

# PMLAA NEWS



Volume 21, Issue 4, April 2006

A Monthly Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

## Pilot Getaways with John and George Kounis

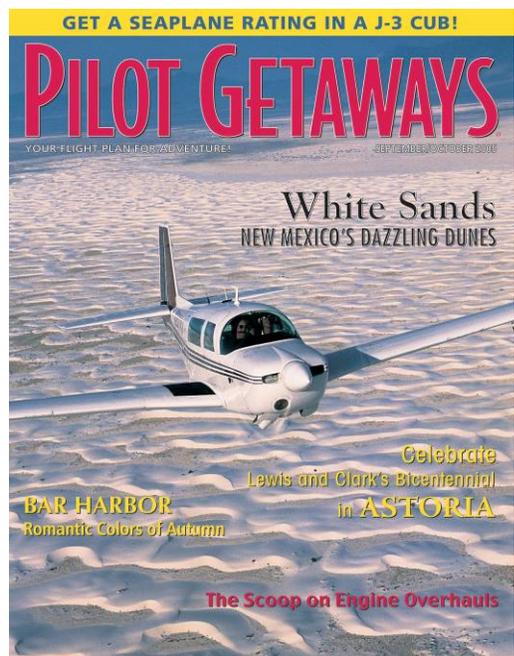
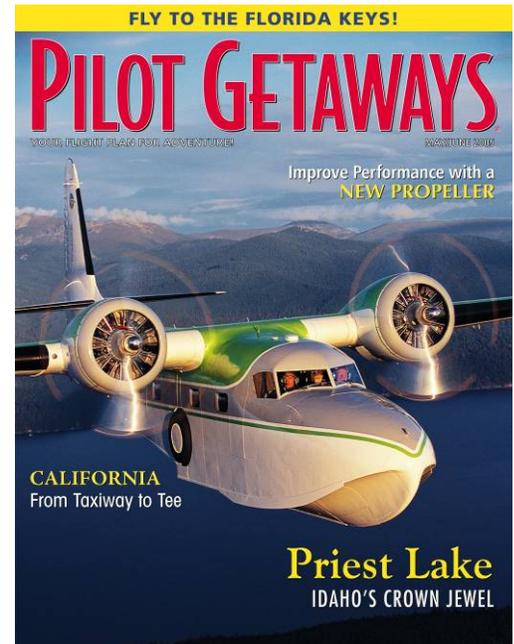
We are very pleased to have a team from Pilot Getaways magazine presenting at our April 1st meeting. These guys have the best magazine dedicated to private pilot travel. Each issue brings you in-depth articles on exciting fly-in destinations, including information on the best restaurants, lodging and activities, details of flying there, and breathtaking photography. The real difference is that they travel to most of the destinations in their Cessna 185 and live the story. Pilot Getaways is not geared for the 4 Season Resorts crowd rather the articles are about places we would all consider going in our aircraft. The focus of the presentation will be destinations in the west which fits perfectly with this spring's theme of great things to do with our aircraft.

John T. Kounis will be the lead speaker and is the editor of Pilot Getaways magazine. He is recognized as an expert in recreational destinations for private pilots. An avid pilot, he has amassed more than 3,600 flight hours over the last 20 years, visiting more than 40 countries from Zimbabwe to Norway and Canada. Today, he continues to criss-cross the country in search of exciting destinations. In addition to flying 90% of the photo missions for Pilot Getaways, he is responsible for all magazine content and frequently gives speeches about the best fly-in destinations. Drawing on his experience in mountain flying, international operations, over-water procedures, long distance navigation, and a number of other techniques, he researches destinations and participates in resource management for the Pilot Getaways staff, including determination of feature locations and schedules. An experienced traveler, John speaks English, German, Greek, and some French; he has also had limited training in Japanese, Spanish, and Italian. Prior to entering the publishing world, John was employed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, working on a variety of projects, most recently as lead system engineer for a component of the Cassini Spacecraft Ground Data System. The spacecraft made a successful rendezvous with Saturn in July 2004.

