



A Monthly Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE • BY NORM PEEBLES

A big thank you to Bill Cox for coming up to PML and sharing his flying experiences with us. He is truly a brave pilot and an outstanding aviator. Bill and Peggy even started to ask those real estate questions about PML, so you never know. Also a big thanks to the Gustafsons' for their margarita machine which is always a big hit.

Our next meeting will be the Oktoberfest on October 4th at 6:00 pm. The association will provide the bratwurst, beer, wine, water and sodas. You bring an Oktoberfest side dish.

The October meeting will be held at Kay Meermans' HEATED hangar on the South taxiway.

Our October speaker is Tom Sweeney speaking on the topic of the TIROS (Television Infrared Observation Satellite) plus his 34 years in the aerospace industry (see Tom's bio on page five). Tom is a member of PMLAA and lives here in PML.

The November 1 meeting will be our Fund Raiser at the McGowans' hangar.

Reservations are required for the event. We will serve a catered Chinese dinner. Please see the flyer on page four. Mail your check to reserve your seats by **October 24th**. Remember this is a fund raiser, so invite your friends and neighbors!

The association thanks Jim Thomas for his leadership efforts at PML airport. We have noticed that the ramp area has been cleaned up of weeds and his article this month addresses the re-roofing of the pilots lounge (see page two).

The association has communicated with Jim on items that we feel that need attention. We also indicated that we will certainly help with the labor on projects that help improve PML airport. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer, please let your PMLAA board members know.



Norm Peebles and Bill Cox



**Our dedicated volunteers,
Barbara Coldren and Kay Smith**

FROM THE AIRPORTS DIRECTOR – JIM THOMAS RE-ROOFING THE PILOT'S LOUNGE

I have received many inquiries on when the roof on the pilot's lounge would be replaced. Anyone who has looked at the composite roof shingles on the south side can tell that the sun and weather have taken their toll over the years. It is a wonder the roof has not yet leaked during our winter weather.

The replacement of the roof was put on hold two years ago when the Pine Mountain Lake Airport Master Plan was approved. The Master Plan calls for the existing pilot's lounge to be removed and replaced by a commercial hangar that includes a pilot's lounge with public restrooms. Anticipating that a new commercial hangar would be constructed within a couple of years, I decided not to put the effort into a new pilot's lounge roof.

As we all know things often don't work out the way we plan. Although a request for proposals (RFP) was issued that included the construction of the new commercial hangar, there were

no proposals received for it. So, it appears that the existing pilot's lounge will remain in place for the foreseeable future and now the replacement of the roof has become a priority.

Installing a new roof is something that the members of the PMLAA could perform as a community service project. The Airports Department can provide the new roofing materials and the disposal of the old roofing and the Aviation Association could provide the labor. I believe this work could be accomplished in two working days; one to remove the old roof and make any needed repairs, and another day to lay down the new roof. Of course this work should be performed after the daytime temperatures have moderated a bit. I'll be working with the Association to plan out a couple of days in October when this work could be done.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Norm or me. We will put your name on our volunteer list and let you know when the work days are scheduled.

AIRCRAFT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE DISPLAY DATES

- Pine Mountain Lake will have its monthly display days on the 3rd Saturday of the month. The dates for the remainder of 2008 are **September 27** (it is the 4th Saturday), **October 18**, **November 15**, and **December 20**. The display times are from 9:00am to 1:00pm for each scheduled day.
- Mariposa County airport schedules its display day on the first Saturday of the month. Many events at Columbia airport also qualify.
- Contact Pat or Ken Helling at 962-7597 or Bob Hornauer at 962-4541 or 402-0005 for more information.



PMLAA FUND RAISER

NOVEMBER 1, 2008

PURPOSE To raise funds to help offset the cost of the two prop strikes that took place at the PMLAA air show in June. These pilots volunteered their time and aircraft to help make our show a success. We would like to help out with their expenses and get their planes back into the air.

GOAL To raise \$10,000 and donate these funds to Dan Vance for his P-51, and Jason Wondolleck and his Staudacher. Excess funds collected, if any, will go into a PMLAA airport improvement account.

