

Mike Melvill on September 6th

At Wayne, Shane, and Al's Hangar at 6:00 PM



Volume 29: Issue 7 •
August 2014
A Publication of the
Pine Mountain Lake
Aviation Association



Mike Melvill retired in October of 2007 as Vice President/General Manager, a Test Pilot and one of 10 owners of Scaled Composites, LLC in Mojave, California. He worked for Burt Rutan for 31 years, and has 29 years of experience as an experimental test pilot.

He holds an FAA Commercial pilot's certificate, ASEL, AMEL, instrument airplane, Rotorcraft-helicopter and Glider. He received his Astronaut wings when he became the nation's first Commercial Astronaut, flying SpaceShipOne to above 100 km on June 21st 2004.

He has accumulated 9200 flight hours in 136 fixed wing-types, 11 helicopters and 10 glider types. He has flown 4 WW1 replica aircraft; A 1913 LeRhône rotary powered Sopwith Tabloid, a 1915 Gnome rotary powered Sopwith 1½ Strutter, a Gnome rotary powered Sopwith Camel and a Hispano Suiza powered RAF SE5a. All have tail skids, no brakes and use original 100 year old engines!

He was awarded the Ivan C. Kincheloe trophy in 1999 by the Society of Experimental test Pilots for high altitude developmental flight-testing of the model 281 Proteus Aircraft. He was awarded his second Ivan C. Kincheloe trophy at the 2005 annual SETP Symposium for his work flight-testing SpaceShipOne.

He holds nine US National and nine World speed and altitude records in Rutan's Catbird, Proteus and SpaceShipOne aircraft.

- He has flown 10 'FIRST' flights of Burt Rutan's unique aircraft designs.
- He built and flight-tested his own VariViggen and Long-EZ homebuilt aircraft.
- He and Dick Rutan flew their Long-EZ's around the world as a flight of two in 1997.
- He is a Fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.
- He has been a member of AOPA for 45 years.
- He is an Honorary member of Daedalians 56th Flight, Edwards AFB
- He is a Lifetime member of the EAA and a member for 41 years.

President's Monthly Squawk

By Lynne Orloff

The Block Party was a great success and from all accounts a relaxing time for the attendees. The numbers were lower than usual as so many weddings, birthdays and family excursions fell on the same weekend. Dian Martin put several members to work barbequing "brats", JT pumped local hard apple cider out to visitors to his hangar while the Thomas's, Sandlings, and Susie Williams had salsa, chips, tea and lemonade for passers-by who were collecting their poker hand, game by game. Thankfully, the temperature was not as daunting as it has been of late. There were many prizes awarded thanks to Marie Barber's talking to local merchants. We want to thank Marie and Randy Barber for hosting our annual event, as well as the hangar owners that yearly open their hangars, come up with new game ideas, and provide refreshments to the participants. These are Pat and Bill Thomas, Paula and Mike Sandling, Jim Thomas, and Susie Williams. Also, Ron and Cora Beiler's hangar is a must-have for staging our food, drink, and contest organization.

For those that missed the event, you may have missed the announcement of how four members have contributed to putting Groveland, and specifically Pine Mountain Lake Airport, "on the map". The Airventure Cup race was flown from Mitchell, South Dakota to Wausau, Wisconsin. In the Sport Class, Lee Behel, Jim Thomas, Vicki Benzing, and Jay Behel came in First, Second, Third and Fourth in order listed, flying three Lancair Legacy's, and with Jay in a Glasair III. Their speeds over the 400nm course ranged from just over 346 to just under 297 mph. Great job all of you!

This next month our speaker is Mike Melvill. Mike is the first civilian "Earthrounder" or first civilian astronaut. Mike was the first pilot to fly Burt Rutan's SpaceshipOne, an air launched sub-orbital aircraft, into space in an attempt to win the 10 million dollar Ansari X Prize which it did in 2004. Mike was part of that team of aviation wizards that continually put out designs that met their goals, was done with private funds, and outstripped fast-spending government projects in both time and money...kind of like Kelly Johnson and the "Skunkworks"?!

