

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

Maine Powerchute Association

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Newsletter



www.mainepowerchutes.org

In spite of my repeated calls to General Tommy Franks, not one of us got called up to serve in Iraq with our powered parachutes. Major disappointment, as several of us were ready with flak jackets, camouflage pants, 30-30 rifles, and an Iraq-English dictionary to use to smooth-talk our way out of POW camp.

I guess we'll just have to settle for getting our adrenaline rush just from flying in Maine, with hardly anybody ever shooting at us any more (since Scott left.). But, the weather is getting better every day, and we've had several non-ski flights over the last few weeks, so we are ready for another wonderful Maine flying season!

Summer schedule

The dates below are pretty firm, as I've checked them against the web, but we'll confirm them a few weeks before anyway.

4/3 - 4/8	Sun & Fun	Lakeland, FL
6/6 - 6/7 **	MPA Spring Fly-in	Deblois, ME
7/4 - 7/6	MPA Independence Fly-in	Eastport, ME
7/9 - 7/14	Yankee Ultralight Fly-in	Greenland, NH
7/18 - 7/20 **	MPA Top Gun Fly-in	Fairfield, ME
8/1 - 8/3	Central Maine Fly-in	Norridgewock, ME
8/15 - 8/17	Balloon Festival	Lewiston, ME
8/22 - 8/24	Bowman Field Fly-in	Livermore Falls
9/4 - 9/7	Greenville Sea-plane Fly-in	Greenville, ME
9/26 - 9/27	Gaddabout Gaddis Fly-in	Bingham, ME

** MPA sanctioned event

We're trying something new this year, with a spectacular July 4th event in Eastport. Ed Nadeau has been doing a ton of work coordinating that event. Since that weekend corresponds with the town's big celebration, he had to work extensively with the town council and the airport officials to get us all lined up and legal. Ed said his lips are quite sore since he had to kiss so many butts, but at this point, it's looking pretty good for us to be stars of the event. Hope many of us can make it- it should be quite a show!

The second of our sanctioned events is, of course, our famous Top Gun weekend on July 18th. Last year, we had quite a competition, with John Gobel winning the coveted Top Gun hat, after he spiked the drinking water of the other competitors with a major dose of bourbon. In spite of that, (or maybe because of that) we had great weather and a great time, and we hope to repeat it this year.

Obviously, we're too late for the Sun & Fun event, but I always like to know what I missed, so I put it in anyway. Our first sanctioned event is the MPA Spring Fly-in at Deblois, which has been generally a very successful event in the past. We will also have the first of our 4 general membership meetings at that time – more on that later.

By the way, a sanctioned event is one where the club makes all the arrangements, and picks up

most of the expenses related to the event. Another way you can tell a sanctioned event is that it will have a porta-potty!

Once again, we want to thank Wayne Kenney in advance for letting us use his fields in Fairfield for this event, as well as for letting us fly from there pretty much all year around. The only thing he asks is that we respect the peculiarities of a few neighbors who do not get the same kick that we do out of engines roaring over their houses at 6 AM on a Saturday or Sunday morning.

From the MPA philosophers on getting old and other wisdom:

Now that food has replaced sex in my life, I can't even get into my own pants.

Marriage changes passion. Suddenly you're in bed with a relative.

I don't do drugs. I get the same effect just standing up fast.

I live in my own little world. But it's OK. They know me here.

I got a sweater for Christmas. I really wanted a screamer or a moaner.

Everyday I beat my own previous record for number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.

Isn't having a smoking section in a restaurant like having a peeing section in a swimming pool?

"50 Flags to Kitty Hawk" event

The EAA is sponsoring this nation-wide event. Here's how it works:

EAA will select a pilot from each state to fly the state's flag and a declaration from the governor of the state to Kitty Hawk, NC sometime before December 17th (the anniversary of the first powered flight by the Wright brothers in 1903). The flags of the 50 states will be displayed as part of the centennial celebrations, and the pilots are also given some



With practice, you too might achieve such heights!

special recognitions (unclear at this time – I think there was mention of guaranteeing 72 virgins in Paradise after they die).

Anyway, since the deadline for applications is May 1, and nobody has yet been selected from Maine (don't know how many have applied), the MPA Executive committee has decided to submit an application, with the following generalized game plan:

Instead of an individual pilot like from all other states, the MPA applied as an organization. We would have 3 to 6 pilots make the trip, each one of us flying a leg of 20 to 30 miles (wind, weather, fuel, etc. being variables), while the others drive along the pre-designated route.

