



Volume 38: Issue 10  
October 2023

A Publication of the Pine  
Mountain Lake Aviation  
Association, Inc.

*Pine Mountain Lake Aviation  
Next Meeting /Potluck Dinner  
Speaker: FAA Representative  
**Mr. Kevin Sullivan***

*Saturday November 4, 2023*

*Time: 6:00 pm*

*Place: Jason & Krystall Johanson Hangar-Home  
Located at the West end of the Southwest Taxiway*

## President's Message

By Mike Gustafson

There were so many exciting things happening this week that I don't know where to start! Ok, at the beginning I suppose.

Community Airport Day was by any measure a roaring success! Set up started early; we had lots of help so things ticked right along. Thanks to the county airport crew and PML maintenance for their help. As Rob said, these folks have been doing this for so many years, we managers just need to get out of their way!! Folks started arriving at about 11:00 and we were chock-a-block by 12:30. Mr. and Mrs. "Air Boss" aka, Kurt and Dawn Howerton, orchestrated the air show with precision. The ramp folks, Leon Liebster, Rob Compton, Robert Pearson, Ed Gregory and others herded cars and airplanes like they have done this before, wait, they have, for 10 years! Phil Hickerson expertly ran audio and Catherine Santa Maria kept the attendees entertained with her usual light-hearted banter. Many other folks helped with spotting, crossing guards, photography, water, refreshment stand, etc.

We especially thank the PML pilots who put on such a great show. It takes time, effort and avgas, and we appreciate each one of you. I wish you could have been on the ground to hear the oohs and aahs. Next up was dinner for about 160 members. Kay Meermens' spotless hangar was packed and some chose to sit outside at tables. A special shout-out to Gabe Coelho and his serving staff for managing the refreshment tent on the ramp and for an excellent dinner at night. Rich Crow should be mentioned for cooking 156 steaks, all arriving warm and very tender. An excellent meal all around!

These big events are expensive to put on and your association has tried to manage your dues and other funds responsibly, but we are slightly losing money each month. Our Treasurer has suggested a few options and the Board has approved adding a credit card fee of \$4.00 per transaction.

One of our monthly expenses is the storage unit. The fees have gone from about \$55.00 to about \$125.00 so we are trying to find some room in the back of someone's hangar where we could store a few shelves of property and some large audio speakers and components. Please contact me or one of the other Board members if you can help.

On a completely different topic it came to my attention that the steps that lead to the Oil Dump building are falling apart. I inspected them and they are definitely dangerous to use. So I am looking for someone with some wood working skills to volunteer to replace them. There are just three steps, no concrete work and about 3 feet wide. The steps are made out of 2x6 lumber. The association will pay for materials. Please contact me if you can take this project on. If no one steps up we will need to hire a contractor to do this work, and that will cost money.

Our next meeting will be on November 4 at Johansons' hangar. Our guest speaker is Mr. Kevin Sullivan, the FAST team program manager from the Oakland Flight Standards Office. He will be speaking on MOSAIC certification standards, and he might just be handing out a few awards to some of our local members. It will be our usual potluck dinner.

Our very special Holiday Party will be on December 2 at beautiful Camp Tuolumne Trails, there will be a Rock-N-Roll band to dance the night away! The sign up flyer is attached in this newsletter and I encourage you to fill it out and get your check back to us soonest! We are limited to the first 100 folks signing up. We can add additional seating upstairs in the Great Hall for 30 more attendees if necessary. We are requiring everyone to RSVP November 17, so mark your calendar now. Dinner will be catered by Camp Tuolumne Trails. The menu is also included in the flyer in this newsletter.

We will also be collecting Toys for Tots at the Christmas party. See the article in this newsletter.

We are still hunting for a few good men or women to step up and serve on the Board that makes all these great events happen. Specifically, we have an opening for the roles of secretary and treasurer. It's *your turn!*

Hope to see you in the pattern sometime,  
Mike.

