



Volume 37: Issue 4
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Pine Mountain Lake
Aviation Association

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation

Next Meeting/Potluck Dinner

Saturday, May 7, 2022

*Speaker: Daniel Gudgel
Perlan Project*

Time: 6:00 pm

*Place: Ed & Janet Gregory Hangar
Located at the 9 end of the runway,
on the Southwest Taxiway*

The Presidents Message

Mike Gustafson- President, PMLAA

We had a rousing good time at our PMLAA event on April 2! About 90 people came for the potluck dinner and all were entertained by Vicky Benzing's detailed presentation on her newly acquired P-51 Mustang. It is undergoing a major engine and airframe overhaul, new instrument panel and paint job. This Mustang was previously owned by Clay Lacy, who was a surprise guest as well. I think Clay's presence was to keep Vicky honest in her wild acclaim about such a magnificent aircraft! Seriously, Clay recounted much of the history of the aircraft and we saw some video clips of him flying the plane for the movies.

Several people skipped the potluck and came for the presentation. Certainly a good alternative for those still concerned about Covid and shared food.

A giant thank you to Krystall Johanson and her set-up and tear-down crew. It takes a lot of effort from a lot of people to pull off these events, and we need a few new volunteers to help out as Bartenders. What a great job, -- you get to say hi to just about everyone at the meeting and you hand out the wine and soft drinks.

You will be everyone's new best friend. We need four members who can take turns bartending in rotation. Please help and contact me or Krystall.

While I am on the hunt for a few good men or women, we need of another person to help with tagging overnight airplanes on the ramp. I have one volunteer already but we need another to rotate days so no one person has to work too hard. It is about 30 minutes a day. Please call me at 962.6336 if you are willing to give it a try. Any money we collect from the parking fees will stay at PML Airport.

Our next meeting is May 7 at Ed and Janet Gregory's hanger at the West end of the runway. Our guest speaker will be Daniel Gudgel from Merced who will discuss the Perlan Project which is all about getting a glider up to the edge of space! Check out Dan's bio in this newsletter. Other great news is that the County applied for and received a Grant for \$31,000 for maintenance work at PML airport. This is another example of the revived attention we are receiving from the County.

County personnel have been spending more time at our airport on various maintenance projects and things are starting to improve. I am hopeful we will be able to keep their attention. One of the downsides of all the County employees at PML airport is that we now have a Sheriff Deputy patrolling the airport daily. His job is to stop errant walkers and drivers on the taxiways and runways. Yes, believe it or not, we actually have people come to the airport to skate board, ride their bikes and walk their dogs on the runway. We have had a few near misses of aircraft landing while there were people on the runway! Can't have that.

Just to be clear, it is never acceptable or safe to be out on the runway as a walker or with a bike or car, period! It is also not acceptable or safe to cross the runway at the fuel island. Right now the Sheriff is just warning people but soon he will be issuing expensive citations.

My last topic is Basic-med and operating as a Safety Pilot. When Basic-med was introduced, the rule had an unintended error in it that would not allow a pilot operating under Basic-med to be a Safety Pilot. The good news is the FAA is working on correcting that error. I will keep you apprised of their progress.

Good weather is all around us, go fly someplace for fun!

