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*J.R. Williams*

*Talks About*

*WWI Fighter Ace, Frank Luke*

*Nov 5 – 6pm  
McGowan hangar*

At the dawn of aviation were many adventuresome spirits that pushed the capabilities of men and airplanes. Frank Luke was one such American fighter ace of World War I.



J.R. Williams is PMLAA's November speaker and he will be telling us of the daring, exploits, controversy, and awards of Frank Luke. J.R. resides in the Carmel area. By day, J.R. is Vice President and Portfolio Manager for a major financial services organization. But, his real love is World War I aviation history. Charles Shultz' character Snoopy launched this passion as a kid, then at age 10 his parents bought him the book Carisella & Ryan's book "Who Killed the Red Baron?" and he was hooked! J.R. has written numerous articles which are published in Over the Front Journals ([www.overthefront.com](http://www.overthefront.com)), hosted radio talk shows, and was President of the League of WWI Aviation Historians for 5-years. J.R. loves aviation, though he is not a pilot (yet!?). Thanks go to Bonnie Ritchey for introducing us to J.R.

Frank Luke Jr. is a fascinating adventurer of WWI achieving the highest military honor awarded by the U.S. for acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty, the Congressional Medal of Honor. Frank Luke ranks among the top U.S. Army Air Service pilots, second only to Captain Eddie Rickenbacker. Rickenbacker was credited with 26 victories, Luke's official score was 18.

J.R. will share Frank's story in words and pictures from his reading and field research traveling to France and Germany. Frank was born in 1897 to German immigrants in Phoenix, Arizona. He was one of nine children and excelled in everything he applied himself to. Frank enlisted in the U.S. Signal Corps in 1917, just 5 months after the start of WWI, he was 20 years old. He received pilot training in Texas and California, deployed to France for service. Frank had standing orders to destroy German observation balloons. J.R. finds the rapid development of the early primitive aircraft fascinating and will talk of some of the technology innovations of the time. You will hear stories of Frank Luke's daring, arrogance and unsurpassed feats in shooting down 14 German balloons and four airplanes. He died in France in 1918, six miles behind enemy lines.

## President's Message

– by Steve deRodeff

Well, Airport Day 2016 has come and gone and WOW! We've gotten a lot of great feedback on how much fun the event was: the performers, parachute jumping, great flybys and car/aircraft races, not to mention the spot landing and flour bombing events (they were all too low, except me, just my opinion). Congratulations to Catherine for the 10 ft. flour bombing result! Everyone I've talked to has been really positive about the day and expressed they felt it was one of our best events. They were captured by the many aircraft and vintage car exhibits and felt the flour bombing and spot landing contests were a lot of fun. Car aircraft races seemed to be particularly exciting but we're still working on a winning car. The after event, with the band and great food, was over the top. Many people told me they really enjoyed the evening event with a great band and lots of dancing.

So many people to thank for their help and providing facilities to make the event a success that I can't mention them all here, but for sure, we depend on all their help to make airport day a success.

Oh, there are some other things on the horizon we need to start thinking about. It's clear sometime in the next six months we will need to come together to come to a group position on the proposed RTTF proposal. The County has a goal of having a position defined by next June and we need to both influence and provide input into that proposal. As we all know there are many conflicting issues which need to be addressed to make us end up with a reasonable way forward.

I attended a County meeting in which many issues were discussed and identified. There were several of which I was not aware. The most pressing seems to be the RTTF, but also important is the permanent IFR restriction on night landing. I don't know what the answer is to the issues facing us but I do know it will take concerted effort by many of us to drive outcomes that we are all happy with. I think we need to think of having a lot of dialog amongst ourselves over the next 4-5 months so that we have at least a chance of determining the future of our airport facility.

Oh, just saying, I'm filling in for Dale and may be here next time around, but that's for you to say.

SEE PHOTOS FROM AIRPORT DAY ON PAGE 8

## Social Corner

– by Danielle Coelho

Good Day to all my PMLAA Members and Friends. With a very fun Airport Day and evening BBQ dance behind us, we quickly move into Fall/Winter. Before I get into that, I want to thank everyone who helped me at the BBQ. You know who you are and You All Totally Rock!!!

