

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

Maine Parachute Association Newsletter

www.maineparachutes.com

March 2022

Special Mud-Season issue

Preamble

We made it through winter! Spring officially starts in a few days (March 21), which of course means mud season is here, so there's no reason to wash your car, as the dirt and mud from any trip will negate all your work. Of course, a select few of us use that excuse all year around – I'm a proud member of that elite group.

But mud, bitter cold, tons of snow, mosquitoes, and the long drives almost anywhere are part of the joys of Maine living that we all love. However, these slight inconveniences are more than offset by no grid-locks, no crowds, no pollution, almost no crime, no hurricanes, no land slides, no earthquakes, and hardly any whining snowflakes with hurt feelings.

Thanks – I feel better now. Love that mud!

things like lack of actual content does not deter us from marching ahead, and augmenting the scarce club news with jokes and humorous bits of wisdom. Oh, and flying pictures and scantily clad girls.



A teaser to get you in the mood for the soon-to-be-here flying season

Dues

This is obviously an oversight, but about half of our wonderful club members have not paid their measly \$20 annual dues for 2022. So, as sad (or joyful) this may be, we cannot send any more Newsletters

and other club notices until you become a good citizen again. Easy to rectify – send a check to:

Bonnie Davis Micue
P.O.Box 13,
Warren, ME 04864

Since we make occasional mistakes (hard to believe!), here is the list of the people who are members but have not paid yet for 2022. Let me or Bonnie know if it's not correct.

Autrey; Beggany; Bennet; Bliss; Caruso; Godbout; Haines; Keene; Pelham; Saupe; Smith; Sukeforth D; Theriault; Wallace; Walsh; Wetmore.

As you ponder spending \$20, remember the upside – its one of the very few things that has not suffered from the 7.9% inflation!



"I just sold my homing pigeon on e-bay for the 22nd time."

Humor

Once again, not much to report about our club activities, since most of us kissed our planes good night (i.e. "good winter") last fall and just now are thinking about getting the dust off them. And to curse any mice damage.

But in the usual Newsletter style, little



FAA Safety seminars

Just a quick reminder – your biennial flight review has two parts – oral and flight. The oral part can be satisfied by attending (and getting a written credit for) one of the FAA Safety Seminars, most of which are on-line. You can see all the ones that are available at:

<https://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/events/EventList.aspx>

About 5 or 6 years ago, we (MPA) conducted a seminar on light sport maintenance (and some other light sport stuff), which was well received. We're planning on doing that again in the near future.

"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes, age just shows up all by itself."

MPA website

Just a reminder that we keep our website pretty current, so look there for any new developments, past Newsletter, previous years' highlight videos, trailers and planes for sale, maintenance tips, an other goodies. In case this is your first time visiting, the URL is <http://www.maineplanechutes.com>.

Winter flying

Hmmm. I don't think anyone did any this year. By the time most of the lakes froze, it was pretty late in the season. We have lot of winter flying videos from past years, so we'll fake it for the annual highlight video.

FAA updates

All four of the CFIs in our group are now current for another year, and your DPE (actually, the new designation for some reason is SAE, Specialty Aircraft Examiner) i.e. yours truly, just finished his annual requalification process (FAA) so I'm good until next April as well.

So it's real easy to get you biennial flight review with any of the CFIs, and/or to get new sport pilots into the skies. Check your log book to see if you're due this year.

The LODA process is still going on. In case you forgot, to get lessons (or BFRs) in your

Experimental light sport aircraft, you and the instructor both must have the exemption that LODA gives you. See last Newsletter to understand how you get a LODA (Letter Of Deviation Authority),

Dad: Son, allow me to offer my warmest congratulations. I'm sure you'll remember today as the happiest day of your life.

Son: Thanks, Dad, but my wedding is tomorrow.

Dad: I know.



Preparation for flying

So a couple of things to remember. One, flying is a perishable skill. Simply, you're not going to be as skilled today as you were six months ago (or longer) if you haven't flown all that time. You can regain your previous ace-like skills again, but it will take a few flights.

