



The Windsock

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International Organization of Women Pilots
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Push To Talk

Hello to my community of fellow aviators!

Last year at this time I was thinking of New Year's resolutions, or at least things I wanted to do from a flying perspective.

My list was renew/maintain night currency, fly some practice approaches, take advantage of CAP emergency procedures clinic, finish checking out in the club T206, and schedule commercial check ride. Well, how did I do?

1. I did get night current, but didn't maintain it through the summer. I'm current at the moment but need to do so more night flying to maintain it and stay proficient.
2. I was able to stay instrument current and proficient throughout the year, including flying an approach to minimums at FOT and not seeing the ground/airport and having to go missed. Sometimes those forecasts for when coastal airports are expected to clear are a little off.
3. I not only did the CAP EP clinic, but got approved as a mentor pilot so I can help other members fly in the EP clinic. Kind of fun!
4. The whole T206 checkout story is kind of sad—delayed due to weather, aircraft in maintenance, and then other priorities. I hope to finally get to that this coming year.
5. I did finally get my commercial check ride done in May. After almost 35 years since my private.

So, not so bad.

But, the biggest accomplishment was earning my CFI, on the first try!

So, now I need to put my list together for next year, but I'm looking for some ideas. Check out as an instructor pilot for CAP? Fly to OSH? How about Burlington for the national conference? Any air races we can apply to? Or getting my first student to solo? So many possibilities.

What's on your list?

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Mystery Flight - September 15

By Laura Del Favero

Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in the mystery flight. The weather was a challenge but we had five airplanes fly the mystery flight and five airplanes meet at Hollister Airport for lunch (not exactly the same five airplanes).

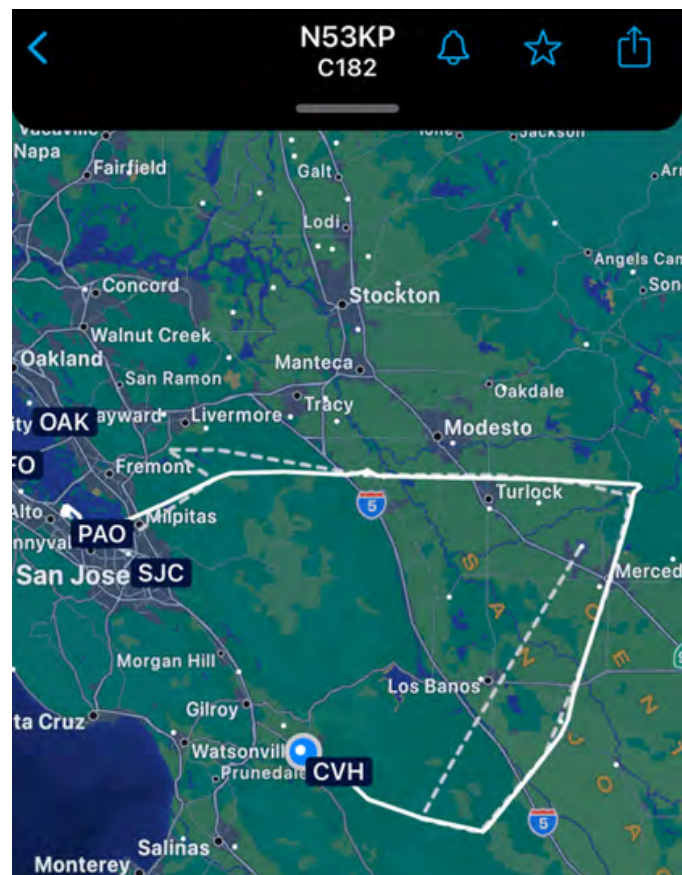
The participants included Mary and her airplane partner, Louise and Miguel, Diane and Chuck, Maki and Nissa, and Jennifer with her husband and son. Nancy flew down from Minden to join us for lunch, but did not fly the mystery flight.

