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Pine Mountain Lake
Aviation Association

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation

Next Meeting:

Saturday, February 1, 2020

6:00 PM

*Speaker: Beth Stanton,
Aviation Journalist*



Beth Stanton (center) with Flying Cowboys

Confessions of an Aviation Journalist

Nonfiction is stranger than fiction

Every month for the last five years, Beth Stanton has been cranking out aviation articles for EAA Publications and other aviation media outlets.

Every. Month. There is a “weekend” after the workweek. Why isn’t there a “monthend” at the end of the month? One month ends and another begins immediately! They march forward endlessly without ever stopping for even a teeny break before resetting to Day 1 again! Why, for the love of god, why?

back from a walk and meditation

Every month for the last five years, Beth Stanton has been serenely writing aviation articles that tell the incredible stories of amazing people and the projects they are working on in the aviation realm.

Words flow from her fingertips faster than she can type them. Sometimes she gets up from her desk and twirls as glitter sparkles around her. Laughing out loud, she can’t believe that she gets paid so much money for something that is so ridiculously effortless.

In addition to the outrageous and glamorous aviation journalist lifestyle she now lives, this work has also led to some improbable and wholly unexpected adventures.

Aviation Journalist (continued)

On February 1, 2020 at the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association meeting, Beth will present tales that may or may not be true such as:

- Being the only person on earth on May 18, 2018 who did this particular aviation thing
- Invoking the Dark Arts on curmudgeons, recluses and engineer-y types to make them open up in interviews
- Stand on the wing of Stratolaunch and watching its first flight (not at the same time)
- How writing has brought her fame, fortune and spiritual enlightenment
- Crashing a flying car
- Lounge in bed while upstairs the Snowbirds set the dinner table and grill her a perfectly medium rare steak
- Becoming a mentor to sweet, impressionable, innocent children

Advance praise for the talk that Beth hasn't even written yet:

You're a wonderful humorist as well as an outstanding journalist. I think you will keep the crowd hanging on your every word and convulsed by your wit. You go, girl! -Dean Sigler, Editor in Chief, SustainableSkies.org (I swear he actually said this. I'm not making it up. Really.)

Lie as much as you think you can and get away. I've been doing that in print for 51 years and haven't been caught yet. Or at least the public has been kind enough not to call me out on it. If they do, I can just bring out the senility card. -Budd Davisson, loooong time aviation scribbler, Pitts driver, and apparent serial liar.

About Beth:

Beth has done a few things here and there in aviation since earning her private pilot license in 2011. Sometimes she goes out to the Oakdale Aero Club and flies their airplanes around if she feels like it. She lives in Modesto with her man Dan and they are now down to one ancient cat. Mama Cat is semi-feral, drooly and scratchy, but she's the last one standing so they'll take what they can get.

2020 Calendars Final Sale

- Get 'em while they last. Marvel at 12 months of PMLAA aviation. \$10 per calendar. We are getting to the end of our supply, get yours soon.
- Contact Madam President, Danielle Coelho, or Janet Gregory. Profits go to the PMLAA Scholarship fund.

President's Letter – by Danielle Coelho

Hello PMLAA Friends and Happy 2020! As most of you know I have been serving on the board of directors for the last five years now. These past three as the vice president of social affairs working with a great group of board members and presidents. Most recently it was an honor to be on Joe Sobczak's board.

As we go into 2020 I'll be finishing up some loose ends from the great projects Joe implemented in 2019. I also look forward to educating our members on how to properly and confidently use the defib units and Say WeatherStation. I will do my best to keep things interesting and on an upward trend. All the best for health happiness and fun

Cheers  to all in 2020!!!



Joe passing baton to Danielle

The Former Pres Sez... by Joe Sobczak, President, 2018-2019

It's been a pleasure and great honor to serve as PMLAA president for the past two years. Thank you all for your exceptional support. Thanks to you, we have seen the organization prosper and further its goals. In the past two years, you have

- Funded and installed a state of the art airport surface advisory system
- Marked the parallel taxiway with retroreflective blue edge markers
- Funded and installed two potentially lifesaving defibrillators
- Hosted numerous interesting and exciting guest speakers at our member meetings
- Set up, cooked, and cleaned up venues for 18 extraordinary member meetings
- Raised funds and granted thousands in scholarships to further aviation and STEM education
- Made a feckless and potentially hazardous deer fence vanish
- Planned, organized, and ran two unbelievable and spectacular Airport Appreciation Days
- Welcomed new members and friends and said good bye to a few we lost
- Generously offered use of your hangars for our monthly gatherings
- Honored our veterans and supported our community
- Produced beautiful calendars featuring our own people and their planes
- Set up and maintained very helpful webcams for improved flight planning and safety
- Maintained and contributed to the PMLAA website

At best, that is a partial list. I won't try to thank everyone by name for fear of omission and running out of space for my column, but please know I deeply appreciate all of your contributions. You made my job easy. To sum it up, you helped make Pine Mountain Lake a great place to live and visit.

The good news is that we are handing over the presidency to the dynamic and delightful Danielle Coelho. Great things are in store with Danielle at the controls and I am excited for the organization in 2020.

