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## ***Astronaut Robert Kimbrough to Speak on June 1<sup>st</sup>!***

**Where:** The McGowen's Hanger at **6:00 PM** June 1<sup>st</sup> 2013

**R**obert Shane Kimbrough, a United States Army Colonel and Chief of the Robotics Branch at National Aeronautics and Space Administration - NASA, will be joining us at the McGowen's hanger on June 1st.

Kimbrough was part of the first group of candidates selected for NASA astronaut training following the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster. He flew on STS-126 Endeavour (November 14 to November 30, 2008) launched at night from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, and returned to land at Edwards Air Force Base, California. It was NASA's 4th shuttle flight in 2008 and the 27th shuttle/station assembly mission. The 16-day mission included expanding the living quarters of the space station to eventually house six-member crews by delivering a new bathroom, kitchenette, two bedrooms, an exercise machine and a water recycling system. During the mission, Kimbrough performed two spacewalks, logging a total of 12 hours and 52 minutes of EVA. STS-126 also delivered a new resident to the station, replacing Greg Chamitoff, Expedition 17/18 with Sandy Magnus, Expedition 18. STS-126 returned to Earth after completing 250 orbits in over 6 million miles.



Kimbrough graduated from West Point in May 1989 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He entered the U.S. Army Aviation School in 1989 and was designated an Army aviator in 1990. In late 1990, he was assigned to the 1/24<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment "Vipers", 24th Infantry Division (M) at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia, and was deployed to Southwest Asia where he served in the same battalion with our president, Eric

Henderson, during Operation Desert Storm. He served as the 1/24<sup>th</sup> AVN Alpha company platoon leader, aviation liaison officer, and attack helicopter battalion operations officer. In 1994, he was assigned to the 229th Aviation Regiment (Attack) (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he commanded an Apache helicopter company as well as the Regimental headquarters company. After completing a Masters of Science degree at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1998, he was assigned as an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the United States Military Academy.

In September of 2000, Kimbrough joined the NASA team at the Johnson Space Center (JSC), and was assigned to NASA's Aircraft Operations Division at Ellington Field in Houston, where he served as a Flight Simulation Engineer (FSE) on the Shuttle Training Aircraft (STA).

Kimbrough was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in May 2004. In February 2006, he completed Astronaut Candidate Training that included scientific and technical briefings, intensive instruction in shuttle and International Space Station systems, physiological training, T-38 flight training and water and wilderness survival training. Completion of this initial training qualified him for various technical assignments within the Astronaut Office and future flight assignment as a mission specialist. Kimbrough completed his first spaceflight in 2008, logging a total of 15 days, 20 hours, 29 minutes and 37 seconds in space and 12 hours and 52 minutes of Extravehicular Activity (EVA) in two spacewalks. Kimbrough currently serves as the Robotics Branch Chief for the Astronaut Office.

## *PMLAA Action Hero: Dick "Chili" Chilignarian*

*By Janet Gregory*

Life is a bold and daring adventure for Dick "Chili" Chilignarian. Chili is a very fitting name for someone with a spicy sense of humor and hot sense of adventure.

Chili's first quest started in high school when he joined the Navy to "see the world" as the advertising touted. It was 2 years after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and Chili may have thought it was to help "change" the world for the better.

Chili was assigned to the USS San Diego CL53, a light cruiser. "Light cruiser" may evoke images of a small craft but this was a serious anti-aircraft (AA) ship armed with 16 (5 inch / 127 mm) 38 caliber AA guns and 16 Bofors 40 mm AA guns. That's a lot of firepower!

The USS San Diego is the second most decorated ship. Of the 21 major naval engagements in the Pacific theater, The San Diego was awarded 18 battle stars for its role and a proud boast of no loss of life. Chili participated in 14 of those engagements. It was "the unbeatable ship that nobody ever heard of" as one of Chili's shipmates, Fred Whitmore wrote in his memoirs.

Chili worked on the bridge as a signalman. It was a critical role relaying messages for ship commanders at the front line. This was a world of visual communications, not electronics, voice and data. It was a "quiet" world of flags & lights positioned prominently to see and be seen, in communication and action.



The San Diego with Chili on board was the first major Allied warship to enter Tokyo Bay after the surrender of Japan. It was big enough to be impressive and provide a show of strength. The bombing of Hiroshima had occurred only 24 days prior and Allied Forces were not sure of Japan's sincerity in the surrender. Unknown to Chili and the crew, USS San Diego was also considered small

enough to lose if Japan was planning a surprise attack.

It was a tense time. The San Diego had been sitting about 100 miles off the coast of Japan for two weeks. Waiting. Wondering. The decision was made to send USS San Diego as the flagship. They proceeded warily toward Tokyo Bay, picking up two Japanese harbor pilots to help guide them in. There are mountains on both sides of the Bay and they could see white flags along each. They docked port side, tied up and waited out the night, not sure if they were sitting ducks or proud eagles.

