



Volume 32: Issue 04  
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A Publication of the  
Pine Mountain Lake  
Aviation Association

## *Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Meeting*

**US Navy Rear Admiral Donald R. Eaton**

*Saturday, May 6 – 6:00 pm*  
*McGowan's Hangar*

Admiral Don Eaton will be sharing stories from his distinguished 37 year career in the Navy. He has served in multiple theaters, including Vietnam, Mediterranean, South America, Mid Pacific, and North Atlantic. His last position prior to retirement was Director of Logistics and Fleet Support for Navy and Marine Corps Aviation. He was responsible for 22,500 personnel in twelve commands in the U.S., Europe, and Japan.

The challenge is which stories to select from such an extensive career! He could review any number of engaging stories from his work in logistics support, his Command Tours, or as Director of Space and Sensor Systems. Maybe even share some insights from the many scholarly papers he wrote during his time at the Naval Postgraduate School.



*US Navy Rear Admiral Donald R. Eaton*

One story we are sure to hear came early in his career as a young Lieutenant Eaton deployed to Vietnam. He was Bombardier Navigator on the A-6 Intruder, a twin-engine medium attack aircraft. His squadron was based on the USS Independence, an aircraft carrier of the US Navy. Flying off a carrier is "hours of boredom interrupted by moments of sheer terror" on take-off launch or chasing down a runway that is pitching, rolling and on the move.

In addition to the fun of flying off a carrier, Lieutenants Eaton and Boecker hold the dubious honor of flying the first A-6 shot down in Vietnam. A successful and challenging rescue mission followed.

Thanks go to Robert and Martha Pearson for introducing us to Admiral Eaton and his wife, Beth. We look forward to meeting them in May, hearing their stories, and making them new friends of PMLAA.

## President's Message – by Bonnie Ritchey

April has been pretty exciting so far. I was thrilled to get updates from the first volunteer day with so many people helping out. I wish I could have been there myself - everyone worked really hard and the back taxiway and VASIs look great.

Of course just when we all were planning some Spring flying to see the wildflowers, we got more snow and big storms. I'm hoping the weather for the rest of April is much nicer.

I'm also already looking forward to May and hearing our guest speaker, Rear Admiral Don Eaton, tell us an incredible story.

## Social Corner – by Danielle Coelho

Hello PMLAA Friends - I hope everyone enjoyed the springtime chicken recipes and accompaniments at the April meeting. Our members really make it a fun and delicious culinary experience.

A big thanks to our President, Bonnie Ritchey, for the rubber chicken in the Kentucky Fried Chicken Bucket and the good sports who ran around in bunny ears!



Next month we can look forward to our "Cinco de Mayo" theme dinner with our very own Mike Gustafson making his famous margaritas. So let's all whip up our favorite Mexican dishes to share.

- Bring a **Main** dish, **Side** dish or **Salad** if your last name starts with **A-K**
- Bring A **Dessert** or **Appetizer** if your name begins with **L-Z**

I'm going to be searching my closet for a sombrero so feel free to wear one yourself.

I hope everyone has a wonderful month. I look forward to seeing everyone at the **McGowan Hangar on Saturday May 6 at 6 pm**. Please see last page of newsletter for directions to the McGowan Hangar.



*Bar Bunny Angels*

## E45 Work in Progress – by Ed Gregory

We will track a list of action items for Pine Mountain Lake Airport and any updates on Work-in-Progress (WiP). Let us know of outstanding issues and we will do our best to keep you informed of the progress. Steve Martin and I are your representatives on the Tuolumne County Airport Advisory Committee.

- Deer Fence. In March, Tony completely repaired the deer fence on both sides of the runway. Thanks Tony! Great work! Sadly, this won't come off the WiP list, thanks to the deer destroying sections on the south side. It will be ongoing WiP.
- GPS approach. Airport departure and arrival clearance inspection was done in February. Encroaching trees are on airport property, Benny Stuth will proceed to get approval for removal. Not yet scheduled.
- 9er runway end lights. Scheduled and not yet complete.
- Safety signage. In process and under review for FAA and County standards. Not yet complete.
- Pilot's lounge. No update on interior improvements for ADA requirements. Suggestion made to add intelligent door lock.
- Crack sealing. No update.
- RTTF (Residential-Through-the-Fence). No update. Background information at [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov), search RTTF.
- New on the list: Paint the airport markings on the south taxiway yellow, to comply with new FAA standards. This may be a volunteer work project, with paint supplied by the county.
- Off the list: Missing 'Active Runway' sign was replaced.