We had a total of 12 people join us for lunch at CVH including Marcie, Laura, Nancy, Louise, Miguel, Maki, Nissa, Diane, Chuck, and Jennifer (+husband and son).

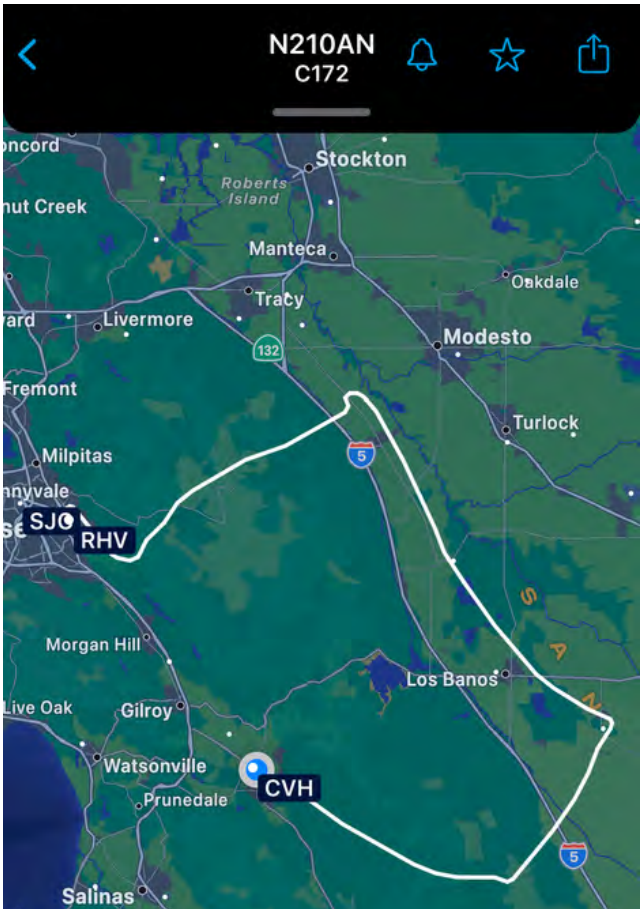
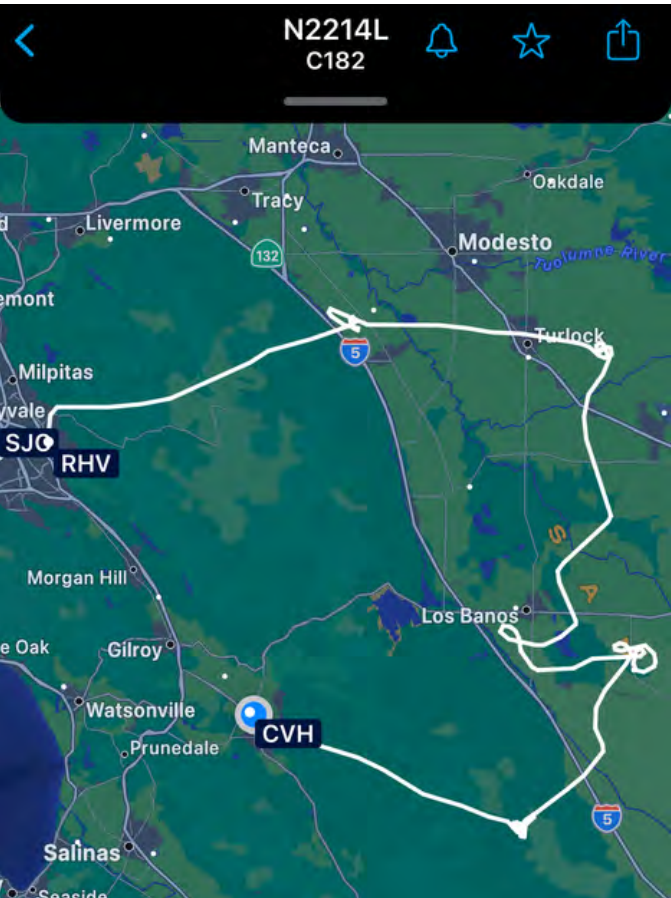
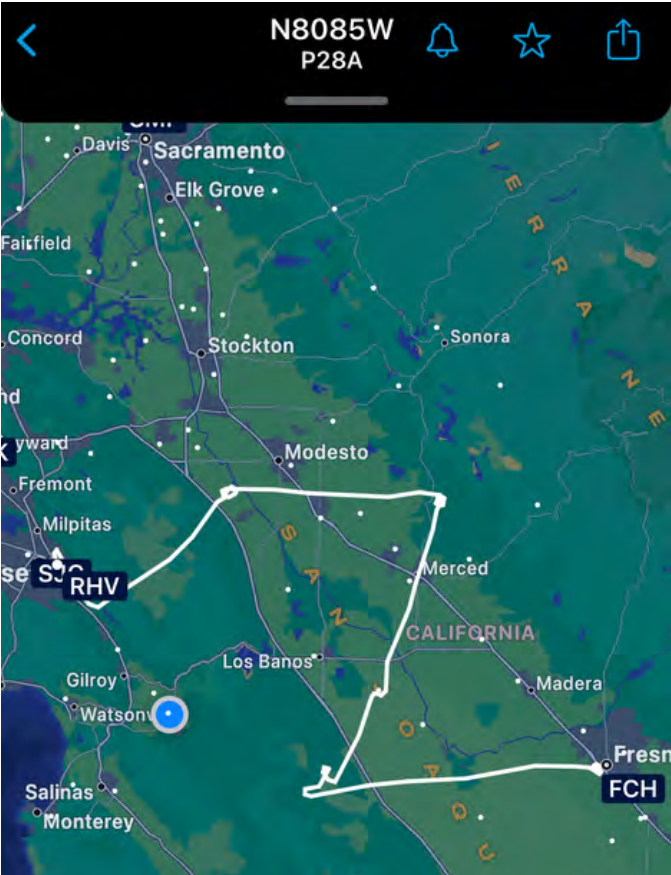
Mary was not able to join us for lunch at CVH. She double-booked, and ended up doing a Pilots N Paws flight following the mystery flight. She deserves extra credit for that!