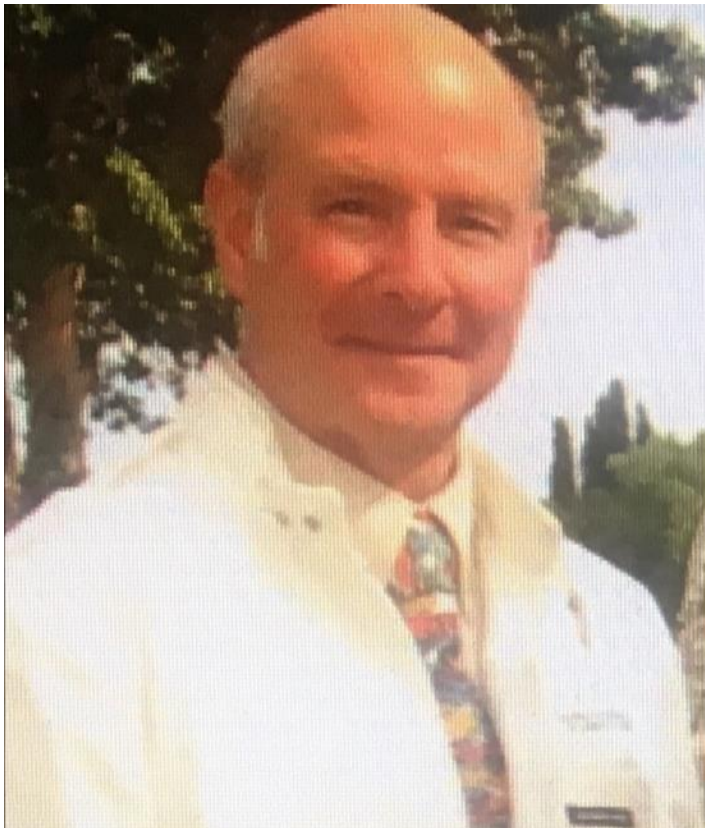
Mike



Our Speaker for May Meeting

Dan Gudgel, Perlan Biography:

Dan Gudgel has been around aviation his entire life in varying capacities in aerial application, flight instruction, air charter, and all aspects of the Gliding Category. Additionally he is a professional meteorologist, retired from the U.S. Dept of Commerce/NOAA/National Weather Service, but continues to serve as a consulting meteorologist and soaring contest meteorologist for local, regional, national, and international soaring events that has included two World Gliding Championships. He has served in various capacities on the Hilton Soaring Cup, Chief Towpilot and Supervising Meteorologist for the "Return to Kitty Hawk" adventure in 2003, assistant to Lead Meteorologist Len Snellman for the Earthwinds-Hilton Global circumnavigation attempts in the early 1990s, and more recently has been assisting as an on-site meteorologist for the Great Reno Balloon Races and Minden Wave Encampments. He is elated to currently be helping on the Perlan Glider Team as an on-site meteorologist. The Perlan Project is a high-altitude aircraft research project utilizing a glider to fly and explore Stratospheric waves collecting atmospheric data along the way. Dan's presentation will not only talk about some of the aircraft and flight aspects of the Perlan Aircraft but comment about the logistics involved with two safaris to Southern Argentina and observations in regard to those encampments.



Our speaker, Dan Gudgel.



The Perlan “Glider” has set world altitude records.

SAFETY CORNER

Airport Safety

By: Mike Gustafson, CFII

This missive is brought to you by the many pilots who have almost landed on or taxied into cars, animals or pedestrians while operating at Pine Mountain Lake Airport!

One of the joys of being based at an airpark, which Pine Mountain Lake is, the freedom to come and go as you please, no pesky control tower to crimp our style. Enjoy the occasional high speed low pass, just to check for deer mind you, and the opportunity to wander around in your car, bike, golf cart or walking, checking on the various hangars and the projects there-in.

While most of us understand “airport etiquette” such as: airplanes always have the right-of-way, stay off the runway, etc. there is an increasing number of folks who just want to use the airport for the occasional walk or bike ride with the family and do not understand anything about airport or aircraft operations, and there-in lies the trouble – and the danger. This note is addressed to them!

The airport is for the safe operation of aircraft, period! No exceptions. The FAA considers any activity not involving an aircraft on our airport as a violation of the “restricted access” agreement that the County signed as part of historical funding. In fact, we have been found in violation of the “Grant Assurances” as a result of all the non-aircraft operations. It is possible that the FAA could come to the County and demand the return of the funds that are in dispute as a result of the violation. The County has a set of Ordinances that address these same extraneous activities, Section 18.06 and Section 18.08. Section 18.06 speaks to pedestrians on any part of the airport environment and 18.08 speaks to Motor Vehicles on the airport environment. Violation of either Ordinance is a misdemeanor..Both Sections speak about customary and normal activity that is considered acceptable, dropping off passengers and crew at their airplane, walking out to view their take-off, etc. Other non-aircraft activity requires the express permission of the Airport Manager.