November's meeting will be a **Thanksgiving dinner theme**. The November meeting will be held at our usual meeting place - the **McGowan's hangar** on Saturday, **November 5**. Time: **6:00pm**. **Please bring your favorite Thanksgiving appetizer, main dish, side dish or dessert.**

December is our Christmas Party. It will be held at The Buchner's hangar on Saturday, December 3. Invitation will be sent via snail mail. Reservations will be required as seating is limited. You will get more info on that soon. I also need volunteers to decorate the hangar for Christmas. We will begin decorating in November. Please email me at [Ciaochilla@earthlink.net](mailto:Ciaochilla@earthlink.net) asap if you would like to help.

I hope everyone has a wonderful month. I look forward to seeing everyone at the November meeting.

## Marshes Fire

– by Janet Gregory

Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> off Hwy 49 and Marshes Flat Road north of Don Pedro Reservoir, the Marshes Fire started at 12:20 in the afternoon. By 3:15, just 3 hours later it had grown to the ominous cloud you see in the photo. I was heading to the Bay Area on business and flew south to avoid the area so that Cal Fire could get their job done. A TFR (Temporary Flight Restriction) was later put into place to keep the area clear for Cal Fire flight activities. The fire was started by a vehicle with a hot engine parked in dry grass. It burned 1,080 acres and took two fire engines, two crews and 92 fire-fighting personnel to contain it. Stats are from [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).



**Plume from Marshes Fire**

## Young Eagles at Pine Mountain Lake

– by Ed Gregory

We had a great day flying Young Eagles at Pine Mountain Lake on Saturday, September 24th. We flew 27 kids and 2 adults. Many people played multiple roles, denoted with a gold \* by their name! Thanks to all the volunteers that made the day a success.



**Wayne Handley with prospective pilots 1**

- Pilots: Gabe Coelho (4), Wayne Handley (9)\*, Joe Riley (3), Bonnie Ritchey (3) & Ed Sunday (3) (O22)\*
- Welcome: Diane Harrison, Norma Lella & Pat Price
- Flight Directors: Janet Gregory\*, Dennis Smith, Tammy Talovich
- Photographers: Leon Liebster\* & Susie Williams
- Ramp: Ed Gregory\*, Mike Gustafson\*, Mike Lella
- Ground Crew: Danielle Coelho, Steve DeRodeff\*, John & Sally Smikahl, Diana Sunday (O22), Daryl (O22) & David (O22)
- Marketing: Virginia Gustafson
- Simulators: Joel Avey & Tim Wennberg (MPI)
- Airport Display Day: Charlie & Janet Black

It was a fun day for everyone ending with a relaxing lunch for our hard working volunteers. We hope we didn't miss mention of anyone. We had kids from Groveland (8), Coulterville (5), Sonora (5), Soulsbyville (2), San Jose (2), and one each from Modesto, Montara, Oakdale, San Bruno and San Francisco. Thank you Pine Mountain Lake!

## PML Reno Air Racer

– by Janet Gregory

The Reno Air Races are a blast. 2016 National Championship Air Races were exciting. We always have a great turn out from PML racing, crewing airplanes, and as spectators enjoying every minute. If you haven't been to the Air Races, add it to your bucket list next year for September 13-17, 2017.

In Sport Class, kit built airplanes, Vicky flew her Lanceair Legacy "Lucky Girl", qualifying a 303.464 mph! Faster than the air speed limit below 10,000 feet – 250kts (288 mph) according to F.A.R. 91.117. Vicky finished fast and proud taking home 3<sup>rd</sup> place Silver in the Sport Class.

Last year Vicky broke a Reno speed record. She was participating in the Jet Class races and qualified at a blistering 469.8 mph, making Vicky THE FASTEST WOMAN IN RENO AIR RACING! Go Vicky!

