



Volume 25: Issue 6 • September 2010
A Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

***“Apollo 14 Moon Mission Recovery Team Experiences”
Saturday, Sept. 4th Presentation at
Carol Simpson’s Hangar – 6:00pm
21201 Jimmertsall Lane***



Lt. Commander Michael Scuro, US Navy (ret.)

Lt. Commander Scuro was born 1944 in Pittsburgh, PA to Italian immigrant parents. Scuro earned a college degree in Industrial Arts Education in 1967. During summer breaks in college, he attended Aviation Officer School in Pensacola, Florida and was commissioned Ensign USNR. He began flight training in 1967 flying T-34s, T-28s and received his wings as a Naval Aviator specializing in Helicopters in 1968.

In 1968, Lcdr. Scuro was assigned to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 6 in San Diego. The primary mission was to locate, track and, if needed, destroy enemy submarines using conventional or nuclear weapons. The secondary mission was search and rescue of shot down airmen or anyone in need of assistance or supplies. The squadron was deployed off the coast of North Vietnam.

Next, Scuro was selected as part of the Apollo 14 Moon Mission Recovery Team, and flew as co-pilot of the Swim One Helo, recovering Alan Sheppard and his crew. *This is the topic of his talk to PMLAA on Sept. 4.*



In June of 1971, he left active duty and joined the reserves, continuing his flying and instructing with Helicopter Anti Submarine Squadron 84. In March 1990, Lcdr. Scuro retired from the Navy after 23 years of service. Some of the honors he has received include the Vietnam Service Medal, Meritorious Service Award, Unit Citation, Numerous Air Medals, and Credit for seven life saving recoveries.

As a civilian, he moved to the Coachella Valley and began teaching at local high schools, colleges and universities. Completing his Masters Degree in Education in 1976, Lcdr. Scuro was assigned as the Commandant of the Coachella Valley H.S. California Cadet Corp and was awarded Teacher of the Year for the school district. He is active in his church and has been a past Scout Master and Director of several youth flying programs.

Lcdr. Scuro and his family have lived in the Palm Springs Area for forty years and three years ago purchased a summer home in Pine Mountain Lake. He and his lovely bride of 43 years, Judith Ann, have three children, and five grandchildren.

President's Message **- by Michael Lella**

Greetings PMLAA Members! On behalf of your Board, we hope you all had a great July and August. Our summer hiatus is over and we will be resuming our routine meetings this September 4th at Carol Simpson's hangar. Our featured speaker will be Lt. Commander Mike Scuro, who will be speaking of his experiences on the Recovery Team for the Apollo 14 Moon Mission. It promises to be another exciting evening. We encourage you to bring guests and please, enough food to feed them.

Like many of you, I spent much of my summer travelling. In June I accompanied my Italian father to New York where we visited his 100 year old cousin Licia Albanese, an opera singer famous as Toscanini's "prima donna." We then headed to New Jersey where I surprised him on his 86th birthday with a private viewing of his old hand-made 1948 "166 Ferrari Barchetta prototype", serial #0002, the *second racing Ferrari* ever produced. The vehicle is now a priceless collector car stored in an auto museum. In July, I flew my Bonanza to Wisconsin for the annual EAA Air Venture meeting, only to "belly-it-in" a soybean field from 800 feet while on approach to Oshkosh. The plane was totaled, but my mechanic and I fortunately walked away without a scratch. For numerous reasons, this was one of the most



positive experiences of my flying career, so please, don't approach me with condolences. I had a great summer and intend on making the rest of the year even better.

Your PMLAA Board had a productive meeting this August and we are making progress for our October 2nd Pine Mountain Airport Aviation Day. Please mark your calendars for this special event and get involved. We look forward to seeing you all this Saturday September 4th at Carol Simpson's hangar.

PMLAA Organization Status

The club remains in excellent shape:

- **Membership** - 180 memberships, equivalent to approximately 319 individuals
- **Treasury** - General Funds \$ 5,571 and the Scholarship fund has \$ 2171.

