

# Kent & Sandy Blankenburg's



## 11th Annual



# It's A WRAP!

## Top DRIVE FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

**Bring a toy, game or two. You'll feel good through & through.**

6 p.m., Saturday, December 9, 2006

### *Blankenburg Museum*

20810 Elderberry Way, Pine Mountain Lake Airport, Groveland, California

## Feliz Navidad

Nacho Cheese Bar

Mexican Rice, Seasoned Black Beans, Warm Tortillas and Corn Chips

Salsa, Sour Cream, Cheese, Onions, Jalapenos, Olives, Lettuce & Tomatoes

Chicken Fajitas (Marinated & Grilled Chicken with Caramelized Onions)

Chile Colorado (Long-simmered Beef in Mild Red Chile Sauce)

Ice Cream Sundaes with Nuts and Chocolate Sauce

Coffee and Tea

**Hosted Beer, Wine, Champagne, Soft Drinks and Water**

**and a visit from Santa**



**If you are unable to attend but would like to drop off toys (or for more information), please call Kent or Sandy at 209-962-4499.**

**Make your check, for \$24 per person, payable to and remit to**

**Kent and Sandy Blankenburg**

**PO Box 203, Groveland, CA 95321**

**by November 30**

**Please include a list of those attending on your check, as seating will be pre-assigned.**

**Reservations Accepted on a First Come, First Served Basis**

# PMLAA NEWS



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A Monthly Publication of the Pine Mountain Aviation Association

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### And what a year it has been

This is the last time column. I have enjoyed this year. It has been one of many changes for our family and I absolutely could not have continued being your president without the wonderful *get'r done* community we have here in Pine Mountain Lake. The volunteers have been fantastic and have really stepped up to the plate. Thinking back, it has been a fun year for me with a lot of good times, fine flying and some good deeds done by many.



In January we started with our own Ken Orloff edutaining (a Hollyweird word?) us about interesting investigations he has and is conducting. They are captivating, interesting and certainly thought provoking.

Next was our heart warming Valentines Day Party and Dance in the Buchner's Hangar. It was great fun with super music by HomeGrown and a bang-up job by our social princess Conni.

March is when the weather breaks and our thoughts turn to flying. We had Bob Hoff talk to us about flying in the back-country of Idaho along with some special guests, John and Russ Latta. This was the first sales pitch for the Idaho Fly-out we had later in the summer. Highlights (or low-points for some) included home movies where Winni (John's wife and Russ' mom) was bull-fighting with some deer heads after a successful hunt. It was also the first meeting held in Jeff and Vicki's Hangar, thank you guys.

April brought more reason to get out and fly. A super travel log of the west with John Kounis of Pilot Getaways magazine. He outlined so many great places to go that it would take years to just make a dent. Some of the special places that he

outlined were visited later last summer. The venue was another new one; the Peebles Hangar which we have been in many times since- Thank you Norm, Patti and Sierra!

May saw us back in the Peebles hangar with a slight switch from where to fly our airplanes to how we fly the airplanes with author Michael Maya Charles. In spite of some technical difficulties with the graphics he did a fine job getting us all to think about not only our approach to landing, but our approach to flying.



June saw an amazing day. Vicki Benzing went all out for a full day community invited flying event. Included were a world class Airshow with great pilots and all the prep work needed to get an aerobatic box approved. Parachutes, fly-by from our own all topped off with a wonderful BBQ

back at Vicki's Hangar. All this fun and community goodwill was the result of the aerobatic community coming out in force. They did and we responded by raising over \$15,000 to help send Todd Whitmer to the Advanced World Championships in Poland.

July saw over a dozen PMLAA aircraft heading north to Idaho. We ate big along McCall's shoreline, camped at Johnson Creek, flew to and got stuffed at Big Creek. It was a great trip that solidified many friendships. Probably the highlight was Carol Simpson's birthday celebration in Yellow Pine. You haven't lived until you've been there and done that! Later in July and the beginning of August many



gathered for the yearly EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. Alan, Conni and River joined the American Barnstormers Tour on the way. We had a triple generational flight with Paul Price, son Sterling and grandson Zak (Paco) all camping in Vintage. Many of us bring the

PMLAA spirit east by volunteering at the show. You could not design a process to make AirVenture happen so well no

matter what your resources. As Paul P. says and it is true for all of our aviation activities: “You first come for the airplanes, you keep coming back for the people”.

