

# Maine Powerchute Association

## Newsletter

### March 2005

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

John Gobel, President 852-7300

Bonnie Micue, Secretary/Treasurer 273-2016

Ed Nadeau, Public Rel. 726-5865  
 Jim Holloway, Safety 273-4226



[www.maine-powerchutes.org](http://www.maine-powerchutes.org)

The long-awaited MPA activities and event calendar for 2005 is finally compiled – with a few caveats as you'll read later. While we know the events we'd like to have, we also include several other non-MPA sponsored events, and those boys in charge of setting up dates for these events just don't have the same sense of urgency we have, so we had to wait on them.

We should have a few more good winter flying sessions, as the lakes seem to have a fine thick layer of ice, and with all the snow we've been getting, it makes for perfect ski flying. Flying the other day in 9 below temperature, however, I did miss just a little those shorts-and-T-shirt flying days of August.

#### Upcoming events

We have two events coming up to break the winter blues, so get those skis out!

- Near the lake is a church with a big parking lot – we'll all park there
- Doug's house is only about a mile up the lake – we'll fly there

On weekend of March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> in South China, Doug Sukeforth was kind enough to invite us to fly off China Lake and to use his house as the base of activities. What that really means is that there's a place where we can get out of the cold and thaw out our frozen faces, hands, toes, and anything else that protrudes. Thank you, Doug & Rita!



Landing on a spectacular winter day on a lake in northern New Hampshire. Notice the arms frozen in the "Just shoot me now" position.

The second event is the annual Chili Cook-Off at the Wiscasset airport. The FBO staff there is very PPC-friendly, and for some reason that I can't fathom, they keep inviting the MPA back for their events.

Anyway, this is officially an FAA safety seminar for which any attendee gets real points towards your license. The topic

#### Directions:

- Get to South China, which is on Rt. 202, just north of Rt. 3
- When you get into the village, you'll see the lake

this year is "Flight Operations at Non-Towered Airports," so it certainly fits right in with our

agenda. The seminar starts at 10 AM on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, and will end by noon latest. At noon, the famous chili cook-off lunch is served.

Quite a few of the attendees fly in with their boring GA aircraft, so we try to break their boredom by flying around in our PPCs. We can fly before and after the seminar, weather permitting, of course. However, even if the weather doesn't cooperate, we can still have a good time at this event, as we did last year.

### **Doug Sukeforth sets some kind of record**

We're not sure what, but some parts of the following story about a flight that Doug made has to be certainly an MPA record, and probably nation wide as well.

As Doug tells it, he was out just observing nature, more specifically moose nature close to Mt. Katahdin . Just then, he heard voices beckoning him to keep flying towards the mountain. Since Mt. Katahdin is just over 5200 feet with usually swirling winds, he climbed to 6500 feet, got a quick winds-aloft report from his brother, and decided to fly over that beautiful terrain. He did, and took some nice pictures to prove it.

Once he was that high without the winds tearing him apart, he figured he'd just keep on climbing. He reached just over 12,00 feet when the engine would not climb any longer. His descent took 24 minutes, and covered over 9 miles as he was circling down.

In the military, the regulations state that if you fly between 10,000 and 14,000 feet you can only stay there for 1 hour without an oxygen mask. Past 14,000 feet, you must have oxygen at all times. Something about killing brain cells at those altitudes. Luckily, our Doug met the requirements and apparently did not lose more brain cells than he could afford. Which may not necessarily be a good thing, as

doing all the hairy adventures intrepid Doug does, an excess of brain cells may slow you down. Did we mention he also went bungi jumping in New Zealand?