Member Activities

Happy Birthday to Roger Sloan



Over 65 people hid out at the Sloans' hangar for a surprise 70th birthday party for Roger on August 14th. Roger's wife, Jan asked Vicky Benzing to steal Roger away for the day in her Stearman biplane while the Sloan family, headed up by daughter Gretchen, attacked his hangar to prepare for the guests and Roger's return from his flight to Hollister. Around 5:30pm Vicky returned Roger for the big surprise. Everyone was dressed in fine Hawaiian attire, the theme for the event. A GREAT time was had by all – especially Roger!

PML Pilots Visit Mel McGowan in Bakersfield

On July 29th a contingent of pilots from Pine Mountain lake and other points flew into Bakersfield airport to have coffee with Mel and Suzanne McGowan. About 20 pilots in seven airplanes showed up at 8:30am to be greeted by a smiling Mel and Suzanne at their huge hangar. Awaiting everyone was coffee, sweet rolls and juice. Then, to everyone's surprise, caterers showed up and provide the group with a complete breakfast. There was a concern about "gross weight" and being too heavy for takeoff, but it didn't prevent everyone from enjoying this delicious repast.

Pilots came from Santa Paula airport as well as PML and several friends from Bakersfield joined the fly in.

Mel is still using the wheel chair but everyone was pleased to see how much use he had regained of his extremities and his positive attitude. Mel is swimming every day as part of his physical therapy regimen. The PMLAA community's thoughts are with him as he continues to make progress.

News from Mick Hopson

PMLAA pilots Joel Avey and Mike Gustafson flew to St. Louis in Mick's former 206. They picked Mick up and all went together to Oshkosh. This was Mick's first aviation adventure since selling the plane and moving to St. Louis last year. As a result, he has renewed his aviation passion and become a partner in an RV-6A. Mick is back in the sky!

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

Reorganization

In my last article I outlined the County's plan to reorganize the Airports Department as a Division of the Department of Public Works. The change is now complete; however it will be some time before things are operating normally. Primarily, this is because of the need to fill the open positions of Airports Technician and Office Support Technician resulting from the retirement of Dennis and Francesca. Interviews have been completed and job offers made. It is my hope that these positions are staffed in the near future.

I know that the maintenance of both airports has suffered in the last couple of months. Since July 1, the Airports Division has had only one maintenance technician, Tony Stephenson, to perform all the maintenance at both airports. Due to budget constraints, his time has been restricted to only 40 hours per week. I know it is unreasonable to expect that both Columbia and Pine Mountain Lake Airports can be maintained with just one maintenance person and right now Tony can only perform the highest priority tasks. As our new Airport Technician gets familiar with our airports and the maintenance responsibilities, things will improve.

One important need right now is to educate the Director of Public Works, Pete Rei (my new boss), about airport operations and issues. I was able to give Pete a tour of both Columbia and Pine Mountain Lake Airports and provide him an introduction on how the airports operate and the current needs at each individual airport. Pete seems very open minded to airport issues and appreciates the value the airports provide to the County.

Those who used the airport access gate during the last few weeks know that the gate has been operating only part of the time. We have had both the card reader and the controller board go bad. We had to have a gate technician come and troubleshoot the gate, purchase a new card reader, and send the controller board out for repair. The good news is that we think we have fixed the gate; the bad news is that it took most of our maintenance budget for this year to do so.

Limited finances and resources seem to be the theme of this year's airport operation.

Camp Tuolumne Trails

It's been an exciting summer at Camp Tuolumne Trails, with new and returning special needs groups. We've hosted a cerebral palsy camp from the Bay Area, a muscular dystrophy group from Fresno, developmentally disabled camps from Sacramento, Stockton and Sonora, a sickle cell disease camp from Oakland, and many others.

You can now follow the weekly activities of our special needs campers at Camp Tuolumne Trails on our Facebook page. Click in for fun photos of camp life and information on the special needs groups enjoying the simple pleasures of childhood!

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Camp-Tuolumne-Trails-A-place-for-me/104600231379?ref=ts>

PMLAA Airport Day - October 2, 2010

Wayne Handley and his team are planning Airport Day 2010. It promises to be as successful as last year and more. Wayne plans to continue "to make it a community oriented event, at basically no cost to the public."