We all know that one of the charms of our airport is in fact wandering around the airport; so how do we do that without creating a flight or taxi hazard? We want the local non-pilots to view our airport as a good thing, just not too much of a good thing.

I suggest that when we see folks on the airport that we gently and firmly let them know that airplanes have the right-of-way. Tell them airplanes don't have reverse so yes, cars have to back out of their way, and walkers have to get far off the taxiway as the plane passes.

If you see anyone who is not from the County or involved in some sort of emergency on the runway, then a stronger "suggestion" would be in order. There is no reason anyone should be walking their dog, or riding their bicycle or driving any motor vehicle across or on the runway. At PML airport we should all cross the runway at the "9" end of the runway and we should all avoid as much as possible crossing at mid-field. Yes, I know, it is a long way around and lord knows I have transgressed, but non-pilots see that activity and then think it is ok. Then it is only a matter of time until a car pulls out in front of a landing aircraft and we have a major accident. We have already had a couple of airplane go-arounds as a result of folks walking their dogs the length of the runway!

Be aware that the Tuolumne County Sheriff is now patrolling our airport, so don't be surprised if you have the mis-fortune having a bit of a conversation with the officer. Understand, he is just enforcing the County rules, he is not picking on you. Our wonderful airport has somehow become the favorite place for walkers, dog walking, kids bike riding, etc. and we need to discourage this type of activity by those who are not airport educated.

The bottom line is we want everyone, pilots and non-pilots alike to view the PML airport as their airport, but airport safety must be uppermost on all our minds. Enjoy the summer and get out there and fly!



Stock photograph
EAA Flight Deck



By Ed Gregory

We are looking forward to the upcoming **Young Eagle Rally at Columbia Airport (O22) on Saturday April 23rd from 9:00 to noon.**

- Bring your kids or grandkids, age 8 thru 17, for a free introduction to aviation and airplane ride.

- Be part of the fun, volunteer as a pilot or ground crew

More information at youngeaglesday.org. You can also contact Ed Sunday (209)743-6350 or me (209)962-5061 for more information.

Our local EAA Chapter 1337 is a 501-c-3 charitable organization and donations are tax deductible and eligible for company matching if your employer provides it.



Young Eagles pilot Armin Abusaidi

Our local EAA Chapter has flown 1,051 Tuolumne County Young Eagles since the chapter was founded in 2003. This is our first Young Eagle Rally in two years, due to Covid cancellations. We are excited about introducing young people in our community to the spirit of aviation.

Other chapter news... Welcome to new member **Grant Kruger**. Thank you **to Armin Abusaidi** and **Susie Williams** for their generous tax-deductible donations to our chapter. We also had some open discussions about pedestrian and vehicle traffic at E45.

PML Aviators To Speak About Their Books

Mark your calendar for Saturday April 22nd, 11:00am to 12:30pm. Two of our very own E45 pilots and published authors will introduce and talk about their books, along with one other author.

Marle Hewett will talk about his exciting story: ***Fast Hewie**, From Navy Jet Jock to Global Aerospace Tech Wizard*.

Susie Williams will share stunning photos along with a unique way to travel: ***Adventures at 1000 AGL**, How to Fly Around the Country in a Small Airplane*.

The Tuolumne County Public Library is hosting this first local author talk in two years at the Sonora Library, 480 Greenley Rd, Sonora, CA 95370. The authors will be introduced and talk about their books with a panel discuss of how to embark on writing a book, ample time for Q&A, and autographed books for sale.

The books are available on Amazon.com and for loan at the Groveland Library, as well as other Tuolumne County Library Branches: Twain Harte, Tuolumne City, and Sonora.

Don't miss this fun **Author Talk**. Put it on your calendar:

- ✓ Discover one or more books worth reading.
- ✓ Learn about books from the writer's perspective.
- ✓ Realize that you too could become an author.

There is something for everyone at this first author talk in two years. Aspiring minds looking for interesting reading and aspiring authors looking for inspiration.



Radio Rumors

.Thanks go to **Tristan Duplan** for rototilling around the windsock at the 09er approach end of the runway to make it more visible.

