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Pine Mountain Lake
Aviation Association

*Stories of the Vietnam War
from your Neighbors
Saturday, September 3rd– McGowan Hangar
6:00PM*



The September meeting will feature a panel of PMLAA Vietnam War Veterans. Each will share a story providing some perspective on this very controversial war.

Was it a war? The U.S. Government wanted it known as the Vietnam Conflict. In Vietnam it was known as the American War. In history, it's known as the Vietnam War. No matter what the name; the human cost was enormous. Estimates of Vietnamese soldiers and civilians killed vary from 800,000 to 3.1 Million. Often forgotten are 200,000 – 300,000 Cambodians and 20,000 – 200,000 Laotians. The U.S. lost 58,200 service members, with an additional 1,626 missing in action. The impact was staggering, for those family losses and for those who returned home.

Spanning two decades from 1955 to 1975, the Vietnam War began with American military advisors arriving in French Indochina in the 1950s. U.S. involvement escalated in the early 1960s, with troop levels tripling in 1961 and tripling again in 1962. Regular U.S. combat units were deployed beginning in 1965. U.S. involvement peaked in 1968, the same year that the communist side launched the Tet Offensive. The Tet Offensive failed in its goal of overthrowing the South Vietnamese government, but became a turning point in the war. De-escalation began slowly, in 1973 the Paris Peace Accord was signed, but fighting continued. In the U.S. and the Western World, a large anti-Vietnam War movement developed. The fall of Saigon to the North Vietnamese Army in April 1975 officially marked the end of the war, and North and South Vietnam reunified the following year.¹

There are heartwarming stories and horrifying stories. Humor, sadness, antics, and rebellion. Heroism and heart break. Our U.S. soldiers were drafted, not volunteers; yet they were shunned and rejected when they returned home. They worked hard and fought hard; but the impact to those who returned was largely ignored. We didn't know what P.T.S.D. was, even though our soldiers came back changed.

¹ Details, dates, and casualty estimates in this and the prior paragraph are from Wikipedia. www.wikipedia.org
www.pmlaa.org

President's Message – by Dale Mueller

Dale is off on an adventure, so we don't have a President's Message this month.

Social Corner – by Danielle Coelho

Hello PMLAA friends and members. The August block party/poker run was a great success! Thank you Marie Barber for All you did to get it going, along with the hangar owners who participated. I hope everyone enjoyed the BBQ.

September is just around the corner, and the meeting is on Saturday September 3 at 6 pm at the McGowans' hangar. September's food theme will be Asian. Let's put together our favorite pot stickers, sweet and sour dishes, salads, satays, sushi, chow meins and any other delicious favorite exotic Asian dish you can think of.

October is our Airport Day. I will need a head count for all that will be attending, members and their guests. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting for the October BBQ steak dinner. The sign-up sheet will be located at the drink ticket table. Please let us know how many guests total will be in your group. We will be collecting a \$5.00 donation per person at the BBQ for each steak that night.

Safety Corner – by CDR Marle Hewett, USN Retired

Precision Approach and Landings

My mind meanders many mornings around 0430 hours (that's military time to those of you who never served). It's a time of day I reserve for "living-in-the-past". Sometimes "the past" is yesterday, sometimes it's 50 years ago.

Well, this particular morning I'm landing on a carrier on one of those dark nights in the South China Sea; no moon, thunderstorms coming in from the North, a choppy sea below... I'm thinking about what it took to survive the experience: the training, the discipline, the concentration. You're wondering where this is going, right? Stay with me - I'll get there.

Marshall: That's what we called it - your Initial Approach Fix. It's always along the carrier's Foxtrot Corpen: what the hell is that? It's the carrier's planned heading for the recovery. That is, the planned heading of the angle deck (the carrier's rather short runway). They stack you up one plane at a time for night recoveries - 20K at 30 miles, 21K at 32 miles, 22K at 34 miles, etc. and assign you an approach time. You're expected to meet that time within plus or minus ten seconds, plus or minus a tenth of a mile, at exactly 250 knots on the Foxtrot Corpen. Precision is required because carrier approach times are one-minute apart, not two minutes like the FAA gives you. In every loop around your holding pattern, you correct your timing so as to meet these criteria starting your approach. Penetration: 250 knots, 4,000 feet/minute downhill (NOT 251 knots, NOT 3900 feet/minute!). All jets fly the same numbers; it's standard throughout the fleet and has been for the last fifty years. Platform: 5,000 feet. Cut your rate of descent to 2,000 feet/minute - maintain 250 knots. Level off at 1,200 feet above the water and gradually slow so as to pass the 6 mile gate at 150 knots (not 149 knots) and dirty up: gear down, flaps down, hook down (DON'T FORGET THE HOOK!). My landing checklist included a few items of my own; running my ejection seat up until my helmet just touched the canopy, grabbing my helmet with both hands and swishing it around on my head vigorously to drive out the demons, and doing the same with my oxygen mask.

