



Volume 43 Issue 2
February 2025
A Publication of the Pine
Mountain Lake Aviation
Association, Inc.

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

Next Meeting

*March 01, 2025
20920 Elderberry
Potluck social hour 6 pm
Dinner at 7 pm*



Remembering Karen Handley

The lovely, kind, strong, adventurous, and competent Karen Handley passed away on January 3. A large delegation of PMLAA members attended a very moving celebration of her life in her hometown of Salinas on January 18.

Wayne and Karen lived in PML for almost 20 years and had a huge impact on so many of us. Karen personified grace, charm, kindness, a generous spirit, and love of friends and family. She was a selfless wife, mother, volunteer, and friend, and is deeply missed by the PML community.

In response to inquiries, the family has suggested memorial donations to Friends of the Groveland Library, PO Box 43, Groveland, 95321. Her obituary is on page 43 of the February PML News Magazine.

Submitted by Virginia Richmond

President's Message

By Bob Mackey

The March membership meeting will be March 1, 2025, at the Mackey/Reyes hangar at 20920 Elderberry. It is the dark brown hangar on the south taxiway, fourth hangar west of the fuel pumps. The hangar is not normally heated, so bring your coats. We'll warm it up as best we can on your way in, be sure to admire the clear sight lines across the taxiway towards the runway. That view used to be obscured by a sick old oak tree. It was cut by the County this week, to preserve the 7:1 clearance slopes on each side of the runway. Dinner will be potluck. After dinner, we will hear from Bill Thomas, Naval Aviator, who lives here on the PML Airport. You may have seen the tailhook hanging above his hangar door.

In the coming months, we can look forward to other great dinner speakers. One that I am looking forward to is Professor of Geology Manny Gabet. He will talk about some of the local geologic features that we can see from the air over PML. Weather permitting, we will have a Sunday morning flight to see those features. Other speakers to look forward to include Prof. Paolo Iscold from Cal Poly Aeronautical Engineering, Jan Johnson to talk about the history of the Women Airforce Service Pilots ([WASPs](#)) of WW2, Larry "Lip" Gaines on the founding and organization of Bonanzas to Oshkosh (B2OSH), and many more.

Remember to renew your memberships!

Safety Corner

By Joe Sobczak

The Dealy Dangers of Crossing a Runway: A Threat to Aviation Safety

The Problem

Runway incursions, where an aircraft, vehicle, or person enters a runway area can pose a significant threat to aviation safety and PML is no exception. One of the most critical and often overlooked types of runway incursions is driving across a runway. This hazardous behavior can have devastating consequences, resulting in fatalities, injuries, and damage to aircraft. There have been an increasing number of vehicles and pedestrians observed crossing the runway at Pine Mountain Lake, including multiple incidents that resulted in a near collision between an airplane and a pedestrian or vehicle.

The Risks

Driving across a runway is a recipe for disaster. Aircraft are designed to operate at high speeds, and even a slow-moving vehicle can become a deadly obstacle. The potential for collisions is high, particularly during takeoff and landing when aircraft are most vulnerable. In many, if not most, aircraft forward visibility is limited as well.

Statistics

According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), general aviation pilots are responsible for almost half of the approximately 1,600 runway incursions that occur annually in the United States. While these incidents may seem isolated, they can have far-reaching consequences. In 2020, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) reported that runway incursions resulted in 14 fatalities and 23 injuries worldwide.

Causes

Several factors contribute to runway incursions, including:

Lack of situational awareness: Pilots and drivers may fail to recognize the runway's protected status or neglect to comply with airport signage.

Distractions: Inattention to the environment, such as texting or using electronic devices, can lead to mistakes.

Unfamiliarity with airport layouts: Drivers may be unfamiliar with airport signage, markings, and lighting, increasing the risk of errors. **Prevention Strategies**

Sterile cockpit: Pilots should thoroughly brief themselves on airport layouts, signage, and ATC procedures before landing or taking off. Avoid distractions, such as using electronic devices, during critical phases of flight. When you brief your passengers be sure to tell them to avoid conversation while you are taxiing, taking off, landing, or operating anywhere near an airport.