Happy New Year, and see you all in 2020!

Social V.P. – by Kathy McConnell



Time to take off! February 1 our meeting will be at the Tristan Dunlap hangar, our first for 2020. Time for everyone to make their favorite dish, and bring to share.

A thru P - a main dish or salad

Q thru Z - desert or appetizer

We need the use of hangars for 2020. March is scheduled however we need the rest of the year scheduled. Please contact myself or Danielle. Contact info on page 8 of newsletter. Here's to a super fun and safe year.

Weather and Pilot-Controlled Lighting System for E45

In late 2019, Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association acquired the SayWeather system, which consists of two elements: the weather advisory system and the pilot-controlled lighting interface. Both systems have been installed and tested, and the Tuolumne County Airports department has been trained on how to maintain and administer the systems. The pilot-controlled lighting (PCL) interface is an overlay to the previous PCL system; it provides some additional capabilities including an audio acknowledgment when you activate the lights, plus the ability to extend the runway lighting beyond the default 15 minute duration by keying your mic while the lights are already on.

Instructions for Pilots

To activate the weather advisory system, tune your radio to E45's common frequency, 122.9. Wait until no one is speaking on frequency, then click three, four, or five times, depending on which action you want to initiate. The actions are:

- 3 Clicks – brief weather advisory (winds only)
- 4 Clicks – longer weather advisory (winds, temperature, dewpoint, altimeter, density altitude)
- 5 Clicks – turn on pilot-controlled lighting for the runway lights if it's dark (sunset to sunrise)

If there is no audio traffic for a few seconds, the weather advisory system will broadcast the current weather conditions or will acknowledge the request to turn on the lights. If someone else comes onto the radio frequency, the system will not interrupt the transmission and you'll have to key the mic again to activate the action.

Notes:

- The pilot-controlled lighting will only come on when it's dark. The runway lights, beacon, and wind tee are all controlled by a photocell that automatically turns on the beacon and wind tee and allows the runway lights to be turned on by the system. If you try to turn on the runway lights and it's daylight, nothing will happen.
- If you activate the pilot-controlled lighting, it will stay on for 15 minutes. If it's activated again while it's already lit, the lighting will remain on for an additional 15 minutes from the time you keyed your mic the second time. Example: I key my mic to turn on the lights. 5 minutes after the lights go on, someone else keys the mic again, so the lights will now stay on $5 + 15 = 20$ minutes.

If you have questions or issues regarding the beacon, wind tee, or lighting systems, please contact the Airport Manager.

Eternal Flights for Two Great Community Members

Paul Price made his final flight in December 2019. Paul and his wife, Pat, first discovered PML in 1976 and made it their full-time home 24 years ago. They have been active members of the PML community and airport life.

Paul served in the Army during the Korean War. He holds a BSME (Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering) from Cal Poly. He worked for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories building expertise in nuclear science over his 30+ years with The Lab. He loved his work. He was able to work on cutting edge research and many top-secret projects. Paul and Pat have been together for over 60 years, have three children and one grandchild.



Paul Price

We will miss Paul's infectious laugh. We will miss all the knowledge he brought on a wide variety of topics, especially about things that move. He loved airplanes, motorcycles, cars and hot rods. Paul knew things about them that other people just didn't know. Even Paul at the Tire Shop would call him from time to time, to wrangle with an interesting automobile problem.

Read more about Paul in this 2015 article. http://pmlaa.org/misc/Paul_Price.pdf

Jane Hansen made her final flight in December 2019. Jane has been an active member of the PML community for many years, including 20+ years of volunteer effort to PMLAA and receiving PMLAA's annual prop award in 2003. Jane attended the September 2019 PMLAA Meeting where we celebrated her community contribution along with her 100th birthday, which she celebrated in August. To all that knew her, Jane was a fun loving, funny, and bright spirit. She will be missed. She is one of the special people that helped make PML that great place it is today.



Jane Hansen

Read more about Jane in this 2015 article: http://pmlaa.org/misc/Jane_Hansen.pdf

Congratulations PMLAA Scholarship Winner: Kelly McFarlane

A private pilot already, Kelly McFarlane has aspirations "to get a 4-year degree in Aviation or Aeronautical Engineering and then fly for the Air Force." He is currently attending Modesto Junior College and working at the Modesto Jet Center. Kelly's scholarship is being applied to his instrument ground school and flight training. His PMLAA Scholarship was approved at the December PMLAA Board Meeting. Kelly believes in paying it forward and serves at Jessica's House (www.jessicashouse.org) which provides grief support for children, teens, young adults, and their families that have been through traumatic experiences. Kelly attends as many PMLAA meetings as he is able, so please say hello and share your love of aviation with him.

PML Airport Golden Anniversary by Janet Gregory

Congratulations to Pine Mountain Lake Airport for fifty years of incredible flying experiences. On January 26, 1970, PML Airport received its Airport Permit from the State of California. (Source: PMLA files)

This Airport Permit was authorized by Joseph R. Crotti, Director of Aeronautics and issued by the State of California Business and Transportation Agency, Department of Aeronautics. Today this is Caltrans Division of Aeronautics.

