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A Monthly Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

Our very own Dr. Ken Orloff is our speaker for the March 3rd PMLAA meeting, which will be held at 6:00pm in the Benzings' hangar.

Dr. Orloff has a Master's degree in Physics and a Ph.D. degree in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering. From 1971 until 1984 he worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at Ames Research Center as a research scientist studying airplane and helicopter aerodynamics. Ken has taught physics, aerodynamics, aircraft performance, and aviation maintenance courses at the university level. He is a licensed Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic and he holds FAA Inspection Authorization. He holds an Airline Transport Pilot Certificate and has accumulated in excess of 7500 hours of flight time. He is a Certified Flight Instructor for Airplanes, Instruments, and Helicopters.

In 1983, Ken began his work in the field of aviation accident consulting. Since that time, he has analyzed hundreds of fixed and rotary wing accidents. He has been sharing his investigations as a featured speaker with our club for nearly 15 years.

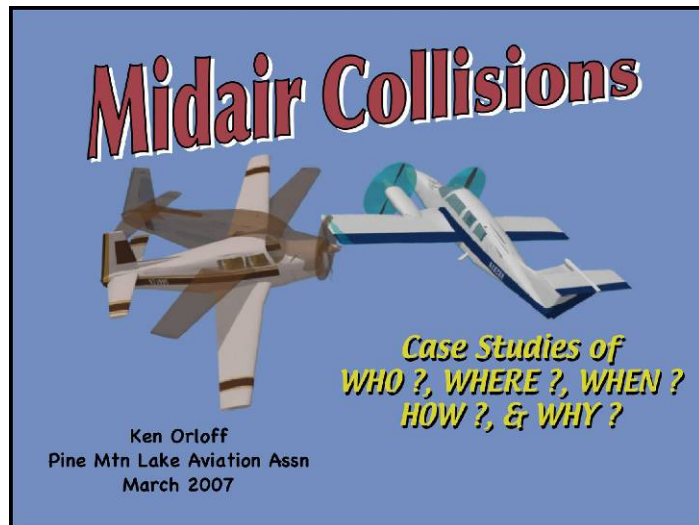
Ken has been a full-time resident at Pine Mountain Lake since 1986. He and wife Lynne (still newlyweds at almost a year and a half) live in Unit 12 and are the caretakers of three airplanes, four cats (two behave, two don't), and two horses (both behave, thankfully).

At our March meeting, Ken will focus on midair collisions.

Ken will report on several such accidents that he has analyzed and reconstructed:

- a midair collision that occurred at the Sun-N-Fun Fly-In in Florida
- one that took place in the traffic pattern at Carlsbad-Palomar Airport
- a bizarre outcome of a midair at Meigs Field in Chicago
- a collision near the Deland, Florida airport,
- and a strange midair collision on a two-mile final approach at Waukegan, Illinois.

For all of us, there are informative and interesting lessons to be learned from each of these accidents. Come to the meeting March 3rd and learn!



Please Pay Dues Now!

President's Message
-- by Allen Craig

Did you see the front page of The Union Democrat on January 11th? The article featured one of our PMLAA members: Mr. Wayne Handley, airshow performer and aerobatic instructor extraordinaire. Wayne and his wife Karen are now full time residents of PML. Many of us remember Wayne as a past guest speaker and for the aerobatic seminar and rides he provided for a few lucky folks a couple of years ago. His yellow and blue Extra will now join a growing collection of aerobatic airplanes that live at PML.

I was disappointed the other day when I drove in the airport entrance and found the Pine Mountain Lake Airport sign lying on the ground in severe disrepair. Last year, our Airport Manager (JT) requested some volunteer efforts to improve our airport. I think we should take the initiative and complete some of the projects. Although he didn't mention the sign, a new flag is easy, and new benches and repair of the tables on the hill by the windsock can be easily accomplished. The new roof on the pilots' lounge will take a little more effort, but the County has the materials and with so much expertise in our organization we'll get it done. Heck, we might even include a paint job (ideally before our June Airport Day). Update: The sign has been repaired, but in my mind it still needs to be replaced.

It's been a busy month. We've started a scholarship committee with Mary Kelly as our first volunteer. Silvano Gai has updated our Website provider and has added security features which prevent e-mail messages to our membership unless approved by Silvano or myself. Please check us out at www.pmlaa.org. I know you'll be impressed.

I hear rumors of some really fun fly-outs being planned and I think another Idaho adventure is in the works. Ken Helling has volunteered to be our unofficial fly-out organizer; watch for details on the website.

Many thanks to Conni and Alan Buchner for the use of their hangar for the February meeting/dance. It was great fun.

