



Volume 20, Issue 1, January 2005  
A Monthly Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

## DR. KEN ORLOFF

### *Aviation Accidents Potpourri*



#### About our January 8, 2005 Guest Speaker

**K**en Orloff has lived in Pine Mountain Lake since 1979. He has a Master's degree in Physics and a Ph.D. degree in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering. From 1971 to 1984, Ken worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the Ames Research Center where he was involved in airplane and helicopter aerodynamics research. Under NASA sponsorship, he has taught physics, engineering, aerodynamics and other courses at the university level. He is a licensed Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic and he holds FAA Inspection Authorization. Ken has an Airline Transport Pilot Certificate and has accumulated more than 7000 hours of flight time. He is a Certified Flight Instructor for Airplanes, Instruments, and Helicopters.

Ken began his work in the field of aviation consulting and aircraft accident reconstruction in 1983. Since that time, he has investigated, analyzed, and reconstructed hundreds of airplane and helicopter accidents. Typically, areas in which he has been asked to render expert opinions are midair collisions, wake turbulence accidents, aircraft piloting issues, and flight path analysis involving the use of flight data recorder information, cockpit voice recordings and recorded radar data.

As an aviation accident detective and reconstruction expert, Ken has enthralled audiences in the past with his

impressive multimedia presentations. In each of his previous talks to PMLAA, he focused on one accident investigation. At our January 8, 2005 meeting, Ken will present a potpourri of some interesting, even humorous, cases, from solving a helicopter crash in South America with almost no clues to an interesting jet-blast incident he calls the "Flying Nun" case. He will tell us about hiking through a grizzly-bear wilderness in Idaho to locate the remains of an airplane, and he will share with us how he went about investigating "The Accident That Wasn't." Finally, Ken will delve a bit into accidents involving amateur-built experimental aircraft. He will tell us about a fatal crash involving a Lancair IVP near Flagstaff, Arizona – a crash that never should have happened, and, a crash that never should have been fatal. As many of you know, Ken spent 10 years building a Lancair IVP that has now been flying for two years (photo above), so the crash investigation was of special interest to him.

The Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association members eagerly anticipate the return of Dr. Orloff on January 8, 2005, 6:00 p.m., at the Buchner Hangar, 20885 Hemlock Street at Woodside Way, northeast of runway 9 at the Pine Mountain Lake Airport.

✈ Keith Zenobia

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope each of you had a great holiday and are thinking of new and exciting aviation things to do in the New Year. Your new PMLAA board is planning great new activities for our club meetings and educational seminars.

One area that I would like to see us all concentrate more on in 2005 is encouraging people of all ages to consider getting involved in aviation. Every week or so I find myself in a conversation with a non-aviation person who wistfully wishes they had the time, money, etc. to get into aviation. I, of course, instantly jump on the topic and try to help them see a way to make their dream a reality. My intensity sometimes scares off people, but others seem to catch the fever. While becoming a pilot and aircraft owner are the most obvious goals, joining local and national clubs, going to airshows, even bumming an airplane ride to lunch also meets the goal of bring new blood into our cherished avocation.

As a pilot, you can look around among your friends and see if there is someone you can infect with your enthusiasm for aviation. I especially hope you will look for young folks who might be interested in a career in aviation. Often a simple lunchtime conversation can plant a seed in a young mind that results in a new aviation career. Remember, aviation is not just being a pilot; great careers can be found in airport management, flight dispatch, meteorology, flight planning, avionics, and aircraft maintenance and repair.

We are very lucky that so many of our members give much of their time to fostering ideas in young people; they walk the talk. Paul Price teaches an Airframe and Power Plant class at Tioga High School and Rand Siegfried and George Abbott are team advisors for the Wild Blue Wonders at Tenaya. As a club we will be looking for ways to help these and others groups with our time and support.

Over the last few years our club has grown and evolved into a very sophisticated operation, requiring lots of effort from volunteers. I would like to thank all of the club officers and committee chairs in advance for the upcoming year's activities. We all thank Conni Buchner for managing our social activities, Keith Zenobia for continuing to find such high quality guest speakers and Silvano Gai for publishing the newsletter. Our club is always on the lookout for more help so if you want to get more involved, please consider volunteering your time, it will help and you will have a good time, honest!

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the departing officers, especially our outgoing and out-performing president Jerry Baker, and chairpersons for all their hard work; they made it look easy and once again raised the bar for us all.