## Message From Vice President-Social

### By Gabe Coelho

Hello PMLAA members Airport Day 2023 was a fun one, I hope everyone enjoyed their day and the dinner. Of course, I cannot do my part without the help of the volunteers I had assisting me with the BBQing and food sales. Thank you Rich Crow, John Graham & Trent Coelho for BBQing. Thank you to Janet Gregory, Larry Santa Maria, Jodi Nash, John & Sally Smikahl, Yuni Gaudenti, Linda Craig, Marie Barber, Lane Poms, Janet Heuer, Casey & Bella Ahrens for their help with the food booth. A very special THANK YOU to Kay Meermans for the use of her hangar for our dinner and to those who helped with the dinner. The November meeting will be held at Jason & Krystall Johanson's hangar, 208LO Elderberry Way (9er end of runway). It will be a potluck dinner. Social Hour starts at 6pm, dinner at 7pm. See you then



## November 2023 PMLAA Guest Speaker:

**Mr. Kevin Sullivan**

“I’m from the FAA and we’re here to help!”

It’s a phrase often used sarcastically to refer to the FAA being perceived as more punitive than helpful. Next month, however, our guest speaker will dispel that perception and convince you that he really IS here to help!

In November we are privileged to have as our speaker Mr. Kevin Sullivan from the Oakland Flight Standards District Office of the FAA. Kevin is the FFAST team program manager - the FAA Safety Team, and will enlighten you with a wealth of information and resources that will make you a better and safer pilot.

We will also hear about MOSAIC – the FAA’s multiyear Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certification program that promises reforms that are on the verge of delivering sweeping and far-reaching changes with huge benefits to a broad spectrum of general aviation pilots, aircraft owners, instructors, technicians, and manufacturers.

## Notes from the PMLAA Treasurer

- Patricia Gibson

Whew! It has been a busy and fun-filled year. We had a record turnout for the Airport Day Dinner, we enjoyed music, the award ceremony, a delicious meal and of course the opportunity to meet old friends and new in our airport community.

At the Airport Day Event Dinner Event, everyone was given their invitations to the 2024 Holiday Party, which will be held on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 pm at beautiful Camp Tuolumne Trails. The rest of the invitations will be mailed next week. *Note RSVPs are required by November 17<sup>th</sup>.*

The main floor seating capacity at Camp TT is 100. In addition, there is an opportunity for a group to reserve the balcony, which seats an additional 30 guests. This option has its own dedicated waitstaff and is a more intimate setting. Let me know if you want to take advantage of the special seating with a list of the intended guests: [Treasurer@pmlaa.org](mailto:Treasurer@pmlaa.org).

We will also be collecting Toys for Tots at the Holiday party. Please see the separate article in this newsletter.

2024 Membership Renewal forms have gone out with the Christmas invitations. Highlighted at the top is the year that you have paid through, as some members may have forgotten that they paid ahead. Please review all the data on the form and note any corrections. There is also space on the form to make donations to the club. It's our desire to keep ongoing fees low in the face of rising costs, so we ask members to make a donation if they can.

Our Scholarship Fund needs replenishing! We sponsored three local high school graduates for their studies this year. As we would like to continue with this excellent service to our community, we ask that you consider contributing to that fund as well.

Unfortunately, the costs for credit card usage has gone up again this month. The cost for a \$100 charge is \$3.60 and on \$200 is \$6.90. The board has instituted a usage fee of \$4 per transaction for credit cards. Our preferred method of payment continues to be payment by check. We can also accept cash at the monthly meetings. We appreciate your understanding.



## 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 2. 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 30<sup>th</sup>.*



We have so much (even airplanes!) – we should 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 or Barbie, 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.

### Notes:

- please no clothes, no gift cards, no watches.
- Nothing physically large. If it requires batteries, be sure to include them.
- Make your check payable to Groveland Toys for Tots.

