

If it's in the Newsletter, it must be true...

Maine Powerchute Association

Newsletter

September 2011

www.maineppchutes.org

Flying season in full swing!

Two events added to our schedule

The event schedule we published in the March Newsletter is, of course, our official list of fly-ins and other great events the MPA attends. However, as more and more people find out about our fun sport, and how we can take a boring old festival or some other dreary local event and turn it into a gala Walt Disney spectacular by our very presence, we get more calls to fly at or over their event. OK, OK, so we exaggerate a little. OK, a lot.

In truth, however, we have been getting a quite a few more invitations, so here are two that we recommend – if it's too late for this year, it'll be for the next. The great folks at Frenchville airport (it is just about the end of the world, it's near Ft. Kent, which IS the end of the world, but fun for our northern membership) host a fly-in - see www.sjvaeroclub.org to get more information. By the way, that airport is one of the options for our annual adventure trip coming up possibly for next year.

The second event is the annual Biddeford fly-in and aviation exhibition on August 20th. This is pretty much a one-day event. The Chuting Eagles PPC Flight Demonstration Team will be performing their routine there, and will be hanging around most of the day. Everyone is welcome to fly their PPCs (after or before the

Chuting Eagles), or just to attend and participate in the festivities.

By the way, our website always has the latest event schedule so check it out frequently.

MPA web site

We added one more name by which to reach our web site in addition to what we already had (same web site, just a new name added). Try www.maineppchutes.com in addition to www.maineppchutes.org We did this since many folks looking us up always put **.com** instead of **.org**, and then tell us that they couldn't find us. So, being smarter than the average bear, we finally added that URL as well. OK, so it took 8 years to figure it out...



Flying with the balloons during our adventure trip at L-A – yes, we're finally faster than somebody!

One more very important thing about our web site! Make sure you check it before heading out to any of our events, since occasionally we have to postpone or even cancel an event due to circumstances beyond our control (weather, mud, pestilence, tsunami, small pox, etc.) The web site will have the latest information on all that, in addition to all the other neat stuff and fun links on there.

Oh yes - one more thing - we revised our web site so it is a lot cleaner, easier to navigate, and better organized. It has received rave reviews, and President Obama has called to congratulate us. OK, we exaggerate a little, again.

Treasurer’s report

As usual, our stellar Treasurer Bonnie Davis Micue has managed our funds so that we are always in the black, and so we can still keep our membership dues at the \$20 cheap rate, as we have for the past 12 years. We are one hell of a bargain! What do you get for your \$20, you ask? Well, nobody has quite figured that out, but it’s still a bargain! So here are the numbers:

- Total funds after membership collection of dues in January (through May): \$1191.98.
- Expenses so far this year: \$0
- Balance: \$1191.98
- Anticipated expenses - web site renewal, some postage for Newsletters, and a few diamond earrings and necklaces for Bonnie. So it looks like we’ll have a great Christmas party again this year!



The 2011 Top Gun contestants (less Mike Keane) – if it wasn’t for all the humans, it would be a great photo!



An old pilot true story

An old pilot sat down at the Starbucks and ordered a cup of coffee. As he sat sipping his coffee, a young woman sat down next to him. She turned to the pilot and asked, 'Are you a real pilot?'

He replied, 'Well, I've spent my whole life flying biplanes, Cubs, Aeronca's, Neiuports. I flew in WWII in a B-29, and later in the Korean conflict, taught 50 people to fly and gave rides to hundreds, so I guess I am a pilot.'

She said, 'I'm a lesbian. I spend my whole day thinking about naked women. As soon as I get up in the morning, I think about naked women. When I shower, I think about naked women. When I watch TV, I think about naked women. Everything makes me think of naked women.'

The two sat sipping in silence. A little while later, a young man sat down on the other side of the old pilot and asked, 'Are you a real pilot?'

He replied, 'I always thought I was, but I just found out I'm a lesbian.'

Top Gun event draws big crowd

We had six eager MPA pilots who wanted to compete in our annual Top Gun event. Since we only have five sets of beanbags that we use for the bomb drops, one of the contestants had to carry two fist-sized rocks. Now we usually firmly stuff the beanbags between our legs as we sit so we don’t lose them in mid flight. Replacing bean bags with rocks in that position just isn’t healthy, but Scott managed to pull it off without a significant change in his voice.

Our winner for 2011 is once again Rob Paradis who beat out Kevin Oliveira by a few feet – Kevin is the proud owner of the 2010 Top Gun hat. Rob won it by showing an excellent mastery of his aircraft, which is what this annual contest is all about – that, plus just having a great time. Congratulations again, Rob!

The fly-in was hosted by Bill Grusik, who once again did a fabulous job in preparing the field, dealing with the locals, and coordinating the

whole event. And thanks also to LiLi who owns the field and is a most gracious hostess.

Not quite clear on the contest rules, one of our first timers was not sitting firmly enough on the bean bags, so he managed to drop it onto the golf course which is located right next to the airfield. He dropped it on the green, about 17 feet from the flag. We gave him partial credit, since none of us could hit a golf ball within 17 feet of the pin!

By the way, it should be noted that Rob was helped by the Russian judge who claims (without photographic evidence!!!) that one of the contestants hot on Rob's track touched the ground on one of the passes (which then pretty much disqualifies you). The International Top Gun Investigator Society based in Switzerland is reviewing the matter...