See you January 8<sup>th</sup> for our first meeting of 2005, with our own Dr. Ken Orloff. Please note the 2005 dues renewal form enclosed in this newsletter.

*Mike Gustafson*

## SOCIAL NOTES

**H**appy New Year everyone! By the time you read this, we will have concluded another PMLAA year of meetings and events.

In addition, we will have contributed to the community this year through activities in the schools and the "It's a Wrap" party, which provided a fun-filled evening for our members as well as holiday gifts to over one hundred needy children in our area. Thanks to all for your generous contributions. A special thank you to Phil Hickerson for the music and to those who helped set up and tear down the event. It really helps.

Our next meeting is January 8, 2005 (can you believe it!), and our speaker is our own Dr. Ken Orloff. Ken runs a fascinating business from PML Airport – aircraft accident investigation. Ken and his team of experts have worked on investigating the causes of many aircraft accidents, and we can all learn something from him. He takes really technical information and conveys it in an interesting manner.

**The January meeting is a soup and salad potluck: please bring soup, salad or dessert.**

Please note that we ran out of food again at the November meeting. I really try to stress to everyone to please bring enough food for 6 people; if you bring guests please be sure to bring enough food for another six people for them. I would also appreciate if everyone would use the paper plates that are provided by the association, and not use your own large trays. I believe that it will help avoid the problem of some people bringing large plates and only bringing a small amount of food. Of course, most people bring and eat their fair share, but we want to make sure the evening and the dinner is fun for everyone!

Looking ahead, we are planning a Valentine's dance for the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with live music by Homegrown. Mark your calendar now and invite friends!

**The menu for the Valentine party will be "dance party food;" please bring hors d'oeuvres or Valentine desserts.**

Look forward to seeing you all soon,

*Conni Buchner*





## Meet Our PMLAA Board Members

- by Catherine Santa Maria

*First, a big THANK YOU to our returning board members for 2005:*

*Rand Siegfried – VP, Airport Affairs*

*Conni Buchner – VP, Social Affairs*

*Barbara Coldren – Treasurer*

*... and a little note about our new President:*

**Mike Gustafson, President**

[mlgpilot@yahoo.com](mailto:mlgpilot@yahoo.com)

962-6336

Mike has served as PMLAA's safety editor for the last three years. In 2004, he was also our VP of Airport Affairs. Mike is very happily retired from managing hardware engineering departments in Silicon Valley companies.

Mike has been an aviation aficionado since childhood; his ratings include CFII, multi-I, and ATP; he is also an A&P. In addition to providing private aviation instruction, BFRs and annuals at PML, Mike has also taught aviation classes at Foothill College.

His current favorite aviation activity (besides the Aviation association, of course) is building his RV-7 kit airplane. He also flies a Cherokee 180.

Mike is a founding member of Friends of the Lake and currently serves on the PML Association Budget and Finance Committee.

***And now let's meet the new members of the Board and new committee chairs for 2005:***

**Kristin Cox, Secretary**

962-7610

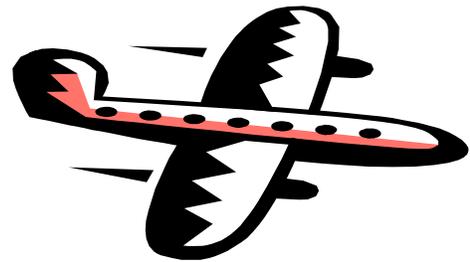
Kristin moved from Hawaii to PML in 1997. She moved into her parent's hangar house, met the next door neighbor and married him. She later moved to Idaho but didn't like it there because she missed all of her friends and family here in PML. She moved back and recently bought a house on Hemlock.

Kristin is an OR nurse for a plastic surgeon in Modesto. She says they do tons of boobs and tummies! She says that Modesto is the most "well-endowed" city in the nation. In addition, Kristin works three days a week at the Avalon Skilled Nursing Facility in Sonora. Kristin is continuing her studies to become a RN. She is also a Certified Fitness instructor.

Kristin has a single engine pilot's license, which she achieved in the year 2000. She recalls her first landing on a grass strip and remembers notating in the log book that she accomplished her first grass strip landing and that she could still use the airplane!

Kristin doesn't currently have an airplane because she just moved into her new home on Hemlock and has been spending all of her money on the place. However, she is looking to buy into a 1/4 interest in a Cherokee; if anyone is interested give her a call.

