



Volume 33: Issue 02  
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Pine Mountain Lake  
Aviation Association

## *Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Meeting*

*Saturday, March 3 – 6:00 pm  
Benzing's West Hangar*

*Art Thompson  
Technical Project Director for  
Red Bull Stratos*

On October 14, 2012, new records were set for the world's highest freefall and world's highest manned balloon flight. The genius behind the program was Mr. Art Thompson who will be the March PMLAA guest speaker. The project was Red Bull Stratos. Art was technical project director.

Art is an electrifying speaker who doesn't pull any punches, so look forward to a real, exciting, and candid insider's look at the project.



*Art Thompson*

“As technical project director for Red Bull Stratos, Art Thompson conceptualized and drove the design, engineering and fabrication of the flight vehicle including development of the life support systems, flight equipment and flight-testing program. He was responsible for program management and handling of the mission's critical technology as well as assembly and oversight of the entire Stratos project team.

Art possesses more than three decades of experience in innovating leading-edge design that has produced major milestones in aerospace history, including development of the B-2 "Stealth" aircraft. A California native, he studied engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles, and attended the University of

## More on Art Thompson

La Verne and Northrop University. It was while working for Northrop Corporation that he served on a team brainstorming ideas for an aircraft that could avoid radar detection; their design would become the B-2 Spirit. Art co-founded his own company, Sage Cheshire Aerospace, Inc., to provide a wide range of aerospace needs, from initial design and engineering to finished product, while a sister business, A2ZFX Inc., extends the benefit of Art's creative thinking to other fields - producing tools, molds, digital products, and more for clients from aerospace manufacturers to movie producers for films like "Batman & Robin," "Contact," "Total Recall," "Air Force One," and "Blade."

It's that combination of drive, vision, and excellence that led Felix (Baumgartner, pilot for Red Bull Stratos) to Art, entrusting him to lead the development of the Red Bull Stratos mission. While Art's Sage Cheshire crew designed, built, and tested the capsule to protect Felix and the mission's critical technology, his industry knowledge and stellar reputation have allowed him to hand-pick an unparalleled team for the other components of the project including directing all of the flight test operations. Art notes, "There are so many great stories among the people working on this mission; with Red Bull Stratos, we're writing another one."

Art is a member of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA), American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), National Aeronautical Association (NAA), Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP, corporate member), and the Air Force Flight Test Historical Foundation at Edwards AFB Board of Directors; He is International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS) Space Safety 2013 Jerome Lederer Pioneer Award recipient; 2012 Collier Trophy nominee; 2012 Laureate Award nominee; 2013 Excellence in Aviation Award recipient from the Flight Test Historical Foundation; Hall of Fame 2013 Inductee, San Diego Air and Space Museum; Honorary U.S. Army Golden Knight; recognized by the New Mexico and California Senates for contributions in aerospace and human physiology for egress from high altitude." Information from <http://www.redbullstratos.com/the-team/art-thompson/>

A little side note... our own Marle Hewett was a consultant on the project and contributed a lot of that creative and technical genius as the Program Manager and Senior Flight Test Engineer.

Join us on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and meet Art and his wife Roberta. Don't forget we'll be at a [new hangar location](#) for the March meeting: Benzing's west hangar (directions and map on last page)



## President's Message – by Joe Sobczak

Our February meeting was a great success. Guest speaker, David Peterson, enlightened us with insights into early F-15 Eagle fighter development, flight test, and a fascinating recount of the Streak Eagle program which set numerous world time-to-climb records in the F-15. Thank you, Dave!

Thanks to you and our resident shake-down artist Chloe Fitzmyers, the 50-50 raffle took in over 1 AMU (\$1000 = one Aircraft Monetary Unit) at our February meeting. Your participation helps run our great organization, including costs for our guest speakers, scholarships, Airport Day, and Historical Aircraft Display events.

Speaking of which, we have nailed down 2018 dates and times for displays of Aircraft of Historical Value. Display Days will be on the first Saturday of each month, AND the following Sunday. This normally corresponds to our monthly meeting and EAA chapter meeting weekend. This handy arrangement gives aircraft owners a lot of flexibility in meeting display requirements for tax purposes while participating in PMLAA and EAA events. Look for more and more activity on the ramp the first weekend of the month as word gets around!

Do you have friends at Livermore, Palo Alto, Modesto, or anywhere in northern California with an airplane or an interest in aviation? Invite them to join the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association. With the consolidation of meetings, display days, and EAA, they can have a productive trip to E45 each month and join in all the fun. We can be reached at [president@pmlaa.org](mailto:president@pmlaa.org), [pmlaa.org@gmail.com](mailto:pmlaa.org@gmail.com), 765-387-6522 (PML-38-PMLAA), or on the web at [pmlaa.org](http://pmlaa.org).

See you March 3<sup>rd</sup>!

## Fly Young Eagles at Columbia (O22) – by Ed & Janet Gregory

On Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, our local EAA Chapter 1337 will be hosting a Young Eagles Rally at Columbia Airport (O22) from 9:00 to Noon. We'd love to have you join us to be part of this exciting and memorable event for the 40-50 kids that fly with us each year, age 8 to 17. Contact Ed or Janet Gregory 962-5061.



- Ground crew: aircraft assignment, ramp safety
- Support: registration, photographer
- Pilots: EAA National member, valid airman certificate & EAA Youth Protection
- Aircraft: current annual & insurance

## Calling All Golfers – Patriots Jet Team Golf Classic

On Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, the annual Patriots Jet Team Golf Classic will take place. You will enjoy some great golf with Patriots Jet team pilots and crew, along with an airshow. The \$200 registration fee benefits the PJTF STEM education programs. Your registration fee also includes green fee, cart, gift bag, and three meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner) at the fabulous Discovery Bay Country Club.



