



Northern Yosemite
EAA Chapter 1337
P.O. Box 1900
Columbia, CA 95310



Pine Mountain Lake
Aviation Association
PO Box 131
Groveland, CA 95321

Subject: Fund raising for the Pine Mountain Lake airport

Dear Friend,

The Pine Mountain Lake Airport is one of our community's greatest assets. Our airport has contributed greatly to the overall growth of the community and the value of our individual property. While many use this airport for commuting and pleasure, it also serves our local businesses and plays a vital role with emergency services.

Until recently, Pine Mountain Lake's Airport had been maintained almost exclusively by State and County funding. Unfortunately, due to the current budget crisis the last few years, Caltrans Division of Aeronautics did not allocate any funding for routine airport maintenance. To make matters worse, the County Airports Department budget has been cut to the bare bones and revenues are down significantly. Without the needed routine maintenance our runways and taxiways are deteriorating and have developed very large cracks. These cracks are only going to get larger over time unless repaired. Additionally, there are several drainage problems, brought about by the rains we have recently experienced, that need attention.

It has been debated for years who has the responsibility or who should be paying for our airport maintenance and improvements. The fact is that our government agencies at the national, state and local level do not have the needed funds nor are they likely to any time soon. Ignoring our worsening situation or waiting for the government entities to rebound is simply not an option. It is with this understanding that our local EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 1337) and the PMLAA (Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association) have decided to organize a joint fund raising event to benefit Pine Mountain Lake Airport. We will need your help to make this effort successful!

We plan to have a very special evening party on June 5th, 2010 at the Tuolumne Trail Camp. By involving our local businesses and soliciting individual contributions, we plan to have both a silent and live auction. Items being auctioned will not be limited to aviation items as we expect a broader base of support for our cause. We will be accepting all cash donations and contributions through the local EAA Chapter 1337. All of the proceeds we raise will be earmarked for exclusive use at Pine Mountain Lake Airport. Our local EAA Chapter 1337 is a 501(c)(3) organization and therefore your contributions will be tax deductible.

To be very clear, the number one priority of this fundraiser will be to raise at least enough money to repair the runway and taxiway cracks, and shore up any drainage issues. If we are successful enough to cover these repair cost, we will use the remainder of the funds for continued weed and grass control in order to reduce the deer population in the vicinity of the runway. We are also in need of improved weather cams and real time weather reporting. Our ultimate goal will be to install an AWOS that has the ability to broadcast the weather to the inbound pilots giving them a clear picture of what they can expect when flying into the airport.

While we believe our greatest chances for raising this needed money will come directly from PML residents and local participation, we are also absolutely committed to pursuing funds from Caltrans Division of Aeronautics and from the County. We believe that our own fund raising activity will strengthen our position and request of other organizations and agencies participation. We need you help today to get the ball rolling. Please look over the enclosed form and let us know how you are interesting in helping.

For further information please call: Silvano Gai 962-6378, Mike Lella 962-1822, Allen Craig 962-6757, Michael Thoben 962-0503, Dennis Smith 962-4950, Mike Gustavson 962-6336, Wayne Handley 962-7868.

Silvano Gai
President EAA Chapter 1337

Mike Lella
President PMLAA

Groveland, March 1st 2010