

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

Maine Powerchute Association

Newsletter

www.mainepowerchutes.com

March 2018

Special Nothing-To-Say issue

Nothing to say?

Since all of us in the MPA are the "strong silent" types, we frown on people who have nothing to say but are still talking. However, we need to make an exception for this Newsletter. Since very little has happened over the last few months, we have very little to report. But of course, that won't stop the annoying editor from publishing another issue.

In the old days, when we used to print out the Newsletter and mail it to everybody, the paper could be used for lining the bottom of your birdcage, either after you read it, or before. Most chose the latter option.

But now that everything is electronic, what do you do with the Newsletter? You can forward, reply, or delete. You can't really forward it, since you'll lose whatever friends you have left. You can't reply, because the Newsletter can't read. So the answer is obvious.

So what do we put into the Newsletter when we have nothing to say? Read on to find the answer.

Fly-in schedule

We did accomplish something over the last few months - our revered Scheduling Committee did come up with the schedule for 2018. It was a three day session, done in a smoke-filled, locked room, with nothing but junk food, beer, and coffee to keep them going. Very few fist fights. The good news is that when the white smoke finally came out of the chimney, the group emerged with a full schedule.

See our web site for the planned events for the year (<http://www.mainepowerchutes.com>). I'm also attaching it in this Newsletter. Make sure you cut it out and put in your wallet so you know where to go on weekends.



The answer is NO! So quit asking.

Why do ballet dancers dance on their toes? Why doesn't the company just hire taller dancers?

Winter flying

This has been a pretty good year for winter flying. Lots of ice on all the lakes, and enough snow cover to make the skis work really well. Unfortunately, only a few of us actually took advantage of these conditions and got out there to feel the joy of frostbite, ice cream headaches, drippy noses, and frozen fingers and toes.

So here's a question - what were the rest of you sissies doing while these great flying conditions were just outside your window? I mean you can only play with momma for so long!

Ban pre-shredded cheese. Make America grate again!

Spring fever

Yep, it's just around the corner! Sunshine, dandelions, mud, flowers, short skirts, birds singing, rebirth!

It's also the time when we start itching to fly again. It's a dangerous time. Why, you ask?

Well, a number of reasons. The plane you left in perfectly good shape last fall is not the same. Batteries may need charging. Mice may have spent

the winter in your chute. They may have chewed through some of your lines or wires. The tires may have lost air. The gas in the tank has lost lot of its power. The carburetor may have gummed up. A squirrel may have eaten a piece of your seat. The cables may have rusted in their sheath. Your electronics may have got some water or condensation in them. Some grasshopper you may have trapped in your chute the last time you packed it up may have tried to eat its way out in desperation. Your commo equipment may have decided to die over the winter. And so on.

So, it behooves all of us to do a REAL preflight before you even think about flying! Check everything carefully. Then check it again. And then ask somebody you don't like very much to test fly your plane.



Being flexible is very important in your life. Here's our new MPA flexibility instructor, Desiree.

So that's the equipment part. Equally important, is the pilot. You!

So what happened to you over the winter? Yep, you got older. Sad but true. Your vision diminished. Your reflexes slowed. Your weight increased. Your brain lost some more cells. You have less hair, but more wrinkles. You forget your wife's birthday. Your steady hand now shakes a bit. Your steely-eyed gaze into the sunset is now a squint. The women have stopped throwing their panties at you. And the few that still come your way are size 58.

This is too depressing. Take a minute to compose yourself. Go into another room if you feel like crying. It's OK. Real men can cry. (Note: not really.)

So the point of all this is that flying skills have a shelf life. It is NOT like riding a bicycle - just because you could do it last summer does not mean you're just as good this spring. Use your checklist. Take no chances the first few times out. Have



Nice flying picture, just to get you in the mood for flying again at our first MPA fly-in event at Bethel.

plenty of runway in case you or your machine is not up to par and you need to abort. Get up in the air, get some altitude, do a bunch of easy turns, do some touch and go-s. Get used to being in the air again. And live to fly another day. In the same machine, preferably.

Staying legal

Pretty simple in our machines and with our FAA tickets. Your machine needs an annual inspection. You can do it yourself if you have the Repairman Certificate, or you can hire our own Scott Royal to do it for you at a reasonable fee.