You will be able to move around the airport grounds, viewing static displays of aircrafts, enjoy formation flying and "fun competition" between our local pilots, such as "touch down landing" and "flour bombing" competitions. The Radio Control Model Airplanes flight demonstration will be back to add to the entertainment. There will be soft drinks and hot dogs available for a modest fee.

A huge success last year was the EAA Young Eagles Program, which sponsors flights and provides aircraft/aero industry information provided to the youth in our community. Over fifty youths participated in 2009. It could be a factor in a child's career planning and/or be the catalyst to develop an interest for his or her future.

Please mark your calendar and spread the word. Call Wayne to volunteer and get involved!

Remind your visitors:

*Please Do Not
Overfly the Lake!*

Learn to Fly with the PML Aero Club



Have you ever wanted to know what it was like to fly an airplane or wanted to take lessons? Or perhaps you have a pilot's license but have found that owning your own airplane is too much of a financial burden?

Your aviation wishes can be realized by joining the PML Aero Club. We have four instructors to meet the needs of student pilots. And for pilots who want to get back into flying, you won't find less expensive flying anywhere in California.

We're happy to give you a FREE 30-minute introductory flight in our Cessna 172. So, come realize your dreams. Call Jim Goodrich at 962-4660 for more information.

EAA Poker Run

Join EAA for a fun Saturday of flying! EAA Chapter 1337 invites all pilots to attend the annual Poker Run on Saturday, Sept. 25th. The event will be followed by a picnic, and the EAA Chapter 1337 members meeting.

Start Time: 9:00am – first card available at Columbia Airport
Other card stop locations:

- CPU – Calaveras
- O27 – Oakdale
- E45 – Pine Mountain Lake
- O22 – Columbia

At noon, after the poker run, bring your own picnic, the EAA chapter will provide soft drinks. There is an EAA Chapter 1337 member meeting at 1:00pm.

We need prizes for the Poker Run. If you have something to donate, please contact Dennis Smith (209) 962 4950.

EAA Young Eagles at PML Airport

October 2nd, 2010, 9:00 a.m. at Pine Mountain Lake airport.



The [EAA Young Eagles program](#) was launched in 1992 to give interested young people, ages 8 - 17, an opportunity to fly in a general aviation airplane. These flights are offered free of charge and are made possible through the generosity of EAA member volunteers.

Since 1992, more than 1.5 million Young Eagles have enjoyed a flight through the program. Young Eagles have been registered in more than 90 different countries and have been flown by more than 42,000 volunteer pilots.

Participation is easy. Just attend the Young Eagles Rally at Pine Mountain Lake on October 2nd at 9:00 a.m. Kids must be accompanied by a parent or a guardian who can sign a Young Eagles Registration form in person at the event. Kids should pre-register on www.eaa1337.org.

We need volunteers and pilots. Please confirm your availability to help with Ed Sunday (Young Eagle coordinator) at 209-533-1405.

PML Airport Hangars Available

Legacy Aviation Development is working with Jim Thomas to get all the new hangars at Pine Mountain Lake leased or sold to local pilots. There are currently two hangars available. If interested call PML/Columbia Airport Director, Jim Thomas at 533-5685 for more information.

Sloans Fly to Alaska – that makes 49!

When Roger finished building his RV-7 a couple of years ago, he and Jan decided to fly to every state. They had all the lower 48 by the end of last summer. This year it's Alaska.



Here's Jan's report:

"We departed PML June 15 loaded with emergency gear and essentials! Arrived at Arlington, WA to rain

and were grounded for 2 days. Cleared customs with a phone call at Abbotsford, BC on the third day. We had clearing skies to Prince George for lunch. Then up the "trench," a beautiful remote area to Watson Lake for overnight. From there we followed the Alcan Highway pretty much to Northway, AK for customs. Arrived in Fairbanks that afternoon for the summer solstice for two days.

Our goal was the Arctic Circle which we reached the following day above the Yukon River. This river is monstrous! We also followed the Alaska Pipeline for some time. Headed SW to cloud-covered Denali and to Anchorage. We landed at Merrill Field with an eagle gazing into our cockpit at altitude! Spent a few days exploring Kenai and Homer with sunny days for a float trip. Even saw a bear!

