

SLIPSTREAM

Monthly Newsletter of the San Luis Obispo 99s - www.slo99s.org

Chairman's Message

By Kathy Dannecker

We began this month with a fantastic meeting presentation by Charly Schaad (and Rene) on flying in Africa. It was a wonderful opportunity to invite spouses, friends, and other members of the aviation community to join us. About thirty people came to hear Charly's presentation and, while many of us may never actually be able to make such a trip, it certainly was fun to experience it from the porch of the Spirit! Thanks, Charly and Rene, for all your hard work and for giving us a really interesting evening!

We also provided two Discover Flight scholarships this month. Brianna Gonzalez and Alexis Aguirre took their introductory flight lessons within one day of each other. Both braved some windy conditions and some bumpy air, but they came back with big smiles. Rhonda West was Brianna's instructor and Michelle Graceffa took Alexis on



Brianna Gonzalez with Family and Rhonda West on her introductory flight (article on page 3)

Inside This Issue

Chairman's Message.....	1
Dates and Schedules	2
Minutes of General Meeting	2
Introductory Flight Essay: Alexis Aguirre.....	3
Introductory Flight Essay: Brianna Gonzalez	3
Tips from the Tower	4

her lesson. Families were there to share the experience and everyone was treated to a visit to the tower, courtesy of Ellen, John, Dylan, and Joe. Thanks to everyone involved and to PCF and Pac Aero for arranging the flights and getting these deserving girls in the air!

Looking ahead, we have some busy months coming up.

On March 10, we'll be working with the Girl Scouts to help mark their 100th anniversary. Scouts who attend their celebration weekend will have the opportunity to earn vintage badges. Among them is a vintage Flyer badge. With the help of the Santa Maria Valley 99s, we'll work with the girls so they can meet the requirements for this aviation badge. Anyone who would like to join us, should contact me as soon as possible.

Plans are moving ahead for our Poker Run & BBQ. We'll be working with EAA to make this a joint event and get our members together for some fun and flying. EAA will provide the hangar, grill, tables, and chairs. SLO 99s will handle the food. The date is set for April 28. Help get the word out! Everyone's welcome!

May events include the Southwest Section meeting and Oceano Airport Celebration Day. The Southwest Section meeting will be held May 4-6 and will be hosted by the San Fernando Valley chapter. The on-line registration deadline is April

Dates and Schedules

Comments, corrections, and suggestions are welcome.

Fly-outs: dates are flexible and we will confirm plans and set times at the chapter meeting before the scheduled fly-out. Seats will be available for non-pilots, students, and pilots without wings. We want every seat to be filled, so let us know if you want to come along.

Mar 4	Memorial Service for Grace McChesney
Mar 7	General Meeting at the Spirit 5:30 pm (Chapter Meeting)
Mar 10	Girl Scout Celebration
Mar 21	Safety Meeting at SMX
Apr 28	Poker Run and barbecue
May 4-6	Spring Southwest Section meeting
May 11/12	Oceano Airport Day

30. To find out everything about the meeting, visit their website at <http://ninetyines.net/swsSFV99s>. Oceano Airport Celebration Day will be Saturday, May 12. We have been asked to provide and distribute popcorn for the event. At the March meeting, we'll be asking for volunteers to help out with that. If you can't attend the meeting, but are interested in working a popcorn booth, let me know.

And last, but not least, let's get back in the air! Look for word on Yahoo group about upcoming flyouts and set some time aside to join us. After all, that's why we're all here!

Minutes of General Meeting

By Grace Crittenden

The meeting [February 1, 2012] started with a fascinating presentation by Charly Schaad, with

help from her husband Rene, about their adventures flying in Africa.

There was a brief business meeting at the end of the meeting to discuss two candidates for Discover Flights. Alexis Aguirre is an 18 year old who heard about the opportunity through Michelle Graceffa and 4H. We were all charmed by her essay reference to the "thrill of turbulence" and voted to offer her a Discover Flight. She will fly with Pacific Aero and Julie Butler will be her mentor. Camille Nelson's son is a teacher at Arroyo Grande High School. He created a poster about the Discover Flights and caught the interest of Brianna Gonzales. The chapter voted to offer her a flight. She will fly at PCF with Ronda West, and Camille will be her mentor. The mentor will help make the arrangements for the flight and be there for the flight to take some photos.

The history of Discover Flights was reviewed. Several years ago we were brainstorming about how to interest young women in flying since so many had never even considered the idea. At that time the flight schools were offering an introductory flight for \$49. There was much discussion about whether there would be any interest or whether we would be inundated with applications. The application requires a brief essay about flight. To test the waters, we put the offer out to senior girls at Mission Preparatory High School and got just 3 responses. San Luis High School had a similar response. The girls were thrilled with their first flight. The next year Grace Crittenden won \$500 in a contest in Cambria with a gingerbread biplane and she donated the money to a fund to support more Discover Flights. That year the opportunity was offered to several schools but only drew two applicants, and only one flew. Since then the experience has been offered to young women who expressed an interest, and the fund has been used from time to time.

Aerospace award information must be in to Cynthia Douglas by February 15.

There was some discussion about fly-out destinations.

Antelope Valley will sponsor the 22nd Annual Poker Run on March 18.

The treasurer reported \$3067 in the chapter account, and \$99 has been sent to the Santa Maria Memorial Garden for a memorial brick for Grace McChesney.