The MEATBALL: The meatball (amber light) comes up on the Fresnel lens. When it lines up with the datum lights (red) I'm on the glide path.

On that final approach, amongst all the bad things that can happen (there are quite a few) two in particular can ruin your whole day (read "kill you"): high-and-fast, and low-and-slow. One leads to the other. So you're high-and-fast - look out, correcting that is going to be followed quickly by low-and-slow unless you're paying attention big time. Here's the thing. If you've hit all the points, if you've hit that glideslope on speed, on altitude, in steady flight, with your adrenalin under control, you can avoid these and other nasty conditions, walk away from the landing, get an "OK, 3 wire" from your Landing Signal Officer (LSO) and enjoy that shot of Jack Daniels courtesy of your Flight Surgeon. So, what's the lesson here? You figure it out! Happy landings.

Patriots Team Foundation Gala – by Janet Gregory

Fourth Annual Gala
Saturday, October 24th, 5:00 – 10:00pm
Patriots Jet Center, Byron Airport (C83)

You are cordially invited to the Fourth Annual Benefit Gala. All proceeds go directly to the all-volunteer youth education programs of the Patriots Jet Team Foundation. Your registration is tax deductible. This event is truly unique with aerial performance, dinner, auctions, and a featured speaker. L-39s and MIGs performing. Dinner accompanied by Patriots Jet Team pilots and crew. Featured speaker, Alan Eustace, Sr VP at Google, who broke the parachute distance record in 2014, jumping from the Stratosphere at 25 miles above the earth's surface. An evening not to be missed. Register and get more information at www.pjtf.org.

Deadline for 2017 Calendar Photos – by Susie Williams

If you would like to have your airplane featured in the 2017 PMLAA calendar, please contact Susie Williams (swissmisssusie@gmail.com) as soon as possible. The deadline for submitting photos, or for having your plane's photo taken by one of the volunteer photographers, is Labor Day Weekend. Join in the fun and show off your plane! We have several slots still available.

PMLAA Newsletter Editor – by Janet Gregory

Keeping PMLAA communications informative and fun is the role of the Newsletter Editor. Susie Williams has been a great editor for the past 4+ years. Susie wants to spend more time behind the lens of her camera, behind the yoke of her airplane, and maybe more time with that pesky thing called work. So, we are looking for a new editor. Interested? Contact Susie at swissmisssusie@gmail.com. She can answer any questions you may have. The newsletter also welcomes articles and photos of interest to PMLAA, so please share yours with Susie.

Tuolumne County Airports Advisory – by Ed Gregory

Last month's scheduled meeting was canceled.

PHI Air Ambulance – By Janet Gregory

Thursday night, August 4th we were enjoying the star lit canopy and balmy evening air when the sound of a helicopter coming into Pine Mountain Lake Airport broke the quiet. About 15 minutes later a second helicopter joined the first, so we rose from the comfort of our deck chairs to investigate. Two PHI Cares helicopters had flown in, the first from Columbia and the second from Modesto. Shortly two Fire Engines arrived from Groveland and Cal Fire to provide backup assistance. They were ready and waiting to leap into action once the ambulance arrived carrying two people, a man and a woman, injured at Rainbow Pools. The two people were immediately transferred to the air ambulances and whisked off to the hospital. It was a great example of 911 in action. The helicopters had arrived in advance of the four-wheeled ambulance, and the trip to Modesto Hospital takes 12-minutes, instead of 2-hours. PHI in action. If you are not a member, it is worth considering.

PHI Cares provides air ambulance helicopter service to Pine Mountain Lake Airport (E45). PHI Cares is a national organization and has helicopters based nearby at Columbia (O22), Modesto (MOD) and Redding (RDD) Airports.

None of us ever expect to be in a situation where we, or a loved one, will need air ambulance service; the reality is that it could and does happen. Seconds can make all the difference during a stroke, heart attack, serious accident, or other trauma. The last thing you should be concerned with during such an emergency is air transportation costs. Our \$30 annual group rate is cheap insurance for peace of mind. Go to http://www.pinemountainlake.com/?page_id=350 for more information and PML group registration form.

