

“If it’s in the Newsletter, it must be true”

Maine Powerchute Association

John Gobel, President 852-7300 Bonnie Micue, Secretary/Treasurer 273-2016
Bob Ellis, Safety 354-8740 Dun Seamans, Event Coord 785-3006 Ed Nadeau, Public Rel. 726-5865

March 2003

Ne
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r



www.maine-powerchutes.org

Our streak of good luck finally ran out at our long-awaited official MPA Winter Fly-in at Moosehead Lake in Greenville – the forecasts were so bad that most of our committed members wimped out and cancelled the reservations. A couple of our eternal optimists went anyway, and they were able to get a day of excellent flying in, in front of some huge audiences to boot. You just never know with weather!

The good news is that the days are getting longer, and that there is still about 3 feet of ice on most lakes, and snow on the ground, so we have some more winter flying ahead of us. The bad news is that we still have some more winter flying ahead of us. Think spring!

Winter fly-in – mixed results

Friday night was flyable, but nobody got there in time. Saturday morning was beautiful, and two of our “real men” members were there to awe the masses. Had several flights in the morning, and a couple in the afternoon. They had ice stock-car racing, with a large audience, so of course we had to show off for them. We wiped out zero spectators or cars, so the event was a success.

By Sunday morning, the MPA contingent was down to one. The crowds diminished to about the same number, and that one had a big umbrella open. The MPA airshow was conducted in a very light yet cold drizzle. Obviously, the number of maneuvers that we could demonstrate was limited by the weather to flying low, flying higher, turning left, turning right, and flying straight. Wait a minute – that’s the same maneuvers we do in perfect weather!

Even though turnout was low, Ross still provided plenty of amusement. He did not have his skis, so he tried taking off on the

relatively hard-packed snow. When applying full power, his front wheels smartly dug into the snow, bending his forks tightly against his wheel. Undaunted, he got out, pulled the forks apart, and tried again on what appeared to be a harder packed patch of snow. Since his front wheel was still not turning, he buried it again.



Some of our downeast boys in an early-morning flight, trying desperately to find the runway. Any runway.

What added to the degree of difficulty of this stunt was the fact that through most of it, his

engine was running and chute was flapping behind him. The crowds roared on.

Anyway, Ross was not going to be stopped by these minor details, so he dragged his plane over to the area where the snow was plowed and bare ice showed. Proving once and for all that you don't need to have your front wheels turning on takeoff, he took off and had a wonderful flight. And had another one few hours later. He is sure to get some award for his performance at our next annual Christmas party – maybe the True Grit award...

Shuttle investigation gets help

NASA needed to collect all the evidence it could to help analyze what went wrong during the Columbia disaster on Feb.1. Seven **powered parachutes** officially joined the search effort in Texas, under the auspices of FEMA and the FAA. And you thought we were just a bunch of pretty flyboys and flygirls!

Continuing that theme, the Coast Guard is also looking for volunteer pilots who own their own aircraft (i.e. anything that flies) to assist with their harbor watch effort, as apparently they don't have enough resources. This is a nationwide effort (although I suppose there's less call for harbor watch in Kansas) – contact any Coast Guard auxiliary to get more details.

First flight centennial

Just a reminder – 2003 celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' famous first powered flight (Dec. 17th, 1903).



This is the actual picture of the Wright brothers' first flight.

A war story...

Airman Jones was assigned to the induction center, where he advised new recruits about their government benefits, especially their GI insurance. It wasn't long before Captain Smith noticed that Airman Jones had almost a 100% record for insurance sales, which had never happened before. Rather than ask about this, the Captain stood in the back of the room and listened to Jones's sales pitch.

Jones explained the basics of the GI Insurance to the new recruits, and then said: "If you have GI Insurance and go into battle and are killed, the government has to pay \$200,000 to your beneficiaries."

"If you don't have GI insurance, and you go into battle and get killed, the government only has to pay a maximum of \$6000." "Now, he concluded, "which bunch you think they are going to send into battle first?"

Treasury report

Starting balance: \$770.21

Deposits: \$20.00 (1 new membership)

Expenses: \$98.00 (Web name/site renewal)

Ending balance: \$692.21

The \$98 for web site renewal is for a two year period, and it covers hosting our web site, as well as reserving that famous web name/address of www.maine parachutes.org. Well worth the money, especially since Ed Nadeau is doing all the work of keeping it up and interesting for free! Thanks, Ed!

Active members list

Since nobody indicated that they wanted to be excluded (as offered in the last Newsletter – WHAT! – you didn't read it!), we're publishing the names of all our current active members, their home towns, and their phone numbers. The primary purpose of this is so that we can get in touch with each other for impromptu get-togethers or fly-ins. The secondary purpose is to make harassing calls to each other to ask if your refrigerator is running, or if you have Sir Walter Raleigh in a can, etc.

Boycott French anything!

There is a growing movement country-wide to boycott anything with “French” in it. British paper called them “cheese-eating surrender monkeys” and “rifle-droppers”, but we won’t use such harsh language here just because they’re ungrateful American-hating rifle-dropping cheese-eating surrender monkeys.

So anyway, here’s a list of “frenchie” things we can do without (courtesy of Bob and Tom):



French fries - French Fries have been a staple of American fast food since drive-thrus featured horse and buggies. We know it would be impossible to give up those calorie and carbohydrate loaded

potato wedges, so we aren’t suggesting going cold turkey on them... just change the name. How about Victory Sticks, or Ketchup dippers? Besides, it is rumored that these artery cloggers were actually the French’s way of picking us off one by one.



