

If it's in the Newsletter, it must be true... Maine Powerchute Association Newsletter May 2012

www.mainepowerchutes.org

Special “Dedicated to Women” issue

Winter flying done for the year

“Thank God,” you say? Well, I guess most of us would say that, but the little ice and snow and winter we had was exhilaratingly fun. (By the way, “exhilarating” is the word we use for an experience that feels so good when it’s over). Some of us did get to fly off the few lakes that were solidly frozen and used that opportunity to remove the rust from our skis. Also had a chance to remember what an ice-cream-headache feels like, and received a refresher course in why gloves with fingers work better than mittens in turning switches on or off (by that, I mean the right switches...)

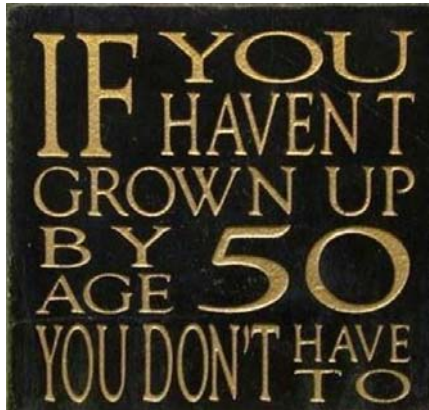
Review of events so far this year

Knox County Airport (Owl’s Head) – our first non-ski fly-in took place with plenty of good weather, and with a good turnout. The super guys from the local EAA chapter put on a nice pancake breakfast for us (also for the public, but being true to our tradition of 4000 calorie breakfasts, we ate the largest part of the inventory). Had some good flying opportunities, and it gave us a good chance to remember how to fly again with all that runway we had available. Also reminded us that even when it’s nice on the ground, it’s a lot colder at altitude, with plenty of “Wish I put on more stuff!” comments back on the ground.

Grennel Field fly-in – while we’ve flown out of Ed Grennel’s field many times before, this was our first real fly-in, with the usual wagon train of campers and tons of chairs and all the other trappings of an MPA event. We had great flying Friday night, Saturday morning and evening, and Sunday morning, which is

about what we can expect at most of our upcoming events. The times in between, we fix stuff, give plenty of advice (mostly conflicting) to whoever is fixing stuff, tell war stories, discuss the meaning of life, and engage in other equally worthy activities. It was great to see Herb and Bonnie Micue again – although Herb can’t fly with us any more, his continued health improvement is an inspiration to us all. And of course, the lovely and talented Bonnie adds life to any party, breakfast or otherwise.

We had two sort of exciting events – one was when three of our (insert adjective here – choices are “dumb,” “brave,” “retarded,” “intrepid”) members decided to take a long flight downwind from our home base on Saturday morning with increasing winds. So of course, coming back became an adventure – with almost two hours gone, the threesome finally arrived after realizing that the only way back was along a riverbed where the headwinds were minimal. The other exciting event was similar on Saturday night, except that this time, for some strange reason the sun went down before we told it to, so we landed with about 5 minutes to go before the legal darkness limit. We discovered that packing up chutes in the dark by Braille is not the smartest thing you can do.



Good news!



Yes, divorce can be expensive...

Special thanks to Jerry Sukeforth for setting up both these events. Special compliments to Tad Hanson, who has recently soloed, and showed excellent judgment by passing up two flying opportunities that were a little



beyond his experience level, and flying on Sunday morning when flying conditions were more favorable for his evolving flying skills. Also nice to see some of the lovely and talented MPA wives Jan, Rachel, Aimee, and Trinia – we even had a brief celebration and cake – it must have been somebody’s birthday? Oh, yeah – Kevin and Rachel both turned 19 this year!

Upcoming events

Now that we’re getting into the summer super flying season, get ready for the next three big events on our calendar:

Weekend of June 2 – Bowdoinham. Thanks to the hospitality of Mark Bowker and his lovely family, and to the great grass airfield where we stay and fly, this is one of our premier events. Rain or shine, wind or pestilence, we have a good time here – it’s a real family event (but luckily, it’s big enough so the kids sort of dissolve in the background...). This year should be even better since we’re planning on having 8 or 10 chutes fly into Brunswick airport for their second annual open house and breakfast. The trip is fun, and landing at that incredibly huge airport is even more fun. Returning may be different story, since by after breakfast the winds usually pick up. Last year, we had to bring our trailers and pack up at Brunswick because of the winds – let’s hope we get luckier this year.