By all accounts, everyone had fun on the flight. We plan to do this again next year. Please look for announcements and plan to join us.

Below are some screenshots of flight tracks from the airplanes participating in the mystery flight.



Mystery Flight - September 15



Congratulations Louise

our newest CFI!



Reno Air Show

By Marcie Smith

Last year was the last year of the Reno Air Races. This year rounded out 60 years of Reno Air Races/Shows. The races are moving to Roswell, NM starting next year. But as a goodbye-to-fast-and-loud airplanes, there was a Reno Air Show this year at Stead Airport and it was a blast!

The Reno Area 99s have always run the information booth at the races, and they ran the booth at the airshow this year. Since Nancy Sliwa lives near Reno in the summers, she has supported their booth for the last few years and she and I both worked the booth this year on Saturday morning, allowing us to do the airshow all afternoon. The weather was perfect and the show was great.

Highlights were the Canadian Snowbirds, a fleet of 9 CT-114 jets that do formations and solo shots across the runway and the show finale, the Blue Angels in their F-18s. I hadn't seen the Snowbirds or the Angels in years and it was very fun.

There were good crowds and I was sad to hear that the show would not become an annual event. But thanks for this year!



Snowbirds



Blue Angels

India Section Meeting 12/01 – 12/10/24

By Sue Ballew

This is the fourth Section Meeting overseas that I have attended, and it didn't disappoint. Three members from Santa Clara Valley participated: Leslie Ingham, a stalwart, Debby Cunningham, and me. There were approximately one hundred 99s from 14 countries.