Stupid Human Tricks

Most of us have seen Letterman's Stupid Animal Tricks feature on his show – here are some stupid things we have observed this year that our MPA members have done. Luckily, no incidents or accidents have resulted, but all pilots hate to rely on luck instead of skill. So here are some things to make sure you never do!

- If you land past where you want to tie down, you need to taxi back, but do NOT make turns with your chute dragging on the ground as you turn crosswind. If it dips to that extreme, cut the engine – chances are real good you'll shred the chute if you don't.
- Do NOT buzz houses – it annoys people and will make an enemy for our sport. The rules say you must fly high enough so you can make a safe landing if your engine quits, and obviously being right over a house would not allow you to land safely. Keep a couple of hundred feet clearance, and make everybody happy!
- Do NOT do downwind takeoffs in any serious wind – people are



always surprised how little runway they have when they do that. Especially with two on board!

- Here is the worst one we've seen – running up your engine in the field (i.e. not pushed up against something solid) with the chute laid out, and then walking away from it to get something you forgot back in your camper! Presumably the brakes were set, but SO many things can go wrong with either the brakes, or the wind picking up the chute, or somebody walking up to it, and so on. Bad stuff!!!

New members

In spite of the fact that our slew of new members all appear on the surface to be sane, well-adjusted, almost-normal-looking, fairly intelligent, and just regular guys, they still joined our merry little group. Yes, that does make you suspicious - there's got to be something wrong with them! Well, it's too late – you've paid your \$20 so all you new guys are stuck with us for better or for worse (for at least a year, anyway – hey – that gives me an idea – why don't marriage licenses work that way – should have to be renewed every year!)

All kidding aside, we do welcome our new members, and hope that they can get out to our many events and share the fun and excitement and irreverent humor that the rest of us in the club enjoy. So welcome to Angelo Cirico from Hartford, CT; Mike Caruso from Windham, ME, James Sharer from Cherry Valley, NY, and Linwood Hanson from Orland, ME. Angelo just finished his lessons and passed his practical exam for the FAA Sport Pilot license, and Mike has been flying single seaters but is now getting his 10 hours of instruction to qualify for taking the Sport Pilot license. Not sure about the status of James and Linwood, but we'll find out soon.

Past fly-in updates

The weather has been pretty good, so we were able to keep most of our fly-ins on schedule (with a few exceptions – Hampden and Norridgewock, partially).

Bowdoinham was a great event again this

year – good turnout, good flying, and a fun cross-country trip to Brunswick. Thanks to Mark Bowker for hosting this super family event.

Farmington July 4th extravaganza was hosted by Kevin Oliveira and it was another excellent event. We (the MPA) get a whole section of a huge field to ourselves and get to put on a show for all the natives and get to watch the fireworks as part of the event. Once we found the field, we had a great time, and look forward to next year for the July 4th weekend.

Patten fly-in is an annual event put on by the boys who fly the Sky Rangers (expensive fixed wing ultralights), but where we are very welcome and a number of our northern boys attended. We'll try to turn that into a bigger MPA and PPC event in the future.

Our Adventure trip this year got a little abbreviated due to some scheduling conflicts for many of our regulars who fly in this event, but we made the most of it. We stayed at Twitchells in Turner, and had several cross country trips which culminated with our flight with the hot air balloons in Lewiston-Auburn. For next year, we ARE going to have a REAL adventure trip – we'll start working on it now!

Chuting Eagles performances

The PPC Flight Demonstration team (called the Chuting Eagles, comprised of MPA pilots) had several practice sessions and three large performances so far this year – the Portland Air Show, the Biddeford Air Show, and the Brunswick Great State of Maine Air Show. We were able to do our routines at all three in spite of some serious cross winds occasionally. The goal of this group is to demonstrate the flying capabilities of these aircraft and to attract new people to our sport.

Upcoming events

We make our annual trek to not quite the end of the world (Presque Isle), but it's always worth it as the flying is generally great, and we usually do a pretty cool cross country trip as well. Robin Paradis is hosting this, with some help from several of our northern MPA members. The date is the weekend of September 10th.

On the September 24th weekend, Doug Sukeforth hosts a fly-in at his super camp on top of a mountain – some interesting flying in that area, and Doug and his lovely and talented wife Rita are the most gracious hosts you'll ever meet. Directions are on the web site.

Look on our web sites for the remaining events of Wiscasset, Bethel, and Old Town fly-ins (the last two are PPC only) – more on those later!

Lastly, mark your calendar for our annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 PM at the Oriental Jade in Bangor. It's our last event for the year, and we hold our MPA annual member meeting, along with our famous (or occasionally infamous) highlight video summarizing our year in flying. Great family event and an opportunity to catch up with old friends you haven't seen in a while.

Hard choice – Wife or Dog?

Since there are pro-s and con-s to each, one of our members compiled this list:

- The later you come home, the more excited your dog is to see you.
- Dogs like it when you leave a lot of stuff on the floor
- Dogs find it amusing when you're drunk.
- A dog will let you put a studded collar on it without calling you a pervert.
- If a dog smells another dog on you, it won't get mad, in fact it will think it's interesting.

If you're still undecided, here's the final test::

“Lock your wife and your dog in the garage for two hours. Then open it, and see who is happy to see you!”

Disclaimers

No animals were harmed during the production of this Newsletter, although the chimpanzee who was forced at knifepoint to write most of the material did complain of a headache.



The End

Once again, the best part of the Newsletter