



Volume 22: Issue 1 • January/February 2007  
A Monthly Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

**President's Message**  
- by Allen Craig

In the March 2006 newsletter, Mary Kelly wrote about our history and her collection of PMLAA newsletters back to 1986. Mary states, "Over the years PMLAA has developed into one of the biggest and best local organizations, one to be proud of." I fully support that sentiment and would add that the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association is one of the best aviation associations *in the country*.

As your new president, I'm lucky to have the assistance of a great team of volunteers. Most of last year's team agreed to continue in 2007, so we should have a very smooth transition. The new members of our Board: Vice President Norm Peebles and Secretary Bob Cowley are already hard at work contributing. Read the board profiles in this newsletter.

I am especially grateful to have Virginia Gustafson as newsletter editor. Although new to our team this year, she is not a rookie, as she edited the newsletter in 2004 and 2005.

I want to thank all of the PMLAA 2007 volunteers – new and returning. We are all dedicated to a fun, informative and profitable year for our association.

As your Association leader this year, I would like to see us increase our focus on the health of our airport. Whether you agree with the current "deer fence" issue or not (see JT's column on page 4), it is important for us to be united in support of our very own E45.

There are many significant issues facing community airports today. PMLAA may not be able to stop or fix these issues by ourselves, but we can certainly communicate our opinions and use our community involvement to stress the value of our airport to the

local population and beyond. I believe this should be part of our mission this year.

The next meeting is February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Buchners'; it will be a lot of fun with a wonderful band and our traditional Valentine's theme. Conni has a new twist this year; be sure to read the enclosed flyer.



Plans for the rest of the year are being finalized. We have a great list of speakers through May – see the back page and mark your calendars.

June will be another Community Airport Day with the return of Vicki Benzing's aerobatic friends. There will be no meeting in July. August will be an outdoor barbeque at Lake Lodge. We are working on some "big-time" speaker programs for the fall, so stay tuned.

Remember, it's time to renew your membership. See the renewal form in this newsletter and please send your updated information and check promptly, so we can keep our records up-to-date and keep paying our bills!

I look forward to serving as your president. I'm also looking for ideas to make this organization even better (and volunteers to make it happen), so let me know what you're thinking.

-- AI



**Meet your 2007 PMLAA Officers  
- by Virginia Gustafson**



**Allen Craig, President.** Allen served as vice president of airport affairs last year. He claims to be the first Aviation Association president (temporarily) without an airplane, but he certainly has lots of flying time.

Al and the lovely Linda met in high school in Santa Ana (see Linda's "Miss Santa Ana" photo in the Blankenburg Museum!). They married in 1968 and spent their honeymoon at the Sugar Pine Ranch in Groveland. Allen is no stranger to the Groveland area; his family owned land off Old 120 and he spent family vacations here as a child.

They built their home on the lake 12 years ago and retired here from Danville two years ago. Al spent 20 years flying for American Airlines, retiring as a 767 captain. He also spent 7 years active as a navy pilot and an additional 14 years flying in the Navy reserves.

Linda and Al have two daughters and five grandchildren. Besides aviation, they enjoy golf and the lake.

**Norm Pebbles, Vice President – Airport Affairs.** Norm is our new vice president. He's also arranging some of our training opportunities and working with Vicki Benzing on Airport Day. Norm and Patty are from Santa Clarita in southern California. They chose PML to retire in 2003. When flying overhead, they observed a lake, a golf course, and an airport. What else could they need? They still play a lot of golf at PML and on vacation elsewhere.

Norm learned to fly in the army and flew Scout troop helicopters in Viet Nam for the AirCav. Years later, Patty gave him a renewal flight as a gift, and he was back in the air. Norm now flies a Bonanza A36 that he bought in 1997.

Norm and Patty spent their working careers with Carnation and Nestles. He was in sales and she was a transportation manager. They have two sons, Sean and Brian.

**Conni Buchner, Vice President – Social Affairs.** This is Conni's second term in charge of our social events; she has lots of experience at making great parties.

Conni worked for United Airlines as an engine analyst in the maintenance department in Fresno. She also ran a side business as a wedding coordinator; you see the party planning theme.

