



Volume 38: Issue 8
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Pine Mountain Lake
Aviation Association, Inc

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Next Meeting /Pot Luck Dinner

Wayne & Karen Handley Farewell Celebration

Saturday September 2, 2023

Time: 6:00 pm

*Place: Jason & Krystall Johanson Hangar-Home
Located at the end of the Southwest Taxiway*

President's Message

By Mike Gustafson

Hot August Nights! Gabe Coelho and Joe Sobczak pulled out all the stops and put on one fantastic Hot August Nights party! If you missed it, well, sorry about that. About 140 folks joined the party on the back taxi-way which was lined with cool cars and airplanes. Rich Crowe and Ralph McLaughlin did the cooking on what must be the most amazing BBQ machine on wheels! Rich built this machine over two years and has participated in events in San Francisco, Oakland and now PML. You have to see this machine to fully appreciate it. A big thank you to everyone else who helped with set and tear down and Phil Hickerson for the audio.

We had a surprise guest: Julie Clark, a world renowned aerobatic and airshow performer flew in here in her beautiful T-34 Mentor; it was parked right in front of Joe's hangar, quite a sight!

We were entertained until the wee hours by Brent Burns, and at one point, after a bit of alcohol, there were even folks up and dancing.

Community Airport Day Gabe wanted me to give everyone a heads-up regarding the Community Airport Day dinner. It will be catered, and the main course will be steak so he will need a hard count by September 30. Keep your eyes peeled for the flyer heralding Community Airport Day and the catered dinner that night.

Speaking of Community Airport Day, Rob Compton has been hard at work threading the needle through County's rules and regulations and may have actually gotten the Flour Bombing and car/airplane demonstrations back on the schedule. We will keep our fingers crossed that we will get back to our usual list of events. Meanwhile, Kurt Howerton has lined up a great list of performers. Please take a close look at the information later in this newsletter and think about how you can help.

Special September 2 Celebration Our next event on Saturday, September 2 will be very special. As you probably know, *Karen and Wayne Handley are moving to Monterey*. They have had an amazing and lasting impact on our community. They have contributed to PMLAA, to many of us personally, and to our community in so many ways. We will miss them greatly. Our September 2 event at the Johansons' hangar is a "going away and thank you" party for Karen and Wayne. Please see the flyer later in this newsletter.

Meet the Airport Manager Drew Njirich, our new Airport Manager, has established "Meet the Manager" visiting hours at PML. He will be at the PML Airport Lounge from 9am – 12noon every Tuesday. So if you want to share your thoughts with him or ask a question, drop by any Tuesday morning.

New year/new officers This is August, but pretty soon we will be looking at the new year, and we need new people to help run this great aviation association! We need people to take on the role of association president or treasurer. Please consider taking a turn; it is not reasonable or fair to expect the same folks to continue year after year.

Enjoy the rest of summer.

Message From Vice President-Social

By Gabe Coelho

Hello PMLAA members,

We had a nice turnout for our Hot August Night's event, I hope everyone enjoyed the evening and their dinner. I would like to thank Rich Crow, Joe Sobczak and their crew for everything they did in preparing the food and venue for us. Thanks to all of you who brought your display cars and motorcycles, it was much appreciated by all who attended.

Our next meeting is September 2nd at Jason & Krystall Johanson's hangar, 20810 Elderberry Way (9er end of runway). Set up is at 10am that Saturday morning, Social Hour starts at 6pm, dinner at 7pm. This is a Potluck dinner and as always plenty of food is appreciated.



New Continuing Feature

Airport NOTAMS

By Drew Njirich Airports Manager

All,

I am sure by now most have heard that I have been hired full time by the County as the new Airport Manager. For those who do not know me I thought I would take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Andrew Njirich and have always gone by Drew. Please feel free to address me any way you see fit as I am not easily offended. I am a fourth generation Tuolumne County resident, and I was born and raised here. I attended Columbia Elementary and graduated from Sonora High where I promptly left to serve five years in the Marine Corps graduating boot camp three days after 9/11. I served as a CH-46E Crew Chief and started my aviation career at 18. After transitioning to the civilian side of life I quickly obtained an Airframe and Powerplant license coupled with an FCC GROL license and started working at Columbia Airport for Intermountain Helicopters. I spent almost ten years there where I added both fixed wing and rotary wing licenses.

