

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

Maine Powerchute Association

Newsletter

www.mainepowerchutes.com

November 2015

Special "Another year older" issue

Well, it happened again - sometime during this past year, all of us got a year older. To celebrate this notable accomplishment, we're filling this issue with all sorts of wisdom we found by living this long. Also, we'll put in our usual irreverent humor (some would dispute the "humor" part...) and the usual slice of girlie stuff to remind ourselves that we may have gotten older but we're not quite dead yet. Oh yeah - and some aviation stuff too.

Opening wisdom

"Old age ain't no place for sissies."

"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes age just shows up all by itself."

Christmas party coming up!

Some have said that the highlight of our MPA flying year is not flying - it is our annual Christmas Party! Generally, we do get the largest turnout of the year for that event, so maybe there's something to that!

So it's here again - on **Sunday, December 13th** at 3:00 PM in Augusta - same place as last year - at the Great Wall Buffet. The address is 1 Anthony Drive, Augusta. It is right off I-95 - like within a couple of hundred yards from it - take Exit 112 if coming from the North, or 112-B if you're coming from the south.

Due to the astute handling of our MPA funds by our lovely and talented Treasurer, Bonnie, the club pretty much pays for the whole thing - your out of pocket expense will probably be only a few bucks

for tips (or for that double Scotch you realized you had to have to get you through the highlight video).



Speaking of our annual Highlight Video, we capture some scenes from each of our many fly-in events throughout the year, and compile them to some music we accidentally found on the Internet. No holds barred - mistakes spice up the otherwise ordinary flying scenes and almost-candid video cameos.

At this event, we also have our annual all-members meeting, where we sum up our MPA year, and make serious decisions like should we invade Syria, is Jerry Sukeforth really the sexiest



This picture is here to get you in the mood for winter flying. Is it working?

man alive, are you being a wuss for using your seatbelts when you fly, and how can a PPC fly without 32 blinking lights on it. And so on, and so on. OK - we actually do get recommendations from our members that make our club more fun, more safe, and just a more enjoyable place to spend time with your fellow aviators.

So, here's the deal. For almost no money, look at all the stuff you get to do:

- have a great meal,
- spend time with old and new friends you haven't seen for a long time,
- show off your new body you got from all those hours in the gym and on the track,
- participate in club decisions,
- watch our award-winning highlight video,
- get a free DVD of the highlight video, which will become a classic some day and be worth a fortune (we think no later than year 2093),
- receive free boxes of chocolate and other delicacies for your trip home
- watch the young kids some of our members will bring to remind you how great it is that yours are out of the house already!

So, how can you resist? Bring the whole family - boyfriend, girlfriend, wife, husband, kids, but no pets except hamsters. Hope to see you on the 13th!

Deep question & answer

Question: Why do scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?

Answer: If they fell forward, they'd still be in the boat. Duh!

Season wrap-up

We had a few weather related cancellations or postponements, but other than that, we had quite good flying year for our members. Our strategy of having our fly-ins more geographically dispersed, and having fewer "major" fly-ins along with a few "minor" ones seems to be working - we had pretty good turnouts for most of them.

The cost of travel this year diminished by almost 30% as the price of gas has declined substantially. It still costs a nice chunk of cash to travel with our rigs, getting 6 to 10 miles a gallon, but nothing like last year. So let's look at some of the major events:

We had our 4th of July weekend in **Presque Isle** (Ron & Darlene hosting) this year for the first time - that was quite a hit. PI in the summer instead of in October (snow & shiver) seems to be more

preferred by our less manly members. We'll keep that event on that date on our schedule in the future.

In August, we had quite a turnout in **Deblois** (Mike & Jackie hosting). That venue used to be quite popular in the past, but we got away from it for some reason - I'm glad we revived it as some of our best flying can be done there with no other traffic, and lots of blueberries!



Yep - contrails.

Moving into September, we had our usual large crowd in **Bowdoinham** (John & Aimee hosting). Besides some fun flying over lots of water and into Brunswick, we also had our annual pig roast. It worked out better to do it later in the year, as nobody got stuck in the fields that stay pretty soft earlier in the year. On the down side, we had no funny videos of mud extractions, etc.

Also in September, we had our **Bar Harbor** (Mike & Jackie hosting) event with another great turnout.

Lots of water there, but nobody got wet. As usual, lobsters, wine, and lots of laughs were the norm.

Our **Bethel** (Randy & Cathy hosting) fly-in wrapped up the season, and we timed it pretty well as the foliage was near its peak. Great mountain flying, and we got to test out some of our winter gear as well.



Just a few of the 27 waitresses we'll have at our Christmas party this year.

New members

Welcome to James Van Kirk from Veazie, ME, and to William Wallace from NH and FL. Hope to see you guys at the Christmas party and at our many events this winter and next year.