### **Quotes from great women**

*Inside every older lady is a younger lady -- wondering what the hell happened.*  
-Cora Harvey Armstrong

*Things are going to get a lot worse before they get worse.* - Lily Tomlin

*A male gynecologist is like an auto mechanic who never owned a car.* - Carrie Snow

*Old age ain't no place for sissies.* -Bette Davis

*I try to take one day at a time -- but sometimes several days attack me at once.* -Jennifer Unli

*I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb – and I'm also not blonde.* -Dolly Parton

*If high heels were so wonderful, men would still be wearing them.* -Sue Grafton

*When women are depressed they either eat or go shopping. Men invade another country..*  
-Elayne Boosler

*Behind every successful man is a surprised woman.* -Maryon Pearson

*I am a marvelous housekeeper. Every time I leave a man, I keep his house.*  
-Zsa Zsa Gabor

*My second favorite household chore is ironing. My first being hitting my head on the top bunk bed until I faint.* -Erma Bombeck-

*Inside me lives a skinny woman crying to get out. But I can usually shut her up with cookies.*  
-Cora Harvey Armstrong



John G. is either frozen to the ground or is praying, or both

## “Chute Across Maine” – the MPA charity ride

Well, we finally figured out this year’s MPA adventure. Since the United Bikers of Maine have their toys for tots charity run, and the snowmobilers have a charity ride, and the Trek Across Maine bicyclists also generate a lot of money for charity, we got inspired. We’re going to have a similar event, but we’re going to out do them! We’re planning a flight across Maine, stopping at 10 to 15 cities and towns.

We’ll calling the event “Chute Across Maine.” The idea is that we’ll pick a worthy Maine charity, each of us flying will donate a few bucks, and at each place we stop we’ll have a little auction amongst the spectators and the winner gets a 15 minute ride (with our new Sport Pilot license, we can do that, I think). All proceeds go to charity. And, if somebody wants to go very badly but did not win the mini-lottery, he/she can pay \$50 to charity and we’ll give him/her a ride anyway.

Similar to what we did with the Kitty Hawk expedition, 3 or 4 of us will fly one leg, and at the destination, the next group of 3 or 4 will be waiting to fly the next leg. The first group can then drive to the next destination, and so on. But, unlike the Kitty Hawk trip, members don’t have to commit for a two week journey – everybody can just fly one or two legs that are near his home area.

Jim Holloway and Jerry Sukeforth are working on identifying the major cities we want to hit, and are planning the route in 30 to 40 mile legs. We’re still looking for the right charity to whom we will donate the proceeds, and who is willing to associate their name with ours – that’s the tough part! If anyone has suggestions for that, please call me at 852-7300!

The date for the start of the event is Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, and we should be able to finish it by the following Saturday or Sunday. Obviously, we’ll have to coordinate this with each airport or landing field, with the charity, with newspapers and TV stations, and with the MPA members. If you’re interested in

participating, please let me know as soon as possible so we can start the planning process.

## Sad news

NEWS FLASH! - Bethel, Maine----- Maine's worst air disaster occurred when a small two-seater Cessna 150 plane, piloted by two local Maine college students, crashed into a cemetery earlier today in Bethel.

Bethel search and rescue workers have recovered 300 bodies so far and expect the number to climb as digging continues into the evening.

The pilot and copilot survived and are helping in the recovery efforts.



The girls were not happy when told they’d have to dress warmer for winter PPC rides with us. Frostbite in the wrong spots can be devastating!

## 2005 MPA Events

The list below shows all the planned activities for this year. However, we will have several more fly-ins or other events as the year goes on, as we think of them. The events that are marked by \*\* are the ones that are MPA sanctioned, meaning that the club will pick up most of the tab for the event.

Generally, we can get to most weekend events on Friday night and sleep there. We still have to confirm the location of the Top Gun event, but it looks like it will be near Waterville (not

at Wayne's field, but close). Also, for the Lewiston Balloon Festival, we're trying to make arrangements at the airfield.

We scheduled our annual Christmas party and annual membership meeting for Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> in Bangor. This will be on a Sunday afternoon, from 3 PM to about 6 PM at Miller's Restaurant. That schedule and location worked out real well this past year, so we'll continue it (subject to change, of course).

