

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

# Maine Powerchute Association Newsletter

[www.mainepowerchutes.com](http://www.mainepowerchutes.com)

March 2015

## Special etiquette issue

Since we now have women and children attending our many MPA functions (whose idea was that, anyway?) it has become more important that we try to improve our manly disgusting manners and habits. As always, our Newsletter is here to help with simple rules that even we can follow.

In addition, we're including other bits of wisdom and conversation ideas that will make us look like we're actually interesting and can talk about things other than airplanes, engines, sex, and food (although that will still be our main topics, of course).

## 2015 MPA dues

Wow – it's another year again! And yes, it's time to pay our measly \$20 annual MPA dues (actually, the time was in January). What a bargain! Our dues have not increased in 20 years, so if you figure in inflation, the \$20 you paid 20 years ago is only actually about \$1.90. And look what you're getting for your money. OK, don't look.

Anyway, please send your hard-earned \$20 to Bonnie Davis at P.O.Box 13, Warren, ME 04864. Really, what else would you with that money? Buy



some lottery tickets and win a million dollars? Remember, money can't buy happiness! (However it CAN make misery more tolerable...)

So in addition to our famous and almost-free Christmas party, you also get our almost-monthly scintillating Newsletter, updates on all our events, any last minute schedule changes (hate those!), and other bits of wisdom and

safety tips via email. Also, you get to hang out with all of us PPC aviators (yes, that is a GOOD thing!).

It's true that our Newsletter is published on the web for free (it goes viral every time, so wash your hands



before you use it), but only weeks after YOU, as a paid up member get yours! So don't let this be your last issue, and send the measly \$20 to Bonnie right now if you haven't done so already at the Christmas party.

Wow! Snow, skis, AND smoke???  
What could be more fun? (root canal, stubbed toe, colonoscopy, ...)

## Some BASIC etiquette rules:

1. When drinking wine, make sure that you tilt the paper cup and pour slowly so as not to "bruise" the fruit of the vine.
2. While ears need to be cleaned regularly, this is a job that should be done in private using one's OWN truck keys.
3. Dirt and grease under the fingernails is a bad, as they tend to alter the taste of foods so you'll be forced to use forks and spoons (does anybody offer lessons for those things???)

\*\*\*

*A dog had her puppies by the side of the road. The police gave her a ticket for littering.*

\*\*\*

### **2015 MPA Event Schedule**

Our Scheduling Committee spent agonizing days, hours, and minutes (take your choice) in coming up with our 2015 events, and the results are published on our web site ([www.maine-powerchutes.com](http://www.maine-powerchutes.com)). It is also included as the last page in this Newsletter. Print it out and stick it to the refrigerator door along with your other crayon drawings and reminder notes about your wife's birthday and your anniversary.

While we try really hard to stick to our schedule, we have to occasionally cancel or postpone due to weather or some other weird reason. So ALWAYS check our web site before heading out to an event - the web site gets updated with any changes usually Thursday night before an event, and no later than Friday morning.

At the Committee meeting, we tossed around many ideas regarding how to select and schedule the events so that more of our members can get to more of them since gas is so damn expensive. So, we came up creating "major" and "other" events, and tried to make them geographically convenient for most of our active members.

Major events are those which are usually our best events and to which we can expect a good turnout. These are all MPA sponsored, and are located so that either no other aircraft are there, or have very low GA aircraft traffic.

The Other events are those that have been less popular in the past because they're at airports which have more traffic and maybe not as convenient for camping - these are for us die-hard types who want to take advantage of every opportunity to fly with the boys. These are also MPA hosted.

Our schedule also lists Other (Non-MPA hosted) events in which you might be interested, such as big fly-ins and safety seminars.

### **More ADVANCED etiquette rules:**

4. When approaching a four-way stop, the vehicle with the largest tires does not always have the right of way.

5. Never tow another car using panty hose and duct tape.

6. At the movies, refrain from talking to characters on the screen. Tests have proven they can't hear you.

### **Christmas party wrap-up**

I think we had our largest attendance in our long history. The weather for driving was good, the food was good (and free!), the entertainment by the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes, was good, and the Christmas carols by the North Korean Men's Choir was good (although we couldn't understand many of the words, and even though one of their choir members was dragged off and shot off-stage by their security guards when he smiled).

