

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

Maine Powerchute Association

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Newsletter



www.mainepowerchutes.org

Still a little short on club activities this time of year, but we managed to get a Newsletter out anyway, thanks to some material from Ed Nadeau, and lots of material from Joel McCabe. We can't use some of Joel's best stuff in this nice publication, since you guys keep letting your wife and kids read it.

Anyway, it's getting to be spring, and more of our MPA members are getting the dust off the planes, and those of us who flew (or tried to fly) all winter are giving it a spring tune-up. Look on our web page, as Ed has created a new section for maintenance tips to keep your rig in safe and high performing condition.

Quality, not quantity at Greenville

With dire weather forecasts dampening attendance by our MPA members, the huge throngs at Kelly's Landing waiting for the annual powered parachute show had to settle for the sporting efforts of a single chute.

As it turned out, the weather let up enough to fly a little Saturday night, and also several hours Sunday morning. So our only attendee, John Gobel, went through his full airshow routine, which consisted of, let see, flying straight, turning, descending, flying straight again, then turning again, and eventually landing. The crowd went wild. For an encore, he taxied his rig to the parking area. Once again, even more thunderous applause.



Think Spring! A few more weeks, and it's T-shirt flying weather. Actually, it is now, if you're a real man or crazy.

The winter meeting of the MPA also went well. Some interesting discussions, but no major changes. Hardly any dissent.

Buckeye for sale

Jerry Sukeforth finished putting a new engine on a practically new Buckeye frame, so he is

now ready to sell it – contact him if you're interested (691-3800). He has test flown it and adjusted the lines to perfection.

The only downside to the deal is that in order to test fly it, he had to transport the new machine in the same trailer he uses for his Six Chuter. So now,

the new Buckeye has that Six Chuter smell, and I'm not sure if you can ever get rid of it. Maybe with some industrial strength disinfectant.

First Wiscasset fly-in a success

The kind folks at Wiscasset airport invited the MPA to participate in their annual flyin and chili cook-off. Special thanks to Ann Walko and to Mike Muchmore for their invitation and their hospitality.

If you haven't been to a chili cook-off, it involves a bunch of their members cooking pots of chili using their own secret recipe the day before, then plugging them all in to heat up in crock pots during the day Saturday. At lunch time, all the pilots and their guests get to sample as many as their constitution permits, and then vote for their favorite. My vote went for the "Roadkill Chili", which I'm presuming did not use real roadkill. Even if it did, it tasted great.



A scene from the Moosehead Lake winter fly-in. If you think it looks like every other frozen lake, well, that's because you don't see the brother of Loch Ness monster just under the ice. It already ate most of the people.

Part of the many events was a safety briefing by real FAA guys – the topic was "Runway Intrusions." Very relevant to our activities. And, you get some kind of FAA credit for attendance, which maybe you can trade in if you get in trouble with the FAA. Not that we would, of course.

Anyway, we had some great weather Saturday morning. Friday night was also flyable for about half an hour, so once again Gobel got to put on his airshow. Alone, again. Safer hat way.

We had 5 planes attend the event (Jerry, Jim, Alec, Bob, & John – also Brenda from Rhode Island) and had a nice trip to Reid State Park. Got some good videos and pictures of that beautiful area. Some of the guys with good gas mileage also flew to Popham Beach. Jerry, with his quiet 912 engine and blazing speed actually got to sneak up behind a couple walking on the beach and surprise them. After they got their heart started, they were quite friendly, and waved using all ten fingers.

Congratulations to Alec Muller, our newest member-to-be who made his first real long cross country flight that day, and to Brenda Sisson, who started her series of lessons on her way to becoming a real PPC pilot.

Since it was still winter flying, Bob Ellis kindly loaned Brenda his flying coveralls, which she greatly appreciated after about a half hour in the cold air. Just recently, she reported that she was finally able to get rid of the strange skin rash she acquired. However, she has not been able to get rid of this driving compulsion to keep her machinery and house meticulously clean and neat.

Herb makes great forced landing

Herb Micue had an unfortunate episode which turned out well due to his excellent pilotage. After takeoff, he noticed that his engine wasn't quite right, so made a big circle near his takeoff point on the lake. On his second circle, the engine lost power. But since he was in pretty good position, he was able to deadstick his machine down without any damage to himself or to the machine. It appears that a bearing on his crankshaft gave out, which can certainly ruin your whole day.

Nice work, Herb for doing the safe thing in expecting problems when something just doesn't feel right or sound right. And good piloting skills as well!

Herb's plane still wants to fly!

After his forced landing, Herb did not have to shut down his engine since it was already stopped (one of the few benefits of engine-out landings), so he just climbed out of the seat and started to walk away. The wind picked up pretty good by then, and fully inflated his chute, so it stood there behind him, ready to go. A passer-by thought that was normal and commented to Herb about how big those chutes are. That got Herb's attention.



