

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

# Maine Powerchute Association

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Newsletter



[www.mainepowerchutes.org](http://www.mainepowerchutes.org)

*As you know, we have never had a headline in our Newsletter, but the event below is so huge we had to do it! Read all about it – against all odds, we were selected as the winners from Maine! Of course, we entered as sort of a joke, but now, it sort of backfired...*

*This issue is dedicated to dogs and dog-lovers – for some reason we ended up with several dog related articles and pictures, so we might it well dedicate it!*

*In addition to the usual trashy material, we'll be covering upcoming events, our general membership meeting coming up in June, welcoming new members, and do a special piece for our lady readers.*

## MPA selected to fly Maine flag to Kitty Hawk!

You know the old adage "Be careful what you wish for – you might just get it?" Well, it happened to us. As you remember from last month's Newsletter, the National Park Service and the EAA are sponsoring a program called "50 Flags to Kitty Hawk", where they select one pilot from each state to fly that state's flag and a proclamation from the state's governor to Kitty Hawk, NC.

Kitty Hawk, of course, is the famous site of the Wright brothers' historic first powered flight on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1903. There are numerous events planned to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that event, and one of the biggest ones is the ceremonies at Kitty Hawk. They have built an exact replica of the Wright Flyer, and will re-enact the first flight to the minute on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at the exact spot of that incredible event.

Even though the contest specified individual pilots applying, in our usual way we said what the hell - let's put in an application as a group, and propose to fly the flag down in a relay

fashion, like they pass the torch before the Olympics. Well, the selection committee liked our idea so much that we won! This is quite an honor, as there are many outstanding pilots who applied from Maine. In the words of the chairperson of the committee, "We all thought this will be really cool!"

So now, we got to do it!



Sukee, Gobel, and Dunbar after being told they will be flying to Kitty Hawk.

We've contacted the Governor's office with the official information sent to us by the National Park Service and the EAA, and they are reviewing the material currently. We also contacted the news and television organizations to start getting some publicity for the event, and started making lists of other people to contact.

We also formed a committee to work out all the details, and to get firm commitments from at least 3 pilots to make the 800 mile trip. Since quite a few of us thought this would be one hell of an adventure, we have firm commitments to

fly from 5 people so far – Jerry Sukeforth, Dunbar Seamans, Jim Holloway, Bill Grusik, and John Gobel.

We expect the trip to take up to two weeks. With ideal conditions and nothing going awry, we can do it in a week (fat chance!).

The way this is envisioned to work is that one pilot will be flying the first leg (each leg being about 40 to 60 miles), while the others set up the next destination airport or other site. No one takes off until the target destination is ready, meaning the second pilot is in place, and can read the GPS coordinates to the first pilot before the first pilot takes off. While the first pilot is flying, and the second one is in place waiting to take off, the third pilot is driving ahead to the next destination. And so on.

Since we'll have more than 3 pilots, we can have 2 flying at the same time at certain places, or we can all take turns flying the many legs of this trip. With any luck, we should be able to fly 4 to 5 hours per day (2 or 3 in the morning, and 2 or 3 in the evenings), and do about 100 miles per day.

Our tentative takeoff date is Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> – subject, of course, to numerous variables (weather being the primary).

### **Wanted – more pilots to Kitty Hawk!**

All MPA members are invited on this incredible odyssey. Even if you can't make the whole trip, we welcome you to join us anywhere along the way and fly a few legs, or just hang out with the ground crew for a day or two as we hopscotch across the eastern seaboard. We'll publish our proposed route as soon as we figure it out, so you can plan where to meet us!

The only criteria we set for those of you who'd like to participate is that we all need to maintain the highest level of professionalism, as we'll be watched by literally thousands if not millions of people. As such, we must exercise a high degree of flight discipline, stick to plans as much as possible, don't take any unnecessary chances, and mostly, stay out of the f...g trees!



Jim Holloway doing a little victory dance after receiving news about winning the "50 Flags to Kitty Hawk"

### **Welcome new member**

Contrary to all rational expectations, we continue to get new members – our active membership is now at 41. Anyway, we welcome our latest member, Dave Lindahl from Northport. Dave has been flying powered parachutes for many years, and has flown with us several times, but just recently lowered his standards enough to actually join our little organization. He is a retired state trooper, and has other interesting events in his background – say hello to him at some future event coming soon. Welcome, Dave!

### **A special "thanks!"**

One of our long-time members, in fact one of the original founders of the MPA, has decided to take a break from our sport for a few years. With great demands on his time at work, with spending a lot of time instructing in powered parachutes, and with wanting to spend much more time with his family, Wayne Kenney is planning on taking a step back from the powered parachuting activities.

Wayne will continue to join us in some of our flying activities until he sells his plane. He has also offered to let us continue using his fields, and to hold our annual Top Gun flying event there.

