



The Windsock

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International Organization of Women Pilots
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Push To Talk

I've been an active member of the Santa Clara Valley 99s since I started as a student pilot just over 10 years ago. I've met many Chapter members, but for those who don't yet know me, I'd like to introduce myself as the new Chapter Chair. I earned my private pilot's certificate in January 2017 and soon after, became our Chapter's student pilot mentor. Having recently finished training, it was a great way for me to give back and to provide support to others in their initial training, and I have loved celebrating the success of these student pilots, some who have now gone on to earn advanced ratings!

As for me, I've flown for fun and for charity doing Pilots n Paws missions. I earned my seaplane rating in 2022. I attempted it at Alaska Floats & Skis in Talkeetna, Alaska and I learned a lot, but weather didn't cooperate and I was unable to take my checkride before I had to return home. A few months later, I headed to Kenmore Air in Seattle and was able to finish up. Flying on floats is the most fun I've ever had while training, and I highly recommend it! Not only is it fun, but you also learn skills that help with flying land planes as well. I wrote an article for the Seaplane Pilots Association Training Guide on the topic to help others see the benefits of earning a seaplane rating.

In 2023, I turned 50 years old and I wanted to accomplish some new things leading up to my 50th year. While the timing fell after my birthday, I finally was able to compete in my first air race. At one of our Chapter meetings, I asked if anyone had done the Palms to Pines race and Debby Cunningham offered to be my partner. It was a lot of fun and another great learning experience. I'd highly recommend it.

My instrument rating has been elusive due to a variety of factors, including financial, the pandemic, the plane going down for a year while waiting for a new engine, and then the death of my mother. I finally started training in January and had hoped to be done the first half of the year, but it was not meant to be. Weather delays for icing and thunderstorms (which we hardly ever see), maintenance issues, a seven week annual, and then an injury have all slowed me down, but I hope to finish up before the end of the year.



Push To Talk Continued

We've started celebrating Chapter member achievements with cupcakes and our meetings and the pressure is on to get that rating so everyone can have cupcakes. Most recently, we celebrated Nicole Laberta (instrument rating), Sal Valdes (instrument rating), and Louise Mateos (CFI and CFII ratings). If you're working on a rating, let us know when you pass so we can celebrate you, too!

As both the Chapter Chair and the Membership Chair, I'm interested in other ways to get members more involved with our Chapter, so if you have ideas, please send them to me or to one of the other board members. We're talking about starting a scholarship and looking for other ways we can connect outside of the meetings and monthly fly ins. We're also investigating ways to make the meetings work better on Zoom, as the audio has been a challenge. Meeting in person is best for building connections, but we realize it isn't always possible for everyone.

I hope to see more of you at the upcoming meetings.

Mary McEnroe
Chapter Chair
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Welcome Our Incoming Chapter Board for 2025-2027

Chair: Mary McEnroe
Vice-Chair: Louise Mateos
Treasurer: Maki Yu
Secretary: Sal
Director: Nancy Sliwa
Nominating Committee: Pat Gregory and Carol Munch

Welcome



Upcoming Fly-ins

July 19, San Luis Obispo
August 16, Minden



Chapter Anniversary Picnic

August 14
Portal Park, Cupertino

Member Milestones

Nisha Radtke - Private Pilot

Loiuse Mateos - CFII

Susan Delgado is the new President of the American Bonanza Society - the first woman president in 57 years!

Joan Li was awarded a scholarship by the Bay Cities Chapter

Nicole Laberta - Commercial



From Sal....In April I took my instrument checkride at KHND...and passed! My instructor, Frankie, supported my learning style and helped me develop a method to stay ahead of the plane during procedures.

Hi everyone,

My name is Cathy, and I'm a new member of the Santa Clara Valley 99s.

Last week, I flew solo for the very first time as a student pilot! I'd love to share my excitement with you as I celebrate this big milestone in my flight training.

My aviation journey began over a year ago. I had no idea how challenging—and rewarding—it would be. I logged over 90 hours before my solo—more than most. Weather delays, changing multiple instructors, and simply building confidence all took time. There were days I felt like I'd never get there. But every flight taught me something.

Then, on a clear day, my instructor stepped out, and it was just me and the plane. I was very nervous, but ready. And I safely landed the plane all by myself!

This journey has taught me patience, discipline, and trust in myself. Big thanks to my current instructor, Eugene—I couldn't have come this far without you. I'm so grateful to be part of a community of inspiring women pilots, and I look forward to learning, growing, and flying with you all!

P.S. I made a short YouTube [video](#) to capture the highlights of my solo flight—feel free to check it out!

Warmly,
Cathy

Congratulations!