## September 28, 2016 Airport Meeting Summary

– by Bonnie Ritchie

- There is a problem with the Pilot Controlled Lighting (PCL). When multiple sources trigger it, it gets “fried” for 5 minutes. Subsequent attempts to activate it within those 5 minutes compound the problem. Need to investigate if a fix is available from the manufacturer or if there is a way for someone to manually reset on the ground when it happens. No fix readily available.
- Vehicles are not allowed to cross midfield and if they cross at 9 must have a radio with them. If you see people breaking these rules, educate them and/or take pictures/video and send it to the airport manager and sheriff and they will be cited. We probably won't be able to get a deputy to sit there all day and try to catch people in the act so it's up to us.
- Airport signage on the South side was recently damaged and should be replaced within the week.
- Working on new signs and language based on the petition from users. No ETA.
- Acknowledged E45 has been neglected with respect to maintenance. There will be a tech onsite a few days per month.
- There are some trees on the 9 approach the FAA identified as obstructions restricting night time IFR approaches. Need to identify the trees, the owners and see if they can be removed or trimmed. Also investigating increasing the angle of the VASI.
- Reviewed budget and got feedback from those present about priorities. Total budget (including day to day maintenance) is \$12,558.00. \$8000 is set aside for special projects. Unused money can be put into an account for future.
- Those present determined the parking lot and pilots lounge w/ ADA improvements need the most immediate work. Mike Gustafson is looking into possibilities to reduce the cost of the parking lot work. Runway will probably be good for another 10 years.

### **Residential Through The Fence (RTTF). Fun talk.**

- Got some history on why this came about and clarification that there isn't an actual fence.
- Why would we want it? \$150k from the FAA plus we can apply for part of the \$20mil available for special projects at small airports (no guarantee we get that though) and if something catastrophic happens, access to emergency funds for things like repaving the runway (estimated cost would be about \$1mil). See current budget above.
- Biggest issues are that people who have deeded access from their properties (68 properties) to the airport must cede that access to the county and must pay fees equivalent to that paid by other tenants (tie-down fee - although there are other options). It was pointed out there are actually about 94 total access points to the airport.
- At least 90% of these 68 must agree to the above for the FAA to accept the agreement. Their concern is that if someone decides not to pay and have legal access to the airport, the whole agreement gets thrown out or we might have to do something like put in gates on the taxiways.

- Right now the tie-down fee is about \$48 per month. The access fee can be the same as tie-down fees and increase as they do, or get set as something higher than that and it would be locked in for the duration of the agreement.
- Fees would be collected along with property taxes to make it enforceable. The fees collected would be guaranteed to be allocated to the airports (not necessarily E45) and can't be used as part of the general fund. This is about \$40k-\$50k/yr.
- So, residents would have to sign over their deeded access, pay between \$600-1000/year, would still have to maintain the taxiway in front of their homes if they're on the north side of the runway but in return we would get FAA money to keep E45 going and probably even make improvements.
- The current timeline is June 30, 2017 to come up with the agreement. Residents would have from July 1, 2017 until December 31, 2017 to sign. If not, the country will explore other options.