## Fly-Out to Aerospace Museum – by Mike Gustafson

Our local chapter of EAA is organizing a trip to the Aerospace Museum of California located at McClellan Airport (MCC).

The museum includes a massive exhibition hall with aviation and aerospace exhibits including several simulators. In addition, outside you'll find a four-acre air park featuring over 50 historic aircraft including a C-53 D-day Aircraft, an A-10 Thunderbolt, a Russian MIG, and a "Top Gun" F-14 Tomcat.

Currently, the museum is also hosting a very special exhibit of Leonardo Da Vinci's "Machines in Motion." Leonardo da Vinci was one of the greatest minds of all time and "Machines in Motion" brings his ideas to life. You will see dramatic hands-on displays of 40 full-size machine replicas made from Da Vinci's innovative designs and drawings from over 500 years ago! He foresaw (and designed) flying machines, drive transmissions, parachutes, armored tanks, robots, and more.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us! We will meet at the McClellan Jet Center at **2:00pm, Saturday, May 13**. From there we can walk to the Museum. They may be able to provide a crew car. Admission to the museum is \$15 general, \$12 seniors and children.

Contact Mike Gustafson to sign-up: email [MLGpilot@yahoo.com](mailto:MLGpilot@yahoo.com) or 962-6336. Please sign-up by *May 10*. Note: If you are driving, the address is 3200 Freedom Park Drive, McClellan, CA 95652.

## Community Project Work Has Begun!

As indicated in the March newsletter, several folks indicated interest in having “a” community project. Well, we’ve already had two projects completed!

The VASI (Visual Approach Slope Indicator) and PAPI (Precision Approach Path Indicator) have both been stripped of their paint and re-painted by Ed Gregory, Mike Lella and Leon Liebster.



*Leon working on PAPI or is that VASI?*

Leon Liebster, Charlie Black, Dan Grimes, Tristan Duplan, Jim Goodrich, Susie Williams, Mike Lella, and Nikki Grimes tackled the back taxi way between Woodside Way and Jimmersall Lane. This area has been ignored for a long time so required a lot of trimming to make it possible for aircraft to use this section. The Grimes’ Ford Ranger made five fully loaded trips to the PML slash pile. Finally, we got some help on the last trip with Susie hauling a load in her pickup.



*Just a bit of the trimmings*



*Last two loads – hooray!*

## Sad News

Don Correa, an active member of the Aviation Association for many years, passed away on March 30th at age 94 in Roseville. During WWII, Don was a P-38 pilot in Italy. He and his wife, Betty, lived on Big Creek in Pine Mountain Lake for many years until moving to Roseville.

### Contact information is:

Betty Correa  
157 Delta Breeze Court  
Roseville, CA 95747-8195  
Phone: (916) 772-0391

## From King Schools: New FREE BasicMed Course Now Available

You've probably heard the news. As of May 1, 2017, third-class medical reform, now known as BasicMed, goes into effect. It is a victory for the aviation organizations like [AOPA](#) and [EAA](#) that pressed so hard for it and for all pilots that have found FAA medical certification an intimidating and frustrating process.

There are a lot of nuances to BasicMed and you will most certainly have questions. That's why we created our free course. Enjoy it as our gift.

<http://johnandmartha.kingschools.com/2017/03/27/new-free-basicmed-king-schools-course-now-available/?sco=WBEM&scu=EM1703A>

## Young Eagles at Columbia (O22) – by Ed & Janet Gregory



Help inspire the next generation of aviation enthusiasts. On Saturday, April 22nd, our local EAA Chapter 1337 will be hosting a Young Eagles Rally at Columbia Airport (O22) from 9:00 to Noon. Bring your kids or grandkids age 8 to 17. Help us put on the event, which will fly 35-50 children. For questions or if you'd like to help contact Ed or Janet Gregory 962-5061. Volunteer positions available:

- Ground crew: registration, aircraft assignment, ramp safety
- Support: simulator supervisor, photographer
- Pilots: EAA National member, valid airman certificate & EAA Youth Protection
- Aircraft: current annual & insurance

## Mountain Flying Seminar at Mariposa – by Bonnie Ritchey

On April 1, several PMLAA pilots flew to Mariposa for the FAA SAFETY seminar “Flying in Mountainous Terrain.” The only prerequisite was the ability to get into Mariposa itself.

