



A Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE • BY NORM PEEBLES

Summer has arrived and along with it comes great flying weather and destinations waiting to be discovered. Here in California, Patty and I prefer to visit airports near the ocean because of the summer heat, no air conditioner in 7252R. One of our favorites is Oceano (L-52) just south of Pismo Beach. It is a very small airport 2,325' x 50', very friendly, with camping on the field. You can walk a ¼ mile to the dog friendly beach and have a nice picnic. There are also Mexican and Grill type restaurants near by. The fuel situation is a question mark; sometimes it's there, sometimes not.

The June meeting was a big success and we want to thank Paula & Jerry Baker for having us out to Tuolumne Trails, their facility is certainly first class. Also a big thank you to our speaker Keith Thomassen for his presentation on GPS.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: The meeting in August has been cancelled. This is due to a speaker conflict and many people traveling during this time period. Our next scheduled meeting will be on September 5th at 6:00pm at Alan & Yuni Gaudenti's hangar. Our speakers will be Carol Foy and CarolAnn Garratt who flew a single engine Mooney around the world. It should be a fascinating presentation. More details forthcoming in the August newsletter.

LOOP TAXIWAY REPAVING: Pine Mountain Airport has a new, well almost new, north loop taxiway thanks to the efforts of George & Diane Harrison. This process has taken over two years of hard work and it finally came together on June 30th 2009. George and his team of volunteers worked with the resident owners of the loop taxiway to make this project a reality. This was no small undertaking. The total cost of the project was over \$105,000 and funded primarily by the loop residents

themselves. Some additional funds were donated by the residents on the north taxiway to help with the connection to the runway. George is to be congratulated for a job well done. His efforts not only help the residents on the loop taxiway but the entire airport community.

PML FLYING CLUB: The new PML flying club has purchased a Cessna 172 for its members and the aircraft is now based here at PML. For information on the club see the March newsletter, or contact Dennis Smith at 209.962.4950.

PML AIRPORT BUDGET: The downturn in the economy is continuing to be felt here in Tuolumne County and has affected the airports budget which includes PML. (See Jim Thomas's budget update on page 3.) I think the big question for the future will be "How will PML airport be funded?" The income generated here is too small to be self-funding. The feds have classified us as a residential airpark and not eligible for AIP funding investments. Caltrans is funded out of Sacramento, which has no money. The Obama airport stimulus package money appears to have been directed towards the large projects at the larger airports around the country with the little guys left out.

What about our taxes we pay each year? Residential and airplane property taxes are collected by the state and go into the general fund. About 35 percent of the taxes are then returned to the County's general fund. As you can see, even though we pay our taxes at PML airport, none of them go directly towards maintaining it.

This topic will be an on going discussion throughout the next few years. It needs to be discussed at the Airports Advisory Committee meetings, with Jim Thomas and the County Supervisors. If you have any ideas let us know, this problem is not going away anytime soon.

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... *President's message*

PMLAA BUDGET: We are in excellent shape. (Approx \$16,000). This is due primarily to the proceeds from the fund raiser held last November. As stated, these excess funds are to be used for any association needs and to help with airport improvements as required. The Board of Directors, along with Jim Thomas, identified some projects that the funds could be used toward. They include:

- Additional deer fencing
- Pilots lounge painting
- Drainage repairs
- Weed control
- Repair cracks in pavement

- Repave north taxiway turnoffs
- Add white lines to runway edge

Additional ideas have since been suggested

- Purchase an inexpensive AWOS
- Add a room to the Pilots lounge

The projects we have contributed funds too so far are

Round up weed killer	\$300
Paint & equipment	\$200
North taxiway turnoffs	\$2,500 each

Your Board of Directors will continue to analyze these projects and others and direct funds towards those projects that help meet the needs of the association, airport, and community.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: Printed copies of the 2009 roster will be available at the September meeting.



Summer celebration, a gift from Suzanne & Mel McGowan. We were treated to a magnificent dinner on June 27, 2009.

FROM THE AIRPORTS DIRECTOR – BY JIM THOMAS NEW COMPASS ROSE AND PML AIRPORT BUDGET

By now most of our pilots have noticed the new compass rose located in the run-up area for Runway 27. This was painted by the San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the 99s (women's pilot organization), organized by PMLAA member Dianne Cole. The 99s are also the ones who painted our airport name, elevation, and frequency on the south taxiway a few years ago. The compass rose is a tool by which pilots can check their magnetic compass by taxiing their plane onto the compass rose and comparing the magnetic heading of the compass rose with the headings shown on their compass. Although most pilots now navigate by GPS, it is important to update your compass correction card any time you add or remove anything from your instrument panel.



In addition to the revenue generated by the airport we applied for and should receive a \$10,000 Annual Credit Grant from Caltrans Division of Aeronautics which can be used for operations and maintenance of the Pine Mountain Lake Airport. The budgeted cost to operate Pine Mountain Lake Airport is \$86,000. As you can see, the Pine Mountain Lake

Airport operates in the red in the amount of \$37,500. This is the amount of money that the County's General Fund must contribute to the Pine Mountain Lake Budget in FY-2010.

The bulk of the airport operating expense is for employee salaries and benefits. This amount, which is \$70,000, represents 20% of the Airports Department's overall salaries and benefits.

Actual tracking of Airports Department employees' time in the past has confirmed that 20% is a reasonable percentage of time spent on Pine Mountain Lake Airport related work. This time is spent on maintenance, improvements, billing, access control, etc.

Recently, a considerable amount of time has been spent working with the developer who will be building the new hangars and working issues related to paving the north runway exits and the loop taxiway.

The remaining \$16,000 in the budget includes utilities, supplies, county mandated costs, professional services, and maintenance expenses.

As was mentioned earlier, in an effort to produce a bare bones budget, all significant maintenance has been eliminated from this year's budget. Only critical maintenance items will be performed on an as needed basis.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Airports Department budget can obtain a copy from the Tuolumne County Website, from the library, or from my office. It is public information and available to everyone.

PML AIRPORT BUDGET

Everyone knows that the State, County, and local governments are experiencing difficult financial times, mostly due to the drop in property tax revenues. The Tuolumne County Airports Department operates as an Enterprise Fund which means all revenues generated by the airports must stay in our airport budgets. When our expenses exceed our income the budget is balanced using a contribution from the County's General Fund. This has occurred for the last several years because our expenses have been rising much quicker than our revenues.

This year the Airports Department was asked to prepare a bare bones budget in an effort to reduce the required General Fund contribution to as little as possible. As a result, all significant maintenance projects have been eliminated. Only critical maintenance will be performed on an as needed basis.

Here is where this fiscal year's (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010) PML Airport budget stands. The total income from tiedown and hangar rentals, transient fees, fuel flowage and office rental is anticipated to be \$38,500 this fiscal year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS • 2009 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President - Norm Peebles	962.1990	-	VP Airport Affairs - Mike Lella	962.1822
VP Social Affairs - Debbie Peters	962.6267	-	Secretary - Frank Perry	962.0728
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Speakers' Coordinator - Wayne Handley	962.7868	-	Legal Counsel - Renie Lekakos	962.0499
Multimedia - Ken Codeglia	962.6270	-	Multimedia - Phil Hickerson	962.6714
Airport Director - Jim Thomas	962.0910	-	Webmaster - Silvano Gai	962.6378

IT'S SUMMER. PLEASE ADVISE YOUR VISITORS NOT TO OVERFLY THE LAKE.



PML Aviation Association
P. O. Box 131
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Next meeting will take place on September 5, 2009 at Alan & Yuni Gaudenti's hangar