



Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

Next meeting September 6

Reyes / Mackey Hangar

20920 Elderberry Way

Potluck – social 6pm dinner at 7pm

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Association, Inc.

President's Message

By Bob Mackey

I hear that Hot August Nights went well. Thanks to all the usual and unusual suspects that put it together. Sorry I missed it!

September 6, Saturday, is our next conventional membership meeting with potluck dinner. We will meet at the Reyes-Mackey hangar at 20920 Elderberry Way. After the potluck dinner, we can expect a brief update from Supervisor Griener on the relations between the Airports and the County Supervisors. For the main event, [Professor Paulo Iscold](#) will be here from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. If you don't know his name, you've certainly seen some of his work being popularized by Red Bull and other aviation promoters. He's designed and improved aerobatics champions, pylon racers, sailplanes, and skydiving stunt planes. I've seen him speak several times, and he always impresses with his care and involvement of students, as well as the difficult aerodynamics problems he approaches with intellectual honesty.

Airport Day planning and preparation is also underway for October 4. Contact Daniel Anema (anemalhouse@comcast.net) to volunteer for all the usual roles. Kurt Howerton will be Air Boss. The latest electric aircraft under my care will probably make an appearance. We need volunteers (free lunch) for aircraft parking and movement, runway crossing, food booth, and assisting guests. We also need more participants for the flour and spot landing competitions. Please invite your friends from around town or other airports. The lunch tent will be serving burgers, hotdogs, and linguica sandwiches.

The evening meeting after Airport Day will be catered at Meerman's hangar. Tickets go on sale at the September general meeting.

The November meeting at Sabrina & Darren Garvis' hangar will have Darren Pleasance, the new president of AOPA as our guest. Double Darrens - what a coincidence. -Bob



The Nixus sailplane, designed by Paulo Iscold, has a 28m wingspan, 53:1 aspect ratio, and a glide ratio around 70 to 1. At the other end of the spectrum, these Cessna 182s, modified for a skydiving stunt, have a glide ratio of zero.



Safety Corner

By Joe Sobczac

Expectation Bias

You would probably agree that your brain is the most important component in your flight bag. In 2021 I penned an article about cognitive bias. There are several manifestations of cognitive bias. In this article, I will focus on Expectation Bias.

If your brain falls prey to cognitive bias, it profoundly affects your ability to safely fly an airplane. As the name implies, this bias is a “feature” of human thinking that causes you to jump to conclusions (which may or may not be correct!) A commonly cited example of how cognitive bias can be a problem is the pilot who landed gear-up even though he “saw” three green lights. How could that be?

Expectation bias is a phenomenon in which people’s expectations about the outcome of an event can influence the results of that event. This can happen when people’s expectations about the outcome affect how they perceive or interpret the information that is presented to them. For example, if you expect to see three green lights, your brain may “see” green lights that are not there at all. To avoid expectation bias, it is important to be aware of our own expectations and to take steps to ensure that our observations are objective and unbiased. This can include using standardized procedures or involving multiple observers to check for consistency. In the Air Force, for example, pilots are required to verbalize a “gear check” to the tower prior to landing, and the tower backs up the pilot to ensure that the landing gear are, in fact extended for landing.

For the most part, cognitive bias is a good thing. Your brain uses this feature as a shortcut to speed up your thinking and save on storage space. When you go out for a walk, for example, experience allows you to walk without having to look down before each step to see where your feet will land, freeing up your brain and eyes to admire the posies. It works great if your expectations are met. In that example, expectation bias works in your favor.



As a pilot, you develop expectations and most of them are helpful. Remember how hard it was to understand pilots and controllers when you first learned to fly? Along the way, you learned to anticipate their words. This expectation helped make it a lot easier to understand what was being said. And yet pilots (even airline pilots) still land at controlled airports without landing clearance because the brain EXPECTS to hear “cleared to land” when there was no such clearance at all!

Such is often the case with gear-up landings. Even though you really did check to confirm that your gear was extended -- you looked for and “saw” three green lights -- the lights were never lit at all. How could that be? Having landed many, many times, your brain got used to seeing three green lights. When you looked for the green lights on that fateful day your brain registered three greens even though they were really as dark as your kitchen during a PG&E power outage.