At some point in time the county did advertise the Airport Manager position and I applied and was promptly denied. I was told I did not meet the educational requirements. Now, working at McClellan for Helimax Aviation as their Chief Inspector, I decided to go back to school to meet the requirements. I graduated from Embry Riddle in three years and patiently waited for my opportunity. Earlier this year the opportunity did arise and this time I received no letter, but an interview. This brings us to the present.

What I want to express in this initial writing is that I am not one to sit back and hope good things happen. I work, study, fight and persevere until I reach the goal I have in my head. This is my intent with the airports as well. I live here and love my community. I want the best for everyone and will always fight for the things that need to be fought for. I am always open to listen and get a different perspective at any time. My door is truly open, and my phone is always on. I think with great support and great effort we can make things happen as they should have years before.

Thank you and I look forward to the coming years.

Drew

Get Ready for PML Community Airport Day: October 7

- Virginia Richmond

PMLAA is again inviting the greater Groveland community to Community Airport Day on **October 7th from noon – 3:00pm**. This fun and free event is key to developing appreciation and support from the local community for our airport.

We aim to put on a special event for our neighbors and encourage them to support our airport. Air boss Kurt Howerton has developed a nice line-up including flying demonstrations, high speed and low-speed demos and formation flying. There will also be a spot landing contest and a RC model airplane performance. In addition, we expect lots of cars and planes on display, as well as helicopters and our excellent refreshment stand.



**COMMUNITY
AIRPORT DAY**
OCTOBER 7, 2023
FREE ADMISSION!
PML AIRPORT
NOON – 3:00 PM

**FORMATION FLIGHTS • RC PLANES • HELICOPTERS
FLYING SKILLS CONTESTS • SPECIAL AERO SURPRISES!
AIRPLANE/CAR DEMONSTRATIONS
AIRPLANES & CARS DISPLAY • REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

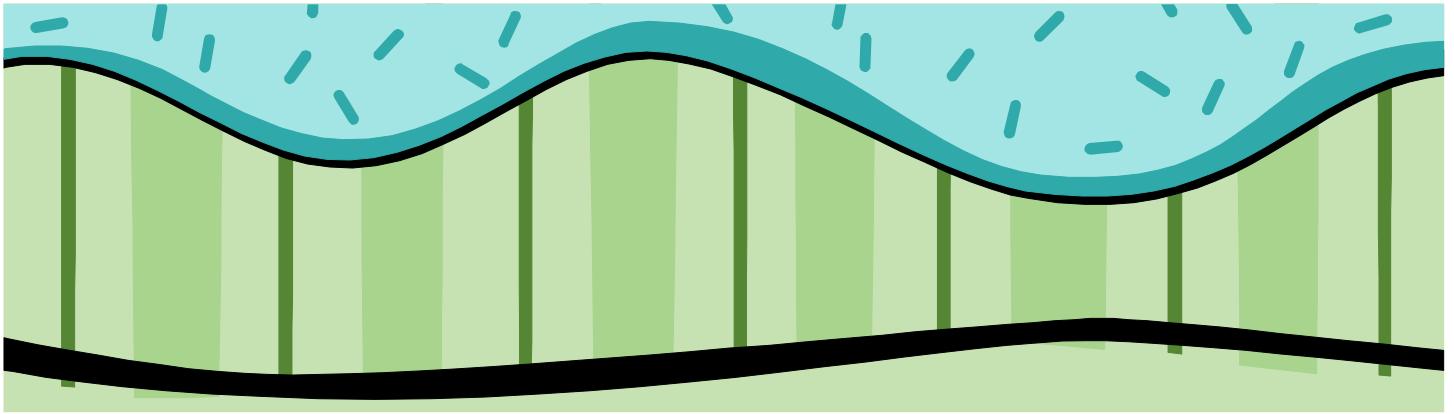
Bring a chair and enjoy the entertainment!
At the PML Airport – Our Community Resource!
Organized by Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

This is an all-hands event for PMLAA members.