Herb Micue at the controls, holding onto what is probably the steering rod with his left hand.

In memory of Erlon Lisherness

We're sad to report the death of one of our members, Erlon, who died of complications related to cancer. Erlon was an MPA member for about three years, and was an enthusiastic flier who took up flying late in life, but who enjoyed it fully. We will miss his good natured, friendly personality, his willingness to help out wherever needed, and his love of our sport.

Erlon loved flying his powered parachute, and became known locally as "Air Bear." He requested that his ashes be scattered over the hill behind his home from a powered parachute, and his brother Doug fulfilled his last request.

At his memorial service, one of his nephews sang a song he wrote in Erlon's memory. The words are at the end of our Newsletter.

Our sympathies go out to his brother Doug, his sister Lorraine, and to the rest of his family.

MPA wins Aero Club Award!

The oldest continuously operating aviation club in the country, the Aero Club of New England, selected the Maine Powerchute Association for its annual Maine State Award. This award goes to the individual or group who best advanced the cause of aviation for the year by performing a noteworthy aeronautical feat.

Our trip to Kitty Hawk was the event that got the Club's attention – they followed our trip via our Internet reports with great interest. They complimented us on our planning, our organization, our execution of the plan, our professionalism (especially our arrival into First Flight airport), and our entertaining reporting. In the words of one of the judges and club officers, they felt like they knew most of the characters on the trip, but they mostly wanted to meet Roger.

We are invited to the awards dinner on April 22nd (Thursday) at the Sheraton Hotel in Lexington, MA. Any participant is welcome to join us, but I need to let them know by April 15th how many are going. So, if you're interested, please call me (852-7300) and I'll tally up the numbers. I'm told this is quite an impressive affair, with many top aviators in the New England region present. Tuxedo is optional.

Treasurer's Report

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

Closing balance last report:	\$592.00
No expenses or income:	0.00
Ending balance:	\$592.00

Nice and simple.

Love Advice Column

The newest member of the editorial staff (picture below) now offers time-tested advice for men and women. So pay attention to Ivana Moore, and improve your love life tenfold.



For the gentlemen:

How to impress a woman:

Wine her,
Dine her,
Call her,
Hug her,
Support her,
Hold her,
Surprise her,
Compliment her,
Smile at her,
Listen to her,
Laugh with her,
Cry with her,
Romance her,
Encourage her,
Believe in her,
Cuddle with her,
Shop with her,
Give her jewelry,
Buy her flowers,
Hold her hand,
Write love letters to her,
Go to the end of the Earth and back again for her....

For the ladies:

How to impress a man:

Show up naked... Bring beer and chicken wings ...
Don't block the TV.

Our web site

Just in case you haven't visited our web site before, (You've been stuck on a deserted island? Just getting out of jail?) its address is www.mainelechutes.org.

We are about to get our 10,000th hit, so a round of applause for Ed Nadeau, our webmaster, who keeps our page current and informative. We get lots of nice unsolicited comments about it from various (unpaid) sources.

It's a lot of work coming up with new material for the web page, so Ed asks our membership to contribute, contribute, and contribute. Send him pictures, articles, interesting stuff, maintenance stuff, etc. Don't send him dirty pictures and off-color jokes – send those to me, care of the Newsletter.

Speaking of web sites, here's a cool one – it's a short video clip of a guy flying under a bridge, inverted, which is one of my personal goals (in a PPC, of course). <http://www.inna.lt/kairys-video02.html>

Not my fault, man...

We're all seeing the concept and practice of personal responsibility rapidly declining all around us - it's the tobacco company's fault that I smoke; it's McDonald's fault that I spilled hot coffee on my lap; it's my parents' fault that I'm 50 years old and still screwed up, et cetera. So, here's an aviation related twist to this trend.

To celebrate his 21st birthday, a guy near Brazoria County airport in Houston, Texas decided to finish a six pack of beer, break into a locked hangar, open up the flight manual, and try taxing a Cessna 172 aircraft. He said this isn't that hard, so gave it more power, pulled back on the stick, and went for a flight. Two miles later, he hit some power lines, and crashed to the ground totally destroying the aircraft. Being drunk, and loose I guess, he miraculously was unhurt. He was arrested, and basically was in a heap of trouble, the resolution of which is still going on.

But here's the good part. He said this wasn't his fault. If the airport had barbed wire fencing around it, he said he was too drunk to be able to climb across that, so he wouldn't have been able to break into the hangar and steal the airplane. So of course, he is suing the county because of the emotional trauma of almost getting killed.

Another scientific breakthrough...

It's a miracle. Scientists have found that if you live by yourself, all your annoying habits seem to disappear.

