



Volume 26: Issue 1 • February 2011
A Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

"The U-2: Then and Now"

Speaker: Colonel Rob Rowe, Lockheed test pilot

February 5th, 6:00pm at the Buchner Hangar
(corner of Hemlock and Woodside Way)

Our speaker for the February 5th meeting is Colonel Robert (Rob) Rowe, United States Air Force Reserve and Chief Test Pilot for the U-2 and X-55 programs at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics at Palmdale.

Rob has over 4800 hours in the U-2 both operationally and as a test pilot: that's 4800+ hours in the upper stratosphere, a figure that puts him near the top in total U-2 hours!



Photo via Lockheed Crew Chief page

Rob is a graduate of the United States Air Force Test Pilot School and has been flying the U-2 Dragon Lady since the early 80s. He continues to fly the U-2 as both an operational Air Force reserve pilot and a Lockheed test pilot. This combination gives him a unique perspective in evaluating the Dragon Lady's mission requirements in Iraq and Afghanistan where today over 20 U-2s are flying unique combat missions every day.

Recently, Rob flew the first flight in the X-55, a twin engine experimental advanced composite cargo technology demonstrator aircraft, a NASA-Lockheed cooperative effort. The Advanced Composite Cargo Aircraft made its



first test flight June 2 from Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, Calif. The ACCA is proof of concept technology demonstrator for advanced composite manufacturing processes in a full-scale, certified aircraft. It was developed by the Air Force Research Laboratory and Lockheed Martin.

The ACCA is a modified Dornier 328J aircraft. The fuselage aft of the crew station and the vertical tail were removed and replaced with completely new structural designs made of advanced composite materials fabricated using out-of-autoclave curing.

Rob and his wife, retired USAF Lt. Colonel Diane Rowe, are well known in the Antelope Valley for another reason: they have four teenagers (three girls and a boy) born a total of three minutes apart on June 5th, 1996. We will meet them all on February 5th.

Marle Hewett met Rob four months ago when the Red Bull Stratos team (see www.redbullstratos.com) was looking for an experimental test pilot with extensive full-pressure suit experience to ride the capsule to the equivalent of 120,000 feet in a low pressure chamber at Brooks Air Force Base (San Antonio). This is to man-rate the capsule in preparation for the world's first supersonic free-fall by an Austrian daredevil base jumper named Felix Baumgartner for a marketing stunt sponsored and funded by Red Bull.



Rob Rowe in the capsule with the chamber at 120,000 feet (pressure equivalent)

Rob will present an interesting talk about the U-2 plane, its past and current missions, and his experiences flying the U-2 and other "strange and wonderful" aircraft. Don't miss it!

President's Message by Wayne Handley

On my first visit to Pine Mountain Lake Airport I was approached by a local pilot as I fueled my plane; he asked if I was aware of the \$25 landing fee. I told him that I wasn't, and he then told me that the fee would be waived if I made a low pass on departure. I told him that I appreciated the "PML Attitude" and we had a good laugh.

A few years later Keith Zenobia invited me to speak at PMLAA. This provided Karen and me a great opportunity to meet the aviation community and get a taste of the area. The seed was planted; we started planning our move "UP."

Now that we have lived here for four years I appreciate the "PML Attitude" more than ever. Anytime something needs to be done, it gets done correctly and quickly by a flood of volunteers. So, when Marle Hewett, Kathy McConnell and accomplices came to me about accepting the PMLAA presidency, I felt it was time to step up and do my part. For the record, during our first conversation on the subject, Marle agreed to be available for the presidency in 2012.

My plan for PMLAA this year is being developed with FUN as our primary objective. My first check point is to get our meeting hangars all confirmed by the end of January. Allen Craig is our Speaker Coordinator and he is "on it." We already have a lineup of very interesting personalities who have agreed to speak.

Alan and Conni Buchner will host our first meeting on Feb. 5th. Rob Rowe, one of the world's highest time U-2 pilots, is our speaker. Rob comes highly recommended by our Vice President of Airport Affairs, Marle Hewett.

Check point number two is a list of interesting fly-out destinations. Fly-out Chairman Ken Helling is organizing several fly-outs, and has a brunch at Furnace Creek in Death Valley scheduled for Sunday, January 23rd. I have also made tee time reservations on the 22nd for those who would like to golf on Saturday, spend the night and meet the rest for brunch Sunday morning. I'll never play golf below par, so playing below sea level will have to do.

Another check point is our Airport Day on October 1st. This is a fun day and a great way to stimulate community awareness and support of our airport. Airports, like people, can never have too many friends! For me, one of the highlights of Airport Day is the Young Eagle rides in the morning. This year we flew with over forty young people and both pilots and passengers had a great time. We are always interested in new activities to add to the program, so don't be bashful about passing along your ideas.