*Thank you for helping to make Christmas fun and exciting for our local children!*



**PMLAA Holiday Party**  
**Dinner and Dancing!**  
**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> , 6PM**



**Location:** Camp Tuolumne Trails, 22988 Ferretti Road, Groveland

**Menu Options: Make your choice below.**

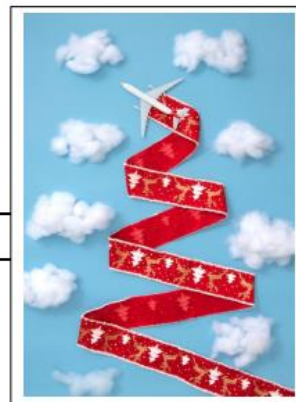
- 1) **Beef Bourguignon** - braised chuck roast in a rich red wine sauce with pearl onions, carrots & bacon
- 2) **Orange Duck** - whole roasted duck simmered in a Grand Marnier sherry vinegar duck stock sauce
- 3) **Baked Cod** - parmesan crusted filet with a roasted tomato sauce
- 4) **Vegetarian Option** - tbd

**Starter** - Clam Chowder served with sourdough & butter

**Dessert** - Profiterole filled with white chocolate mousse with chocolate and raspberry sauces

**Cost:** \$65 includes dinner and live music for dancing! Note: *PMLAA members only please.*

**(Must be purchased in advance. RSVP by 11/17/23)**



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**Preferred Payment:** Mail Checks: PMLAA, P.O. Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321

**Names of attendees** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total number of tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$65 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**# Beef Entrees** \_\_\_\_\_ **# Duck Entrees** \_\_\_\_\_

**# Cod Entrees** \_\_\_\_\_ **# Vegetarian Entrees** \_\_\_\_\_

If you'd like to pay by credit card, we will invoice you. Please send your request to: [treasurer@pmlaa.org](mailto:treasurer@pmlaa.org)  
 (Please note that we have to apply a \$4 fee for credit card payments.)

Note: We will be collecting toys for the Groveland area Toys for Tots project at the party. If you would prefer to donate a check, please enclose a separate check made out to **Toys for Tots.**





# Masters of the Air

by Janet Gregory

On Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup> Kevin Sullivan, FAASafety Team Program Manager, will be recognizing 17 Master Pilots and Master Mechanics of Pine Mountain Lake. The FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award and Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award are the highest recognition that the FAA bestows.

These 17 Master Pilots and Master Mechanics have served our country (3 Air Force, 4 Army and 5 Navy) and flown commercially (corporate, American, Continental, and 2 United). Each has made unique accomplishments in aviation and their fields of endeavor. Two have now made their eternal flights and they too will be recognized.

Buck Buchanan – now on his eternal flight	Larry Jobe
Alan Buchner – MP & CT	Steve Martin
Ira Chapman	Ken Orloff
Dick Collier	Norm Peebles
Allen Craig – PML’s first MP	Dennis Smith
James Goodrich – now on his eternal flight	Joe Sobczak – newest MP & CT
Ed Gregory	Bill Thomas
Marle Hewett	Tom Tingley
Bob Hornauer	

The photo below is from 2021. If a picture is worth a thousand words, this picture of PML Master Pilots is worth *MORE* than a thousand years of flying!





**Reno  
National  
Championship  
Air Races**



**End of an Era**



**EAA Flight Deck will return**



By Joe Sobczak

## R U SAFE?

Every time you fly, you conduct a preflight inspection to be sure the airplane is airworthy and safe. As part of your training, you also learned to preflight yourself. The FAA uses the acronym IMSAFE, which stands for Illness, Medication, Stress, Alcohol, Fatigue, and Eating. Of those six factors that can influence your ability to safely fly on any given day, the most difficult to assess is Stress.

The S in IMSAFE should remind you to ask yourself, am I under psychological pressure from the job, worried about financial matters, health problems, or family discord? If you answer YES to any of the above, you need to assess whether your level of stress is elevated to the point of adversely influencing your ability to fly.



So how much does stress impact the general aviation pilot community? While there have been numerous studies of the effects of stress on airline and military pilots, there has been little research on stress in GA – the sector that represents 78% of aviation! It is reasonable to assume that the context and constraints relevant to GA pilots are very different from those experienced by commercial and military pilots.