Wayne has been extremely helpful in all our activities, and has continued to let us use his excellent flying facilities through the past years, so we want to extend a heartfelt thanks to him for all he has done for the MPA and for our sport. Wayne, you've been a good friend to many of us, a gracious host, and just a super human being. Good luck to you, and hope to see you back flying with us in a few years!

### **Dues due again**

It's that time again – our MPA membership year runs from July 1 through June 30<sup>th</sup>, so we're all about to expire at the end of June. So, here's the usual threat – if you don't pay your dues, we still love you, but we have to stop sending you the Newsletter.

Now at first glance, that seems like an excellent deal – you save 20 bucks, AND you don't get this trashy periodical. But think it through – where else can you get such good quality paper (with which you can line the bottom of your birdcage)? Where else can you catch up on the stuff that's been happening in the PPC world? Where else can you find out what PPC events are coming up (or just passed)? Where else can you get soft porn without your wife finding out? And lastly, where else can you read the real story behind the incredibly dumb trip to Kitty Hawk in a bunch of powered parachutes?

Anyway, we're making it easier than ever to continue your membership – we're sending an invoice to remind you, with mailing address and everything.

If you choose not to renew, well, first we compliment your intelligence, but then we'll punish you by sending you the serious version of the Newsletter that's been stripped of all funny pictures, dirty jokes, lewd photos – in other words, the same old boring Newsletters that all other organizations have. That'll teach you!



A slightly unusual litter from Sukee's Kennels. The vet thinks they may be tigers, but the dog is denying it.

### **Mood rings are back**

Mood rings were popular in the 60s and 70s. These were made of a material that allegedly reacted to your body's chemistry, and would turn colors depending on your mood.

Mood rings seem to be back. Here's proof – a recent article by a woman:

“My husband, not happy with my mood swings, bought me a mood ring the other day so he would be able to monitor my moods.

When I'm in a good mood it turns green. When I'm in a bad mood, it leaves a big f---g red mark on his forehead.”

### **General membership meeting**

As announced earlier, the second of our four annual general membership meetings will be held at the Deblois fly-in on June 7<sup>th</sup> (Saturday). We'll need to make several decisions regarding how we want to spend our cash, about planning upcoming events, the Top Gun competition this year, and elect new officers for the coming fiscal year.

We generally hold the meeting at 11 AM, since most have already flown in the morning and the wind usually picks up by then. Also, it forces us to sort of end by noon since everybody starts getting hungry for lunch and generally loses interest in any MPA business by that time.

### **Upcoming events**

On the weekend of **June 6 & 7**, PPC-only fly-in at Deblois, ME. Directions below. Also, general membership meeting. Excellent flying there usually, with a very different topography.

**July 4 – 6:** Independence Day PPC-only fly-in in Eastport, ME. Directions below. BIG event – lots of celebrations around town. Ed Nadeau has done a superb job coordinating this with all the town and airport officials to make it happen.



**July 9 – 14;** Yankee Ultralight fly-in at Greenland, NH – fun event, flying is so-so for PPCs – too crowded.

**July 18 – 20;** MPA Top Gun fly-in at Fairfield, ME – direction to follow. MPA PPCs only, with Top Gun competition open to any member.

### **Directions to Deblois**

(DeLorme map # 25)

- Exit 45 off I95
- 395 East to the end – it runs into Rt. 1A
- 1A south/east for about 5 miles to Rt. 46 (East Holden)
- Rt. 46 north for about 4 miles to Rt. 9 (East Eddington)
- Rt. 9 east for about 25 miles to Rt. 193
- South on 193 for about 9 miles.
- Airfield on your right, about ½ mile off the road, so you have to look hard. Migrant worker camp on left (Wyman’s, I believe).

### **Directions to Eastport**

- From Brewer, take RT 1A to Ellsworth, then RT 1 towards Calais.
- When you enter the Town of Perry, watch for RT 190 to Eastport/Pleasant Point. Take Right onto RT 190 and proceed into Eastport.
- At the Eastport Irving gas station take a hard right. (The road goes left, straight, and hard right) From there follow signs for MPA Fly-In.

### **Boy Scout “Camporee”**

The Boy Scouts have an annual “Camporee” event at the Common Ground fairgrounds, which is now at the Unity/Thorndike border. The organizers, through our newest member Dave Lindahl invited us to fly over to wake them up at 6:30 AM. We were psyched, with 5 MPA planes ready to go, but the heavy fog stopped those plans.

Being as clever as ever, we decided to go have our 4000 calorie breakfast before flying, instead of the usual after flying. While we weren’t sure

if we could take off with all the extra weight we put on by doing this, we did it anyway.



Aerial shot of the Boy Scout “Camporee” at the Common Ground fairground. Even though 5 MPA planes flew at the event, none of the scouts got a “*Shot down a PPC*” badge.

By about 8:30 it cleared up pretty nicely, so we put on quite a show for all the boys and their fathers (and some mothers). The star of the show was Billy Grusik, who did one of his famous downward death-spirals – very impressive, and he caught in time to avoid creating a mini-crater on the fairgrounds.