Late in August we had a casual BBQ at Larry & Nina’s hangar house. We flew airplanes. We had a long social time



and we talked- rumor has it that there may have even been a few exaggerated stories. Allan Guadenti, Jim Thomas and I

gave rides in our aircraft. Others flew demonstrations. After the sunset the crowd endured a home movie about the Idaho trip. General feedback that was that we need to do more of that!

October saw our speaker evaporate, but in keeping with PMLAA spirit we gathered for an Oktoberfest in the Peeble’s hangar and had a wonderful time. Steve DeRodeff gave us a very entertaining talk about a trip east, TFR’s and how they can bite you no matter what you do. We all had a good time and the really good news is that the FAA has decided not to pursue that matter any farther.

November we celebrated our veterans with a veteran of our own, Allen Craig. Thank you Allen for doing such a fine job sharing those days with us. It really was fun and hopefully your example will inspire more of our own to speak in the future.

I had stated in this column at the beginning of the year that my goal was to see the aviation community here aviate. That we celebrate the enjoyment of flight and the bonds we make while doing so. I humbly believe that we have a good start and personally would like to see more. I hope we will continue to build a June Flying/Airport Day tradition. I hope we find champions for several fly-outs to different destinations this year. I will lead a flight to Idaho again next summer. We need more trips, how about Sun River or whale watching in Baja or boating on a vintage boat along the Colorado River with a WWII vet. Or you pick your spot. All that we need are champions to lead the way. I thought the evening BBQ we had at Larry and Nina’s was one of the better times I’ve had at PML. Hopefully we can do more than one. I know the new slate will have many more and better ideas and that the community will be out in force to help make them happen.

Looking a bit less far ahead is next month. As we have been reminded constantly by those who sell stuff next month is December and the time we celebrate Christmas with all of the holiday spirit and gusto we can. As much as we all love to get presents the real special part of this year are the children and having their wishes fulfilled. Kent and Sandy have been helping to fill those wishes and bring those smiles on

Christmas morning for our less fortunate neighbors. We are very happy to be a part of that and as Sandy says, “Bring a toy, game or two. You’ll feel good through & through.” See you there.

*Keep flying, keep safe and have fun, Rand Siegfried*

## Our new official 2007 board:

Al Craig	President	Kay Smith	Treasurer
Norm Peebles	VP- Airport	Bob Cowley	Secretary
Conni Buchner	VP- Social	Virginia Richmond	Publisher



The excitement is building at Camp Tuolumne Trails on Ferretti Road, three miles past the airport. Buildings are going up, roads are being paved, and the electricity is in! Stop by anytime to help or just to visit; you can also check our progress on [www.tuolumnetrails.org](http://www.tuolumnetrails.org).



**The camp is growing: here three bunkhouses are almost complete**

The most heart-warming news is that groups of children with cerebral palsy, autism, and Down’s syndrome are

already scheduled to enjoy the camp next June and July.

Please consider an end-of-year tax-deductible contribution to the camp. The camp is operated by the Jerry and Paula Baker Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit public charity. All donations are tax-deductible, and are used for specific camp-related expenses. Donated funds are *not* used for facilities or administration.



**Stalwart volunteer Jan Sloan weather-proofs a cabin**

Mail your check to: Jerry and Paula Baker Foundation, 12930 Boitano Court, Groveland, CA 95321. Please include your address so we can send you a receipt. Any questions, call 962-7916.

**Thank you!** I have to thank the entire community for the fantastic support. I will try to thank many here by name, but I will certainly miss many. There were so many that made our community what it is and our association could not function as it does without the support of that community.



First I have to give a huge thanks to Allen Craig who has stepped up beyond the call handling so much that I was unable to do given our family's move, etc. Thank you Al.

