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Mountain Lake Aviation
Association

Community Airport Day at PML emphasizes the important contributions of our airport to the greater PML community. We hope to have a big local turnout of non-pilots to learn about and enjoy all that PML Airport has to offer. Note, this is *not* a fly-in.

There are two events on October 4th.

1. Young Eagles at PML

One of the best ways to show the value of PML Airport is through EAA's Young Eagles program, starting at 8:30am at the new hangars.

We need volunteer pilots and helpers! Pilots must be EAA members, insured and current. Pilot briefing at 8:00am. We also need people to help organize and register the kids. Please call Ed Gregory, 962-5061 to sign-up.

PML Young Eagle events typically draw over 50 enthusiastic youngsters looking forward to an introductory flight. As a result of this experience, some of these kids may become our future pilots.

2. Community Airport Day

Community Airport Day offers fun and adventure all afternoon. Invite your non-pilot friends and neighbors and get involved! There are still ways to help.



October 4th Is Community Airport Day!

Overall schedule – subject to change:

Thursday

- 3:00pm Set-up at Kay Meermans' hangar

Friday

- 8:00am Display aircraft and automobiles in place. Call Ken Helling, 962-7597, to sign-up.

Saturday

- 07:00 Young Eagles set-up.
- 10:00 PMLAA/Aero Club Information booth opens.
- 10:00 PMLAA food stand opens. Contact Kathy McConnell to help, 962-5854.
- 11:30 Spot landing and flour bomb pilots briefing at fuel island. Call Rich McGlashan, 962-7928, to sign-up.

Showtime

- 12:00 Flag Jump and National Anthem (Rex Pemberton)
- 12:10 Formation Teams Perform - Beech Boys & West Coast Ravens
- 12:30 Model Plane Demonstration - John Andrews
- 12:45 Airplane vs. Car Race, Michael Thoben's Waco vs. Mike Gustafson's Hot Rod
- 12:55 Sky Divers in Wing Suits
- 01:10 Spot Landing Contest – Navy rules
- 01:30 Flour Bombing Contest
- 01:50: Clem Kadiddlehopper Comedy Act
- 02:00: PHI and Cal Fire Demonstration
- 02:20 Airplane vs. Car Race, Jim Thomas' Legacy vs. Paul Henry's Hot Rod
- 02:30 Mock Legacy Airplane Race
- 03:00 Wrap-up
- 04:00 Tear-down; *everyone help*
- 06:00 Potluck dinner at Kay Meerman

President's Monthly Squawk *By Lynne Orloff*

September's meeting weekend with Mike and Sally Melvill was stupendous. They enjoyed meeting everyone and eating at Dori's for tea and The Grill for dinner on Friday with a small group of local pilots. But better yet, Toni and Silvano fixed them a biological pasta and salad luncheon that was wonderful; Janet and Ed Gregory had a cocktail/hors d'oeuvres mixer so they could meet a large number of the group just before the meeting Saturday night. Rex and Jason eagerly showed Mike and Sally their flying wing progress based on the Long-EZ airfoil design of Burt Rutan, Mike's boss and partner at Scaled Composites. Mike shared his experience of flying SpaceShipOne into space on its maiden voyage with us. He had us riveted in our seats. Mike's experience before SpaceShipOne was flying aircraft that did no more than 250kts, and here he was going over 21,000 fpm almost straight up. Burt chose him to make this flight despite having some test pilots on staff that had flown military jets, etc., because "Mike always brought the airplane home"! During dinner we talked about Mike's trip around the world in 1997 with Dick Rutan flying their Long-EZs. It was quite an adventure and worthy of another visit here to share it with everyone. Imagine flying long ocean expanses at night with horrible storms?

I wish that September's happenings ended with this wonderful talk, great weather, and camaraderie, but, alas, we lost one of our own on September 8th and that loss will be felt for a long time. Lee Behel epitomized the ideal of an aviator...one that chooses all things aviation, lives and breathes it. I seriously do not know what he drove as a "landlubbers" craft, for I only saw him arriving and departing with his usual exuberance in something fast, and with wings! I would think a car and having to wonder all over on roads at a snail's pace would hold little appeal for Lee. He rarely arrived without a pass (deer-removal-objective-in-progress) and pulled up, made a quick 180 and on the down-line to landing. In the past months he broke two speed records in the GP-5. Lee's smile was ready and his enthusiasm just exuded from it. He loved all things that flew. Wasn't it just a year ago or so that we got to learn of the "flying submarine" and meet its designer...and Lee had been able to "pilot" it. That he is gone from us are just words; he is still among us in our thoughts.

October 4th is our Community Airport Day. Volunteers are still needed. Call Catherine SantaMaria (962-7904) if you can help out. As I have often mentioned at our meetings,

we are a volunteer organization and our volunteers are incredible...a "can-do" group. I especially want to mention Hermanus Schaap who prints our newsletter. Although I brought his name up at several meetings, Hermanus could not attend and has not heard us sing his praises. So if you see him, add your thanks, please. Also, thank you to all the owners that have offered their hangars for the meetings. It's no small thing to clean up a hangar; they attract dust, dirt, spiders, and collections of assundrious necessities. Thank you all very much! We will have a combination potluck with some provided dinner food items as you will read in Dian's notes, but no speaker for October. See you November 1st for Dr. Landon Noll for our next regular meeting. Safe flying everyone!