Joining his brother will be George A. Kounis, the publisher of Pilot Getaways magazine. An accomplished air-to-air photographer, he shoots most of Pilot Getaways' aerial photographs, including all but three Pilot Getaways covers. George plays a key role in representation of the images and technical graphics in the magazine. Having traveled to 40 of the United States and 30 foreign countries, much of it in a small aircraft, George is an avid traveler and is well versed into the needs of fellow travelers. George started his private pilot training in 1995, and his experience allows him to contribute to the final editing of articles published in Pilot Getaways magazine. He has further background in engineering, with a degree in Computer Science from UCLA. Immediately before starting the magazine, he was employed by a software development company and was involved with the launch of one of the first Internet online home banking companies. George is skilled in new technologies including computers, digital photography, and the Internet.

I am looking forward to an exceptional presentation. I believe the information will be inspiring and I know the accompanying photos will be extraordinary. (c) George A. Kounis, [www.pilotgetaways.com](http://www.pilotgetaways.com)

**New Venue! This month Norm and Patty Peebles are hosting us. We are looking forward to their great venue and warm hospitality. Please see the social report for directions and food details**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are into the second month of this spring's get out and fly theme. The weather certainly hasn't been too cooperative, but I do sense enthusiasm. There are some new airplanes on the field and some more are being actively sought. I have to give a big thanks to Jeff and Vicky for hosting our last month's program. I enjoyed having Bob and John down. I love guys like them- they don't boast, but they have had some good times with airplanes and are very willing to share. Bob and Jane are making plans to come back so we did something right.

I have gotten a fair amount of interest in our summer fly out to Idaho. There is more info. under a separate heading, but I wanted to let you know that I am excited about this trip. I have been getting some excellent feedback and good ideas. We will be starting in McCall and some will choose to base there in first class accommodations. Some will fly-in to a bit more rustic accommodations and camp or stay in cabins. Wherever we stay will be a large, very airplane-friendly airport. We will then fly out to some of the various backcountry strips, depending on the weather and aircraft/pilot abilities. It is important that I get a handle on who is interested so that we can do the planning.

This month's speaker has come highly recommended as being entertaining and informative. I personally want to hear about some of the places John will speak about. I am even more excited to have Andy hear about them- I just hope we can fit them into the schedule! The photos are spectacular and alone will be worth the price of admission. Norm and Patty Peebles have very graciously opened up their hangar for this month.

As a representative of the Twin Beech Society I will be attending an FAA meeting in Kansas City on aging aircraft issues in late March. I will be reporting on that next month, but if anyone has input they would like me to bring let me know before the 20<sup>th</sup>.

I am continually amazed at our community and the helpful spirit we have. It truly makes doing these events and working on association business a pleasure. An example of this spirit is the clean-up crew. If you arrive at the 10AM posted time most of the work will have been done. Thanks to all who have volunteered to make our association one that continually surprises people when they are exposed to it. Equally important are all of those who do so much for their neighbors and others in the community. Thank you all for making this a great place to live.

*Keep flying, keep safe and have fun, Rand Siegfried*

## Happenings: Social times

Our Saturday night meeting on the 4th was packed. It was certainly a large turnout for such a wintry evening. Jeff and Vicky Benzing were splendid hosts sharing their incredible hangar with us. What a treat that was. The food was plentiful and delicious. Thank you all for bringing enough food and for making it so delicious.

This month we have another new hangar to check out. Norm and Patty Peebles will be our hosts for an April Fools Day Pine Mountain Lake extravaganza. The food will be a regular potluck. I know I'll be looking forward to the great fare spread across the tables. We will plan on serving on both sides of the buffet to speed things along.

### The details:

Date: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006

Time: 6:00PM

Place: The Peebles Hangar

Food: Potluck Buffet

Directions: Take Jimmersall to the back taxiway and head towards the runway. Turn left (East) onto the parallel taxiway and let the parkers guide you. The Peebles are on the same taxiway as the Benzing's, but on the east end. If you are not completely comfortable with directions or airport operations please ask someone who lives near by. Please see this month's Direct from the Director.

*Cheers, Laurie McGlashan*



**This Ain't No April Fools,  
Be there: April 1<sup>st</sup> @ the Peeble's  
Hangar**



## Cars on the Airport

By Jim Thomas

Pine Mountain Lake Airport has a couple of special challenges that are not present at most other airports. These challenges are to facilitate multiple use of the airport by aircraft, vehicles, and pedestrians. For the most part pedestrians don't offer too much of a problem because pedestrians can easily see and hear taxiing, approaching and departing aircraft. Also, pedestrians are not usually in a hurry to get somewhere, so waiting for an aircraft to land or take off is generally not an issue. Vehicles (cars, trucks, motorcycles, golf carts, etc) on the other hand present an entirely different problem.