Our annual highlight video was pretty good too, although we're getting so good at flying that we didn't have our usual "bloopers" section. The company, of course, was superb, and the opportunity to see old friends was priceless. The only down side was the crashing of our party by the Victoria Secret models in their annoyingly skimpy lingerie who heard about it somewhere. We'll have to be more secretive next year.

### **MPA web site**

As mentioned earlier, we post all current happenings on our web site ([www.maine-powerchutes.com](http://www.maine-powerchutes.com)), along with our schedule, our contacts, our videos, safety tips, our past Newsletters, links to our Instruction page and our Demo Team page, and a bunch of other stuff. The site is updated at least weekly, sometimes more often - the date of the last update is always on the first page (the "splash" page, as it is called).

We have had some members not be able to find the latest update. There is a setting on your browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc.) which you can check to always give you the latest update to all websites. Or, you can hit F5, or click on the little "Refresh" icon (usually two circular arrows on top) to make sure you have the latest version of any web page.

### **Next events**

On **March 14th**, the annual Safety seminar and chili cook-off at Wiscasset airport takes place. We usually have a good handful of our MPA boys attend this event - as usual, the FAA safety meetings are valuable, and the doughnuts, coffee, and chili are just what the doctor ordered for our weight conscious guys. If the weather is decent, we usually have a few of us do a little flying before the meeting.

One week later, on the weekend of **March 21st**, we're reviving the Moosehead Lake winter fly-in at the bay in front of Kelly's Landing restaurant/motel in Greenville. This was a fun annual event for many years, and we always had quite a turn out. As our members got older and softer and more wimpy, it sort of faded away. But now, we'll try again - the old guys got even older so they feel no pain any more, and we have a bunch of newer guys who haven't experienced the ice-cream headache of 45 minutes on the ice.



The following event on **April 18th** is the kick-off for the non-winter flying season, a.k.a. the "summer" - our annual trip to Twitchell's airfield in Turner (near Auburn). Good time to get the cobwebs off the plane and off your flying-brain - nice long grass runways, and a decent camping area for us.

Two weeks later on the weekend of **May 2nd**, we'll go back to Fryeburg, ME. Last year was our first time there, but we had a good time and had some good flying in the area. Close to North Conway, with the nice scenery of the White Mountains.

Both of the above events are part of our "Other Events (MPA hosted)" - see page 2 for more on what those are.

\*\*\*

*She was just a lonely moonshine maker, but he loved her still.*

\*\*\*

### **REALLY advanced etiquette rules:**

9. At the movies, crying babies should be taken to the lobby and picked up immediately after the movie has ended.

10. If you're out of gas, when sending your wife down the road with a gas can, it is impolite to ask her to bring back beer too.

### **Safety tip**

Phil Cyr, one of our northern members has been experiencing some out-of-trim conditions on his chute, which of course causes flying to be not straight and level, i.e. have to be constantly making rudder corrections to maintain steady flight. Phil, being our role model for meticulousness, of course researched it with Performance Designs (PD) parachute manufacturer, and came up with some insights that may be valuable to all of us.

I believe most of us have Microline lines for our chutes. Apparently, these stretch over time, and

then start to shrink. This can cause uneven rigging, giving you a constant turn, or other weird control issues in a turn or in some other maneuver. The new lines installed are called Vectran, and supposed to not stretch like Microline.

According to PD, really hard openings will stretch the lines - their sport parachutes experience that sometimes. Not sure how you get really hard openings with our rigs, but I suppose over time it's possible. Also, leaving your chute and lines out in the sun and weather too long will do much damage



to both of those, and of course, entanglements or getting caught in the prop even for an instant can cause that stretching too.

So what can we do? some of Phil's lines were out of norm by 5 to 6 inches. Your owner's manual should specify the normal length for each of the lines, so you

can measure those periodically. If you experience weird out-of-rigging symptoms, you'll probably want to do that soon, and then have your chute re-lined.

\*\*\*

*I wondered why the ball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me!*

\*\*\*

### **True story**

Husband: Honey, I got hit by a car outside of the office and Paula brought me to the Hospital. They have been doing tests and taking X-rays. The blow to my head, though very strong, will not have any serious or lasting injury, but I do have a concussion.

Also, I have three broken ribs, a broken arm, a compound fracture in the left leg, and they may have to amputate a part of my right foot.

Wife: Who the hell is Paula?

