

# Maine Powerchute Association

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Bill Grusik, President (797-3636)  
Lisa Townsend, V.P. (897-6549)  
John Gobel, Secretary (322-7198)

Mattie Crane, Treasurer (346-6023)  
Bob Ellis, Safety Officer (354-8740)  
Ross Clair, ASC Contact (645-9510)  
Lisa Townsend, Event Coordinator

## Newsletter

Well, who'da thought? We seem to have made it into another year, and from the powered parachute community's perspective, it looks like just more fun and thrills ahead. The year 2000 was good for the Association, in that we added several new members, some more BFIs were anointed, our AFIs got promoted, and while there were a few close calls, nobody was maimed. Even those club members who got shot at survived, and speaking for all ex-combat veterans, there is no greater satisfaction than being shot at and missed. So may old acquaintances be forgotten, etc. (anyone know what that means???)

### Confession

It came to my attention that several of you did not know who to blame for our periodic newsletter, and that because of that uncertainty, the wrong person got his house burned down. Bill Grusik is our president, but he does **not** put out our newsletter. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the day of our annual end-of-year social event, the house next to Bill's burned down – fortunately, he was able to escape without any injury to himself, his loved ones, or his possessions.

But the perpetrator (or perp, in cop talk), not only got the wrong house, but the wrong person. To avoid future near-calamities, I will now confess that it is I, John Gobel, who in fulfilling my duties as the Secretary, actually publish the letter and therefore I should receive all future punishments or punishment attempts. My address is 55 Elmwood St., Portland. Oh no - wait – this seems wrong – why, that's Bill's address! Must be a computer error! My real address is J. Edgar Hoover Building, 935 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC.

### F.A.M.P.A.C.A.E.O.S.G.T

That, of course, stands for our First Annual Maine Powerchute Association's Christmas And End Of Season Get Together (check it – I got every one of those letters in there!). It was not quite up to the standards of the Navy pilots'

annual Tailhook Convention, but on the other hand no one got arrested, no one's fanny got pinched (there were several tries, but we're all so quick and athletic and avoided it), and no 4-star admiral had to resign in shame (both ex-Navy Secretary Garret and ex-Admiral Kelso, of '91 tailhook sex scandal fame personally called and thanked us for restoring the good name of aviators everywhere with our decent event. However, they both declined our invitation to attend next year's event, saying it sounded much too tame.)



Scene from our Standing-Room-Only party. The unidentified young lady sitting on the stool was apparently being punished, and could only watch while others ate.

Our event however was quite successful, with a large turnout of 28 members and guests. Wayne Kenney's restaurant (Belanger's) served very nicely as our home for the evening, with good food and drinks, and a nice cozy Christmas

atmosphere. Everybody got to chat a little bit and meet some new people. We also had some trikers as guests, who were very cordial and would like to do some events with us in the future.

Bill Grusik made a small opening speech, (yes, you sarcastic wiseasses, Bill is capable of making a small speech!) welcoming the members and guests. Since there were numerous new faces, we went around the room and introduced ourselves, and said a few words about what we fly. The best line was from one of our guests who flew that afternoon, and introduced himself as a “test passenger.” You had to be there. Like I said, it wasn’t exactly the Tailhook Convention.



More scenes from the FAMPACAEOSGT. Bob looks a little under the weather from the fermented root beer?

The highlight (or low-light, depending on your perspective) of the evening was the video production projected onto an 8 foot screen, with a 15 minute piece on Dunbar Seamans’ and Bob Ellis’ adventure to Lubec, and another 17 minute video of flying throughout the year taken at several of our fly-ins and around Winterport. Both of these had nice musical backgrounds, with classics for Dun and Bob’s, and Kenny G for Gobel’s. The third video was provided by Bob Ellis, who also happened to star in it. While the actual prime footage was only about a minute, it lasted 10 minutes since we showed it about 10 times. It featured Bob’s third ever flight in a powered parachute, and he was gracious enough to roll the plane on takeoff for our entertainment. There was no music accompanying that tape, as we could all imagine

the stream of words Bob was uttering at the time, and gentle music would not have been appropriate. Anyway, most people seemed to enjoy the show and the event, so we’ll probably do it again.

Prior to our party, we had a number of people fly at Wayne’s field in Fairfield – we had 6 planes up in the afternoon. Yes it was chilly – allright, it was damn cold, but the conditions were great, and the many spectators did not even seem to mind the disgusting site of all these grown men walking around with drippy noses, teary eyes and severe hat-hair. Several of them were making little circles with their index fingers around their temples – I think they were explaining to each other how the propeller on the engine works.

### Winter Fly-Ins

We’d like to organize an official winter fly-in on some of our many centrally located lakes. We’re currently searching for appropriate venues – the ideal being a lake (preferably frozen) that has a restaurant adjacent to it, from which we can view the flying, and to where we can go to thaw out after flying.

