

Maine Powerchute Association

Newsletter

February 2005

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

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www.maine-powerchutes.org

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn one of our own

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of one of our Maine Powerchute Association members, Joel McCabe.

Joel had lost his brief battle with cancer, and died on January 3, 2005. He left behind his wife Ellen (Scooter), and many close friends at Eastport and in the MPA.

Less than about 4 months before, Joel had become aware of a pain in his chest. Shortly after, he was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of lung cancer. By that time, the cancer had spread to other parts of his body, and it was a very uphill battle from there on. Both radiation and chemotherapy had very little positive impact, and the cancer advanced rapidly until it took his life.

Those of us fortunate enough to know Joel were just amazed by the whole series of events. In

what seemed like a blink of an eye, the deadly disease took this happy-go-lucky, robust, fun-loving, energetic man, and reduced him to a shell before finally ending his life.



Joel McCabe
1947-2005

All of us from the MPA want recognize the extraordinary efforts of Ed and Carolyn Nadeau, who stayed with, and assisted Joel and Scooter from the beginning of their ordeal to the bitter end. Joel couldn't have had better friends.

I had the privilege of getting to know Joel fairly well over the last couple of years, and came to appreciate his sense of humor, his values, his love of his wife and

family and friends. His laughter, his positivism, his optimism, and his up beat attitude were infectious – you had to feel good after spending some time with him.

As it turned out, I was able to spend several hours with Joel just a few days before his death. He was in great pain by this time, couldn't really get around without Scooter's help, and had to take pills to deal with the increasingly excruciating pain. His mind was still sharp, however, as he came to terms with the inevitable. He had said a few things that I'd like to pass on to his friends and colleagues in the Maine Powerchute Association.

Joel was policeman in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida until he retired about 5 years ago. In his work, he dealt many times with the worst of human behavior. As most experienced policemen, he grew to mistrust nearly everybody except his fellow officers. As he said, "To us, there were only two kinds of people in the world – policemen and jerks." The friends he made in the MPA – Ed, Carolyn, Curt, and many others changed his outlook – he said the warmth, the friendship, the caring, and the camaraderie he found in our flying group gave him a new, healthier, and a very joyful outlook on the world.

The second thing he wanted to pass on was more philosophical. He and Scooter had many plans with ways to spend their golden years, and they started in implementing some of them. However, like most of us, there were things that just got put off – we'll do that next month, or next year... He said he felt very lucky that he was able to get into flying when he did – it was something he always wanted to do, but there were other things that he wished he hadn't put off. And now, he will never get to them. So, *carpe diem* – seize the day! Don't put off 'till tomorrow the things in life that may bring you joy, happiness, and satisfaction, because there may not be a tomorrow.

We lost a good friend with Joel's passing. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife and family – Joel will be with us in our hearts and memories forever.



Funeral arrangements

Following Joel's wishes, there was no funeral after the cremation. Scooter said she will have a memorial picnic sometime in the spring – more to follow on that.

Other arrangements

Ed and Carolyn Nadeau have been helping Scooter with the many mundane but necessary arrangements that arise after a death – among them the disposal of his powered parachute and truck. Please contact Ed (207-726-5865) if you're interested – the plane, helmets, commo system, trailer, etc. can be bought at a very reasonable price. Same for his GMC truck.

Winter fly-ins

Bitter temperatures and wind cancelled our original Greenville fly-in date of Jan. 22nd, so here are the two scheduled events at this time:

Official MPA winter fly-in in Greenville, based at the bay in front of Kelly's Landing Motel and Restaurant – weekend of **February 13th**. If enough of us show up, we'll also have our 3rd MPA general membership meeting of our fiscal year. Call now to make reservations either at Kelly's Landing, or at the Chalet Moosehead, just across the bay in Greenville.

The second sanctioned winter event will be on China Lake, with the central meeting point at Doug Sukeforth's house on the lake. There is no direct access for our PPCs from his house, so the plan is to park at the far end of the lake and fly or drive our rigs to the front of his house. More directions to follow. The date is set for weekend of **March 4th**.

Highlight videos

For those of you who did not get a chance to see the MPA 2004 highlight video at our Christmas get-together, it is available on DVD to anyone who wants one. We have some footage from nearly all our events, with a lot of us in it. Call me at 207-852-7300, and we'll make arrangements to get one to you.