

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

Maine Powerchute Association

Newsletter

May 2024

"Happy Days Are Here" issue

Preamble

With temperatures flirting with 70 degrees, it's almost summertime! So, we'll have lots of opportunities to get together at our many fly-ins and enjoy our sport with its many thrills and adventures. And of course, to enjoy the camaraderie of our fellow fliers and friends.

Our events are also a great time to improve our flying skills, to share our flying episodes, to learn from each other, and to have lots of laughs at our expense (but what's even more fun, at other's).



Oh, one more thing - you may notice an excessive number of legs in this issue. I'm only doing this to stay in tune with the national "Celebrate Legs Month," which as we all know is May. (OK, maybe it doesn't exist yet, but since there is a month for pretty much everything nowadays, why not "legs?")

Messages from our Presidents-elect

As mentioned in our previous Newsletter (what? You didn't read it?), George Dumond and Ed Walsh will be assuming the role of Presidents of our happy flying group next year.

So in our future Newsletter, we'll include some of the wisdom and eloquence from these two boys (until they run out of wisdom and eloquence – then I'll just make something up).

From George:

Ladies and gentlemen of the MPA. Fasten your seatbelts and secure your harnesses because we have some shocking news! Two unsuspecting members, Ed Walsh and I have

actually accepted the daunting role of becoming "Co-Presidents In Training". Our passion for PPC flying is only matched by our ability to navigate the menu at our annual Christmas luncheon — both with remarkable precision and gusto.

We promise to keep us soaring to new heights and continue to keep the FAA as favored friends on our Facebook page.

Let's make every effort to attend the scheduled fly-ins to enjoy a year filled with high-flying fun, and maybe a few more impromptu aerial acrobatics that make for good conversation for years.

And as usual, those conversations may have a go / no-go relationship with the truth.

From Ed:

Yeah, what he said!

From John:

After the wisdom and eloquence of George, I can only do what my good friend Ed did – become a man of few words.

It's tough, but I remember the old adage "The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless."

Oh, and I also like the other old adage: "Better to keep silent and be thought of as a fool than to speak and remove all doubt."

Women spend more time wondering what men are thinking than men actually spend thinking.



Bethel fly-in



Our first regularly scheduled fly-in took place in Bethel during the weekend of May 3rd, and it was a good beginning to our flying season. Had nice flying weather Friday and Saturday, but a little too windy Sunday so most of our intrepid pilots skipped it.

We had a good turnout from our “usual” members (which mostly consists of 9 or 10 of our guys), although a few had trailer/camper/aircraft issues that kept them away from this one.

Bethel has a terrific FBO station – roomy, warm, and a good view of the airfield, so it was a great place to have coffee and donuts, and of course, to solve all the problems of the world. Oh yeah, and to recount many of our previous flying adventures (with permission to color them in case they were not spectacular enough).

So hopefully the success of this first event is an indicator of the rest of our year – good flying weather, safe flying, and great camaraderie!



Maintenance tips

Scott, our resident expert on all things aircraft related, suggests the following.

Heat transfer paste. Yep, most of us have never heard of it, but it helps our spark plugs perform better, and its use is recommended for the next time you change your spark plugs.

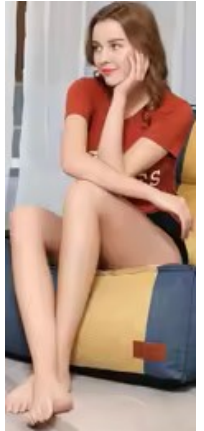
The effect of this paste is to keep the plugs from running too hot, and thereby improve performance.

FAA rule changes

It seems Congress has finally passed the “FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024.” In addition to actually funding the FAA, it included some 1,000 pages of gobbledygook, but which also included some significant changes that have an impact on our activities.

