



Maine Powerchute Association

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Well, the rumor is now confirmed. Lisa Townsend and Scott Gross have jumped ship – they’re headed off to warmer climates, the land of orange juice, sunshine, poisonous snakes, huge ticks, and other southern delights. By the way, we’re not dedicating any more issues to anyone – the last time, we had to retract the dedication because he came back! Anyway, Lisa and Scott were instrumental in the formation of the MPA. Lisa became one of the officers of the club for several years, and was admired by everybody for her enthusiasm, energy, and ability to get almost anything done. We’ll miss them. Good luck to both of you in your new adventure!

The famous MPA Christmas Party!

Bob Ellis had a great plan, and all of us were enthused about it – have a Christmas party at the Samoset resort, with dinner, dancing, etc. However, the Samoset cancelled that event for some reason (we obviously didn’t sign up under our own name, so it wasn’t that!), so we went to Plan B.

Plan B is the Manor in Waterville (54 College Ave), on Friday, December 14th, starting around 6 PM, with one of their excellent buffet dinners, cash bar, some kind of music, etc. They generally do a very nice job. Rooms are available in several nearby motels for those of us who need more beauty sleep than others.

By the way, our Christmas party is NOT one of your run of the mill, boring, can’t-wait-to-end type events. Here come some teasers:

We’ll have not one, but two highlight videos (neither longer than 14 minutes), set to great music, and showing scenes from the many fly-in type events we’ve had. We’ll have awards for various categories, you know, things like the “dumbest thing I wish I never did in an airplane” award, like “I don’t see no flagpole” award, like “what tree where?” award, and of course the grand prize, the Big Brass Ones award.

The cost should be around \$12 to \$15 per person – maybe less if we spend some MPA subsidy money on it. We need to guarantee 30 people to get the room and the buffet we’ve ordered, so make plans now. Dunbar Seamans volunteered to be the RSVP coordinator, so please call him at 785-3006 as soon as possible to sign up – no later than Dec. 5th.

Anyway, it should be a nice evening, a chance to chat with old friends and new, and spend a little different time with our group than we usually do. By the way, when you come through the door, look for the sign “Righteous and Charitable Brotherhood Club” – it’s some booking error, but that’s where we’ll be.

Finally – the Highlight of the MPA Year!

With thousands breathlessly awaiting the results, we can now announce the winners of our annual Miss MPA contest. As you know, we choose our winner based on the same criteria that is used for the Miss America contest, that is poise, intelligence, talent, (which we count for 1%), but primarily on the swim suit portion (which we count for 99%).

Pictured below from left to right are, the third, second, and first runners-up in the Miss MPA contest.



They’re the Dahm triplets!

And the winner is... drum rolls please...get ready for the tears... turn the page!



YES – It's the 2002 Miss MPA Winner, representing everything that is great about our organization... brains, good looks, healthy and fit body, dignity, ...

MPA thanks to many people

As we grow throughout the state (in numbers, I mean, not in out waistlines!), we make many friends (some more friendly than others), and we find many people who have given us support in some way. We'd like to especially thank those folks who allow us to use their property as airfields. Without the freedom that these fields give us, our sport would be a lot less fun for us as well as for the spectators. Anyway, a heartfelt thanks to all who have given us permission to use their land, and especially to:

Richard & Elaine Fales, Cushing
Willard & Jean Payson, Cushing
Kendall & Jeanette Orf, Cushing
Connie Armstrong, Auburn
Peter Dingley, Auburn
Lincoln & Peggy Hawes, Union
Mark & Linda Hedrich, Union
Frank Tosier Sr, Fairfield
Kevin Violette, Fairfield
Dave Smith, Gorham
Ed Grinell Jr., Warren
Lisa Townsend, Livermore
Li-Li O'Neil, Appleton
Doug Sukeforth, China

The Fall MPA meeting

The official Fall meeting of the MPA was held on Oct. 13th at Wayne's field in Fairfield. We had several great flights on Friday night and Saturday morning, with a nice turnout of 10 chutes in the air at the same time. Several people did engine-out practice landings, shutting off the motor from several hundred feet to several thousand feet. Wayne's field is ideal for that, with all that grassy room, lots of visibility, the hospital near by, and so on.