I believe that people drive vehicles for two primary reasons; to haul stuff they cannot carry or to get somewhere quickly. It has been my observation that people driving on the airport are usually trying to get somewhere quickly. They don't want to take the time to walk to their destination. When in a hurry, we have a tendency to take the shortest route possible and drive at speeds corresponding to their urgency. Herein lies the problem with cars driving on the airport.

The vehicle speed limit at the airport is established by the County Ordinance Code, specifically Title 18, Chapter 18.08.030 titled Control and Speed. The Code established a maximum speed of 25 mph on the airport, a maximum speed of 15 mph on the aircraft parking ramp, and a maximum speed of 10 mph when in close proximity to a parked aircraft. Chapter 18.08.050.A titled Vehicles on Airport Operations Areas states "No vehicle shall be permitted on taxiways, operational areas, ramps, aprons, or tiedown areas, except authorized maintenance or service vehicles, without prior permission of the Airport Manager." The controlling wording here is "without prior permission of the Airport Manager".

My policy has been to provide permission to drive vehicles on the airport to several groups of people which include all residents whose property is immediately adjacent to the airport, to those that live on the private loop taxiway, to any pilot that has an aircraft based at Pine Mountain Lake Airport, and to all individuals that have obtained airport gate access privileges. I have additionally provided permission to people attending special events such as the PMLAA meetings. These privileges are not extended to the occasional visiting guest, housekeeping workers, sightseers, construction workers, and so forth. Experience has shown that non-pilots and non-residents create the biggest problem and the greatest hazard.

Cars are only allowed to cross the runway at the far west end. All vehicles must stop and look both directions before

crossing. Aircraft always have the right of way, whether on the runway or taxiway. No one should ever cross the runway until an aircraft has turned onto the taxiway or has passed overhead. Please help keep our airport safe by operating your vehicles at the proper speed and giving the aircraft the right of way.

*Sincerely, Jim Thomas*



## Ramp Check 101

By Linda Monahan, CFI and other things

Every Pilot's nightmare is when they land, taxi to their tie down spot and see a guy walking up to them with a clip board and a plastic badge flapping in the breeze. UH OH, it could only be the ever enjoyable, FAA ramp check, the thing that strikes fear and terror into most pilots (me included because I fly for a living and loosing my "ticket" would be akin to loosing my right leg).

So what can we do to minimize the effects of said event so that it is, in fact, a non-event? One of the first things that will be checked is your photo ID that is now required by TSA, then your pilot's license and your medical. For guys this isn't a big deal unless they got out without their wallet. For ladies, please make sure you remember to grab your purse for "this short little flight..." The inspector will want to know when you had your last flight review (24 calendar months, right?) and whether you have current charts in the aircraft.

Next will be the paperwork for the plane, airworthiness, registration, Pilot's Operating Handbook, and the Weight and Balance that is current and signed by an IA. Is the airplane "in license?" That means an annual, fresh ELT batteries, transponder and pitot static inspections every 24 calendar months. Believe it or not, the compass deviation card must be clearly visible if the plane has an electrical system and radios. Remember, is there enough fluid in the compass and do the shoulder harnesses stop when pulled sharply? Then just make sure your "normal" pre flight things are in order and you should be good to go.

It was quite a surprise the other Saturday when we got ramp checked at E45, but all of our local pilots passed with flying colors! Thanks all and stay safe in our last of winter weather.

*Happy Flying, Linda*

## PML Official Roster:

We are preparing to print the new roster for this year. Please get all of your corrections to Diane Harrison, DLHarrison23@hotmail.com

Also PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES as that is how we know to include you on the roster.

This is a repeat from last month's issue. If you weren't at the March meeting just ask someone who was to figure out just how important this is and how impassioned Paul is to see it be continued!

### A Chance to Help our Local High School

The PMLAA supports an ongoing ROP, (Regional Occupational Program) at Tioga High School. This is a hands-on, shop-oriented class titled, AIRCRAFT MECHANICS AND MACHINE TECHNOLOGY.