Two, bad things can happen to your wonderful machine if you left it alone for all that time (6 to 8 months?). Mice may think your chute is a great place to spend the winter. Gasoline may decide to sulk for leaving it alone all this time, and deteriorate. Water from whatever source can do its magic and corrode some important parts. Et cetera. You get the picture?

So what do we do to make our first few flights of the new year successful?

As a pilot, do what those of us do who have lived long enough to fly for many many years (without dying, of course – that's important!). The first few flights after a long layoff, take no chances. Fly like a sissy. Take no chances.

Easy turns, do nice touch and go-s, get some altitude and practice just becoming comfortable in your machine again. Do a few precision turns around a point. Then, as the machine once again becomes part of you, continue from where you left off last year.

Regarding your machine – lay out your chute, closely inspect everything – the material, lines, connections. Check your fuel lines. Look for corrosion in your bolts. In other words, inspect the hell out of it. Or have an annual inspection done by our super mechanic, our own A&P (IA), Scott.

Listen to your child

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "That's disgusting — don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies.

After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

For sale section



In addition to listing it on our website in detail, we'll also start a section in the Newsletter where you can let our club members know that you have some PPC related item(s) for sale.

It won't be detailed with pictures, etc., but will refer you to the website, or possibly to a link on Craigslist or Uncle Henry.

This should not include kittens for sale or even if they're free.

Smile!

A 6 year old and a 4 year old are raking the yard. The 6 year old asks, "You know what? I think it's about time we started learning to cuss".

The 4 year old nods his head in approval. The 6 year old continues, "When we go in for breakfast, I'm gonna say something with hell and you say something with ass".

The 4 year old agrees with enthusiasm. When the mother walks into the kitchen and asks the 6 year old what he wants for breakfast, he replies, "Aw, hell, Mom, I guess I'll have some Cheerios".

WHACK! He flies out of his chair, tumbles across the kitchen floor, gets up, and runs upstairs crying his eyes out, with his mother in hot pursuit, slapping his rear with every step.

His mom locks him in his room and shouts, "You can stay there until I let you out!"

She then comes back downstairs, looks at the 4 year old and asks with a stern voice, "And what do YOU want for breakfast, young man?" "I don't know", he says, "but you can bet your ass it won't be Cheerios."

Fly-in schedule (see Page 4)

Yes, we did it. We set up the schedule, and contacted most of the field owners or managers to make sure dates are OK with them.

The first event is scheduled for April 22 (Friday through Sunday) at Knox County – Owls Head.

So with about a month before our first event, it's a good time to check your plane as well as your camper/trailer. Also, a good time to get your calendar out and mark all our events on it.

As usual, since we're so weather dependent, the schedule may change, so make sure you check our website before heading out.

Also, occasionally, the field manager may have some unforeseen event come up that necessitate a change, like unplanned construction, field too wet, etc. I will generally send an email out to our members a day before if such changes come up.

I was pleasantly surprised in contacting the field managers that they all seemed to be rather enthusiastic about our attendance at their locations.

The credit for that goes to you guys and gals who are so pleasant and friendly to everybody, who make sure we leave the place as good or better than we found it, and who are courteous and respectful to the "locals." Nice job!

Finally – a wi-fi joke

A man goes into a bar in the airport and asks the bartender what the password is to the wi-fi.

Bartender: You need to buy a drink first.

Me: Okay, I'll have a coke.. How much is that?

Bartender: \$3

Me: There you go. So, what's the wi-fi password?

Bartender: You need to buy a drink first. No spaces, all lowercase.





Maine Powerchute Association 2022 Fly-in Schedule



4/23	Knox Co (Owls Head)
5/14	Fryeburg
6/4	Twitchells
6/25	Dover Foxcroft (Chase fld)
7/16	Bowdoinham
8/5-8/12	Presque Isle - Ft. Kent
8/27	Deblois
9/17	Plymouth NH or Hampden
10/8	Bethel or Berlin
12/3	Christmas party



Just trying to outrun the thunderstorm – always exciting...