There is a bit of insight, however, from a study done a couple years

ago that specifically looked at GA pilots and their ability to assess stress as a risk factor in flying. Researchers presented the pilots with 12 go/no-go takeoff decisions to assess and describe why they would or would not go in each scenario. Faced with such factors as equipment failures, missing a seatbelt, or adverse weather, pilots tended to cancel the trip or mitigate the risk by modifying the plan. When the situation involved missing sunglasses, lost checklist, or other stressors, pilots were much more likely to make a GO decision.

Several pilots in the study even suggested that flying would help relieve the stress of ground borne issues. I admit to being in that category on occasion. The problem is, that while going flying may make you FEEL better, it will not make you PERFORM better or make better decisions. Although your conscious mind may be happy, your amygdala is constantly working in the back of your brain and will often cause you to make bad decisions.

If the psychological aspects of flying and flight safety interest you, I highly recommend the book “Deep Survival” by Lawrence Gonzales. It’s an easy and compelling read, and even though it’s not specifically about flying, it is the best “aviation safety” book I’ve ever read. And if you are a true safety geek, you can find the referenced study at [Flying Solo: A Vignette-Based Examination of General Aviation Pilot Risk Perception and Decision-Making: Aviation Psychology and Applied Human Factors: Vol 10, No 2 \(hogrefe.com\)](http://hogrefe.com).

So if you caught your dog cheating on you, your girlfriend bit the mailman, or Old Priest Grade was closed for no good reason on your drive home yesterday, carefully consider how the stress induced by those situations could adversely affect your ability to make good decisions and stay focused on flying. As a wise man once said, “If there is any doubt, there is no doubt.” Run a marathon, go fishing, or wash your airplane, then put off the flight until your stress level has diminished and you are truly safe to fly.

# PML NOTAM

By Drew Anjirich: Director of Airports  
Tuolumne County

All,

As we close out on the Pine Mountain Lake Community Airport Day, I would like to thank everyone who helped put this on. As always it received great reviews, and all were entertained. A special thanks to those who helped in making this a safe event.

We also have some upcoming events within the county that involve the airports. The Board of Supervisors will be selecting members for the Airport Advisory Committee in the upcoming weeks. The plan is only to have the committee meet when they have items that need to be reviewed rather than a monthly meeting. The County is also patiently waiting for the release of the Feasibility Study. We are expecting to have the final draft by the end of November or December.

As a reminder to those who use the airport, both Columbia and PML, please only cross the runways when necessary and follow all the rules and regulations of the airport. We have slowly had an increase at both airports where vehicles are crossing the runways to access a closer gate for a quick exit rather than use the roads. Doing this increases the chances of an incursion or accident, so please be patient and use the roadways to access your destination rather than the runways.

Drew Njirich



**We don't want this (Ed.)**

**Fun at Community  
Airport Day – 2023**

**Photos by Frank Leung**







Photographs by Krystall Johanson



Congrats to the happy couple!





**In Loving Memory of Raymond "Buck" Buchanan,  
November 9, 1934 - September 6, 2023**

Raymond "Buck" Buchanan, 88, of Groveland, CA, passed away on September 6, 2023. Born in Strawn, Texas on November 9, 1934, Buck carried with him the spirit of the Lone Star State throughout his life. He was known not just for his infectious laughter and spirited discussions about widescreen formats and Disney's cinematic choices, but also for his undeniable passion for flying.

Buck is survived by his loving wife, Joreen Buchanan, and his granddaughter Shelly Colbert. Throughout his life, he took to the skies, piloting aircrafts and skydiving and sharing tales of his adventures. Buck's presence was larger than life, with a laugh that could fill any room.

Professionally, Buck dedicated years to Northrop Grumman, as a technical illustrator, contributing to the company's legacy and further fueling his love for aviation.

A memorial service will be held on **Saturday, October 21st at 2pm at Tristan Duplan's Hanger**, 20919 Woodside Way, Groveland CA.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who was a part of Buck's remarkable journey. They hope that next when you look up at the sky, you'll remember Buck's laughter and imagine him flying somewhere to gain another great story.

