



Volume39 Issue 10
October 2024
A Publication of the Pine
Mountain Lake Aviation
Association, Inc.

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

Next Meeting / Pot Luck Dinner

Saturday November 2, 2024

Time: 6:00 pm

*Place: Randy & Marie Barber Hangar
20944 Woodside Way*

President's Message

By Bob Mackey

Airport Appreciation Day was a big success, thanks to Rob Compton's leadership and a cast of hundreds that contributed in many ways large and small. Many of the food services and volunteer organizing both during Airport Day and for the delicious dinner afterwards were provided by Gabe Coelho. Rob and Gabe have served PMLAA admirably for several years, and will be taking a deserved break from Board duties. To fill their shoes, **nominations are open** for VP Airport Affairs, and VP Social. Actually, nominations are open for all PMLAA Board positions: President, VP Airport, VP Social, Treasurer, and Secretary. Nominations will close during the November membership meeting, followed immediately by election of the 2025 officers.

The November membership meeting will be at Marie and Randy Barber's hangar on the back taxiway (20944 Woodside Way). Our guest speaker will be Taigh Ramey of [Vintage Aircraft Inc](#) and the Stockton Field Aviation Museum in Stockton. They are famous for their restorations of Beech 18 twins, and related warbird aircraft like the [RC-45J or SNB-5P](#). Taigh has also been involved in historical remembrance and reenactments, including the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII. Recently, he was a technical advisor in the making of [Masters of the Air](#), an Apple TV+ production covering the life of a B17 bomber group operating out of England. It was Taigh's work that made so many of the scenes realistic and accurate. If you haven't seen the series already, [consider watching it](#) before the November meeting so you can ask great questions of the experts.

The December holiday meeting will be at Krystall and Jason Johanson's hangar on the south taxiway. We will have a band, dancing, drinks, and steak dinner. Look for Gabe's details, and dinner tickets in this newsletter.

No meeting in January, but please remember to renew your memberships!

The other big news, that we have long been waiting for, is about to be released. The County's "Airport Feasibility Study" is coming soon. Kathleen Haff reports that the Airport Advisory Committee will be able to review and comment on the study at their meeting on Oct 30. The public (that's us!) are invited to attend 2:30 - 4:30 at the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 2 S Green Street in Sonora.

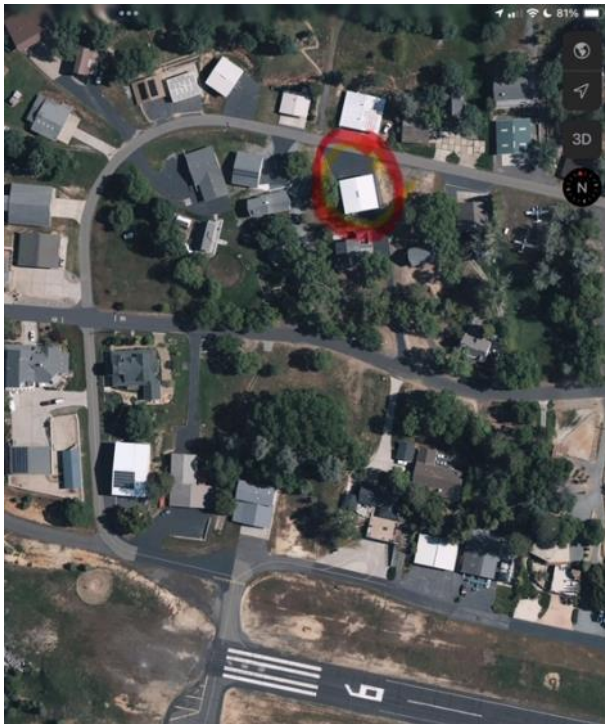
VP Social

By Gabe Coelho

Another successful PMLAA Airport Day has been accomplished and in the history books. From the amount of food sold I can confidently say we had a good attendance from our community and neighbors. I can not express how much appreciation I have for all the volunteers from PMLAA who helped make this a successful event. Many thanks to my BBQ masters and to the volunteers who helped out in the refreshment booth and kept things moving along. The BBQ dinner went well, I didn't see many leftovers on people's plates so I assume everyone enjoyed their dinner. A special thanks to Kay Meermans for hosting us and thanks to Rich Crow for doing the BBQing. Awesome job to all.