After a 17-hour flight on Air India and a little recuperating, we started the conference with "The Conclave". It was a full day of aviation speakers, presenters, and awards. Captain Nivedita Bhasin, International Director and Governor of the India 99s, gave the welcome address. This was followed by a panel of women airline pilots, founding members of the India 99s, and two women pilots flying for Bhutan Airlines who fly one of the most dangerous approaches in the world into Paro, Bhutan. (hmm-now on my list of places to visit). Fanni Pajer, from Austria, always the entertainer, described her complex solo flights across the seven seas delivering Diamond Aircraft. And IndiGo of India hopes to have 20-30% women pilots in the near future. Currently India has close to 16% women pilots. Each speaker was ceremoniously given a token of appreciation.

We then enjoyed a lovely lunch outside in comfortable 70-degree weather before heading back to hear from the Secretary of Civil Aviation and the Union Minister of Civil Aviation. We watched and enjoyed a fabulous multimedia dance production of Warrior Women of Bharat.



India Section Meeting 12/01 – 12/10/24

Continued

The next day we set out aboard our three buses for a city tour of Old and New Delhi, including a rickshaw ride and a drive past the Red Fort.

Then it was off to Agra and the Taj Mahal. The structure and beautiful marble are just as spectacular as you have heard and seen in pictures. Nearby we visited a marble inlay workshop where many of us spent way too much money. A production explaining the history of the Taj topped off the day.

The following day we drove to Bharatpur and the Bird Sanctuary with an enormous 350 species of birds. Nivedita treated me and my traveling partner Laurie Strand, along with Mohini Schroff to a boat ride within the sanctuary. It was to commemorate the origination of the idea of the conference which started with a conversation in Jordan in 2019 between me, Corbi Bullock, and Nivedita. Corbi and I eagerly encouraged her to host this conference. Anything is possible from one conversation. That evening we had an impressive bonfire with fire dancers and dinner at our hotel, the historic Laxmi Vilas Palace, Bharatpur, built in 1857.

Enroute to Jaipur the next day, we visited the famous Stepwells (wells with steps to retrieve water) and received a blessing at the Temple of Happiness. That evening we rested up for our early morning hot air balloon ride over the hills and fields of Jaipur. Upon landing we were greeted by groups of local farmers and a very enthusiastic dog. It was a big deal. This was my second balloon ride during one of these overseas sections. The first was at Wadi Rum in Jordan over the beautiful sand dunes. Both were awesome and memorable. We also drove by and went to several other historic sites including Amber Fort, where I finally got to see a couple of snake charmers – yes there were cobras in the baskets.

Throughout the trip the food was abundant with several expansive dinners with the final gala dinner complete with all of us wearing the traditional saree provided by the tour company.

I had the pleasure of meeting and hanging out with Mohini Shroff, one of the founding members of the India Section which was chartered in 1976.

Nivedita and her crew really outdid themselves. I can only imagine how much work and planning went into this conference. I always leave these events inspired with new ideas and places to see. One gigantic bonus of being a 99.





Chapter Holiday Party

By Pat Gregory

What a wonderful time we had at this year's Holiday Party on December 12. Twenty-five aviators and families got together to celebrate at The Three Flames Restaurant in San Jose. We were regaled with delightful live music from John and Liz Alsop. The food was its usual very good quality and quite filling. Our gift exchange was fun and went rather quickly this year as there were very few challenges. Best of all, we collected five full bags of toys to donate - thanks to Marcie who got them to the Santa Clara Fire Fighters for distribution. It was so nice to have some of our student pilots join in and it's always a treat to have little ones running around. It bodes well for our future as a chapter. Please plan to join in next year - you can't beat the camaraderie and community feeling.



Chapter Flyout Schedule



Join us Thursday, January 16, 2025, at West Valley Flying Club to help us plan our monthly flyouts for 2025!

