

# PMLAA NEWS



Volume 20, Issue 10, October 2005

A Monthly Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association



## Voyager: One World, One Flight

ABOUT OUR OCTOBER 22, 2005 GUEST SPEAKER

As a Tactical Air Command fighter pilot during most of his two decades in the Air Force, Dick Rutan flew 325 combat missions in Vietnam (more than any other pilot), 105 of them as a member of a high-risk classified operation commonly known as the MISTY's. While on his last strike reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam in September of 1968, Dick was hit by enemy ground fire and forced to eject from his burning F-100. Many PMLAA members will recall hearing our August 2003



guest speaker, Chuck Shaheen, who was in the jet with Dick that day. They evaded enemy capture and were later rescued by the Air Force's "Jolly Green Giant" helicopter team. Before retiring from the Air Force in 1978, Lt. Col. Rutan had been awarded the Silver Star, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, 16 Air Medals and the Purple Heart.

After retirement, Dick joined his brother, Burt, as Production Manager and Chief Test Pilot for Rutan Aircraft Factory. Dick flew in the test flight development program of many military and civilian experimental aircraft and set numerous world speed and distance records in his Long-EZ, a popular Rutan-designed home-built airplane. Dick was awarded the Louis Bleriot Medal by the prestigious Federation Aeronautique Internationale during a ceremony in Brussels, Belgium in recognition of these record-setting flights.

In 1981, Dick Rutan resigned from his brother's company, founded Voyager Aircraft, Inc. and prepared to complete the first-ever around the world, non-stop, non-refueled flight.

On a cold December morning in 1986, the fuel laden Voyager struggled to become airborne to begin her journey around the world.

Without refueling, Dick commanded the flight of the carbon composite honeycomb sandwich airplane, designed by Burt, non-stop around the globe. Voyager left Edwards Air Force Base in California on December 14, 1986. Nine days, three minutes and forty-four seconds later on December 23, 1986, Dick set the storm-battered Voyager down on the dry lakebed at Edwards, successfully completing his six-year quest. He set absolute distance records and many other world records that remain unchallenged today.

Voyager is proudly suspended on permanent display at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum's "Milestones of Flight" gallery in our nation's capitol.

Four days following the historic flight of Voyager, President Ronald Reagan awarded Dick the Presidential Citizen's Medal of Honor at a special ceremony.

Since Voyager's remarkable flight, Dick Rutan has been traveling the world on the lecture circuit, telling his tale of the magnificent Voyager project and flight. The Voyager story is one of tremendous courage, vision and adventure, and has often been referred to as "aviation's last first."

Dick Rutan believes, "You are limited only by what you can dream." Years ago, he established The Dick Rutan Scholarship Fund and has gifted thousands and thousands of dollars to young people to assist in furthering their educations.

The Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association is honored to welcome National Aviation Hall of Fame inductee Dick Rutan at the Blankenburg Museum 6:00 p.m., Saturday, October 22, 2005. Please see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

✦ Keith Zenobia

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Can it be true, is Summer really over? It seems like only yesterday that I was enjoying the first really warm days of summer. The days are getting shorter; there is a unique smell in air that only comes as Fall approaches. Instrument and night currency will rise to the top of the to-do list for me as the potential for less than perfect flying weather and after-dark arrivals finally confirm the end of summer.

Your club is considering taking on a new project for the betterment of the PML airport. In this era of governmental belt-tightening, the county seems unable to support our airport in the manner that we would all like. In talking to Jim Thomas, our Airport Director, there are a few small projects that we, the association, might be able to help fund. The first, in conjunction with the Columbia EAA, would be to spray the main airport area to kill off the weeds that seem to be taking over the place. The total cost is about \$1200 and we would try to share this cost 50/50 with the EAA folks. Running the money through the EAA makes all donations towards this cause tax deductible. The plan is to collect the money over the next few months and then give it to the Airport Division for spraying in March 2006. As much as it pains me to pass the hat for projects that really ought to be funded by our tax dollars, the reality is that they are not and if we want our airport to remain something that we can be proud of we will have to fund some of these small projects on our own. To that end, I am asking for donations for this project. Please mail a tax-deductible contribution to: the **Northern Yosemite EAA Chapter 1337, P.O. Box 1900, Columbia, CA 95310**. Their tax I.D. number is 2365739. Please be sure to mark your checks "for PML weed spraying". Your airport thanks you.

