

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

# Maine Parachute Association Newsletter

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

September/October 2016

## Special "Wise Sayings" issue

### Another public service

Since the MPA is dedicated to enlightening its membership in whatever way possible, we are devoting this issue to wise sayings that have been handed down from generation to generation since Aristotle.

In case you have a hard time telling wise sayings from all the other brilliant content of this Newsletter, we will make this easy by putting the wise saying in *italics* like that.



Oh, one more thing - the various girls in various states of undress hidden throughout the Newsletter are NOT wise sayings - they are only put there to make sure you don't show the Newsletter to your children and thereby pollute their young minds.

*Teach your kids about taxes. Eat 30% of their ice cream.*

### Reminders

We do this about once or twice a year, so here it goes. In case it sounds familiar, I am copying it from a Newsletter from last year.

A quick review - what do you need to fly legally with a Sport Pilot license?

1. Your plane must have an annual inspection, signed off by an A&P - must be within 12 months of the last one.
2. You must have had your biennial flight review (the FAA now calls it just "Flight Review") within the last 24 months. This given by a CFI - we have 3



*I guess you could call that formation flying...*

of those in our club - see our instruction web site [www.ppc-instruction.com](http://www.ppc-instruction.com) for names and numbers.

3. You must have a current drivers license (or at least a 3rd class medical certificate).

4. You must be current before you can fly with a passenger - which means at least three takeoffs and three landings within the preceding 90 days (61.57).

That's it - pretty simple.

And another "usual reminder" - you can get away with violating all the FAA rules until something happens - then you're screwed. Makes a lot more sense to just be a professional and do the right thing. Follow the few simple rules we fly by, and you won't piss off as many people, including your fellow aviators and your friends in the club. And you'll have just as much fun playing as the rest of us do.

Another "by the way" - when you do your biennial, the expiration of it is the last day of the month in which you took it. So if you did it on April 12, 2015, it is good until April 30, 2017. Same holds true for your annual inspection.

*If a man speaks in the forest, and there's no woman there to hear him, is he still wrong?*

**Complacency - deadly theme in aviation**

As we all know, well over 90% of all aviation accidents are due to pilot error. And about 50% of those are due to complacency. Here are some examples.

- "I put fuel in this morning - there should be plenty left for this next flight."

- "I've been flying for 15 years - of course I can fly under that power line!"

- "Safety meeting and safety reminders are for sissies."

- "This engine has never failed me - 3 feet over this lake is plenty of altitude."

- "I did a thorough pre-flight last month - no sense wasting time on that again."

- "I haven't flown in two years, but I'm a damn good pilot so I'll just jump in the seat and continue doing the stuff I did two years ago."

- "I'm a damn good pilot!"

You get the idea. The point is a little fear is a good thing - it makes you alert. Every flight is a new adventure, so pay attention. This complacency is issue can be summed with a line from my favorite poem (Kipling's "IF"):

"...you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, but make allowance for their doubting too"

**Winter flying**

Yes! It's finally here! After months and months of ridiculously good weather, warm days, and easy living, our dreams have finally come true as we

head into November and the winter months. Cold winds, ice on the windshield, deep snow, runny noses, frozen ears, frostbitten toes, and ice-cream headaches are here at last!

OK, my pet polar bear made me write that. He has sharp claws and big teeth and he's not afraid to use them, so I do what he says.

In any case, get those skis ready. Last year was a bust, with hardly any lakes frozen enough for flights, so we're hoping for better conditions for winter flying this year.

If you haven't tried it, do so. It is exhilarating, the scenery is wonderful, you can land almost anywhere, and you feel so good when you finally land and pack away all your stuff. The key is to make these flights 20 to 30 minutes - more than that gets painful.

We plan two or three MPA fly-ins per winter, and of course, several impromptu events which come about with a phone call to a few of your crazy friends. After a few of those calls, they may not answer the phone when they see your name come up, but remember - they'll still be your friends come April.

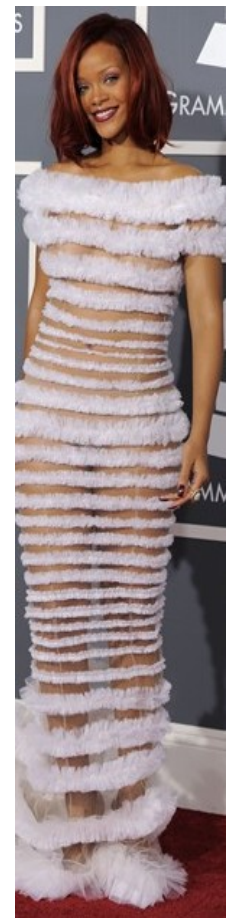
*My 60th kindergarten reunion is coming up this month. I'm really concerned about the 180 pounds I've gained since then.*

**Be-kind-to-a-Democrat day**

After the big election, I think it would be a nice gesture to find a Democrat somewhere and take him/her to lunch to cheer him/her up. Of course, most of us don't know any, but they're out there, so just keep looking.



*Ritchie, the Yellow Death, setting up for a strafing run on the evil tower ahead...*



*This snow suit is NOT approved for winter flying.*

By the way, I do have a good friend who is Democrat (although I'm suspicious - he works for a living and he pays taxes). Besides taking him to lunch, I will take him to one of our fly-ins next year, and will let you touch him for only 25 cents!

One last political comment - the thousands of millennials protesting Trump's election by marching and vandalizing and burning, what exactly are they protesting? Democracy???

