
Antelope Valley Ninety-Nines SKYWORD January 2015

Message From Your Chairman

A new year is just beginning! It should be a time of reflection about family, friends, and flying. It takes a great deal of effort to stay or become current but let's encourage each other to 'get in the air'. I flew so often with Phil that I was apprehensive to go it alone – without my security blanket next to me. Well, I did it! Phil, the instructor who expects quality flying from all his students, signed me off some months ago. I purchased a new log book, added myself to the insurance, and have flown on a regular basis – at least three times a week.

Last time I decided to go practice, I called one of my favorite 99s, Lynne. We departed Fox for a meal at Mojave but they were closed so back to Foxy's. A bowl of soup later, I returned to our airport only to abort my first attempt to land. It seems the wind was shifting from east to west and swirling around the Little Buttes to the west of our runway. My approach was more than high enough to clear the lines on 90th Street but a downdraft put me too low. The second attempt, much higher this time, proved successful. About 10 minutes after putting the plane in the hangar, the wind sock was almost straight out. Yes, but it was a tremendous lesson and reaffirmation that I do have the piloting skills to make the right decision.

We have many chapter events coming up in the following months. I'm looking forward to seeing our members participating in as many as they can. They are posted on our website.

If you have anything you would like to post on the website – pictures, events, accomplishments – let Nancy or myself know. We'll be happy to add your posts.

Sincerely,

Barbara Schultz

Announcements

New Chapter Website! – Please check out our new chapter website and thank Barbara and Nancy for doing a great job of making it for us! http://antelopevalley99s.wix.com/av99s

Ozzie Levi Memorial Scholarship – The application period for the Ozzie Levi Memorial Scholarship will be opening soon. This scholarship is worth up to \$2,000 for advanced flight training leading to certification as a flight instructor. Watch your email for more information about how to apply.

Member News

Gabrielle Evey – Future Woman Pilot Gabby Evey has been nominated for an appointment to the Air Force Academy! The following article was published in the Antelope Valley Times:

Desert High Student Nominated for Air Force Academy January 7, 2015 by Rebecca Amber

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EDWARDS AFB – Each year, high school students in the 23rd Congressional District in California compete for nominations to the United States Service Academies. Congressman Kevin McCarthy (Rep.) announced his selections Jan. 5. Among those students is Desert Junior-Senior High School student Gabrielle Evey, 17, who was selected as a nominee for the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Prior to this announcement, Evey received a Letter of Assurance from the academy, offering her early admission pending a congressional nomination. She has already accepted her slot at the academy and will head to Colorado June 25.

"Being nominated to the Air Force Academy is an absolute honor," said Evey. "I was recently accepted to USAFA, after receiving a Letter of Assurance, the Principal Nomination from Senator Feinstein, and a competing alternate nomination from Congressman McCarthy. It is a complete honor to be accepted. My Academy Liaison Officer, Lt. Col. Kay, helped me through the process, to which I am very grateful." Evey won first place in her grade at the DHS Science Fair last year.

Cadet Col. Evey is the wing commander of the Air Force Junior ROTC at DHS and commands over 130 cadets. JROTC is where Evey says "this journey" began.

"I found leadership and support through the program, which led me to the career choice of becoming an Air Force Officer," said Evey.

Her JROTC instructor, Colonel Sullivan, encouraged her to attend the Edwards Aero Club's first Aero Camp. During that camp she was introduced to flying and today she is actively pursuing her private pilot's license.

"I took the opportunity and fell in love," she said.

Upon graduating, Evey hopes to be service-selected into pilot training.

"Blending my goal of becoming a career Air Force Officer and dream of being selected as a pilot made USAFA a perfect choice," said Evey.

At Desert, she participates in Cross Country Track and Field and she is captain of the varsity Mathletes.

"We are very proud of her. This is a great honor and privilege," said her parents, Randy and Rebecca Evey. "We feel very strongly that this appointment would not have happened without the support of the entire Edwards team, especially the 412th Medical Group, Aero Club and the base gym."