Don't drive or walk across the runway: Thanks to several hard-working volunteers, a donation from our local EAA chapter, and in cooperation with Tuolumne County, a vehicle bypass road was recently completed at the west end of the PML airport. If you can avoid crossing the runway, please do. But if it is necessary to cross, PLEASE use the new road and NOT the taxiway. Before you cross, even when on the bypass road, stop and look very carefully for any aircraft that might be approaching the runway. While there are currently no signs marking the new road, appropriate signage is in the works.

Situational awareness: Pilots, passengers, drivers and pedestrians alike must always maintain constant vigilance, scanning the environment for potential hazards.

Get the word out: If you see someone crossing the runway, politely point out that there is now a service road at the west end of the runway they can use to help avoid creating a hazard.

Conclusion

There have been an alarming number of vehicular and pedestrian runway incursions at PML recently. Driving across a runway is a reckless and dangerous behavior that can have catastrophic consequences. By understanding the risks, causes, and prevention strategies, we can work together to reduce the incidence of runway incursions and ensure the safety of all aviation stakeholders. It is essential for pilots, drivers, and pedestrians to prioritize situational

awareness to prevent these deadly incidents. Fly Safe, Drive Safe, Walk Safe! *- Joe*

2025 AVIATION (AND OTHER INFO) CALENDAR

Submitted by Janet Gregory

<p>January</p>	<p>1 – <i>New Year’s Day</i> 4 – Happy New Year! NO PMLAA Meeting in January 4-5 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 20 – <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day & Presidential Inauguration</i> 29 – <i>Chinese New Year – Year of the Snake (celebrate thru Feb 12)</i></p>
<p>February</p>	<p>1 – PMLAA Meeting, 6:00 potluck & speaker 1-2 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 2 – <i>Groundhog Day</i> 9 – <i>Superbowl Sunday</i> 13-14 – <i>Blood Moon</i> 14 – <i>Valentine’s Day</i> 17 – <i>President’s Day</i> 28 – <i>Planet Parade – Seven planets will align in the night sky</i></p>
<p>March</p>	<p>1 – PMLAA Meeting, 6:00 potluck & speaker 1-2 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 8 – <i>Patriots Jet Team @ Ferrari Challenge, Sonoma Raceway, CA</i> 8 – <i>Mercury will be at its farthest point from the Sun</i> 9 – <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins (Clock springs forward)</i> 15 - <i>Patriots Jet Team @ MCAS Yuma Airshow, Yuma, AZ</i> 17 – <i>St. Patrick’s Day</i> 20 – <i>Vernal Equinox</i> 22 – <i>Vicky Benzing @ Thunder & Lightning Over Arizona, Tucson, AZ</i></p>
<p>April</p>	<p>2 – <i>Peanut Butter and Jelly Day</i> 5 – PMLAA Meeting, 6:00 potluck & speaker 5-6 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 5-6 – <i>Vicky Benzing @ Aviation Nation Airshow, Las Vegas, NV</i> 12 – Young Eagles at O22, Columbia Airport, 9:00-Noon 12-13 – <i>Vicky Benzing @ Southern California Airshow, Moreno Valley, CA</i> 12 – <i>Passover begins</i> 20 – <i>Easter Sunday</i> 22 – <i>Earth Day</i> 28 – <i>Superhero Day</i></p>
<p>May</p>	<p>3 – PMLAA Meeting, 6:00 potluck & speaker 3-4 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 4 – <i>Star Wars Day – “May the fourth be with you.”</i> 5 – <i>Cinco de Mayo</i> 11 – <i>Mother’s Day</i> 16-18 - <i>Patriots Jet Team @ Oregon Int’l Airshow, Hillsboro, OR</i> 17-18 - <i>Vicky Benzing @ Oregon Int’l Airshow, Hillsboro, OR</i> 22 – <i>Road Trip Day</i> 26 – <i>Memorial Day</i> 31 - <i>Vicky Benzing @ Kirtland Air Fiesta, Albuquerque, NM</i></p>

