



Volume 33: Issue 01
January 2018
A Publication of the
Pine Mountain Lake
Aviation Association

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Meeting

*Saturday, February 3 – 6:00 pm
McGowan Hangar*

*David Peterson
Test Pilot*

At our February meeting, we will kick off 2018 with an exciting presentation by retired United Airlines test pilot, David Peterson. Dave is a Vietnam veteran and former USAF Experimental Test Pilot who flew early developmental tests on F-15 and F-16 fighters. Col. Peterson will be talking to us about the Streak Eagle program, and how he set several world records in the F-15 Eagle. You don't want to miss it... see you at the meeting!



Col. David Peterson, Ret.



McDonnell Douglas F-15 "Streak Eagle"
USAF Museum Photo Archives

Col. Peterson with Streak Eagle 1

Final Flight: Dick “Chili” Chilingarian



Dick & Ellie Chilingarian 1

Dick “Chili” Chilingarian made his final flight in December 2017. Chili and his wife Ellie have been key contributing members of PML for 37 years. His four-year Navy career had Chili participate in World War II history and the surrender of Japan. He made the Bay Area his home, learning to fly, racing cars, and of course there was a career of connecting people with things they needed or wanted. He will be missed by all of PML, the Boys Club, and most of all his wife of 47+ years, Ellie. You can read more about Chili in this May 2013 article that was published in the PML News. http://pmlaa.org/static/Dick_Chilingarian.pdf

President’s Message – by Joe Sobczak

Happy New Year fellow PMLAA members!

To paraphrase Groucho Marx, “I’d never want to belong to any club that would have someone like me for its president.” Nevertheless, I’ll do my best to fill the big shoes that precede me. Bonnie, the Board of Directors, and all the volunteers have left PMLAA in great shape as we head into 2018. Thank you all for trusting me to lead this great organization.

Don’t mess with success. If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. Pretty good truisms. The only significant change made at our first 2018 Board of Directors meeting was to change the Historical Aircraft Display dates so they coincide with PMLAA meetings. This will make it more convenient for aircraft owners to participate – especially part time residents and commuters. If your airplane qualifies, take advantage of this program to save money on your aircraft personal property taxes. An "Aircraft of Historical Significance" is any aircraft which is an original, restored, or replica of a heavier than air powered aircraft which is 35 years or older or any aircraft of a type or model of which there are fewer than five in number known to exist worldwide. A special thanks to volunteer Ken Helling who ran Display Day for the past 10 years! Contact Bonnie, Rob, or me (president@pmlaa.org) for details.

Please welcome your new officers for 2018:

Vice President – Social: Danielle Coelho
Vice President – Airport Affairs: Rob Compton
Secretary: Bonnie Ritchey
Treasurer: Greg Triplett

In addition to the Board members, many volunteers pitch in to make PMLAA the outstanding organization that it is. As a “new guy” here, I fear leaving out some of the noteworthy contributors, so I’ll defer my shout-out to the individual volunteers for future newsletters. If you have an item you would like put on the agenda for a board or membership meeting, please contact Bonnie or any of the Board members.

Thank You, Kenny Helling

A big thank you to Kenny Helling for volunteering, coordinating and running E45's Airplane Display Day. He initiated the Airport Display Day ten years ago to allow airplanes more than 35 years old to be displayed and eligible for tax exemption sign off. This has been helpful to many aircraft owners, including Kenny for his Piper Comanche. All aircraft were welcomed and many that were not based at E45 would fly in to display, receive tax exemption sign off, and have a burger with Kenny. He volunteered his time every month weather permitting. Kenny and his wife, Pat, live on the back-taxiway; when you see Kenny motoring around the airport in his golf cart please extend an extra 'thank you' to him for establishing Airport Display Day at E45. For information on how the tax exemption works go to: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/exempt.htm#2>. Airport Display Day is being moved to the first Saturday of the month, beginning in February to coincide with PMLAA meetings.