DONATIONS Anything and everything for a Silent and Live auction. Here are some ideas that could be donated: Airplane rides, Boat rides, Dinner held at your home, Dinner flight for two, Arts & Crafts, Collectibles, Airplane Maintenance, Golf lesson, Hotel Gift Certificate, Airplane detailing, cash and much more!

WHEN AND WHERE Saturday November 1, 2008 at 6:00 pm. The location will be the new and beautiful heated hangar of Suzanne and Mel McGowan, which is located on the north taxiway at PML airport. We will have a catered Chinese dinner at \$20.00 per person, no host bar with the famous margarita machine and music for dancing. There might even be a special guest speaker during the evening. Reservations will be required for the event. Only 225 seats available. Send reservations and payment in by October 24th! — Postmark date will determine reservation priorities.



Reservations due by October 24th!

First Come, First Served

Space is Limited

Please mail this form with your check to PMLAA, PO Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321.

Dinner: \$20 per person x #___ = \$_____ enclosed (Check Please)

Names

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No Cancellations • No Rainchecks

DONATIONS CHAIRPERSON: Charleen Beam 209-768-6151

Donation(s) Description(s)

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TOM SWEENEY BIO

Tom Sweeney has been involved with the Aerospace Industry for over 34 years. He started with Rockwell International in 1974 on the B1-A program. In 1978 thanks to a change in national priorities (program cancellation), he joined Martin Marietta, now Lockheed Martin, in Denver, CO. Since then he has worked on multiple programs including the Space Shuttle, Titan, classified space programs and most recently the TIROS satellite. These assignments involved three moves to Denver, two to Vandenberg, a two-year stint in Long Beach and finally to Sunnyvale in 2001. As the Deputy Program Director, Tom manages the day-to-day operations and processing of the final TIROS spacecraft designated NOAA N Prime. N Prime is the last of a series that started in April 1960 and is scheduled to launch from Vandenberg AFB next February.

Growing up on and around Air Force bases Tom has always had an interest in aviation. Thanks to the mentoring and encouragement from our own Joel Avey, Tom is learning to fly taildraggers at Amelia Reid Aviation in San Jose. He is also a student of Tae Kwon Do and golf. Living in Pine Mountain Lake enables him to indulge his lifelong passion of hiking the Sierra. Tom has also been a regular volunteer at Camp Tuolumne Trails.

TIROS (Television Infrared Observation Satellite)

The first TIROS satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral on April 1st, 1960. It sent back over 22,000 images in its 77 day life in orbit.



Since then there have been 44 spacecraft built in the TIROS series. The last one, NOAA N-Prime is scheduled to launch February 4th, 2009.



In addition to the familiar images of cloud cover we see on the evening news, the present day satellites provide data on snow and ice cover, fires, obscuration such as volcanic ash and smoke, moisture content in the atmosphere, vegetation, sea surface temperature and ozone depletion. Specialized instruments receive data from buoys at sea and wildlife implanted with special transmitters. Particularly noteworthy is the presence of the SARSAT (Search and Rescue Satellite) package which receives distress beacons from ships at sea, downed aircraft and personal locator beacons (PLB) carried by hikers, hunters and snowmachine operators in the Arctic. SARSAT has been credited with saving over 24,000 lives worldwide since 1982.



Many aviation weather forecasts benefit from data collected by POES satellites. Microwave sounders on board are used to measure temperature and moisture content at various altitudes to determine lapse and rain rate data.

In our October meeting we will look at the history, instruments, products and processing of the TIROS spacecraft. For those who take to the skies, seas and hills, we will look at SARSAT and some of its accomplishments.

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UPCOMING EVENTS.

October 6 th	Tom Sweeney, Satellites
November 1 st	Prop Fundraiser
December 13	It's a Wrap!



PML Aviation Association
P. O. Box 131
Groveland, CA 95321

**OUR OCTOBER 4, 2008 MEETING WILL BE AT
KAY MEERMANS' HANGAR AT 6:00PM**