

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

Maine Powerchute Association

Newsletter

December 2017

Special Christmas issue

www.mainepowerchutes.com

MPA Christmas Party

We look at the advent of our annual Christmas Party and General Membership meeting with mixed emotions.

On one hand, we love the excitement of it all (see pictures); the chance to see all our flying friends; to show off our new and highly fashionable wardrobe (see more pictures); to see our infamous MPA Highlight video; to have a great meal (Chinese buffet); to discuss club activities past, present, and future; and to walk out without paying for any of it!

On the other hand, Christmas party means that it's December! It's cold, snowy, cold, slippery, windy, cold, and hardly any flying opportunities. What happened to summer - it was here just a minute ago!

So here are the details once again:

DATE: Saturday, December 9th.
TIME: 3 PM
PLACE: Great Wall Buffet
ADDRESS: 1 Anthony Ave, Augusta

We'll follow the same general outline as before - arrive and chat with people, have a drink, etc. from 3 to about 3:30 or so, have a buffet meal from about 3:45 to 4:45 or so, socialize some more, have our annual membership meeting around 5, and have our highlight video at 5:20 or so, and say good night by 6:00.

Dinner and soft drinks are free to paid-up members and their family. If you're not paid up for the year (2017), you can pay your \$20 membership for the next year (2018) and we'll still let you have a free dinner. Yes, and Bonnie keeps a list - we know who paid!

What a great opportunity to share flying adventure stories, to see who had the most scary moment this past year, to tell a few funny stories, and engage in the usual guy banter, exaggerations, and BS.

To help you with the unwritten MPA rules regarding our annual party, here are some helpful hints.

1. What to wear for the ladies!

This question comes up every year from the MPA ladies. They all want to look their best since they'll be mingling with a bunch of hot shot pilots, reminiscent of scenes from Top Gun. It's hard to describe the proper outfit for the ladies, but here are a few pictures of what has worked at previous parties we had.



Notice the modest yet confident tone these evening dresses convey. The outfit in the middle would be the most appropriate for this event. To wear these, you'll need to lose anywhere from 50 to 200 pounds in the next two weeks - there is a 104 lb dress limit by law.

2. What to wear for the men!

This is a little more difficult, since men have SO many more fashion opportunities. It's hard to describe what's fashionable today (it changes so much), but here are a few classics that never go out of style.



Notice the casual elegance of these classics, and the bold yet understated message they shout!

3. What NOT to wear?

This is also difficult, as there are so many possibilities. But as they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, so here's one possibility.



4. What do we do after the party?

Many of the boys like to play outdoor games, mostly pyramid building. You can join in with either group.



Winter flying

Yes, the joys of ice-cream-headaches, frozen nostrils, dripping noses, frostbitten ears is finally here! OK, those things CAN happen, but they actually never do - most sensible MPA members do one of two things to avoid them. One, you limit your flights to like 20 minutes. Or two, you stay home and play with momma. You may get an earful, but it won't be frostbite.

Anyway, if the lakes actually freeze over this year, we'll have several opportunities to fly together. We'll put a couple of formal events on our schedule, and of course you can just do impromptu fly-ins with a few friends. Flying with others is always more fun, but in the winter, it almost becomes necessary. When you're done and need to bitch about the cold, you've got to have an audience!

While we're on that topic, winter flying is both more safe and less safe than summer flying. More safe because with all the lakes in Maine, you have many more places to land if they're frozen. Less safe because snow and ice are slippery (oh, you knew that???) and loss of directional control is a real possibility followed by bad things . Also, the ice you're flying from can have weak spots - PPCs have gone into water in these kind of situations.

By the way, skis are highly recommended as snow is real tricky to handle on wheels. Some places are plowed so you can fly off them without skis, but now your landing options are limited. You do not want to land in any snow more than 2 inches without skis!

Repairman course

We had a successful session last summer, but a number of members did not get a chance to attend. So we were discussing the possibility of conducting another one this spring or summer for those guys.

To refresh your memory, successfully finishing the two day course enables you to receive an FAA Repairman license, which authorizes you to perform you own annual inspection on your own airplane.

We'll bring this issue up at our annual meeting at our Christmas party to see if there's enough interest. We need to have at least 10 people to make the event worth while.



Here's one of my favorite winter flying pictures - me, flying over Mt. Kilimanjaro at 19,400 feet. Oxygen & long pants are for sissies.

Technology update

Amazing progress in the food industry. For example, a new supermarket opened near my house. It has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain.