We are still looking for someone to take on repairing the club BBQ grill. We continue to use it as is but it is in need of a little TLC to get it back in tip-top shape. It would be a great winter project. Don't worry if you don't know how to weld, I bet we can find a welder if someone else is willing to manage the project.

We are making some changes to the club meeting for the rest of the year so please make a note of the following:

- October meeting will be on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- No meeting in November.
- December meeting is December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We are looking for a small band to provide entertainment for our December 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas party, so if you have some ideas please contact either myself or Conni Buchner.

Until next time, let's fly safe and quiet out there!

*Mike Gustafson*

*Newsletter editors apologize to Mike and Conni for a printing error in last month's newsletter that inadvertently mixed some lines from Mike's column into Conni's.*

## PMLAA POETRY

### SORTIE

-- by Mary Kelly

They came over the hill through the brush  
In a steady, purposeful line.  
It was plain they were beginners  
Who hadn't learned to keep in time.

Now and then a straggler hustled,  
Striving to keep the pace.  
I could almost hear him thinking,  
"What the heck is this? A race?"

They scuttled beneath the bushes.  
Their leader-man paused to review:  
His troops were doing better now —  
Not a bad-looking crew!

Then a shadow cast its threatening self  
Over the hilly land.  
"Take cover!" the leader ordered  
As he bravely took his stand.

And all the company disappeared.  
None would track their trail.  
He'd trained them well, their leader,  
And was proud of his covey of quail.

### Tioga High School Needs Small Motors

The Tioga High School Regional Occupational Program, which PMLAA supports, has asked for donations of several small single cylinder vertical "reel" type motors – like the kind that come on old lawn mowers. The students will learn how to disassemble, repair and reassemble the motors.

Contact Paul Price if you can donate a motor.



## Meet our PMLAA Members

-- Catherine Santa Maria

### Gary & Kathy Oing

962-1959

Gary & Kathy heard about PML from a friend. Kathy says that as they came up Old Priest Grade for their first time she exclaimed to Gary "Oh my goodness, what a grade." This didn't stop them from falling in love with the area. Their plan was to use their place as a vacation home; however, they retired and decided to make PML their permanent home. They lived in the Willow Glen area of San Jose prior to their retirement for 19 years.

Gary was in the high tech computer world and Kathy was a substitute teacher. They have two sons and one daughter who is also a teacher. One of their sons just got married.

They joined the PMLAA because they enjoy the good speakers and are aviation wanabees. They love to fly in small airplanes. In addition, both love to golf, hike, snowshoe, PARTY and live life to the fullest. Gary likes to play bridge and tennis while Kathy enjoys the PML Ladies Club, Pine Cone Singers, Pine Cone Players and volunteers at the library reading to kids. Gary is on the board of the Computer Users Group and also builds WebPages for several groups in Groveland.

Kathy says she will be 60 next year and wants to do a Tandem Sky Dive to celebrate her Big Birthday! Maybe someone from PMLAA can give Kathy some pointers on how to accomplish her goal!



The Oings posing in front of the Peebles airplane

### Paul & Kym Purifoy

962-5100

[kym@kittytails.org](mailto:kym@kittytails.org)

Paul and Lizzie (Kym's daughter who is now in college) came up to play golf, stayed with Ralph McDonald, and liked PML so much that they decided to move up here business and all. Paul & Kym have been up here now around 10 years and moved here from Redwood City.

Paul owns Yosemite Voicemail, which serves as a message center for both business and residential customers, and AMDEV which sells and supports VM systems all over the world. Kym owns Kittytails and provides a great service to our feline friends. She has been finding homes for kittens and cats for around 10 years. She loves animals and owns 8 cats, 2 horses, a goat, a dog, and a miniature donkey. She is always looking for foster homes for both cats and kittens so if you are in need, give her a call she would love to find you that special friend.

Paul has two planes -- a Cessna 182 and a Piper Warrior. He has been flying for 13 years. His daughter Stacy has her CFII and flies helicopters.

Between them, Paul and Kym have five children (three girls, two boys), and Paul has three grandchildren, one of them in the Air Force.

In addition to the PMLAA Kym belongs to the Country Mt. Riders, PML Ladies Club, and Soroptimists. Paul loves to fly and play golf.

The couple was married on September 3, 2005 at the Blankenburgs' Hangar with a Mardi Gras theme. During the reception they had a money dance and raised \$1446 to help the Hurricane Katrina victims. They recommend the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and the Humane Society if you want to send money to help the victims of this horrific event. On a lighter note, Paul's granddaughter Jennifer got engaged at their wedding.