At this point in our New Members section, I usually question your sanity for joining our merry bunch and make some other wise-ass comments about not being able to do something better with your 20 bucks. However, as a sign of my new-found maturity, I'll skip those comments. OK, OK - you got me - I can't think of anything original or funny...

Tribute to Rodney Dangerfield

I went to a massage parlor. It was self-service.

A girl phoned me and said, 'Come on over. There's nobody home.' I went over. Nobody was home!

If it weren't for pickpockets, I'd have no sex life at all.

My family was so poor that if I hadn't been born a boy, I wouldn't have had anything to play with.

My wife likes to talk to me during sex; last night she called me from a hotel.

In Memoriam

Gordon Sukeforth, brother of two of our members (Jerry & Doug) passed away this summer. Gordon did not fly, but was friends with many of us in the club and attended several events every year. He also was instrumental in the success of our great PPC trip to Kitty Hawk in 2003. We all admired Gordon's positive outlook on life, his unflappable personality, and his willingness to help wherever needed. Our sympathies to his lovely wife and family. He will be missed.

Winter flying

What's that you say? Not in front of children! Yes, flying in the winter is fun, especially when you stop!

Disregarding the 30 pounds of clothes you need to wear, and the runny noses, and the frozen fingers, and the ice-cream headaches, and the numb toes, and the dead batteries, and the dead GPS and radios (did I leave anything out?) - it is an exhilarating experience! With all the frozen lakes in Maine, you can land anywhere (with skis on, of course).

Yep, many of us (OK, maybe not that many) enjoy the unique views of Maine winters from the air. And really, going without flying for more than a month makes lot of us flying nuts very anxious and difficult to be around. OK, even more difficult to be around.

So dust off those skis, get the winter clothes out of moth balls (they still have those?), and don't pack away the PPC just yet. We'll have a couple of somewhat organized events - see our web site for those, and of course, just impromptu get-togethers when the winds are down and it's above zero and your wife is getting cabin fever and wants you out of the house at any cost.

My girlfriend thinks that I'm a stalker. Well, she's not exactly my girlfriend yet.

New Sport Pilots

Congratulations to 4 new pilots who earned their Sport Pilot license in the last few months - Robert Van Valzah, George Dumond, Dave Riccardone, and Tim Wall. This is quite an accomplishment - while not as stringent as getting a Private license or higher, it does take time, hard work, lot of studying, lot of in-air instruction, and a rigorous final check ride and exam. But in the end, it's all worth it - you are now a bona fide member of the professional aviator society with a real FAA certificate!



Kevin pointing out which way is up for his intellectually challenged PPC.

MPA Instructor group

We welcome the addition of one more Certified Flight Instructor to our instruction staff - Bill Wallace. Bill teaches primarily out of Plymouth, NH and in central Florida in the winters, and he brings his students to Maine for their final exams. He also uses a 912 engine Powrachute with full dual controls, so we send him all the students who weigh over 250 lbs.

Our instructor staff now consists of Randy Autrey, Bill Wallace, and John Gobel. The three of us coordinate our teaching material, style, and

procedures. Check out our instruction site - www.ppc-instruction.com.

ITS A BOY" I shouted "A BOY, I DON'T BELIEVE IT, ITS A BOY". And with tears streaming down my face I swore I'd never visit another Thai Brothel!

Gasoline test

As we all know, alcohol (ethanol) and water are bad for all small engines and their fuel lines. The "Maintenance Tips" tab on our web site (www.maineppc.com) has a neat little test you can do to verify the existence (and the amount) of both in the gasoline you use.

On another gasoline related safety issue, winterizing your PPC is an important step for the longevity of your aircraft. If you're going to fly it, or least run it once a month or more often, you don't have to do almost anything. Otherwise you should run the engine (i.e. carburetor) dry so you don't get the gum build-up in your jets and other parts. Also helps to plug up all holes to your engine, like exhausts, air intakes, ports.

4 out of 3 people struggle with math.

Another touching children story

The teacher asks her 3rd grade class "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Little Johnny says: "I wanna start out as a Fighter Pilot, then be a billionaire, go to the most expensive clubs, find me the finest whore, give her a Ferrari worth over a million bucks, an apartment in Copacabana, a mansion in Paris, a jet to travel throughout Europe, an Infinite Visa Card, and all while banging her like a loose screen door in a hurricane."

The teacher, shocked, and not knowing what to do with this horrible response from little Johnny, decides not to acknowledge what he said and simply tries to continue with the lesson.

"And how about you, Sarah?"

"I wanna be Jimmy 's whore."

See you at the Christmas Party on Dec. 13th!



*Setting the fashion trend for CFIs.
L to R - John, Bill, Randy*

Two more reasons it's great to be old - People no longer view you as a hypochondriac, and your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.



Another wonderful winter flying picture. Is it working?



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