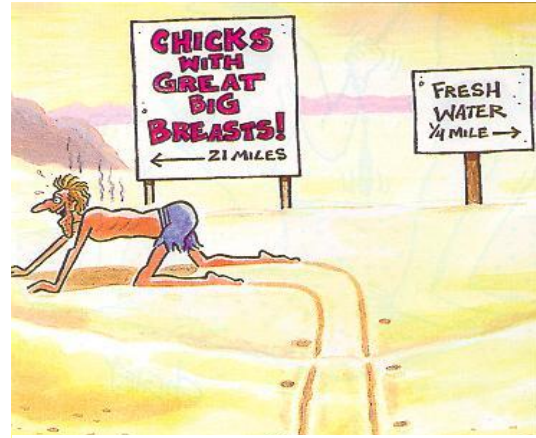
When you pass the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and you experience the scent of fresh mown hay.

In the meat department there is the aroma of charcoal grilled steaks with onions. When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and

cackle, and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying.

The bread department features the tantalizing smell of fresh baked bread & cookies.

I don't buy toilet paper there anymore.



Yes, men are pigs.

Salute to our veterans on Veterans' Day

Since we have a number of veterans in our group, first, thank you for your service! Second, here are a few military truisms to remind you of the good old days:

For the Army guys:

If the enemy is in range, so are you.

Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you.

Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo.

For the Navy types:

Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once.

There are more planes in the ocean than submarines in the sky.

For the Air Force boys:

Without ammunition, the USAF would be just another expensive flying club.

It is generally not a good idea to eject over the area you just bombed.

You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal.

For everybody:

Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid.

Never trade luck for skill.

For pilots in all branches:

Airspeed, altitude and brains. Two of the three are always needed to complete a flight successfully.

Never fly in the same cockpit with someone braver than you.

For PPC jockeys:

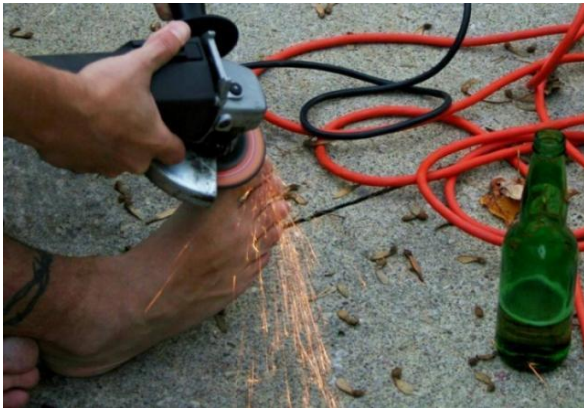
The powered parachute is the safest aircraft in the sky. It can just barely kill you.

New members

We welcome two new members to our jolly little organization. They both came to a few of our flying events, and they spoke with a number of our members, and in spite of that, they still joined! Go figure!

Anyway, welcome to George Dean from Brownville, and David Paine from Wilton. Hope you boys enjoy hanging out with a bunch of fun-loving, superbly skilled, funny, highly intelligent, and really good looking guys. Unfortunately, you won't find any of those at our fly-ins, but we still have a good time.

Looking forward to having you boys join us in our many little flying adventures, having you share your experiences with us, and having you participate in making our club even more enjoyable and friendly.



Toenail trimmers - the perfect Christmas gift for that "hard-to-buy-for" man in your life.

Event wrap-up

Our last scheduled fly-in for the year was at Bethel. Had a nice turn out, and had some good weather to boot. It was a good way to wrap up the flying season, and to get in the mood for the winter season, since it was cold enough in the mornings to get into our cold-weather gear.

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

Question for men



Also used the Bethel opportunity to install and test a couple of the new Apco Cruiser chutes - we now have 7 or 8 of those in the club. Their claim to fame is the chute's new design that seems to incorporate the

good features of an elliptical (that is better lift, better maneuverability, less drag) and those of the rectangular ones we're used to (that is stability, ease of launch, reliable flying characteristics). Anybody who has flown one seems pleased with it, especially those of us whose old chute had trouble taking off with a heavy load (which is the politically correct way of saying fat guys with a fat passenger).

Brain teasers

In our never ending quest to make this Newsletter a tool for improving the minds of our members, here are a few intelligence builders. Think, before you look at the answers.

1. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
2. In which battle did Napoleon die?
3. What can you never eat for breakfast?
4. How can you go 8 days without sleep?

Give up? Here are the answers:

1. At the bottom of the page.
2. His last battle.
3. Lunch and dinner.
4. By sleeping at night.