Kristin loves to snow ski, work on her home and garden and help other people. She is a charter member of Soroptimist International of Groveland, she also likes to work with the Humane Society and the Sierra Aids Council.



**Diane Harrison, Roster**

[dlharrison23@hotmail.com](mailto:dlharrison23@hotmail.com)

962-1955

Diane will be responsible for keeping our membership list and mailing list current. If you have any phone, address or email updates, send them to her.

Aviation Club Members Larry and Nina Jobe introduced Diane and George to PML. Diane and George's dream was to have a taxiway home, and after looking at other locations decided to settle here in PML (and we are so glad they did).

They have lived in PML for about 18 months and are currently building their dream home on Hemlock. Diane worked for Hewlett-Packard for 25 years as an IT Project Mgr. She did training and data warehousing. Diane says she retired either 2 or 3 years ago but really can't remember exactly because she is RETIRED! Diane has 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Diane is a member of Soroptimist International of Groveland, Treasurer of the Ladies Club, and is a member of the High Rollers Bunco Group. In addition, she is a very good Pinochle player.

Diane and George cannot wait for their home to be completed so they can move in. They have been grounded for too long and look forward to getting back in the air.

George has been a pilot since he was 16 years old, before his recent retirement he was a pilot at United Airlines, with Larry Jobe.

**Paul Sperry, Property Manager**

[sperryjp@msn.com](mailto:sperryjp@msn.com)

962-4178

Paul is our new chairman of the Property Committee which is responsible for setting up and tearing down all our meetings. It's a big job and he will need lots of volunteers to help. With 8-10 people, it only takes an hour or so, and it's actually fun. Please call Paul to get on the list.

Paul and Jane retired to PML about three years ago, after visiting her cousin Dave Armstrong here. They have become super-active members of the community. Jane volunteers at the museum and library, and Paul is active in STCHS, the computer club, and hiking.

Paul retired from driving big trucks around the Western US. He was also an auto mechanic. During his service in the Air Force he was stationed at Travis and worked on jet engines.

**Linda Monahan, Safety Editor**

[lindajmonahan@hotmail.com](mailto:lindajmonahan@hotmail.com)

962-5181

Linda is taking over as our new newsletter safety editor. You'll see her first article in this issue.

Linda's first visit to PML was with friends eight years ago. She was living in Montana at the time. The nearest city, Ennis, was 14 miles away and was very close to Yellowstone National Park. She liked PML so much that she immediately moved, and has been here ever since.

Linda started flying lessons in September, 1992. She got her private pilot license 7 weeks later. She learned to fly in the Montana Rockies and her favorite type of flying is taking her Maule and her honey into the Idaho and Montana back country to camp and fish. She also enjoys nice LONG cross county flights in gliders.

She has 4600 hours flying time of which about 3500 hours is from teaching. Linda is currently a part-time flight instructor for West Valley Flying Club flying out of Palo Alto and San Carlos. Linda has several aviation ratings including: CFI, CFII, MEI, CFGI, AGI, IGI and Master CFGI. She owns two Maule aircrafts, 1/2 of a Cessna 172 that she uses for training, and one glider.

In addition to camping and fishing, Linda enjoys making neon signs in her hangar and likes to prospect for gold.

She loves PML and considers members of the aviation association her adoptive family.

**Catherine Santa Maria, New Member Profile Editor**

[casasantamaria@yahoo.com](mailto:casasantamaria@yahoo.com)

962-7904

Catherine will be introducing new members of PMLAA with stories in upcoming issues. She and husband Larry discovered PML while searching for a second home around 10 years ago. They were actually looking for property in the Lake Tullock area when a salesman recommended before they check out PML, as the climate was milder and the scenery beautiful. So

up the hill they came and they are now living full-time in their second piece of property in PML.

Catherine recently retired (again) from Pacific State Bank in Groveland where she was the VP & Branch Manager. Catherine started her banking career in 1964. Catherine and Larry are both retired now from the banking field. They have a combined family of 7 children and 8 grandchildren. One daughter, Wynette, and 2 grandsons, Billy and Jonathon, live in Groveland.