Before closing on plans for 2011, I extend my appreciation to the 2010 board and committee chairs who all year to give us good programs and good times.

Please pay your dues now!

I especially want to recognize **Paul Sperry** who has been our property chair for as long as anyone can remember. Paul has been dedicated and tireless in making sure that our chairs and tables are set-up for every meeting and cleaning up afterwards, with his loyal assistants **Bob Cowley and Mike Millard**. We also extend a huge thank you to the bar team of **Jane Hansen, Harriet Wallace and Jerry Lynn** who have been serving beverages at our meetings for the last several years. Don't worry, they are currently training the new crew who have already proven to know their way around a wine bottle. Finally, a big thank you to **Rose Heuer** for her efforts on the 50/50 draw over many years. We miss Rose's beautiful smile and charm.

My sincere gratitude also to the PMLAA members who have agreed to serve with me this year. Look at the complete list at the back on this newsletter, and thank them for helping make the association fun and effective.

Remember, it's time to send in your dues now. Annual dues are still only \$20 per household.

Let's fly smart and have fun in 2011.
Wayne Handley

January 23 Fly-Out Excursion

Fly-out chair Ken Helling invites all PMLAA pilots to join our first fly-out of 2011 on Sunday, Jan. 23rd. This trip will be to Furnace Creek Resort in Death Valley. Locator is LO6. [Check the airport info at www.airnav.com/airport/LO6](http://www.airnav.com/airport/LO6)

We will depart from PML at 8:30am. The flight from PML is approximately 1 hour 20 minutes flying time.

After arriving at Furnace Creek Airport a shuttle bus takes us two miles to the Furnace Creek Inn. It's a fabulous brunch you won't want to miss. Our brunch reservation is at 11:00am. We have to give them a headcount along with names for reservations. Please contact Ken Helling at 962-7597 by Wednesday, January 19th if you plan to go.

At minus 210 feet, Furnace Creek is the lowest airport in the US, and landing here is a milestone in every pilot's aviation career. The airstrip is the gateway to the refined amenities of the adjacent Furnace Creek Inn and Ranch Resort, and the stark beauty of Death Valley that surrounds it. Luxurious accommodations, fabulous meals, golf, swimming, and the unending panoramas of Death Valley await those willing to sink this low.

Furnace Creek was originally founded as a working ranch in the 1880s, and later became home to the famous 20-mule teams of the Pacific Coast Borax Company. In the early 1920s, increased public interest in Death Valley prompted Pacific Coast Borax to enter the tourism business.

If you are a golfer you may want to spend the night and play a round of golf. The Furnace Creek Resort number is 303-297-2757; check their website at <http://www.furnacecreekresort.com>. The rates at the Ranch are less than the Inn and it is also closer to the golf course. Our fly-in coincides with the Southwest Tribe gathering of the International Comanche Society, so there will be lots of Comanche planes and pilots around too.

Meet your 2011 PMLAA Board



Secretary Charleen Beam, VP Marle Hewett, Treasurer Kay Smith with President Wayne Handley (missing: Kathy McConnell - social affairs)

Wayne Handley, President: Most of us know Wayne Handley as a good friend and neighbor, generous with his time and talents for the annual PML Air Show and with his aerobatic show skills for area charities.

Wayne is also a former naval aviator, ag pilot, aerobatic champion, and preeminent air show performer. Since beginning his aviation career in 1957, he has amassed over 29,000 hours of flight time with little of it spent straight, level, or upright. In 1983, at the age of 44, Wayne began flying in IAC (International Aerobatic Club) competitions. Wayne surprised the aerobatic community by winning the Unlimited point series in 1985 and the title of California Unlimited Aerobatic Champion. After pocketing this title two more times, he left competition and chose to fly air shows full time. In 1996, he was presented the Bill Barber Award for Showmanship presented annually by World Airshow News to an air show performer who has demonstrated superb showmanship ability. In 1997, Wayne received the Art Scholl Showmanship Award presented annually by ICAS (International Council of Air Shows) to the air show act that best exemplifies the qualities of showmanship. In 2005, Wayne was inducted into the ICAS Foundation Air Show Hall of Fame. Wayne now spends most of his days coaching aerobatic competitors and air show performers.

Away from the airport, Wayne spends his free time with Karen, their children, and grandchildren.

Marle Hewett, Vice President- Airport Affairs: Marle and his wife Judy have been PML residents since 1998. You can see him flying his Lancair 360 around PML most mornings. Marle retired from NASA Dryden, as a Senior Flight Controls Research Engineer in 2002.

Marle has an undergraduate degree in aeronautical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Aeronautics from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. After graduation, he was commissioned in the Navy where he spent the next 20 years, retiring in 1980 as a Commander. He also taught at the Naval Academy in Annapolis and served as chairman of the aerospace engineering department. Marle served three tours in the Western Pacific; he flew 100 missions off the USS America during the Viet Nam war, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, 13 Air Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Unit Commendation.