*Every year, thousands of innocent plants are killed by vegetarians. Help end the violence. Eat bacon!*

### Christmas party

Our annual M.P.A. Christmas get-together is just around the corner. It's been on our fly-in calendar on our web site for about a year - the date is **Saturday, December 10th at 3:00 PM.** It is also our annual general membership meeting.

Bring family - kids wives, girlfriends (but not both), etc. The cost comes out of MPA budget, which is so astutely managed by our brilliant Treasurer Bonnie that we have money for that.



The location is the same as for the last several years - the Great Wall Buffet in Augusta. 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.

The event is a great opportunity to see old friends, re-hash our flying for the year, tell stories and lies, have an excellent meal, bring up ideas to make our club better, suggest new flying sites, and etc. And of course, we show our infamous highlight video which compiles scenes from most of our fly-ins.

A note on the video - since we don't seem to have enough footage from this year, we'll be taking a trip down memory lane by re-using highlight clips from

the last 5 years. So even if you didn't make this year's events, you may still be a star in those "oldies" segments.

*If guns kill people, then I guess pencils misspell words, cars drive drunk, and spoons make people fat.*

### A touching Christmas tale

A couple was out doing some Christmas shopping together. The shopping center was packed, and as the wife emerged from a shoe and handbag shop, she was surprised to find that her husband was nowhere to be seen.



Irritated because they had a lot to do, she called him to ask him where he was.

In a subdued voice he replied, "Do you remember that jewellers' store we went into a couple of years

ago, where you fell in love with that

beautiful diamond necklace that we couldn't afford, and promised that I would buy it for you one day?"

Barely able to contain her emotions and with tears already forming in her eyes, she said, "Yes, of course I remember that shop."

"Well, I'm in the pub next door."

**WHAT!!! You're not going to the Christmas party???**



### New Sport Pilots

Congratulations to two brand new Sport Pilots who have earned their certificate in the last few months - Gordon Domaloan from Plymouth, New Hampshire, and William Rancourt from China, Maine. Gordon was prepared for the practical examination by Bill Wallace, and William was taught by Randy Autrey - both Bill and Randy are CFI's within our club. Happily, neither has had any accidents so far, although Gordon did have an engine failure, which he negotiated with superb skill - made a perfect dead-stick landing back to the airport.



*I child-proofed my house, but the kids still get in!*

**Repairman course update**

This is a highly emotional issue

for all of us who attended this two day course back in August. After finishing the course, we were supposed to enter our data into the FAA on-line system, then go to the Portland FSDO for them to verify your ID and then click "Approve" on the on-line system.

We have been trying to get them to set us up for this 5 minute event for about 3 months now. Still no response. We have sent a letter to our Congressional representatives - see if that gets us any action. We usually have good relations with the local FAA office, but this scenario is absurd - they are a service to taxpayers, aren't they?

**Next year's schedule**

This year, our scheduling committee will be getting together in November (instead of the usual February time) to discuss opportunities for next year's fly-ins. One reason for this is to still have the recent events this past summer fresh in our minds so we can make better adjustments to it for next year. The other reason is that in February, we like to stay inside and crawl under a bed.

While we'll set up a proposed schedule, we won't finalize it until after the Christmas party. So if you have any ideas for any event for next year, bring them to the party and we'll discuss them.

**The dangers of texting**

On a cold winter's morning, the husband gets a text from his wife: "Windows frozen, won't open."

He texts back: "Gently pour some lukewarm water over it."

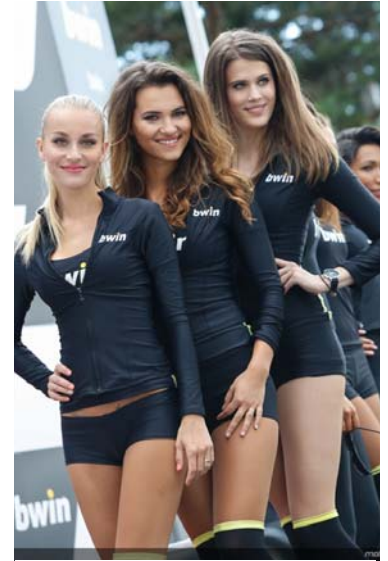
Five minutes later, she texts back: "Computer really screwed up now!"

**Dues**

This is the bargain of the century - our MPA dues of \$20, which hasn't been raised since the middle

ages! Still, some of our members can't cough up the money until they start losing the many benefits of MPA membership. What are they you ask?

Well, if you ask that, you think too much! Stop doing that! It's been scientifically proven that too much thinking wastes brain cells. The brain is like an ammo clip - there are only so many rounds in it, so if you waste it thinking about MPA dues, you won't have any rounds left for important stuff like how long before dinner, etc.



*A typical line at an MPA fly-in waiting for their turn to fly.*

Our dues are due in January for the year 2017. Most of us pay Bonnie at the Christmas party - great opportunity to save 47 cents (or whatever the postage is these days). Or, you can mail it to Bonnie at the address below. By the way, you cannot scan a \$20 bill and attach it to an email to Bonnie - she's caught on to that scheme!

Bonnie Micue Davis  
P.O.Box 13  
Warren, ME 04864

**Disclaimer**

As usual, this Newsletter is almost totally free of trans-fats, caffeine, gluten, calories, red dye #10, intelligent content, anti-Hillary jokes, uranium 235, and asbestos. It does contain traces of humor, grass-fed coffee spills, lead-free paint, and typos.

Note: No female butts or other parts were grabbed during the production of this Newsletter.

**The End**

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