Weekend of June 23rd – Deblois. This used to be a regular event on our flying calendar, but we got away from it for the last few years, but we’ll try to get back to it again. This a super place to fly, with a long and abandoned airstrip, miles and miles of open blueberry fields, and a good place for us to set up camp. Mosquitoes are occasionally a problem (OK, always), but with modern wonder repellants, it’s manageable. Oh, one more things – the bees and their hives are out there to pollinate the berries, but remember – they’re more afraid of you than you are of them. Unless you try to crawl into their hive to get some honey for your morning coffee – then all bets are off.

Weekend of July 7th – Industry, ME. This is near Farmington, and is our 4th of July big event. Kevin Oliveira is hosting it, and he’s done a marvelous job in the past in coordinating with the town and the fireworks vendor to keep us from flying into their

show. We have a great place in one corner of a huge field reserved for just us, with plenty of grass runway to use. In the past, we had several thousand visitors come to watch the fireworks and to watch us contribute to the festivities. Finding the place is a challenge, but look on our website for directions (so you can be even more confused...).

MPA Web site

We’ve had our web site on-line for many years now, and it has become the source of current information for most of our members. We keep it updated generally every week or even more frequently. We have changed the format of the site about a year ago, so make sure you hit “REFRESH” every now and then so you get the latest version.

If you have the site “bookmarked” from an earlier era, make sure you get to it the old fashioned way by typing in the address, and then save the address as a favorite or as a bookmark.

Our address is www.mainepowerchutes.com, or www.mainepowerchutes.org. Before going to any fly-in, check the site for any last minute changes, which we try not to do.

By the way, also check out our CLASSIFIED section for any new aviation and PPC stuff. Also check out our FEATURED VIDEO clip on the front page for the latest addition of video clips. Check out the INSTRUCTION WEBSITE tab also, as that site pretty much has all the information you need to get your license, to stay current, to keep you legal, and to advise your friends regarding all the new rules and regulations.



In the long run, the car will be cheaper...

Gift Certificates on the web

For those who have SLSA aircraft, we have a gift certificate form on our website that you can sell to those who want to give an orientation ride as a gift

to their family or friends (or to their enemies as punishment?). If you have an ELSA aircraft, you cannot charge for rides, however you can split the cost of gas and maintenance with a would-be flier so you can put that on the gift certificate you may issue. Of course, if you are on a student license, don't even think about flying with two people – very bad things will happen if you have any problems in the air or on the ground.



Many of our fly-ins are family events. That's why we asked this family of four sisters to join us.

More old wisdom

John is sitting on his back porch when a young kid walks by carrying a roll of chicken wire.

"Where you going with that wire, Sonny?" asks John.

The youngster says "I'm going to get some chickens!"

"You can't catch chickens with chicken wire, you foolish young one!" says John.

Later than day, the little kid comes walking back with two arm loads of chickens.

The next day, the kid walks by with a couple of rolls of duct tape. John asks him "Where you going today, Sonny?"

The youngster replies "Gonna catch some ducks."

"You can't catch ducks with duct tape, you foolish young one!" says John again.

Later that day, the little kid comes walking back with two arm loads of ducks.

The next day, the kid walks by with an arm load of pussy willows.

John says to the youngster "Hey kid! Wait for me!"

Norridgewock

You may have noticed that we do not have our usual "Anything that flies" fly-in at Norridgewock listed on our schedule this year. The EAA chapter that sponsored that event moved from that airfield

to the Pittsfield airfield, as apparently the Norridgewock airport management was not very helpful to their cause and the chapter found a more welcoming home at Pittsfield. They will be participating in the annual Pittsfield Egg Festival, which is quite an event – we are invited to participate as well. More to follow on that after we do some more research to see how that would work for us.

FAA safety seminars

We have several of these events throughout the summer, and we'd certainly like to recommend them to all our members. They are generally painless, they are generally informative, and they will always make you a better pilot. In addition, you get to sign your name at these sessions, and the FAA gives you credit for the attendance on your records. These "plus" marks may help you if you ever encounter a "minus" situation in that it shows the FAA boys and girls that you are indeed making the effort to become and stay a professional pilot. Look for any of these upcoming events on our web site.