At selected rendezvous points, the first pilot lands, passes the flag to the next guy (or girl), who then flies the next leg, while the others continue trucking. So we would carry the Maine flag and the Governor's Proclamation as a group, passing it on to each other. Like the Olympic torch, but less flammable.

This may take up to a month, and would take some meticulous planning and some logistical

wizardry, but what an adventure! Anyway, if there are at least 3 or 4 of us interested, we could actually pull this off. Of course, the EAA would have to select our application over the many others from Maine, but hey, we beat worse odds than that every time we fly! Let me know if you're crazy enough to even think about it.

The "Xprize"

The XPRIZE is a \$10 million prize to jumpstart the space tourism industry through competition between the most talented entrepreneurs and rocket experts in the world. The \$10 Million cash prize will be awarded to the first team that:

- Privately finances, builds & launches a spaceship, able to carry three people to 100 kilometers (62.5 miles)
- Returns safely to Earth
- Repeats the launch with the same ship within 2 weeks

There are 20 groups from 7 countries already competing. If we don't want to do the "50 Flags to Kitty Hawk" event, we could try this!



Not many people know this, but Jim's back is permanently stuck in that position. He doesn't mind, though, as it makes tying down his Buckeye much easier.

The carburetor icing phenomenon

Carb icing, of course, only happens to other people. But, on a Saturday morning in mid-



Mohammed Said al-Sahhaf, the former Iraqi Minister of Information, has now been hired by the MPA as our official spokesman. He will spread the message that our planes do not make any noise at all ever, but, especially never on early Saturday and Sunday mornings.

April, all 3 of the MPA fliers out that time (see pictures, next page) had a few exciting minutes as the meteorological conditions (i.e. temperature and dew point very close together – see last month's issue for more precise definition) nearly caused us to land prematurely and not necessarily in control.

The engines began to run rough and lose power, but due to our superb training, to hours of practice in reacting to this condition, and to dumb luck, we were reminded to work the throttle back and forth, and thereby to free any accumulated ice. As the ice gets ingested into the engine, it causes it to miss but runs fine after that. As usual, no harm done, but it certainly does wake you up.

Treasury report

Starting balance: \$692.21

Deposits: \$0

Expenses: \$0

Ending balance: \$692.21

We will be incurring some more expenses for our website (www.mainepowerchutes.org) shortly – we'll report on it next month. Overall, a quiet period financially.



Just some mid-spring flying at Knox County airport. Still bundled up in winter clothes, but mentally ready for summer!



From left to right, Jerry S., John G., and Jim H. Notice how the Six Chuter flown by Jerry on the left has polluted the sky so it is a murky gray, whereas the Buckeyes flown by John and Jim left the sky a beautiful blue.

Anyway, it was a very good piece and contains much good advice, so make sure you read it. The original is published on our website.

More rules of life

**You only need TWO tools: WD-40 oil, and duct tape. If it doesn't move



The turkey episode

Now this sounds like an MPA-made-up story (we try to sneak one of those into every issue), but this is not the one.

Jerry Parlin received his brand new plane, and to go along with it, he bought a brand new shiny trailer. So new and so shiny in fact, that a stray wild tom turkey saw his reflection in the stainless steel (or highly polished aluminum) skirt around the trailer and attacked it. Literally put hundreds of beak and spur mark dents into it. The good news is that the turkey has a newfound respect for the toughness of the turkey which lives in the trailer, and probably will not be attacking ours.

Congrats to Dunbar

Our Aero Sports Connection magazine, which comes out monthly and has quite a sizeable distribution, published an article by our own Dunbar Seamans. The article was entitled "Flying in the Bush" – it addressed precautions and preparations to take when you fly over remote areas such as we often do (yes, the "bush" refers to vegetation and trees in the back country – *what's wrong with you!!!*)

and it should, use the WD-40. If it moves and it shouldn't, use the duct tape.

** Never give yourself a haircut after three alcoholic beverages of any kind.

** If he/she says you're too good for him/her, believe them!

** If you wake up breathing, congratulations! You have another chance!

Disclaimer

We did not have a single lewd or lascivious picture in this whole Newsletter. This was NOT done intentionally, but we just ran out of space. This mistake will NOT be repeated again, otherwise we might start getting subscription requests from undesirables like the "Nice Folks for Decency Federation", or the "No Smut and No Airplanes Coalition."