



# Maine Powerchute Association

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January, 2002

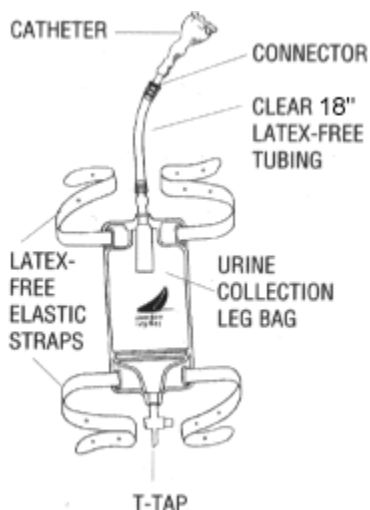
Who'da thought? We made it through another year. Had some close calls, but no MPA members got injured or worse (except prides of course, but those heal fast). We added some new members to our ranks – we welcome them (see paragraph below)... but have to ask, what were you thinking? Overall, a good year for powered parachuting, even though it was a horrible year for aviation in general. And now, winter is here, lakes are finally freezing, and a whole lot of us are ready for the exhilaration of flying in an open cockpit in zero degree weather while quietly watching fingers and toes slowly succumb to frostbite. Can't wait!

## New Members

Welcome to new members Ed Nadeau, Mark Look, David Shea, Scott McCurdy, Jim Holloway, Bob Getchell, Sr., and Dennis MacPheters, all of whom joined us this year. While we question your judgment, we welcome your company. Hope you find flying with our merry group rewarding, educational, and fun. We have lots of laughs, preferably at someone else's expense, but occasionally at our own.

## Invention of the year! Just in Time!

Thanks to one of our alert members (whose name means either a person who goes to sea, or the stuff responsible for all those babies in the world), we have found a website to revolutionize flying! The new product is called Stadium Pal, and the website is [www.stadiumpal.com](http://www.stadiumpal.com). Here is the picture.



Technically, it is called an external catheter. What it does is to allow you to fly for hours without having to stop for those annoying bathroom breaks. The collection bag straps to your leg, and nobody's the

wiser. And you're in a lot less pain. This is especially handy for winter flying, when all those layers and layers of clothes makes you think twice or four times about what to do if nature calls. This is real – would I joke about a matter like that? It sells for \$24.95, but you must specify your size.

## The MPA Christmas Party

Our second annual MPA Christmas party was a smashing success (keeping in mind our low standards for social event successes). We had a good turnout (about 20 people), excellent food and drinks (at the Manor in Waterville), music, and three video clips.



Art and Dot receiving their award from Dunbar at the MPA Christmas party. It's not known by many, but Art's twin brother is Nikita Krushchev.

Bill Grusik put together a nice piece from his many river flying experiences, Bob Ellis provided lots of footage about his escapades which was edited into a neat little piece, and John Gobel put together a collage of video clips from various flying events

throughout the year. The highlight of that tape was an aerial ballet performed by Jerry Parlin and Wayne Kenney on Round Pond (near Plymouth), flying in the snow and displaying some pretty spectacular piloting skills.

Bill also had a five minute clip on various bloopers captured throughout the year – it's amazing what some of us will do just to get a laugh!

We also had presented a number of awards for Dubious

Accomplishments

throughout the year. Dunbar did his usual superb job in narrating the citations. We gave time for each recipient to state his side of the story – boy, people really have an imagination! A complete

list of awards and citations follows (yes, we're short on material this month.) We also want to thank Dunbar's lovely and talented daughter Sarah (obviously some major genetic anomaly occurred there!) for being the receptionist, money collector, and all around on-site event coordinator.

Anyway, here are the awards:

**Landing Light Award - Earned by Bob Ellis**

While taxiing, and realizing he was about to hit landing lights on the edge of the runway, Bob earned this award by giving it full throttle to try to jump over the obstacle, thereby hitting it at 24 MPH instead of his taxi speed of 8 MPH.

**Bob's rebuttal** – *“Seemed like a good idea at the time.”*

**What Fencepost Award - Earned by John Gobel**

In recognition of the cleverness that John displayed while engaged in aerial operations. After reminding himself about 167 times to remove a fencepost near the edge of his runway, he finally did remove it by hitting it with his plane on takeoff.

**John's rebuttal** – *“Duh”*

**Smallest Screw Award - Earned by Bill Grusik**

In recognition of the fact that Bill managed to have a quarter inch screw fall into a quarter inch opening, after falling twenty inches through a turbulent liquid, thereby neatly bringing his engine to a stop in mid-

flight. Not believing the odds he just beat, he did it two more times.

**Bill's rebuttal** – *“Never thought that could happen.”*



Dunbar and Wayne practicing the minuet. While the party was fun, live entertainment was scarce, as you can tell.

