



Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

Next meeting Saturday November 1st

*The Garvis hangar
20940 Elderberry Way*

POTLUCK DINNER – social 6pm dinner 7pm

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President's Message

By Bob Mackey

Our two most recent events went well. Airport Community Day was a grand success. And by success, I mean that I was free to fly over and over while the real work was done by a great team of volunteers led by Daniel Anema. The dinner was catered by Tangled Hearts in Kay Meerman's hangar.

The November 1 meeting will be potluck at Sabrina & Darren Garvis' hangar, 20940 Elderberry Way. That's second hangar west of the fuel island. We will have Darren Pleasance, the new president of AOPA as our guest. I expect we will hear the latest in AOPA's advocacy efforts, including the new MOSAIC regulations that are going into effect this month. Also at the November meeting, we will be electing the PMLAA Board for 2026. Please advise me of your nominations.



The December Holiday Meeting will be at Krystall and Jason Johanson's hangar, 20810 Elderberry Way. The musical guests will be Blue Oak, featuring our very own Christian de Ryss.



Safety Corner

By Joe Sobczak

This month, you get to pick the title of the PMLAA safety article. It is a multiple-choice exercise. Read the article then take your pick from these 12 options:

1. Distractions!
2. Take Your Time, You'll Get There Sooner
3. Cognitive Bias
4. Bad Habits Die Hard
5. Complacency: "It's just a short hop to PML"
6. Buffoonery 101
7. The Through-Flight Inspection
8. Fuel Flow 900 Gallons per Hour?!?!
9. I Learned About Flying from That
10. No Good Deed Goes Unpunished
11. I'd Rather be Lucky than Good Any Day
12. What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

There I Was...

This month's safety article pretty much wrote itself. I had dropped into Columbia for a scrumptious Mandy's breakfast and was getting ready for the long cross-country flight back to E45. Noting that I could save \$0.07 per gallon if I topped off before leaving, I preflighted the T-34 and, like any self-respecting (cheap) pilot would, taxied over to the self-service island. It was a nice day, and I was taking my time, just enjoying being at the airport.

Nothing unusual there – loaded up with 100LL and began to rewind the hose. I noticed a Bonanza taxiing my way (Risk#1: Distraction). I jumped in the plane to taxi out before the “Nanner” got to the pump so he would not have to wait (Risk #2: Rushing). Unbeknownst to me (Risk #3: Cognitive Bias) while I had replaced the four fuel filler caps, I did not lock them down – a habit (Risk #4: Bad Habits Die Hard) I had gotten into. As I normally did, I had planned to secure them all after putting away the hose. As I taxied, I realized that I had not sumped the tanks, something I always do after refueling. But since I had gassed up right after another plane, I calculated that the chance of getting contaminated fuel was miniscule and my on-the-fly risk assessment determined that it was safer to continue than to shut down in the runup area and start over (Risk #5: Complacency). What I failed to do is stop to consider what else I forgot to do (Risk #3a: Continuation Bias).

After that, everything seemed normal until just after liftoff when I caught, out of the corner of my eye, a white vapor streaming from the top of my left wing. For a nanosecond I thought I had inadvertently switched on the airshow smoke. But the airshow smoke exits **below** the wing and since the wing was still attached (whew!) I had to abandon that theory. In the second nanosecond after noting the fuel leak I suddenly realized exactly what had happened.

There was no traffic behind me, so I made the “impossible turn” (which was not impossible since the engine was still running), landed, and logged the 2-minute nonstop flight from O22 to O22. I felt pretty stupid (Risk #6: Gross buffoonery) as I taxied back to the fuel island under the dumbfounded gaze of the airport manager, FBO staff, and other amused pilots. I bought another 30 gallons of fuel, which resulted in a calculated fuel consumption of 900 gallons per hour! No worries, at 900 GPH I had a good 4 minutes of flight time remaining (IF I could have gotten the aux tanks to feed fast enough!)

I'd rather be lucky than good any day! Several decades ago, a former colleague of mine, an SR-71 pilot among other things (he was no slacker), did exactly the same thing. EXCEPT, it was night, and he did not see the loose fuel caps. His flight ended with a dead stick landing in the dark Mojave Desert. I was fortunate that I saw the problem and was able to land right away. The only damage was to my pride and my wallet!

Now I am the incident investigator. At the very least, I should be able to learn something from this incident so it doesn't happen again (and, I hope, you will take note, so it doesn't happen to you in the first place). There is not a lot you can do about cognitive bias – that's why it can be so dangerous. BUT you can change the process and procedure to minimize its impact. I will be making two changes that should help prevent these, or related, incidents from happening in the future.