Our entire board did a wonderful job. Luarie and then Conni on social- some of the best ever this year. Kristen and Kay kept us honest and fiscally responsible as our secretary and treasure respectively. Paul Sperry did a bang up job with our property and his set-up crew: Bob Bangs, Sean Brady, Buck Buchanan, Bob Cowley and Mike Millard. Diane Harrison kept the roster in shape while Barbara Coldren kept excellent track of our membership. Silvano Gai is responsible for our web presence and does a wonderful job. Our meetings would not be the same without our rock-star quality AV unit: Ken Codeglia and Phil Hickerson. Larry Jobe has continued to give informative seminars while Linda Monahan has taught us all a bunch as our safety corner editor. Kristen and Kris Cox both helped a bunch with our Idaho Fly out and coordination in McCall.

Without the places to have our meetings we would be out in the cold! A huge thanks to: Kent & Sandy Blankenburg, Alan & Conni Buchner, Jeff & Vicki Benzing, Norm & Patti Peebles and Larry & Nina Jobes. Without our hostess' I'm pretty certain our meetings would not be the same! Thank you Jane Hansen, Diane Harrison, Rose Huer, Roberta Naylor, Patti Rosio, Kay Smith, Harriet Wallace along with Bob Cowley.

I do need to single out Paul Price as the guy who gets the next year's slate together and more importantly brings such a wonderful wit to our group. What I won't attempt is to thank individually all those who made our activities such as the June meeting (I would think hundreds) and the BBQ happen. Just as important are all those who give to our neighbors their time and effort. Who make events such as the fundraiser for Frog happen. The list can just keep going on and that is what makes this a very special place.

Thank you all! Rand



## Master Plan Approved & Deer Fence Questionnaire

*By Jim Thomas*

After nearly three years of work the Pine Mountain Lake Airport Master Plan and associated California Environmental Quality Act Mitigated Negative Declaration were adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 7<sup>th</sup>. This clears the first big hurdle to both airport improvements and hangar construction. I will now begin preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) package for the construction of new hangars. The RFP will most likely allow proponents to propose construction of T-hangars, several box hangars, commercial hangars, or a combination of these hangars. It may be a few months before the RFP is ready because it needs to be written and then approved by County Counsel and Risk Management prior to being put to interested parties.

The adoption of the Master Plan does not directly clear the way for the application of FAA Airport Improvement

Grants. The FAA still needs to approve the Airport Layout Plan, the Airspace Plan and the Property Map all of which have been submitted to the FAA for their approval. I expect the review and approval process to take three to four months because the FAA Airports District Office in Burlingame does not have the authority to approve the documents. Once they have been reviewed and approved in Burlingame, they have to be approved by the Regional Office in LA.

The deer fence has been installed in one form or another for two years now and it is time to obtain the input and observations from the residents and pilots regarding the effectiveness of the fence. In early November a questionnaire was sent to those residents whose property has access to the Pine Mountain Lake Airport, to the airport tenants that have tiedowns at the ramp and to people that use the airport on a regular basis. In all, 117 questionnaires were mailed out. The questionnaire asks four specific questions about the deer fence that is currently installed at the airport and a single question on thinning the deer through legal depredation.

If you would like to participate in this survey, please call the Airports Office at (209) 533-5685. I will tabulate the results of the questionnaire and present them in the next PMLAA Newsletter. Meanwhile, I am always interested in hearing about your observations, and receiving suggestions for ways to control the deer at the airport. *Keep it safe, JT*

TO BE HONEST- WHEN I PRINTED THE TEST NEWSLETTER, I FOUND THAT I WAS SHORT A PAGE-  
HERE IS A SHAMELESS PLUG FOR NEXT YEAR'S IDAHO TRIP- JOIN US...



**FUN**

**FLYING**



**FOOD**



**FRIENDS**



OR BETTER YET, BECOME A CHAMPION AND DESIGN A FLY-  
OUT OF YOUR OWN



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*Mark your Calendar*

*December 9<sup>th</sup>      It's A Wrap      reservation required*  
*No meeting in January*  
*February 3<sup>rd</sup>      Valentine's Ball      Alan & Conni's Hangar Museum*

*Wrap the year up December 9th!*

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

*Better be good:  
It's A Wrap, Dec. 9th*