

# Maine Powerchute Association

## Newsletter

### May 2005

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

John Gobel, President 852-7300

Bonnie Micue, Secretary/Treasurer 273-2016

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*It's getting exciting now – the days are longer, the skirts are shorter, temperatures are warmer, the grass is greener – it's just about flying season. Of course for the real men among us, the flying season never ended, but it's definitely better in the summer!*

*We don't have too much flying news to report so far, but that is all about to change with the advent of our first big fly-in of the year at Knox County airport – see page 4 for more details on a schedule change.*

*Only about 100 days to Chute Across Maine – get ready!*

[www.mainepowerchutes.org](http://www.mainepowerchutes.org)

### "Chute Across Maine" adventure

Are you ready? It's not quite Kitty Hawk, but still should be quite an adventure, since who knows what kind of weird things will happen when you get a bunch of MPA guys turned loose on a 236 mile trip?

Here's the deal. Any of our Maine Powerchute Association members can join us in a flight across Maine, raising some funds along the way for charity. Like the Bikers of Maine motorcycle group does every year (Toys for Tots, I think), and the Trek Across Maine bicycling trip for charity, and the snowmobilers also do a ride for charity.

But, those guys (and gals) are just wussies compared to what we're doing. Hell, anybody can ride a bicycle or a motorcycle or a snowmobile! Really - how boringly two dimensional! Also, those motorbikers are scary

and hairy and their butt crack shows when they sit, and the bicyclists are just tree-hugging weirdos in tights, and the snowmobilers always have their nose running, so compared to that group, we're going to look pretty damn pretty in our blue outfits, with hardly a butt crack showing anywhere!



Doug (left) and Gordon Sukeforth, (right) singing and dancing the famous Tennessee Broom Dance. After Gordon shaved, you can see the family resemblance.

We're taking off from Bethel and ending up in Eastport (missing all trees and tall buildings along the way!) – see complete route below.

At each stop, we will have notified the TV stations and newspapers ahead of time, so we think some people will

come out to see the show. Once we're there, we'll have a lottery selling chances at \$10 bucks and the winner gets an orientation ride.

Or, they can buy a ride for \$50. All proceeds go to charity. We haven't picked one yet – we have several candidates, and we'll pick one at our first organizational meeting.

We purposely picked some of the big airports to make it easy for people to come out and watch (and donate). So, here's the route:

(Start) Bethel - Lewiston - Augusta - Pittsfield - Bangor - Deblois - Machias - Eastport (end)

Our stalwart navigators Magellan Sukeforth and Columbus Holloway have planned out the route, and assure us that none of the legs are longer than 50 miles (which is still longer than my bladder limit). We will have obtained necessary clearances for all these locations – especially BANGOR – before we come tooling in there with the FAA boys waiting there tapping their tiny feet.

You're welcome to fly the whole trip or just part of it, but we want to fly as a group and come into each location one right behind the other. We'll have our first organizational meeting to get all the ground rules settled on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at high noon at the Knox County fly-in. We'll have two more meetings before the actual event, so even if you can't make the first meeting you can still join us later.

Our target date for take-off is Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Those of us who still have the blue flight suits from the Kitty Hawk adventure will wear those (provided they haven't "shrunk" across the mid-section!). If you'd like to have one for the trip, we'll take orders at the meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We'll also get a new patch – design to be decided on later.

Oh yeah – almost forgot. You'll need drivers if you're going to make the whole trip. And no, you can't have Roger – he is already reserved for me!

**Please make note**

This month's meeting of the Mid-Maine Procrastinators' Club has been again delayed until sometime later.

**Treasurer's report**

Our ace Treasurer Bonnie Micue reports that financial activity has been pretty quiet through the winter, with only the web site expenditure of \$99 hitting our books, and with some new and renewed membership dues coming in as well. So, at this point, we have \$769.28.

Bonnie also reports that some of members who have become inactive have rejoined, as they miss our Newsletter. We should really be suspicious of people like that. Kidding aside, it's good to know that there are more people out there with very low standards for entertainment. Or for friends.



This is an artist's rendition of what Ed Nadeau will be doing soon – flying circles around us in his new trike. It's good to know that some of our members still have the need for speed!

As in the past, our club funds will be used to finance part of our sanctioned

MPA fly-ins of which we have three. Also, our annual Christmas party is partially subsidized, and we cover some of the Newsletter and website expenses from the fund. We generally discuss how we want to spend our money at the general membership meetings (coming up). No, Herb's Green Monster did not come out of club funds.

### **More mysteries of life**

Why do we press harder on the remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

And finally, why do they use sterilized needles for death by lethal injection?