Perrier bottled water - Americans spend billions of their hard earned dollars on bottled water and we can thank the French for creating the ultimate worthless product. The fact is, most of the bottled

water we buy comes from the same municipal water supplies that provide the water that comes out of your tap. We're guessing that it's a good possibility that the Perrier people are selling us our own tap water and that really sucks.



Champagne - Why waste money on over-priced French Champagne. Let's face it, Champagne is little more than glorified soda pop. It's highly overrated and totally

unnecessary. For your next toast we suggest Mountain Dew!



Berets - The absolute worst fashion statement ever. Enough said.



French toast - There are few redeeming factors about a piece of bread dipped in egg. We prefer waffles.

BUT, there are some French things we **cannot** live without:



- French lingerie models
- French kissing
- French-cut panties
- And of course, French kissing French lingerie models in French-cut panties.



Safety Tips:

Bob Ellis, our safety officer has the following tip for this month:

This sounds weird but why take the chance..

The Shell Oil Company recently issued a warning after three incident in which mobile phones (cell phones) ignited fumes during fueling operations. In the first case, the phone was placed on the car's trunk lid during fueling; it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump.

In the second, an individual suffered severe burns to their face when fumes ignited as they answered a call while refueling their car.

And in the third, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in their pocket, rang while they were fueling their car.

You should know that:

- Mobile Phones can ignite fuel or fumes.
- Mobile phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition.
- Mobile phones should not be used in filling stations, or when fueling lawn mowers, boat, etc.

Mobile phones should not be used, or should be turned off, around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust, i.e., solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc.



Needless to say, this is obviously the high point of this more-boring-than-usual Newsletter. But, it just may have saved it from being used at the bottom of your bird cage.

From the MPA fashion desk...

I'm not making this up – there is a new fashion trend which started in Japan to wear see-through skirts (just in the back, which is OK for trend starters). Do your share to help spread this superior fashion breakthrough!

Welcome new members

Unfortunately, we don't have any this month. But if we did, this is where we'd welcome them. I suppose I could make some up, but we just don't do that kind of thing in our Newsletter.

Remember the motto, "If it's in the Newsletter, it

must be true" - thanks to Dunbar for these immortal (if not quite accurate) words.

Quick Quiz

Q - Why did the Siamese twins go to England?
A - So the other one could drive.

Disclaimer

The editorial staff did not go through any **French** doors, did not use any **Turkish** baths, did not play **Russian** roulette, and did not use any **German** Shepherd guard dogs during the production of this Newsletter. We'll show them to not support us!

Name	City	Home Phone
David Avery	Strong	207-678-2632
Charles Beck	Belfast	207-338-0928
Gary Bergendoff	Bowdoinham	207-666-3723
Ross Clair	Farmington	207-645-9510
Jim Clark	Lincoln	207-794-8604
Buzz Crane	Auburn	207-576-5187
Brian Daggett	Washington	207-845-2917
Wes Daggett	Cushing	207-354-6180
Bruce Day	Portland	207-828-0674
Bob Ellis	Cushing	207-354-8740
Robert Getchell, Sr.	Milo	207-943-5592
John Adam Gobel	Canaan, NH	603-523-4919
John A. Gobel	Frankfort	978-337-1393
Bill Grusik	Portland	207-797-3636
Jim Holloway	Warren	207-273-4226
Wayne Kenney	Fairfield	207-453-7078
Kim Lane	Waterville	207-859-8770
Erlon Lisherness	Strong	207-684-4327
Doug Lisherness	Phillips	
Mark Look	Columbia Falls	207-483-2033
Dennis MacPheters	Detroit	207-257-3323

Name	City	Home Phone
Mark Magoon	Calais	207-454-7401
Leon Markie	Mattawamkeag	207-736-4207
Joel McCabe	Eastport	207-853-2370
Paul Melanson	Lewiston	207-782-8264
Herb Micue	Warren	207-273-2016
Ed Nadeau	Pembroke	207-726-5865
Michael O'Donnell	Albion	207-437-4177
Robin Paradis	Perham	207-455-4711
Jerry Parlin	Augusta	207-622-2654
Rita Perieault	Lewiston	207-782-8264
Ed Roy	Winslow	207-873-4346
M. Dunbar Seamans	Union	207-785-3006
Brenda K. Sisson	Portsmouth, RI	401-683-4586
Keith Skeffington	Bangor	207-947-5574
David Smith	Gorham	207-839-2227
Jerry Sukeforth	Warren	207-691-3800
Doug Sukeforth	China	207-968-2100
Richard Thayer	Minot	207-345-3136
Curt Turner	Springfield	207-738-4761
Peter Wallace	Westbrook	207-856-2167
Darrell Weymouth	Gardiner	207-582-5281
Art Willard	Gilmanton, NH	603-267-6322



These are the original founders of our Maine Powerchute Association. We do have a rich heritage!



Helping you to "Think Spring!"

A touch of seriousness

Even though we're hardly ever serious about anything in our silly little publication, the impending war with Iraq deserves an attempt. So, regardless of your personal feelings on this matter, here are a couple of thoughts that I think we can all agree on:

Number One (from John Stuart Mill):

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse."

"A man who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

Number Two (from Edmund Burke):

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."
 See the next page.