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Pine Mountain Lake
Aviation Association, Inc

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Next Meeting /Pot Luck Dinner

Saturday April 1, 2023

Speaker: Dr. Ken Orloff

Time: 6:00 pm

*Place: Tristan Duplan Hangar
Located at the 9 end Northwest Taxiway*

Presidents Message

By Mike Gustafson

No Message this month (*Ed.*)

Vice Presidents Message

By Rob Compton

Weather

Are you ready for Spring yet? We have certainly had our share of winter weather this season with rain and snow totals at or near record levels. This is by far the most snow I have seen in my ten years on the hill! Certainly looking forward to some clearing soon so we can all take advantage of our aircraft and the joy that comes along with flying. If your time away has been longer than usual, please be extra cautious when getting back up in the air.

March dinner cancellation due to weather

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the March 4th event due to the threat of severe weather and the risk that comes along with snow and ice. We don't want to miss Leo Mora's story so we will be rescheduling his talk to a later date. A big THANK YOU goes out to Steve and Jodi for offering to make their hangar available for the March event even though we did have to cancel.

Community Airport Day planning

We have started planning our annual Community Airport Day. Mark the date: October 7th! Some of you might remember the last minute challenges we had with the county's approval last year due to the unfortunate events at the 2022 annual Fathers Day Fly In at the Columbia airport. The majority of the Columbia event ended up being cancelled last year and will remain cancelled this year as well. Our Community Airport Day continues.

As always, we will be looking for volunteers to help with various activities so mark your calendars and please feel free to reach out to me directly or others that have coordinated activities in the past years.

We hope to be able to bring some of the events back into the mix that were cancelled last year. I'm sure everyone would enjoy seeing the automobile vs. aircraft exhibition brought back to our event. To aid us in that effort, we have already been coordinating with Tuolumne County officials to resolve some of the challenges.

Historic Display Days

This year we will again be providing Historic Aircraft Display Days on the first weekend of each month. I will be logging displayed aircraft as I have done in past years with an end of year accounting. To make this a more fun and interactive event, I'm planning on cooking Hot Dogs on six of the summer Saturdays to give us some additional time to mingle and catch up with each other. Hope to see you and lots of aircraft out there this year.

Tenant Appreciation day at Columbia

Tuolumne county airport management is planning to have a Tenant Appreciation Day this year with the goal of bringing tenants from both Columbia and Pine Mountain Lake airports together. They are in the planning phase of the event and are looking for it to be a Fly In at Columbia. They are not planning for this to be an airshow but more of a lunch social event to get the two airport communities more engaged with each other. There was an email that went out to the membership asking for help with planning and support so if you are interested please join the call included in the invitation.



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Message From Vice President-Social

By Gabe Coelho

Hello PMLAA members.

Well, the March meeting didn't go as planned. Due to the weather, snow, ice and power issues a decision was made to cancel the meeting. Our next meeting will be held at Tristan Duplan's hangar located 20919 Woodside Way on April 1. Set up is at 10 am, Social Hour starts at 6 pm and this is a Pot Luck dinner. Ken Orloff will be giving us another interesting presentation, so I hope to see everyone there.

If anyone is interested in bar tending please let me know.



Flying in the rain (stock photo)

The Final Lap: Reno Air Races by Janet Gregory

Imagine eight airplanes flying 50 feet above the ground at greater than 300 mph in near formation flight. The pilot of each plane carefully divides attention between terrain avoidance, collision avoidance, and picking the fastest route around a barrel affixed to the top of a telephone pole. This is Sport Class air racing at Reno, Nevada. Spectators sit on the edge of their seats watching the speed, skill, and excitement.

The Reno Air Races began in 1964, just five years before PML Airport was excavated. Ed and I have attended every year since 1976 (except two); we look forward to heads and cameras tipped skyward for the electrifying races and sensational air show performances. In 2018 we moved from spectator to pylon race judges.

The Reno-Stead Airport (RTS) is host to the National Championship Air Races, held annually in mid-September. There are six classes of aircraft that compete: Formula One, Biplanes, T-6, Unlimited, Sport Class (added in 1998), and Jets (added in 2002). Each class has specific rules of competition and allowable aircraft modification.

