

Monterey Bay 99s

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Logbook

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Whale Watching 2010



At least one plane managed to participate in Santa Clara Valley Chapter's annual Whalewatch on January 10th. Unfortunately airports in the Santa Clara Valley were fogged in despite the beautiful weather on the Monterey Bay. Here Theresa Levandoski-Byers gets ready to take her plane up along with Carolyn Dugger. They were able to see three different pods of whales during their flight. The picture to the right shows two pods of whales near Davenport.

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February Chapter Meeting

The MB99s February chapter meeting will begin at 7pm at the EAA hangar on Wednesday, Feb. 17. Mona Kendrick will give a talk on aviator Janet Bragg (see p. 3). Exit Hwy 1 at Airport Blvd., go toward hills, turn left after 3rd stoplight (Hangar Way) onto Aviation Way, proceed past WVI terminal and Zuniga's restaurant. EAA hangar and parking lot is on the left.

Monterey Bay Chapter Officers

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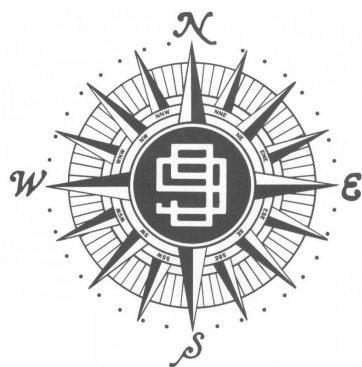
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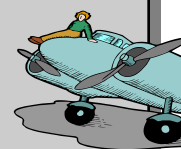
Carolyn Dugger

Hospitality chair:

Jody Roberts



Prop Wash By Michaelae Serasio



Dear Monterey Bay Ninety Nines,

So sorry that we did not have a meeting in January. That must be a first. Mother Nature was giving us well deserved wet weather. I feel bad as Joanne and Geneva had some wonderful refreshments to share with us! We also missed Mona Kendrick speaking about Janet Bragg, the first black woman to get a pilots license.

Have no fear -- we will get to hear Mona speak at the February meeting. We also can catch up with the business meeting.

Let us do something special this Valentine month. Take your favorite sweetheart flying before the next meeting! When we do our introductions we will report what and where we flew. Associate pilots can report the *planning of the trip* they would take their sweetheart on. This is your homework assignment!

Listen to the news: the reports about commercial airliners making diversions because of lightening strikes, birds in engines and unruly passengers make me proud that these pilots are professionals that provide the correct judgment as pilot-in-command to do the right thing to save hundreds of lives in their care. I am proud to call myself pilot. I'm proud to be surrounded by women who also are proud to call themselves pilots.

Sincerely,
Michaelae

From Time Magazine's 50 Best Websites of 2009

A man, a helicopter and a digital camera: those three elements combine to create one of the most engrossing sites on the Web. There's nothing fancy about California Coastline's execution or interface. The site is simply what it claims to be: 10,000 up-close-and-personal aerial shots of the entire 1,000-mile-long coast. . . . The site is catnip for daydream-prone cubicle dwellers, though it's definitely NSFW.

We are perhaps a little late in acknowledging the recognition given to Gab and Ken Adelman's website last August by Time Magazine. Many of you will remember when they flew the entire California coast in their helicopter photographing the coastline for the California Coastal Records Project. It would have been little more accurate if the article had said "A woman, a man. . . ." An article about their project was featured in the Ninety-Nine News in 2002.

Upcoming Programs

The Monterey Bay Chapter is full of talented women. Just look at the presentations scheduled for the next two meetings. You won't want to miss them.

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Mona Kendrick (our most excellent historian) will give a talk on aviator Janet Bragg. See below for background information on Bragg:

Janet Harmon Bragg (1907-1993)



Janet Bragg enrolled in Aeronautical University ground school in 1933, taking courses in aeronautics, meteorology, and aircraft mechanics. However, the school owned no airplanes and could not offer actual flight training. So Bragg decided to buy an airplane that she could not only learn to fly but could also rent out to other pilots to defray the cost. The next problem was locating an airfield that would let her operate her plane and learn to fly.

This proved to be quite difficult since black fliers were not allowed to fly out of airports used by whites. The solution: she and her classmates and instructors formed the Challenger Aero Club, purchased land in the all-black town of Robbins, Illinois, and built their own airfield.

In 1943 Bragg applied for duty with the Women Airforce Service Pilots but was rejected because of her race. She attended instead the Civilian Pilot Training Program flight school at Tuskegee, Alabama, intending to obtain a commercial pilot's license. She successfully completed the course work and flight tests, but was prevented from receiving her license by a bigoted instructor.