Looking back on her high school career, Evey has found support from the Edwards community to achieve all of her goals, whether that meant help with her science fair project or learning to fly.

http://theavtimes.com/2015/01/07/desert-high-student-nominated-for-air-force-academy/

Lynn "Jinx" Gawell Is Moving to "Lost Wages"! – (Submitted by Leigh Kelly)

Jinx has formally retired from the US Air Force and has found a Civil Service position at Nellis AFB, NV. She is very excited because there is an ice skating rink where she can train that is much more convenient than the one where she had been training while stationed at Edwards AFB. (She was driving to Santa Clarita several times each week.) Now she can stop to

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practice on her way home after work. Please congratulate her on her new job and her good luck at finding one so convenient to an ice rink where she can pursue her passion of competitive figure skating.

Chapter Activities

Cookies to the Towers – (Submitted by Carol Reukauf)

It has become a tradition for our chapter to meet on the second Saturday of each December to use the holiday spirit as a springboard to thank the various organizations that help us throughout the year, especially those that help us with our annual Poker Run and who provide flight instruction for our Future Women Pilots. These include the local control towers, LA Center, Joshua TRACON, FBOs, flight schools, airport cafés, and the owner of the hangar we use for the Poker Run. We gathered on December 13 in the WJF lobby and assembled thirteen boxes of cookies and goodies which were then delivered to the recipients by members who live or work near them. Chapter members either make or buy the treats, and sometimes those who cannot attend send their cookies with someone else. Some of us meet for breakfast at Foxy's Café before the boxing begins. It's always a lot of fun (and tasty because there are usually quite a few broken items that need to be disposed of, and we all know that broken items contain no calories...). It also feels good to work together to package the treats because it provides us an active and tangible way to show our benefactors that we appreciate all that they do for us.



Front Row: Kasiri Landon, Lynne Hsia, Christine Lutz, Elle Coussens.

Back Row: Char Spencer, Barbara Schultz, Carol Reukauf, Erin Hambrick, Nancy Bradshaw, and Arlene Martinez.

(Leigh Kelly joined us for breakfast and brought cookies, but could not stay for "the assembly phase.")

November Tour of the Nethercutt Collection – (Submitted by Erin Hambrick)

We liked the train! It turns out that the engine and car were previously part of the Edaville Railroad Museum in Massachusetts that Phil had visited as a boy. They are now in the Nethercutt Museum restored as a 1937 Canadian Pacific Royal Hudson Locomotive pulling a 1912 Pullman Private Car customized for the daughter of local pioneer Lucky Baldwin.

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Additionally, many beautiful cars with interesting histories were on display as well as the Nethercutts' eclectic passions for complex music boxes and figurines.







Erin in front of private 1912 Pullman Car

1933 Duesenberg Model SJ 'Twenty Grand' One of several clocks

AV99s Holiday Party & Auction – Our annual Holiday Party was a success. As always, the food was delicious and it was delightful to have a chance to spend time getting to know some of our newer members. Although attendance we lower than usual due to work commitments, travel plans and other party conflicts, the "white elephant" gift auction for our scholarship fund raised a total of \$335!

Fly-Out For Brunch at Furnace Creek – The annual fly-out for brunch at Furnace Creek Resort in Death Valley is scheduled for Sunday, January 18, with a back-up date of Sunday, February 1, if the weather is inclement on January 18. The price of the all-you-can-eat buffet brunch this year is \$28.99 plus gratuity. Serving begins at 11:00. Please try to gather at the hostess' station by 10:55. You should allow at least a half an hour to get from the Furnace Creek Airport (L06) to the resort because the van will need to make multiple trips to accommodate everyone. Also, remember to bring your own tie-down cables because the airport does not provide them. (They do have wires to which to attach them though.) If you plan to fly and have extra seats, please consider inviting others to ride with you, especially other 99s who will not be flying themselves. Feel free to share this information with any local pilots whom you feel would be interested in joining us for brunch at Furnace Creek.

SWS Winter Workshop – The 2015 Winter Workshop will be held on Saturday, January 24th, 2015 at the Camarillo Airport in the Department of Airports Building. The meeting will be hosted by the Ventura County Chapter. There will be two sessions. In the Morning, there will be a discussion of chapter communication tools and requirements for 501(c)(3) charitable organizations. In the Afternoon, there will be a discussion of Public Relations tools for chapters and an update on section awards criteria. The winter workshops are always informative and useful. They are also moderately priced and the 2015 winter workshop is within commuting distance of the AV, so there will be no need to incur the expense for a hotel room in order to attend.

