



Volume 38: Issue 6  
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A Publication of the  
Pine Mountain Lake  
Aviation Association, Inc

## *Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Next Meeting /Hot August Nights*

### *Catered Dinner / Live Entertainment*

*Saturday August 5, 2023*

*Time: 5:00 pm (Note New Time)*

*Place: Joe and Anne Sobczak Hangar-Home Located on the  
Northeast Loop Taxiway*

## **Presidents Message**

**By Mike Gustafson**

What a wonderful evening we had at the June 3 Aviation Association meeting. The weather has finally turned warm and the Barbers' hangar was very welcoming. If you did not make that meeting you missed a very thorough presentation on the automation failures on the Airbus 330 and how they contributed to the crash of AirFrance Flight 447, presented by our very own Leo Mora. Leo is a retired Captain for Northwest and Delta airlines, and he has extensive knowledge on the automation issues with A330. Very interesting and very sad at the same time.

Also occurring at our last meeting was a slight roast of Ralph McLaughlin who just passed his Instrument Pilot Check Ride. Good job Ralph! If you have any questions about the "Lost Com Procedures" as they relate to instrument flying, ask Ralph; he is now an expert!

### **Airport improvements and funding update:**

1. CalTrans and airport staff did a tour around our airport inspecting the height of surrounding trees and while significant improvement was noted, there are still too many tall trees on private airport property that must be topped or removed if we are to keep our night operations permit. That permit is secure for the time being but the County is informing those homeowners who need to address their tall trees.
2. Now that the outside temperature has warmed significantly I expect that County staff will be out painting the runway markings. Look for a NOTAM regarding runway closure for a day or two.
3. The Tuolumne County 2023/2024 budget is being formulated as we speak and the final vote will occur on June 20<sup>th</sup>. As of right now PML Airport will receive proper funding, but we will not be in the clear until the final vote. The economic impact study is still in process and should be complete in the fall.

On May 31, I attended the Tioga High school Scholarship Awards program and I must say I was very impressed how this Community supports our graduating seniors. The Aviation Association was one of 10 organizations that gave out grants to help further their college aspirations. We handed out two \$500 scholarships for Columbia College and one \$500 scholarship to a young man who is in flight training.

Don't forget, there will not be an aviation association meeting in July, everyone is headed to AirVenture!

On that same note, mark your calendars for our famous Hot August Night meeting!! H.A.N., as we like to call it, will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> in and around Joe Sobczak's hangar. This will be a catered affair that requires reservations with pre-paid tickets. Look for the sign up tickets later in this newsletter. Along with the great food, cars, and airplanes, Joe S. has secured the services of Brent Burns as entertainment! Brent Burns has visited us before and he is a real hit! You will enjoy his performance. I would like to thank Joe Sobczak and Rich Crow for volunteering to be our BBQ chefs for H.A.N.!! Thanks guys!

Enjoy the Summer, get out on the lake! Yes, believe it or not, there is a Lake at Pine Mountain LAKE. Not everything is about the airport.

Mike



.It may not be all about the airport, but it is all about airplanes. (Ed.)

## Message From Vice President-Social

By Gabe Coelho

Hello PMLAA members!

It was nice seeing everyone at our June meeting. The weather was near perfect for the evening along with plenty of good food for dinner. Thank you to all who cooked. I would also like to thank Randy & Marie Barber for the use of their hangar and a thank you to Leo Mora for explaining a little about how an Air Bus works.

We have the “Hot August Nights” event tee’d up for August 5<sup>th</sup>. See flyer below for information and dinner tickets. Display cars wanted! If you have a car/truck/motorcycle you would like to show, bring it. A special area will set aside for display cars. We have a nice evening planned and I hope everyone can come and enjoy the evening.

Gabe Coelho 209-617-4384 – information on event

**PLEASE** RSVP for dinner by July 29, 2023

No meeting scheduled for July so I would like to wish everyone a safe and fun 4<sup>th</sup> of July.