Get involved. Everyone can do something! You can cook hotdogs, display your aircraft, perform, participate in the flying contest, help with set-up and traffic control, and much more. Specifically, here's where help is needed:

1. To help with set-up, safety, traffic control, airplane movements, and car and airplane displays, contact Mike Gustafson, MLGpilot@yahoo.com or 962.6336. Set-up begins at 9:00am on October 7.
2. Set-up for the dinner at Kay Meerman's hangar is at 3:00pm on Friday, October 6.
3. To participate in the spot landing and flour bombing contests or help with the event, contact Phil Boortz at philboortz@gmail.com or 805.944.0148.
4. To help at the refreshment stand, please contact Gabe Coelho at Skylaneav8or@gmail.com or 209.617.4384.

Please invite your PML friends and neighbors and let them see what a great asset our airport is to the whole community! Note this is not a fly-in event.

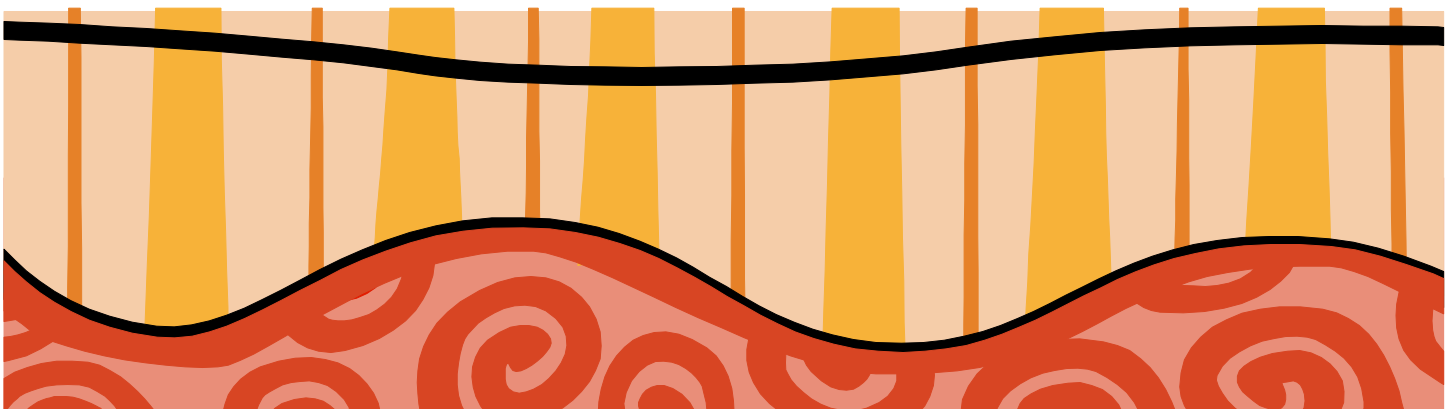


Farewell Celebration for Karen and Wayne Handley!!

Wayne and Karen are moving to Monterey.
We wish them well, but we'll miss them.
Let's give them a great PMLAA send-off!

September 2, 2023, 6:00pm
Potluck at the Johanson Hangar
PMLAA will provide dessert

Cards are welcome, but please no gifts. They are downsizing.



Safety Corner



Safety Corner will return next month (*Ed.*)



EAA Flight Deck

Flight Deck will return next month (*Ed.*)

Save the Date!

October 7 – our annual Community Airport Day showcases the benefits of our airport to the Groveland community. For more information and to sign-up to help or perform, contact Rob Compton, gt3rob@gmail.com or (925) 989-5186.

PMLAA organizes this special event for the community each fall. Please mark your calendars and plan to get involved! We'll need performers, ground crew, airplane and car displays, and food tent staff.