### **Shameless advertising**

We still have some of our famous flying MPA logo T-shirts for the unbelievably low price of \$9.9999. In case you've been hiding under a rock for the last 10 years, our famous motto is "Bad decisions make great stories!" Actually, that's not our official motto - we're still working on that. Anyway, here's what's

on the front of the T-shirt. The back has the MPA logo with "Come fly with us" wording.

By the way, like the old Ford Model T-s, you can have the T-shirt in any color as long as it's gray. To get one of these coveted fashion items, see me at any of our fly-ins - I carry them everywhere. Wear one, and you'll definitely be part of the MPA



in-crowd! Eat your heart out, outsiders!

\*\*\*

*Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.*

\*\*\*

### Safety seminars

There are a number of FAA sponsored safety seminars given during the year throughout Maine. The FAA Safety Team (FAAST) is the organization which provides the material for these, which are usually quite interesting and valuable. One of our long-time members, Randy Autrey is a FAAST team representative, and he has a wealth of knowledge regarding any of the safety issues and seminars - contact him if you have any questions in that area.

Besides being a opportunity to hang out for a couple of hours with fellow aviators of all stripes, the safety seminars also give you credit for the oral portion of your biennial flight review (BFR). So in addition to what you might learn at these events, it is also an easy way to get that portion of the BFR out of the way, and then all you have a left is an instructional flight with a CFI.

\*\*\*

*No matter how hard you push the envelope, it will still be stationery.*

\*\*\*

### More winter flying tips

Here's a good one - stay home! OK, just kidding - winter flying can be exhilarating, peaceful, safe, beautiful, and just plain fun.

However, the preparation time for flying can be tedious, as you're bundled up so look like the Michelin man, and simple tasks like opening the sipper on you parachute bag can take 5 minutes with your trusty one-fingered mitten.

The winter air, of course provides more lift, and generally the winds are calmer and smoother. It is safer to fly as the many, many lakes in Maine provide a lot more landing areas if you have your skis on.



Speaking of skis, here's the useful tip. Most of our skis come with an attachment mechanism consisting of two bolts that run through the flange on the ski through the holes in your wheels, and a nut on the other end. Lining them up can be nightmare - you often have to lift the plane off the ground to rotate the tires so it lines up correctly. Not fun, especially with your trusty one-fingered mitten again.

A much better solution is to throw away the bolts, drill a small hole on the edges of the ski, and attach a ratchet strap. The strap goes through the holes in your wheels - no line-up issues there. See picture below.



### Disclaimer

The etiquette tips and other bits of wisdom provided in this Newsletter have been proven successful after being thoroughly tested on laboratory mice from Jackson labs. However, management takes no responsibility for the lack of any noticeable improvement in your disgusting manners or habits. You may have to go to Jackson labs.

**The End    The End**





# ***2015 Fly-in Schedule***

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

*The person listed after each event is hosting the event.*

## **MAJOR EVENTS (MPA hosted)**

Mar 21	Moosehead Lake-Kelly's (Gobel)
May 30	Bingham (Sukeforth)
Jun 13	Millinocket (Oliveira)
Jul 4	Presque Isle (Paradis)
Jul 25 - 31	Adventure trip (Gobel)
Aug 15	Deblois A/P (Keene)
Sep 5	Bar Harbor (Keene)
Sep 26	Bowdoinham (Gobel)
Oct 10	Bethel (Autrey)
Dec 13	MPA Christmas Party (Gobel)



## **OTHER EVENTS (MPA hosted)**

Apr 18	Twitchell's A/P (Goulet)
May 2	Fryeburg A/P (Theriault)
Aug 22	Knox County A/P (Sukeforth)
Oct 24	Bowman -Livermore (Oliveira)

## **OTHER EVENTS (non-MPA hosted)**

Feb 14	Sebago Lake Fly-over
Feb 28	FAA Safety seminar, Bethel A/P
Mar 14	Wiscasset Safety seminar & chili
Apr 21-26	Sun 'n Fun (Lakeland, FL)
Jul 5 - 13	Yankee Fly-in (Greenland, NH)
Jul 20 - 26	EAA Airventure (Oshkosh, WI)
Aug 22	Biddeford Open House

***Remember to always check on our web site for any last minute updates on the event before starting on the trip!***

**WWW.MAINEPOWERCHUTES.COM**