SWS Spring Section Meeting – The 2015 Spring Meeting of the Southwest Section will be held April 30 – May 3 at the Temecula Creek Inn. The theme is "Flying to the Stars." Everyone who can is encouraged to go because section meetings usually offer interesting activities and tours. The price of the rooms at this meeting's event hotel are somewhat high so you might consider finding other accommodations or getting several roommates. Here is information from the organizers:

Don't forget to register soon for the upcoming SWS 99s Spring Section Meeting to be held at beautiful Temecula Creek Inn. Visit their website at www.temeculacreekinn.com. To see what Temecula has to offer, view the wine country video at https://wimeo.com/27795354 or visit the city's website at www.cityoftemecula.org/Temecula/Visitors/ThingsToDo.htm.

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Besides meeting with all our friends and making new ones, we've planned a variety of activities for you to enjoy including ballooning, wine tasting, and a guided tour of world famous Palomar Observatory. You may also choose to play a round at the TCI golf course, take a tour of local craft breweries or go on a docent led hike to Santa Margarita Ecological Preserve. On Friday night Temecula Creek Inn has arranged a glow in the dark putting contest just for us. On Saturday dress in your best western duds for our Western Steak/Chicken/Chili BBQ. Yee-Haw!

We have a wonderful door prize - a MyGoFlight PLC Pro Flight Bag embroidered with the 99s logo. Anyone registered on or before January 31st will receive an second entry for the door prize.

You may fly commercially to either KONT on KSAN, or fly yourself to F70 where we have arranged for reduced fuel and tie-down rates. Full registration includes Friday night dinner and Glow Ball fun, Saturday breakfast, Business Meeting, seminars, Saturday Banquet and goody bag.

Regular \$155 by 04/04/15 Late \$165 by 4/25/15

Saturday only \$89

Register Now At http://ninetynines.net/sws99sCC and you can truly be Flying to the Stars!

Sunshine

Flora Belle Reece – The following article was published in the Aerotech News about Flora Belle:

W.A.S.P., 90 Years Well-Lived December 19, 2014 by Rebecca Amber

Antelope Valley residents said 'good-bye' to World War II-era Women Airforce Service Pilot and Congressional Gold Medal recipient Flora Belle (Smith) Reece Dec. 1 at the age of 90. Reece died peacefully in a UCLA medical facility after being removed from life support.

Those who knew Reece well will remember she had three priorities in life: God, family and aviation – in that order.

Reece was born Oct. 21, 1924, in Sayre, Okla., during the Great Depression. She had three siblings James Evan, Mary Lea and LaWanda. Her parents, Robert and Agnes Smith were sharecroppers.

As a toddler, Reece would ask to hold her baby sister LaWanda and when she'd had enough, she'd stand up, "dumping LaWanda unceremoniously on the ground."

According to her daughter Connie Fox, Reece "Kept the adults watching her closely. She basically did as she wished and everyone around her scrambled to make sure all was okay."

Her father was a Southern Baptist preacher and her mother a homemaker. Before she entered kindergarten, Reece was assigned regular chores like keeping the kindling box full for the cast iron stove.

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Her son, Russell Reece, remembers hearing stories about a cow that had to be milked three times a day. The cow would come as close to the house as she could and bawl for Reece's father to come milk the cow

Later on, she was assigned to plowing the fields.

"She would guide the horse to the end of a row, wait for her older brother Evan to turn them around to start the next row," said Fox.

And as she plowed, she would look to the skies, watching the birds as they effortlessly soared by. She knew that like the birds, she wanted to fly.

When she told her father as a young girl that she wanted to fly he would respond, "Flora Belle, that isn't something girls usually do, but if you can figure out a way to make it happen, more power to you."

In school, when Reece was told to write down what future career she would like to pursue, she would write "pilot." This resulted in being called into the office and told that girls could not be pilots and that she would need to choose something more practical.