Old guy jokes

Since none of us were getting younger the last time I looked, we'll be focusing on jokes with the theme of grumpy old men.

Jerry is sitting on his back porch one morning on his rocker, just staring into space.

His lovely and talented wife comes up and asks "Jerry, what are you going to do today?"

Jerry says "Nothing."

She says "You did that yesterday!"

To which he replies "I know. I wasn't finished."

Keeping it legal

Just a reminder – check your logbook to make sure your biennial is current – you have to be signed off by a CFI every two years. It is a painless process, but absolutely necessary to stay legal when you are flying. Also, your aircraft has to be inspected and signed off every year by an A&P mechanic – we have one in our club so make sure you get that done as well. Also, if you do not have your Sport Pilot license (or Private Pilot or higher with a Sport Pilot endorsement), make sure you do not fly a passenger! If you do not have a Sport Pilot license, you must have a Student License which has to be endorsed by a CFI every 3 months.

These few things are not difficult to do, and we very strongly encourage you to follow them to the letter. If any accidents or injuries happen as a result of your

flying (which can happen to the best of us!), you will be in DEEP trouble with the government if you are not in compliance with these few items. It may also cost you a lot of money.

New members

Once again we welcome several new members to our jolly organization. While we welcome you, we do have some doubts about your sanity – as W.C. Fields once said “I wouldn’t want to join any club that would have me!” OK, more seriously, we do hope you have as much fun as we do at our flying events, and that maybe you’ll learn a few things about PPC flying from our many old timers – a few of whom are actually very good pilots! And if you don’t take yourself too seriously, you’ll fit right in!

Anyway, welcome to Paul Duncan of Greene, to John Fraser of Chelsea, VT, and to James Clark from Lincoln – hope to see you guys soon!

Closing thoughts

*I know a guy who is addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
I’m reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can’t put it down.*

Really scary sexist statistic

25% of women in this country are on medication for mental illness. The scary part is that it means 75% are running around with no medication at all !!!

Disclaimer

No animal or human brain cells were used in the creation of this Newsletter. Anything that sounded remotely intelligent was a total accident and the MPA management takes no responsibility for it (or for anything else, for that matter).



The End.

Yes, once again, it is the highlight of the Newsletter.

Editor’s secret note

The reason for all the girlie pictures in this issue is so that we don’t have to put any in any future issues. Really. Seriously. I mean it.

2012 Fly-in Schedule

Dates are Saturdays unless otherwise noted – most people get there Friday afternoon and stay through Sunday.

Items highlighted in yellow are MPA PPC-only events – no GA aircraft

- Feb 18 Sebago Lake Fishing Derby – PPC fly-by
- Feb 25 Bethel Winter Festival
- Mar 10 Greenville (Kelley’s Landing restaurant/motel)
- Mar 17 Wiscasset A/P Safety seminar & chili cook-off
- Mar 27–Apr 2 Sun ‘n Fun (Lakeland, FL)
- Apr 14 Knox County A/P (Owls Head)
- May 12 Grennel Field, Warren
- Jun 2 Bowdoinham (Brunswick A/P Open House)
- Jun 23 Deblois A/P (near Cherryfield)
- Jul 7 July 4th Big Event – Industry, ME (Farmington)
- Jul 6-14 Yankee Fly-in (Greenland, ME)
- Jul 21 MPA Top Gun weekend (W. Appleton – LiLi’s)
- Jul 21 Pittsfield A/P Festival (tentative – check later!)
- Jul 23–29 EAA Air Adventure (Oshkosh, WI)
- Aug 4 Mainly Sport Planes (Patten)
- Aug 11 Wiscasset A/P Open House
- Aug 17-19 Lewiston Balloon Festival (from Twitchell’s)
- Aug 18 Annual MPA adventure trip (TBA)
- Aug 25 Bowman (Livermore)
- Sep 8 Presque Isle (Cyr’s field)
- Sep 22 Bingham (Gaddabout Gaddis)
- Oct 6 Wiscasset Fly-in
- Oct 13 Bethel A/P
- Dec 9 MPA Christmas Party (Bangor)

NOTE: Please check our web site for any last minute changes **before** setting out for any of our events, as weather or some other scheduling change may alter our schedule!

www.maineppc.org

or

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or

call 207-852-7300 or 207-691-3800