Thank You, Karen Appleby

Another big thank you to Karen Appleby for volunteering and coordinating PMLAA membership. Karen is a seventeen-year PML resident and lives on the back-taxiway. She has maintained our membership records for the past five years. Karen's accounting background helped her maintain meticulous membership records for PMLAA. It's a big job that entails preserving privacy for people who didn't want certain information distributed and keeping up with the many changes of mailing address, email, and phone numbers. She also worked with both PMLAA members and the Board as we transitioned from mailed newsletters in 2015 to emailed newsletters in 2016. When you see Karen out and about at PML please extend an extra 'thank you' for her contribution to PMLAA membership.

Once in a Blue Moon – by Janet Gregory

This year, it's twice in a Blue Moon! The common definition of a Blue Moon is when there are two full moons in the same calendar month. January is a Blue Moon month with full moons occurring on January 2nd & 31st. March is also a Blue Moon month on March 2nd & 31st. Two in one calendar year won't happen again until 2037. We have a Blue Moon month roughly every 2+ years because the average lunation takes just over 29.5 days. Thanks to the variation of days in a month (28, 30, or 31), leap year, and a little math we can figure this all out.

What makes January's Blue Moon on the 31st even more interesting is that there will be a total eclipse of the moon that day, visible from Asia, Australia, Pacific and western North America. "Once in a Blue Moon" is a common idiomatic expression meaning to do something rarely. So, in this year of two Blue Moons ... make life a dashing and bold adventure.



EAA 2018 – by Ed Gregory

Our local EAA Chapter 1337 is small but with the help of PMLAA we bring aviation to life in Pine Mountain Lake (E45), Groveland, Columbia (O22), and Sonora. For your calendar here are a few key activities for 2018.

- Chapter meets the first Saturday of each month – 4:00 at the Gregory Hangar
- Saturday, April 28th - **Young Eagles** at O22 – 9:00-Noon
- Saturday & Sunday, June 16 & 17 – **Father’s Day Fly-In** at O22 – 9:00-3:00 both days
- Saturday, September 29th – **Young Eagles** at E45 – 9:00-Noon

Chapter 1337’s 2018 Board is Ed Gregory (Pres), Rob Compton (VP), Allen Craig (Treas), Mike Gustafson (Sec’y), and Directors: Wayne Handley, Leon Liebster and Ed Sunday. Please join us as a member or a willing participant, we welcome your support.

Greatly Expanded Aviation Supplies at PML Hardware

If you haven’t seen the “Aviation Supply Department” at our local PML Hardware recently, you might be in for quite a treat. The selection of aviation supplies (mostly maintenance, obviously) has expanded **A LOT** this year. In addition to your engine oils (all common brands and blends for Lycoming and Continental engines) and filters, I recently found:

- Brake linings
- LPS (1, 2, 3) lubricants
- Spark plug gap tools
- Wire
- Safety wire (all 3 sizes)
- Pitot tube covers
- Camguard
- Aviation-safe “Extreme” Simple Green cleaner
- Other lubricants
- Compression testing tools
- Brake fluid (5606)
- Silicone material for engine baffling (seriously!)
- Wheel chocks

...and quite a bit more!

So, in addition to shopping locally for your hardware needs, it’s now quite viable for your routine aircraft maintenance needs as well.

Thanks to Allen & company for making it easier for local pilots to keep their planes healthy.



Meet Your 2018 PMLAA Board of Directors:

President – Joe Sobczak

From San Jose, a third generation Californian, Joe learned to fly at San Jose Municipal Airport while in high school at Bellarmine. He earned a bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering Technology and a masters in Industrial Engineering/Computer Science-Process Control at Arizona State University. Inspired by his Uncle Henry, a WWII P-51 and P-47 pilot, he entered the Air Force where he flew the F-15, F-16, F-4 and A-7 as a fighter pilot, test pilot, and instructor pilot. Joe was a Senior Experimental Test Pilot at Lockheed-Martin for 8 years before joining United Airlines as a Flight Test Captain where he has been working for the past 24 years. As United's Chief Demonstration Pilot, Joe flies a demo in the SF Fleet Week Airshow each October. He is also the company's Chief 777 Test Pilot, and stays current and qualified as a captain in the Boeing 737, 747, 757, 767, 777, 787, and the Airbus A-319 and A-320.