Throughout the years many PML pilots have participated in this annual event, as example:

- **Vicky Benzing:** Flying Sport Class in Lee Behel's Glasair SH-3R "Cruse Missile", her own Lancair Legacy #15 "Lucky Girl", and Lancair Super Legacy #6 "Lucky Too". She has flown Jet Class in an L39C "Reality Czech" and L-139 "Darkstar". Vicky has plans to fly Unlimited Class in her P-51D Mustang #64 previously owned by Clay Lacy.
- **Lee Behel:** Flying Sport Class in his Questair Venture, Lancair 360, Lancair Legacy #5 "Breathless" and Osprey GP-5 #5 "Sweet Dreams, as well as flying Jet Class in an L39 Albatross and L-29 Delfin.
- **Colleen Keller:** Flying Sport Class in Jim "JT" Thomas' Lancair Legacy "Poncho".
- **Clay Lacy:** Flying Unlimited Class in his P51 Mustang #64 "Miss Van Nuys" and taking Unlimited Gold in 1970.
- **Shane Margraves:** Flying Sport Class in his Zlin Z50 "Czechster" and an RV-6 "Rocket Six".
- **John Parker:** Flying Sport Class in his Thunder Mustang "Blue Thunder".
- And others.

At PML Airport you might catch a glimpse of one of the Sport Class fire-breathing race planes. Look sharp; they are fast! In our airspace they could travel at speeds up to 250 mph, in respect for the speed limit. On the racecourse Sport Class racers hit speeds up to 400 mph!

This will be the last year for the National Championship Air Races at Reno. We thought FAA requirements or soaring insurance costs would end the races. Ultimately the encroachment of growth and development is what is bringing the Air Races to a close. Reno-Stead Airport is now surrounded by distribution centers and new multi-family housing units.

September 13-17, 2023 will be the final lap around the racecourse at Reno. We are happy to have participated in 47 of the amazing 59-years of the Air Races. Working the racecourse we have heard rumblings and rumors of it moving to a new venue ... maybe Mojave, Arizona, or Utah. Who knows? We will let you know if plans beyond 2023 solidify for a pace plane to put air racers in position and call, "Pilots, you have a race."

Meeting Reminder



Potluck Dinner 6 pm April 1, 2023

Location: Tristan Duplan hangar at Northwest end of runway.

Speaker: Dr. Ken Orloff "Investigation of Bonanza accident in Reno"

Our Guest Speaker



Dr. Ken Orloff and his wife Lynne are permanent residents at Pine Mountain Lake. Ken has been a full-time resident here since 1986. They live on the north taxiway loop, along with their four horses, two cats, one dog, 12 chickens, and, by the way, their airplanes – a Ryan PT-22, a V-35B Bonanza, a Lancair IV-P, and Ken’s 37-year Marquart Charger biplane build-project that first flew and won plans-built grand champion at Oshkosh in 2015.

Ken has a B.S. in Physics from Harvey Mudd, an M.A. in Physics and a Ph.D. in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering from UC Santa Barbara. He is a licensed Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic and holds FAA Inspection Authorization. He holds an Airline Transport Pilot Certificate, a CFI for airplanes and helicopters, and a CFII for airplanes. Since his first flight as a student pilot in 1964, Ken has accumulated nearly 10,000 hours of flight time.

Ken’s business, Orloff Consulting, has been providing aviation accident consulting services to both plaintiffs and defendants in litigation for more than 36 years. Since 1981, every few years, Ken has been the PMLAA monthly speaker, telling us about his aircraft accident investigations and courtroom experiences as an aviation accident expert witness. This time we have cornered him two years in a row, and he will be the speaker for the April 2023 meeting. Using multi-media graphics, computer simulations and animations to simplify complex subjects, Ken has presented his opinions in courtrooms around the world.

Safety Corner



**SAFETY
IS NO
Accident**

Update on PML Airport Funding Mike Gustafson, PMLAA president

Instead of the usual Safety Article, here is an update on how things are going with the County and the Airport Funding issues. I am not going to review how we got here, see my past articles for the genesis of the funding issues.

Recently, activity has been focused on getting the County to release the Airport Economic Impact study consulting contract. The RFQ was sent out a few months ago and the quotes came in for way more than the County had allotted. The County had budgeted \$100,000 for the project and the best quote from a highly respected consulting firm came in at \$203,000. This study is planned to cover both Columbia and PML Airports and will provide a lot of detail in determining the economic value or how much money each airport generates, both directly and indirectly.

As you know, the County staff from the CAO (County Administrative Officer) on down are all very positive on both airports and it was the CAO's idea to go out for the study. They feel that the report can be used to inform the County Board of Supervisors (BoS) on how valuable PML airport is and why they should continue to fund the airport out of the General Fund.