The course provided 1 WINGS Knowledge credit which counts toward a pilot’s next flight review.

The terminal was packed although fewer than 40 people had registered for the course.

The key takeaway from the morning was an hour in a classroom isn’t enough - if you decide to fly in the mountains then get at least a few hours of local training first to get familiar with the area.

Another important message was to get a SPOT or other Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) and carry a mirror with you because ELT technology is outdated and a PBL makes it easier for family or friends to follow where you are and for rescuers to find you if something goes wrong.

The class was led by Mariposa local, Patrick Tierney. He pointed out a few areas around here to watch out for, like Tioga pass in summer. He also pointed out following the San Joaquin River is probably a safe bet most of the year.

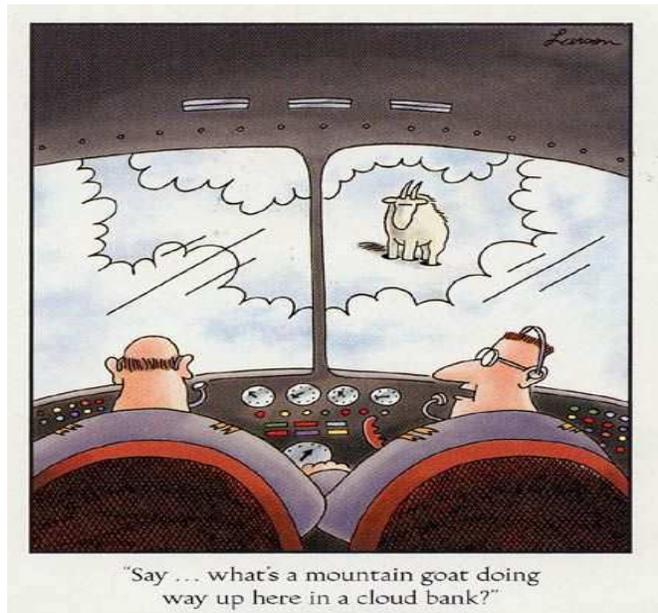
We got some good (and hopefully obvious) tips like:

- don’t scud run in the mountains
- always think about how to turn around or get out if the plane is under-powered and a go around is required (such as when attempting to land with obstructions, like animals, on the runway)

We also got into the specifics of calculating density altitude, additional takeoff distance needed based on altitude, weight and temperature, as well as the effects of humidity on air density.

Unfortunately I didn’t catch the name of the second speaker because I was so distracted by his bad jokes. i.e. the one about the mountain goat taken from the Far Side comic and a story about a friend who had learned to try to go between two trees evenly if he was going to crash, although this friend found the only two trees in a big empty field...I’ll spare you the rest.

Overall, it was a good course that just gave us a taste of the complexities of mountain flying and a few good reminders that it takes special training.



## Safety: Misleading or Misuse of the Aircraft Radio – by Jim Thomas

There are a few things I've heard on the radio at PML that cause me concern. Not using the radio properly can cause errors by some visiting pilots. Also, most radios do not show the last two digits so if you indicate 122.9 on your radio you usually you are transmitting on 122.900 Mhz.

First, the use of "ACTIVE RUNWAY". It is my understanding that the only use of "ACTIVE RUNWAY" is at controlled or towered airports. At controlled airports there is an "ACTIVE RUNWAY" which is established by the Controller. At Columbia and PML Airports which are uncontrolled and have no tower all runways are active. At PML Airport you can take-off or land on either 09 or 27 although good practice indicates you should take-off and land into the wind. Proper use of the radio at PML Airport would have a pilot say "Clear of Runway 27" and not "Clear of the Active".

Second, pilots that don't indicate they are entering "Right Downwind" for Runway 27 or entering "Right base" for Runway 27 at PML Airport. I've heard pilots say they are on base for Runway 27 but never report they were entering "Right Downwind" for Runway 27. It is important to say "Right" because the pattern for Runway 27 is non-standard and has right traffic instead of left traffic. According to the Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM), at non-towered airports you should announce 10 miles out, entering the downwind leg, entering the base leg and entering the final leg.