"Never once did her enjoyment of, or her desire, to fly waiver," said Fox.

During her senior year in high school, Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese.

After graduation, she responded to a notice that Lt. Col. Jacqueline Cochran had placed in the local papers looking for 21-year-old women to fly military aircraft for the Army. She sent for her birth certificate, knowing it would be a few years before she was old enough to join. However, someone in the county clerk's office mistakenly put her older sister's birth year on the document making her eligible right away.

After being interviewed and given a physical she was told she would need 35 hours of flight time logged in order to join the WASPs.

Reece once mentioned in an interview that it was as if he'd asked her for the moon because the cost of flying was so high. Her older brother, an Army lieutenant, was the answer to her problems when he agreed to lend her the money for private flying lessons.

As a WASP, Reece was assigned to a bay with five other women at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas. She was often teased about looking young by the other women who did not know she was only 19.

"After about six weeks, she couldn't stand that she'd entered the program illegally and went to the commanding officer," recalled Fox.

Since the age requirement was set to be lowered and she was doing well in her training, the issue was dropped.

On the day that she soloed in the North American T-6, Reece forgot to pick up her instructor and bring him back to the hangar. She ran out to meet him, offering to carry his parachute, although he declined.

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Then one rainy day, that same instructor allowed her climb through an opening to fly above the clouds because "Flora Belle never gets lost."

The wide open space was wonderful for practicing her acrobatic maneuvers. But, after rolling and spinning, her hole in the clouds was gone and she was lost. As she had been instructed, she found a farm with phone lines and prepared to land, worried that she would be sent home if any damage came to the airplane.

She was met by local farmers who helped her call the base and put on an impromptu potluck. The next day, she was picked up by her instructor and a mechanic in a cattle truck. The most embarrassing part of the whole experience was carrying her parachute in that morning because everyone could see she didn't make it back in time to turn it in the day before.

For weeks, Reece thought she would wash out of the program and when could not stand it any longer, she asked her instructor about it.

As it turned out, he had known for weeks that everything was fine.

When she asked why he waited so long to tell her, he said, "Remember my having to walk back to the hangar carrying my parachute? Now we're even."

Of the 25,000 women who applied, less than 1,900 were accepted and only 1,074 earned their wings. Reece graduated with hers in May of 1944 with Class 44-W-4 and served until the WASPs were disbanded in December of that same year.

It wasn't until 1977 that the WASPs were granted full military status for their service. Prior to that, they had been considered civilian pilots. In 2010, they were presented with the Congressional Gold Medal for their distinguished achievements. Both Connie and Russell were in attendance at the ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Though she appreciated the gesture, Reece once remarked that she would have preferred to have been given military status at the time, so she could have continued flying.

Reece spent the majority of her time as a WASP flying the North American AT-6 "Texan," which she called a "beautiful airplane." Her assignments usually involved transporting non-flying officers, photographers for the newspaper and chaplains wherever they needed to go. She was later trained to fly the B-26, known as "the widow maker," which she used to tow targets for gunner's practice.

Her dream though, was to fly the P-38. She was never given the chance, but she was certainly ready for it. When ace pilot Maj. Richard Bong toured a base she was stationed at, she convinced the ground crew to let her sit in the cockpit so that she could memorize the instrument panel.

She was finally afforded the opportunity to ride as a passenger aboard a P-38 in Burbank, Calif., at the age of 79.

After leaving the WASPs, Reece returned to Oklahoma in 1945, where she married her high school sweetheart Ralph, an Army Air Force mechanic. The two moved to California and had their first child, Connie. The Reece's were married for 62 years before Ralph's passing and they gave birth to two more children, Cherryl and Russell.

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"Mom taught us to help others. She stressed this particularly in regard to including unpopular school mates in activities," recalled Russell. "At one time a school [administrator] commended Connie because Connie had included a minority student in some activity in the face of considerable peer pressure."

Years after moving to California, Reece went to school, got her credential and became a teacher. She taught math at several schools including Park View School in Lancaster. At that school, she started the first computer lab using Apple IIe computers and attempted to recruit the support of other teachers. Only one of those teachers would allow her students to turn in type-written homework assignments. The rest insisted that computers were "just a fad."

