



A Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE • JAN-FEB 2009 • BY NORM PEEBLES

Happy New Year 2009! Last year went by very fast. We had a great time at all of our meetings, and we are looking forward to another good year.

It will be a challenge for aviation with the economy in the tank, and costs rising. I just looked at my hours for 2008, and found that I only flew 65 hours compared to 103 the year before. I think the \$5.00+ a gallon had something to do with it, but I did use AirNav.com a lot in 2008. They help direct you to less expensive fuel and I plan to use them a lot in 2009.

I also felt the pinch at the large airports FBOs. My experience at John Wayne was nasty. I landed and taxied up to Atlantic and shut down. The line guy asks if I was spending the night and I said yes. Not here he said, we don't take singles any more. I said then I am a Baron. He said he could not let me park there, but recommended that I call Signature and see if they had space. They did. The cost for one night was \$25 for parking and \$48 for landing and handling fees!
My recommendation: avoid the big guys.

Next Meeting. March 7th will be our first meeting in 2009 at Toni & Silvano Gais' hangar at 6:00 pm.

This will be a pot-luck dinner.

The speaker will be our own Colleen Keller who works for Meltron (a think tank), who works with the Government (I think she is a secret agent). She was involved with the search for Steve Fosset and recently was in Africa on Mt. Kilimanjaro with the Army doing special research.

Her talk will be entertaining and informative, hope to see you there.

News Events. Kay Meermans' 1960 Champ (see photo below), which has been sitting in her hangar for the past eight years, returned to the air on January 1, 2009! Congratulations Kay and we all look forward to more of those exciting takeoffs and landings we saw that day!

Membership Dues. Please complete the form on page 3 and send it in by February 28th.



Photo: Michael Thoben - Kay Meerman and Wayne Handley in the plane

FROM THE AIRPORTS DIRECTOR

– by Jim Thomas

COMMUNITY SPONSORED PROJECTS

Several individuals have expressed interest in volunteering for projects at the airport. Recently two projects were completed with the help of volunteers: the installation of a new roof on the pilots' lounge and the filling of the cracks in the runway. I've been asked what other projects can be performed by volunteers so I thought it would be a good idea to list four other projects that would improve the safety and appearance of the Pine Mountain Lake Airport.

1) It is generally felt that constructing a deer barrier (fence) along the south east boundary of the airport would reduce the number of deer migrating across the eastern portion of the airport. The fence would begin near the Corsair Restaurant and extend east along the airport boundary behind the hangars, then up and over the hill. The cost and the amount of labor required to install the fence will depend on the fence design, which has not been finalized.

2) As mentioned previously, thanks to a volunteer effort the pilot's lounge has a new roof. Now that the roof has been replaced, the building could use a paint job. The building is small enough that a few volunteers could paint it in a day or two.

3) The airport drainage system requires repair and installation of additional culverts. Volunteers could repair portions of the drainage

system by fixing some existing culverts and installing a couple of new culverts to mitigate erosion. This work might require the use of a backhoe to assist with backfilling around the new culverts.

4) Two years ago the airport received a PMLAA donation to help with noxious weed control. The money was used to spray pesticide on the weeds. Last year the Airports Department continued this weed spraying effort because to be effective, the spraying must be a multi-year process since these weeds are pretty persistent and hard to eradicate. The continuing noxious weed control effort can be combined with chemical mowing (spraying a weak concentration of pesticide to stunt the growth of the grass) to reduce the deer browse. This will enhance the appearance of our airport and reduce the number of deer adjacent to the runway.

Although spraying of pesticides on County property requires a pesticide applicator's license, donations could be used to hire a commercial company to perform noxious weed control and chemical mowing.

So, here are four volunteer efforts that can be undertaken by the Association or local residents that will enhance our airport. I'd be happy to work with any individual or group which would like to pursue these or any other volunteer project.

PML Aero Club - The long awaited Pine Mountain Lake Airport based flying club, using a Cessna 172, is very close to reality. We are letting everyone know in case there are additional interested pilots wanting to be a part of this group as a "Charter Member". Here are the basics:

1. A group of about 10 locals have met several times and have reached consensus on several items including a set of By-Laws and Operating Policies and Procedures Documents.
2. An agreed upon set of parameters to use in the purchase of the aircraft.
3. An agreement that student pilots are welcomed.
4. A need for a financial commitment from each prospective member of \$4,000.00 plus the annual dues (Maybe the financial commitment should be #1).
5. Several members deposited their checks and a bank account has been opened in the name of "PML Aero Club".
6. An agreement to meet the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month 9:30 am at the Jobe's hangar house - until we are fully functional, thereafter every other month. Interested persons please stop by or contact Dennis Smith at 962-4950 or e-mail at jetlag729@sbcglobal.net

PINE MOUNTAIN LAKE AVIATION ASSOCIATION

2009 Membership Application — New Members, Renewals and updated information

Annual membership dues are **\$20.00** per household, payable February 28, 2009. PMLAA name badges are \$8.00 each. Please send your check 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: normally held the first Saturday of each month. Please refer to the latest edition of the PMLAA News for more details.
- The PMLAA News is mailed monthly and is also available online at www.pmlaa.org
- The membership roster (with information from these forms) is distributed with the PMLAA News in April.

Renewing members: include your name and any information changes on this form. Please be sure to include your email address. If no changes, check here

Would you like to receive your newsletter by mail? or by email only?

Date: _____ Mark one: New member Renewal Member since _____

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

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Local Phone: _____ Alternate phone: _____

Email Address(es): _____

Aircraft Make & Model _____ N# _____

Certificated pilot since (year) _____ FAA Cert/Ratings _____

Mark any aviation jobs or experience you have had:

Airline Pilot/Crew Flight Attendant CFI Corporate Pilot Military pilot/crew

FAA A&P Mechanic IA Lineman Engineer Air Traffic Control Other

Details: _____

Other Aviation Interests: _____

Military Service: _____

2009 Annual Dues • Due February 28

\$20.00 per family \$ _____ + _____ badges @ \$8.00 each = \$ _____ enclosed

Mail your check to PMLAA, P.O. Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321

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Check YOUR website at www.pmlaa.org for additional information. The site is created and maintained by Silvano Gai. After looking at the site, give Silvano feedback with your suggestions for improvements. His e-mail is silvano@pmlaa.org

IT'S TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL • SEND US THE ATTACHED FORM BY FEBRUARY 28



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

Our next meeting will take place on March 7, 2009.