Conni and Alan built their hangar-house at PML in 2000 and Conni moved here then. Allen still commutes to Fresno where he runs Buchner Specialties, an airplane refurbishment business in Fresno.

Conni got her private pilot license about 30 years ago in the 172 they still own.

Conni and Alan have three children, four grandkids (including River who lives with them), and two great grands. In addition to the aviation club, Conni is active in line dancing, the Red Hatters, Ladies Club and Residents Club. She also loves to travel, including annual trips to Oshkosh and lots of fun cruises.

**Kay Smith, Treasurer.** Kay is serving as treasurer of PMLAA. She and her late husband Hugh were founding members of the association in 1982, and she served as president in 1985. Hugh and Kay lived in the Bay Area and in Oakdale; they moved here in 1983, when Hugh retired.

Kay continued to work for several more years as a nurse in Oakdale and at the Groveland clinic.

Hugh was an avid pilot and at age 61 Kay took lessons from Larry Jobe and learned to fly. She flew their Navion and later their RV6-A for over 1000 hours.

Kay has two sons, two daughters and six grandchildren. She is also a manager of Mother Lode Aviation.

**Bob Cowley, Secretary.** Bob is an Ohio boy with a degree in food technology who moved to the LA area after college. One of his first California neighbors was John Muckel, and they've been best friends ever since. In fact, Bob gave John his first flying lesson as a birthday present 30 years ago.

Bob worked for Van de Camp foods and Lockheed's L-1011 skunk works for several years. He and John began working together in plumbing supply in 1978. Bob retired two years ago and moved to Pine Mountain Lake, which he and John and found thanks to their friend Alan Gaudenti.

Bob loves to fly and owned several Cessnas over the years, including a 182 Turbo retractable that he finally sold in 2000.

Bob's other passions are golf, fishing, and raising thoroughbred horses.

# Buchners'

PMLAA  
Speak  
Easy

## Presents the St Valentine's Day Massacre Ball

Keep the wraps on this one, baby!

February 3 • 6:00pm

The hooch is being delivered February 3<sup>rd</sup> and we will celebrate in real roarin' twenties style.

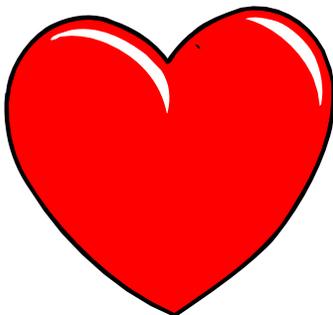
Conni "Crazy Legs" and Alan "Machine Gun" Buchner are opening Buchners' Speak Easy for one night only. Flappers are always welcome, men should be dressed to the nines, but please check your violin case at the door.

We will be dancing the night away with the always popular **Home Grown Band**.

To keep the heat from ruinin' our fun, be sure to knock three times prior to entry - no more, no less. Crazy Legs doesn't want to clean-up after the Tommy Guns blare.

*Cover charge is \$10.00 per person to pay protection (and the band)*

**Please bring an appetizer or dessert enough for 6 persons.**



Date: February 3, 2007

Time: 6.00 P.M.

Place: Buchners' Speak Easy  
(formerly Buchners' Hangar)  
20885 Hemlock St



**From the Director  
- by Jim Thomas, Airports Director**

### Results of Deer Fence Survey

The Airports Department has been working on the deer issue at Pine Mountain Lake Airport since late 2003. We have implemented several different methods to try to keep deer from loitering around the airport and from crossing the runway. One of those methods is the installation of the electric fence between the runway and the two parallel taxiways. Over the past two years since the fence has been in place I had received limited feedback on the fence. Recently, questions were raised over the effectiveness of the fence and the risks the fence and the closed taxiway may present.

In an effort to obtain more feedback from pilots, residents and those who frequent the airport, the Airports Department sent out 118 questionnaires. Eighty-two questionnaires were returned for an amazing response rate of 69.5% indicating that most of those polled have a sincere interest in the issue. 93% of the responders are pilots. The following are the results:

Do you think the deer fence is effective at reducing the number of deer on the runway?

*Effective or Somewhat Effective – 73%*  
Not Effective – 13 %  
No Opinion – 15%

Do you think that blocking off the runway exit located 1,000 feet from the west end of the runway presents a safety hazard to pilots?