Our next PMLAA meeting is November 2nd at Randy & Marie Barbers hangar located on the back taxiway (see map). Social Hour begins at 6pm and dinner at 7pm. This is a Pot Luck dinner so everyone is encouraged to bring either an appetizer, main dish or dessert.

We will start setting tickets for our PMLAA Christmas Party at this meeting. The Christmas Party is Saturday December 7th and will be hosted by Jason & Krystall Johanson in their hangar. We have a fabulous dinner planned along with the band "Happy Time Posse" providing all the music for that evening. Purchase your tickets early to avoid the confusion and stress put upon your lovable VP Social.



20944 Woodside Way



Young Eagle Rally
Pine Mountain Lake Airport
Saturday, October 12, 2024



Photos by Susie Williams & Orrin Banks

Introduction to Aviation

The mission of EAA's Young Eagle program is to introduce and inspire kids in the world of aviation. EAA Chapter 1337 introduced 41 Young Eagles to general aviation and the world of flight on Saturday, October 12th at Pine Mountain Lake Airport.

More than half of the fliers were from Tuolumne County and this was the first Young Eagle Flight for 26 (63%) of the kids. We have flown 96 Young Eagles this year including the Rally held at Columbia Airport in April, and over 1,200 in Tuolumne County since the program began. Special thanks to our 19 volunteers from both Pine Mountain Lake Airport and Columbia Airport showing the great camaraderie of our County airports. The day was a huge success.

- *Pilots:* Armin Abusaidi, Andy Aldrich, Orrin Banks, Gabe Coelho, and Anthony Felts (first time YE pilot!)
- *Ramp & Line:* Jeff Bagge, Allen Craig, Ed Gregory, and Leon Liebster
- *Check-in:* Nora Feddal
- *Dispatch:* Peggy Abusaidi
- *Registration:* Hans Bayer, Rob Compton (EAA Chapter President!), and Ed Sunday (YE Coordinator for the past 10+ years)
- *Post Flight:* Roxy Compton and Tonya Scheftner (our Airport Manager!)
- *Donations, Lunch, and Photos:* Linda Craig, Janet Gregory, and Susie Williams

We see the amazing results of Young Eagles in Tuolumne County with many kids pursuing careers in aircraft operations – public service (CalFire, police, search-and-rescue), military, commercial, and private. Career fields include aircraft maintenance, ground support services, air traffic control, flight operations, and aircrew members. Our airports add to the talent of our community.



This photo is from the 2024 Reno Airshow. Vicky Benzing is flying Plum Crazy for a final lap by Home Pylon. Quietly standing by is a US Navy Blue Angels Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet. The airshow was a farewell to the Reno Air Races. Photo by Janet Gregory.

End of an Era **or A New Beginning**

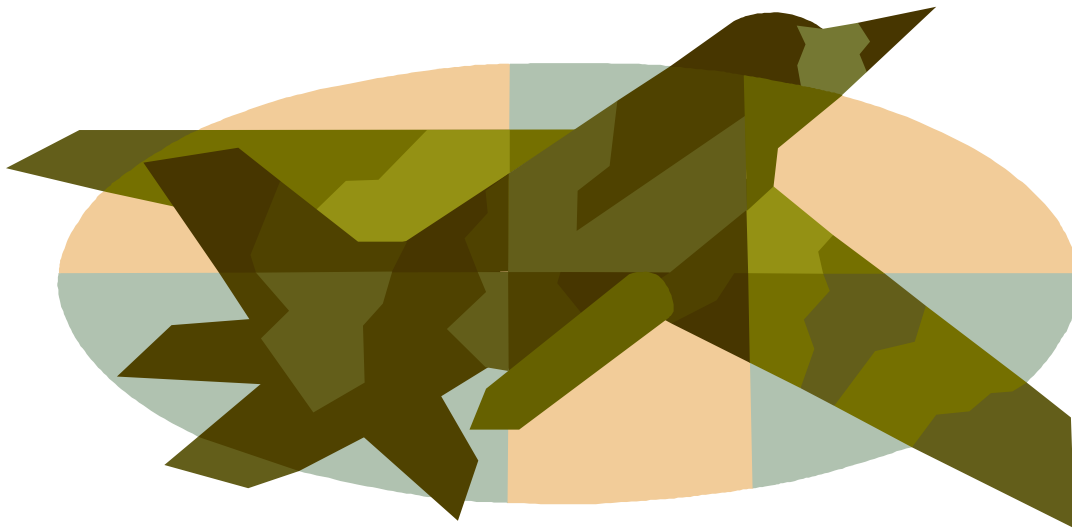
It's all in your perspective.

