



A Monthly Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY NORM PEEBLES

We had an outstanding March meeting with Tim Just. His talk was both informative and very interesting. We want to thank the Gai's for their great hospitality and hangar.

We also held our first aviation safety quiz which will become an ongoing feature at our meetings. If you take the quiz you will receive a free 50/50 ticket, get 100% you receive one more. It is fun and a great way to review rules, regulations and procedures.

Our next meeting will be held at the Benzing's Hangar on April 5th at 5:30pm. One of our two guest speakers, yes two, will be our own Jim Thomas. Jim is the Airport Director for Tuolumne County and will give us an update on the PML airport and some very important issues that are facing us along with what future improvements may be coming our way.

The second speaker will be our own Paul Price. Paul will share with us some of his adventures at Lawrence Radiation Labs and how he got the nickname of Dr. Strangelove, no I am just kidding. But it should be an evening of good stories, some humor and learn a little bit more about atomic energy during the 60's thru the 80's.

Jim and Paul's bios are listed on page 2.

Menu

Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives

Thank you for the fabulous food at our March meeting.

The theme for the April meeting will be "The Purple Extra Diner".

Please bring "comfort" food e.g.: Fried Chicken, Meatloaf, Potato Salad, Fruit Pies. We missed not having cookies last time.

See you there . . . Kym

OUR SPEAKER - MARCH EVENT TIM JUST



Norm Peebles and Tim Just

Tim gave us conceptual and practical applications of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's), based on his personal experiences.

His slide show had both old and current designs and videos showing how each unit performed throughout the world.

There was a Q&A after his presentation. There were also some humorous comments from the audience regarding the potential of no longer needing human pilots, being that these units perform so well.

We thank Tim for his time and commitment to keep us informed on these vehicles and hope he can stay in touch with us in the future.

**Please renew your annual
membership for 2008!
It's due on April 1**

Bio for Jim Thomas

Jim Thomas has a broad aviation background that encompasses formal education, aircraft design, pilot ratings, aircraft restoration, aircraft construction, and airport management. He graduated from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo in 1973 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. After graduation he went to work for Boeing's Commercial Aircraft Division on the 747 program in the airframe group.

In 1975 he moved to Alaska to work on the construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline where he fell in love with Alaska and ended up living there for 25 years. In Alaska, Jim obtained his professional engineer's license and worked as an engineer and project manager on many public works and oil industry related projects.

Alaska has fewer roads and more airports than any other state. Realizing that the only way to see Alaska was to fly, Jim obtained his private pilot's license and a float plane rating. While in Alaska he owned a Super Cup, Cessna 180, two Citabrias, one which he won in a lottery and one which was on floats, a Cessna 172 and a Piper Super Cruiser. The Super Cruiser he purchased as a basket case and spent 3 years restoring it.

In 2000 Jim retired from Alaska and purchased a private taxiway home at Pine Mountain Lake where he began to build his Lancair Legacy kit plane. His construction effort was slowed when in the summer of 2003 Tuolumne County posted a job opening for the Airports Director. Jim applied for the job thinking it would be fun and a great opportunity to continue promoting general aviation. To his surprise, Jim found himself once again employed! On November 17, 2007 his Lancair Legacy took to the skies after six years of construction.

Jim has been active in general aviation for many years and is a member of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Experimental Aircraft Association, California Pilots Association, Association of California Airports, and the American Association of Airport Executives. He is a past member of the Alaska Airmen's Association, and the Idaho Pilots Association. Jim's writings on aviation topics can be found in his monthly Airports Department newsletter The Manager's Approach, in the PMLAA newsletter, and in the local EAA Chapter newsletter. He has also been published in Sport Aviation magazine.

Aviation has been and still is Jim's passion. He is a big supporter of general aviation, aircraft safety, and the preservation of our airports.

Bio for Paul Price

During his two years in the US Army, while sitting in the mud cleaning his rifle and looking skyward, it became abundantly clear to Paul that being an Officer and a Fighter Pilot looked like a lot more fun. It was at this point that Paul wondered if his Father's suggestion of considering College, rather than Motorcycle Racing didn't have some merit after all. Several jobs later, after college and armed with an Engineering Degree, and later a Nuclear Engineering License, Paul went to work for Lawrence Radiation Laboratory. This was December of 1961, The Soviet Union had just broken the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the US was once again caught behind the Technology curve.

For the next three decades Paul remained involved in Nuclear Weapons Design Development and Testing, with one year off to teach Engineering at Northern Arizona University and two years off to serve as Scientific Advisor to the Office of Military Applications in Washington DC. After retirement Paul continued as a consultant for several Nuclear Contractors. Paul's work with Nuclear Weapons has taken him to Military Bases and Research Facilities throughout the US, the Pacific, the UK, and Europe.

Paul will present an overview of the US Nuclear Weapons Program as he saw it during the Sixties, Seventies, and Eighties.

FROM THE AIRPORTS DIRECTOR – JIM THOMAS Pine Mountain Lake Airport Budget, Funding, and Issues

At the April PMLAA meeting I'll have the opportunity to talk to the Association about the operation of the Pine Mountain Lake Airport from the airport manager's perspective. My talk will include a presentation of the current Airports Department budget, a report on the status of FAA Airport Improvement Program funding, and an explanation of some of the current compliance issues at the airport.

The budget is always a difficult topic, especially when the revenues fall short of the expenses. In my talk I'll provide details on both the revenues and the expenses for operating the airport and how the budget is balanced each year. This will lead to a discussion regarding the recent determination by the FAA that residential airparks are incompatible with federally obligated airports (airports eligible for federal grants). The change in FAA policy has surprised the Airports Department and will severely impact the County's ability to fund capital improvements at the airport. The FAA's two major compliance concerns, unrestricted access and through-the-fence operations, will be discussed so that the airport tenants and residents can have a clear understanding of these issues.

Caltrans Division of Aeronautics has been delegated the authority to perform the safety inspections at Pine Mountain Lake Airport. Each visit by the safety inspector results in a list of safety items that must be corrected in order for the airport to maintain its permit. The most recent safety issues will be presented along with the corrective action taken to make our airport safer.

Finally, I will discuss the most common complaints I receive from pilots and residents at the airport. This will be followed by a list of things the airport users can do to make the airport safer for everyone and a more enjoyable place to live.



Congratulations to our March event 50-50 winner, Jan Sloan

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Upcoming Events

April 5th at the Benzing	Jim Thomas and Paul Price
May 3rd at the Peebles	Vietnam Helicopter Stories
June 21st the Air show	Airplane Fun and Dinner
July	No Meeting

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**OUR APRIL 5, 2008
MEETING WILL BE AT
BENZING'S HANGAR**