

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

Maine Powerchute Association

Newsletter

November 2018

www.mainepowerchutes.com

Special Bits of Wisdom issue

Christmas Party

Yep, it's that time of year again – it's almost Christmas. Besides being a wonderful time to spend with family and friends, it's also a time to sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of a sock.

And, it's also a time for our annual MPA Christmas party and general membership meeting. Well, actually a few weeks before Christmas, on Saturday, December 9th at 3:00 PM. Once again, we'll hold it at the Great Wall Buffet in Augusta, address 1 Anthony Avenue – right off Rt. 95.

So cancel all other plans you have for that day, and come to Augusta! Wait a minute! You shouldn't have any other plans, since this event has been on the schedule since February! It's a wonderful opportunity to see old friends, tell war stories and other lies, have a great meal, see the highlight video of our flying season, and discuss issues of general interest and bring up suggestions for next year at our member meeting.

And the best part – it's almost free. Due to the astute stewardship of our finances by Bonnie, we usually have enough money to pay for all the paid up members and their families. You just have to pay for the 3 or 4 martinis you'll have while enduring the slideshow of the millions of pictures we've taken during the year.

But as we have all learned one time or another, there's no free lunch. See next paragraph.

Dues due!

The Christmas party is also a great opportunity to pay your dues to Bonnie for 2019! The dues are a measly \$20, which hasn't changed since the year 2000 – what a deal. So what do you get for your hard-earned \$20? Ah, ah, ah - how about them Red Sox?

OK, you really do get something. There's the Christmas party, of course, and the Newsletters to scintillate and challenge your mind and your good taste, and our award-winning web site (it's www.mainepowerchutes.com, in case you've been

asleep for the last 20 years) to keep up with all our MPA activities and schedules, and of course my favorite, finally being able to belong to a club whose standards are low enough so it accepts even me.

The dues are due in January of each year, so if you forgot your

wallet at the Christmas party, you can mail it to Bonnie Micue, P.O.Box 13, Warren, ME 04864.

Fashion Advice

Every year, we get questions about the proper attire for our Christmas party. We don't give advice to the men, since they never listen anyway, but for the ladies, here are a few outfits that worked well in the past.



A lovely Kelly picture at Bar Harbor. Had to throw in at least one flying picture, since this is a PPC Newsletter...



Master Pilot Award

The FAA grants its most prestigious award (their words), the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to pilots who have flown continually for 50 years, been accident free, are of good character, are still alive, received letters of recommendation from other pilots, and some other stuff.

In spite of that high bar, much to my amazement I was given that award by the FAA at a nice little ceremony in Londonderry NH. You may wonder how being only 55 years old I could have qualified – a quick little math will reveal that I soloed at the age of 5. Yes, I was pretty precocious.



Event wrap-up

Since our last Newsletter, we had 4 more fly-ins to conclude our flying season for the year.

Plymouth, NH – this is a venue that we used to attend fairly regularly many years ago, so we thought we'd revive it. By now, that airfield has improved 100% - beautiful grass strip, good camping sites, and hardly any traffic – a powered parachute paradise. Thanks to Bill Wallace for hosting it – had some nice flights and nice scenery. It's a bit of a hike for most of our members, but worth the drive.

Bar Harbor – great turnout for this event – thanks to Mike Keene for hosting it. As usual, we had a lobster dinner as part of the event, and had some wonderful flights over all that wet territory, but nobody got to go swimming thankfully.

Patten – well, we didn't actually have it. Unfortunately, the wind and temperature forecasts exceeded our limits, so we had to cancel for the third time this year. Next year, we'll schedule it earlier in the year, since it's a terrific venue.

Fryeburg – another great turnout from our members at this excellent venue. The FBO at the airfield is super nice to the MPA, as we follow all his rules which he must put in place since it does have some high performance air traffic there occasionally. Had some good flying weather, and had fun flying the perimeter of the Fryeburg fair held during the same time. Lots to do there, since it's only a few miles from Conway.