Catherine is a member of the PML Ladies Club and Garden Club, President of the Pine Needlers Quilt Guild, Member of the Board of Directors of The Gathering Place, Civic Board Member of the Sonora Regional Medical Center, Past President and Charter Member of Soroptimist International of Groveland, member of the Friends of the Lake, member of the High Rollers Bunco group and, like Diane Harrison, is becoming a good Pinochle player.

**Silvano Gai, Publisher**

[silvano@pmlaa.org](mailto:silvano@pmlaa.org)

962-6378

We are delighted that Silvano Gai is taking over the job of formatting, publishing and mailing our monthly newsletter. He has already done a great job managing our website; check out [www.pmlaa.org](http://www.pmlaa.org).

Silvano and his wife Tony read about PML on the "Pilot Getaways" magazine and, on Dec. 31st, 2000, decided to check the place on a day trip from San Jose. They were immediately captivated by the beauty of the area and, on January 7th, they bought their vacation home and, soon after, their first Saratoga to commute faster from the Bay Area.

Four years after they are still so in love with PML that they recently purchased an airport lot and will soon start build their retirement home (with a hangar for the flying toys). They hope to break ground in the coming spring.

Silvano is a CFII/MEI, but his job doesn't allow him much time for teaching, one of the many reasons why he hopes to retire soon.



## SAFETY CORNER

### A Thorough Preflight??

-- Linda Monahan, CFII

As a full time flight instructor for 4600+ hours, safety and enjoyment of flight are at the very top of my list when it comes of this marvelous thing we get to do -- flying. As I tell my students, "Flying is good, serious fun!!! Let's go play..."

In this, my first article, I want to discuss an aspect of the ever present (possibly boring/complacent) part of our preflight or perhaps more correctly, what *should be* part of our preflight. We all know what to peek at, where to poke and prod and what to look for in our various airplanes. We know them like the backs of our hands, our friends, as we look for the obvious and not so obvious issues.

The preflight I'm thinking of is the one that should be going on between our ears, before we take the active runway for departure. It's the emergency brief of the take off roll, lift off and immediately thereafter. What is our situation awareness of our runway environment this day? What is the wind direction? What about density altitude and obstructions, aircraft loading, climb out performance, and safe off-airport landing fields that we can safely get to if the rubber band breaks?

We react in an emergency just the way we have programmed our minds to react. How many drills have we done lately? What would work one day may not be the best option the next. What altitude do I need to safely turn around and get back to the runway? And remember it's more than a 180 degree turn. If you turn your tail to the wind the downwind turn will carry you too far away from the field. The radius of our turn is much greater, and things start going by the wind screen a whole lot faster than we'd like. In an effort to make things look "normal" we subconsciously start pulling up on the nose and get our airspeed too slow. An off-airport landing in some of our nice cow pastures off both ends of our airport is always a much better option than a stall-spin trying to get our pet back on the runway. Remember load factor goes up the more we bank, therefore the stall speed increases.

I always tell my students, "If the engine quits, call Allstate to come and get THEIR airplane..." Our job if, God forbid, the engine ever quits (highly unlikely with today's wonderful engines, but still a possibility) is to sacrifice the airframe to get home to our loved ones safely.

So always have an "out." Have a plan in case of an emergency. Do your brief before EVERY take-off at all of the different runways of departure, not just PML. It only takes a few seconds and nobody needs to know about it but you.

In memory of Ruben Zelwig, our friend, May 2004, Airsailing Gliderport, Reno, NV. Larry and I were the first to the scene.

Happy New Year, friends.

## DIRECT FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Deer Update

-- Jim Thomas

We are once again in that season when our deer population increases significantly. In addition to our full time resident herd we now have a migratory herd that comes down from the high country to escape the snow. Pine Mountain Lake Airport is located at an elevation just below the snowline which is very attractive to the deer due to the plentiful winter browse.

Every pilot is concerned about deer on the runway, and addressing this problem is a high priority in the Airports Department. I'd like to review the actions taken this year to reduce the number of deer on the runway. Keep in mind that the goal is to reduce the number of deer on the runway by 90%, not eliminate them altogether.

So far we have taken the following deer control actions.