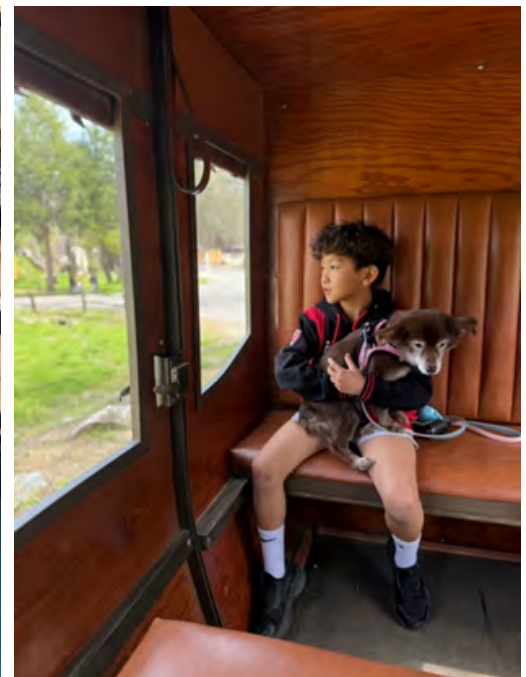
Columbia Fly-In Camping Trip

by Maki Yu



We had great weather in early April and made it out to Columbia Airport (O22) for a fly-in camping trip. It was organized by the CFIs working at Aerodynamic Aviation in KRHV. A total of 16 planes flew in, and we had a great time. I brought my husband Eddie, my son Senna and our dog Cookie. It was her first flight, and she did not like the climb out. Maybe it was the pressure, because she seemed more comfortable when I shallowed our climb.

She did well for the rest of the flight. Our family flew in earlier in the day to explore the little city of Columbia. Senna got to do some gold panning, we rode a stagecoach, and had some ice cream. In the early evening, more of the group started showing up, and we pitched our tent right next to our parked plane. It was my first time fly-in camping- it was so cool! Many people brought plenty of food to share, and the festivities continued through the evening.



Member Activities

From Debby -

A friend who enjoys finding aircraft wreckage gave me and a friend information about how to find a McDonnell F2H Banchee aircraft that's off Skyline Boulevard. The short history is that it was a flight of two going into Alameda and started their descent into fog and rain. The first one unfortunately hit the dirt (CFIT) but the second one immediately pulled up. The year was 1959, before many of the terrain warning devices we have today.

The pilots body and any "sensitive" parts were taken out, but the rest of the aircraft was left in the middle of the forest. There are no trails or markers so we "bush whacked" our way for 2 1/2 hours until we came upon the wreck. It was very surreal to see this and made me appreciate that my airplane will tell me "terrain terrain pull up pull up"....



Member Activities

From Sue - Mountain checkout with student



Nancy Sliwa and Marcie Smith flew recently with instructor Bruce Campbell for their annual Instrument Proficiency Checks (required by the insurance company for the Cirrus SR22T). They flew to and from Minden and did approaches at Chico, Willows, Marysville, Auburn, and South Lake Tahoe.



June Fly-in to Porterville



June Chapter Meeting

We attended a short talk about the Bristell B23 Energetic, the first fully electric two-seater aircraft to be certified under Part 23. The airplane is currently on a tour through the US. It was at the Palo Alto Airport from June 16-25.



Bristell B23 Energic

by Sue Ballew

I had the privilege of taking a demo flight at Palo Alto Airport in the Bristell B23 Energic H55
<https://across-usa.h55.ch/b23-energic/>

It is the first to be certified Part-23 Electric Trainer Aircraft. It was sooo quiet and super easy to fly the stick. Palo Alto Airport has most of the infrastructure in place for charging - thanks to the upgrades over the last 5 years. Currently it has about 70 minutes of endurance but will be about 90 when the first aircraft are available in the US in 2027. I drive an EV, why not fly one too!

Preflight



Taxiing Out



Bristell B23 Energic

Shaking hands with Andre Borschberg,
the pilot for Solar Impulse



The Crew



Kristen Jurn, North American Sales
Manager- a 99 from Miami



The battery pack



 *everyone is welcome to our*

SCV99s
Annual Potluck
 Picnic in the Park

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

5 pm to 8pm at Portal Park in Cupertino

**It's time for our annual potluck picnic at
Portal Park**

Join us on Thursday, August 14, at Portal Park.
**Bring your family and friends, bring some food and
drinks to share, and enjoy a summer afternoon
with your fellow 99s**

**RVSP to Pat Gregory so we can get a
head count. Thank you!**



Chapter Flyout Schedule

Date	Location	Host
July	San Luis Obispo (SBP)	OPEN
August	Minden (MEV)	Nancy Sliwa
September	Oceano (L52)	Louise Mateos
October	Shelter Cove (0Q5)	Nicole Laberta
November	Harris Ranch (3O8)	Pat/Laura/Marcie
December	Nevada County (GOO)	Diane Gaskill

Please join us for our next fly-in.

In May, we flew to Willows and met at Nancy's Cafe.



CHAPTER BOARD 2025-2027

- Chair** Mary McEnroe
- Vice-Chair** Louise Mateos
- Treasurer** Maki Yu
- Secretary** Sal
- Director** Nancy Sliwa
- Nominating Committee**
 - Pat Gregory
 - Carol Munch

CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Membership & Student Pilots:** Mary McEnroe
- Windsock:** Laura Del Favero
- Flying Activities:** Pat Gregory
- Airmarking:** Marcie Smith
- Scholarships:** Debby Cunningham
- Forest of Friendship:** Pat Gregory
- Tech Committee/Website:** Pat Gregory, Susan Tilley, Nisha, Maki Yu

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 SWS and International Meetings

Date	Meeting	Host/Location
July 9-13, 2025	2025 International Conference	Location: Burlington, VT Registration link
October 2-5, 2025	2025 Fall SW Section Meeting	Host chapter: Monterey Bay Location: Monterey, CA Registration link
January 2026	2026 Winter Workshop	Host chapter: Palomar



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

ladelfavero@gmail.com