"We headed south on June 24 with cloudy skies. Got some good views of a glaciers enroute. Had to camp at Whitehorse -all rooms full. Luckily they had a small campground. Encountered rain south to Prince George. At Cache Creek we diverted west thru the coastal BC mountains to Campbell River. Spent a few days with friends on Cortez Island fishing and digging clams. Arrived home June 30 after a most fulfilling trip! Next stop – Hawaii!"

Reno Air Races: Sept. 15-19

Five days of air racing and air shows along with Static Displays. Featuring (six classes of racing: biplane, formula one, sport, T-6, jets & unlimited. Canadian Forces "Snowbirds" will be performing. Go to www.airrace.org for all the RARA Air Race & Air Show details.

Brief History of Oshkosh



Each year you will hear many of our community pilots and families planning a trip to Oshkosh, WI. For those of you who have wondered why pilots treat Oshkosh as aeronautical Mecca, this brief history can provide some insights:

The Experimental Aircraft Association's Fly-In Convention, now known as EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, has been in existence nearly as long as the association itself. The first gathering was in September 1953 as a small part of the Milwaukee Air Pageant. That original EAA fly-in at Wright-Curtiss (now Timmerman) Field was attended by a handful of airplanes, mostly homebuilt and modified aircraft. Fewer than 150 people registered as visitors. The larger Milwaukee Air Pageant has faded away but the EAA gathering has become the world's premier aviation event.

By 1969, it was apparent that the EAA Fly-In Convention had become too large for the Rockford facility. EAA had grown from a home basement operation to an office and museum in the Milwaukee suburb of Franklin. The annual convention mirrored that growth, attracting hundreds of show planes and tens of thousands of visitors

Sites were studied for a new home. Aviation legend Steve Wittman, who had been an EAA member since the association's founding in 1953, suggested the airport in Oshkosh, Wis. There was acreage surrounding the airport to handle the annual influx of airplanes, vehicles and tents. There were two lengthy runways which did not cross, allowing greater traffic movement. Oshkosh city officials eagerly sought the event and enjoy the economic boost it provides. In 1969, the EAA board approved the move to Oshkosh. Through the 1970s and '80s, the Convention exploded into national prominence. Attendance jumped into six figures each year and the event became one of sport aviation's top gatherings.

Today, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh is an international gathering place for aviation enthusiasts. An AirVenture participant can study the latest aircraft and innovations; discover new ideas and techniques from the nearly 1,000 forums and workshops; see aviation's top personalities; or just talk airplanes with people from around the world. EAA AIRVENTURE OSHKOSH has become important and influential but retains its friendly and personal feel - part of the reason the world comes to Oshkosh every year.

BOARD OF OFFICERS – 2010 WWW.PMLAA.ORG

OFFICERS

President	
Michael Lella	962-1822
Vice President, Airport Affairs	
Larry Jobe	962-5508
Vice President, Social Affairs	
Debbi Peters	962-6267
Secretary	
Frank Perry	962-0728
Treasurer	
Don Brown	962-0325

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Property	
Paul Sperry	962-4178
Multimedia	
Ken Codeglia	962-6270
Phil Hickerson	962-6714
Seminar Coordinator	
Wayne Handley	962-7868
Membership	
Kay Smith	962-6986
Roster	
Carol Simpson	962-0943
Legal Counsel	
Renie Leakakos	962-0499
Webmaster	
Silvano Gai	962-6378
Airport Director	
Jim Thomas	533-5685

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Editor	
Frank Perry/Virginia Gustafson	962-0728
Safety Editor	
Larry Jobe	962-5508

*Our condolences to Bob
Hornaur on the loss of his lovely
wife, Elizabeth TeSelle.*



Mark your calendar:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| September 4th | <i>“Apollo 14 Moon Mission
Recovery Team Experiences”</i>
<i>Presented by:</i>
Lt. Commander Michael N. Scuro
United States Navy Retired | Potluck at Carol Simpson’s Hangar,
21201 Jimmersall Lane
6:00pm |
| October 2 nd | PMLAA Airport Day | |
| November 6 th | Speaker and location to be announced | |
| December 11 th | “It’s A Wrap!” | |

PML Aviation Association
PO Box 131
Groveland, CA 95321

Sept. 4: Carol Simpson’s hangar
Oct. 2: PMLAA Airport Day