

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

Maine Powerchute Association

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Newsletter



www.mainepowerchutes.org

Since flying this winter so far has been pretty poor at best, we don't have much flying news from the MPA. However, this gives us a great opportunity to dedicate this issue to Joel McCabe, sitting warm with his lovely wife Scooter in Florida, diligently searching the Internet for twisted humor and risqué photographs. I can finally get rid of all the material he sent by putting a lot of into this issue, instead of the usual scintillating and hard-hitting flying news reporting that we usually do.

I think we have set the dates for most of the fly-ins in the region, so mark your calendars for a year of fun and thrills and laughs. It starts next week at Greenville on the bay on Moosehead Lake by Kelly's Landing motel.

First Bethel winter fly-in

In spite of some bad weather forecasts, the hot air balloons and a few powered parachutes got to fly anyway. Pretty nice flying Saturday morning, and a little rough but flyable Sunday morning. The airport at Bethel is just a few minutes from Sunday River ski area, and the scenery is just gorgeous.



A late Sunday morning take off on a beautiful day in Bethel (continued on next picture)...

Randy Autrey is our local coordinator, and he showed us the sites, since it was Bethel winter carnival time, with ice sculptures, world-famous chili cook-off, hot air balloons, polar dip in the river, and naked coed snowball fight.

All right, that last event was cancelled, but maybe next year?

As a fund raiser for the local girls' high school softball team, the polar dip attracted about 30 participants and about 150 spectators. Coaches and teachers and players did it – they all put on their bathing suits and jumped into a huge hole the fire department cut into the ice on the river.



...followed by a quick landing at the very first available spot as the wind teaches Greg Gobel a little humility.

Correction

With all the awards and thanks and kudos given out at the Christmas party, we forgot to recognize the contributions of Herb Micue, who bought one of the inflatable safety devices we carried for over-the-water flying. Luckily, we didn't have to use it, but your donation was greatly appreciated, Herb!

Herb also flew some of the early legs of our trip, and certainly deserves part of the recognition and praise that all the participants and the club received.

Note from Art and Dot

As we mentioned in the last Newsletter, a long-time friend of the MPA, and a pioneer in our sport Art Willard has been diagnosed with cancer and he and his lovely wife Dot are fighting the disease. They were trying to make it to our Christmas party, but could not. We sent them a card and a highlight tape, and they sent us the note below:

*“John - Received the tape, and it sure was good. We missed not coming to your Christmas party. Art’s treatments went good for the first 2. The second 2 didn’t do any good, in fact both the tumor and the limp nodes grew some, so they have stopped treatment for a month to get everything out of his system and regain some strength and then going to try something different. We are just taking one day at a time and hope for the best.
Say “HI” to all and Happy Flying.
Art & Dot”*



Some hot blonde who looks a little bit like Scooter with the MPA Dubious Awards in Joel’s trailer in Florida...

Note from Joel and Scooter

Both Joel and Scooter McCabe were recipients of our famous dubious awards, and they sent us this note, along with most of the material in this Newsletter.

“Hi John - Yesterday Scooter and I drove into town to check our mail. We were THRILLED to find that you had sent our awards to us!! Nice to know that our friends at home haven’t forgotten about us. Looking forward to seeing you in the spring.”

Fly-in schedule for 2004:

Most of these dates are firm, but we’ll publish a final version once the organizers give me their final confirmations. **=MPA sanctioned event.

Jan 30-31 – Bethel, ME (Outdoor Adventures)
Feb 21-22 – Greenville, ME (Kelly’s Landing)**
Mar 20-21 – Chili cook-off (Wiscasset airport)
Apr 13-19 – Sun ’n Fun (Lakeland, FL)
Jun 19 – 20 – MPA Spring fly-in (Deblois)
Jul 4-5 – Eastport, ME (airport)**
Jul 12 - 17 – Yankee Fly-in (Greenland, NH)
Jul 24 - 25 – MPA Top Gun (TBA)**
Jul 27 – Aug 2 – EAA (Oshkosh, WI)
Aug 7 - 8 – Norridgewock, ME (airport)
Aug 21 - 22 – Lewiston/Auburn (Maheu)
Aug 28-29 – Bowman (Livermore, ME)
Sep 3 – 5 – Seaplane fly-in (Greenville, ME)
Sep 24 - 25 – Bingham (Gadabout Gaddis)
Oct 2 - 3 – Presque Isle (Paradis field)
Oct 9 – 10 – Bethel, ME Fly-in (airport)



It can happen to the best...