Joe Crotti was a strong advocate for aviation in California and throughout the west. Crotti served as aeronautics director under Govs. Ronald Reagan and Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown Jr. He also served for 15 years as Western regional representative for AOPA. AOPA honored him by creating the Joe Crotti Trophy for California General Aviation Advocacy, an annual award given to a Californian who carries forward Crotti's advocacy for the most effective use of airfields. (Sources: Los Angeles Times 6/25/1994 & AOPA.org)

The airport was sited, excavated, constructed, and owned by Boise Cascade Properties, Inc. in 1968. It was originally operated as an unimproved (dirt) airfield and asphalt paved in late 1969. Boise Cascade, primarily a lumber products company, had diversified in many areas, including real estate, residential, and



State of California
Business and Transportation Agency
Department of Aeronautics

AIRPORT PERMIT

This Certifies that the PINE MOUNTAIN LAKE Airport
owned by Boise Cascade Properties, Inc. and
located at 37° 51' 40" N. latitude and 120° 11' 00" W. longitude
Groveland, California
has received Permit No. 55 - 2, dated January 26, 1970
Operation of a BU - Stage I airport is hereby authorized under this
permit, pursuant to the laws of the State of California and the rules and regulations
of the Department of Aeronautics subject to the following additional conditions.


Director of Aeronautics
JOSEPH R. CROTTI

THIS PERMIT MUST BE CONSPICUOUSLY POSTED AT THE ABOVE NAMED AIRPORT
Physical or legal changes to this airport without prior approval by the department may void this permit.

recreational area development, which included Pine Mountain Lake. (Sources: PMLA files & Funding Universe)

The atmosphere in the country at the time was one of distress and optimism. The brutal 1968 North Vietnamese Tet Offensive convinced many people that the Vietnam War would be impossible to win. The death of Martin Luther King, Jr. added to the resolve of the civil rights movement. In the summer of 1969 hope blossomed at the Woodstock music festival; a harmonious three days representing the best of the peace-and-love generation. (Source: History.com)

The airport received its permit for operation as a BU-Stage 1 Airport. A Basic Utility-Stage 1 airport is intended to serve small single-engine, propeller-driven aircraft and small twin-engine, propeller-driven aircraft ... that typically seat one to four people, and are generally used for training, personal and sport flying. Such an airport would have a primary runway with a minimum length of 2,800 feet; PML Airport was originally paved at 3500 feet long x 50 feet wide. (Source: FAA Airport Certification Requirements & FAA Form 5010 02/20/1970).

Happy 50th Anniversary PML Airport!

Radio Rumors “Say Again”

- **Interesting (and Useless) Facts about Aviation FREEBIES:**
 - Only two airlines in the US have NO baggage fees: Cape Air and Southwest Airlines.
 - Delta Airlines offers *free* beer and wine to all passengers on most international flights.
 - Frontier, Spirit, and Allegiant offer NO free services ... no drinks or snacks.
- **Chinese Year of the Rat**
 - The rat is the first of all the zodiac animals.
 - In Chinese culture, rats were seen as a sign of wealth and surplus.
 - Recent years of the Rat are: 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020
 - Those born in the year of the rat are clever, quick thinkers; successful, but content with living a quiet and peaceful life.
 - *This Metal Rat Year* is going to be a strong, prosperous, and lucky year for almost all Chinese *zodiac* signs. Go for it!!
- **Aviation Acronym Decoder Ring:** Memory aid for mandatory IFR reports – FAME Performance.
 - F**ixes: arriving or leaving
 - A**ltitude changes
 - M**issed approach
 - E**quipment: loss or problems
 - P**erformance: poor climb/descend, TAS change

2020 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>
February 1	Beth Stanton	6:00pm Tristan Duplan hangar
March 7	TBD	TBD
April 4	TBD	TBD

Aviation Calendar

JANUARY	<p>20 – <i>Martin Luther King Day</i></p> <p>25 – <i>Chinese New Year – Year of the Rat</i></p> <p>27 – <i>Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day (Hmmm, could be interesting!)</i></p>
FEBRUARY	<p>1 – PMLAA Meeting</p> <p>1-2 - E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</p> <p>2 – Superbowl LIV</p> <p>14 – <i>Valentine’s Day (show your airplane some extra love)</i></p> <p>17 – <i>President’s Day</i></p> <p>25 – <i>Mardi Gras / Fat Tuesday</i></p>
MARCH	<p>7 – PMLAA Meeting</p> <p>7-8 - E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</p> <p>8 – Daylight Saving Time Begins (spring forward)</p> <p>14 – Vicky Benzing @ NAF El Centro Airshow</p> <p>14 – <i>Pi Day & Albert Einstein’s Birthday</i></p> <p>17 – <i>St. Patrick’s Day</i></p> <p>19 – <i>First Day of Spring</i></p> <p>21-22 – Vicky Benzing @ Los Angeles County Airshow, Lancaster, CA</p> <p>28-29 – Vicky Benzing @ March Field Air & Space Expo, Riverside, CA</p>

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photo of Duplan Hangar



map to Duplan hangar