Instructor by age 18 and a Designated Pilot Examiner by 21. With more than 55 years of flying experience and over 6,000 flight hours, he holds commercial and instructor ratings in airplanes, multi-engine aircraft, gliders, and instruments, and is type-rated in the Cirrus Vision Jet. An aerospace engineer by training, Dr. Sliwa earned degrees from Princeton University and Stanford University, followed by a master's in management from Stanford's Graduate School of Business. His career includes pioneering work at NASA in aircraft design and adaptive control systems, leadership as President of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and entrepreneurship as the CEO of Insitu, growing the company from inception to a global aerospace enterprise later acquired by Boeing. He is an Associate Fellow of the AIAA and a former chair of its GN&C Technical Committee.

Nancy Sliwa's aviation roots trace back to her upbringing as the daughter of a U.S. Navy pilot, with childhood years spent on air bases around the world. A computer scientist and robotics researcher, she worked at NASA's Langley, Ames, and Kennedy centers in artificial intelligence and space robotics. Nancy began flying in 1989 and has logged more than 2,500 hours, earning instrument and glider ratings and is type-rated in the Cirrus Vision Jet. A passionate advocate for women in aviation, she has competed in numerous national air races, holds a National Aeronautic Association speed record, flew Angel Flight missions, and has been a devoted member and mentor within The Ninety-Nines for more than three decades. Today, Steve and Nancy reside near Minden, Nevada, where aviation remains central to their lives and community.



Nancy and Steve by their stone in the park. Nancy is holding a "moon" tree – a sapling from an American Maple tree that was grown from a seed carried to the moon on Apollo 14 by Command Module pilot Stuart Roosa. The tree is in the park and has a circle of plaques around it to honor the 17 astronauts who died advancing space exploration.



The trip to and from Atchison was especially fun (and comfortable) as we flew out in the Sliwa's vision jet from Minden, picking up Susan Larson in Santa Fe.

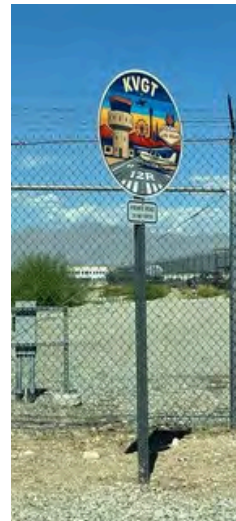
Photos from the Southwest Section Meeting in Las Vegas



LAS Tower and TRACON



VGT Tower



Venetian



Rio Hotel and Casino



New York



Paris



The Sphere



HALLOWEEN FLY-IN

SACRAMENTO EXECUTIVE AIRPORT
— SAC —



FLY IN
COSTUMES

SPOOKY
TREATS

AIRPLANES
& FUN

ALL PILOTS
WELCOME



10/24/2026

— 12PM – 4PM —

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25% Aircraft Ownership Opportunity



Cessna 182Q (1978)
Based at KSJC (San Jose, CA)

-
- 25% ownership share
 - last annual 04/08/2026
 - Garmin GTN650 WAAS GPS
 - JPI EDM 730 Engine monitor
 - Four-owner partnership
 - \$35,000
 - TSO 802.9hrs
 - TTA 5358.5hrs
-

Interested in learning more?

We're looking for a qualified pilot who is interested in aircraft ownership and becoming part of an established partnership.

Email: N618MK@gmail.com

Additional information, operating costs, partnership details, and aircraft records available to qualified/interested buyers.

CHAPTER BOARD 2025-2027

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- Airmarking:** Marcie Smith
- Scholarships:** Debby Cunningham/Maki Yu
- Forest of Friendship:** Pat Gregory
- Tech Committee/Website:** Pat Gregory, Susan Tilley, Nisha, Maki Yu, Candace Le, Mary McEnroe

CHAPTER DONATIONS

You can make a donation to the chapter to help offset costs of running the chapter. The chapter suggests an annual donation in the amount of \$15.

You now have the option to donate via Venmo (QR code below).

If you'd like to make a donation, you can pay via PayPal or by check. Make check out to SCV99s. Email Treasurer Maki Yu for PayPal instructions or mailing address: treasurer@scv99s.org



Upcoming SWS and International Meetings

Date	Meeting	Host/Location
Jan 30, 2027	2027 Winter Workshop	Host chapter: Santa Clara Valley Location: San Carlos, CA
Apr 2-4, 2027	2027 Spring Section Meeting	Host chapters: Marin County and Santa Rosa Location: Petaluma, CA
Seot 10-11, 2027	2027 International Conference	Location: Sydney, Australia



The Windsock Information and Deadlines

To our members, please send me your ideas, articles, and photos for the newsletter.

Article Due Dates:

- The Windsock is delivered bimonthly
- The due date for articles is the **last day** of even-numbered months (**Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, and Oct**)

Preferred Content Format:

- Please provide articles in Word docs or as text within an email
- Photos as picture files (not in the document or body of an email) preferred

Thank you,

Editor

Laura Del Favero

newsletter@scv99s.org