*Airport Manager*  
*Coffee &*   
*Conversation*





## Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

### Membership Application, Renewal and Update



(  ) New Member Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (  ) Renewal – no changes  
 (  ) Renewal – with changes

	Order Badge	Publish on <u>Member List</u>
Name 1: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$15 ea. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Name 2: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$15 ea. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Child Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$15 ea. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Child Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$15 ea. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Mailing Address: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____		
Phone 1: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Phone 2: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Email 1: _____ (Required)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Email 2: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**PMLAA Mission:** To promote aviation interests and ensure the welfare and safety of its members, Pine Mountain Lake Airport, and the general community, through aviation-oriented recreational and educational activities.

**Monthly Meetings:** Held the first Saturday of each month (no meeting in January or July), usually at 6:00, check the PMLAA Newsletter or website [www.pmlaa.org](http://www.pmlaa.org) for details.

- Annual membership dues are \$25.00 per household.
- Please make check payable to: **PMLAA.**
- Bring to monthly meeting or remit to: **PMLAA, PO Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321**
- Membership includes:
  - Monthly electronic newsletter.
  - Access to member directory (available *only* to members).
  - Invitation events to monthly meetings and airport events.

Annual dues \$25.00 per year	\$ _____
Badges @ \$15.00 each	\$ _____
Donation (\$25-\$100 suggested)	\$ _____
Scholarship Fund Donation	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL enclosed</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

## 2023 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time &amp; Location</u>
November 4, 2023	Joe Sobczak – Test Pilot/FAA	6 pm Johanson Hangar
December 2, 2023	Christmas Party – Catered Dinner	6 pm Camp Tuolumne Trails

## 2023 Aviation Calendar

<b>October</b>	<p><b>7 – PMLAA Airport Appreciation Day, 11:30-3:00</b></p> <p><b>7 – PMLAA Meeting</b></p> <p><b>7-8 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</b></p> <p>7-8 – Vicky Benzing @ Salinas Airshow, CA</p> <p>7-8 – Patriots Jet Team @ Fleet Week, San Francisco, CA</p> <p>11 – Columbus Day</p> <p>13 – International Skeptics Day – Really? I don't think so.</p> <p>14 – Annular Solar Eclipse</p> <p>14-15 – Vicky Benzing @ Central Coast Airfest, Santa Maria, CA</p> <p>21-22 – Orionid Meteor Shower</p> <p>31 - Halloween</p>
<b>November</b>	<p><b>4 – PMLAA Meeting</b></p> <p><b>4-5 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</b></p> <p>5 – Daylight Savings Time Ends (Clocks fall back)</p> <p>11 – Veterans Day</p> <p>23 – Thanksgiving Day</p>
<b>December</b>	<p><b>2 – PMLAA Holiday Party @ Tuolumne Trails</b></p> <p><b>2-3 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</b></p> <p>7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</p> <p>21 – Winter Solstice 7:27pm – First Day of Winter</p> <p>25 – Christmas Day</p> <p>31 – New Year's Eve</p>



**BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2023**

**OFFICERS**

**President**, Mike Gustafson                      209-962-6336

**VP, Airport Affairs**, Rob Compton            962-6503  
**VP, Social Affairs**, Gabe Coelho            209-617-4384

**Secretary**, Bob Mackey                      707-622-5392

**Treasurer**, Patricia Gibson                707-332-6469

**Email:** [president@pmlaa.org](mailto:president@pmlaa.org)  
or [board@pmlaa.org](mailto:board@pmlaa.org)

Phone prefix is 209 unless otherwise indicated

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Property**, Ed Peters                              962-6267

**Multimedia**, Phil Hickerson                962-6714  
**Membrshp/Rostr**, Bob Mackey            209-777-5558

**Airports Manager**, Drew                    533-5685

**Display Day Coordinator**  
Rob Compton                                      962-6503

**Safety**, Mike Gustafson & Joe Sobczak

**Newsletter**, Dianne Cole                    510-417-5121

**Webmaster**, Jeremy Zawodny            408-685-5936

