

## Stars of Aerobatics November 2<sup>nd</sup>!



Italian Night Dinner: Silvano & Tony's Hangar at 6:00 PM



Volume 28: Issue 9 •  
October 2013  
A Publication of the  
Pine Mountain Lake  
Aviation Association



Saturday night, November 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony and Silvano will host "Italian Night" while we are entertained by Wayne Handley and the stories of his amazing Angels of Aerobatics. Most of us are familiar with the phenomenal history of our neighbor, Wayne Handley. This night we will learn more about the incredible accomplishments and exciting exploits of several of our more beautiful aerobatic pilots. Beth Stanton, Vicky Benzing, and Melissa Pemberton will all share with us their thrilling world of aerobatics, and the back story of the man behind the scenes that help to spark their passion for unusual attitudes.

These ladies will undoubtedly keep us on edge with their thrilling stories and videos. Come on out, enjoy some wonderful authentic Italian food, and be prepared to witness the exciting stories of our very own Stars of Aerobatics!

---

### PMLAA Christmas Party

December 7, 2013  
Tuolumne Trails  
6:00PM Cocktails  
7:00PM Dinner

\$30 Per Person (Includes Tax and Tip)

#### Menu

Grilled Steak with a Bourbon Mushroom Sauce  
Chicken Marsala  
Steamed Red Potatoes with Parsley and Butter  
Dinner Rolls  
Salad  
Baklava  
Coffee, Iced Tea and Water  
No Host Wine, Beer and Soda

**SEATING LIMITED TO THE FIRST 120 MEMBERS**

**Send your check made payable to PMLAA and mail to PO Box 131, Groveland, Ca. 95321**

## *Young Eagles Soar on Airport Day*

*By E. Michael Thoben*

*Photos by Tony Gai*



Each summer many of us start planning for a special day in the fall where we, as pilots, share with the community our passion for aviation. This means the local Chapter 1337 of EAA begins our efforts by soliciting help from our local flying community to provide introductory flights to kids in a national program known as EAA Young Eagles. We hold our event in the morning just before PMLAA Airport Appreciation Day. It has been our goal to provide a meaningful flight experience – free of charge – in a general aviation aircraft. This is for young people between the ages of 8 -17. We have been showing tremendous progress with our results the last few years thanks to



many of you. This year we flew a record 72 Young Eagles and 2 Eagles surpassing last years previous record of 60. This continuous progress is only possible with the help of many volunteers and participating pilots. This year we had 14 pilots who graciously donated their time and aircraft. Eric Henderson and Silvano Gai both personally flew 10 kids! The other 50+ kids were flown by Wayne Handley, Roger Sloan, Al Craig, Diane Cole, Greg Triplett, Chris Verbil, Robert Pearson, Gabe Coelho,

Larry Roessler, Jim Goodrich, Jim Thomas, and Mike Gustafson. I want to thank you again for your generous contribution.

The pilots are only part of the story.... there are nearly 20 ground volunteers that are needed to make this program run smoothly and safely. A special thank you to a few like Ed Gregory, Norrn Peebles, George Harrison and Mike Lella who did an exceptional job keeping everyone safe. We had an outstanding group of ground crew members: Patty Peebles, Kay Meermans, Diane Harrison, Kathy McConnell, Jan Sloan, Norma Lella, Kay Smith, and photographer Tony Gai, A special thank you to Tim and his team from Mariposa Airport for bringing his full motion flight simulator and Carol Simpson for doing a pre-flight with every kid on Silvano's newly refurbished Cessna 150. Tim Hallock donated his hanger again this year and this makes the entire experience first class.



I want to personally thank my good friend Al Craig for all the time and effort he puts into the EAA program each year. Also, thank you to Virginia Gustafson for all her help with the advertising and material circulation. And finally, a very special thank you to Ed and Diane Sunday for their countless hours getting event publicity and radio spots and managing the entire registration process.