Vicky Benzing is an accomplished pilot, skydiver, aerobatic performer, and air racer. She was born and raised in California, and calls Pine Mountain Lake home. Vicky is brilliant in everything she does from science to semiconductors with a PhD in chemistry, a successful semiconductor IPO, and business expertise. That was career #1, aviation is career #2, and Vicky is passionate about aviation. She is the fastest woman in air racing, qualifying at the 2015 Reno Air Races in a one-of-a-kind L-39 jet "Darkstar" at 469.831 mph! She is an airshow favorite in her 1940 Boeing Stearman. Whatever is around that next pylon is sure to be exciting.

Plum Crazy was born in 1944 as a North American P-51 Mustang fighter. It never saw wartime but did serve with the RCAF and as a civilian "executive" transport. It has starred in TV shows, movies, and even a child's game. Plum Crazy was flown to a #1 Gold Unlimited Class win by Clay Lacy at the 1970 Reno Air Races. Clay owned Plum Crazy from 1964 until 2019, when he sold it to Vicky Benzing. Vicky has had the plane meticulously restored, repainted, and rebuilt, flying it to a #4 finish at the (last of an era) Reno Air Races. Vicky continues to share this iconic purple air racer at air shows all over the country and ... who knows what the future holds? We may see it in Roswell, New Mexico.

Clay Lacy is made of a special sort of clay that is soft and malleable, yet tough and bull headed. Clay has logged over 50,000 flight hours, holding the record for the most hours flying turbine aircraft. His name is synonymous with Lear Jet and corporate aviation. Clay's aviation career is diverse: United Airlines pilot, air racer, military test pilot, aerial cinematographer, and entrepreneur. Clay has a home at Pine Mountain Lake, enjoying his long-standing friendships with Vicky Benzing and Alan Gaudenti.

The National Championship Air Races (NCAR) have been known as the Reno Air Races for the past 60 years; 2023 was their final year in Reno. The end of an era. NCAR is reinventing itself in Roswell, New Mexico in 2025. They will conduct a Pylon Racing School in May and host their first Air Race September 10-14. They are featuring the honored tradition of air racing with all seven classes: Unlimited, Jet, Sport, T-6, Biplane, Formula One, and STOL. Air racers and spectators will see a newly designed course and new attractions. Maybe we will see you there.



2025 Calendar

Filled with everything you love ❤️ Airplanes, Yosemite, and PML
Photos by PMLAA member Frank Leung



Only \$20

Buy them from Rob Compton or Janet Gregory
or at the next PMLAA meeting.

Airport Manager

Coffee &



Conversation



**First Thursday
of the month**

10:00 am—11:00 am

**Yosemite Flights
Pine Mountain Lake
Airport**

Safety Corner

Will Return



Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

Membership Application, Renewal and Update



() New Member Date: _____
 () Renewal – no changes
 () Renewal – with changes

	<u>Order Badge</u>	<u>Publish on 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 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	\$ _____
TOTAL enclosed	\$ _____

2024 Meeting Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Time & Location</i>
Dec 7, 2024	Christmas Party	6 pm Krystall & Jason Johanson Hangar

2024 Aviation Calendar

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BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2023

OFFICERS

President, Bob Mackey 707-622-5392

VP, Airport Affairs, Rob Compton 962-6503

VP, Social Affairs, Gabe Coelho 209-617-4384

Secretary, Phil Boortz 805-944-0148

Treasurer, Ralph McLaughlin 408-520-8209

Email: president@pmlaa.org
or 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 209-622-5392

Airports Manager, pending

Display Day Coordinator
Rob Compton 962-6503

Safety, Mike Gustafson & Joe Sobczak 510-417-5121

Newsletter, Dianne Cole 510-417-5121
Webmaster, Jeremy Zawodny 408-685-5936