PMLAA extends Best Wishes to our newlyweds Mr. & Mrs. Purifoy.



The Newlyweds

## *DIRECT FROM THE DIRECTOR*

### **Deer, Weeds, and Pets**

-- Jim Thomas

**W**e were fortunate to get the CDF Baseline crew to work four days at Pine Mountain Lake Airport last month. They cut the grass all along the north side of the runway and around the parking lot. Not only did this make the airport look better, but also it reduced the deer browse and slowed the spread of weeds. It would be nice if we could use the Baseline services more, but they are in high demand at parks, schools, and campgrounds. Also, if there is a fire, they load up and leave in an instant. Their services do not come free either. We pay a daily crew rate, which comes out of the Pine Mountain Lake Airport budget.

Some of you who frequent the airport may notice seven new PVC pipes sticking out of the ground on the south side at the west end of the runway. These pipes were installed as part of a test to figure out how to install vertical frangible posts for the electric deer fence. The result of our test is that we learned enough to plan a full-blown production line installation. Our plan is to drive short sections of galvanized steel pipe into the ground that will hold sections of 1" PVC pipe as fence posts. The PVC pipe will be painted a khaki color to be less noticeable. Several strands of wire will be installed with the wires closer at the bottom then further apart at the top. We will install the fence along both sides of the runway, since we have determined that having the fence on only one side was not very effective at training the deer to go around the ends of the runway. It will take a sizable team of volunteers to install the new fence and we hope that the PMLAA members will pitch in and help. Please give me a call at 533-5685 if you can help with this effort.

PMLAA member Dan Eells has been working with me to come up with a plan to control the spread of the noxious weeds at the airport. The Tuolumne County Ag Department visited the airport and determined that we have four species of problem weeds: spikeweed (tarweed), blue curl (vinegar weed), Russian thistle (tumbleweed) and star thistle. The Airports Department, in conjunction with the Ag Department, is developing a program to spray next spring since we are past the time when spraying would be effective this year. Dan Eells is working to raise private funds to pay for the spraying. Tax-deductible donations to support this effort may be made to Northern Yosemite EAA Chapter 1337, PO Box 1900, Columbia, CA 95310.

Several residents have asked me to remind those who walk their dogs at the airport that they are required to pick up any dog droppings. Not only are the droppings unsightly, they can be a real mess for an aircraft or pedestrian that encounters them. I certainly don't want the stuff flung up by my tire and stuck to the underside of my wing. So the bottom line is that exercising pets at the airport is encouraged, but please make sure you clean up after your pet. It is the proper thing to do.

# Next meeting October 22

## *SAFETY CORNER*

### **Soaring with Eagles, Red Tailed Hawks and Safeway Shopping Bags**

-- Linda Monahan, Master CFIG

**A**fter a very busy summer teaching students the fine art of flying, Larry and I went to Reno for the Labor Day holiday. We flew to Air Sailing Glider Port, grabbed some friends and went into Stead for the Rib Cook Off.

The next morning, I met with a fellow glider pilot to take care of his flight review. You know it's going to be a good day when the tow pilot calls and asks if you're coming down for the other two required flights! You've never heard whining until you hear two glider pilots who have to leave good lift to return to the airport. We completed his flights; got him legal for another two years, then it was my turn to go "play."

Larry and I both grabbed single seat gliders and Larry launched first. I was tired and didn't really feel like "flying." But after some encouragement, I launched into a sky that had lots of nice, puffy little cumulus clouds. I got off tow at 2000' AGL in a big thermal. I finally left that thermal at 13,000'. Now it's money in the bank and time to go play!!!

The view from 13,000' is awesome. I could see all of Reno, the mountains around Tahoe and of course Lake Pyramid. Across the valley floor, giant dust devils whorled across the land, stirring up dust and carrying hapless grasshoppers up to nosebleed altitudes. I looked for some place fun to go and decided to head toward Virginia City.

There is a wash out area to cross formed by the air flowing out of the Lake. One can expect to lose a couple thousand feet in the journey. Not today, however; there was a line of lift called a "cloud street" that kept me from losing a foot of altitude! Ahhh!! Now it's up onto the crest of the mountains and flying fast! Here comes Nexrad then Pond Peak.