- Interested in attending the **Reno Air Races** this year? Our own **Vicky Benzing** will be racing Sport Class and maybe more! “Season Ticket” Box seats available at show center for September 15-18, six classes of air racing, air shows, and more. Tickets are \$408: include show center box seat, pit pass, and VIP parking. Contact Janet Gregory 510-693-7546 or janetg.96a@gmail.com if interested.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Question

Are pilots required to monitor 121.5 MHz (also known as "Guard") while in flight?

Answer

There is a legal requirement to monitor 121.5 MHz at all times during flight in the U.S. national airspace system if capable. Pilots with only one com radio are excused while actively using it for other communications but otherwise must monitor 121.5 MHz. Those with two radios must have one on 121.5 MHz unless both are in use to get other information. [Join the discussion >](#)

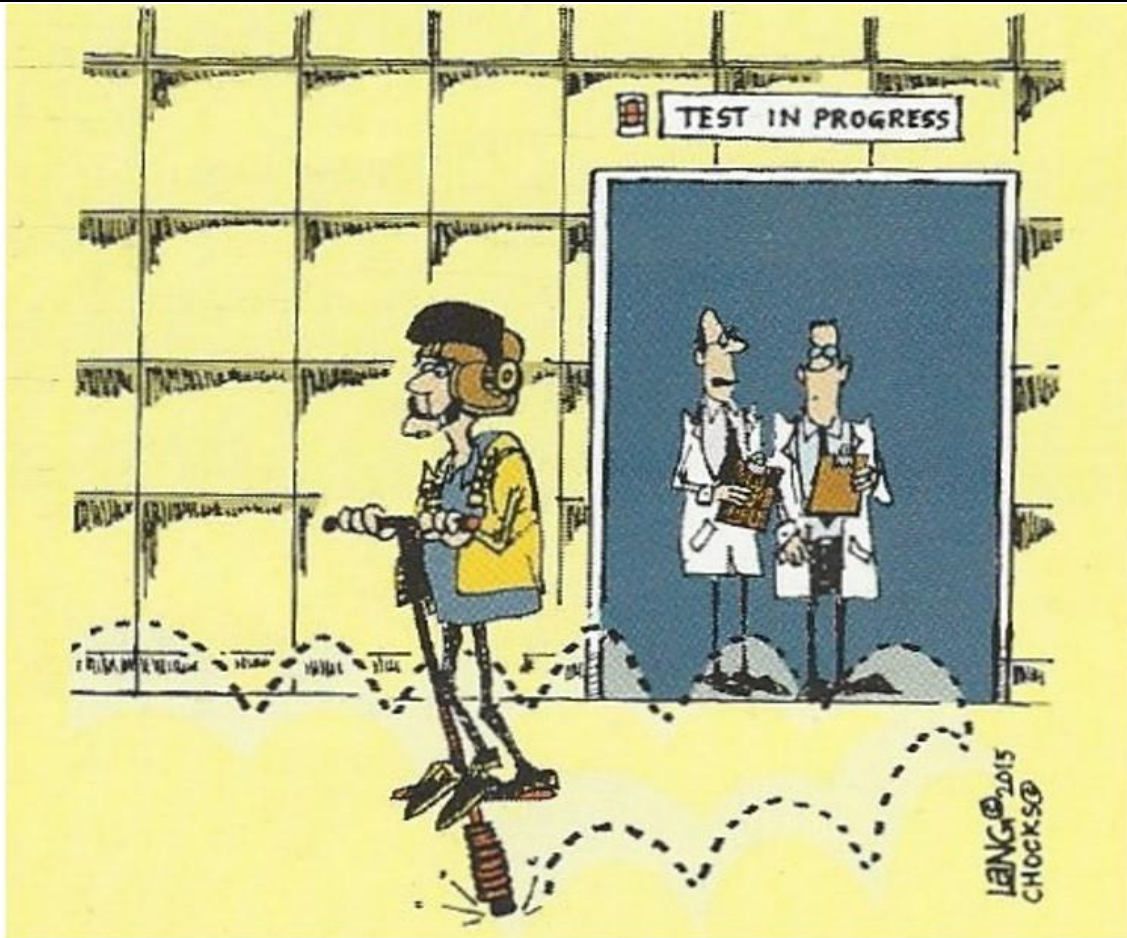
This [discussion](#) is from our online [Pilot Information Center](#), where you can ask questions, contribute answers, earn badges, and join our growing pilot community online. (Log in to the online Pilot Information Center using your AOPA website username and password to see this discussion.) Have a question for our technical services staff? [Contact AOPA.](#)

With the approaching warm weather, remember Density Altitude and be safe . This chart is only a gentle reminder.



