



Volume39 Issue 12
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Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

Next Meeting

No Meeting in January

*Meetings Resume
Saturday February 1, 2025*

See January Newsletter for details

President's Message

By Bob Mackey

As I sit down to write this, we are enjoying our first real winter storm of the year. Trees are down on Ferretti Road, and our deck chairs are scattered among the graupel and wet leaves. For me, it's a day to stay inside and be thankful for the comfort we have in our warm homes and the freedom to not have to go anywhere today. A year ago I started this job of President with a couple of modest goals for the year:

1. Switch to **metal silverware** at the dinner meetings.

I am happy to report that we are enjoying eating better and with less waste going to the landfill. No more broken plastic forks, and washing the silverware has really not been a problem. It takes less than an hour to wash and have the silverware back in the bins ready for next month.

2. Host some **Talk-Then-Do** meetings.

I'll claim partial success. We have not re-painted the compass rose with the 99s (yet), due to some objections by the County. But we had a great success in the September CalDART meeting with Paul Marshall. Beyond my expectations, we put together a complete CalDART exercise and even founded a local Tuolumne County CalDART chapter. What kind of Talk-then-Do projects would you like to see in the next year? What can we do to improve our airport and our community? Please send me your suggestions.

3. One duty of the President is to **recruit speakers** for each monthly meeting. I kept ahead of that in 2024 thanks to the flexibility of CalFire, Yosemite Search and Rescue, and others, but my list of candidate speakers is getting shorter. Please [send me your suggestions](#) for speakers that can engage our membership.

The success of PMLAA from year-to-year is entirely due to the volunteers and officers that prepare for each event. Rather than try and fail to name everyone, I'll just name a few that deserve special appreciation. Rob Compton and Gabe Coelho have both served on the board and run major projects like Airport Day and Hot August Nights. They are both several years into their second year as VP Airport Affairs and VP Social, respectively. The events that seem to just come together smoothly with everyone knowing what to do are not accidents or luck. It's due to the hard work organizing put in by leaders like Rob and Gabe. Of course a cast of thousands also shows up to bring these events together. By the time you read this, Dianne Cole may have also completed her work as Newsletter Editor. She has made it work even though I (almost) always turn in my reports late.

There is no meeting in January.

In February, I expect to have Mike Friend talk about his time at Boeing developing some spectacular special aircraft. The location might be 20920 Elderberry, the dark brown hangar on the south taxiway, fourth hangar west of the fuel pumps.

Remember to renew your memberships!

VP Social

This column will return

Letter From The Editor

By Dianne Cole

Hard to believe that three years have passed since Mike Gustafson talked me into becoming the newsletter editor. That means 36 issues, and more importantly, 36 deadlines!

So the time has come to share the fun, and for someone else to carry on beginning in January. I am grateful that Julie Anema has agreed to take over as editor (and the deadlines).

Dianne

Results of the PML Airport Feasibility and Viability Study

By Mike Gustafson

On December 3rd the Airports Viability Study was presented to the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors (BoS) and after much discussion the BoS accepted the Study. Note: accepting the Study does not mean that the Supervisors must act on any of the recommendations.

The Study reviewed both Columbia Airport and PML Airport, making recommendations on maintenance and on current rents. The Study also presented data on how much money each airport feeds into the County economy. The Columbia Airport provides \$36 million and the PML Airport provides \$6.7 million. Not a trivial amount to be sure, and good news for us.

The full study is 156 pages long and is on the County website:

https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/28354/PineMtnLake_Feasibility_Full_v3_I_recommend_you_read_it.

The Study does an excellent job of laying out a road map for the County to improve both airports and get the PML Airport back into the NPIAS FAA grant program. That would make us eligible for federal grants for the big ticket expenses that the County is not able to support. Currently PML airport is funded by the County at only about \$150,000 a year for labor and general maintenance. We do not have any funds necessary to make the repairs and upgrades as recommended in the study which total about \$2.7 million dollars not even including runway rehab which is estimated at more than \$5 million! NPIAS FAA grants would make that possible. The Supervisors made it very clear that the PML Airport needs to get into the NPIAS Grant program so they can apply to the FAA for these large airport improvement funds. The County is not able to provide this level of funding.

The BoS sent a clear message to the County Staff to do whatever it takes to get “Residential Through The Fence” certification approved by the FAA for the PML Airport. That is a prerequisite to being able to apply for NPIAS. The implied (optimistic) timeline for this approval is by the end of 2025.

There are a significant number of requirements for the RTTF process. Most are fairly straight forward and can be accomplished relatively easily, but there are three required elements that will be challenges for us:

- 1) How many airplanes are based at the airport. The FAA currently shows only 7. The catch here is that the FAA does not count any airplanes not on County property. So that means all the planes in the “Air Park” do not count. Only those on the fuel island ramp are included. We need more than 10 and I know there are around 14 or more on the ramp, we just need to identify them to the FAA.
- 2) Unrestricted Airport Access. This means how the County controls all access points around the airport. Right now the airport is a sieve, just witness how many deer wander around the airport and the occasional walkers, cars, contractor trucks, etc. The FAA requires those activities be controlled.
- 3) Deeded Access to the Runway. This is the biggie. When a PML airpark owner purchased their hangar/home one of the documents they were given was a Deed that granted them access to the airport in perpetuity, i.e. forever. This is a major no-no in the FAA’s

RTTF world. The Sponsor/County must be able to control access to the runway and collect a reasonable fee for such access. These fees then help the Sponsor/County maintain the airport. Obviously, this concept is a big change for our hangar/home owners.

There are more RTTF rules that we need to abide by but the above last two are the Biggies and most difficult for us.

You might wish that the County, through Property taxes, should just ante up the couple million dollars to fix their airport asset. Alas, if only that were possible. Right now the County has a major budget deficit going into the 2025 fiscal year and the next couple of years look worse. If the County were faced with fixing the airport, and balancing their budget, they would need to lay off several sheriffs, get rid of a Groveland fire engine or ambulance or close a library. We know how that decision would go, and we don't foresee any changes to this process, especially as Tuolumne voters keep voting down any proposed tax increase.

County staff will be calling a Town Hall Meeting early next year to discuss their RTTF plans in order to qualify for FAA grants to fund the big projects at our airport. I hope this note has provided some background and context. Be sure to attend the meeting when it is announced.

We all need to give serious thought to the possible future of our beloved airport and be open to ideas that, while initially difficult to swallow, will provide a path to keep the runway, taxiways, and ramp in good working order for years to come.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or have a spare couple million dollars!

Groveland Kids Thank YOU!

Virginia Richmond

PMLAA members were very generous with donations to the 2024 Toys for Tots project. We filled two big donation boxes with toys and added a number of checks for additional purchases.

All the donations go to local families who have asked for support to be able to provide a happy Christmas for their little ones.

Thank you for supporting our community!



**Remember to
renew your
membership**

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>

2024 Aviation Calendar

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BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2024

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