Safety tip of the month

Thanks to Ed Nadeau for researching this piece of good information. It is also on our website, under the new tab "Maintenance," which contains this now, and many other maintenance and safety tips in the future.

Water in the fuel can be dangerous in that it can lead to engine failure. So, as those in general aviation know, you always try to drain any water sitting on the bottom of your fuel tank before you fly. Fixed winged aircraft have a draincock just for this purpose. For us, here's a good way to check for water.

The Olive Jar Test

1. Buy a tall thin bottle of salad olives. Eat the olives.
2. Draw a dark line on the jar (outside of Jar) 1/4 the way up from the bottom.
3. Fill with water up to the line.
4. Add fuel to near top, shake vigorously (with top on jar).
5. If the water line now is higher than the line, you have water in your fuel.

Oxygenates except MTBEs will mix with water and their volume in the fuel will show as the rise above the line. Oxygenates are bad for the Rotax seals and of course water is bad.

Note: When done, do NOT drink the mixture in the jar. It tastes awful.

Unsolicited advice to the Government

Most of the terrorists we've found come here legally, then hang around with these expired visas for 10-15 years. Now compare this to Blockbuster - you are two days late with a

rented video, and they're all over you. Let's put Blockbuster in charge of immigration.

More tips on life...

Gardening Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.

An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.

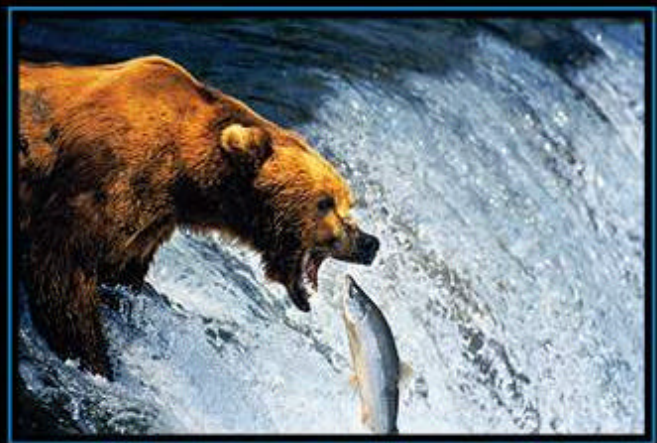
Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

Some people are like Slinkies . . . not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you see one tumble down the stairs.

Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.



AMBITION

A journey of a thousand miles sometimes ends very, very badly

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?



All dressed up and no place to go... John, Jerry, and Jim, celebrating national "J" day at Knox County airport, waiting in vain for the wind to die down.

An Easter story

A precious little girl walks into a pet shop and asks in the sweetest little lisp, "Excute me, mithter, do you keep widdle wabbits?"

As the shopkeeper's heart melts, he gets down on his knees, so that he's on her level, and asks, "Do you want a widdle white wabbit or a thoft and fuwwy bwack wabbit or maybe one like that cute widdle bwown wabbit over there?"

She, in turn blushes, rocks on her heels, puts her hands on her knees, leans forward and says in a quiet voice, "I don't fink my pet python weally gives a thit."

Upcoming events

As the weather improves, we'll be doing more and more impromptu fly-ins, but our next scheduled formal event is in Deblois during the weekend of June 18-20. ("Formal" in this case does not mean bow ties and tuxedos). Directions will be forthcoming in the next issue of the Newsletter.

We're planning on using this occasion for the first of our four annual meetings. This meeting will also serve as our annual election of new President (term limits kickin this year), and the

other officers. Remember, our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30th.

We will also be getting our PPC Flight Demonstration Team together over the next month (the Slow Angels) – call me if you're interested.

And lastly, we have the New England Aero Club award dinner in Lexington, MA on April 22nd.

"Air Bear" – in memory of Erlon Lisherness (sung at his memorial service)

On a good day, you could hear him coming from miles away.

Throttle up and throttle down, you knew it was him by the engine's sound.

They called him Air Bear and there's a reason why, doing what he loved from way up above, He was the Air Bear of the sky.

On a good day, you could see him coming from miles away.

From over the mountains and way up high, and into the valleys where he would fly.

Now Air Bear has gone, back to the sky, he had to take just one last ride.

You know Air Bear has gone back to the sky. But he's flying with his own set of wings this time.

You've got your own set of wings this time. Fly, fly, Airbear, fly, you've got your own set of wings this time.

I know there's a reason they called you up there. Where you don't need an engine and your prop is always clear.

They needed a good man, who knows how to fly.

Now you're flying with your own set of wings this time. Go ahead and fly, fly Air Bear fly, you've got your own set of wings this time.

They call him Air Bear, and there's a reason why, still doing what he bves from way up above.

He's the Air Bear of the sky.