This consultants' report will take at least six to eight months and the hope is that the BoS will fund the airport for the 2023/2024 budget year while awaiting the economic analysis and final report. The general feeling from all Staff involved is that the BoS will in fact continue the funding. We shall see. Since the original allotted budget for the study was only half of what is needed, a meeting was held to try and "descope" the RFQ in order to get the cost down to the budgeted amount. After much wrangling and discussion, it was decided that it made no sense to cut the RFQ requirements, so the CAO decided to go back to the BoS and ask for more money.

That meeting was held February 21 and County Staff made a good sound case for increasing the funding. Mark Bautista (retired airport manager), Janet Gregory and I all addressed the BoS regarding the value of the airports and how they could not make any reasoned decisions on budgeting without the objective results of the economic study.

It was a very tough sell to put it mildly! Kathleen Haff, our District Supervisor (who is also the current BoS President) pushed the board hard and managed to get them to agree to the funding increase for the economic study. However, other board members expressed concern about spending so much money on the airport study, and stated that should the report come back not in support of PML airport that they would need to be strong and make the "tough decision." The tough decision would be not to continue funding our airport.

Now that the funding for the study has been increased, it is now up to County Staff to release the contract to the consulting firm so the study can commence.

As always, I will stay close to the process and will report as new information comes in.



EAA Flight Deck

By Armin Abusaidi

Greetings from the EAA Chapter 1337,

More poor weather for aviators. But that's OK. I hear we need the rain. Make sure you sump the tanks! Even in the hangar, there's a lot of condensation.

Thanks to Ed Sunday and Janet Gregory, we are on schedule for the April 22nd Young Eagles rally at Columbia. If you're interested in participating as a ground crew volunteer or pilot flying the kids, please contact us. Let's put some big smiles on the kids' faces and motivate the new generation of aviators! You never know, you may be inspiring the next Amelia Earhart or Bob Hoover! 😊

We will hold the next chapter/KOLB meeting as soon as it's convenient for everyone. Details to come soon.

Stay warm, dry, and safe!

2023 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>
April 1, 2023	Ken Orloff - Accident Investigation	6 pm Tristan Duplan Hangar
May 6, 2023	Barbara Schultz- Cliff Henderson aviation visionary responsible for Reno Air Races	6 pm Benzing Hangar
June 3, 2023	David Ellison, Producer Top Gun Maverick	6 pm Barber Hangar
July 2023	No Meeting this month-Oshkosh	No Meeting
August 5, 2023	Hot August Nights – Catered Dinner	6 pm Joe Sobczak Hangar
Sept 2, 2023	Leo Mora - Why Planes Crash	6 pm Johanson Hangar
October 7, 2023	Airport Day – Catered Dinner	6 pm Meermans Hangar
November 4, 2023	Joe Sobczak – Test Pilot	6 pm Johanson Hangar
December 2, 2023	Christmas Party – Catered Dinner	6 pm Camp Tuolumne Trails



Stock photo

2023 Aviation Calendar

March	<p>14 – <i>Pi Day (3.1417...)</i> 17 – <i>St. Patrick’s Day</i> 18-19 – Vicky Benzing @ Point Mugu Airshow, Oxnard 20 – <i>Vernal Equinox 14:24 – First Day of Spring</i> 25-26 – Vicky Benzing @ Thunder & Lightening over Arizona, Tucson</p>
April	<p>1 – PMLAA Meeting 1-2 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 1 – Vicky Benzing @ Laughlin/Bullhead City Airshow, AZ 9 – <i>Easter Sunday</i> 15-29 – Lyrid Meteor Shower (peak 4/22) 22 – Young Eagles Rally @ Columbia Airport 22 – <i>Earth Day</i> 22-23 – Vicky Benzing and Patriot’s Jet Team @ March AFB, Riverside</p>
May	<p>4 – <i>Star Wars Day – “May the fourth be with you”</i> 5 – <i>Cinco de Mayo</i> 5-6 – Eta Aquarid Meteors 6 – PMLAA Meeting 6-7 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 14 – <i>Mother’s Day</i> 29 – <i>Memorial Day</i></p>
June	<p>3 – PMLAA Meeting 3-4 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00 11 – Patriot’s Jet Team @ NASCAR, Sonoma 17 – Vicky Benzing @ Hiller Museum Biggest Little Airshow, San Carlos 18 – <i>Father’s Day</i> 21 – <i>Summer Solstice 07:57 – First Day of Summer</i> 24 – Vicky Benzing @ Truckee Tahoe Airshow, Truckee</p>

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