After the Navy, Marle started his career in industry. After stints as a research engineer in flight controls with Northrop, HR Textron, and Sparta, Marle founded an engineering consulting company specializing in flight test planning.

Kathy McConnell, VP- Social Affairs: Kathy and husband Roger have been full-time PMLers since 1999. They stumbled upon PML in 1988 when flying to visit friends in Mariposa. Mariposa was fogged in so they landed at PML and purchased their home a couple of weeks later

Kathy is not a pilot but she comes from a flying family. Roger flies a Warrior, which comes in handy as they still own an auto repair facility in Southern Calif.; Kathy is the bookkeeper. Roger and Kathy have a large combined family of 9 children and 23 grandkids.

Other than flying trips, Kathy's major hobby is riding her Harley on long road trips. She also sews and does crafts. We're looking forward to lots of fun events this year under Kathy's very creative direction.

Charleen Beam, Secretary: Charleen and husband Joe Riley have lived at PML since 2007. They discovered PML in 2001 when she was working in a volunteer in Yosemite and Joe flew in from their home in Irvine to PML to visit her.

Charleen has been a private pilot since 1994. She used to own a beloved Cub, and is now a member of the PML Aero Club. Charleen is also a longtime member of EAA and the 99's.

Charleen and Joe are owners of the Cub Inn B&B in PML. She is also a medical transcriptionist, so being the PMLAA secretary should be a cake-walk! Earlier in her career Charleen had a fun job selling parts for Aircraft Spruce. For relaxation, Charleen loves to quilt and do needle crafts.

Kay Smith, Treasurer: Kay has served this organization in many capacities, including previous terms as treasurer. She's a charter member of PMLAA and has lived at PML for 27 years.

She and her late husband Hugh were very active in Navion groups, including the Golden Gate Navioneers (where Kay was president) and the National Navion Association, where Hugh served as national president. Hugh later built an RV6A which Kay also flew.

Kay is a retired nurse; she is on the board of Mother Lode Aviation, and also coordinates our group air ambulance insurance.



PMLAA 2011 committee chairs: Ken Codeglia (multimedia), Ken Helling (fly-outs), Renie Leakakos (legal), Ed Peters (property), and Al Craig (speakers).

Safety Corner
- Norm Peebles, Safety Officer

Aircraft Re-registration

As of October 1, 2010 the FAA is now requiring the re-registration of all civil aircraft over the next three years and renewal every three years thereafter. The FAA proposed a \$5 re-registration and renewal fee, but the current FAA reauthorization bill (if enacted as passed by the House) authorizes the FAA to increase the initial registration fee to \$130 and re-registration/renewals to \$45.

We recommend that all owners check the FAA website to ensure the FAA has accurate information on your aircraft: www.registry.faa/aircraftinquiry/NNum

The FAA will be contacting owners 180 days before the expiration of their current registration. For more information go to the AOPA website (www.aopa.org) and read more on this topic. The AOPA site also has a schedule showing when your aircraft will need to be re-registered.

Member Activities

EAA Chapter 1337 News

Our local EAA chapter recently held elections and several PMLAA folks are serving in leadership positions for 2011:

- President – Silvano Gai
- Vice President – Dick Collier
- Secretary – Diana Sunday
- Treasurer – Al Craig
- Class II Director – Ed Sunday
- Class II Director – Dennis Smith
- Class II Director – Eric Henderson

PMLAA Does “It’s A Wrap” in Style

Once again, PMLAA members did a phenomenal job with the traditional “It’s A Wrap” party. This year’s event was held in the beautifully decorated Great Hall at Tuolumne Trails. PMLAA members brought and wrapped hundreds of gifts for disadvantaged children in our community. Thanks to all who participated and helped make the holidays bright for the kids.



Special thanks to the organizing committee of Debi and Ed Peters, Karen Handley, Jerry and Paula Baker, Kathy McConnell and Linda Craig and their many helpers. An extra special thank you to the Bakers for hosting the event at Camp Tuolumne Trails.

From The Deputy Director
- Jim Thomas

Reorganization Effects on Airports

It has now been six months since the Airports Department was eliminated and the Airports Division in Public Works was created. With this organizational change came a job title change for me; I am now called the Deputy Director of Operations reporting to the Director of Public Works, Peter Rei instead of directly to the County Administrator Craig Pedro. The change also came with added responsibility including managing the County’s Fleet Services Division and the County’s Radio Communications. In addition, two key airport staff took early retirement and the Airport Administration position was reduced to a half-time position.