Tioga High School needs to find a replacement instructor for the 06-07 school year. The class is currently taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays from about one to three PM. The next school year will start in late August of 2006. This is an important effort and worthy of our support as there are no other high school shop classes offered in Southern

Tuolumne County. Shop, or hands-on technology classes offer the student alternative, often well-paying career paths that can begin immediately after high school.

Qualifications for this task are not stringent; if you have an interest in teaching and some experience which includes aircraft, automobiles, motorcycles, boats, machinery, electronics, or any technical field for that matter, you might want to consider this. The curriculum is not set in stone, so there is room to tailor it to the instructor's expertise and experience.

Currently, the class of six students is being taught by Paul Price. Paul would be glad to help his replacement get started and, for that matter, lend a hand from time to time during the year for that matter. The principal at Tioga High is Sandy Bradley and the Superintendent of Schools is Dr. John Triolo. Sandy and John are enthusiastic supporters of this program and would be happy to talk to you about it; or call Paul anytime for more details and with any questions. He can be reached at 209-962-7431 or [ppmap@mlode.com](mailto:ppmap@mlode.com)

PAUL PRICE

### Classifieds:

For Sale: Time-Life Epic of Flight  
Leather-bound, 18 Volume  
Call: 209-962-6986

<b>Legal Counsel</b>	Rene Leakakos	962-0499
<b>Webmaster</b>	Silvano Gai	962-6378

<b>NEWSLETTER</b>		
<b>Editor</b>	Mary Kelly	962-7057
<b>Safety Editor</b>	Linda Monahan	962-5181

Aviation Association meetings are normally held at 6:00pm on the first Saturday of every month. The location will be announced

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SET UP CREW:**  
Paul Sperry, Bob Bangs, Sean Brady, Buck Buchanan, Bob Cowley, Mike Millard

#### BOARD OF OFFICERS – 2006

<b>President</b>	Rand Siegfried	962-0710
<b>VP, Airport Affairs</b>	Allen Craig	962-6757
<b>VP, Social Affairs</b>	Laurie McGlashan	962-7928
<b>Secretary</b>	Kristin Cox	962-7610
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kay Smith	962-6986

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<b>Property</b>	Paul Sperry	962-4178
<b>Multimedia</b>	Ken Codeglia	962-6270
	Phil Hickerson	962-6714
<b>Seminar Coordinator</b>	Larry Jobe	962-5501
<b>Membership</b>	Barbara Coldren	962-5168
<b>Roster</b>	Diane Harrison	962-1955



# ***FLY IDAHO 2006*** ***July 7-12 or so***

(c) George A. Kounis, [www.pilotgetaways.com](http://www.pilotgetaways.com)

Here is the general plan:

We arrive McCall on Friday. Big dinner, etc. Friday night and then spend Saturday organizing, flying with instructors, having fun, etc. Sunday morning those who choose to fly out to Camp. We will all fly out to various breakfast area, etc.

We plan on having some instructors available as well as limited cabins & lodge accommodations available in the backcountry and its borders. We also want to coordinate those who are camping so we don't duplicate equipment and can organize some food prep, etc. We'd like to make this trip fun for all, but we need to know what fun means to you. To get this started we need an idea of who is coming, what they are flying (if they are) and what they are interested in. Please fill the following out and get it to Rand.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people in group \_\_\_\_\_

Aircraft type, if you have one \_\_\_\_\_

Looking forward to: \_\_\_ nice hotel in McCall \_\_\_ Lodge/Cabins \_\_\_ Camping

Your phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Your email \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in instructor? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

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Please give this to Rand or send it to:

Rand Siegfried  
21110 Jimmersall Lane  
Groveland, CA 95321

Email the info to Rand at: [randsiegfried@mac.com](mailto:randsiegfried@mac.com)



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### Mark your Calendar

April 1	Great flying destinations with John Kounis	6:00pm Peebles Hangar
May 6	Author Michael Maya Charles	6:00pm location TBD
June 3	Full Day Flying Fun hosted by Vicky and Jeff Benzing	
July 8-12	Fly-out to Idaho, fill out the form and be counted	

***To those paid their 2006 dues  
We Thank You!***

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association  
PO Box 131  
Groveland, CA 95321

**Next meeting  
April 1st  
No foolin'**