Yes – 37%  
No – 56%  
No Opinion – 7%

Do you think the currently constructed fence presents a safety hazard to aircraft?

Yes – 22%  
No – 74%  
No Opinion – 4%

Do you think the deer fence is an eyesore?

Yes – 29%  
No – 61%  
No Opinion – 10%

Would you support thinning the deer herd through legally approved depredation methods?

Yes – 83%  
No – 7%  
No Opinion – 10%

From these results, we conclude that pilots feel the fence is *effective* in reducing the number of deer on the runway. However, they also feel the fence and especially the closed runway exit (now reopened) may present a potential hazard to aircraft. Also, the questionnaire clearly shows that pilots believe the real problem is too many deer, and that thinning the herd through legal and humane methods should be considered.

### BOARD OF OFFICERS – 2007 WWW.PMLAA.ORG

#### OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	
Allen Craig	962-6757
<b>Vice President, Airport Affairs</b>	
Norm Peebles	962-1990
<b>Vice President, Social Affairs</b>	
Conni Buchner	962-4325
<b>Secretary</b>	
Bob Cowley	962-6245
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Kay Smith	962-6986

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>Property</b>	
Paul Sperry	962-4178
<b>Multimedia</b>	
Ken Codeglia	962-6270
Phil Hickerson	962-6714
<b>Seminar Coordinator</b>	
Larry Jobe	962-5501
<b>Membership</b>	
Barbara Coldren	962-5168
<b>Roster</b>	
Diane Harrison	962-1955
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	
Renie Leakakos	962-0499
<b>Webmaster</b>	
Silvano Gai	962-6378

#### NEWSLETTER

<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	
Virginia Gustafson	962-6336
<b>Safety Editor</b>	
Linda Monahan	962-5181
<b>Aviation News</b>	
Silvano Gai	962-6378

**Please pay  
2007 dues now**

# Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

## 2007 Membership Application for New Members, Renewals & Updates

Annual membership dues are **\$20.00** per household, payable Jan 30, 2007. PMLAA Name badges are **\$8.00** each. Please send your check to PMLAA, P.O. Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321.

**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: normally held the first Saturday of each month. Please refer to the latest edition of *The PMLAA News* for more details.
- The *PMLAA News* is mailed monthly and is available online at [www.pmlaa.org](http://www.pmlaa.org)
- The membership roster (with information from this form) is distributed with the *PMLAA News* in April.

**Renewing members: include your name and any information changes on this form. Please be sure to include your email address. If no changes, check here \_\_\_\_\_**

**Would you like to receive your newsletter by mail? \_\_\_\_\_ or by email only? \_\_\_\_\_**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: New member / Renewal Member since \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print name(s) as you want them on your badges)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Local Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Aircraft Make & Model \_\_\_\_\_ N# \_\_\_\_\_

Certificated pilot since (year) \_\_\_\_\_ FAA Cert/Ratings \_\_\_\_\_

Circle any aviation jobs you have had:  
Airline Pilot / Crew, Flight Attendant, CFI, Corporate Pilot, Military pilot/crew, FAA, A&P Mechanic, IA,  
Lineman, Engineer, Air Traffic Control, Other \_\_\_\_\_

Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Aviation Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Military Service: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2007 Annual Dues

**\$20.00 per family** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ badges @ **\$8.00** each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Mail your check to PMLAA, PO Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321



**Mark your calendar:**

February 3	Valentine's Massacre Ball With our favorite band: <i>Home Grown</i>	6:00pm at Buchners' Hangar <b>Bring an appetizer or dessert</b> \$10 per person music charge
March 3	Dr. Ken Orloff Accident Investigation and Analysis	6:00pm at Benzings' Hangar Potluck Dinner
April 7	Marle Hewett Decorated Navy pilot and Air Force test pilot	6:00pm Potluck Dinner Location TBD
May 5	Ed Roziak, President California Pilots' Association "How to Keep your Airport Open"	6:00pm Potluck Dinner Location TBD
June 2	Community Aviation Day and Air Show	PML Airport Evening barbecue

**PML Aviation Association**  
PO Box 131  
Groveland, CA 95321

**Valentine's Dance**  
**Feb. 3**