Winter flying next

As a testament to their intelligence, not too many of our members do this. But those of us who do have a grand old time for at least 20 to 30 minutes flying over the snow covered lakes and woods and fields with frozen fingers, runny nose, frostbitten ears, and an ice-cream headache.

So here are the advantages of winter flying:

- * gets you out of your nice warm house
- * great lift in cold weather
- * feels so good when you stop
- * you make your wife happy by getting out of the house
- * great antidote for cabin fever
- * finally get to use the skis you had for years
- * lots of fresh air
- * make friends with ice fishermen
- * you can call all your non-flying friends sissies

Here are some disadvantages:

- * you will question your own sanity
- * your engine probably won't start
- * frozen appendages

So obviously, the advantages win, so we'll see you out there!



I'm no wildlife expert, but I think this monkey might be drunk.

Ponderings and wisdoms

The location of your mailbox shows you how far away from your house you can go in a robe before you start looking like a mental patient.

I think it's pretty cool how Chinese people made a language entirely out of tattoos.

I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Shouldn't that be an even number?

You can tell a lot about a woman's mood just by her hands. If they are holding a gun, she's probably very unhappy.

When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90% of their body. Men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.

How come you never hear "Psychic wins lottery?"

Money can't buy love, but it can rent a very close imitation.

Free Financial Advice



In the long term, the car is cheaper

Safety

A tip from Scott. When working on the battery on your plane (or on any vehicle) always disconnect the negative terminal first. Since most of the metal parts on the plane are connected to the negative (ground) terminal, if your tool touches any part of the plane while removing the positive connection, you will get a big scary spark. If the negative terminal is disconnected, that can't happen. Also, when replacing the battery or just working on it, put on the negative terminal last for the same reason. Thanks, Scott!

There is nothing as bad while flying as a mid-air collision. None of your vast piloting skills matter if you hit another aircraft – you will most likely die. In any aircraft, even our PPCs.

So when and where is a mid-air most likely to happen in uncontrolled airspace? Yep, when there are many other aircraft in the same general airspace. This situation happens quite frequently at our fly-ins. We'll have 8 or 10 PPCs near the approach end of a runway, so the odds of colliding with another PPC goes from one in million to one in ten thousand. The odds are still in your favor, but people beat long odds all the time. Every week, a lottery winner just beat one in ten million or one in a hundred million odds.

Don't play the odds when flying. Keep your head swiveling whenever there are other aircraft around. Talk and listen on the radio. Of course, even when not in crowded airspace, keep a lookout for other aircraft. And live to fly another day.

More ponderings and wisdoms

My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.

I always wondered what the job application is like at Hooters. Do they just give you a bra and say, "Here, fill this out?"

If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?

Why is it called "after dark"when it really is "after light?"

Why do they call it a TV set when you only have one?

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

I don't like making plans for the day. Because then the word "premeditated" gets thrown around in the courtroom.

Veterans' Day

To the many veterans in our group, thank you for your service!

As you probably know, Veterans' Day celebrates and honors all the men and women who have served in our armed forces (I think that also includes the Air Force). Not to be confused with Memorial Day, which honors those who have fallen in the service of our country.

Since this Newsletter is forever looking for the opportunity for clever observations about the folly of life, we look back to the big war (WWII), before political correctness screwed up everything.

So since we can't even spell political corecness, on the right are some pictures of aircraft nose art that are certainly forbidden today. But that taboo does not apply to our PPCs, so I hope this inspires you to follow the lead of our brave pilots and mechanics of WWII and decorate your plain and boring airframe with some interesting and original artwork that expresses your true self and your devil-may-care coolness befitting an MPA pilot!



Family corner



Enough of this award ceremony – let's have dinner!



Don't tell dad!

Disclaimer

I know nothing! (© Sgt. Shultz)

The End

Since this is the most popular part of the Newsletter, here's an early Christmas present – a triple header!