Social Column *By Dian Martin*

Our thanks again to Alan, Shane and Wayne for offering their hangar for our September Meeting and Potluck with Mike Melvill retired from Scaled Composites as our guest speaker. We all enjoyed hearing about Mike's 31 years as working for Bert Rutan as a test pilot and the different aircraft he has flown. Our thanks to Mike for sharing his fascinating career in flying and we hope he will return someday to share more stories with us.

Our October meeting will take place at 6:00PM the beautiful hangar of Kay Merrmans the evening of the PMLAA Airport Day. Ken Orloff generously donated his 50-50 winnings a few months ago to PMLAA to use for something special. We decided since many of our members will be volunteering and working for Airport Day and will probably be a little tired, that we would use Ken's winnings to provide grilled boneless chicken breasts and 2 salads, we also will have Bratwurst for those who may not want chicken. We only ask that our members bring a dessert or appetizer to the Potluck. What a great way to end our busy airport day, with a relaxing dinner and visiting with friends.

A special thank you to Sally Smikahl who laundered all the table clothes from our Sept. potluck. What a job!

Our set up is on Thursday at 3:00 P.M. and clean up is on Sunday at 10:00 AM, although as many have found out, some of us get there a little early to avoid the heat.

From the Airports Manager By Benedict Stuth

First of all I would like to iterate that I am extremely happy to be on board here at Tuolumne County as the new Airports Manager. I spent many of my formative years in Calaveras County growing up and needless to say, this feels much like a homecoming to me for many reasons. Everyone has been extremely welcoming to both me and my family and we couldn't be happier, especially my son, Tucker, who hasn't slowed down the second his feet hit the pavement. We are all looking forward to growing with the community in the many years to come!

I am sure most of you all are interested in my background as your new airport manager. To say the least, let me assure you, you are in good hands. There will be a learning curve for me, as I am sure there will be for all of you. This is to be expected. However, I am sure in no time at all we will hit our stride towards a great relationship.

I come from a very aviation oriented family. My grandfather was the maintenance chief officer for the B-24's in the war and shortly after ran the famed Cal Tech wind-tunnel until its closure where he moved on to work for Lockheed-Martin prior to his retirement. My grandmother was a pilot, achieving her certificate in 8 hours in a Piper Cub. My father worked on B-52s as a bomb navigation specialist, was an avid pilot, and worked in the aerospace defense industry for many years before his retirement. My uncle is a pilot for Delta, and I have two cousins who fly for American Airlines. Both of my older brothers are also pilots in addition to being Instrument rated Certified Flight Instructors. Needless to say, aviation is in my blood.

Now, a little bit about me. I finished my master's degree in Public Administration at the University of Southern California in 2007 whereby I accepted my first aviation position as a Planning Manager for the Monterey Regional Airport. In that capacity I worked in every aspect of the airport but concentrated in Capital Improvement Planning and grant funding for the airport. I left the Monterey Regional Airport in 2011 to work for the Federal Aviation Administration as an airports planner where I oversaw the planning efforts of seventy airports around California at the federal level. From the FAA I moved on to work for an aviation consultant firm in Los Angeles where I performed many projects for airports as small as Oceano Airport to airports as large as the Los Angeles International Airport. Most importantly, I am a very open-minded person. I am very proactive, and work diligently towards solutions. I have been

reminded on more than one occasion by my wife that I can "jaw" with the best of them, and to that effect, I want to remind everyone in the community that my door is always open should anyone want to come speak with me.

Finally, many times throughout our young careers we are asked the age old question, "Where do you see yourself in five years?" Even before leaving the Monterey Regional Airport I always imagined myself working in an airport system much like the one Tuolumne County has. I have always enjoyed the small town feel, and have always loved working at an airport which brings me full circle. Making the move in accepting the position of Airports Manager for Tuolumne County is much more than just working at an airport. It is coming home.

Aircraft Memorabilia For Sale! By Danielle Coehlo

In honor of Airport Day, *Antiques, Collectables, and Consignment* is featuring aviation-related items the first week of the month, from September 29th to October 5th. This newly-opened business is located at 19000 Main Street in Groveland, in the Mar-Val parking lot. For further information, call store owner Nancy at 209-962-6184.

2015 Calendars For Sale

The PMLAA 2015 Calendars are completed and will be available for purchase during Airport Day on October 4th. Stop by Larry Jobe's booth to purchase yours for \$15 each. We'll also have them for sale during the November monthly meeting.





2014 Meeting Calendar

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Time & Location</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|---|
| October 4 | Airport Day | All day at Pine Mountain Lake Airport |
| November 1 | Dr. Landon Noll | 6:00PM at the Tony & Silvano Gai's Hangar |
| December 6 | Holiday Party | 6:00PM Tuolumne Trails |

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PML Aviation Association

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