So here are some of these changes:

- expands BasicMed rules so pilots flying under this medical can operate many more aircraft than they could previously
- limits the fees that some airports charge for tie-downs, FBO fees, and a bunch of other silly stuff
- expands LODA (Letter of Deviation Authorization) rules, so light sport aircraft no longer need this burdensome process for giving and receiving flight instruction
- mandates the FAA to more quickly process most of our paperwork, such as registrations, licensing, etc.
- changes rules for sUAS (drones) regarding Beyond Visual Line of Sight operations
- most importantly for us, it codified the implementation of MOSAIC (which stands for “Modernization Of Special Airworthiness Certification” (not sure what the “I” stands for). This changes the rules for our LSA-s (Light Sport Aircraft) and increases the privileges of Sport Pilots.



There are of course hundreds of more rules regarding airports, commercial flights, etc. Overall, there are many changes that are very good for us and our activities, and for all of general aviation.

More on these in the near future as the rules that impact us are clarified and simplified.

Rest in peace

Many of us knew Carroll Werrin, a one-time member, and a CFI operating out of Plymouth NH and Concord NH. He passed away several weeks ago. His death was not from an aircraft incident, but from an illness.

Old Newsletters

We've been publishing our Newsletters for 24 years now – wow! You'd have thought some government agency would have banned it by now.

In case you have a lot of extra time on your hands (like you're in a hospital in a body cast and with very few, or no other options for entertainment), you can view them on our website under the "Newsletters" tab on the left side of the home page (www.mainepowerchutes.com).

It's sort of fun to read about some of the events we had over the years, and to read about some of our many old members. You may also see some of our "humor" that gets recycled into our current issues.

Today's 3-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favorite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.

Notice

This month's regularly scheduled meeting of the Procrastinators Club has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled in the near future.



we should have the field pretty much to ourselves.

Upcoming events

Bowman – during the weekend of May 31st, we'll be heading over to the Bowman field in Livermore. It has a great grass field, and thanks to Ed,

This used to be one of our regular venues, but since we did it when the Bowman Flying Club held their annual fly-in, it was difficult to take off and land due to the many general aviation aircraft there. So this



year, we scheduled it a different time.

Dover Foxcroft – three weeks later, during the weekend of June 21, we'll be heading to DF, which has turned into one of our most favorite places. Great grass field, very friendly hosts, and some fun events to watch with the STOL competitions.

It also coincides with their annual whoopie pie festival – not that we ever eat those things.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

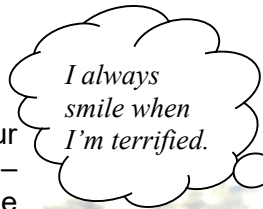
Safety notice

The NTSB has put out one of their many safety notices and this one may impact us. The notice said:

"Aluminum propeller blades can be susceptible to fatigue cracking and fracture if a small nick, pit, or corrosion on the surface or edge is not found and repaired. Such damage can concentrate stress from normal airplane operation loads, resulting in fatigue crack initiation and growth followed by propeller blade fracture."

So if any of us are using aluminum props, take heed! Prop fracture in flight can ruin your whole day.

Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.



Wage inflation

A piano tuner was called to a nightclub to tune the piano. He was at it for five hours, but only charged the manager \$4.

The manager said: "Is that all? How come you worked for five hours to tune the piano and you only charged \$4?"

The piano tuner cupped his hands to his ears and said, 'WHAT?'

"Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo."



The MPA version of the "Missing man formation"

Correction

The last issue of the Newsletter displayed this picture. However, since the intern we hired was drunk when he inserted the picture, an important part of it was cut off. So here's the picture the way it should have been.



Typical scene at an MPA fly-in

Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done.

Dues

As we know, our measly \$20 annual club dues are due in January for the 2024 year. After our follow-up notice, almost all of you have paid it, but there are still a few who haven't.

So to those few, it's sad, but it's goodbye. No more Newsletters (that's supposed to be a bad thing!), no more updates on our fly-ins and other events, no more Christmas parties, no more maintenance and safety tips.

On the other hand, for the \$20 you saved, you can buy a one-minute massage from Lulu at your favorite parlor. A win-win situation! (Note from Lulu – the one-minute version does NOT include a happy ending.)

The town was so dull, one day the tide went out and it never came back.

The End