Bob Chapman was gracious enough to offer his lakeside house as a spot – we’ll look into that opportunity shortly, and report back to the Club.

Our friends in the New Hampshire powered parachute group had some excellent winter fly-ins at the Paugus Bay on Lake Winnepasaukee

They have a perfect spot – a large parking lot to park the trailers, easy access from the parking lot right onto the lake, and a big Burger King sitting right on the edge of the lake. BK stocks up on hot chocolate for the event, and still



Zooming in on part of the previous picture, yes, by golly, ,it does look like Bob’s had enough ice cream!

run out of it. They must also sell a couple of tons of french fries during one of those fly-ins. Laconia airport is also just a mile or so away for those without skis.

It would be nice if we could find a spot similar to that in the mid-Maine area. If anyone has any suggestions on this topic, please let me know, and we'll try to get it organized.

By the way, at the time of this publishing, the New Hampshire group wasn't sure if they're having their fly-in this year – if they are, and if they invite us, we'll send out more information in case anyone is interested.



A typical winter flying scene in central Maine showing one of our typical club members. Also, the second place winner in the “Lying through your teeth” contest.

### **Why winter flying is great**

1. You don't sweat as much, even when you do something stupid.
2. Cold air provides much more lift, so real fat guys can go flying with other real fat guys.
3. You can land most anywhere (of course that's true in the summer too, it just hurts a lot more then).

4. You get to wear that expensive snowmobile suit, and can do realistic imitations of the abominable snowman.
5. You can drip from every orifice on your face, have it freeze to your mustache, face, eyebrows, hat, mask, and everybody still thinks you're a cool and gutsy pilot instead of just another male slob.
6. It feels so good when you stop.

### **Thanks!**

There are a number of our members who make contributions in some way to our sport and to our club, but we wanted to again thank Wayne Kenney for making his excellent field in Fairfield available to any of us pretty much any time, as well as for hosting our little get-together recently. Thanks, Wayne!

### **New Members**

Welcome to Robert Getchell of Milo, and Darrell Weymouth of Pittston, the latest additions to our club. What were you guys thinking! As you get to know some of us and get to fly with us, I know this will come up, so I'll state it again – membership dues are NOT refundable!

### **Congrats to Dunbar**

One of our two AFIs, Dunbar Seamans attended and successfully passed the AFI checkout seminar (it had some more formal name which escapes me) hosted by Art Willard of New Hampshire. The net affect is that all the BFIs can now get their bi-annual checkouts with Dunbar, instead of having to travel to “away.”



Just some neat winter flying scene – photo from Bill G.

## Our Web Site – the scandal continues

Several months ago, the club agreed to create web site on the Internet on a trial basis, with the intent of providing a forum for information about our club as well as to announce flying events quickly (instead of mailing fliers). It was sort of a lame idea, but of course that never stops any real man.



More winter flying stuff to get you psyched up for engaging in an activity which is basically unnatural, and which sane people usually do not do.

Anyway, since I have some serious defect in my genetic makeup, I am in the computer field, and I can whip out a web page in a few minutes, which I did. I has a home page, from which you can go to one of four other pages – general information about the club; pictures of flying and stuff; application form for prospective new members; and news about upcoming events. The home page has a wicked cool photo as the background (taken by Billy G). So far so good.

When creating web pages, after you throw some pages together, you need to upload them to your internet service provider, where it is stored so the rest of the world (literally) can get to it. That's the hardest part, making that connection and upload. So I created some test pages to use while getting the bugs out of the upload procedure. And on looking for some snappy heading in a hurry, I came up with the slogan ***"If your balls are bigger than your brain, you'll be among friends at the Maine Powerchute Association."***

Then I did a few more pages and uploaded it. The upload worked. And the content stayed.

I sort of forgot about it, and later worked on the "events" page, then sort of got used to the slogan, figuring that's it's quite mild by Internet standards, and also that only guys would read this junk anyway. Also, you can only read it if you have the latest version of Internet Explorer (version 5). And the background picture really is cool. Anyway, since it's been out there, we've had 674 hits. And not a single application, which restores my faith in the human race.

Well, it's been brought to my attention by several alert members that the slogan my not be the image we want to project (as true as the slogan may be). So, we're officially opening up a "replace the sexist, brutish MPA slogan" contest. It's got to be snappy, humorous if possible, representative of the club, and it can't make references to any part of the male anatomy. Phone all entries to me at the number at the top of the first page. Good luck.

By the way, the web address is: <http://home.earthlink.net/~gobelj>

## For Sale

One GPS 3 system, low hours. Call Bill Grusik, at 797-3636.

## Next Event

We should have our winter fly-in organized for about the weekend of Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. We'll send out a special flier with details. If the New Hampshire group has a fly-in, it'll be the weekend of Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, and we'll get information out on that too.

