

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

Maine Powerchute Association

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Newsletter



www.mainepowerchutes.org

We're in the midst of the annual flying doldrums – too cold to fly in a T-shirt and not cold enough for the snow suits. The lakes aren't frozen yet, and the winds blowing too much, so flying has been a little scarce for most of us. So with not too many flying events to report, we have to resort to near-news – luckily, we do this all the time so it'll be easy.

Those of us who fly all winter are getting excited, since in a lot ways winter flying is more fun than flying any other time of the year. Besides seeing the beautiful snowy scenery, with the thousands of lakes in Maine you have many more areas you can land. If you haven't tried it, get yourself a pair of skis and get out there! Your Lazy-Boy recliner will still be there when you return!

Jerry wins award

Jerry Sukeforth won the prestigious "Lifetime Achievement" award from the New Hampshire Working Dog Foundation. He was responsible for starting up that organization many years ago, and it has grown so it does most of the police dog training in the New England region. Jerry continued to work with them and consult for them. Nice going, Jerry!

Treasurer's report

Once again, here's the report from Bonnie, giving our financial status as of 11/13/03:

Closing balance last letter:	\$842
New income (memberships):	\$60
Expenses: Maine flag -	\$90
Current balance:	\$812

Christmas Party

We have been desperately looking for some brave soul to undertake this mission, i.e. to organize and make arrangements for this annual event. The reason it's so hard to get volunteers is because our track record is pretty much to criticize the organizer(s) and bitch about the event, so everybody is a little gun-shy.

Anyway, the message went out that if we all promise to actually appreciate the work that goes into setting up an event of any kind, and not bitch about it, will somebody please volunteer?



Flying during hunting season has its own special thrills...

Well, just in the nick of time, Jerry Sukeforth heard the call and took a chance – he made arrangements with Wayne to use the church basement we used last year. Last year's Christmas party was a very nice event, with the ladies of the church group cooking an excellent turkey dinner. So we'll do it again. It should be around \$10 per person, and since it is a sanctioned MPA event, we'll probably subsidize

part of it, or least the room costs.

The church is at the corner of Rt. 139 and Rt. 23 in Fairfield.

The event is scheduled for Saturday night, December 20th at 6 PM. Dinner should be around 6:30, and videos and awards around 7:30 or so.

Now here's the important part. We need to have a headcount, so that the nice ladies making the dinner can know how much stuff to prepare. So, it is absolutely IMPORTANT THAT YOU LET US KNOW IF YOU'RE GOING TO ATTEND! Please call Jerry as soon as possible. His number is 691-3800, or even better and faster, you can e-mail him at SUKEESAIRNREPAIR@AOL.COM.



Sukee made a few more small modifications to his "Eagle One" powered parachute...

There are still several other functions that need to be done in connection with this event, so we still need some volunteers. Please call me, and we'll get this thing all set up. Thanks! My number is 852-7300.

We're putting together two videos again – one by Bill Grusik and one by John Gobel, chronicling the Kitty Hawk trip. For newcomers, the video presentations are about 20 – 25 minutes long, and are shown on a BIG screen with great accompanying music. In fact, the music is often better than the video.

We also have the "Dubious Awards" event, which I volunteer to put together again (with help from numerous others who have colorful stories to tell about their friends).

Southern departures

There are several MPA members who obviously do not appreciate the thrill of flying in zero degree temperatures, the challenge of

starting a frozen engine, the tears that freeze on your face, the ice sculpture on your face made from your drippy nose, and the sublime misery of feeling your fingers and toes freeze solid. Instead, they're sitting around in shorts and T-shirts in Florida somewhere, and not even missing us a bit. Just don't get it.

Anyway, happy wintering to Buzz and Mattie Crane, to Scooter and Joel McCabe, and to Dunbar Seamans. Send pictures! We'll see you in the spring.

Bethel Fly-in

Randy Autrey organized this experimental event, and several MPA members were able to make it there. Had some incredibly good weather, and was able to fly most of the weekend of October 11/12. The airport is excellent, with a long long concrete runway and a grass strip adjoining it. The countryside is beautiful, with Sunday River ski area looming in the background.

The event coincided with town celebrations, so there was lots of curious on-lookers, as well as pancake breakfasts, etc. Also had a demo of radio controlled airplane flying, which most of us can take or leave, but the model jet aircraft really were impressive! Never seen those before – what a sight!

We'll definitely add this venue to our repertoire for next year, and Randy has already graciously volunteered to host this for us again.