I'm starting to think about jumping across Interstate 80 to the next range of hills but I need altitude. Hummm. Birds make wonderful "markers." I see a big bird thermaling. I go join him. It's a Golden Eagle! Wow are they Huge!!! So we play around for a couple of turns until I get too close and he bales out. By now, however the day is starting to wane. So I turn back toward Air Sailing. I pass Red Tailed Hawks and other gliders in thermals. I pause to watch Larry in a big thermal with one of the high performance gliders. The sun glints on the fiberglass ship as it winds its way up to cloud base. Larry in his little 1-26 is actually out climbing him.

The summer that I taught soaring in Minden, the funniest thermal marker I ever saw was a Safeway shopping bag caught in a big one at 13,000'. My student lost the thermal and I said, "I think it's over there." He moved his circle a little and Boom, there it was. "How did you know it was over there?" I remained silent and rather smug in the back seat... Ahhh, the wonders of soaring!

## AIRPORT DAY FUN AT PML

[WWW.PMLAA.ORG](http://WWW.PMLAA.ORG)



Sarah Morcott and her balsa airplane



Diane Cole takes Young Eagles for a ride



PML fight line



Judge Rich McGlashan congratulates precision landing winner Mike Gustafson

## News from the web

-- Silvano Gai, webmaster

### Notam

The following Notams apply to E45 and O22 and affects especially IFR operations:

#### Groveland CA (Pine Mountain Lake) [E45]:

September NOTAM #29 issued by Rancho Murieta CA [RIU]  
Remote transmitter/receiver 120.95 instead of 126.85 effective from September 10th, 2005 at 06:00 AM PDT (0509101300)

#### Columbia CA [O22]:

September NOTAM #28 issued by Rancho Murieta CA [RIU]  
Remote transmitter/receiver 120.95 instead of 126.85 effective from September 10th, 2005 at 06:00 AM PDT (0509101300)

Always check Notams before flying!

### Airport serves important role after Katrina

Two weeks after Hurricane Katrina blew Bogalusa, Louisiana, apart, the first phone call has gotten through to the airport, and the story of general aviation's importance to a community has emerged. The single 5,000-foot runway at George R. Carr Memorial Air Field has become the hub of recovery operations for the community. The National Guard now protects the airport and conducts operations there. Aircraft serving the local paper mill, a major economic force in the community, bring company executives and supplies to assess damage at the mill.

### User Fees And General Aviation...

The FAA says its main funding source, the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, is going broke and now is the time to start fixing it -- and it appears at least part of the solution will be found in pilots' wallets.

Earlier this week, various industry groups, from pilots associations to airlines, began receiving a package from FAA Administrator Marion Blakey that includes a survey of sorts into how they'd like to pay to operate the agency after the current trust fund's mandate runs out in 2007. And make no mistake, the question is not whether the payments will be made, it's how much and by whom.

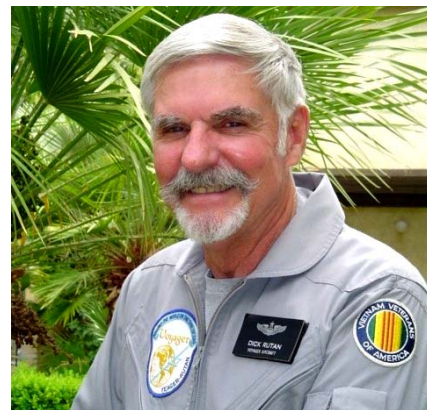
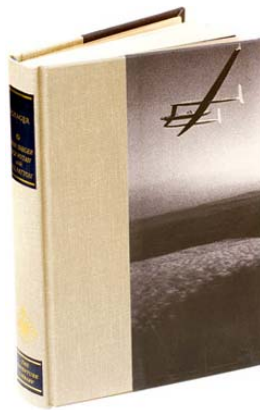
AOPA spokesman Chris Dancy said the document is of "grave concern" to the pilot group and could result in a nationwide mobilization of its 400,000 members to protest. "We're working very hard on this issue. It is our number one issue," Dancy said. AOPA has been vocally opposing any talk of user fees since before the agency first started talking about them in 2004.

### Soaring Society Updates Web Site

Finding places to soar just got even easier with the Soaring Society of America's revamped Web site (<http://www.ssa.org>). The site features an interactive map that provides information on more than 140 soaring locations across the country.



The Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association Proudly Presents  
**Aviation Pioneer Dick Rutan**



**Voyager: One World, One Flight**

**Saturday, October 22, 2005**

**Blankenburg Museum**

20810 Elderberry Way, Pine Mountain Lake, Groveland, CA

Social Hour: 6:00 p.m., Dinner: 7:00, Announcements: 8:00, Guest Speaker: 8:15

Menu

Assorted Appetizers  
Baguette and Butter  
Caeser Salad  
Teriyaki Salmon, Grilled and Topped with Mustard Butter  
Grilled Flank Steak, Marinated in Orange Juice and Mint  
Linguini with Fresh Herbs in White Wine Sauce  
Seasonal vegetable  
Vanilla Ice Cream Topped with Crème de Cacao & Toasted Coconut  
Served with House-made Almond Biscotti  
Coffee and Tea

**NO HOST MARGARITA, BEER, WINE, CHAMPAGNE AND SOFT DRINK BAR**

**\$25 per person**

**Reservations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Make your check payable to and remit to PMLAA, P.O. Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321.

Please write "Oct 22 Event" and indicate the number of people attending on your check.

Thank you.

## *PML Weed Eradication Project*

Can you contribute \$5, \$10, \$50, or \$100 to help wipe out the weeds choking our airport? This needed project is outside the county's airport budget. We need to raise \$1200 – not an outrageous amount for a group our size.

To make a tax-deductible contribution, please send your check to EAA Chapter 1337, PO Box 1900, Columbia, CA 95310. Be sure to mark your check "For PML Weed Project." Thanks!

### *Classifieds*

- **American Aviators' VIP Tour of China:** See the amazing old and incredible new China accompanied by *Flying Tigers from World War II* on our third annual aviator tour of China, personally escorted by Larry and Nina Jobe - only \$2329 per person for 17 days. Details at [www.TravelAireTours.com](http://www.TravelAireTours.com) or (209) 962-5588 or toll-free at (866) 669-2288.
- **Heli-Chair:** an innovative way to learn how to fly a helicopter, is guaranteed to transfer skills necessary to fly a real helicopter (<http://www.learnthover.com>). This is not a computer simulation, it is a real helicopter emulator utilizing a remote controlled helicopter. Purchase your own Heli-Chair system or take advantage of training at E45 is \$50 per hour. Call Kas at 209.962.1843. [sales@heli-chair.com](mailto:sales@heli-chair.com)
- **For Sale: Two British AeroSpace/Scottish Bull Dog Aircraft.** They are newly imported from the Jordanian Air Force where they were used for all aspects of training. Both have less than 4900 TT, with 500 SMOH on their 200 hp Lycoming engines that were serviced and overhauled by Mattituk. They're fully Aerobatic (+6g/-3g) with Christen aerobatic fuel and oil systems, full IFR with Narco/King radios/audio panels, they seat up to four, have control sticks and tricycle gear so anyone can fly them! Price is \$55,000 delivered, \$60,000 assembled. For more info on them, call Steve Stavrakakis at 209-571-9949 or e-mail at [wildthingss@aol.com](mailto:wildthingss@aol.com)
- **Van's RV-10:** Completed to your specs. Mike Shaver (209) 962-6885 or [mike@goldrush.com](mailto:mike@goldrush.com)
- **Plane-pool to SQL.** I have several airplanes that I have been using but it seems a pity to be flying by myself. I need to be there every Thursday and Friday and occasional Wed and Saturday. I have flexible work hours. I work in San Carlos as a free lance flight instructor doing glass cockpit and jet transition training. Eliot Floersch phone (209) 588-9887(h) (650)576-9281(c).
- **Auctioned off trip to Scaled Composite,** in a Turbocommander, in November or December to see Space Ship 2. If anyone is interested in attending the auction it will be on Oct 8th at Hiller Aviation in SQL. Burt will be speaking at this event as well. Contact Eliot Floersch phone (209) 588-9887(h) (650)576-9281(c)

#### BOARD OF OFFICERS – 2005

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<b>Publisher</b>	Silvano Gai	962-6378
<b>Safety Editor</b>	Linda Monahan	962-5181
<b>Member Profiles Editor</b>	Catherine Santa Maria	962-7904

Aviation Association meetings are normally held at 6:00pm on the first Saturday of every month at the Buchners' Hangar, 20885 Hemlock on the corner of Woodside Way.



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[Mark your Calendar](#)

October 22	Dick Rutan Voyager: One World, One Flight Election of 2006 PMLAA Board	6:00pm Blankenburg Museum Reservations required
November	No Meeting	
December 3	Holiday Party	6:00pm Buchner Hangar

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

Next meeting  
October 22