Please Note:

Radio Rumors is always looking for interesting items. Feel free to send in your tips to airportlady@sbcglobal.net. (Ed.)



“Actually, our wind turbulence simulator is our most popular training program...”

Humor courtesy:
Chocks Aviation
Bob Lang

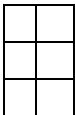
2022 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>
May 7, 2022	Dan Gudgel, Perlen Project	6:00 PM @Ed & Janet Gregory Hangar
June 4, 2022	Beth Stanton, Drones	6:00 PM Joe & Anne Sobczak Hangar
July 2022	No Meeting	No Meeting

2022 Aviation Calendar

January	<p>1 – <i>New Year's Day</i> 1 – Happy New Year! <u>NO</u> PMLAA Meeting in January 1-2 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 17 – <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i></p>
February	<p>1 – <i>Chinese New Year – Year of the Tiger</i> 2 – <i>Groundhog Day</i> 5 – PMLAA Meeting 5-6 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 13 – <i>Superbowl Sunday</i> 14 – <i>Valentine's Day</i> 21 – <i>President's Day</i></p>
March	<p>5 – PMLAA Meeting 5-6 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 13 – <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins (Clock springs forward)</i> 17 – <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 20 – <i>Vernal Equinox 15:33 UTC – First Day of Spring</i></p>
April	<p>2 – PMLAA Meeting 2-3 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 9 Celebration of Life for Jim "JT" Thomas at Placerville Airport 10-1p RSVP to catboats@gmail.com 17 – <i>Easter Sunday</i> 22 – <i>Earth Day,</i> 31 – <i>Partial Eclipse of the Sun- visible from southeast Pacific & southern South America</i></p>
May	<p>4 – <i>Star Wars Day – May the fourth be with you</i> 5 – <i>Cinco de Mayo</i> 7 – PMLAA Meeting 7-8 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 7 <i>Warbirds Wing sand Wheels, Paso Robles Airport (PRB)7a-4p</i> 8 – <i>Mother's Day</i> 14 <i>Travis AFB Wings over Solano Airshow, CA w/ Vicky Benzing</i> 16 – <i>Eclipse of the Moon- visible from Americas, Europe, Africa</i> 20-22 <i>Gathering of Luscombs at Columbia Airport (O22)</i> 20-22 <i>Oregon International Airshow w/ Vicky Benzing</i> 24 <i>Food Truck Fly-in at San Martin (E16), CA</i> 30 – <i>Memorial Day</i></p>
June	<p>4 – PMLAA Meeting 4-5 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 4 <i>Eagle Field Dinner Dance Fly-in, Eagle Field (CL01) Dos Palos, CA</i> 14 – <i>Super Moon - Full Moon nearly at Perigee</i> 18-19 – Columbia Airport (O22) Father's Day Fly-In , stay tuned... 19 – <i>Father's Day</i> 21 – <i>Summer Solstice 09:14 UTC – First Day of Summer</i> 25 <i>Sentry Eagle Exercise & Open House, Klamath Falls, OR w/ Vicky Benzing</i></p>
July	<p>2 – <u>NO</u> PMLAA Meeting in July</p>