**Windsock Award - Earned by Herb Micue**

In recognition of the fact that Herb showed good safety practices by always looking at the wind sock before takeoff, but carrying it to the extreme by attempting to take the windsock with him while flying.

**Herb's rebuttal** – *“Somebody moved the windsock.”*

(His rebuttal also won him the Lamest Excuse award)

**Tree Top Award - Earned by Wayne Kenney**

In recognition of the fact that in the never-ending quest to fly like the birds, Wayne took it to the extreme by trying to land his plane in the trees (like the birds!) Still working out a few kinks in those pesky tree-top landings.

**Wayne's rebuttal** – *“That tree seemed to grow a lot overnight”*

**Magellan Navigation Award - Earned by Jerry Parlin**

In recognition of Jerry's land navigation skills, which allowed him to park his truck on a road, walk into the woods a few steps to do some hunting, and not find his truck until the next day

**Jerry's rebuttal** – *“Technically, I wasn't lost. Being lost requires being missing for 24 hours. I was only missing for 23.”*

(This rebuttal also earned him a tie for the Lamest Excuse award.)

**Chuck Yaeger Award - Earned by Jerry Sukeforth**

In the tradition of Chuck Yaeger, the coolest pilot who ever lived, Jerry earned this award by staying unflappable even after thrashing his engine on takeoff and coming within a few inches of wiping out several of his friends with his deadstick landing.

**Jerry's rebuttal** – *“I meant to do that!”*

**Got More Runway Award - Earned by Dunbar Seamans**

Being a man of considerable character and girth, and being in the habit of flying with others of the same size, Dunbar earned this award by engaging in numerous close calls on takeoffs, where one more

french fry at lunch became the difference between going over the trees or going into them.

**Dunbar's rebuttal** – *“Nothing quite matches the exquisite rush of summer leaves stroking your fanny”* (His rebuttal also won him the Worst Poetry award).

**Where Am I Award - Earned by Art & Dot Willard**

In recognition of the fact that Art and Dot defied any common sense by driving hundreds of miles to hang out with a bunch of old fat pilots, while they could have been watching the Weather channel, or the “Weakest Link.” What were you thinking?

**Art's rebuttal** – *“We just took a wrong turn back in Sanford. You didn't think we came here on purpose?”*

Forgot to mention the bevy of door prizes selected and awarded by Dunbar and his lovely and talented daughter Sarah (I did mention the genetic anomaly being the only explanation, didn't I?). Several of us won a clear wine bottle containing a gold liquid, which of course we presumed to be a liquor of some kind, but the first swig told the truth emphatically – it was bubble bath. Amazing what pretty bubbles you can blow after drinking that stuff. For hours.

Anyway, the evening broke up around 10:30, with a few hard-core MPA members closing the place down once again. A good time was had by all.

**Winter Fly-in Number One**

It's official – our New Hampshire friends are not having their winter fly-in at Paugus Bay in New Hampshire this year. So instead, we'll be going to Moosehead Lake in Greenville for our first fly-in on the weekend of January 19<sup>th</sup>. Kelly's Landing restaurant and motel is an excellent location, with a huge launching area, rooms to stay overnight, and a great view of the lake and of the flying from inside the restaurant.

A number of us will be checking in to the motel on Friday night, with hopes of flying early Saturday morning, and hopefully that evening as well. Everybody is welcome – the more the merrier. Make plans now! And Think Snow!

**Notice!**

The Procrastinators' Club of Maine has postponed its January meeting until sometime later.

**Miscellaneous goings-on**

- Had reports of at least 4 or 5 MPA chutists flying with their skis on so far this year – not off lakes yet.

- The next time we see Jerry Suke fly, it should be with a big mother 912 four-stroke. He's been scoping them out, after his 582 gave up the ghost (with a little help from Jerry).

- Bob Ellis ~~wimped out~~ was forced to miss the Christmas party due to illness, and therefore did not see his own spectacular video!

- Special thanks to Art & Dot from the New Hampshire powered parachute group for visiting us, and helping to grow our sport throughout the region. Art is the most experienced PPC pilot around, and his views are always appreciated.



Everybody's nightmare. You're flying along peacefully, when a giant reaches up and snatches you out of the sky.

**On the Light Side...**

What's the best form of birth control after 55?  
*Nudity.*

Why is it so hard for women to find men who are sensitive, caring, and good looking?  
*Because those men already have boyfriends.*

**Things you wish you could say at work:**

*“I see you've set aside this special time to humiliate yourself in public”*

*“I like you. You remind me of myself when I was young and stupid.”*

*“I'm not tense, I'm just terribly, terribly alert.”*

*“I'm already visualizing the duct tape over your mouth.”*

**Safe flying – see you at Greenville!**

John G.