The MPA contingent at the Thorndike event. The funny looking school bus with the shiny tail is Herb’s masterpiece camper/trailer/truck

Afterward, we took three of the planes to the camping area, where we answered questions for about an hour (mostly the usual “How much is it?”, “How high does it go?”, “Do you need any brains to fly these?” – answers: \$15,000, 12,000ft, No). I think we got quite a few fathers interested, and probably about a 100 kids who want one for Christmas.

### **The honorable thing to do**

There are many institutions who have an “honor code.” The most famous of these may be the military academies. The code is simply this – you will not violate the rules of the institution, and if you observe others violating them, you will report them.

This raises countless ethical dilemmas for cadets throughout their history. On one hand, there is a great need for teamwork, for being able to fully trust each other, and to stand by each other. On the other hand, you’re asked to “rat” on your classmates.

The answer is always to “rat” on your friends. Here’s the reasoning: if one of your teammates cheats by violating the rules to which you’ve all taken an oath to uphold, that teammate does not belong on your team. Furthermore, the violator jeopardizes the safety and possibly the life of others on your team as well as the integrity and effectiveness of the institution, so it is your duty to eliminate that danger by turning him./her in. (Obviously, there’s some leeway based on the severity of the violation)

From time to time, we have similar situations within our MPA ranks and activities. We observe someone flaunting safety rules, or FAA regulations – what do we do?

Based on the rationale above, if we don’t take action, we are jeopardizing our own safety, and our ability to continue with our sport unimpeded by tons of local or federal rules and restrictions. When we observe such behavior, we need to point this out to the individual involved, either by yourself or as a group. Many times the violation is due to ignorance of the rules, and the violator is very willing to change. Rarely, we may have to be more forceful.

So, let’s do that. If you feel uncomfortable with this, bring it to one of the MPA directors, and we will take action. I for one, would hate to see our activities severely curtailed because of a few who disregard the rules.



Actual photo of Dunbar’s dog Honey from the last party the two of them were ever invited to...

### **Random dog thoughts**

- *If you don't want the dog to be near you, stay off the furniture.*
- *It's his nature to try to sniff your crotch. Please feel free to sniff his.*
- *To you he's a dog. To me he's an adopted son who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly.*
- *Dogs are better than kids. They eat less, don't ask for money all the time, are easier to train, usually come when called, never drive your car, don't hang out with drug-using friends, don't smoke or drink, don't worry about whether they have the latest fashions, don't wear your clothes, don't need a gazillion dollars for university, and if they get pregnant you can sell the pups.*

### **For our female readers**

Since we men are always curious about what women think of us, here are some samples of the female perspective:

MEN are like ... Bananas ... The older they get, the less firm they are.

MEN are like ... Vacations ... They never seem to be long enough.

MEN are like ... Blenders ... You need one, but you're not quite sure why.

MEN are like ... Chocolate Bars ... Sweet, smooth, and they usually head right for your hips.

MEN are like ... Coffee ... The best ones are rich, warm, and can keep you up all night long.  
 MEN are like .... Commercials ... You can't believe a word they say.  
 MEN are like ... Department Stores ... Their clothes are always 1/2 off.  
 MEN are like ... Government Bonds ... They take soooooo long to mature.  
 MEN are like .... Mascara ... They usually run at the first sign of emotion.  
 MEN are like ... Snowstorms ... You never know when they're coming, how many inches you'll get or how long it will last.  
 MEN are like ... Lava Lamps ... Fun to look at, but not very bright.  
 MEN are like ... Parking Spots ... All the good ones are taken, the rest are handicapped.

### **MPA Love Advice column**

As a community service, the MPA editorial staff draws on its vast experience to provide expert advice to those who are just starting out in life. Here's the latest edition of our advice column.

A young couple was on their honeymoon. Just before going to bed on their wedding night, the husband indicates that he would like to have a talk with his new bride.

"Dear", he says, "statistics indicate that the number one reason people get divorced is arguments about sex. I never want that to happen to us". The wife indicates that she too would not like for that to happen and asks her husband what they can do to prevent such a tragedy. The husband confidently responds that he has a plan.

"Dear, each night when we retire I will lie in bed on my back. If you want to have sex you can tug my privates once."

"OK, that's a good plan", says the young bride. "But what if I don't want to have sex?" she asks. "Then" says the husband, "you should reach over and tug my privates 100 times".



Jerry getting ready to cut his lines after spending 3 and a ½ hours trying to straighten them out while standing in a deep hole

### **Disclaimer**

Well, once again you wasted up to 15 minutes of your life (10 minutes if you've learned to read without moving your lips). You realize that you can never get those minutes back! Gone forever! We try to warn you month after month, but like the warnings on packs of cigarettes, you just ignore it. So, the MPA or the editorial staff takes no responsibility for the time lost from your life reading this material which has absolutely no socially redeeming value.



Actual AP photo of Cristie Kerr , after winning the LPGA event at Lincoln, CA, on 4/21/02. She REALLY loved her trophy!