In their retirement years, the Reeces spent two years with the Peace Corps in Malaysia, India and Thailand.

Even after Ralph's death, Reece continued to find ways to serve others. In 2009, she went with a group from Faith Community Church to the Philippines.

For years she presented photographic slides from her WASP days to military groups, schools and community organizations. She was an active member of the Antelope Valley 99s, the P-38 National Association, and participated in many WASP functions.

Reece also stayed very connected to Edwards AFB.

"I recall young men assigned to Edwards coming to the house after church or for church-sponsored activities for many years," said Russell.

Reece was one of four WASPs who lived in the Antelope Valley. The other three were Margaret (Castle) McAnally, Irma "Babe" Story and Marguerite "Ty" Hughes Killen.

A memorial with pictures of all four women is in the Lancaster Cemetery Veterans Court of Honor.

Reece is survived by her daughter Connie, her son Russell, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

"God is the center of everything I do," said Reece in a former interview. "That's who I am." Reece will be interred at Lancaster Cemetery Feb. 7.

http://www.aerotechnews.com/edwardsafb/2014/12/19/w-a-s-p-90-years-well-lived/

The following information was gleaned from the Lancaster Cemetery's Facebook page:

The date & time for Flora Belle Reece's memorial service has been set for Saturday, February 7, 2015. It will be held at Grace Chapel (on W. 15th St - between Ave J & Lancaster Blvd) in Lancaster, CA. Services begin @ 10 a.m. with interment to follow at Lancaster Cemetery at 2 pm - (on the corner of E. Lancaster Blvd. & Division).

Along with flowers, the family would like you to consider supporting the following organizations that Flora Belle supported:

*Thousand Pines (Christian organization providing camps & spiritual

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training), PO Box 3288, Crestline, CA 92352, (888) 423-2267 www.thousandpines.com

*WASP - Wingtip to Wingtip (helps finish paying for Rose Parade Float), checks made out to WTWA.
WTWA c/o Kate Landdeck, 5063 Farris Rd, Denton, TX 76208
kate@fifinella.com (800) 844-4253, http://www.fifinella.com/rosedonate.htm

https://www.ninety-nines.org//index.cfm/donation.htm

Contact Rosemary Jensen-Coonrod, both.pilots@verizon.net

AV99, SWS & International Schedule

Date/Time	Event	Contact
Jan 14, 2015	Chapter Board/Business Meeting	POC Barbara Schultz
(2 nd Wednesday)	Location: Camille's in Lancaster	House 661-948-0577 (primary)
Time 6:30 pm		Mobile 661-965-2645
Jan 18, 2015	Death Valley Fly-Out	http://antelopevalley99s.wix.com/av99s
11:00 am	Furnace Creek, CA	http://www.airnav.com/airport/L06
Jan 24, 2015	SWS Winter Workshop	http://ninetynines.net/swswm/
9:00 am to 4:30 pm	KCMA, Camarillo, CA	
Feb 1, 2015	Death Valley Fly-Out (alternate date)	http://antelopevalley99s.wix.com/av99s
11:00 am	Furnace Creek, CA	
Feb 7, 2015	Flora Belle Reece Memorial Service	
10 am Grace Chapel	Grace Chapel 10 a.m.	
2 pm Cemetery	Lancaster Cemetery 2 p.m.	
Feb TBD	Chapter Board/Business Meeting	POC Barbara Schultz
(2 nd Wednesday)	Location: TBD	House 661-948-0577 (primary)
Time TBD		Mobile 661-965-2645
Mar TBD	Chapter Board/Business Meeting	POC Barbara Schultz
(2 nd Wednesday)	Location: TBD	House 661-948-0577 (primary)
Time TBD		Mobile 661-965-2645
Apr _. 12, 2015	Annual "St. Patrick's Day" Poker Run	POC TBD
(2 nd Sunday)	Location: TBD	House TBD
Time TBD		Mobile TBD
Apr 30 - May 3, 2015	SWS Spring Meeting	http://ninetynines.net/sws99sCC/
	Temecula, CA	
Jul 5-10, 2015	2015 International Conference	http://www.ninety-
	Munich, Germany	nines.org/index.cfm/conference.htm
Oct 22-25, 2015	SWS Fall Meeting	
	Monterey Bay 99s	
Jul 6-10, 2016	2016 International Conference	
	Ottawa, Canada	
Apr 27 - 29, 2018	SWS Spring Meeting	
	Bakersfield, CA	

http://sws99s.org/sectmeeting.html

http://www.ninety-nines.org/index.cfm/conference_dates.htm

^{*}Antelope Valley 99 scholarship fund:

