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Pine Mountain Lake Aviation

Next Meeting:

December 4, 2021

HOLIDAY PARTY AT JOHANSON'S HANGAR!

VP Social – Gabe Coelho

Hello fellow PMLAA members. It's once again time for our annual PMLAA Holiday dinner party which will be on December 4th at Jason and Krystall Johanson's hangar, 9er end of taxiway.

On the dinner menu is your choice of either New York Strip or Pork Loin and will include potatoes, buttered carrots, salad, and roll. Following dinner there will be a live band playing Christmas favorites and dance music.

Tickets are \$30 per person. Invitations were mailed out to members for RSVP and dinner choice. Seating is limited to 128 members. If you have not received your invitation, please contact Gabe Coelho 209-617-4384.

If you wish to help decorate, contact Krystall Johanson 209-606-0377.

We will also be collecting for "Toys for Tots" at the event. New unwrapped toys or money donations for local area kids in need would be greatly appreciated.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING y'all

Vandalism!

Over the last few months, there have been a couple of occurrences of vandalism at the wind tee. Both times, several of the lights on the tee were damaged and, as you can see in the photo, the lenses strewn on the ground. There was evidence of a beer party on the ground as well. Additionally, one of our neighbors noticed a cache of dog waste under on of the half drums of the segmented circle. Hopefully, they were planning on returning at a later date to retrieve them, but EWWW!

Let's keep an eye out for unusual activity on and around the airport.



broken lenses



Damaged lights



dog poop

President's Message - Danielle Coelho

Here we are at the end of another year and still struggling with the pandemic. At least we were able to hold a couple of events this year for our members and the community. Fingers crossed for a more "old normal" year in 2022. I suspect we'll be wearing masks and social distancing for a while yet.

As I come to the end of my term as president, I especially want to thank the current board members Kurt Howerton, Gabe Coelho, Nancy Mora and Dawn Howerton for their assistance and support. A special thanks too to the great Community Airport Day team led by Kurt, Bonnie Ritchey, Mike Gustafson, Phil Hickerson, Catherine Santa Maria and Virginia Richmond, along with all their stalwart volunteers. Thanks also to the excellent communications team of Nikki Grimes and Jeremy Zawodny. Thanks to all who helped host Hot August Nights and to the Johansons for hosting our Christmas party.

I've been on your board for six (!) years now. It's been a great experience. I've enjoyed getting to know more of our members and working with you to make PMLAA a valuable part of our community. I'm sure the new board will continue and improve PMLAA programs, camaraderie and events.

Two quick reminders:

- Be sure to make your reservations for the holiday party on December 4th and renew your membership at the same time.
- Let's show the community the generosity of PMLAA and bring lots of unwrapped gifts to the party for the Toys for Tots project. If you're not coming to the party, drop off your donation at the Grill, Library, Mar-Val or Mechanics Bank.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season.

The Siege of Khe Sahn

By Marle Hewett

Khe Sanh was originally garrisoned by the Marines in 1962. It was located on the western side of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and served as the point from which the Ho Chi Minh Trail could be interdicted. Khe Sanh was our most forward base in South Vietnam.

It was key to keeping the Ho Chi Minh Trail closed to traffic; by traffic I mean supplies headed South and NVN troops headed South. They couldn't get South in force with the trail closed. By early 1968 it was occupied by the Marine 26th Regiment, some 6,000 strong.

On January 21, 1968 20,000 North Vietnamese troops began a siege of the base that lasted 77 days. At that point the siege was declared broken by MACV, but in fact it continued for a long time at a lower level. In the opinion of just about everyone, our overwhelming air power is what saved the base.

Eventually, we withdrew from Khe Sanh (1971) but reopened it and withdrew again. The NVN looked on Khe Sanh as a great victory. They were correct; in my opinion, the abandonment of Khe Sanh cost us the war.

The USS America arrived in the war zone on 21 January, the exact day the siege of Khe Sanh began. We were launching two divisions at a time all day (4 planes per division), one division from VA-82 (us) and one from VA-86, our sister squadron. The entire complement of carriers (3) in Task Force 77 were concentrating on Khe Sanh early on. My first ten combat missions in the Vietnam War were to defend Khe Sanh and its forward artillery encampments. Our first targets were five hills between five to ten miles North of the main base. The NVN were attacking those hills for the purpose of positioning artillery.



Khe Sanh looking east

As the week wore on, our attacks were concentrated closer and closer to the main base. The Marines were able to hold most of the Northern hills which helped them see what was going on. The runway basically ran East-Southeast, West-Northwest. The Marine positions were concentrated South of the runway. The enemy basically occupied the North side.

