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Aviation Association

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation

Next Meeting:

~~Saturday August 1, 2020~~

Time: n/a

Place: n/a

Speaker: n/a

President's Letter – by Danielle Coelho

Hello and happy July to all. This July 4th was definitely quiet without our regular fireworks show. We did, however, have a beautiful moon to fill our sky. Below, compliments of Frank Leung, are some photos:



As COVID19 numbers start to climb here in Tuolumne County, we will continue to hold off on any PMLAA meetings for everyone's safety. While things are quiet we still have things happening behind the scenes. I'd like to make a shout out for some work that's been done on these hot days by members here at the airport. Thanks to Rob Compton for organizing volunteers Wayne Handley, Charlie Black, and Jason Johansson to continue to put up the white reflectors along both sides of the runway edge and the remaining taxi reflectors.

Wishing Everyone Safe
Healthy Days & Happy Landings,
Danielle Coelho
PMLAA President

PML Airport Celebrates 50-Years ... of random short stories by Janet Gregory

Every community has a story to tell, along with lots of little short stories. The best stories are shared via oral tradition and passed down through the ages.

FIRSTS: Bud and Jeanne Linn were the first house and hangar on the south side of the airport. Ken Orloff built the first hangar on the back taxiway (now Jeff Bolton's). There were a few houses along the back taxiway at the time, but no hangars. Dudley Borowick did not have a hangar and would taxi his airplane down Woodside to park in his driveway; when Buck & Jo Buchanan bought Dudley's home, they immediately added the hangar.

ORIGINAL RADIO SERVICE: PML Airport was initially set up with UNICOM, 123.05. UNICOM (universal communications) is an air-ground communication facility operated by a private, non-air traffic control service. At that time, PML Airport didn't really have UNICOM, we had "Mr. Airport", Ralph Butler. Ralph was a flight test engineer for Lockheed in southern California, so he wasn't monitoring the frequency much of the time. One Saturday, we heard a pilot report "2-mile final for runway 0-9" and a few minutes later another pilot reporting "2-mile final for runway 2-7". Ralph gets on the radio and responds, "Roger. The winds at Pine Mountain Lake are light and variable. We'd appreciate if you folks would both land short today." Thankfully, PML Airport switched to MULTICOM 122.9, allowing air-to-air communication, as a Common Traffic Advisory Frequency (CTAF).

AIRPORT BEAUTIFICATION. Ralph Butler also took it upon himself to help keep the mistletoe trimmed out of the oak trees around the airport. Mistletoe is a parasite that can kill the host tree if not controlled. Ralph would take his big old black powder rifle over to a huge oak tree filled with mistletoe and set up a firing station. He would sit there for the longest time, setting things up, putting a telescopic site on his rifle, dialing it in, sighting, more dialing, more sighting, then ... BOOM. He would fire that thing off, right into the base where the mistletoe was attached. Ralph would bring down huge clumps of mistletoe with one shot. Deer love to eat mistletoe; it's a treat for them. It's poisonous to most other animals, but not deer. Ralph enjoyed the challenge of it. BOOM. You could hear the single shot echo throughout PML!

METAL HANGARS. Originally only wood hangars were built at PML Airport, there were no metal hangars. The wooden structures had windows and 2-foot eaves. Bob and Barbara Raymond wanted to erect the first metal hangar (this is now Cora and Ron Bieler's home). Everyone was sure this was going to ruin the airport. There was a great ruckus over it. Complaints to the PML Association fell on deaf ears. Airport residents wanted to stop it and even blocked the truck trying to deliver sheet metal. The Association finally got involved, allowing metal hangars to go in with windows and 2-foot eaves so they wouldn't look like boring square boxes.

