



Volume 33: Issue 03
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Pine Mountain Lake
Aviation Association

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Meeting

*Saturday, April 7 – 6:00 pm
Tristan Duplan's Hangar*

*Art Thompson
Technical Project Director for
Red Bull Stratos*

Inclement weather (snow!) prevented our originally scheduled speaker from joining us this month but he will be here for our April meeting (in Tristan's hangar). Art Thompson orchestrated the Red Bull Stratos record setting free-fall supersonic human jump from 130,000 feet (with a lot of help from our own Marle Hewett). Don't miss this exciting program!



Art Thompson (photo from Red Bull Content Pool)

“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 La Verne and Northrop University.

More on Art Thompson

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/>

Join us on April 7 and meet Art and his wife Roberta. Don't forget we'll be at a new hangar location for the April meeting: Tristan Duplan's hangar (directions and map on last page)



President's Message – by Joe Sobczak

I want to offer a special thank you to Carol Foy, our virtual guest speaker at the March membership meeting. We screened a short documentary of Carol's record-setting (and still standing) around the world flight in a Mooney. Then we had an opportunity for Q&A with Carol via Skype, live from Florence, Italy. The PMLAA membership came through for ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) research in a BIG way: a combined donation of \$1000 to ALS TDI from our fellow members. If you left a cash donation for ALS TDI at the meeting (or would like to) and need a tax receipt, please let me know the amount along with your mailing address. The record setting flight was conducted specifically to benefit that organization which helps ALS victims. I want to share Carol's heartfelt letter of appreciation to our generous members:



Hi Joe!

THANK YOU!!!! Thank you so much for sharing this story again. And WOW!! What a generous and hearty bunch of friends you have found in the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association! Maybe in May I'll get to shake hands and thank them personally, that would be wonderful.

I like to feel that each dollar makes a difference. One of the reasons I did the around the world attempt, was to help my cousin, Hal. He had ALS. He battled this disease for 15 years, a long time in terms of ALS. I think it was because of his family, the strides being made in the ALS scientific community and our growing awareness of the disease. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you so much for what you've done, because, for me, it's quite personal.

When you send the check, please make a note on the check that is to go into the "Marie Garratt Fund". She was CarolAnn's mom, who passed away with ALS in 2003, and really started all of this.

This whole Skype thing was a fun experience! Another story to tell in the collection of stories that makes life so fun, interesting and worthwhile! So thank you for adding to my trip to Italy!

Blue Skies and Tailwinds!
Caio!
Carol

A big, big shout out to our March meeting host Jeff Benzing for the use of his hangar. Jeff spent countless hours cleaning, organizing, moving planes, and trying to get the Zamboni airworthy! It was a great venue, Jeff, and we hope to be back later this year. And thanks to all the volunteers who help every month with setup, cleanup, and the pot luck. The bar is high for Tristan Duplan, who will host our April meeting at the other end of the airport. See you there!

Share the Joy of Aviation - Young Eagles April 28th – by Ed Gregory

Please join us on Saturday, April 28th for a Young Eagles Rally at Columbia Airport (O22). Bring your kids or grandkids. Opportunity to volunteer some time to introduce aviation to kits age 8 to 17. In the past we have created great flying experiences for 40-50 kids at Columbia. We'd love to have you join from 9:00 to noon. For more information, contact Ed or Janet Gregory 962-5061.



Young Eagles: bring children age 8 to 17

Ground crew volunteers needed for aircraft assignment, ramp safety & registration

Pilots & aircraft wanted – Pilots with EAA National member, valid airman certificate & EAA Youth Protection along with their aircraft (in current annual & insured)

Aircraft Display Day – by Joe Sobczak

Our “Aircraft of Historical Significance” display days were pre-empted by the weather in March. If you intended to display your aircraft but were unable due to the snow and ice, contact Bonnie or me (Joe) for your signoff. The Yosemite Highway Herald advertises our event, but their deadline (which apparently is 6 months prior to publication) has precluded correctly specifying the dates, which are always the first full weekend each month.



Golf with the Jet Jockeys - Annual Patriots Jet Team Golf Classic

Enjoy a great day at the Discovery Bay Golf Course and Country Club on Monday, June 11th. It's the annual Patriots Jet Team Golf Classic to benefit STEM education programs sponsored by PJTF (Patriots Jet Team Foundation). Your \$200 registration fee includes green fee, cart, gift bag, and three meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) at the fabulous Discovery Bay Country Club. You will be treated to aerial demonstrations and get to play with Patriots Jet Team pilots and crew. If you register before April 30th, you will receive a “Super Blue Raffle Ticket” to win one of many exciting prizes.



Register at the Patriot's Jet Team Foundation website: www.pjtf.org

PMLAA Volunteer Award – by Joe Sobczak

Each month, a PMLAA volunteer is selected for their noteworthy service to the association. Board members Bonnie Ritchie and Danielle Coelho were the first two recipients of 2018. This month, the award went to Chloe Fitzmyers for her tireless dedication promoting the 50/50 raffle at our meetings. In February, her efforts brought in a record \$1000+. In addition to the triumphant accolades, fame, and satisfaction that goes with a job well done, awardees receive fun and exciting prizes to commemorate their achievement. Chloe scored an exciting and collectable Boeing 787 Dreamliner notebook. Congratulations and Thank You to Bonnie, Danielle, and Chloe!