PML Community Airport Day October 1st – by Virginia Richmond

The Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association is again inviting the greater Groveland community to Community Airport Day on October 1st from 12:00 – 3:00pm. This fun and free event is one of the ways we ensure appreciation and support from the local community for our airport.

Airport Day VP Steve DeRodeff has organized a great all around program in the air and on the ground.

Air boss Wayne Handley has developed a great line-up, including skydivers, radio controlled model airplane demonstration, fly-overs, flying demonstrations, and formation flying. There will also be pilot skills contests featuring flour bombing and precision landing.

Ramp boss Mike Gustafson has arranged some exciting races between airplanes and cars, always audience favorites. In between special events, visitors can see current and vintage planes and cars up close. Top chef Kathy McConnell and friends will staff a busy refreshment stand as well.

This is an all-hands event for PMLAA members. Get involved; see where you can help! You can sell refreshments, display your aircraft, participate in the flying contests, race a plane or car, recruit performers, help with set-up, traffic control and safety, etc. etc. etc.

- For any and all questions, contact Steve DeRodeff at 962-5997.

- To help at the refreshment stand, contact Kathy McConnell at 962-5854 by September 15. Call soon to get your pick of shifts.
- To help with set-up, traffic control, airplane movements, airplane displays, etc. contact Mike Gustafson, 962-6336.
- To participate in the flour bombing or spot landing contests, contact Wayne Handley at 962-7868 by September 15. Note there are only eight slots available for each contest.

Invite your friends and neighbors and let them see what a great asset our airport is to the whole community.



CalFire helicopter on display during last year's Airport Day

Oshkosh – by Janet Gregory

EAA AirVenture. Better known simply by the town and airport: Oshkosh (OSH). This year's aviation orgy was July 25-31. Everything and anything to love about airplanes, aviation, drones, and airborne innovation. PML had a great turn out at Oshkosh this year. Vicky Benzing dazzled audiences in her Boeing Stearman. Many people flew in, including Alan & Yuni Gaudenti and Michael & Jules Thoben. Bob Horneaur was a big winner, winning a free Lynx ADSB for the PML Aero Club! Beth Stanton, EAA Sport Aviation writer, was capturing many good stories. Lots of other PMLAA members past and present had heads looking skyward like Mike Gustafson, Steve Martin, Catherine Santa Maria, Roger & Janet Sloan, Ed & Janet Gregory, and many more. If you can't be there in person, you just might be there in spirit, like Dennis Smith pictured with other members of the PML Aero Club.



PML Aero Club Members, present and in spirit, at Oshkosh

Make a Memory on September 24th – by Virginia Richmond

On September 24th, local EAA members can make wonderful memories for local children in the Young Eagles program. Many of these kids will be taking their first airplane ride. Remember that thrill?!

EAA's Young Eagles program has been making memories and introducing kids to aviation for almost 25 years. Come join the fun! Call Ed Gregory at 962-5061 to sign up.

Young Eagles are flying at PML Airport, September 24th from 9am-noon. Pilot requirements:

- EAA membership (National, local chapter not required).
- Complete the online [EAA Youth Protection Policy](#), including a short training session and background check.
- Valid airman's certificate (sport pilot or greater).
- Current medical certificate (if applicable).
- Current to carry passengers in the aircraft.
- Aircraft Passenger Liability Insurance for the aircraft

Not a pilot? Don't worry, you can help too! We need people to help with registration, get kids safely in and out of airplanes, and supervise the simulator. Contact Ed or Janet Gregory today, 962-5061.



Michael Thoben flies a Young Eagle

Area Aviation Events

- September 3 – PMLAA Meeting**
- 5 – Labor Day*
- 24 – Young Eagles Rally at PML, E45**
- 24 – E45 Airport Display Day**
- 24-25 – V.Benzing @ Wings over Wine Country Air Show, STS, Santa Rosa

- October 1 – Airport Day At E45**
 1 – V. Benzing at Livermore Air Show, Livermore
 1-2 – California Capital Airshow, Mather, Sacramento
 7-9 – V. Benzing & Patriots Jet Team @ Fleet Week, San Francisco
 10 – Patriots Jet Team @ San Bernardino Airfest, San Bernardino
15 – E45 Airport Display Day
 18 – Patriots Jet Team @ GoPro Grand Prix, Sonoma

2016 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>
September 3 rd	Stories from your Neighbors	6:00pm McGowans' Hangar
October 1 st	Airport Day	All Day at E45
November 5 th	TBD	6:00pm McGowans' Hangar

BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2016

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