CORSAIR CAFÉ. PML Airport was a pilot's destination for lunch when the Corsair Café was in operation. It was originally built and operated by Bill and Barney who both owned Corsairs. Bill and Barney were the Mutt and Jeff of the airport community, seemingly two mis-matched tinhorns. One was tall and the other was short. One was round and the other was a bean pole. Bill was the cook, definitely not a chef, and could only cook one meal at a time. If four people stopped in for lunch each order would be served one at a time. Bill and Barney leased the restaurant to Lloyd and Lee Thomas in the early 1980's. Lee was famous for her pies. Mmmmm, they were good! The Corsair Café was a gathering place. You could

always find a good conversation over coffee in the morning. Things buzzing at lunch. Roast turkey every Friday. Ownership of the Corsair Café shifted to Marv and Heidi Strobe. They did quite well at first, but a combination of the economy slowing down and getting restaurant burn-out, things slowed down and finally closed around 2005. The building is long gone now and the property which straddles the airport is currently for sale.

GOLD MINE CLAIM. In the process of developing the north taxiway a quartz site was uncovered. Quartz can be seen throughout this part of the Sierras and Yosemite National Park. One resident claimed we were trespassing on an old gold mine claim. It took some research but there was no basis for this assertion ... although it was fun to wish for.

AIRPORT SAFETY. After an airplane accident in the area, Ralph Butler and Ken Cole roared into action raising money for airport safety. Ken quickly tapped into his business network for a company that manufactured VASI (visual approach slope indicator) lights, for the side of the runway. This lighting system is visible up to 5-miles during the day and 20-miles at night providing descent guidance to approaching aircraft. Ralph and Ken independently made arrangements with the FAA, getting the wiring, angles, installation, and everything approved. When the airport manager learned about this, “he threatened to shoot us.” That manager left about 6-months later, never to be seen or heard from again. Thanks to rogues, Ralph and Ken, the VASI has provided 25-years of guidance for many safe landings. Ken Cole made his final flight in 2017 and many of you may know his pilot-wife, Dianne Cole.

PMLAA. The first Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association meeting was held at the Lake Lodge, Saturday February 1, 1985, presided over by founding President, John Wilbur. Social from 8:00-11:00 am over coffee and make-your-own breakfast, with business from 11:00-noon for discussion of common interests and a pilot’s rap forum.

Thank you PML airport for 50-years of short stories and more important ... 50-years of service to CalFire, Air Ambulance Transport, Search & Rescue, and Police.

Oral history sources: Ken Orloff, Dick Collier, Larry Jobe, John Wilbur & Ken Cole (interview 2014)



Celebrating Independence Day!

Janet Gregory creations

Emergency Air Transport-from June article by Janet Gregory

PHI Air Cares is a leading US air ambulance provider. They operate in 10 states with two bases right in our back yard at Columbia (O22) and Modesto (MOD). Each base maintains crews of pilots, nurses, and communications specialists.

PML has a reduce group rate for membership of \$30 per year, which is inexpensive “insurance”. For information, go on the PML website www.pinemountainlake.com, search “PHI” for lots of information or go to www.phicare.com or call 888-435-9744 and tell them you are a PML member.

Other air medical transport services are also available. Air Methods is one of the largest in the US, operating in 43 states with nearby bases in Modesto (MOD) and Stockton (SCK). For information go to www.airmethods.com or call 303-792-7400.

Safety, confidence, and welfare are priorities for all air transport services. Aircraft movement is monitored from take-off to landing. They bring in the closest available helicopter or airplane, dispatch ground services, accommodate inter-facility transfer and physician consultation to ensure the best possible medical transport service.



PHI Cares photo

EAA Flight Deck – by Ed Gregory

Bravo to Rob Compton and Wayne Handley for installation of the white runway reflectors. Even with a wimpy flashlight shining down the runway at night four or more are visible. It was another EAA/PMLAA partnership keeping E45 on top of its game. Thanks also to Jason Johanson for equipment and Bob Mackey for cutting and supplying support posts.

The PML Airport Young Eagles Rally remains on the calendar for October 10th but it will depend on local public health advisories. If we proceed, we will abide by all local guidelines. EAA guidance recommends additional steps such as wiping down headsets, control sticks/yokes, and commonly touched surfaces with disinfectant wipes after each flight.

The KOLB ultralight build project remains sheltered-in-place. No work is currently being done.