PMLAA'S Annual "Hot August Nights" Event  
Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm

Location: 21110 Jimmersall Lane

Dinner catered by our own on field Master Chef's

- Joe Sobczak and Rich Crow -

Display cars, *live entertainment*, refreshments, food

Tickets \$25 in advance for PMLAA members  
and their guest.

Menu: BBQ chicken, sausage, potato salad, green salad, bread  
One draft beer or soft drink included.

Special thanks to Evergood Sausage Company (*Ed.*)

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PMLAA "Hot August Nights" Dinner Tickets

Number of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ X\$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: PMLAA, P O Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321

# Safety Corner



**By Mike Gustefson**

Density Altitude Vs. Relative Humidity  
Mike Gustafson

Before you write this column off as a tired old topic, note the additional factor, relative humidity. True, we have all been at a high altitude field on a hot day and experienced the effects of density altitude on aircraft performance, but what about the effects of humidity? Out here in the western states we rarely have high relative humidity so we could ignore the extra performance factor but what about when we fly back east? Each summer Mick Hopson and I wing off to Oshkosh and run smack dab into high relative humidity and high temperatures. The plane suffers and we suffer.

A quick density altitude explanation: Aircraft performance, both the wing and the engine are based on standard altitude and temperature. Anything higher or hotter reduces total aircraft performance. The reason for the performance loss is that as we move to a higher altitude there are less air molecules and as the temperature rises there even less air molecules. So the engine is developing less horsepower and the wing needs more volume over its surface to create the required lift. Adding moist air to the equation only makes things worse. Now the air is even less dense as the moisture takes up valuable volume.

For practicable purposes high relative humidity is considered as a factor when it exceeds 50% and since typical midwestern summer relative humidity is in the 80 to 90%, it is a factor you need to consider when calculating aircraft performance. To get your attention, the effect of relative humidity can increase the normal density calculation by +38% for 90% relative humidity! The actual calculation is a bit rigorous and beyond the printed space I have here so I reduced the math down to a chart that can be used assuming high relative humidity as a function of temperature.

Air temperature(F)	Alitude Correction(Feet)
60	500
70	700
80	900
90	1300
100	1500

You can use this “rule of Thumb” numbers by doing your normal density altitude calculation then adding the humidity correction. In one calculation I did the normal density altitude compute to 4500 feet at 90 degrees F., I then added 1300 feet for humidity for a result of 5800 feet density altitude. I did a quick look-up for a Cessna 182 take-off distance for the difference between 4500 feet and 5800 feet and found that it added 400 feet to the take-off distance required to clear a 50 foot obstacle. This difference may not seem like much on paper, but if you are running down a short field at gross weight on a hot afternoon in Iowa, it could make the difference between barbed wire or no barbed wire in the landing gear!

I must admit that I never really accounted for relative humidity in my density altitude calculations and I have never taught same to my students but after doing a bit of reading on the subject it is now part of my kit bag of performance calculations.

So, who is going to Oshkosh this year?

Fly safe.

With credit to Roger Clark, FAA Aviation News.



## Pylon Racers

By Janet Gregory

Preparation for the final edition of the Reno National Championship Air Races is underway. The races are September 14-17 at Reno-Stead Airport (RTS). Racers prepare by attending Pylon Racing School, which just took place June 4-9. Ed and I volunteer as Pylon Race Judges for both events ... best seat in the house ... if you are not flying.

Our own Vicky Benzing was qualifying at an unlimited racer, hoping to fly her newly restored P-51D Mustang race plane. You will see Vicky in this photo of PRS pilots, beneath the "W" and a head to the left. She is already qualified in Sport and Jet class. Vicky holds the title as the "Fastest Woman Racer". Qualifying in the one-of-a-kind L-139 jet "Darkstar" on the racecourse at 469.831 mph.

This year there will be six classes of air racers: STOL, Formula One, Sport (homebuilts), T-6, Jet, and Unlimited. No biplane races this year, unless a lawsuit can be resolved in time for racers and aircraft to qualify.



## Join our Light-Sport Build Project

By Janet Gregory

Our local EAA Chapter 1337 has an aircraft build project underway. We have five members and would like to add five or six more.

