



A Monthly Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE • BY NORM PEEBLES

As your new Association leader I want to thank Allen Craig for his direction and leadership during the past two years. He has contributed greatly to our mission of educating and providing enjoyment for our members at our monthly meetings. I also want to thank Conni Buchner for her hard work as VP of Social Affairs over the last two years. We also want to thank Virginia Gustafson for her fine efforts as newsletter editor for the past few years. Great job!

2007 was a great year, it felt like we were the Hollywood of the Central Valley, I have not met so many people connected with the motion picture business and I lived in So Cal most of my life. We had Brian Terwilliger, BJ Worth, David Ellison, our own want a bees Dick and Paul with their great adventure film.

I am looking forward, with our new and returning volunteers, to continue to provide entertaining and informative meetings. Our new members on our team include Mike Lella as the VP airport affairs, Kym Purifoy as the VP of social affairs, Miguel Maldonado as Editor of our newsletter and Wayne Handley as Speaker Coordinator.

Our returning members are Bob Cowley as Secretary, Linda Monahan as Safety Editor, Diane Harrison as Roster Coordinator, Paul Sperry as Property Manager, Phil Hickerson and Ken Codeglia as Multimedia Coordinators, Kay Smith as Membership Coordinator, Renie Leakakos as Legal Counsel, Silvano Gai as Web Master, Larry Jobe as Seminar and Training Coordinator, and Jim Thomas as Airport Director and Editor.

There is one significant issue that is facing the organization. As of this summer the FAA considers PML airport as an airpark and is therefore not eligible for FAA airport improvements grants. This decision will apply to all airparks throughout the nation. I feel it will be in our best interest to become involved in this matter along with our Airport Director, the Airports Committee, and Tuolumne County. This decision will have an impact on our residents and members of this organization and I am afraid it will not be a positive

one. Mike and I will make this part of our mission during the year and will keep you informed.

The next meeting is February 2 at Allan and Conni Buchner’s hanger and will be the traditional Valentine’s Dance.

I have included the tentative calendar for 2008. It is also time to renew your membership at the still low price of \$20 per family, its still the best deal on the mountain! Fold the registration form and mail it.

This is your organization, so please volunteer when possible, give us your suggestions, if you know of good speakers let us know, we are here to serve you and above all let’s have fun!



VALENTINE’S See message and flyer on next page

TENTATIVE 2008 CALENDAR

Table with 3 columns: DATE, TOPIC/SPEAKER, LOCATION. Rows include February 2 (Valentine's Dance), March 8* (TBD), April 5 (TBD), May 3 (Vietnam Helicopter Stories), June 21* (Air show/Dinner), July 5 (No Meeting), August 2 (TBD), September 6 (TBD), October 4 (TBD), November 1 (TBD), December 6 (It's a Wrap).

* New change

Polish the tiaras, fetch the mice and pumpkins.

Design by Kym Purifoy

Our Valentines dance will start the year with a bash at Conni and Alan Buchne's Royal Palace February 2. The theme is Cinderella's Ball. Please join us at 6:00 pm, bring an appetizer or dessert fit for a princess and dance the night away to Home Grown. Costumes are encouraged and prizes will be awarded. Cost is \$12 at the door, to cover the band.

F. Y. I.

Saint Valentine's Day, was a western European Christian holiday originally the Roman feast of Lupercalia. It was christianized in memory of the martyrdom of St. Valentine in A.D. 270, who, in medieval times, came to be associated with the union of lovers under conditions of duress. The holiday is celebrated on Feb. 14 by the exchange of romantic or comic verse messages called "valentines". The first commercial valentine greeting cards produced in the United States were created in the 1840s by Esther A. Howland.

Christmas Wrap

Thank you again to Kent and Sandy Blankenburg for hosting the Christmas Wrap and to Sandy's elves for helping out. It was a great success and a lot of fun.



Get high, the Wright way . . . Kym Purifoy.

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FROM THE AIRPORTS DIRECTOR

– Jim Thomas

Some airport improvements go unnoticed so I thought I would let our pilots and airport users know about a few things that have been done around the airport. These are not significant improvements but ones that contribute to making the Pine Mountain Lake Airport a little bit better for our users.

The first improvement is the installation of runway identifier signs at the hold lines to Runway 9 and Runway 27. Even though our local pilots have memorized the runway numbers, we do have visitors that misname the runway they are using. This can cause confusion to pilots when someone makes a radio call indicating that they are taking off on a runway that doesn't exist at our airport. I hope with the new signs we have fewer runway identification errors.

Our second improvement was performed by Mother Lode Aviation. Those that have fuelled their aircraft within the last couple of months may have noticed that a coating of asphalt sealer has been applied on the fueling spot in front of the fuel tank. This sealer will help prevent damage to the asphalt due to inadvertent fuel spills. The sealed area also sports a nice yellow boarder and new markings. This area is the preferred spot to park your plane for refueling because it has the seal coat and because it reduces the damage to the grounding strap and fuel hose. Damage to the strap and hose can occur when they are pulled around the edge of the concrete block wall when fueling aircraft parked to the north of the fuel tank. It should be noted that the concrete pad located to the north of the fuel tank was constructed as a helicopter parking area, not a refueling pad.

The last improvement is one that may go most unnoticed. Thanks to a generous donation from a local pilot, we now have brand new fire extinguishers located around the ramp area. The old extinguishers were approaching their legal age limit and required replacement this year. The new extinguishers are a nice safety improvement which will help us meet our next Fire/Safety inspection.

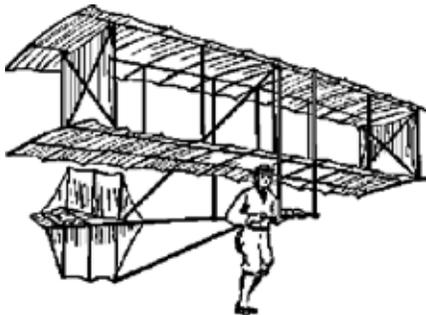
If you think of anything that will improve our airport or that you would like to contribute, please contact me and we can work together to make it happen.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Octave Chanute, Flying Pioneer • 1832 - 1910

The Octave Chanute Pages

Focusing on Chanute's contributions to the invention of the airplane and his glider experiments in the Indiana Dunes in 1896.



Octave Chanute - this Chicago engineer was the 'elder statesman' of aeronautical experiments in 1900. His glider experiments at Miller Beach in 1896 produced the most influential and significant glider of the pre-Wright era.

One of many websites to search for additional information: http://spicerweb.org/chanute/chan_ind.html



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You have probably noticed that at the bottom of each newsletter page, there is a reference to www.pmlaa.org - This is YOUR website and it is a result of Silvano Gai's efforts. Check it out, enjoy the information and give him feedback on improvements. His e-mail is silvano@pmlaa.org

IT'S TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL • SEND US YOUR FORM



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**NEXT MEETING
MARCH 8, 2008
SITE TO BE DETERMINED**