Just this week a pilot friend of mine inadvertently landed his aircraft with the gear retracted. Here is his summary report to the FAA:

Aircraft Repair called to tell me that N123AB was ready for a test flight after being worked on for a gear retraction issue. After arriving at KXXX the mechanic and I pulled N123AB away from its tie down where I proceeded to do a pre-flight inspection to find nothing disqualifying the aircraft from its flight. After completion of the pre-flight I started the airplane with no issues and verified with the checklist. I taxied to the run-up and went through a CIGAR check followed by a verification with the Checklist. I did a normal take off where the landing gear retracted normally and locked with proper indications. I completed my first pattern with a touch and go and started my second lap with another successful gear retraction. On my second lap I did a full stop taxi back to runway 01. On my third lap, on the upwind, I noticed that the lower Garmin G5 was blank. I tried one time to turn it on, but it was unsuccessful and I decided to deal with it on the ground. I flew a normal traffic pattern with proper airspeed and glide slope. I remember doing a GUMPS check but I believe I had expectation which helped allow the events to take place. During flare I remember hearing the stall warning horn was expecting followed by the sound of the airplane contact with the ground. My first instinct was to perform a go-around but once I realized what took knew it would be more dangerous to do so, so I accepted my fate and the fate of the aircraft and proceeded to slide down runway 01 and stopped approximately 1,500ft down the runway. I announced that there was a geared up airplane on runway, then I shut down and secured the airplane.



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The other “hole in the Swiss cheese” was the pilot’s recollection of the stall warning horn. In reality, this was probably the gear warning horn, but expectation bias caused the pilot to ignore it, assuming it was the “expected” stall warning.

So, what to do? Try a technique called VVM: Verbalize, Verify, Monitor. Don’t just look at the green lights, **POINT** to them and say, **OUT LOUD**, “Gear Down, Three Green.” And generally, be aware that this double-edged sword exists in your noggin. Also, use your checklist. The technique preferred by the airlines is to initiate actions using “flows” – a sequence of actions accomplished by memory and habit -- then confirm the critical actions with a checklist that is read **out loud**. You can even ask you non-pilot passenger to read the checklist items to you, allowing you to respond verbally. More VVM!

Fly Safe!

Joe

TTFN

By Janet Gregory

Farewell. Until we meet again. See you again soon. TTFN or ta-ta for now.

“Do not go gentle into that good night.”** The airport community finds it difficult to say goodbye. I don't know if it's a PML Airport “thing” or something that happens to everyone in time.

In the PML airport community, there is seldom a farewell party when people move. When people die, celebrations of life are small, private gatherings, if at all. Occasionally, a missing man formation lifts our eyes to the sky to commemorate lost lives. We are thankful our flight path has crossed with so many interesting people.

The airport community has dwellers and wanderers. Some see PML Airport as a forever home base; for others, it's a stop en route to other destinations.

The dweller makes it a permanent tie-down. A few dwellers qualify as aviation antiques.

This may be a second home for the wanderers, or they may live here full-time for some years before moving on, like us. Ed and I have owned property at PML for 19 years, making it our full-time home for 15. We are aviation nomads.

Aviation Nomads have a mobile mindset. Our sense of freedom allows us to live in places that suit us. The commitment and dedication of wanderers are equally as strong as those of dwellers. Wanderers make a significant contribution while they are here.

From a sociological perspective, humans are nomadic. Humans move, migrate, and emigrate. Where are your ancestors from? My mother traced our family line back to the Mayflower. Ed is second-generation Polish. Ed and I migrated west from the Washington, DC area. PML Airport is young; very few residents were born here. Most of us have moved or migrated here from somewhere else.

Aviation nomads are wanderers, free to pull out the chocks and move on. The aviation nomad can't say goodbye; it is by our very nature, “until we meet again.”

Are you a dweller or a wanderer? Maybe your mind doesn't want to know the answer or doesn't care. You are here. Please make the most of it.

What do you bring to the party with the years you have tread upon this earth or flown above it? What is behind you that makes you who you are? What's ahead? Not the TO-DO list of the day. Not the goal for the year. Think about the grand arc of your life.

Some people are architects and want the blueprint. Others are gardeners who enjoy planting the seed to see how it grows. We are a bit of both. Ed and I talk about these questions, usually over a glass of wine. If you are enjoying the party, it's not time to leave. Maybe you are the life of the party, with everyone admiring your enthusiasm. Perhaps you are quietly soaking it all in. Either way, enjoy it. Dweller or wanderer. Architect or gardener. Who cares? You are here. Enjoy it.

Aircraft Taxation Good, bad, and ugly

By Janet Gregory

Changes are underway for aircraft taxation in Tuolumne County. The good news is that aircraft tax dollars will now be applied to the airport enterprise fund, not the general fund. Your aircraft tax dollars will now support our airport. Hooray! Thank you to the Board of Supervisors for supporting this change.

As you know, aircraft are subject to local property tax and are appraised annually. The interpretation of "appraised annually" is changing to reflect the current market value or today's Blue Book value. This has the potential to dramatically raise the tax assessment for your aircraft. Some aircraft owners at Columbia Airport (O22) have seen up to a 40% increase in their aircraft tax bill! Yikes!