Japan was honorable. The next day USS Missouri arrived and all the dignitaries were transferred to Japanese soil through The San Diego. With everything safe and secure USS San Diego pulled out allowing USS Missouri to dock for the signing of the surrender agreement the following day. The Missouri was selected because it was the namesake of President Truman's home state. On Sept 2, 1945 General Douglas MacArthur, Admiral Chester Nimitz and eight Allies accepted and signed the surrender agreement. The USS San Diego was proud for its role and was on its way home.

Chili didn't recognize that he was part of history but the world was waiting for them when they pulled into San Francisco Bay under the Golden Gate Bridge. What a glorious sight that bridge was! They were home! Chili swore "I'll never go back out under that bridge again."

Four years in the Navy was enough. Chili was ready to embark on life's next chapters. For the rest of this Action Hero's story read the full article in the PML News.



*From the Airports Manager  
by Jim Thomas*

## More Gate Woes

The airport gate is still broken and we have had a gate expert look at it, an electrician look at it, and we have discussed the problems with a former airport maintenance worker. All these people agree that the gate wiring and components are old and need replacement and that replacing only selected components pushes the problem on to the next weak point in the electrical system. From all the investigations that have been done, the mechanical part of the gate works fine.

At this time, the plan is to have the technician from the gate manufacturer rewire the gate with new relays, new timers, new limit switches, and all new wiring. Most of these components will be installed in a new weatherproof box that is easily accessible for future troubleshooting and maintenance.

The intention of all this work is to have a gate that contains a new easily accessible electrical system but that utilizes the existing card reader, clicker reader, access control board, electric eye, and ground loop detector. All these components are relatively new or are working so we see no need to change them out at this time. This appears to be the best solution to our current gate problem.

Our plan is to have the gate fully operational by the end of May, if not sooner.

*From the VP of Social Affairs  
by Catherine Santa Maria*

## Kabobs!

Even though I was in Bakersfield at the 99s section meeting, that didn't deter everyone from having a great turnout at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. I was so bummed that I could not be in two places at once. Thank you, thank you everyone for a great potluck dinner. My understanding is that there was so much delicious food that 2nds were offered to all. And the set-up and clean up went so smoothly- WOW we are on a roll.

In June a group is going to prepare Kabobs and barbeque them before the meeting. To go with the Kabobs, please bring a salad or a rice dish or a dessert to go with this entrée. If you would like to help in the preparation of the Kabobs or help barbeque please give me a call at 962-7904. There will be a donation jar so please bring a few bucks to

help pay for the kabob ingredients. The margarita man will be serving margaritas once again and of course we will have the regular bar as well.

Set-up will be at 10:00AM at the hangar on the day of the event and clean up will be at 10:00AM on the following morning. Come one come all and help set up and take down for this wonderful event.

*Airshow Schedules  
by Susie Williams*

Our resident airshow pilots Vicki Benzing and Melissa Pemberton have several performances this summer that are relatively close to Pine Mountain Lake. If you have never seen either performer, maybe it's time to take an excursion out to one of the events to see these flyers in action!

### Schedule for Vicki Benzing:

Redlands Air Show (KREI), Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>  
[Hollister Air Show](#) (KCVH), Fri-Sun May 24-26<sup>th</sup>  
[Rancho Murieta](#) (KRIU), Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>  
[Golden West Fly-in](#) (KMYV), Fri-Sun June 7-9<sup>th</sup>  
[Pylon Racing Seminar](#) (KRTS), June 9-15<sup>th</sup>  
[Tacoma Freedom Fair](#) (KTIW), July 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>  
[Arlington Fly-In](#) (KAWO), Thur-Sat July 11-13<sup>th</sup>  
[EAA AirVenture](#) (KOSH), July 29<sup>th</sup>-Aug 4<sup>th</sup>  
[Wings over Camarillo](#) (KCMS), Aug 17-18<sup>th</sup>  
[Airshow of the Cascades](#) (S33) Fri-Sat Aug 23-24  
[Watsonville Fly-In](#) (KWVI), Fri-Sun Aug 30-Sept 1  
Skagit Fly-in (KVBS), Sun Sept 1<sup>st</sup>  
[Reno Air Races](#) (KRTS), Sept 7-15<sup>th</sup>  
[Livermore Air Show](#) (KLVK) Sat Oct 5<sup>th</sup>

### California Dates for Melissa Pemberton:

[Truckee Air Show](#) (KTRK), July 6-7  
[Catalina Air Show](#) (KAVX) Sept 7-8  
[Hemet-Ryan Air Show](#) (KHMT) Sat. Nov 2

*RB Stratos Team Wins Award!*

Our May speaker Marle Hewett reports that his Redbull Stratos team has won the Jerome Lederer Space Safety Pioneer Award. The award honors individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions in the field of space safety. Congratulations Marle and team!



## 2013 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time &amp; Location</u>
June 1	NASA Astronaut Robert Kimbrough	6:00PM Location McGowan's Hanger
July	(No Meeting)	
August 10	Block Party	6:00PM Location Outer loop taxiway

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