^{*}Faith Community Church Missions, 39100 10th Street West, Palmdale, CA 93551, (661) 267-2200, http://faithtoyou.com/

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Aviation Events of Interest to Members

Date/Time	Event	Contact
Jan 17	PLANE CRAZY SATURDAY	POC Cathy Hansen
(3 rd Saturday)	KMHV, Mojave Air and Space Port	House 661-824-2889 (primary)
10 am	Topic:	Mobile 661-342-0604
^{WAI} Jan 19	CAV Chapter Women in Aviation, Int'l Meeting	POC Kacy Anderson
(3 rd Monday)	El Indio Restaurant (Formerly Golden Cantina)	Mobile (269) 804-9047 (primary)
6 pm	L00, Rosamond Skypark, Rosamond, CA	
Mar 21-22 2015	LOS ANGELES COUNTY AIR SHOW	http://www.lacountyairshow.com/
	KWJF, William J. Fox Field, Lancaster, CA	
May 16	AOPA Fly-In	http://www.aopa.org/Community-and-
	KSNS, Salinas Municipal Airport, Salinas, CA	Events/AOPA-Fly-In/2015/About
July 20-26, 2015	EAA AIR VENTURE	http://www.eaa.org/en/airventure/eaa-
	KOSH, Oshkosh, WI	<u>airventure-tickets</u>
Sep 16-20	Reno Air Races	http://airrace.org/
	KRTS, Stead Airfield, Reno, NV	
Sep 23-26	Society of Experimental Test Pilots Symposium	http://www.setp.org/symposium/meetings/
	The Grand Californian Hotel, Anaheim, California	
Oct 15-18	Flying Magazine Aviation Expo	http://www.aviation-xpo.com/
	Palm Springs Convention Center	
	Palm Springs, CA	

Local Open Hangar and Exhibition Days:

Kern Valley Open Hangar & Vintage Airplane Day – first Saturday

Santa Paula Open Hangar Day – first Sunday

Fox Open Hangar Day – second Saturday

Plane Crazy Saturday at Mojave Airport – third Saturday

Agua Dulce Airpark, 1st Sat/Mo, 3rd Sun/mo 9-4

Brackett Field Antique Aircraft, La Verne, CA, 3rd Sun/Mo

El Monte Airport Classics Display, 4th Sunday/Mo

Chino Airport, 1st Sat/Mo, 3rd Sun Mo, 9-4, west side of Cal Aero Drive Planes Of Fame

Whiteman Airport, 2nd Sun/mo

Corona Airport, 2nd Sun/mo Antique Aircraft Display/Fly-In

Flabob Airport, 3rd Saturday/mo, EAA Pancake Breakfast (8am-11am), Tours of Flabob by Wathen Aviation School Docents; view Thompson Trophy Race replicas, restoration projects and Flabob Express DC-3. www.flabob.org or call Kathy R. at 951-683-2309

Apple Valley Airport, 2nd Sun/Mo, antique/classic static

Catalina Island Display Day, 2nd Saturday

Please patronize businesses owned by our members and their families:

Plane Mercantile (Barbara Schultz): http://www.planemercantile.com/servlet/StoreFront

Dow Villa Motel (Lynne Bunn) http://www.dowvillamotel.com/

Lone Pine Pharmacy (Bev and Dean Vander Wall): 200 N Main St., Lone Pine, CA, (760) 876-5569

The Office of Dr. Phil Coussens, M.D.

http://www.quickr.org/Dr Philip C Coussens Senior FAA Designated Aeromedical Examine Lancaster CA Location and Hours

Members and friends of the AV99s are encouraged to "Like" our page on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AntelopeValleyChapter99s

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