There is lots of interest in the March 3rd meeting with Ken Orloff as our speaker. His programs are always one of our favorites and this year will be no exception. April will feature a continuation of the "Tales from a Log Book" series with our own Marle Hewett, decorated Navy fighter pilot, (100 combat missions in Vietnam), graduate of the USAF Aerospace Research Pilot School (Test Pilot School), PhD in Aeronautics, etc, etc. He also worked as an engineering consultant on the F-22, and several foreign advanced fighter programs.

Upcoming speakers include the President of the California Pilots Association (CALPILOTS). PMLAA is a member and supporter of CALPILOTS. Their mission statement is "volunteers promoting and preserving California's airports." I love their other motto "It's not flying that is in jeopardy, it is a place to land." More about that at our May meeting.

Please send your 2007 dues in now! Thanks to all who have already paid.

Members' Activities

\$100 Hamburger of the Month

This trip began as a Comanche Fly-In to Harris Ranch on January 14th for the Southwest Tribe of the International Comanche Society. Ken and Pat Helling flew his Comanche,



and invited Roger and Kathy McConnell in their Piper Archer II, Larry Struck and Linda Monahan joined Mel and Suzanne McGowan in their King Air, with Suzanne's instructor, Stan.

The Aviation Flapper Girls



Valentine's Dance Hosts: Alan and Conni Buchner



Safety Corner
-- by Linda Monahan, DPE

Risk Management!

To quote an old friend of mine, "Ain't flying fun?" I know it's bad grammar, but sometimes it really expresses the feelings that come from a beautiful flight like we PMLAA'ers had a couple of weeks ago. One Sunday morning, a group of us flew out to Furnace Creek for their wonderful killer brunch. The Sierras were incredibly white. The air was fairly calm, not bumpy like it can get once you cross the crest.

I had the wonderful option of flying with Mel and Suzanne McGowan in their new F90 King Air. When we took off from PML, Suzanne was flying left seat and their friend/pilot Stan was in the right. One of the neat things of the King Air, it loves to fly high. There were clouds covering the tops of the mountains as far as we could see. No bother, we just went over them. I was more than a little concerned about the "little guys" getting to Death Valley. I figured they were going to have to do some diverting to find an opening in the clouds to be able to land. As it was, the clouds ended right at the airport! When we got to Furnace Creek, Suzanne did a "greaser" landing in front of some 20 Comanches. We all loaded into the van and went to brunch. See our photo on page 2.

On the way home, I got to fly left seat. Now it was my turn to "put up." Stan said, "Just climb out at 140 knots." No problema. So I blasted off and had the unbelievable experience of climbing at 3000' per minute! We headed GPS direct for PML; however, the clouds had other things in mind. It was divert south, go IFR in the soup, or climb. We opted for #3.

Most of the time, we have good weather. However, when we cross the Sierras things can get really ugly really fast. Things to watch out for are winds that are generated by incoming winter storms. If you look, you can see lenticular clouds (lennies) over the crest. That means as soon as you fly over the downhill side, you could be in for the ride of your life! Rotor clouds are spinning vortexes that can and do go right to the ground.

My flying club lost a former member and CFI and his student at Big Pine just before Christmas. A storm was blowing in and they took off in a Warrior after fueling at Bishop. Somehow, they impacted the ground on a NE heading in a SE running canyon. Neither one survived. When you add wind to mountain obscurity, it is a deadly mix. As I flew us home, my thoughts were on Gabe and those he left behind.

Ken Orloff
March 3 at 6:00pm
Benzlugs' Hangar
Potluck dinner

From the Director
-- by Jim Thomas, Airports Director

Security at the Airport

We have had a significant increase in vandalism and theft at the airports recently, which is troubling news. With the high price of gasoline these days, siphoning gas out of the cars parked at the airport has been a problem. It seems that lockable gas caps do not deter the thieves; they simply pry the gas cap door open or somehow force off the gas cap. In one instance, the thief actually cut the fuel line running from the tank to the engine.

There was one car in the long term parking lot that had the driver's window busted out of it, but the owner didn't report anything stolen. Maybe this was just an act of vandalism. Another vehicle was stolen from a tie-down and was later found near Modesto, stripped and burned. My guess is that this crime was related to acquiring spare parts for sale and then destroying any evidence of who might have perpetrated the crime.

I am also aware of two instances where avgas was stolen from aircraft. The occurrences were several months apart. This is an even bigger concern to the Airports Department because of the potential that a pilot may depart on a flight with less fuel than he thought he had in his fuel tanks, and also because someone is tampering with our aircraft.

We are experiencing theft and vandalism at Columbia Airport also, and the Airports Department is very concerned with this problem. I've talked with the Sheriff's Department about this and we agree that increased ramp and parking lot lighting and the installation of surveillance cameras is the best method to deter vandals and thieves. A motion activated light has already been installed at the PML Airport parking lot and additional lighting is planned.