Some older aircraft may be eligible for a historic aircraft exemption, but the interpretation of this exemption in Tuolumne County is also changing. Your aircraft may fit the exemption by age and 12+ sign-offs but may be disallowed! What? The new interpretation is that flights must start/end at the home airport, except for sign-off or maintenance flights; otherwise, the aircraft is construed as being used for general transportation. Yikes!

Voice your opinion. Speak up. Contact Stephanie Carlson, Assessment Services Program Supervisor, 209-533-5657, SCarlson@co.tuolumne.ca.us, in the Tuolumne County Assessor's Office.

A group at Columbia Airport (O22) is raising its voice. For more information, contact Mark Banks at 209-743-2001 or mvbanks@gmail.com.

Tenaya Thanks PMLAA Members

The staff of Tenaya Elementary School thanks PMLAA members who donated cash or school supplies to the annual "Stuff the Bus" campaign. The project collects contributions to ensure that every student has all the necessary supplies and is "ready to learn."



COMMUNITY AIRPORT DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

-Julie Anema

PML Community Airport Day will be on Saturday, October 4th, from noon until 3:00 pm. The event is a terrific opportunity to gain community support and appreciation for our airport.

This will be a special event for our neighbors. There is a great line up including flying demonstrations, high speed and low speed demos and formation flying. Spot landings and flour drop contests will test the skills of the contestants. The RC's will be up in the air again this year. We expect a nice turnout for the car and airplanes on display. The food for sale at the refreshment stand is pretty darn good.

This is when all members of PMLAA can get involved. Volunteers play a crucial role in creating a welcoming, safe environment, and your participation makes a difference.

To help with set-up, safety, traffic control, airplane movements, and car/airplane displays contact Mike Gustafson at MLGpilot@yahoo.com or 962-6336.

Day of event set-up starts at 9:00 am, October 4th.

Spot landing and floor drop contests contact Phil Boortz at philboortz@gmail.com or 805-944-0148

Refreshment stand contact is Phil Boortz and Sally Smikahi. Sally's contact is skisno@sbcglobal.net or 650-377-0186.

The set-up for the dinner will be on Friday, October 3rd at 3:00 pm. At Kay Meerman's hanger.

It takes everyone to make this event happen. Volunteers are critical for success.

Please invite your PML friends and neighbors and let them see what a great asset our airport is to the whole community!

**Note that this is not a fly-in event.

COMMUNITY AIRPORT DAY

OCTOBER 4, 2025

FREE ADMISSION!

PML AIRPORT
NOON – 3:00 PM



**FORMATION FLIGHTS • RC PLANES • HELICOPTERS
FLYING SKILLS CONTESTS • SPECIAL AERO SURPRISES!
AIRPLANE/CAR DEMONSTRATIONS
AIRPLANES & CARS DISPLAY • REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

Bring a chair and enjoy the entertainment!

PML Airport – Our Community Resource!

Organized by Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

For more information, call (209) 406-9236

Wine In the Pines Cancer Golf Tournament October 7

Cancer is increasingly affecting more people in some way. Whether we ourselves have battled cancer, or we have a family or friend who has. Either way it has touched most of us.

The Diane J. White Cancer Institute is a state-of-the-art center in Sonora that provides personalized, whole-person care in the comfort of our hometown environment. They provide resources and clinical expertise of a leading health system to all their patients, which is an extraordinary asset for our rural community. Their approach combines sophisticated technology with a warm, caring touch.

Navigating a cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming and frankly, quite scary. It can also threaten a patient's financial security. This is why the Diana J. White Cancer Patient Support Fund is so important in this community. As the number of patients grows – and the rising cost of housing, groceries and other essentials continues to rise – this critical fund needs more support than ever. Funded exclusively by donors, it is a vital resource to help remove financial barriers patients may be experiencing so they can focus on healing.

The Pine Mountain Lake Lady 9ers Golf Club, a caring group of lady golfers committed to helping those in need, is hosting its annual "Wine in the Pines Cancer Golf Tournament" fundraiser October 7 at the Pine Mountain Lake Golf Course. All proceeds benefit the Cancer Patient Support Fund.

Cancer touches almost every one of us, so please support our efforts in any way you can.

Tournament starts at 9:00am on Tuesday, October 7 with lunch, prizes and MORE afterwards. For more information on sponsorships, donations or participation call or email Claudia Day, (209) 770-2881, cday77@outlook.com.