So, what does this mean for the operations of the airports? First, with the added responsibilities, I can no longer put 100% of my time into managing the airports. Additionally, I’ve had to hire two new employees and I must spend a portion of my time orienting them and giving them instructions. Fortunately, both new hires, Kalah Beckman (Francesca’s replacement) and Jerett Sperry (Dennis’s replacement) are quick learners and very hard workers, but there are aspects of their jobs that can only be taught at certain times of the year. For example, the budget process which Kalah helps with is divided into the annual budget, the mid-year budget, and the end-of-year budget. The only time the mid-year budget process can be taught is in January and February. Likewise, it would be difficult to teach Jerett about snow removal when there isn’t any snow to remove.

As I mentioned, Kalah is only funded to work half time; she is in the office Monday through Friday from 8 AM to noon. For this reason it helps if those having administrative questions regarding the airports would contact the Airports office before noon. This way Kalah can address the concerns directly rather than having the request passed to her the following day. Examples of these kinds of items are account status, gate card and clicker requests, fly-in activities, tie down availability, long term parking questions, etc.

Jerett Sperry has been assigned the primary responsibility of maintaining Pine Mountain Lake Airport. He normally spends either Tuesday or Wednesday at the airport cleaning the pilot’s lounge, checking the airport lighting, cleaning the drainage inlets, cutting grass, brush and trees, repairing the deer fence as needed, and other tasks as required. When a critical maintenance item exists like the VASI system being out of service, the airport staff will address it quickly regardless of what day of the week it is.

The Airports Division is still committed to maintaining both airports to the best of our ability given the added responsibilities and reduced staffing. As always, we do appreciate residents and airport users keeping an eye out for maintenance issues and passing those issues on to us so they can be addressed as quickly as practical.

Next Meeting: February 5 at 6:00pm at Buchner’s hangar



Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association
2011 Membership Application for New Members, Renewals & Updates

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.

- Annual membership dues are **\$20.00** per household, payable Jan 30, 2011.
- PMLAA Name badges are **\$8.00** each.
- Please send your membership check to PMLAA, P.O. Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321.
- Monthly Meetings: normally held the first Saturday of each month. Please refer to the latest issue of *The PMLAA News* or visit pmlaa.org for more details.
- The membership roster (with information from this form) is typically distributed with the April newsletter.
- NOTE: Renewing members: Please only mark information changes on this form.

Which information, if any, do want published in the roster (the roster is mailed only to members and NOT published on the internet)?
 Check the info you agree to have published:

Street Address _____ Phone _____ email address (es) _____

Would you like to receive your newsletter by mail? _____ or by email only? _____

Date: _____ Circle one: New Member / Renewal No Changes / Renewal with Changes Below

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

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip _____

Local Phone: 209-962-_____ Alternate phone: _____

Email Address(es): _____ & _____

Aircraft Make & Model _____ N# _____

Certificated pilot since (year) _____ FAA Cert/Ratings _____

Circle any aviation jobs you have held: 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 Experience: _____

2011 Annual Dues

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

Mail this form and your check to PMLAA, PO Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321. *Thank you!*



2011 Meeting Calendar

| Date | Program | Location |
|-------------|---------------------|--|
| February 5 | Rob Rowe, U-2 Pilot | 6:00pm Potluck at Buchners' hangar Corner of Hemlock and Woodside Way |
| March 5 | | |
| April 2 | | |
| May 7 | | |
| June 4 | | |
| July 9 | | |
| September 3 | | |
| October 1 | | |
| November 5 | | |
| December 10 | | |

BOARD OF OFFICERS – 2011

| OFFICERS | | COMMITTEE CHAIRS - CONTINUED | |
|---|----------|---|----------|
| President , Wayne Handley | 962-7868 | Property , Ed Peters | 962-6267 |
| VP, Airport Affairs , Marle Hewett | 962-0701 | Multimedia , Ken Codeglia | 962-6270 |
| VP, Social Affairs , Kathy McConnell | 962-5854 | Phil Hickerson | 962-6714 |
| Secretary , Charleen Beam | 768-6151 | Membership , Kay Smith | 962-6986 |
| Treasurer , Kay Smith | 962-6986 | Roster , Carol Simpson | 962-0943 |
| | | Legal Counsel , Renie Leakakos | 532-1958 |
| | | Webmaster , Silvano Gai | 962-6378 |
| <i>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</i> | | Newsletter Editor , Virginia Gustafson | 962-6336 |
| Speaker Coordinator , Allen Craig | 962-6757 | Newsletter Publisher , Frank Perry | 962-0728 |
| Fly-Out Coordinator , Ken Helling | 962-7597 | Airport Director , Jim Thomas | 533-5685 |
| Safety , Norm Peebles | 962-1990 | | |

PML Aviation Association
 PO Box 131
 Groveland, CA 95321

Next meeting is Feb. 5

Please send in your dues now!