If you register before April 30<sup>th</sup>, you will receive a “Super Blue Raffle Ticket” valued at \$20 to win any number of prizes including a 55” Samsung 4K TV and 7-night beach vacation.

To register (click or copy this link)

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ef3j2c9pa81c6ced&llr=vig5lugab>

## Social Corner – by Danielle Coelho

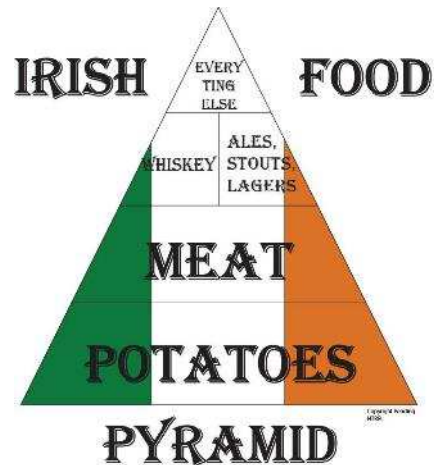
Hello PMLAA Friends!

It was wonderful to see everyone at our February meeting. I hope everyone enjoyed our pasta night. Food was not only plentiful but delicious too!

March is St. Paddy’s Day -so let’s all get our Irish on 🍀 and share our favorite Irish dishes. The Irish are known for hearty stews, corned beef & cabbage, Shepherds pie, carrots and potatoes, Irish soda bread, apple, chocolate and mint desserts just to name a few.

If your last name starts with:

- A-K please bring an appetizer or dessert
- L-Z please bring a main dish, side dish, or Salad



PLEASE NOTE: Our meetings will be rotating between different member’s hangars this year. The March meeting will be held at the Benzing’s West Hangar. Thank You Vicky and Jeff!!!

I look forward to seeing you Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6 pm. There will be a map as well as directions to the hangar on the last page of this newsletter. If you have any questions on location or food please don't hesitate to contact me.

Remember if you’re not wearing green, you might get pinched 🍀



## Radio Rumors “Say Again”

- **PMLAA 2018 Calendars:** Only a few left. They were \$10 each, make us an offer we can't refuse. Get them at the March meeting.
- **E45 Airport Display Day Expanded:** Expanded to two days, the first Saturday and Sunday of each month, coinciding with the PMLAA monthly meeting. Expanded to eight hours each day, 8:00a – 4:00p, with sign off at noon.
- **Rental Car at E45:** Yes, the rumor is true. Thanks to new PMLAA member Mary Fairbanks we will be getting a rental car at E45 May through October. More details will follow as the details get finalized. This will be a wonderful help to pilots with multi-day and multi-point transportation needs after they fly in. Hooray!
- **Raffle Baskets:** Friends of Groveland Library are offering baskets for raffle in order to buy new books for the library. Basket themes are Sports Fever, Best of Groveland, Beauty and the Beast, Cocoa Vino-An Affair to Remember, Tea for Two, Coffee for You, and Get Out of Town. Stop by the library anytime to see the bountiful baskets and buy your raffle tickets.
- **Mark Your Calendar:** We have changed the date for E45 Airport Appreciation Day to Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the last Saturday of September. The PMLAA meeting will be that same evening. It will be a 'Blue PMLAA' month with two PMLAA meetings in the same month!
- **PMLAA 2018 Calendars:** Only a few left. They were \$10 each, make us an offer we can't refuse. Get them at the March
- **March is a 'Blue Moon' Month:** March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> will each display a full moon. This makes two Blue Moon months in 2018 which will not happen again for 19 years, in 2037.
- **TCAA (Tuolumne County Airport Advisory) committee:** Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. Ed Gregory and Steve Martin are E45 TCAA representatives. The February meeting was cancelled, no policy issues to review. They are looking for additional representatives if you would like to volunteer contact Kalah: [kbeckman@co.tuolumne.ca.us](mailto:kbeckman@co.tuolumne.ca.us)



## Aviation Calendar

<b>March</b>	<b>3 – PMLAA Meeting</b> at 6:00 <b>3-4 – E45 Airport Display Day</b> , 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 10 – Vicky Benzing @ NAF El Centro AirShow 11 – <i>Daylight Savings Time starts</i> 17 – Patriot’s Jet Team @ Yuma, AZ Airshow ( <i>St. Patrick’s Day</i> ) 20 – <i>Spring Equinox</i> 24 – Vicky Benzing @ Riverside Airshow 29 – <i>Vietnam Veterans Day</i>
<b>April</b>	<b>7 – PMLAA Meeting</b> at 6:00 <b>7-8 – E45 Airport Display Day</b> , 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 7-8 – Vicky Benzing @ March Air Reserve Base AirShow <b>28 – Young Eagles Rally</b> at Columbia Airport O22 28 – Vicky Benzing & Patriots Jet Team @ Beale Open House & AirShow

## 2018 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time &amp; Location</u>
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Art Thompson	6pm – Benzing hangar
April	To be announced	6pm – Duplan hangar
May	To be announced	6pm – Duplan hangar

### 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

**Email:** [president@pmlaa.org](mailto:president@pmlaa.org)  
 or [board@pmlaa.org](mailto:board@pmlaa.org)

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**Membrshp/Rostr**, Bonnie Ritchey 650-996-6274  
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**Display Day Coordinator**  
 Rob Compton 962-6503  
**Safety**, various contributors  
**Newsletter**, Nikki Grimes 666-0141  
**Webmaster**, Jeremy Zawodny 408-685-5936

Benzing's hangar is on the north taxiway, east of the intersection at the center of the runway. Come in on Jimmersall Lane. Turn south on the taxiway then east to stay on taxiway.



*Benzing West Hangar*