I am investigating surveillance cameras and hope to acquire an effective system that my budget can afford. Surveillance cameras are not my area of expertise, so I would appreciate any ideas or input from PMLAA members. The more options and support we have, the greater our chances of success.



Our Airport Director "Off-duty" -- JT and Colleen

A Report from your Webmaster
-- by Silvano Gai

News from www.pmlaa.org

In January I decided to move the pmlaa.org website hosting to bluehost.com because it has been consistently rated one of the top ten hosting services.

This will allow us to grow the web server and to offer several new features during the current year. It also saves money for PMLAA, since the new charge is only \$6.95/month!

Mailing Lists

This company offers a sophisticated mailing list program that allows us to guarantee that you will not receive any SPAM from pmlaa.org. The list members@pmlaa.org and board@pmlaa.org have been moved to this new service. Members can also subscribe/unsubscribe or change their option online by visiting <http://pmlaa.org/mailman/listinfo>

There are 1000 mailing lists available and we are using only two! So if your interest group wants to create a mailing list to communicate among members, drop me an email.

Pictures

The new server comes with Gallery2, a powerful picture management program that will allow us to store online pictures of PMLAA events. You can see an example at: <http://www.pmlaa.org/gallery2>.

I would like to create a collection of historical pictures of Pine Mountain Lake and our airport. If you can contribute some, it will be greatly appreciated. If you have pictures to post on the website please send them to me. If you don't have an electronic version, stop by and I will scan it.

The new server seems to have solved the problem associated with downloading PDF files that some of our members had in the past. If you experience any difficulty please let me know.

To place an aviation-oriented ad or announcement on our website, send me the copy. There is no fee for member advertising.

More features to come in the next months, so please visit www.pmlaa.org often and let me know what you think. Email me: silvano@pmlaa.org.

Reminder: Please pay your \$20 annual dues *now*. Use the form on page 5 to update your contact info.

The annual membership roster will be distributed with the May newsletter.

Sandy DeRodeff, New PMLAA Private Pilot



Congratulations to PMLAA Member Sandy DeRodeff who earned her private pilot license on January 21, 2007. It was a PMLAA family affair: Sandy's instructor is Mike Gustafson, CFII and her examiner was Linda Monahan, DPE.

BOARD OF OFFICERS – 2007

WWW.PMLAA.ORG

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Virginia Gustafson	962-6336
Safety Editor	
Linda Monahan	962-5181

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

2007 Membership Application for New Members, Renewals & Updates

Annual membership dues are **\$20.00** per household, payable Jan 30, 2007. PMLAA Name badges are **\$8.00** each. Please send your check to PMLAA, P.O. Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321.

PMLAA Mission: to promote aviation interests and ensure the welfare and safety of its members, Pine Mountain Lake Airport, and the general community, through aviation-oriented recreational and educational activities.

- Monthly Meetings: normally held the first Saturday of each month. Please refer to the latest edition of *The PMLAA News* for more details.
- The *PMLAA News* is mailed monthly and is available online at www.pmlaa.org
- The membership roster (with information from this form) is distributed with the *PMLAA News* in April.

Renewing members: include your name and any information changes on this form. Please be sure to include your email address. If no changes, check here _____

Would you like to receive your newsletter by mail? _____ or by email only? _____

Date: _____ Circle one: New member / Renewal Member since _____

Name(s): _____ & _____
(Please print name(s) as you want them on your badges)

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

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Email Address(es): _____

Aircraft Make & Model _____ N# _____

Certificated pilot since (year) _____ FAA Cert/Ratings _____

Circle any aviation jobs you have had:
Airline Pilot / Crew, Flight Attendant, CFI, Corporate Pilot, Military pilot/crew, FAA, A&P Mechanic, IA,
Lineman, Engineer, Air Traffic Control, Other _____

Details: _____

Other Aviation Interests: _____

Military Service: _____

2007 Annual Dues

\$20.00 per family \$ _____ + _____ badges @ \$8.00 each = \$ _____ enclosed

Mail your check to PMLAA, PO Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321



Mark your calendar:

March 3	Dr. Ken Orloff: Midair Collisions Accident Investigation and Analysis	6:00pm at Benzings' Hangar Potluck Dinner
April 7	Marle Hewett, "Tales from the Logbook" Decorated Navy pilot and Air Force test pilot	6:00pm Potluck Dinner at Peebles' Hangar
May 5	Ed Roziak, President California Pilots' Association "Keeping your Airport Open"	6:00pm Potluck Dinner Location TBA
June 2	Community Aviation Day and Air Show	Afternoon events at PML Airport; Evening barbecue

PML Aviation Association
PO Box 131
Groveland, CA 95321

**Have you paid
your Dues?**