Joe is a CFI (SEL and glider), A&P, Flight Engineer, Basic/Advanced Ground Instructor and holds an ATP with, in addition to the above mentioned aircraft, type ratings in the Boeing 727 and Douglas DC-10. He has owned a Quickie, Citabria, and Cherokee 6, and currently has a Cherokee 180, and T-34 Mentor. Joe took his son, Scott (30) through his Private Pilot license and soloed his daughter, Sarah (27) in the PA-28. He bought his house on Jimmerrill, his third at a residential air park, a year ago and lives here full time except for work and other commitments. Joe's wife, Anne, is a Mental Health Clinician and Licensed Clinical Social Worker at the Jamestown prison and spends her work week at their house in Sonora.

Joe is a Fellow in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and currently serves that organization as SETP Liaison to the EAA. In that role, he is required to attend the EAA Convention in Oshkosh every year. Someone's got to do it.

V.P. Social - Danielle Coelho

My husband Gabriel and I have been members of PMLAA, enjoying our weekends up here, since 2007. I have been your V.P. Social Affairs for the past two years and this year I will be doing it again. I will strive to do an even better job planning fun and food for our events within the guidelines! In 2018 you will again see me fluttering around the food table with extra serving spoons in my hands and working behind the bar. Outside of the meetings, you will see me at our new home on the runway or flying around with a big smile in my plane. I call her Chickenhawk since it's a Cessna 150 with a Chickenhawk painted on the tail.

Secretary - Bonnie Ritchey

Here's to another year on the PMLAA board! This year will be the best yet (and not just because I don't need to find the speakers this year).

I grew up in Santa Cruz, studied Computer Science at Duke University (Go Blue Devils!) and apart from California, have also lived in North Carolina, Washington, and Texas. I've been in PML since 2011. I've also worked my way through several tech companies including Mitsubishi Semiconductor, IBM, Microsoft, Yahoo!, Google, Proofpoint, Amazon and now Samsung SmartThings. I got my PPL in a Citabria 9 years ago, bought my Pitts S-2A about a month later, a V35B Bonanza 3 years later. I commute to Palo Alto most days and when not flying or working, I also help my brother with his winery in Santa Cruz, love hiking with my neighbors and enjoy traveling (40 countries so far), hiking, snowshoeing, sailing and making exotic pizzas.

PMLAA Board of Directors continued:

Rob Compton – Vice President Airport Affairs

This is my first year as part of the PMLAA Board of Directors. I hadn't planned to take on this type of responsibility until Roxie and I were retired but here I am.

I was born in Warren, Ohio and moved to California when I was two. I've spent the majority of my life in the Alameda, Contra Costa County, Tri Valley area. I currently work for Kaiser Permanente in Information Technology and enjoy most every day.

Roxie and I purchased our first home at PML in 2013 and it didn't take long for us to become active in the community. We travel between Pleasanton and PML on a weekly basis wishing we were here full time. We purchased our first airplane last year, a Piper Dakota, with the intent of commuting in the air instead of trying to stay out of an accident on the Altamont pass. We will be doing this for the next few years until we're full-timers.

Greg Triplett – Treasurer

This is my first year as PMLAA Treasurer. I want to thank Janet Gregory for doing such a great job as Treasurer before me and making my transition smooth!

I'm a native Californian from the East Bay Area. Debbie and I bought our PML home back in 2002 and have finally moved from "weekender" to "full-timer" status. We have three kids and became grandparents a year ago, which is way more fun than I expected!

I'm one of the tech industry pilots who seem to be discovering PML these days. I received my Electrical Engineering degree from Cal Poly, SLO, and have spent my career in or near Silicon Valley. My early career was in the avionics industry which was fun for a young pilot. Most of my mid-career was spent chasing the dream via start-up companies. I'm now working for Google in their Street View/Maps group. I aero-commute to Palo Alto several days a week, which is a treat compared to auto-commuting!

My flying covers nearly four decades now. It has included being a Tow Plane pilot for a glider club, building my own RV-4 sport plane, and more recently aero-commuting to work in my Cessna 182 or in Bonnie Ritchey's V35 Bonanza.

Social Corner – by Danielle Coelho

Hello again my PMLAA Friends. Cheers - it's 2018!