Date	Destination	Contact
January 11, 2025	Whale watch flight (WVI)	Pat Gregory plowers@pacbell.net

November Flyout to San Luis Obispo

By Pat Gregory

What I love about California is how many awesome flying days there are each year. Even with over-the-top heat a few weeks ago to chilly, frosty mornings now, there are still many hours of CAVU flying. Saturday, 11/16 was one of them. Beautiful clear skies, very mild turbulence, lots of sunshine and hardly anyone else in the air. So I took off in 8MK with plane partner Leslie and good flying buddy Louise and headed to SBP (San Luis Obispo) on the central coast. And Debby took Sunni in her cool plane 61N. We parked in front of the Spirit of St Louis restaurant right on the field and dined in the picturesque room with windows all around so we could watch the airport activity as we enjoyed some really good fish and chips among other dishes. We were a small group, only 5 of us in two planes, but mighty and were so sorry that more 99s had not joined in.



Hope to see you all next year; I'm sure this one will go on our monthly flyin list.

December Flyout

By Pat Gregory

Due to the weather forecasts for Saturday, December 14, we were unable to fly anywhere. However, we came up with a delightful alternative.

We all went to brunch at the Country Gourmet 13114 Mary Ave in Sunnivale meeting at 10:45am. After lunch, we traveled the short distance to the Moffett Field Historical Society Museum on Severyns Avenue in Sunnyvale, very near Hangar One. For a small \$10 admission; \$8 for seniors, we had a wonderful time. Arriving a noon, there was plenty of time to take it all in. The museum was pretty good including a WASP display and other women aviators as well as other interesting stuff. Also there is a nice swag shop. Everyone found it a good alternative to flying somewhere for lunch, and we plan to return.

Santa Rosa Chapter Fundraiser

By Debby Cunningham

On October 25 Marcie Smith and Debby Cunningham flew into Santa Rosa to attend the poker tournament sponsored by the Santa Rosa 99 chapter. Valerie Suberg, chairwoman of the chapter invited us to come, and made sure we were royally welcomed!

We arrived early afternoon with time to visit one of the local wineries, Ferrari-Carano. The grounds and mansion were very beautiful, it was a most enjoyable afternoon of tasting and enjoying the gorgeous scenery.

We then headed back to the airport for the tournament which was held in the Sonoma jet center hangar. It was beautifully decorated for a casino night, Marcie and I got some taco truck tacos, a drink and our chips. Then we settled in to lose all of our chips. Neither one of us are poker players, but it was sure fun trying. We both won at least one hand, which was very thrilling.

A company called Pivotal was there with a simulator that we both did. It's a personal use type craft that takes off vertically then flies similar to a plane and lands vertically by autopilot. It would make a great commute vehicle. It was very fun to try and very realistic. I just can't imagine a 1000 of these in the air flying around!

This was their chapter's second poker tournament to raise funds for their scholarships. They are quite successful and a lot of fun. They involve a lot of the Aviation community members and get a lot of donations. Perhaps next year our chapter can do an overnight flyin to support them. And have a great time too!



Losing our chips



Debby, Valerie, Marcie



Gardens at the winery



Debby on the sim

Back to the Future

SWS Winter Workshop

Hosted by: the SWS Board and Antelope Valley Chapter



Saturday, January 25th, 2025

at the

Hilton Garden Inn, Palmdale CA

General Aviation Flights into KWJF, Lancaster, CA

Registration: \$70.00 includes materials & lunch

Hotel Rate: \$110.00

Contact: Lynn Hsia 626.484.2898; lkhsia@aol.com

CHAPTER BOARD 2023-2025

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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: nowasabiplease@gmail.com



Upcoming SW Section and International Meetings

Date	Meeting	Host/Location
January 25, 2025	2025 SW Section Winter Workshop	Host chapter: Antelope Valley Location: Palmdale, CA
March 28-30, 2025	2025 Spring SW Section Meeting	Hosts: Rio Colorado Chapter and SWS Location: Laughlin, NV
July 9-13, 2025	2025 Annual Conference	Burlington, VT
TBD	2025 Fall SW Section Meeting	Host Chapter: Monterey Bay Location: Monterey, CA



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

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