**Wiscasset Chili Cook-Off a success again,** although very few MPA members attended. It was suggested that maybe that's why it was a success. Anyway, every year the very powerchute-friendly FBO (Ann) of Wiscasset airport puts on this event, which combines an official FAA seminar and a chili cook-off for lunch. Along with many GA aircraft, we have flown there in the past, although this year the weather did not cooperate.

Jerry Sukeforth was our official representative, and he made points with the FAA by attending their lecture on airport protocols. He also made points with the GA community and the airport staff by consuming large quantities of chili without making any disgusting noises.

### **Joel McCabe memorial event**

As most of you know, our good friend and MPA member Joel passed away in January. Following his wishes, he was cremated and had no memorial service at the time.

Joel's wife, Helen (Scooter) made plans to have a get-together of his friends in May. So, this Memorial Day weekend, she will host a picnic & party in his memory at her house in Eastport, where we can tell stories and remember the good times we had with him. All MPA members are invited.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, or if the weather is really bad, on Sunday. As

part of the event, we're planning a powered parachute fly-over, starting at the Eastport airport, circling town, flying over her house, and then back to the airport. Anyone who wants to participate is welcome. The take-off time is yet to be determined, but our tentative target is 6 PM.



This is the only sexy picture I could find this month that somehow relates to flying. Just remember, underneath her flight suit, she's naked.

### **Planning ahead does not always pay!**

Trying to avoid the usual last minute scramble to find a location for our annual Christmas party, we thought we'd be SO smart, and reserve the same room we had last year at Miller's Restaurant early, like in February. Nice plan.

Just got a call from Donna at Miller's – she regretted to inform us that Miller's has been sold to a racino group, and all reservations have been cancelled (since the rooms won't be there, I guess that makes sense).

So, we're back in search mode – we'll start looking. We welcome any suggestions, with the proviso that it be somewhat central to our wide-flung membership. That's why we liked Bangor – our northern and downeast friends could join us more easily as well.



### **China Lake winter fly-in; limited success**

The bad part was that only two of us got to fly – by the time the other rough & tough MPA fliers finished their beauty sleep, put on their make-up, had their toast and marmalade, the wind was too gusty to fly.



Why would you fly anything else?

The good part was that nobody fell through the ice, the temperatures were a balmy 10 degrees, and had some great flying until the high winds

The best part was that we ALL got to enjoy Doug & Rita Sukeforth's hospitality in their lovely home by the lakeside. Not only were they the gracious hosts which they always are, but had made a terrific breakfast (though I think the calorie count may have fallen below our usual 4000), had a fire going for those of us trying to thaw out, and we all enjoyed a great couple of hours talking about flying and stuff, which is sometimes as good as doing it.

Thank you again, Doug & Rita!

### **Upcoming events**

Our first big fly-in of the year is scheduled for the weekend of May 7 & 8 at Knox County airport (Owls Head). Although we've flown out of there quite often, this is our first real fly-in, with overnight camping and campfires and the usual stuff.

The owner of the big hangar (that's probably not its official name) was kind enough to let us use his facility, so even if it rains we can party inside his hangar. We'll be flying from the grass strip adjoining runway 21. We'll post signs for any of you who have not been there before (although even if you've been there, you can still read the signs)

The **only** little tricky thing about Knox County is that it is also a commercial airport, with some pretty big jets flying in & out from there every now and then. Running into one of those boys, or even into its wake turbulence will probably ruin your whole day. But, the way our pattern is set up, we should be well clear of the main runway which they use. However, we'll have some pilot briefings before we fly anyway.

For you spring-flying rookies, you definitely want to bring some warm clothes – flying early mornings in May can cause some very vital parts of your body to fall off if not covered in enough clothing.

Jerry Sukeforth made most of the arrangements for this event, so thank you, Jerry!

In addition to the flying, we're also going to have a planning meeting for our Chute Across Maine adventure at noon on Saturday, and a brief general membership meeting if enough people are awake by then.

### **Please note the change in our schedule**

The Knox County fly-in was originally scheduled for June 4 & 5, and Deblois was scheduled for May 7 & 8. WE HAVE SWITCHED THOSE TWO AROUND, so please make that change to your MPA fly-in schedule.

After the Knox County event, we'll be headed to Deblois on June 4 & 5, which I'm told by some of our more nature sensitive members that the blueberry fields should be pretty spectacular by then. I'm also told by some of the folks that froze last May that June should be a much better time of the year in Deblois.

### **Disclaimer**

No laboratory animals or human brain cells were used in the production of this Newsletter.