	<p>2-3 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 2-3 GIG Harbor Wings & Wheels Airshow, WA w/Vicky Benzing 4 – <i>Independence Day</i> 4 <i>Tacoma Freedom Fair Airshow</i> WA w/ <i>Vicky Benzing</i> 13 – Super Moon - Full Moon nearly at Perigee 16 Boundry Bay Airshow BC w/Vicky Benzing 25-31 – EAA AirVenture, OSH, Oshkosh, WI w/ Vicky Benzing</p>
August	<p>6 – PMLAA Taxiway Party, Hot August Nights 6-7 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 7 – <i>Friendship Day</i> 20-21 <i>Wings over Camarillo Airshow, CA w/Vicky Benzing</i></p>
September	<p>3 – PMLAA Meeting 3-4 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 5 – <i>Labor Day</i> 10-18 – National Championship Air Races at RTS, Reno, NV w/Vicky Benzing 23 – <i>Autumnal Equinox 01:04 UTC – First Day of Autumn/Fall</i> 23-25 <i>MCAS Miramar Airshow, CA w/Vicky Benzing</i></p>
October	<p>1 – PMLAA Airport Appreciation Day, 11:30-3:00 1 – PMLAA Meeting 1-2 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 11 – <i>Columbus Day</i> 15-16 <i>Edwards AFB Airshow, CA w/Vicky Benzing</i> 25 – Partial Eclipse of the Sun- visible from Europe, NE Africa, Middle East, W Asia 31 - <i>Halloween</i></p>
November	<p>4-6 Nellis AFB Airshow, w/Vicky Benzing 5 – PMLAA Meeting 5-6 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 6 – <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends (Clocks fall back)</i> 8 – Total Eclipse of the Moon- visible from Asia, Australia, Pacific, Americas 11 – <i>Veterans Day</i> 24 – <i>Thanksgiving Day</i></p>
December	<p>3 – PMLAA Holiday Party 3-4 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 7 – <i>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i> 21 – <i>Winter Solstice 21:48 UTC – First Day of Winter</i> 25 – <i>Christmas Day</i> 31 – <i>New Year’s Eve</i></p>



BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2022			
OFFICERS		COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
President, Mike Gustafson	209-962-6336	Property, Ed Peters	962-6267

VP, Airport Affairs, Rob Compton 962-6503
VP, Social Affairs, Krystal Johanson 209-606-0377
Secretary, Nancy Mora 209-777-5558
Treasurer, Patricia Gibson treasurer@pmlaa.org

Email: president@pmlaa.org
or board@pmlaa.org

Phone prefix is 209 unless otherwise indicated

Multimedia, Phil Hickerson 962-6714
Membrshp/Rostr, Nancy Mora 209-777-5558

Airports Manager, Benedict Stuth 533-5685

Display Day Coordinator
Rob Compton 962-6503

Safety, Mike Gustafson & Joe Sobczak

Newsletter, Dianne Cole 962-6397

Webmaster, Jeremy Zawodny 408-685-5936





Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association
2022 Fundraising Request



PMLAA Fundraising Directive: PMLAA has restarted monthly gatherings, in addition to Airport Day, Hot August Nights, the Christmas Party, an air race, flour bombing and Spot Carrier Landing events. Due to a change in some rules governing our organization we can no longer hold 50/50 raffles. This was our biggest fund-raising event and earned us on average \$3500 per year; it proves a great loss and hardship on the club. With Covid for two years curtailing our events we now find ourselves in a monetary shortfall. To meet our budget this year, we must raise \$3000. So far, we have met 25% of this goal. If every family could contribute \$25, we would quickly make this up. Unfortunately, many families are unable to afford that, so we ask those who can - contribute of \$50-\$100. We will look at other fundraising opportunities later in the year, but this is a necessary ask in order to keep the annual membership cost low. Thank you for your consideration.

PMLAA Scholarship: In 2005 PMLAA established a Scholarship Fund with \$3,500 for the purpose of promoting interest and ability in Aviation or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.) Over the years awards of up to \$500 each have been given to some 25 applicants. It is a wonderful legacy for our aviation community. Currently, the account balance is below \$3,000 and we would like to raise an additional \$2,250.

Fundraising Directive	(\$50-\$100 suggested)	\$ _____
Scholarship Fund	(\$25-\$50 suggested)	\$ _____
TOTAL enclosed		\$ _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make Checks payable to **PMLAA** and send to P.O. Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321

Thank you for the generous support of our programs.