Social Corner – by Danielle Coelho

Hello PMLAA friends.

We had a small, wonderful group for our snowy February meeting at the Benzing's hanger. Thanks to all for the delicious Irish food dishes.

Next month, at our April meeting, the food theme will be "Springtime Chicken." Let's all bring our favorite chicken dish.... except, of course, the members bringing dessert.



Please use the following recommendation when picking your pot luck item:

Last names A-K: please bring main dish, side dish, or salad

Last names L-Z: please bring appetizer or dessert

April 7 at 6 pm, our meeting will be held at Tristan's hangar. His hangar is on the 9er end of the runway on the northwest side as you turn to go onto the taxiway off Woodside Rd.

Detailed directions to Tristan's hangar along with a map will be on the last page of the newsletter.

Welcome New Members!

Barry McFarlane and family recently purchased Jason Johanson's old place on 21019 Woodside Way (aka "The Blue Shoe"). They currently reside in Turlock and fly up here regularly from the grass strip at their farm. Barry's career in aviation began in Alaska, then American Eagle Airlines for a few years. He went back to farming in 2001. Barry says, "I fly mostly for fun now with a little side work occasionally. Our family has a Cessna 206, a Super Cub, and an Aeronca Champ (which my oldest son Kelly is soloing in). And as a project I'm building a Zenith Cruiser with my two boys Kelly (16) and Ian (13). We LOVE coming up here to PML and are enjoying getting to know all of you in the PMLAA!"



Kelly, Barry and Ian McFarlane

Radio Rumors "Say Again"

- **Groveland Library:** At the April meeting, you'll also have the opportunity to support the Groveland Library in the annual gift basket raffle. The baskets this year are extraordinary, with prizes such as Giants and A's tickets, team jerseys, wine tastings, theater tickets, restaurant gift certificates, a massage and hair cut, PML golf, boat ride and so much more. Tickets are just \$5 for six or \$20 for 25. All proceeds purchase books at the library!
- **CPR Certification and AED at PML:** Thanks to Paul and Kym Purifoy for coordinating CPR training at PML. Six active PMLAA members were recently trained and certified: Wayne Handley, Kay Meermans, Ed & Janet Gregory, and Paul & Kym Purifoy. Training also included 20 other people from the Homeowners Association Staff and community. Plans are underway to train all PML Homeowners Association Staff members and to locate AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) at strategic locations, such as the PML Grill and PML Association Office.
- **E45 Calendar Changes:** E45 Community Airport Day and Young Eagles Rally have switched dates. Mark your calendar. E45 Community Airport Day and PMLAA Meeting will be Saturday, September 29th. E45 Young Eagles will be October 6th.
- **E45 Airport Display Day Extended:** In case you missed the great news, Antique Aircraft Display Day at E45 has been expanded to two days. It takes place on the first Saturday and Sunday of each month, coinciding with the PMLAA monthly meeting. Aircraft that are more than 35 years old (built before 1983) can receive signoff for tax purposes. Flexible hours expanded to 8:00a – 4:00p, with sign off at noon.
- **Rental Car at E45:** New PMLAA member Mary Fairbanks is planning to bring a rental car at E45 May through October. More details will follow as things get finalized. What a wonderful help to pilots with multi-day and multi-point transportation needs after they fly in.

Radio Rumors “Say Again” (continued)

- **TCAA (Tuolumne County Airport Advisory) committee:** Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 9th at 11:00am. They are looking for additional representatives if you would like to volunteer contact Kalah: kbeckman@co.tuolumne.ca.us



What you get when it snows! County driver plowing the runway.

photo by Susie Williams

Aviation Calendar

| | |
|--------------|--|
| March | 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> |
| April | 7 – PMLAA Meeting at 6:00 7-8 – E45 Airport Display Day , 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 7-8 – Vicky Benzing @ March Air Reserve Base AirShow 28 – Young Eagles Rally at Columbia Airport O22 28 – Vicky Benzing & Patriots Jet Team @ Beale Open House & AirShow |
| May | 4-6 – Quiet Birdmen at Columbia Airport (O22) 5 – Vicky Benzing & Patriots Jet Team @ Jackie Cochran Airshow, Thermal 5 – PMLAA Meeting at 6:00 5-6 – E45 Airport Display Day , 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 13 – <i>Mother’s Day</i> 18-20 – Continental Luscombes Assn. at Columbia Airport (O22) 19-20 – Vicky Benzing & Patriots Jet Team @ Hangar 24 Craft Brewery Airfest 19 – <i>Armed Forces Day</i> 25-27 – 180-185 Club at Columbia Airport (O22) 28 – <i>Memorial Day (observed)</i> |

2018 Meeting Calendar

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Time & Location</u> |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| April 7 | Art Thompson | 6pm – Duplan hangar |
| May 5 | Ken Orloff | 6pm – Duplan hangar |
| June 2 | TBA | 6pm - TBA |

BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2018

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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

The Duplan hangar is on the west end of the north taxiway off Woodside Way. Behind the house Unit 12/Lot 6, 20919 Woodside Way. Be sure to park so you are not blocking any airplane access. Buck & Jo Buchanan and Ken & Lynn Orloff are offering their ramps for parking.



Duplan hangar



map to Duplan hangar