For the most part, we were dropping Napalm at very low altitudes. I loved Napalm. You drop it low, it explodes and turns everything alive in its path into crispy critters. Being able to use the runway as a boundary line made it easy to pick out the bad guys. The A-7s that we were flying could each carry four 2,000 lb Napalm tanks. We could drop them independently or all at the same time (8,000 lbs). I remember one mission we flew over with four A-7s abreast, each with four napalm tanks and dropped

the entire load on one run with each plane dropping its load seconds apart from the last one; that's 32,000 lbs of hell in one run.



Khe Sanh loaded with sandbags

After a time, the Marines were augmented with U.S. Army and South Vietnamese forces. Marine A-4 Skyhawks and F-8 Crusaders from various units to the South participated. Seventy-seven days later the siege ended, at least officially.

That ended my missions in the South for the remainder of the “cruise” and pretty much ended Task Force 77’s participation in the defense of Khe Sanh. I seem to remember that at one point a large B-52 raid wiped out close to an entire NVN division North of the runway in one raid. I was always interested in the latest news from Khe Sanh.

This is one of the stories in my memoirs, “Fast Hewie: From Career Navy Jet Jock to Global Aerospace Tech Wizard”, which will be published by the end of November.

EAA Flight Deck - Ed Gregory

Our final EAA meeting for 2021 was low key but had some very interesting discussions. Twelve members attended. We discussed plans for 2022 and plan to do Young Eagles at Columbia Airport (O22) in April and PML Airport (E45) in October. This brought to light that there is growing interest at the Columbia Airport by a group of pilots to participate in Young Eagles and to get the Father’s Day Fly-In back on the calendar, which contributed to interesting ideas. There is interest in getting the KOLB Ultralight project reenergized. The nomination 2022 Board members yielded the following candidates: Rob Compton (VP), Allen Craig (Treasurer), Mike Gustafson (Secretary), Wayne Handley (Director), Leon Liebster (Director), Ed Sunday (YE Flight Lead), and me (Prez).

PMLAA Supports Toys for Tots!

Groveland is working with the US Marines Toys for Tots program to provide Christmas toys to needy local children. Toys for Tots collects new unwrapped toys or money donations to provide Christmas gifts for area kids who need our help. Please bring your unwrapped present (or check) to the PMLAA Holiday party on December 4th. We can make a difference for local children!

If you are not attending the party, please drop off your donations at the Grill, Library, Mar-Val or Mechanics Bank by November 30th.



We have so much (even airplanes!) – it's on us to be generous to others less fortunate. Here are some shopping ideas:

- Girls: board games, craft items, dolls, stuffed animals, grooming supplies, current movie merchandise, anything Disney, horse toys, pierced earrings, coloring books and crayons, art supplies, PlaySkool, make-up, puzzles, current movie DVDs, princess stuff.
- Boys: Legos, sports equipment, sharks, dinosaurs, action figures, current movie DVDs, Star Wars, cars and trucks, anything Disney, hot-wheels, Tonka, building sets, coloring books and crayons, Playdough, Thomas the Train, art supplies, tools, puzzles, fishing gear.

Note: no clothes, no gift cards, no watches, no books (FOGL supplies books). Nothing too large. If it requires batteries, be sure to include them.

Airport Safety - Mike Gustafson, CFII

This missive is brought to you by the many pilots who have almost landed on or taxied into cars or pedestrians while operating at Pine Mountain Lake airport!

One of the joys of being based at an airpark is the freedom to come and go as you please, no pesky control tower to cramp our style. We enjoy the occasional high speed low pass (just to check for deer mind you), and the opportunity to wander around in your car, bike, golf cart or walking, checking on the various hangars and the projects there-in.

While most of us understand the "airport etiquette" including airplanes have the right-a-way, always, stay off the runway, etc., there seems to be an increasing number of folks who just want to use the airport for the occasional walk or bike ride with the family and do not understand anything about airport or aircraft operations and there-in lies the trouble. It is to them that this note is addressed!

The purpose of the airport is for the safe operation of aircraft, period! No exceptions. The FAA considers any activity not involving an aircraft on our airport as a violation of the "restricted access" agreement that the County signed as part of historical funding, and in fact has found our airport in violation of the "Grant Assurances" as a result of all the non-aircraft operations. It is possible (but not probable) that the

FAA could come to the County and demand the return of the funds that are in dispute as a result of the violation.

The County has a set of Ordinances that address these same extraneous activities, Section 18.06 and Section 18.08. Section 18.06 speaks to pedestrians on any part of the airport environment and 18.08 speaks to Motor Vehicles on the airport environment. Violation of either Ordinance is a misdemeanor. Both Sections speak about customary and normal activity that is considered acceptable, dropping off passengers and crew at their airplane, walking out to view their take-off, etc. Other non-aircraft activity requires the express permission of the Airport Manager.

So OK, we all know that one of the charms of our airport is wandering around the airport so how do we do that without creating a flight or taxi hazard? The reality is these non-approved activities will continue and, to some extent, we want them to continue. We want the local non-pilots to view our airport as a good thing, just not too much of a good thing.