Third, pilots (usually visiting) that ask for airport advisories even though they are transmitting on a multicom frequency. Our frequency at PML Airport which is 122.900 is the multicom frequency meaning it is not monitored as a Unicom Frequency and there is no Unicom to give airport advisories. At Columbia Airport the Unicom is careful to say that Aircraft have been landing 17. At PML sometimes there is someone on the ground (usually someone who has just landed) that can provide wind information. Keep in mind, a wind reading from someone on the ground is for a single point in time. Air to Air conversations should be on 122.750.

Although it is not required to use a radio at either PML or Columbia Airports, it is the safe thing to do. By properly using your radio at uncontrolled airports, you alert other pilots, on the ground or in the air, of "Who You Are," "Where You Are," and "What You Are Planning To Do." At controlled airports you want to include "Who You Are Talking To" and "What Information You Have" although the indication of "What Information You Have" only needs to be stated upon initial contact with the control tower. So, proper use of the aircraft's radio is an important tool when departing or arriving at the PML Airport. The radio can also keep two aircraft from landing on the same runway or opposite runways. As the FAA's AIM specifies, 122.9 is to be used for activities "of a temporary, seasonal, emergency nature or search and rescue" as well as at airports with no tower, FSS or assigned Unicom frequency. So, the next time you fly into or out of the PML Airport use the correct radio phraseology. It may prevent confusion or at worst a conflict.

## Register for May 6th Rusty Pilots Seminar – by Janet Gregory



We are hosting an AOPA Rusty Pilot Seminar at PML. This seminar is valuable for both rusty and current pilots wanting to keep their knowledge sharp. The seminar reviews everything from airspace to flight planning to communication. AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association) developed this seminar. It qualifies as the ground instruction for a BFR, for both rusty and non-rusty pilots. William Bueck a CFI with over 23 years of experience in military and general aviation will be our instructor. William is a Marine that has served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa and South America.

The seminar is free for AOPA members and \$69 for non-members (which includes AOPA membership and the seminar). The seminar is being brought to you by PML Aero Club, our local EAA Chapter 1337 and PMLAA.

**WHERE:** McGowan Hangar

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 1:00-4:00

**REGISTER:** Please register by April 28<sup>th</sup> to allow time to print and deliver materials. Go to [www.aopa.org](http://www.aopa.org), search “rusty pilots”, and look for our listing. Or you can register via phone with AOPA Member Services: 800-872-2672, M-F, 8:30a – 6:00p ET.

### New Members: Mike & Chris Luvara

Brothers, Mike and Chris Luvara bought a home on the back taxiway a few months ago. They plan to enjoy the home, along with their parents, as a weekend getaway from the busy Silicon Valley lifestyle. Mike and Chris are Bay Area natives (born and raised). Both are pilots and co-owners of a Citabria 7GCBC and Cessna 182.

Mike started out in aviation with radio controlled aircraft, put his electrical engineering degree to use developing telemetry for the unmanned and experimental aircraft markets and has been a private pilot for 10 years. He has worked on various unmanned aircraft programs, high altitude research balloons, and currently works as an Avionics/Flight Test Engineer for a Bay Area aviation startup (Zee Aero). He crewed on numerous aircraft at the Reno Air Races (including Unlimited Gold winners September Fury and Voodoo) where he was in charge of telemetry systems.



*Mike Luvara*



Chris and his wife Alison have twin two-year old boys. Chris is founder and CEO of TYSO Consulting, helping SMB's and Startups with strategy, architecture, implementation, administration and support for the Salesforce ecosystem. He's been flying for 14 years and enjoys sharing his love of flying with his two future pilots.

*Chris Luvara and family*

## New Re-Members: Mary Brown and Regina Tilley

Mary Brown is a sixteen year full-time PML resident. She is re-joining PMLAA to enjoy her many friends with airplanes, the good speakers, and great stories. Regina Tilley is a twelve year PML resident. Mary and Regina joined forces as roommates after Mary's husband, Jerry Weese passed away. Mary enjoys all the PML action; she is active in Garden Club, Ladies Club, Exercise at the Little House, just to name a few.

## Radio Rumors "Say Again"

### Thank you to our volunteer angels:

- Bar angels – Rob & Roxie Compton, Allen & Linda Craig, and Doug & Leigh Curry. Plus our forever bar angels, Jane Hansen & Dwaine Carver.
- Table cloth washing and ironing angels Sally Smikahl, Sandy Smith, and unknown others.
- Mid-meeting dash angel - Lane Pom for dashing out to find more forks.
- Meeting set up and clean up angels - too many to name, you know who you are.