Airport Manager

Coffee & 

Conversation



Second Tuesday
of the month

10:00 am—11:00 am

Yosemite Flights
Pine Mountain Lake
Airport

Airport Day

Columbia Airport

Saturday, September 9, 2023

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Food Vendors

Craft Vendors

Cornhole Tournament

50/50 Raffle

Glider Contest (Ages 4-18)

Tricycle Races (Ages 4-99)

Historic Aircraft &

Classic Cars

CalFire Aircraft

Smokey Bear

And MUCH More

**Airplane & Classic Car
Show & Shine**



FREE Admission & Parking

Columbia Airport 10723 Airport Rd., Columbia, CA

For more information call Traci (209)533-5685 or twilliams@co.tuolumne.ca.us



Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

Membership Application, Renewal and Update



() New Member Date: _____
 () Renewal – no changes
 () Renewal – with changes

	Order Badge	Publish on <u>Member List</u>
Name 1: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$15 ea. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Name 2: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$15 ea. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Child Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$15 ea. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Child Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$15 ea. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Mailing Address: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____		
Phone 1: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Phone 2: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Email 1: _____ (Required)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Email 2: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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: Held the first Saturday of each month (no meeting in January or July), usually at 6:00, check the PMLAA Newsletter or website www.pmlaa.org for details.

- Annual membership dues are \$25.00 per household.
- Please make check payable to: **PMLAA.**
- Bring to monthly meeting or remit to: **PMLAA, PO Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321**
- Membership includes:
 - Monthly electronic newsletter.
 - Access to member directory (available *only* to members).
 - Invitation events to monthly meetings and airport events.

Annual dues \$25.00 per year	\$ _____
Badges @ \$15.00 each	\$ _____
Donation (\$25-\$100 suggested)	\$ _____
Scholarship Fund Donation	\$ _____
TOTAL enclosed	\$ _____

2023 Meeting Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Time & Location</i>
Sept 2, 2023	Wayne & Karen Farewell	6 pm Johanson Hangar
October 7, 2023	Airport Day – Catered Dinner	6 pm Meermans Hangar
November 4, 2023	Joe Sobczak – Test Pilot	6 pm Johanson Hangar
December 2, 2023	Christmas Party – Catered Dinner	6 pm Camp Tuolumne Trails



2023 Aviation Calendar

August	<p>1 – Full Moon (Supermoon) closest to the earth 5 – PMLAA Taxiway Party, Hot August Nights 5-6 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 6 – <i>National Wiggle Your Toes Day</i> 12-13 – Perseid Meteor Shower 19-23 – Vicky Benzing @ Wings Over Camarillo, CA 30 – Super Blue Moon – closest to earth and second full moon in August</p>
September	<p>2 – PMLAA Meeting 2-3 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 4 – <i>Labor Day</i> 9 – Columbia Airport (O22) Airport Day, 10:00-6:00 9-17 – Vicky Benzing Racing and Qualifying at the Reno Air Races 14-17 – The Last National Championship Air Races at RTS, Reno, NV 19 – <i>International Talk Like a Pirate Day – AARRGG!</i> 22 – <i>Autumnal Equinox 11:49pm PT – First Day of Autumn/Fall</i> 22-24 – Vicky Benzing @ MCAS Miramar Airshow, San Diego, CA</p>
October	<p>7 – PMLAA Airport Appreciation Day, 11:30-3:00 7 – PMLAA Meeting 7-8 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 7-8 – Vicky Benzing @ Salinas Airshow, CA 7-8 – Patriots Jet Team @ Fleet Week, San Francisco, CA 11 – <i>Columbus Day</i> 13 – <i>International Skeptics Day – Really? I don't think so.</i> 14 – Annular Solar Eclipse 14-15 – Vicky Benzing @ Central Coast Airfest, Santa Maria, CA 21-22 – Orionid Meteor Shower 31 - <i>Halloween</i></p>

BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2023

OFFICERS

President, Mike Gustafson 209-962-6336

VP, Airport Affairs, Rob Compton 962-6503
VP, Social Affairs, Gabe Coelho 209-617-4384

Secretary, Bob Mackey 707-622-5392

Treasurer, Patricia Gibson 707-332-6469

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

Phone prefix is 209 unless otherwise indicated

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Property, Ed Peters 962-6267

Multimedia, Phil Hickerson 962-6714
Membrshp/Rostr, Bob Mackey 209-777-5558

Airports Manager, Drew 533-5685

Display Day Coordinator
Rob Compton 962-6503

Safety, Mike Gustafson & Joe Sobczak

Newsletter, Dianne Cole 510-417-5121

Webmaster, Jeremy Zawodny 408-685-5936

