

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

Maine Parachute Association

Newsletter

February 2020

www.maineparachutes.com

Special Cabin Fever issue

When you have nothing to say...

Common wisdom would say “Keep your mouth shut.” But of course common wisdom is not one of our strong suits, so we’re putting together another Newsletter.

The 4 or 5 months between our last flying event and next one is a pretty quiet period, so instead of the usual insightful, wise, and superbly written aviation and safety information we disseminate to our MPA pilots, we fill that void with cheerful stories, anecdotes, sexy pictures, and just general nonsense. But wait, you say – that’s the usual Newsletter! OK, so what’s your point?

With that disclaimer out of the way, let’s get on with this month’s Newsletter.

Midwinter blues

February 2 has just passed, and it’s time to rejoice. Not only because it was Ground Hog Day, but because it also marks the mid-point of winter – we’re in the second half!

More good news by the way, Punxsutawney Phil’s record of getting how many more weeks of winter weather we have left is only 39%. So he predicted 6 more weeks, and since he’s wrong most of the time, we should expect spring to come sooner than usual.

For those of you suffering from midwinter blahs, take comfort in the fact that Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a clinically recognized illness, with specific symptoms.

Some of these are withdrawal, anxiety, fatigue, lack of focus, sleep problems, depression, etc. A couple of the symptoms are good news, however – weight gain for one – see, it’s not your fault – you have SAD!

Another symptom is irritability – so now when you snap at your wife or kids, they can’t be mad at you – you are a clinically sick person – once again, it’s not your fault, you have SAD! Off the hook again!

Since the MPA is always looking for ways keep its members happy, and to overcome SAD, we now present this month’s Newsletter! Yes, I know it’s usually a depressing event, but we never stop trying...

MPA Christmas Party

Fun event as usual this year. Nice turnout again.

We collected many of the pictures from the multitude of activities this year (thank you Kelly, Ray, Randy, Mike C., and Paul C.), and put them in a looping Powerpoint presentation, accompanied by some beautiful classical music to recognize the refined musical tastes of our MPA audience (Mozart’s Serenade #13 in G major). Suggestions



Coming soon - springtime! Another beautiful Paul Cyr picture to get you into the flying mood.

were made to use only gangsta rap music in next year's picture show.

Also showed our annual highlight video, which sort of took the best scenes of the many hours of videos we've taken over last year and selected 25 minutes of the ones that were the most fun or interesting or funny. Since then, we've put it up on Youtube and placed it up on our website – look under the "Videos" tab on the left – here's the link to our site.

<http://www.mainejumpchutes.com>.

After a nice dinner, we had our annual membership meeting, where we reviewed our year, and looked for opportunities to improve for the current year - many good suggestions were brought up.

We'll continue in the direction of having fewer fly-ins, dispersed geographically. Since we have many venues we like, we'll alternate them yearly and still maintain fewer events that can be attended by more of our members.

Since we spend very little money from our treasury (website, Christmas party, and a few odds and ends) we solicited ideas for drawing down some of that money.

A suggestion was made to buy some polo shirts with an MPA logo of some kind embroidered on them (see article below). These are \$25 shirts, but we'll sell them our members for like \$5 or \$6 with the club subsidizing the rest. We're also buying a new projector to be used at the several presentations we make at venues like the Maine Aviation Forum, EAA chapter presentations, our Christmas party, the Maine Advocacy event in Augusta, and occasionally FAA Safety briefings.

Random thoughts...

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "where's the self-help section?" she said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

Why do they put Braille on the drive-through bank machines?

Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?

If the police arrest a mute, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?



2020 Event Schedule

We have compiled a draft version of it, and have contacted most of the field owners or event organizers for dates and permissions. In an email, I'll send

out the draft version to our members for comments before we publish it on our website.

One of the first events (non-flying) is the Maine Aviation Forum on Saturday, February 15th at the Owl's Head Museum at the Knox County airport. At this all day event, most of the 15 or 20 aviation groups in Maine attend and give a presentation about their activities. The MPA will be there too, presenting videos of our powered parachute flying and our club activities. All are welcome to attend – hope to see you there. It starts at 10:00, with registrations at 9:30.



Also on Saturday, February 15th is the 10th annual Bowman Field Ski-plane fly-in. If you can't make it to Knox County, take a trip to Livermore Falls for this fun event. You can take your plane or not – they have a pot luck lunch with chilis, desserts, etc.