## *PMLAA Air Racers*

*By Janet Gregory*

September marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Championship Air Races in Reno, Nevada. PMLAA was well represented in the races, spectators and air show performance.

PMLAA pilots Lee Behel, Vicky Benzing, Colleen Keller and Shane Margraves raced in the Sport Class. Lee Behel is the President of the Sport Class Air Racing Association and one of its founders. As an air race enthusiast and innovator, Lee brought modern high performance kit-built aircraft into the air race arena. At our airport you might catch a glimpse of "Breathless" or "Poncho" the Lancair Legacy's flown by Lee and Colleen, or the Glasair "Cruise Missile" Vicky flew. This was Shane's first year racing in his Zlin Z50 "Czechster". Look sharp, they are fast! Racing at speeds up to 324 mph!

Lee and Vicky also raced in the Jet Class strapping into Czech-built L-39 jets. Lee raced "Miss Independence". Vicky raced "Reality Czech" placing first in a Silver race, moving up to Gold and hitting lap speeds of 425 mph!

Lots of other PML residents were at this year's Reno Air Races. Some were working on air race crews, like Jim Thomas who crewed his airplane "Poncho" for Colleen. Many others were spectators with heads and cameras tipped skyward for the electrifying races and sensational air show performances. Clay Lacy also thrilled the air races with an aero-performance in his Lear 25 business jet. I'm sure that the passengers in the back spilled a few drinks on that ride!



**Cruise Missile at Oshkosh 2013**

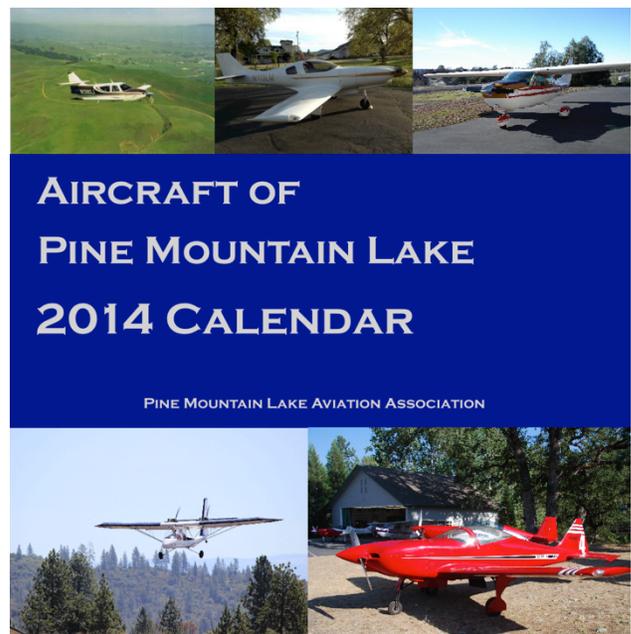
## *Social News*

*By Catherine Santa Maria*

Included in this month's newsletter is the announcement for our Christmas Party. The party will be held at Tuolumne Trails. There is only seating for 120 folks so please send in your reservation form and check right away. The menu looks great and the price is right so don't delay in sending in your reservation. The dinner cost is \$30 per person, which includes tax and tip. In November at our regular meeting Toni and Silvano Gai are going to prepare pasta with meat sauce, vegetarian pasta, and roast beef for the entire membership. Toni would like everyone to bring a side dish to go with this wonderful meal. Please bring either a salad, appetizer, dessert or garlic bread to complement the meal. Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Community Airport Day evening meal. So many folks showed up to help that everything went very smoothly. The event turned out wonderful and like we all say over and over many hands make light work. See you at the Gai's hangar at 10:00AM for set up on November 2.

## *PMLAA 2014 Calendars Now on Sale!*

The 2014 PMLAA Calendar is now available for sale. Those of you who have pre-ordered your calendars can pick them up at the potluck meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. All proceeds go towards the association's budget to help support Airport Day, our scholarships, and other community projects.