Besides being an accomplished pilot, a co-owner of Scaled Composites, Burt Rutan's company, and the test pilot for all of Burt's designs, Mike is just a nice person. While visiting the EAA Museum at Oshkosh this summer, I happened upon Dick Rutan's recounting of the Voyager Flight where Dick

mentioned Mike's contributions to that project in his talk several times. We are looking forward to his visit to our airport, along with his wife, Sally.

If you are planning on bringing friends to his talk, let us know, so we make sure we accommodate the extras in seating, etc. I also want to thank all the volunteers that appear for set-up and clean-up. Without you, none of this would happen! See you at Shane, Wayne and Alan's hangar this next month, September 6th.

Community Airport Day

By Virginia Richmond

Get ready! Community Airport Day is October 4. The committee is working hard to make this the best event ever. This is one of the main ways we build support for the airport as a valuable community resource.



The show starts at noon and will include the Beech Boys and West Coast Ravens formation flying teams and parachute jumpers. PML pilots can demonstrate their skills in the spot landing and flour bombing contests.

In addition, there will be displays of airplanes and cars as well as races between planes and cars/motorcycles. Expect a few aerial surprises too! We'll also be selling refreshments all afternoon. This is a big effort and there are opportunities for everyone to help! Call Catherine Santa Maria at 962-7904 and see how you can get involved.



Repairing the Wind Tee

By Jim Thomas

It was brought to my attention after I retired from the County that the Pine Mountain Lake Airport wind tee was broken and that it was sitting at a funny tail low angle. Since I can see the wind tee much better than I can see the windsock and since I use it every time I land it seemed logical that I take it upon myself to repair the wind tee.

During my initial inspection, I took off the side cover plate and found parts of the lower bearing laying in the base of the wind tee. It was obvious to me that the bearing had failed. Knowing that at a minimum a new bearing would be needed I suggested that the entire wind tee mechanism be refurbished. After all, the existing bearings were most likely installed in the 60's and the upper bearing likely needed replacing also.

With the help of Jerett Sperry from the County, the wind tee was removed and the spinning base hauled to my hangar. A NOTAM indicating the wind tee was "Out-Of-Service" was filed. Upon opening up the wind tee base it became obvious that the entire system was corroded and proper disassembly would take some time. Fortunately, there was no hurry to disassemble the existing mechanism because obtaining the correct replacement bearings took some time.

An agreement was made with the County that if they purchase the parts I would provide the labor to rebuild the system. So the County provided new bearings, new wire and new hardware. Over the course of nearly 3 weeks the wind tee mechanism was disassembled, cleaned and rebuilt using new parts. The only parts reused were the slip rings and brushes which appeared to be in good shape.

Reinstalling the base and the wind tee required considerable help because the tee had to be lifted and placed on the base. Those that helped reinstall the wind tee included Michael Thoben, Mike Lella, Wayne Handley and Al Craig. We now will hopefully have a rebuilt wind tee that will last many years.



Our Repaired Wind Tee

Young Eagles Pilots Needed

By Virginia Richmond

Our local EAA Chapter 1337 is hosting a Young Eagles program on Saturday morning, October 4. This is always a very popular event and an opportunity for youngsters to experience the joy of flying. Can you help?

We need 8-10 pilots to fly with the 50-60 expected kids. You must have a current BFR and medical and be an EAA member. We also need 4-6 people to help with registration, getting the kids lined up,



taking photos and processing paperwork. It's very rewarding – just look at the smiles in this photo! [Contact Ed Gregory at 962-5061](#) to volunteer. You'll be glad you did!



2014 Meeting Calendar

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Time & Location</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|--|
| September 6 | Mike Melvill | 6:00PM Wayne, Shane, and Alan's Hangar |
| October 4 | Airport Day | All day at Pine Mountain Lake Airport |
| November 1 | Dr. Landon Noll | 6:00PM location TBD |

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