I am happy to be our VP Social Affairs again this year. I am looking forward to another wonderful year filled with good food, fun times, and great speakers. This year's first meeting will be our Valentine's Day Meeting. Let's start the year off with Pasta. What's your favorite pasta dish? Pasta and chicken? Pasta in a hearty meat sauce? Pasta Scampi? Lasagna? Please keep in mind we are feeding a large group and I hate to see anyone go home hungry.



If your last name starts with A-L, please bring a main course, side or salad

If your last name starts with L-Z, please bring an appetizer or dessert

The location of our meetings will be changing from month to month. The February meeting will be at McGowan's Hangar. Anyone who would like to host a meeting or two in their hangar, please get in touch with me right away. It will be much appreciated.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on Saturday February 3 at 6:00 PM. Location still to be determined.

Mangia!!!

Holiday Gifts

Our PMLAA members were generous in providing gifts for the children in our community. Here is a pic of what we donated. Thank you to all who helped with this endeavor.



Radio Rumors “Say Again”

- **PMLAA Membership:** We ended 2017 with 197 members!
 - 158 members 2018
 - 155 are renewals (79% of the 2017 membership)
 - 42 member families have not yet renewed
 - 3 new member families
 - Lydia Loera & Andy Mankus of Groveland
 - Friedrich & Veronika Paul of Big Oak Flat
 - Jo Ann Prieto of Groveland
- **PMLAA 2018 Calendars:** Only 10 calendars left, first-come-first-served. Get yours at the February meeting. Great price of only \$10.00.
- **Buzz Buggy:** Take an amazing armchair tour of the new Flying Tigers Heritage Park and Museum of Guilin, Buzz Buggy’s new home. Click on this link or paste it into your browser: <http://www.expoon.com/20237/> It should open automatically, but if not, click the round icon to enter the site, then let it load. There will be more articles and artifacts added over time, Buzz Buggy will get a hangar built around it, and General Claire Chennault’s HQ and Command Cave is being restored (with the help of Flying Tigers Historical Organization fund raising). Go to the website for more information or to make a contribution: <http://www.FlyingTigersHistoricalOrganization.com/>
- **TCAA (Tuolumne County Airport Advisory) committee:** Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12th at 11:00am. Ed Gregory and Steve Martin are E45 TCAA representatives. They are looking for additional representatives if you would like to volunteer contact Kalah: kbeckman@co.tuolumne.ca.us

Aviation Calendar

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| January | 20 – E45 Airport Display Day (last one on the 3 rd Saturday) <i>31 – Total eclipse of the moon and January’s Blue Moon</i> |
| February | 3 – E45 Airport Display Day, 9:00-1:00 3 – PMLAA Meeting at 6:00 <i>4 – Super Bowl Sunday</i> <i>14 – Valentine’s Day</i> <i>16 – Chinese New Year</i> <i>19 – President’s Day</i> |
| March | 3 – E45 Airport Display Day, 9:00-1:00 3 – PMLAA Meeting at 6:00 10 – Vicky Benzing @ NAF El Centro AirShow <i>11 – Daylight Savings Time starts</i> 17 – Patriot’s Jet Team @ Yuma, AZ Airshow (<i>St. Patrick’s Day</i>) <i>20 – Spring Equinox</i> 24 – Vicky Benzing @ Riverside Airshow <i>29 – Vietnam Veterans Day</i> |

2018 Meeting Calendar

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Time & Location</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| January | (no meeting) | |
| February 3 rd | David Peterson | 6pm – McGowan Hangar |
| March 3 rd | To Be Announced | 6pm – To be announced |

BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2018

OFFICERS

President, Joe Sobczak 650-200-0090
VP, Airport Affairs, Rob Compton 962-6503
VP, Social Affairs, Danielle Coelho 831-601-7328
Secretary, Bonnie Ritchey 650-996-6274
Treasurer, Greg Triplett 925-462-5273

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Property, Ed Peters 962-6267
Multimedia, Phil Hickerson 962-6714
Membrshp/Rostr, Bonnie Ritchey 650-996-6274
Airports Manager, Benedict Stuth 533-5685
Display Day Coordinator
 Rob Compton 962-6503
Safety, various contributors
Newsletter, Nikki Grimes 666-0141
Webmaster, Jeremy Zawodny 408-685-5936

McGowan's hangar is on the north taxiway about half way between the intersection crossing the runway and runway 9.