June	<p>1 - Vicky Benzing @ Kirtland Air Fiesta, Albuquerque, NM</p> <p>7 – PMLAA Meeting, 6:00 potluck & speaker</p> <p>7-8 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</p> <p>7-8 – Vicky Benzing @ Beale Air & Space Expo, Marysville, CA</p> <p>10 – Moon rise to its highest point and sink to its lowest – Lunar Standstill</p> <p><i>12 – National Flip Flop Day</i></p> <p>14 – Columbia Airport (O22) Father’s Day Fly-In</p> <p><i>15 – Father’s Day</i></p> <p><i>20 – Summer Solstice</i></p>
July	<p><i>4 – Independence Day</i></p> <p>5 – Happy Independence Day! <u>NO</u> PMLAA Meeting in July</p> <p>5-6 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</p> <p>12-13 – Vicky Benzing @ Bremerton Airshow, Bremerton, WA</p> <p>13 - Patriots Jet Team @ NASCAR Sonoma Raceway, Sonoma, CA</p> <p><i>17 – National Hot Dog Day</i></p> <p>19 – Vicky Benzing @ Boundary Bay Airshow, Delta, BC Canada</p> <p>21-27 – EAA AirVenture, OSH, WI</p> <p>21-27 – Vicky Benzing @ EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI</p>
August	<p>2 – PMLAA Taxiway Party, Hot August Nights</p> <p>2-3 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</p> <p>9-10 – Vicky Benzing @ Humboldt Airshow, Humboldt, CA</p> <p><i>13 – National Left-Handed Day</i></p> <p>16-17 – Vicky Benzing @ Wings Over Camarillo Airshow, Camarillo, CA</p> <p>22-23 - Patriots Jet Team @ Airshow of the Cascades, Madras, OR</p>
September	<p><i>1 – Labor Day</i></p> <p>6 – PMLAA Meeting, 6:00 potluck & speaker</p> <p>6-7 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</p> <p><i>6 – National Root Beer Float Day</i></p> <p>7-8 - Blood Moon</p> <p>10-14 – National Championship Air Races, Roswell, NM (First Annual!)</p> <p>10-14 – Vicky Benzing racing at the National Championship Air Races, Roswell, NM</p> <p><i>22 – Autumnal Equinox</i></p> <p>20-12 – Vicky Benzing @ Central Coast AirFest, Santa Maria, CA</p>
October	<p>4 – E45 PMLAA Airport Appreciation Day, 11:30-3:00</p> <p>4 – PMLAA Meeting, 6:00 Catered Dinner</p> <p>4-5 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</p> <p>4-5 – Vicky Benzing @ California International Airshow, Salinas, CA</p> <p>11 – Young Eagles Rally @ E45 Pine Mountain Lake Airport 9:00-Noon</p> <p>11 – Vicky Benzing @ Apple Valley Air Show, Apple Valley, CA</p> <p>11-12 - Patriots Jet Team @ Fleet Week, San Francisco, CA</p> <p><i>13 – Columbus Day</i></p> <p>18-19 - Patriots Jet Team @ Amigo Airshow, El Paso, TX</p> <p><i>31 - Halloween</i></p>
November	<p>1 – PMLAA Meeting, 6:00 potluck & speaker</p> <p>1-2 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</p>

	<p>2 – <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends (Clocks fall back)</i></p> <p>11 – <i>Veterans Day</i></p> <p>11 – North Taurids meteor shower peak</p> <p>16 – Leonidas meteor shower peak</p> <p>27 – <i>Thanksgiving Day</i></p>
December	<p>6 – PMLAA Holiday Party, Catered Dinner</p> <p>6-7 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</p> <p>7 – <i>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i></p> <p>14 – <i>Hanukkah begins</i></p> <p>21 – <i>Winter Solstice</i></p> <p>25 – <i>Christmas Day</i></p> <p>31 – <i>New Year's Eve</i></p>

☞ Check Vicky Benzing website for schedule changes and updates
<https://www.vickybenzing.com/schedule.html>

☞ Check Patriots Jet Team website for schedule changes and updates
<https://patriotsjetteam.com/air-shows/>

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**



BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2025			
OFFICERS		COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
President , Bob Mackey	707-622-5392	Property , Ed Peters	962-6267
VP, Airport Affairs , Dan Anema	406-9236	Multimedia , Phil Hickerson	962-6714
VP, Social Affairs , Open		Membership/Rstr , Bob Mackey	707-622-5392
Secretary , Phil Boortz	805-944-0148	Airports Manager , pending	
Treasurer , Ralph McLaughlin	408-520-8209	Display Day Coordinator Dan Anema	406-9236
Email: president@pmlaa.org or board@pmlaa.org		Safety , Mike Gustafson & Joe Sobczak	
Phone prefix is 209 unless otherwise indicated		Newsletter , Julie Anema	614-7606
		Webmaster , Jeremy Zawodny	408-685-5936