

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

Maine Parachute Association

Newsletter

May 2020

www.maineparachutes.com

Is this real?

While not completely stopped, the world has slowed down to a near catatonic state. Nearly empty roads, empty stores, closed restaurants, only curb-side service most places, no sports – almost seems like a post-apocalyptic movie scene. Or clips from World War II documentaries.

Those of us who have been around for a long time (that's about all of the MPA membership) can't remember anything like this. So how do we cope?

Luckily, here's the Newsletter to the rescue!

So to start with, let's recap all the exciting flying adventures we've had over the last few months. Hmm. Nothing. OK, so we'll just fill this with the usual mild humor, mild soft-porn, some mild aeronautical wisdom, and of course, some mild other nonsense since we have very little other things to do.



Alvar



Paul Cyr

A scene from the "good old days." Remember flying?

MPA fly-in events

The first three organized events this year are scheduled to be Fryeburg on 4/25, Twitchell's on 5/16, and Bethel/Berlin on 6/6.

So, since the State's assembly restriction are in effect through May 15, we have to do some creative juggling of our schedule. See "Next Events" section.

So let's look at this scientifically (as we MPA members always do).

The rules for "stay at home" order make exceptions. One of them is "Engaging in activities essential for

the health and safety of one's self..." For my health, I need fresh air that can only be obtained at 100 feet or higher. Case closed.

Another exception is "Engaging in outdoor exercise activities, such as fishing, boating, walking, hiking, running or biking..." Maine considers aircraft as recreational vehicles, so if you can launch a boat, you can launch an airplane. Case closed.

The FAA considers maintaining proficiency as an essential activity. So, since flying skills are perishable, and therefore must be maintained (as in maintaining proficiency), we can fly. Case closed.

And lastly in our scientific analysis of the world, let's look at our previous fly-ins. I've never seen anybody spit or sneeze at another person (although may have thought about it). When flying solo, we're definitely more than 6 feet apart. When just sitting around (which is most of the time), we're usually about 6 feet apart. OK, the initial arrivals usually involve hand shakes or man-hugs, but we can do without those for a while.

Also, here's another alternative. Day trips. Get to an airfield early in the morning, fly, hide out for the rest of the day or sit in your easy chair, and fly in the evening and go home. Or just come for the morning flight or the evening flight, then go home. Problem solved.

No matter how big and bad you are, when a two year old hands you a toy phone, you answer it.

Next events



Twitchell's is open for business, and they're looking forward to have us there again this year. So the plan is to have a real correct-social-distance fly-in there on the weekend of May 23rd. Great opportunity to get the rust off your machine, get the rust off your flying skills, put fresh gas in the tank, and get acquainted with your flying friends again after a long winter of abstinence (from flying, I mean).

I have not confirmed the June 6th date of Berlin/Bethel (one or the other) event, but working on it – a few issues remain there.

As far as the rest of the events on our schedule for this year, I have high hopes that we'll be able to stay with those, with the approval of the field owners, of course. So the next three events after Twitchell's and Berlin/Bethel (Dover-Foxcroft, Bowdoinham, and Ft. Kent) are looking good, but stay tuned and check our website and your email for confirmation and details.

If you need 144 rolls of toilet paper for a 14 day quarantine, you probably should have been seeing a doctor long before Covid-19...

Aircraft registrations

Six months before the expiration date, the FAA sends out notices on little postcards to remind you to renew the registration of your aircraft (this is done every 3 years). It's important to remember that this must be done 5 months before the expiration, as if it's not, it becomes sort of a pain to re-register after that.

The renewal fee is \$5.00, and it can be done on-line. The reminder notice will have a security code you have to use – if you lose that code, it can still be

done, but it's again, it's real pain. So of course, we try to avoid pain with the FAA. And you don't want to fly with an unregistered machine – same as driving with an expired license plate on your car.

What next?

During the next two weeks, I will be contacting the people in charge at the various fly-in venues we have scheduled for this year. I will set up an event with whoever is willing to have us stay overnight and use their airfield. Watch your email for the results of the search.

Social Distancing quiz



Where exactly is the 6 foot distance measured from? Front? Back? Could make a big difference...

Obviously, we don't want anybody getting infected with this virus. Now I'm not a doctor, and don't even play one on TV. I'm not even one of the Hollywood sheep who know everything about everything. I'm definitely not one of the many politicians who are smiling at the devastation of the economy for political gain. However, it seems to me that taking the sensible steps to avoid close contact at one of our upcoming events is all we need to do.

So that should get rid of the severe cabin fever most of us are experiencing. And get some of our flying proficiency back. And get fresh air and sunshine, which of course kills bacteria and viruses (along with drinking Clorox). If we need to sneeze or cough, we'll take a quick trip to the woods. We do that anyway for other reasons.

Slight correction on my "playing doctor" comment. I did play doctor a few times back in college in the back seat of my 1952 Buick. And sometimes in the front seat (before the stupid bucket seats became the norm, and which required unnatural flexibility).

Some old jokes recycled

One woman married and had 6 children. Her husband died. She soon married again and had 3 more children. Again, her husband died. But she remarried and this time had 4 more children.

At last, she finally died. Standing before her coffin, the preacher prayed to the Lord above, thanking Him, for this loving woman who fulfilled his commandment to “Go forth and multiply.” In his eulogy, the preacher said, “Lord, they’re finally together.”

Leaning over to a neighbor, one mourner quietly asked, “Is he referring to her first, second or third husband?”

The neighbor replied, “I think he’s referring to her legs.”

OK, just one more...

Sean O’Grady finally got a job interview in Boston. He was driving around the area trying to find a parking space, and it looked like he was going to be late for his very important appointment.

So he says “Lord Oh Lord – help me find a parking space and I promise to give up drinking and all my sinning and womanizing!”

Just then, a parking space opens up right next to him. So he yells “Oh Lord, never mind – I found one!”

What to do while grounded

I’m sure you’ve been clever and found many things to do while staying at home – get to know your wife, finish all the projects that were never fun enough to do, clip your toe nails, watch your hair grow, binge watch whatever, but how about something related to your flying hobby?

Well, you can watch our highlight videos from the last 10 years or so – they’re all out there on our web site – <http://www.mainpowerchutes.com> - click on “Videos” on the left side of the Home page.

You can bond with your PPC – visit him/her in the trailer, pet it, talk to it, maybe even start it up. Fix the little things you’ve been meaning to do for a long time, but which weren’t serious enough to do. You can even sit in the seat with your goggles on, and make airplane noises.

You can check your log book – bring it up to date (I’m sure you keep it up to date, but just in case...) Check the dates for you annual inspection and for

your biennial flight review – plan to get those done once we’re back in the saddle.

You can also maybe drain the old gas from last year and put in some fresh gas, then run it for 15 minutes.

FAA changes

A recent notice by the FAA temporarily changed many of the “due” dates for the various licensing and flying activities. Some of these are an extension of medical certificates, knowledge test expirations, etc. The one affecting most of us is a 3 month extension of the biennial flight review requirement. So for example, if yours expires in June of this year, it is now valid until the last day of September. Same with annual inspection of your aircraft. And you thought this Covid-19 was all doom and gloom!

“Social Distancing” Public Service Lesson

INCORRECT



CORRECT



Other changes

Sun-N-Fun and Oshkosh are both now officially cancelled – not postponed. The many hundreds of very disappointed volunteers get to rest a year.

The Thunderbirds and the Blue Angels cancelled most of their scheduled venues for the next two months, but expect to do some shows later in the year. Of course, they don’t get a vacation and stay home – still practice every day. Just like us.

The End(s)