Introductory flight essay

By Alexis Aguirre

My name is Alexis Aguirre and I am 18 years old. I was born in San Luis Obispo and now I live in Atascadero with my parents and four siblings. Although I am a member of Santa Margarita 4-H club, I have had the opportunity to join Cerro Alto 4-H club's Aerospace project this year. This means a lot to me because I love flying in airplanes. The only experience I have had with planes thus far has been as a passenger on commercial flights. This is a recent pastime, however, which I have enjoyed very much; I love



Alexis Aguirre and Michelle on her introductory flight (article on this page)

the activity and bustle at the airports, the delight of take-off and touch-down, viewing different parts of our country from the sky, traveling over beautiful cloud formations, being touched in the air by sunshine on a "cloudy day", and experiencing the thrill of turbulence. Flying is my favorite way to travel.

I love flying in airplanes, but I never thought it was really something I could do myself, to actually be able to fly a plane. But, I have recently learned that flying is something I could do and can even be a potential livelihood. However, I know that I have only experienced a small fraction of the aviation world. I know there are so many other experiences to be had concerning flying. So through this aviation project and the SLO 99's, I hope to learn a lot and be able to have many new and exciting experiences like doing a discovery flight. An experience like this will be a very good learning experience for me in navigation, geography, weather, etc and through it, gain a greater understanding, appreciation, and love for flying. I fervently hope to be awarded this scholarship for this flight opportunity and thank you for what you can do to make this desire a reality.

Introductory flight essay

By Brianna Gonzalez

Learning to fly an airplane would definitely be something to check off my bucket list. A career in Aviation has always been a dream of mine. My first time on an airplane was summer of 2011 on a trip to Jalisco, Mexico to visit family. I love the feeling of being in the sky. I felt so free and like I was on top of the world. I thought to myself, If I love being on an airplane as a passenger I can only imagine how much more amazing it would feel to be a pilot! Flying an airplane would be a wish come true for me. Receiving this opportunity would be an incredible experience and I would feel so accomplished.

A female pilot is rarely heard of. I want to be one

of the few and hopefully have a career in aviation. Being able to fly a small airplane would be a great skill to say I have and a great experience I could tell for the rest of my life. Amelia Earhart would be so proud.



Brianna Gonzalez on her introductory flight (page 3)

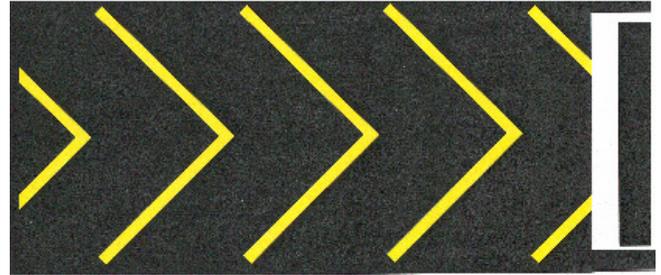
Tips from the Tower

By Ellen Banakis

In early February, the tower was given a two-day notice that Runway 25/7 was going to be closed for a couple of days and given new runway markings. We were also advised that, when Runway 25/7 reopened, it could no longer be used for aircraft exiting Runway 29. The timing and reasoning was never put in writing, nor do we believe that aircraft owners based on the west side were advised of the changes.

While Runway 25/7 was closed, taxiway lead lines were removed from Runway 29/11 toward Runway 25 and chevrons were painted on the surface between the Runway 29/11 white edge line and the Runway 25 threshold.

Since the tower has not received anything in writing from Airport Administration regarding this



Chevrons (article on this page)

change, I have taken the following information from the AIM and FAA Advisory Circulars:

"Chevrons – These markings are used to show pavement areas aligned with the runway that are unusable for landing, takeoff, and taxiing. Chevrons are yellow. The chevron marking identifies paved blast pads, stopways, and EMAS (engineered materials arresting systems) in relation to the end of the runway. Dimensionally, stopways equal the width of the runway while blast pads equal the runway width plus the shoulder widths."

The tower contacted Steven Oetzell, FAA SMS Specialist/Airport Certification Safety Inspector, via email and received the following response, "The Airport Layout Plan (ALP) for SBP shows the Runway 25 aligned taxiway as being asphalt, marked with chevrons. We prefer that the airport match what is depicted on the ALP."

With the loss of the turnoff onto Runway 25, it has taken away one option for taxiing to the west side. With only Taxiways Echo and Mike remaining, the tower is considering "standard taxi routes". The idea is that aircraft taxiing out for departure on Runway 29 will taxi northwest on Taxiway Mike and hold short of Runway 29 at Mike. All aircraft exiting to the west side would turn left on Taxiway Echo. If they were not able to turn left Echo, and outbound aircraft blocked Taxiway Mike, the aircraft would be instructed to turn right off the runway. They would then taxi toward the tower for a midfield crossing at Echo to the west side.

A problem then exists for aircraft on the west side

that would like to depart either Runway 25, or Runway 29 at Echo. They would be taxiing opposite direction to the "standard taxi route". With little or no taxiing aircraft, it will not be an issue. The option of departing on Runway 25 or Runway 29 at Echo will not be taken away. But, during busier times, I think that each request will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

This whole issue has been dropped on the tower with little direction from either the Tower Manager or Airport Administration. Since it is new to all of us, we are looking for input as to how to make this easier for pilots and controllers. We would appreciate any suggestions that you may have to make this a positive experience for all concerned.

I have been asked if the tower would consider a

meeting to discuss this issue. As you know, I am always open to pilot outreach and good communication between pilots and controllers. If there is enough interest, I will do my best to make sure that a meeting is organized. Any feedback can be done on the 99s email, since I will see it. If someone would prefer to send it directly to me, my email is:

Ellen.Banakis@serco-na.com

Do you have a question for Ellen? Is there a 'Tip from the Tower' that would make you a safer pilot? If so, send your question (Subject "Tips from the Tower") to: slo99s@yahoo.com.