The only other thing you need a biennial flight review. This consists of two parts - the oral, and the flight. The oral can be satisfied by attending a safety meeting, or by taking an on-line safety course for about \$30. The flight requirement can be satisfied by taking a ride with one of our 3 CFI-s in the club, cost usually about \$60. This is due every two years.

So with these two things out of the way and properly logged in your log book, you're good to go for another year. Worth the effort, since if you ever get in trouble, like land in the trees, in the river, on somebody's flower bed, or hurt yourself or somebody else, you will be in much deeper trouble with the FAA if you don't have those two things accomplished. Why? Simply because without those, you are flying illegally, and the FAA boys and girls take a very dim view of illegal operations!

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

Another true story

Late one fall the Indians on a remote reservation in Northern Maine asked their new chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared. But, being a practical leader, after several days, he got an idea.

He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold", he was told.

So the chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared.

A week later, he called the National Weather Service again, "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes", the man at National Weather Service again replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter."

The chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find.

Two weeks later, the chief called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely", the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters we've ever seen."

"How can you be so sure?" the chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting a shitload of firewood."

Christmas party

Great turnout again this year, in spite of some iffy weather. Thank you to the boys who made it down from the County - great to see everybody. If you missed it, and want to see the picture highlights and the video highlights of last year, go on our web site - <http://www.mainepowerchutes.com>.



Cleared this with the FAA - the ground is clearly visible...

Clear your schedule for next year's party - it's on Saturday, December 8th in Augusta. Seating is limited to the first 945 people, so sign up now.

How to say "I love you" in 5 languages

English - *I love you.*

French - *Je T'aime*

Italian - *Ti amo*

Chinese - *Wo ai nin*

Mainer - *Nice ass, get in the truck*

More lessons in life

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

Borrow money from pessimists - they don't expect it back.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify.." you should answer "a doctor."

FINALLY !



THE CUP FOR LEFT-HANDED !

Remember back when we were kids, and every time it was below zero outside, they closed school? Me neither.

Next events

Coming up next is the annual Wiscasset safety meeting and chili cook-off on Saturday, March 17th at 10:00 AM at the Wiscasset airport. You can pre-register if you want to be really cool and be part of the elite crowd who just puts a checkmark next to their name. Otherwise, you have try to remember how to spell your name and all that, while the people behind you are getting annoyed.

To pre-register, go to this link:

https://www.faasafety.gov/spans/event_publicregistration.aspx?eid=81323&type=0

Some of us will be taking our machines over there, and will try to fly some before the meeting, probably like around 7:30 or 8:00 if the weather is decent. We'll show all those GA pilot what REAL flying is all about.

The first real MPA fly-in will be on the weekend of April 14th in Bethel. The mud is usually not an issue there. Bring some warm clothes, however. The FBO station there is great (and warm), so we can hang out in there if need be. Good opportunity to get the rust off your machine and off yourself.

Intriguing thoughts

We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.

Two wrongs don't make a right, and two rights don't make a wrong. But three lefts make a right.

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Half the people you know are below average.

Disclaimer

Even by the usual low standards of our Newsletter, this issue has an unusual amount fluff and sex. We warned you in the beginning - we had almost nothing to say!



Typical scene of girls waiting for a powered parachute ride at many of our fly-ins. We'll be using this picture as a recruiting poster for the MPA.

2018 Fly-in Schedule

Date	Event
3/3	Greenville (Kelly's Landing)
3/17	Wiscasset (Safety mtg)
4/14	Bethel
4/28	Brunswick
5/19	Twitchells
6/2	Berlin
6/16	Limington
6/30 - 7/7	Ft. Kent, Presque Isle
7/21	Bowdoinham
8/11	Deblois
8/18	Twitchells (Balloon Fest.)
9/1	Bar Harbor
9/15	Knox County
9/22	Bingham
10/6	Fryeburg
10/27	Patten
12/8	Christmas party
<u>Non-MPA Events</u>	
4/10 - 4/15	Sun 'n Fun (Lakeland, FL)
7/8 - 7/11	Yankee fly-in Greenland, NH)
7/23/- 7/29	EAA - Oshkosh, WI

The End

The most popular portion of the Newsletter.