Mattie reported on the status of our treasury – it is better than the government's, with \$770 in the bank. We've donated \$50 each to Norridgewock, Bowman, Tozier's, and Knox County airports as a token of our appreciation for their work in the ultralight community. Mattie also gave the coveted MPA Certificate of Appreciation to several others as thanks for their help. They all said they'd rather have \$50, but we think they were kidding...

Bob Ellis gave a report on the Christmas party – see previous page for the results.

Our President, Bill has done a lot of work consulting with the FAA regarding the recent restrictions on GA aircraft (of which we're a part), and he reported that while he was stunned by the depth of the bureaucracy, he was able to determine that we cannot fly in the newly defined "enhanced" Class "B" airspace. At this time, some of those restrictions have been lifted, but we still need to stay out of the Class "B"s. If you're not sure, call 800-992-7433 (FAA).

Bill also led a discussion on whether to attend next year's function at Norridgewock, since the alleged "Anything That Flies" event treated us so poorly. Most felt that we can hold a fly-in of our own at that time, but we decided to wait until about a month before the event and speak to the Norridgewock group about their plans for powered parachutes. If we don't like their answers, or if we think they'll change their minds at the event, we'll punish them by not showing up and leave them to their dreary and boring Cessnas and Pipers.

We reviewed the several fly-ins we had since the last meeting, which included the L/A Balloon festival, Bowman, Greenville, and Bingham. We had chutes at all of them, and the events were generally good. The least attended was the Greenville, as 90% of the time it's too windy to fly there – this year, of course, it was dead calm.

If you have an e-mail address, please send it to jgobel@camdenational.com, we'll put it in our data base so we can communicate with you quicker and cheaper. Also, you get an electronic version of the Newsletter a day or two sooner. Why would you want that, you ask? Hmm... good point.

Jerry Suke demonstrated his Chiron chute (elliptical). It's taken him a while to learn to fly it, as it performs considerably differently than the rectangular ones, but he likes the high performance, extra speed, better glide. It also uses less fuel, and he figured out that with the money he saves on gas, he will have paid for the chute in only 97 years.

We're sending a special edition of the Newsletter to our non-dues paying members (also known as inactive, ex-members, or deadbeats), giving them one more chance to see the error of their ways and to do the right thing. See our membership list in next month's Newsletter.

Our next meeting will be at our Christmas party – it'll probably be a better meeting after a few drinks.

Best comeback line of all time

This is an exact replication of an interview on National Public Radio (also known as "pinko radio") a few weeks ago.

The interview was between a female broadcaster and US Army General Reinwald who was about to sponsor a Boy Scout troop visiting his military installation.

FEMALE INTERVIEWER: So, General Reinwald, what things are you going to teach these young boys when they visit your base?

GENERAL REINWALD: We're going to teach them climbing, canoeing, archery, and shooting".

FEMALE INTERVIEWER: "Shooting! That's a bit irresponsible, isn't it?"

GENERAL REINWALD: "I don't see why, they'll be properly supervised on the rifle range."

FEMALE INTERVIEWER: "Don't you admit that this is a terribly dangerous activity to be teaching children?"

GENERAL REINWALD: "I don't see how. We will be teaching them proper rifle discipline before they even touch a firearm."

FEMALE INTERVIEWER: "But you're equipping them to become violent killers."

GENERAL REINWALD: "Well, you're equipped to be a prostitute, but you're not one, are you? "

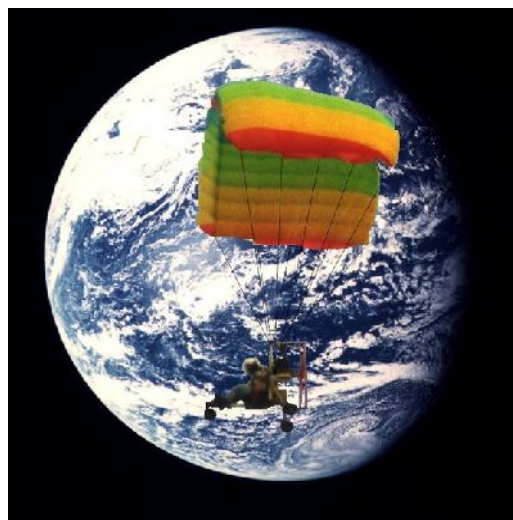
The radio went silent and the interview ended. And all I could think was, "Go Army!"