### Radio Rumors "Say Again"

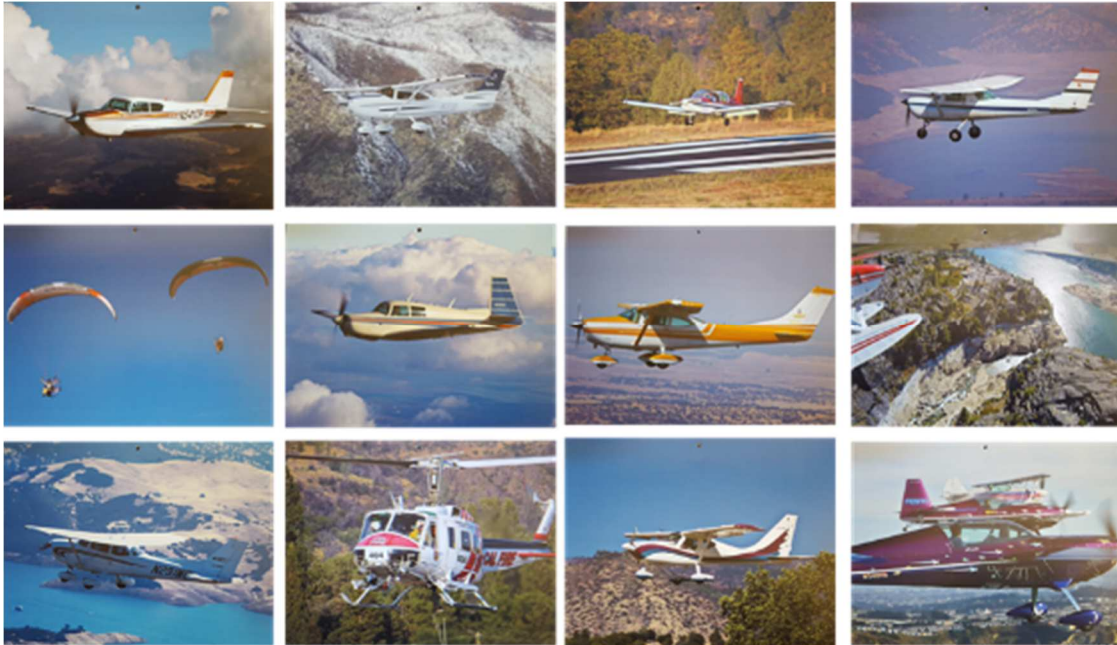
- **New Member:** Daniel Tupper
- **Buzz Buggy:** In August, PMLAA pilots Larry Jobe & Dale Mueller began a journey with Buzz Buggy, a restored DC-3/C47. Flight route from Australia to Guilin, China. Engine failure and replacement in Surabaya, Indonesia grounded them for 1.5 months. Old airplanes need lots of love and attention. October 7<sup>th</sup> the airplane flew to Singapore, being hosted by the Singapore Flying Club at Seletar Airport. A fuel pump problem is being corrected. More information at: [www.flyingthehump.com](http://www.flyingthehump.com) and <https://www.facebook.com/FlyingTigersHistoricalOrganization>
- **Give away:** 30 coffee mugs at the November PMLAA meeting. Mug features a photo of the 1939 Spartan Executive which belonged to Kent & Sandy Blankenburg, and dated 1999 for the Wings Over Moffett Airshow.
- **Lost:** Brown jacket at the October 1 PMLAA dinner – contact Kay Meermans 962-0611
- **Found:** Check the back table at PMLAA meeting or contact Janet Gregory 962-5061 or [janetg@kickstartall.com](mailto:janetg@kickstartall.com) to reclaim.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Glass salad bowl 8" (Sept)                  | Large oval serving dish, white plastic    |
| Round glass plate, 8"                       | <i>Other items:</i>                       |
| Round cream color Dansk plate, 11" tan trim | Houston Astro MLB ball cap (Airport Day)  |
| Round serving dish 12" glass                | 1 pair men's sunglasses (Airport Day)     |
| Round serving dish 12" clear plastic        | 2 pairs of women's sunglasses (Oct & Aug) |



## 2017 PMLAA Calendars For Sale

– by Susie Williams



**2017 Calendar Photos**

The 2017 PMLAA calendar is now for sale! We have sold quite a number of them at Airport Day, but still have more available if you haven't picked up yours yet. This edition features all aerial shots of airplanes, float planes, helicopters, and even a pair of powered parachutes. All the aircraft have a tie to Pine Mountain Lake- either the aircraft is or was based here, or the pilot lives here, or in the case of the CalFire helicopter shot, the aircraft was working here when the photo was taken.

The calendar will be available at the 50/50 ticket table at the November PMLAA meeting. Look for additional calendars around town at various local businesses, as well as the Book Nook (bottom floor of the Museum building) on Saturdays. The price for the calendar is only \$15, or if you buy 4 you can get one free. Be sure to pick up a calendar for yourself, and also for your pilot friends... they make great gifts!

## Airport Day Photos





## Area Aviation Events

### October

31 - Halloween

### November

**5 – PMLAA Meeting – JR Williams speaking on WWI Flying Ace, Frank Luke**

5 – V. Benzing & Patriots Jet Team @ Jackie Cochran Airshow, Thermal, CA

6 – Daylight Saving Time Ends

8 – Election Day

11 – Veterans Day

12 – Fly-in to Gustine (301)

**19 – E45 Airport Display Day**

24 - Thanksgiving

### December

**3 – PMLAA Holiday Party – Dinner, Music & Dancing**

**17 – E45 Airport Display Day**

25 – Christmas & Chankuah

## 2016 Meeting Calendar

| <u>Date</u>  | <u>Program</u>        | <u>Time &amp; Location</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| November 5   | WWI Fighter Ace       | 6:00pm McGowan's Hangar    |
| December 3   | Holiday Party         | 6:00pm Buchner's Hangar    |
| January 2017 | No meeting in January |                            |

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