**Welcome New PMLAA Members:** Mike & Chris Luvara, brothers from San Jose.

**FREE Book:** "Beneath a Scarlet Sky" is the book by Mark Sullivan. It's the story of "Pino Lella: Italian Underground Rescuer and Spy" that was the topic of our March meeting and speaker Mike Lella. Book reviews are outstanding! Amazon.com is offering the Kindle version FREE, and discounting the paperback to \$8.26 for pre-orders, before the May 1<sup>st</sup> release.

**PMLAA Trailer Access:** If you require access to the PMLAA trailer that stores tables, chairs or supplies, please contact any Board Member, Ed Peters or Larry Roessler.

**Buzz Buggy:** Larry and Nina Jobe attended the dedication ceremony for Buzzy Buggy at the Flying Tigers Heritage Park in Guilin, China. You will hear about the harrowing tale of ferrying the restored C47 named Buzz Buggy from Australia to China in June, when Larry Jobe will be our featured speaker. More at [www.FlyingTigersHistoricalOrganization.com](http://www.FlyingTigersHistoricalOrganization.com).

**Correction:** In the February Newsletter introducing our featured topic "Pino Lella: Italian Underground Rescuer and Spy" there was an error. Pino *was* a spy working for the Allied Forces, known only as "the observer". Pino *was not* involved in the daring aerial raid capturing Mussolini.

**2017 Membership:** At the end of April we will mail out the 2017 membership list. 176 total member families: 166 renewing (87%), 10 new, 4 not renewing (2%), and 20 MIA (10%).

**TCAA Meeting:** The April 10<sup>th</sup> TCAA (Tuolumne County Airport Advisory) committee meeting was cancelled. Things are quiet, no new policy issues to review. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. All are welcome. Contact Ed Gregory or Steve Martin for info.

## Area Aviation Events

<b>April</b>	<i>10-18 - Passover</i> <b>15 – E45 Airport Display Day</b> <i>16 – Easter Sunday</i> 22- Young Eagles Rally at Columbia Airport O22 from 9:00-noon 28-30 – Vicki Benzing at AOPA Fly-in Camarillo Airport CMA
<b>May</b>	<b>6 – PMLAA Meeting at 6:00 – speaker: Admiral Don Eaton</b> 14 – Mother’s Day 20 – E45 Airport Display Day & Armed Forces Day <b>20 – E45 Airport Display Day</b> 20 – Vicky Benzing & Patriots Jet Team @ Hangar 24 Airfest, Redlands, CA 29 – Memorial Day
<b>June</b>	<b>3 – PMLAA Meeting at 6:00-speaker: Larry Jobe</b> <i>6 - D-Day 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of landings at Normandy</i> 12 – Patriots Jet Team @ NASCAR Sonoma Raceway <b>17-18 – Father’s Day Fly-In at Columbia Airport</b> <b>17 – E45 Airport Display Day</b> <i>18 – Father’s Day</i> 25 – Patriots Jet Team Annual Golf Classic, Discovery Bay

## 2017 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time &amp; Location</u>
May 6	Adm Donald R. Eaton	6pm – McGowan’s Hangar
June 3	Larry Jobe – Buzz Buggy	6pm – McGowan’s Hangar
July	NO MEETING	

BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2017			
<b>OFFICERS</b>		<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>	
<b>President</b> , Bonnie Ritchey	650 996-6274	<b>Property</b> , Ed Peters	962-6267
<b>VP, Airport Affairs</b> , Steve deRodeff	962-5997	<b>Multimedia</b> , Phil Hickerson	962-6714
<b>VP, Social Affairs</b> , Danielle Coelho	962-7207	<b>Membrshp/Rostr</b> , Karen Appleby	962-4549
<b>Secretary</b> , Susie Williams	962-6922	<b>Airports Manager</b> , Benedict Stuth	533-5685
<b>Treasurer</b> , Janet Gregory	962-5061	<b>Display Day Coord.</b> , Ken Helling	962-7597
		<b>Safety</b> , various contributors	
		<b>Newsletter</b> , Nikki Grimes	666-0141
		<b>Webmaster</b> , Jeremy Zawodny	408-685-5936

McGowan’s hangar is on the north taxiway about half way between the intersection crossing the runway and runway 9.