First, I will always do a “through flight” inspection just before getting back into the airplane. I had just completed the “pre-flight” but stopped for fuel and did not repeat the inspection. Second, I am changing my habit pattern and will always secure the fuel filler caps as soon as I remove the nozzle. This is similar to a habit I have adopted (and written about in previous articles) to NEVER walk away from the aircraft with a towbar attached. By leaving the caps loose after filling each tank I had been setting myself up for this incident for a long time. Always ask yourself, “What could possibly go wrong?” and change your habit pattern to eliminate the hazard you are creating. Finally, debrief yourself after every flight. Did you notice something that COULD have become a hazard? Do you have any habits that are setting yourself up for an incident or accident? In the airline environment, a debrief is mandatory after every flight, just for that reason.

So, if you see me at the fuel island on your way to the pump – sorry in advance – you may need to wait a few minutes while I take my time and finish the through-flight inspection.

Did you decide on a title for today's article? Any of them would be appropriate. And I have one more exercise for you in the form of another multiple-choice question. Which of the following photos indicate what you should see as soon as you finish fueling the tank AND when you complete your through-flight walkaround? (Answers in next month's safety article).

A



B



C



Fly Safe! ~Joe

FLOUR DROP TROPHIES 1ST BOB MACKEY, 2ND LARRY ROESSLER, 3RD PAUL GIBSON



SPOT LANDING TROPHIES 1ST JONAS JOHANSON, 2ND BOB MACKEY, 3RD LARRY ROESSLER



A SINCERE THANK YOU ALL FOR A PERFECT COMMUNITY AIRPORT DAY!





PHOTOS BY JOE SOBCZAK



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 <i>20 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day & Presidential Inauguration</i> <i>29 – 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 <i>2 – Groundhog Day</i> <i>9 – Superbowl Sunday</i> <i>13-14 – Blood Moon</i> <i>14 – Valentine’s Day</i> <i>17 – President’s Day</i> <i>28 – 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 <i>8 – Patriots Jet Team @ Ferrari Challenge, Sonoma Raceway, CA</i> <i>8 – Mercury will be at its farthest point from the Sun</i> <i>9 – Daylight Savings Time Begins (Clock springs forward)</i> <i>15 - Patriots Jet Team @ MCAS Yuma Airshow, Yuma, AZ</i> <i>17 – St. Patrick’s Day</i> <i>20 – Vernal Equinox</i> <i>22 – Vicky Benzing @ Thunder & Lightning Over Arizona, Tucson, AZ</i></p>
<p>April</p>	<p><i>2 – 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 <i>5-6 – Vicky Benzing @ Aviation Nation Airshow, Las Vegas, NV</i> 12 – Young Eagles at O22, Columbia Airport, 9:00-Noon <i>12-13 – Vicky Benzing @ Southern California Airshow, Moreno Valley, CA</i> <i>12 – Passover begins</i> <i>20 – Easter Sunday</i> <i>22 – Earth Day</i> <i>28 – 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 <i>4 – Star Wars Day – “May the fourth be with you.”</i> <i>5 – Cinco de Mayo</i> <i>11 – Mother’s Day</i> <i>16-18 - Patriots Jet Team @ Oregon Int’l Airshow, Hillsboro, OR</i> <i>17-18 - Vicky Benzing @ Oregon Int’l Airshow, Hillsboro, OR</i> <i>22 – Road Trip Day</i> <i>26 – Memorial Day</i> <i>31 - Vicky Benzing @ Kirtland Air Fiesta, Albuquerque, NM</i></p>
<p>June</p>	<p><i>1 - 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 <i>7-8 – Vicky Benzing @ Beale Air & Space Expo, Marysville, CA</i> <i>10 – Moon rise to its highest point and sink to its lowest – Lunar Standstill</i></p>

	<p>12 – National Flip Flop Day</p> <p>14 – Columbia Airport (O22) Father’s Day Fly-In</p> <p>15 – Father’s Day</p> <p>20 – Summer Solstice</p>
July	<p>4 – Independence Day</p> <p>5 – Happy Independence Day! NO 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>17 – National Hot Dog Day</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>13 – National Left-Handed Day</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>1 – Labor Day</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>6 – National Root Beer Float Day</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>22 – Autumnal Equinox</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>13 – Columbus Day</p> <p>18-19 - Patriots Jet Team @ Amigo Airshow, El Paso, TX</p> <p>31 - Halloween</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 – Daylight Savings Time Ends (Clocks fall back)</p> <p>11 – Veterans Day</p> <p>11 – North Taurids meteor shower peak</p> <p>16 – Leonidas meteor shower peak</p> <p>27 – Thanksgiving Day</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 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</p> <p>14 – Hanukkah begins</p> <p>21 – Winter Solstice</p>

25 – Christmas Day
31 – New Year's Eve

☑ 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**

BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2025

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