The following series of photographs are actual news photos of accidents where professional pilots made mental errors. The photos are real, but their captions were boring so I made them slightly more interesting. We’ll start with the best of the best, a pilot for the Air Force’s Thunderbirds, who made a miscalculation as reported by the Avweb news service:

“Pilot error caused a US Air Force Thunderbird F16 to crash at an air show on Sept. 14 at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, the Air Force said on Wednesday. The pilot incorrectly climbed to 1,670 feet AGL instead of 2,500 feet before initiating the pull-down to the Split-S maneuver, according to the Air Force news release. The pilot, Chris Stricklin, 31, apparently flew by mistake to the MSL altitude used when practicing the maneuver at his home base, Nellis AFB in Nevada, which is 1,000 feet lower than the Idaho field elevation. The pilot ejected just eight-tenths of a second before impact, after reportedly making an effort to steer the aircraft away from the crowd of about 85,000 ... and now works at the Pentagon, in Washington, D.C. Stricklin suffered minor injuries. The F-16, valued at \$20.4 million, was destroyed.”



While no one was looking, the Big Boy decided to graze a little bit on the new fresh lawn.

Treasurer's Report

Here's the status of our finances from Bonnie Micue's report:

Closing balance last report:	\$812.00
Partial subsidy of Christmas Party, and donation to the Church who hosted it:	\$150.00
Reimbursement to Jerry S. for the award frames:	\$70.00
Ending balance:	\$592.00

Note: Thanks to Jerry for his \$30 donation (the frames were over \$100).

Ladies' Corner

Dear Tide:

I'm writing to say what an excellent product you have. I've used it since the beginning of my married life, when Mom told me it was the best. Now that I am older and going through menopause, I find it even better!

In fact, about a month ago, I spilled some red wine on my new white blouse. My unfeeling and uncaring husband started to berate me about how clumsy I was and generally started becoming a pain in the neck.

One thing led to another and I ended up with a lot of his blood on my white blouse. I tried to get the stain out using a bargain detergent, but it just wouldn't come out.

After a quick trip to the supermarket, I stopped and got a bottle of liquid Tide with bleach alternative, and to my surprise and satisfaction all the stains came out! In fact, the stains came out so well, that some of the detectives who came by yesterday told me that the DNA tests were negative, and my attorney said that I would no longer be considered a suspect!

I thank you once again, for having such a great product. Well, gotta go. I have to write a letter to the Hefty-Bag people.

Signed, A Relieved Menopausal Wife!



The new all-terrain jet liner practicing crossing ditches – a few more runs should do it.

Fly-in reminder!!!

Our official MPA winter fly-in is held on Feb. 21 & 22 at Kelly's Landing in Greenville (on Moosehead Lake). Get rooms now!



Why do you think the Policeman is pulling them over??? Wrong – she's not wearing a helmet!

Ladies' Corner 2

A mother and her son were flying Southwest Airlines from Kansas City to Chicago. The son (who had been looking out the window) turned to his mother and asked, "If big dogs have baby dogs and big cats have baby cats, why don't big planes have baby planes?" The mother (who couldn't think of an answer) told her son to ask the stewardess. So the boy asked the stewardess, "If big dogs have baby dogs and big cats have baby cats, why don't big planes have baby planes?"

The stewardess responded, "Did your mother tell you to ask me?" The boy said, "Yes she did."

*"Well, then, tell your mother that there are no baby planes because Southwest always pulls out on time. Have your mother explain **that** to you."*

Variations on flight announcements

Anyone who has flown on commercial aircraft has heard the safety announcements by the flight attendants, and other announcements by the captain. Every now and then, even they get bored with the same old stuff, so here are some actual quotes from those occasions...

"As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."

"In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with more than one small child, pick your favorite."

On a Continental Flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said, "*Ladies and*

gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants."

And from another pilot during his welcome message: "*Delta airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"*

So now it was the flight attendants' turn...

After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Memphis, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced, "*Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."*

On an American Airlines flight, after an extremely hard landing, the flight attendant said, "*Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo. Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"*

On a particularly rough flight, the pilot hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying United." The pilot said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally, everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sonny, mind if I ask you a question?" "Why no Ma'am," said the pilot. "What is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"



Just a little short on this one... On the upside, the plane will be nice and clean!