Polo shirts

Here is a picture of the proposed shirts. The shirts are in a light grey with the logo embroidered over the right chest - very elegant.

Looking for feedback on those – send me an email with your comments – gobelj@gmail.com. Let me know if you like the green/blue design or the red/orange design. We won't purchase them until we agree on a design and color. We should be able to have them at our first fly-in, which should be in the first part of April or so. As mentioned earlier, cost to you should be about \$5 or \$6. Maybe a few dollars more for additional ones for kids, wives, girlfriends.



Usual reminders

Your aircraft registration certificate expires every four years. The FAA mails out a reminder notice card several months before the expiration date. Do NOT throw these away – if you don't renew, your machine is not legal to fly. Similar to having the registration on your car expire. Renewal costs \$5 I think, and can be done on-line. Piece of cake.

Also, make sure your biennial flight review is not expired – it's good for two years from your last flight review. More information on how to accomplish that can be found on our instruction website <http://www.ppc-instruction.com>. It can also be reached from our MPA website.

Don't forget the annual inspection of your aircraft either – check your logbook for the date of your last one. This is easy also – our MPA member Scott is an A&P/IA and he does these at most of our fly-ins if your make arrangements with him. As with the biennial, if your annual inspection is expired, you cannot legally fly that aircraft.

So I was at this bar last night and the waitress screamed "Anyone know CPR?" I said "Hell, I know the entire alphabet." Everyone laughed. Well, except this one guy



In the long term, the car is cheaper

Sexist pig comments – from women



- Don't imagine you can change a man - unless he's in diapers.
- What do you do if your boyfriend walks out? You shut the door.
- If they put a man on the moon - they should be able to put them all up there.
- Never let your man's mind wander - it's too little to be out alone.
- Best way to get a man to do something is to suggest he is too old for it.



Just verifying the effects of cold water...

Some PPC history

Anybody remember the very early powered parachutes? Originally developed by Steve Snyder in the mid 1980s, and commercially produced as the Paraplane in 1995. Had twin Solo engines which had two props counter-rotating to offset torque. Nice and simple.

However, couple issues as those of us who flew these early version recall – the engines were small and had this nasty habit of stopping for no apparent reason. When only one stopped, the only way to neutralize the torque was to apply very heavy pedal pressure to whichever side was the problem. Also, the chutes had a hell of a time inflating. Had no instruments, as I remember – maybe a tach? The props were laminated wood, and would also splinter in flight occasionally.



Other than those couple of tiny issues, they were terrific! Oh yeah – one more thing – your first flight was also your first solo. Exciting.

Winter flying

OK, really! You've had those skis for your plane for how long now? 2 years, 5 years? Longer? They're just sitting there corroding, begging to be able to test their manhood!

So this is the year – still have a good 6 weeks to get off the couch and go out to the nearest lake (make sure it's frozen – that's very important!). Strap on those skis ("strapping" is another important part of

all this) and experience the beauty and joys of the winter landscape.

And if you're concerned about frostbite, drippy nose, ice cream headache, and all around misery, well, maybe you're smarter than the average bear. On the upside, it feels so good when stop!

Check your MPA email notifications – we'll be organizing at least one winter flying event.

Disclaimer

Unlike the Academy Awards (Oscars) speeches, this Newsletter has no dumb political commentary, no profanity, no self-indulgent narcissistic fawning, and most of it actually makes some sense. The Oscars did have some nice dresses though...



Just a few pictures from our 2019 Christmas Party...

Sexist pig comments - from men

- Scientists have discovered a food that diminishes a woman's sex drive by 90%. It's called a Wedding Cake.
- Why do men die before their wives? They want to.
- If your dog is barking at the back door and your wife is yelling at the front door, who do you let in first? The dog, of course. He'll shut up once you let him in.
- Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street carrying a beer and sporting a beer gut and still think they are sexy.

Dues

For those of you who have not paid your \$20 dues for the year 2020, shape up! You don't want to miss all the exciting events we do, the Newsletters, the notifications about our fun stuff, the camaraderie of your fellow pilots. Hmmmm. After further thought, well, maybe you do....

Anyway, if you can't think of any reason not to pay it, send your \$20 check to Bonnie Micue Davis, P.O.Box 13, Warren, ME 04864. This is your last warning. Then Fat Guido and Scarface Louigi will be paying you a visit. And even worse, this is your last Newsletter!

Had some space to fill...



The End(s)