It's still hard to believe that the world biggest fly-in, EAA's AirVenture in Oshkosh, is cancelled. Now the Reno National Championship Air Races have cancelled also. Sigh. A quiet year for general aviation. EAA Headquarters posted some cautious good news with the Museum at Oshkosh reopening August 3rd and the B-17 to begin touring Labor Day weekend along with the Ford TriMotor.

Looking forward to seeing you around the airport.

Radio Rumors “Say Again”

Correction to June Radio Rumors

- In the ASI segment, Knots is the most used unit; however km/h (kilometers-per-hour) is recommended by ICAO. It was incorrectly stated as km/s (kilometers -per-second).
- **E45 gets a haircut**
 1. Thanks to Tuolumne County Airport Manager for coordinating CalFire and the Baseline crew to cut the grass at E45.
 2. It looks good. It will also keep the deer population moving and improve fire safety.
- **PML Aero Club boasts a good-as-new 172**
 1. The PML Aero Club is 10+ years old. It has trained numerous pilots and provides access to aircraft. 2020 is a big year for the Aero Club!
 2. A new 180HP Lycoming Engine was installed in April and May. The interior has new cockpit seat padding and cleaned interior.
 3. New avionics were installed in June and July. It's a new Garmin GTN650 touchscreen GPS/NAV/COMM WAAS Navigator, installed by High Desert Avionics at WJF.
 4. Interested in learning to fly or having access to an airplane? Consider joining the PML Aero Club. Find more information at www.pmlaeroclub.com.
- **Time for some new sunglasses.** Go to www.methodseven.com
 1. Received an advertisement in the mail featuring PML's very own Vicky Benzing, the fastest woman in air racing. How cool to see her photo next to Lucky Girl, racer #15, the beautiful Lancair Legacy.
 2. If you want a pair of Aviatrix sunglasses from Method Seven, use code **LUCKYGIRL** at checkout for 20% off. One per customer, expires 09/30/2020.
- **Humorous Pilot “Nutrition Facts” Shirt seen at an airport**
 1. Unfortunately, I couldn't find where to buy them ☹️. (see next page)

PILOT

Nutrition Facts

SERVING SIZE: 1 Pilot

SERVINGS PER CONTAINER: About 1

Amount Per Serving

Calories 630,000

Calories from Fat 207,900

% Daily Value

Total Confidence 45g

90%

Courage 40g

80%

Fear 5g

10%

Skill 100mg

50%

Intelligence 50mg

25%

Determination 5mg

30%

Commitment 9mg

85%

Pride 3mg

29%

INGREDIENTS: WATER, OXYGEN, CARBON, HYDROGEN, NITROGEN, CALCIUM,
SCISSORS, SNAILS, PUPPY DOG TAILS, MINERALS (<2% BY WEIGHT), HUMOR,
METHANE, BIG WATCH

Allergy Alert: May Contain Nuts



2020 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>
August 1	No meeting	
September 5	TBD	
October 3	Airport Day / Dinner	

Aviation Calendar

Boring Aviation Calendar

JULY	17 – NASA’s Mars 2020 rover launches 18 – Vicky Benzing @ Boundary Bay Airshow – cancelled 19 – Patriots Jet Team @ Klamath Falls, OR 20-26 – EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh - cancelled
AUGUST	1 – PMLAA Hot August Nights – cancelled 1-2 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 15-16 – Vicky Benzing @ Wings over Camarillo Airshow – cancelled 19 – National Aviation Day (Orville Wright’s Birthday)
SEPTEMBER	5 – PMLAA Meeting?? – watch newsletter for updates 5-6 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 7 – Labor Day 12-21 – National Championship Air Races, Reno – cancelled 26-27 – Vicky Benzing @ MCAS Miramar Airshow – cancelled

**** E45 Airport Display Day: Until the Shelter-in-Place order is lifted, display your aircraft on your own ramp. The “powers that be” will go around the airport and take note. Once the SIP is lifted, the individual airplane owner’s paperwork will be done.**

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