The airplane is a KOLB Firestar, donated to the chapter by Jim "JT" Thomas. The airplane is designed to carry two people, perfect for the Sport Pilot. The team plans to power it with a Rotax engine which will deliver great climb performance and a top speed of 80 mph.

The team has ordered the Oratex covering system for the wings and tail surfaces, that is the next step in the project. Susie Williams has generously offered a corner of her hanger for the work. The engine will be installed in Ed Gregory's hangar. We anticipate flying it before the end of the year.

Once flying the KOLB Firestar will transition from an EAA project to its own flying club. You don't need to be an EAA member to participate in this fun project. If you would like to join this project please contact Phil Boortz, project leader for all the details. Phil can be reached at: (805)944-0148 or [philboortz@hotmail.com](mailto:philboortz@hotmail.com).







## EAA Flight Deck

By Armin Abusaidi

No report this month, it resumes next month.

*Interim Airport Manager*

*Coffee & *  
*Conversation*



**Second Tuesday  
of the month**

**10:00 am—11:00 am**

**Yosemite Flights  
Pine Mountain Lake  
Airport**

## Secret Area 51 Under Construction at PML Airport?





**Just a workshop you say? But the sign....**





## Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

### Membership Application, Renewal and Update



(  ) New Member Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (  ) Renewal – no changes  
 (  ) Renewal – with changes

	Order Badge	Publish on <u>Member List</u>
Name 1: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$10 ea. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Name 2: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$10 ea. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Child Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$10 ea. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Child Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$10 ea. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Mailing Address: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____		
Phone 1: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Phone 2: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Email 1: _____ (Required)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Email 2: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**PMLAA Mission:** To promote aviation interests and ensure the welfare and safety of its members, Pine Mountain Lake Airport, and the general community, through aviation-oriented recreational and educational activities.

**Monthly Meetings:** Held the first Saturday of each month (no meeting in January or July), usually at 6:00, check the PMLAA Newsletter or website [www.pmlaa.org](http://www.pmlaa.org) for details.

- Annual membership dues are \$25.00 per household.
- Please make check payable to: **PMLAA.**
- Bring to monthly meeting or remit to: **PMLAA, PO Box 131, Groveland, CA 95321**
- Membership includes:
  - Monthly electronic newsletter.
  - Access to member directory (available *only* to members).
  - Special pricing for PMLAA events.

Annual dues \$25.00 per year	\$ _____
Badges @ \$10.00 each	\$ _____
Donation (\$25-\$100 suggested)	\$ _____
Scholarship Fund Donation	\$ _____
TOTAL enclosed	\$ _____

## 2023 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time &amp; Location</u>
July 2023	No Meeting this month-Oshkosh	No Meeting
August 5, 2023	Hot August Nights – Catered Dinner	5 pm Joe Sobczak Hangar (new time)
Sept 2, 2023	TBD	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

## Aviation Calendar

<b>May</b>	<p>4 – <i>Star Wars Day – “May the fourth be with you”</i></p> <p>5 – <i>Cinco de Mayo</i></p> <p>5-6 – <i>Eta Aquarid Meteors</i></p> <p><b>6 – PMLAA Meeting</b></p> <p><b>6-7 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</b></p> <p>14 – <i>Mother’s Day</i></p> <p>29 – <i>Memorial Day</i></p>
<b>June</b>	<p><b>3 – PMLAA Meeting</b></p> <p><b>3-4 – E45 Airport Display Day, 8:00-4:00, sign off at 12:00</b></p> <p>11 – <i>Patriot’s Jet Team @ NASCAR, Sonoma</i></p> <p>17 – <i>Vicky Benzing @ Hiller Museum Biggest Little Airshow, San Carlos</i></p> <p>18 – <i>Father’s Day</i></p> <p>21 – <i>Summer Solstice 07:57 – First Day of Summer</i></p> <p>24 – <i>Vicky Benzing @ Truckee Tahoe Airshow, Truckee</i></p>

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**VP, Airport Affairs**, Rob Compton      962-6503  
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**Email:** [president@pmlaa.org](mailto:president@pmlaa.org)  
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