### **2005 Fly-ins**

Feb 26-27 – Greenville, ME (Kelly's Landing)  
 Mar 5-6 – China Lake (Doug Sukeforth's)  
 Mar 19 – Chili cook-off (Wiscasset airport)  
 Apr 12-18 – Sun 'n Fun (Lakeland, FL)  
 May 7-8 – MPA Spring fly-in (Deblois) & MPA meeting  
 Jun 11-12 – Knox County A/P  
 Jul 2-4 – Eastport, ME (airport)\*\* & MPA meeting  
 Jul 9-16 – Yankee Fly-in (Greenland, NH)  
 Jul 23-24 – MPA Top Gun (TBA)\*\*  
 Jul 25-31 – EAA (Oshkosh, WI)  
 Aug 6-7 – Norridgewock, ME (airport)  
 Aug 13-21 – Chute Across Maine (MPA Charity ride)  
 Aug 19-21 – Lewiston Balloon Festival (airport)  
 Aug 27-28 – Bowman (Livermore, ME)  
 Sep 9-11 – Seaplane fly-in (Greenville, ME)  
 Sep 24-25 – Bingham (Gadabout Gaddis)  
 Oct 1-2 – Presque Isle (Paradis field)\*\*  
 Oct 8-9 – Bethel, ME Fly-in (airport)  
 Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – MPA Christmas Party & annual meeting (TBA)

### **On the lighter side – 1**

A Maine businessman received an invoice for \$20,000, but he could reduce it by 14% if he paid within a week. He was a little confused by the math, so he decided to ask his secretary for some help.

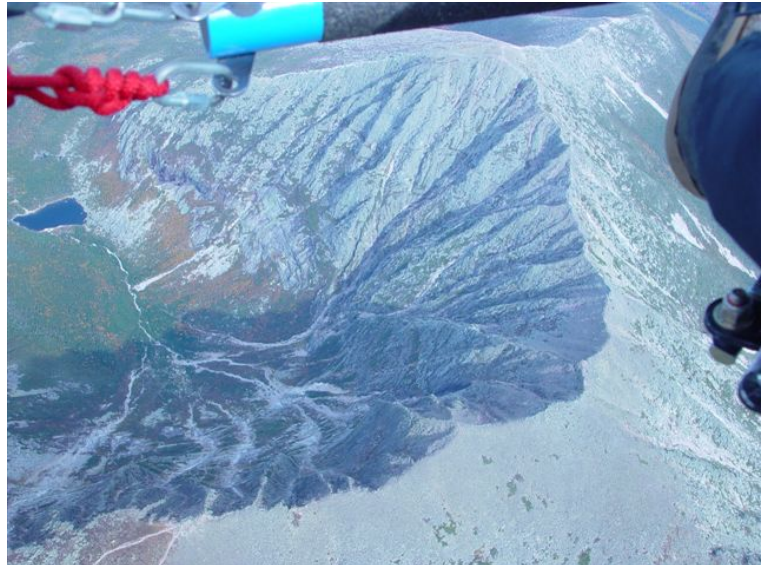
He called her into his office and said, "You graduated from the University of Maine, and I need some help. If I were to give you \$20,000, minus 14%, how much would you take off?"

The secretary thought a moment, then replied, "Everything but my earrings."

### **Public service announcement**

This is real – the annual Blackfly Breeders convention has been postponed due to weather. If any of our members belong to this worthy organization, please take note. Here's the web site if you don't believe me:

<http://www.maineblackfly.com/index.html>



Proof positive of Doug Sukeforth's over the top of Katahdin adventure – whoa, that's a long way down!

### **On the lighter side - 2**

A group of Maine friends went deer hunting and paired off in twos for the day. That night, one of the hunters returned alone, staggering under the weight of an eight-point buck.

"Where's Henry?" the others asked. "Henry had a stroke of some kind. He's a couple of miles back up the trail," the successful hunter replied.

"You left Henry laying out there and carried the deer back?" they inquired. "A tough call," nodded the hunter. "But I figured no one is going to steal Henry!"