1. Worked with Wildlife Services to establish acceptable deer control alternatives.
2. Held a public workshop at the Community Hall that presented deer control alternatives and informed residents how they can help alleviate the problem.
3. Removed the browse on the airport property. This has been accomplished through volunteer work days, direct airport staff labor efforts, and the use of the CDF Baseline crews.
4. Used chemical mowing to stunt the growth of the grass growing between the runway and the taxiways. This applies a weak mixture of Roundup that slows the growth of the grass, but leaves the root system in place to prevent erosion.
5. Encouraged residents living on the airport to fence between their buildings and adjacent neighbors' buildings to create a deer barrier.
6. Put the word out that feeding the deer is against the law and endangers not only the animals but pilots and drivers also.
7. Allowed residents and pilots to chase the deer off of the airport property.
8. Started installation of 1000' electric fence along both sides of the west end of the runway to test the effectiveness of an electric fence.

As you can see, the Airports Department has been working hard to reduce the number of deer on the airport. Current feedback suggests that the number is down from last year. However, a fully effective deer control program must also include a concerted effort on the part of the airport community.

The two things that airport residents can do to help control the deer are to reduce the amount of accessible deer feed on their property and to fence between their buildings to create a barrier that prevents the deer from accessing the airport. Through a cooperative effort between the Airports Department and the residents using several control methods, I believe we can achieve a reduction of deer on the runway by 90%.

# Dues are Due by December 31<sup>st</sup>



- Annual membership dues are \$20.00 per household, payable Jan 2nd each year.
- PMLAA Name badges are \$8.00 each.
- Dues and badge prices are subject to change
- Please make check payable to and remit to PMLAA, P.O. Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321
- 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 (except July), usually at Buchners' hangar, at 6:00pm. Please refer to the latest edition of The PMLAA News for more details.
- The PMLAA News is mailed monthly and is available online at [www.pmlaa.org](http://www.pmlaa.org)
- The membership roster (with information from this form) is distributed with the PMLAA News each April.
- Renewing members: Please only record information changes on this form. If no changes, check here
- If you do not want your information included on our roster, please check this box

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  New member  Renewal          Member since \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print name(s) as you want them on your badges)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PML Unit/lot: \_\_\_\_\_ PML Phone: 209-962-\_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail(s): \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

Aircraft Make & Model \_\_\_\_\_ N# \_\_\_\_\_

FAA Cert/Ratings \_\_\_\_\_

Certificated pilot since (year) \_\_\_\_\_ Type ratings \_\_\_\_\_

Check all aviation jobs for which you have ever been paid.

- Airline Pilot / Crew     Flight Attendant     CFI     Corporate Pilot / Crew     Military pilot/crew  
 FAA     A&P Mechanic     IA     Lineman     Engineer     Person who refuses to be labeled

Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Military History: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$20.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ years in advance = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ badges @ \$8.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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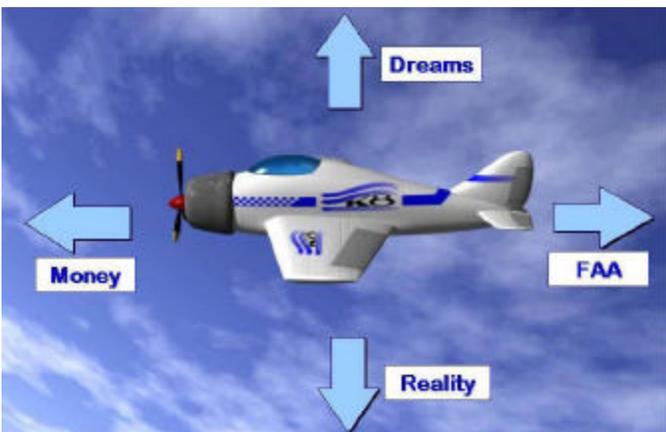
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209 962-0415

**Four Forces on an airplane**

Everything you learned in school about the four forces acting on an airplane in flight may be wrong, according to recent studies.

A group of researchers have identified four new forces that are a better model the behavior of an airplane in flight.



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- Safety Editor**  
Linda Monahan 962-5181
- Member Profiles Editor**  
Catherine Santa Maria 962-7904

Aviation Association meetings are normally held at 6:00pm on the first Saturday of every month at the Buchners' Hangar, 20885 Hemlock on the corner of Woodside Way.



## January Meeting

- January 8th
  - Dr. Ken Orloff - Aviation Accident Investigations
  - 6:00pm Buchner Hangar
  - Soup/Salad/Dessert potluck

## February Meeting

- February 5th
  - Valentine Dance - Music by Homegrown
  - 6:00pm Buchner Hangar
  - Appetizer and Dessert potluck

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association  
PO Box 131  
Groveland, CA 95321