*From the Airports Manager  
By Jim Thomas*

The Rim Fire and Our Airports



The Pine Mountain Lake Airport was near ground zero during the Rim Fire. Hopefully, most residents took the recommendation to leave the area and breathe some cleaner air. For those of us that stayed, we are still recovering from the smoke.

I wanted to provide just a few facts about the use of our airports during the Rim Fire. First, both Columbia and Pine Mountain Lake Airports were used as helibases during the fire. At Columbia Airport we were able to close the grass runway to park helicopters, leaving the paved runway open. At Pine Mountain Lake Airport we parked helicopters on the paved runway, which required us to close the airport. Columbia Airport's helibase was operated for 21 days and Pine Mountain Lake Airport's helibase was operated for four days. It was the thick smoke at the Pine Mountain Lake Airport that prompted the USFS to relocate the helibase to Mariposa Airport since it was for the most part smoke-free. The helicopters based at the Pine Mountain Lake Airport consisted of an Erickson Air Crane, a Bell 205 Huey, two Bell 206 Jet Rangers and a Sikorsky S-61 Sea King. In addition to Pine Mountain Lake Airport being used as a helibase, it was also used as a fire retardant mixing and loading base. The retardant contractor Phos-Chek set up a mobile retardant base, which consisted of a mixed retardant tank, a rinse tank, a portable water reservoir, a mixing truck, and a staging area for the dry retardant. A great deal of thanks has to go to Ian Morcott and Kate

Newcomb for allowing Phos-Chek to set up on their property.

In addition to the Pine Mountain Lake Airport being used as a helibase, it was also used as a Staging Area for firefighting equipment including fire trucks, support vehicles, heavy equipment for cutting fire breaks, for a PG&E command center, by the media, and for VIP visitor staging. Every day, firefighting equipment would arrive and then be dispatched to specific locations around the fire.



We are very fortunate to have the Pine Mountain Lake Airport in our neighborhood. It served as a convenient place to stage fighting helicopters, as a retardant base which provided quick turn-around for the helicopters, and a staging area for firefighting equipment.



## *Guess The Airport*

Try to guess the airport pictured below. The airport is within the San Francisco Sectional and is an interesting and easy destination to reach from Pine Mountain Lake.

The answer to Mystery Airport #3 (in last month's edition) was **Ukiah** located in Mendocino County. That one was pretty difficult, so this month we're going with an easy airport

Within walking distance of a historical town, Mystery Airport #4 has both grass and pavement runways, onsite camping, and a wonderful annual fly-in during the month of June.

Where are we?





## 2013 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time &amp; Location</u>
November 2	Stars of Aerobatics	6:00PM Location Silvano & Tony Gai's Hangar
December 7	Christmas Party	6:00PM Tuolumne Trails (RSVP Required – see flyer insert!)

### BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2013

<b>OFFICERS</b>		<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>	
<b>President</b> , Eric Henderson	962-0832	<b>Property</b> , Ed Peters	962-6267
<b>VP, Airport Affairs</b> , Lynne Orloff	962-4631	<b>Multimedia</b> , Phil Hickerson	962-6714
<b>VP, Social Affairs</b> , Catherine Santa Maria	962-7904	<b>Multimedia</b> , Ken Codeglia	962-6270
<b>Secretary</b> , Carol Simpson	962-0943	<b>Membership/Roster</b> , Marie Barber	962-0786
<b>Treasurer</b> , Allen Craig	962-6757	<b>Airports Manager</b> , Jim Thomas	533-5685
		<b>Display Day Coordinator</b> , Ken Helling	962-7597
		<b>Safety</b> , Marle Hewett	962-0701
		<b>Newsletter</b> , Susie Williams	962-6922
		<b>Webmaster</b> , Silvano Gai	962-6378

### PML Aviation Association

PO Box 131  
Groveland, CA 95321

«FIRST\_NAME» «LAST\_NAME»  
«ADDRESS»  
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

You are paid through «PAID\_THRU»