Not to be deterred, she went to Chicago, where she passed the examination and earned the first commercial pilot's license ever issued to a black woman.

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Nic Kinsman (Monterey Bay Chapter member and PhD candidate at UCSC) will show us how to make sense of the terrain below us as we fly.

Geology From the Air



One of the best ways to learn about our planet is to view it from the skies. Since the invention of the hot air balloon, scientists and amateur observers have been able to marvel at the Earth's landforms in a way that was never before possible. We will take a light journey through the history of aerial remote sensing (that's science-talk for "examining the earth from above") beginning with Gaspard Felix Tournachon's first aerial photograph of the Bievre Valley in France in 1858.

Along the way I will talk a little about how my earth science research at UCSC relies on aerial data. We will also talk about basic geomorphology (the science of landforms) while learning how to recognize features such as types of coastal geology, fault indicators, fluvial systems, mountain building and desert landforms from the air. I'll teach you some terms for things you probably already see out the windscreen all the time so you can sound like an expert next time you take your passengers up. Hopefully my presentation will spur some fun discussion about our own earth observing experiences because, let's face it, flying a plane beats Google Earth any day!



2010 is definitely here. It is time to start making your plans for attending this year's International Conference on the Big Island of Hawaii, July 5-9. The upcoming issue of the 99 News will have the schedule, printed registration form, and further information.

Any changes, announcements, etc. will be posted on the 99s E-mail forum, so be sure that everyone that you know who is going or planning to go has joined that forum.

The website for the Conference is www.ninetynines.net/hawaii2010.

**Chapter dues are \$15. Make check payable to
Monterey Bay 99s and send to
Sarah Chauvet , 147 Mesa Verde Dr , Watsonville, CA 95076
Our local dues run from June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010
(If you don't see your name below, you haven't paid this year.)**

Gabrielle Adelman
Earline Arnold
Laura Barnett
Gigi Brisson
Sarah Chauvet
Donna Crane-Bailey
Geneva Cranford
Kryss Crocker
Carolgene Dierolf

Teri Mantz
Jo Dieser
Carolyn Dugger
Mary Ellen Eisemann
Jeanne Hendrickson
Ginger Hobbs
Mona Kendrick
Nic Kinsman
Joanne Nissen

Pamela O'Brien
Diana Peterson
Sandy Pratt
Ann Sanchez
Mary Saylor
Michael Serasio
Jill Smith
Alice Talnack
Dena Taylor

International Forest of Friendship

Trying to think of a way to honor someone who has made a contribution to aviation? Has your chapter considered nominating someone for the Forest of Friendship? Located in Atchison, Kansas, the birthplace of Amelia Earhart, it is a growing memorial and testament to those who have helped make the dream of flight possible. The focus this year at the Forest will be on Forests and Flying, paying special attention to those who help keep fires at bay, as well as patrol the skies above many of our majestic woodlands and national parks. Nominees' flying does not have to fit into this criterion; anyone whom you feel has made a contribution to aviation is welcome. For more information, forms, schedule of this year's celebration, list of former nominees, directions, etc. please visit the Forest's website at <http://www.ifof.org>. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, as well. The deadline for all applications is April 15 (tax day--easy to remember!).

Laurie Probst, 99s IFOF Committee Chair
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Mary Doherty, Donna Crane-Bailey and Alice Talnack posing with statue of Amelia Earhart at the International Forest of Friendship in 2007

MB99S 2010 REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

Feb	Sarah Chauvet
Mar	Donna Crane-Bailey
Apr	Michael Serasio
May	Open
June	Nic Kinsman



Welcome, New Members



Lauren Bellone joined the Monterey Bay Chapter in December. She is a student pilot and high school student. Her goals include becoming a military pilot.



Ginger Hobbs, shown here at Oshkosh with partner Gryphon, also joined the Chapter in December. She is currently working on her private pilot certificate and is an occupational therapist.

WASP Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony To Be Held March 10

During the last few days, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's office (TX) has announced the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony for the WASP will take place on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. in the U.S. Capitol. We are hoping as many WASP and WAFS who are able to travel will attend the ceremony which is to take place in the Rotunda of the Capitol. Congressional staff, WIMSA, military representatives and others are working to make this the event of a lifetime for the WASP. Due to the overwhelming number of family members anticipated to attend, attendance at the ceremony and in the "overflow" rooms where the ceremony will be televised for family, is by invitation only.