Ladies & Gentlemen ~ PML Lady Niners would like to invite you to:



Wine in the Pines



Cancer Golf Tournament

Tournament Proceeds benefit the Patient Support Fund at the Diana J. White Cancer Institute, Sonora, California

Tuesday October 7th, 2025

Entry Fee \$80

Registration Fee Includes:

9 Holes of Golf, Course Fun,
Cart Fee, Lunch, Goodies &
Libations

Registration

Putting Contest
7:00am - 8:30am
ShotGun: 9:00am

Lunch, Prizes, Auction & 50/50 Raffle Immediately Following Golf at
The Grill

SIGN UP DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2025



PayPal / Venmo
SCAN TO PAY FOR GOLF, SPONSORSHIPS
& DONATIONS

OR

Send Sign Up Sheets / Checks
Payable to: "PML 9ers"

Mail to:
Claudia Day
13130 Clements Road
Groveland, CA 95321

Ladies & Gentlemen, PML "Lady 9ers" would like to invite you to

Wine in the Pines Cancer Golf Tournament Tuesday October 7th, 2025



Player Registration: Team: \$320 / Individual: \$80

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____ GHIN: _____

Lady 9ers Cancer Golf Tournament



Deadline to Register: September 30th, 2025

Please make Checks Payable to: PML Lady 9ers
Mail to: Claudia Day
13130 Clements Road / Groveland Ca 95321



2025 AVIATION (AND OTHER INFO) CALENDAR

Submitted by Janet Gregory

January	<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>
February	<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>
March	<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>
April	<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>
May	<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 - <i>Vicky Benzing @ Kirtland Air Fiesta, Albuquerque, NM</i> 7 – PMLAA Meeting, 6:00 potluck & speaker 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 10 – Moon rise to its highest point and sink to its lowest – Lunar Standstill 12 – <i>National Flip Flop Day</i> 14 – Columbia Airport (O22) Father’s Day Fly-In 15 – <i>Father’s Day</i> 20 – <i>Summer Solstice</i></p>
July	<p>4 – <i>Independence Day</i> 5 – Happy Independence Day! NO PMLAA Meeting in July 5-6 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 12-13 – Vicky Benzing @ Bremerton Airshow, Bremerton, WA 13 - Patriots Jet Team @ NASCAR Sonoma Raceway, Sonoma, CA 17 – <i>National Hot Dog Day</i> 19 – Vicky Benzing @ Boundary Bay Airshow, Delta, BC Canada 21-27 – EAA AirVenture, OSH, WI 21-27 – Vicky Benzing @ EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI</p>
August	<p>2 – PMLAA Taxiway Party, Hot August Nights 2-3 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 9-10 – Vicky Benzing @ Humboldt Airshow, Humboldt, CA 13 – <i>National Left-Handed Day</i> 16-17 – Vicky Benzing @ Wings Over Camarillo Airshow, Camarillo, CA 22-23 - Patriots Jet Team @ Airshow of the Cascades, Madras, OR</p>
September	<p>1 – <i>Labor Day</i> 6 – PMLAA Meeting, 6:00 potluck & speaker 6-7 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 6 – <i>National Root Beer Float Day</i> 7-8 - Blood Moon 10-14 – National Championship Air Races, Roswell, NM (First Annual!) 10-14 – Vicky Benzing racing at the National Championship Air Races, Roswell, NM 22 – <i>Autumnal Equinox</i> 20-12 – Vicky Benzing @ Central Coast AirFest, Santa Maria, CA</p>
October	<p>4 – E45 PMLAA Airport Appreciation Day, 11:30-3:00 4 – PMLAA Meeting, 6:00 Catered Dinner 4-5 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 4-5 – Vicky Benzing @ California International Airshow, Salinas, CA 11 – Young Eagles Rally @ E45 Pine Mountain Lake Airport 9:00-Noon 11 – Vicky Benzing @ Apple Valley Air Show, Apple Valley, CA 11-12 - Patriots Jet Team @ Fleet Week, San Francisco, CA 13 – <i>Columbus Day</i> 18-19 - Patriots Jet Team @ Amigo Airshow, El Paso, TX 31 - <i>Halloween</i></p>
November	<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>Daylight Savings Time Ends (Clocks fall back)</i> 11 – <i>Veterans Day</i> 11 – North Taurids meteor shower peak 16 – Leonidas meteor shower peak 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><i>7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i></p> <p><i>14 – Hanukkah begins</i></p> <p><i>21 – Winter Solstice</i></p> <p><i>25 – Christmas Day</i></p> <p><i>31 – 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/>

Airport Manager

Coffee &



Conversation



**First Thursday
of the month**

10:00 am—11:00 am

**Yosemite Flights
Pine Mountain Lake
Airport**

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