Winter fly-ins

The planning process has started for our second annual MPA winter fly-in extravaganza. We have some possible sites, but need more - the criteria being it should be big, like a lake (frozen is preferable) or a golf course, and it should be near some facility where we can go in to get warm, like a restaurant with a view of flying.

Our friends in New Hampshire usually fly from an excellent location in Paugus Bay at the northern tip of Lake Winnepesaukee (spelled something close to that), with a Burger King overlooking the lake. We're invited to join them – more details to follow.

We will, of course invite the New Hampshire group, as well as our friends at Sky Sail to our winter fly-in, as soon as we finalize our event. It's going to be tough to beat the Paugus Bay event though – a few years ago, for live entertainment, several people went through the ice near the shore.



Actual NASA satellite photo of our own Bill Grusik setting a world altitude record in a PPC. The stuff about getting brain damage past 12,000 feet without oxygen is apparently rubbish.

More Christmas party stuff

Directions to the Manor in Waterville...

- ** Take Exit 34 off I-95.
- ** At the end of the exit ramp, turn left if coming from the North, or turn right if coming from the South.
- ** Go to first traffic light, and turn left.
- ** Follow this road to the end, where the road forms a "T" at the traffic light.
- ** Turn right onto College Ave.
- ** Go about 200 yards – Manor is on the right.(54 College Ave.
- ** Number if you get lost is 873-5676. (Actually, it's the same number even if you don't get lost.)

Invitations...

- ** Family and friends are welcome.
- ** Invite any ex-members, aviation enthusiast, or anyone else you know who has pretty low standards and may want to join us in the future.
- ** Special invitation is extended to our friends in the New Hampshire powered parachute group, as well as to our friends at Sky Sail. It's sort of a long ride, but we'd love to see you all!

Commitments...

I know it's a dirty word for most of us, but we definitely need a commitment from those who intend to attend. We have to guarantee 30 people (which we should be able to do pretty easily), but they'll only set up enough food for the number we specify, so if you just want to show up at event time, there may not be anything to eat! And we good guys who sign up are NOT sharing!!! Again, call Dunbar, who is coordinating the guest list at 785-3006.

Certified!

Congratulations to our own Jerry Sukeforth, who recently completed the requirements to be a certified Rotax mechanic. With this addition to the experienced Jerry Parlin and to several other less experienced amateur aircraft mechanics in the MPA, we can crash and burn all we want. We have the skills to put it all back together, so we can crash again!

Handwarmers!

There are several ways to warm up your hands while winter flying. The most preferred way, of course, is putting them in your underwear, where it's generally pretty warm. However, several safety bulletins recommend against that, as this technique forces you to manipulate the throttle with your teeth.

The second best way is to use those cute little chemical hand-warmer packages, which you can fit into your glove or into your boot. Bill Grusik was able to get a deal on them, and he is passing it on to any interested MPA member – a box of 40 two-packs (total of 80 of the little gizmos!) for about \$23. That's roughly half price of the going store rates. Call him at 797-3636 if you're interested.

One last Lisa & Scott story

In reminiscing about Lisa & Scott, one of our alert MPA members noted that Lisa loved powered parachuting so much that she had a powered parachute tattooed on her left leg. Now that Scott is going to take up triking, she'll probably have a trike tattooed on her right leg. Our alert member was wondering what do you suppose will happen if they ever take up ballooning?



Unknown pilot chewing out his plane for going into the woods to relieve itself without his permission.

Artist Corner

Last summer, Dunbar S. and Bob E. took a powered parachute jaunt up in the northern part of the state for about a week. They had many adventures and met many people. One of them even wrote a poem, which we'll print here to show our refined side.

*M. Dunbar Seamans stared up at a cloud
And thought up a way to fly in a shroud
He whipped himself up a bedsheet wing
Used a weedwacker motor to power that thing.*

*He hooked on a seat with binder twine rope
Then launched the whole works with prayer and hope
As he missed the church steeple, I heard him cheer
"Now I can finally fly the hell out of here!"*