We should know in a few days if the ceremony will also be televised, perhaps on CSPAN. For further information and to share in the excitement, please go to Sen. Hutchison's Senate web site, <http://hutchison.senate.gov/WASP.html>

And be sure to, once again, thank your local WASP for her service, and for her contribution to our women's aviation history.

Thank you for your support of this effort last year.
Pat Thomas
SW Section

Gene Fitzpatrick—Monterey Bay Chapter's Own WASP

1919—2000

Growing up in Oakland, California, Gene Fitzpatrick (born Shaffer) was exposed to aviation at age seven when she attended the welcoming party for Charles Lindbergh at Oakland Airport after his successful around the world flight. All this excitement left a lasting impression on this young girl.

While taking a journalism class in high school, she used her initiative to obtain an interview with Amelia Earhart. Earhart was at the Oakland Airport preparing for her around the world flight. Gene and her friend skirted airport security, borrowed a camera, and by announcing that they were "The Press" managed to gain entrance into hangar #4 which contained the Electra II and Amelia Earhart. Gene's question to Amelia was, "Why are you flying around the world?" Amelia responded, "I want to."



Gene Fitzpatrick interviewing
Amelia Earhart in Oakland CA

Gene sidestepped her mother's criticisms of her un-lady like conduct by taking lessons from Robert Donovan, in 1943 at Reno Sky Ranch. (Ladies did not fly airplanes). The lessons were taken in Reno because of civil flight restrictions along the coast of California during World War II.

In August, 1943, Gene joined the Civil Service Program and trained to become a test pilot, ferry pilot and flight instructor at Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas. She graduated in February 1944 receiving her wings to become a Women Air Service Pilot (WASP). There were 105 trainees enrolled in her class and 48 earned their wings. During training she flew the PT-19 Fairchild with 175 HP, PT-17 Stearman, Vultee BT-13 with 450 HP, North American AT-6 with 650 HP. After graduation she also flew the B-18 and the Douglas DC-3, also called the Gooney Bird.

Gene's first assignment was to Gardner Field, Taft, CA., a basic flight training school, as a test pilot. Her next assignment was to Randolph Field "The West Point of the Air" where she trained to become a Basic Flight Instructor in the BT-13. Gene then attended the required Officer's Training Program at Orlando, Florida. In August 1944 the Army Air Corps was changed to the U.S. Air Force, and although the WASP were still in the Civil Service, they were attached to the AAC and Air Force and all received an Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force.

When Gene left the Air Force she had accumulated approximately 500 hours of flying time. She did not fly again for the next 20 years while raising her family. Then in 1967, she reactivated her flight instructor's license at Rose Aviation located on Hawthorne field in Los Angeles.

Gene participated in over six Powder Puff Derbies, the Pacific Air Race, the Palms to Pines Air Race and the Air Race Classic. She instructed her daughter Kay at Rose Aviation where Kay received her private pilots license on her 17th birthday, May 4, 1969. Together they flew in the Air Race Classic the following June which ran from San Diego to Dulles National Airport in Washington, D.C. Festivities at the terminus included a "tea" honoring the women pilots at the White House, hosted by Pat and Trisha Nixon. Special congratulations were extended to the mother/ daughter team of Gene and Kay by First Lady, Mrs. Pat Nixon.

Gene joined the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) in 1981 in Torrance. When she moved to Monterey in 1984 she joined the Watsonville Squadron and was asked to start a new CAP squadron in Monterey. The Monterey Bay Squadron #60 still meets at the Monterey Airport. Besides serving as a Major, she also was a check pilot for the squadron and any other CAP personnel who needing check rides.

<http://www.montereybay99s.org/fitzpatrick.html>

Monterey Bay Chapter 99s
c/o Dena Taylor
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Logbook



Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

Feb. 17, 2010 ————— *MB99s Chapter Meeting*
EAA Bldg., WVI, see pp. 1 & 3

Apr 29-May 2, 2010 ————— *Southwest Section Meeting*
Resister online at <http://ninety-nines.net/swssjv/instruc.asp>

June 18-20, 2010 ————— *International Forest of Friendship Celebration*
Atchison, KS. See www.ninety-nines.org

June 22-25, 2010 ————— *Air Race Classic, Ft Myers FL to Frederick MD-*
www.airraceclassic.org.

July 5-9, 2010 ————— *International 99s Conference*
Kona, Hawaii. See www.ninety-nines.org