I suggest when we see folks who are on the airport we gently and kindly let them know that airplanes have the right-of-way. Remind them that airplanes don't have reverse gears so yes, cars have to back out of their way, and walkers may have to get way off the taxiway as the plane passes.

If you see anyone who is not from the County or involved in some sort of emergency out on the runway, then a stronger "suggestion" would be in order. There is no reason anyone should be walking their dog, or riding their bicycle or driving any motor vehicle across or on the runway. At PML airport we should all cross the runway at the "9" end of the runway and we should all avoid as much as possible crossing at mid-field. Yes, I know, it is a long way around and lord knows I have transgressed, but non-pilot types see that activity and then think it is OK and it is only a matter of time, if the runway incursions continue, until a car pulls out in front of a landing aircraft and we have a major accident. We have already had a couple of airplane go-arounds as a result of folks walking their dogs the length of the runway!

Lastly, if you run a short term rental that has access to the airport proper, please include a note in your information packet that cautions your renters from going out on the taxi-ways or runway.

The bottom line is we want everyone, pilots and non-pilots alike, to view the PML airport as their airport but airport safety must be uppermost on all our minds!

Enjoy the Fall; get out there and fly!

E45 Rental Car

Hyundai Sonata 4-door automatic. Rental rate is \$70 a day, out-the-door, no hidden fees! To make rental car reservations call Air Galore at 707-972-4498 or email at c3458j@gmail.com. There is only one rental car, so get your reservations in early!

Some car renter perks... If a renter joins the Air Galore Club, they receive a daily discount on car rental.

Big thanks go to PMLAA members Mary and Mike Wich for bringing the rental car to E45. This car rental information is also available on Air Nav and Foreflight.

Radio Rumors “Say Again”

- **Kitplanes Magazine article gives EAA 1337 a shout out**
 - ➔ The issue featured an article “Batteries Included” about Gabe DeVault’s eGull.
 - ➔ Bob Mackey had organized Gabe’s visit with our EAA Chapter in September 2019.
 - ➔ Look for subtitle “99 Miles in Four Hops” reviewing the eGull flight from Watsonville to E45 for a show-and-tell to our EAA Chapter.
 - ➔ <https://www.kitplanes.com/batteries-included/>
- **Congratulations to Melis Coady for first solo!**
 - On July 13th, Melis did her first solo
 - Under the watchful eye of Larry Jobe, her CFI, Melis took the sky solo
 - Melis is a member of the PML Aero Club flying the Cessna 172
- **Tuolumne County Airports Staff**
 - Goodbye and thank you to Tyler Stoy for his four-plus years of support for PML Airport.
 - Welcome to Jeff Angermiller who joined the staff Feb 2020 and Kristian Suni-en who started in September 2021.
 - Many of you likely already know Trisha Harless who has been on staff for two-plus years. She is the cheerful and helpful person you reach when calling the Airports Office.

- **2021 AVIATION CALENDAR**

November	<p>11 – Veterans Day – Thank you Veterans!</p> <p>18-19 – Partial Eclipse of the Moon (visible from Americas, northern Europe, eastern Asia, Australia, Pacific)</p> <p>20 – Larry Jobe first solo, Piper PA28 at Van Nuys, CA (1965)</p> <p>25 – Thanksgiving Day</p> <p>28 – Hanukkah begins, ending December 6th</p> <p>30-31 – Vicky Benzing @ Thunder & Lightning over Arizona, DMA, Tucson, AZ</p>
December	<p>3-4 – Total Eclipse of the Sun (visible from Antarctica, southern Africa, and the south Atlantic)</p> <p>4 – PMLAA Holiday Party – Wahoo!</p> <p>4-5 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</p> <p>7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</p> <p>21 – Winter Solstice</p> <p>25 – Christmas Day</p> <p>31 – New Year’s Eve (observed for New Year’s Day)</p>

2021/2022 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>
Dec 4, 2021	Holiday Party	Johanson's hangar
Jan 2022	No meeting	
Feb 2022	TBD	

BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2021			
OFFICERS		COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
President , Danielle Coelho	831-601-7328	Property , Ed Peters	209-962-6267
VP Airport Affairs , Kurt Howerton	916- 282- 9231	Multimedia , Phil Hickerson	209-962-6714
VP pro tem, Social Affairs , Gabriel Coelho	209-617-4384	Membership/Roster , Nancy Mora	209-777-5558
Secretary , Nancy Mora	777-5558	Airports Manager , Benedict Stuth	209-533-5685
Treasurer , Dawn Howerton	530- 312- 1501	Display Day Coordinator Kurt Howerton	916-282-9231
Email : president@pmlaa.org or board@pmlaa.org		Safety , Mike Gustafson and Joe Sobczak	
Webmaster , Jeremy Zawodny	408-685-5936	Newsletter , Nikki Grimes Email: newsletter@pmlaa.org	209-666-0141