Mike O'Donnell touching down at Kitty Hawk

Winter fly-ins

We're planning on returning to Moosehead Lake at Greenville again this year – still looking for a date. The bay by Kelly's Landing is perfect for us – it has a big parking lot for our rigs, the restaurant right there, and rooms at the inn. Just a few yards farther on the other side of bay is another motel with more rooms than Kelley's landing (Chalet Moosehead). As soon as we come up with a date, we'll publish the phone numbers of both places along with directions, so you can make arrangements for accommodations. Should have plenty of ice on the lake by late January – so we'll get a date sometime around that time frame.

We'll have a few other impromptu events to be announced soon. Again, we need some volunteers to organize and coordinate the event.

A venue we have not done in the winter before is Bethel. The Bethel campground is about a quarter mile away from the airport, and they stay open all winter. We're going to try to organize a fly-in there also this winter.

Yeager Caught By Crosswind

In case you're feeling bad about some incident you might have had in your PPC...



Even a legend can be brought down to earth by a crosswind. Just ask Chuck Yeager. The pilot synonymous with edge-of-the-envelope flying met his match while taxiing after landing at [Heaven's Landing](#), an airport development near Clayton, Ga. The 80-year-old retired Air Force general apparently bumped his head when the aircraft went off the runway and into a ditch. His wife was also not seriously injured.

Physical injuries notwithstanding, the crowd of onlookers awaiting Yeager's arrival could feel his pain. "He was embarrassed," said developer Mike Ciochetti Jr. "Other pilots were watching and they were humbled -- when something like this happens to the best." Yeager went to the aviation community to see a street named after him. Other World War II aces will also be honored with addresses there.

Ladies' Corner

Once again, we present some material suitable for our female readers, since it seems like you guys can't hide this stuff from that special person in your life...

As the airliner pushed back from the gate, the flight attendant gave the passengers the usual information regarding seat belts, etc. Finally, she said, "Now sit back and enjoy your trip while your captain, Judith Campbell, and crew take you safely to your destination".

Joe sitting in the eighth row thought to himself, "Did I hear her right? Is the captain a woman?"

When the attendants came by with the drink cart, he said, "Did I understand you right? Is the captain a woman?"

"Yes," said the attendant. "In fact, this entire crew is female."

"My God," said Joe. "I'd better have two scotch and sodas. I don't know what to think of all those women! up there in the cockpit."

"That's another thing sir," said the attendant. "We no longer call it the cockpit. Now it's the box office."

All right, just one more for the ladies...

A woman's perfect breakfast:

She's sitting at the table with her gourmet coffee. Her son is on the cover of the Wheaties box. Her daughter is on the cover of Business Week. Her boyfriend is on the cover of Playgirl. And her husband is on the back of the milk carton.

It's hell getting old



Daisy Duke (from the Dukes of Hazard), all grown up. Another fantasy from my youth shattered...

Women over 50 don't have babies because they would put them down and forget where they left them.

One of life's One of mysteries is how a 2 pound box of candy can make a woman gain 5 lbs.

My mind not only wanders, it sometime leaves completely.

The nice part about living in a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, someone else does.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then, your body and your fat are really good friends.

Great fund-raising idea

From "Aviation News"...

"Carol Ann Garratt is back home in Florida, wiser and poorer, after a 41,000-mile [flight around the world](#) in her Mooney M20. Garratt took off from Kissimmee in early February with two goals in mind: to raise money for research into Lou Gehrig's Disease (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or ALS) and to fly her father to a family reunion in New



One of our childhood fantasies, Wonder Woman, all grown up (about the same age as we are)

Zealand. She doubted the wisdom of the adventure while flying through a tropical storm near Samoa but most of the trip was relatively uneventful, she said. Garratt flew west on the trip. Most round-the-world flyers go east to take advantage of prevailing winds. She raised **\$12,000** for ALS but estimates the trip cost her **\$25,000**. The trip took her through the South Seas, then north through Asia and Europe before she hopscotched

across the Atlantic through Greenland and northern Canada and finally back to the U.S. Garratt said she wiled away the time in the air e-mailing friends, listening to the radio and writing about her travels. She was greeted warmly most places she stopped but doesn't have much nice to say about Egypt. Officials there charged her \$650 for putting her plane down."

AeroConnections article

The ASC magazine did a nice writeup of the MPA and our trip to Kitty Hawk, with lots of pictures and a lot of plagiarized material from our web site (with permission). Check it out!

Disclaimer

We are not responsible if your libido was permanently damaged while looking at the grown-up versions up Daisy Duke and Wonderwoman above. Here are a few antidotes, courtesy of Victoria's Secret

