

Maine Powerchute Association

Newsletter

June 2005

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



www.maine-powerchutes.org

Wow – it's June already. The urge to fly rises as we get into the thick of the flying season (and of course, the black fly season, the mosquito season, the sunburn season, etc), so if any of you have not got the cobwebs and dust off your planes yet, let's get on the stick!

We have a bunch of flying events and adventures coming up – it should be fun season. We have more and more people inquiring about and getting into our sport, so that'll give us an opportunity to meet some new friends, to discover some new flying areas, and to learn.

John Gobel, President 852-7300
Bonnie Micue, Secretary/Treasurer 273-2016
Jim Holloway, Safety 273-4226
Ed Nadeau, Public Rel. 726-5865

Correction 1

In the May Newsletter, we gave credit to Jerry Sukeforth for setting up the Knox County fly-in. Well, as it turns out, Jerry did have a significant role in that event, but most of the work was done by Jim Holloway and his lovely wife Shirley. So even though we got rained out, we thank you anyway for all the work – hopefully we can get down there later in the summer.

Correction 2

Well, it's too late, but here's the correction anyway – the May Newsletter made reference to the switching of the Knox County fly-in date with the Deblois date, which should have been June 11 & 12. However, the Newsletter said June 4 & 5, so many of you showed up on June 4 & 5. So I guess no Deblois on June 11 & 12 – sorry about all that!

Correction 3

In 1492, Christopher Columbus landed in what he thought was India, and he named all the natives Indians. It was NOT India. We just think it needed to be corrected.



The PPC version of the "missing man formation," at Eastport for Joel's Memorial Celebration.

Dues due once again

How time flies – it seems like only yesterday when we put out our annual dire warning about what happens in you don't pay your annual MPA dues by June 30th. It's still only \$20 cheap – that's less than 8 gallons of diesel fuel,

and less than 13 bottles of water, and about 3 million dollars less than a Lear jet.

Anyway, please send your \$20 to Bonnie Micue at P.O.Box 13, Warren, ME 04864. Otherwise, this could be your last Newsletter. Yes, it does sound like a win-win situation, save \$20 AND get rid of the Newsletter, but where else could you find out what your fellow MPA deviates are doing, along with risqué pictures, lame humor, upcoming events (with dates that are sometimes accurate), and occasionally some really useful information. That last one hasn't happened in many years, but it could!

Ed is back!

As you may remember, one of our stalwart members Ed Nadeau went off to Indiana for a lengthy training course in trikes, as the "need for speed" still lingered in his soul – most of us "older" pilots got rid of that long ago. Anyway, Ed finished with honors, was the valedictorian of his class, and is now ready to fly circles around us in his sparkling Astra trike and brand new training. He'll be doing 60 and 70 – definitely too fast to hit trees.

The Knox County non-fly-in

It was shaping up like an excellent new venue for us – a pretty big event right in our own backyard at the Knox County airport. Quite a bit of preparation went into by Jim and Jerry, but unfortunately, it rained all weekend so it never happened.

We are considering taking the whole event as planned and moving it back sometime later this summer – we have several open weekends. Stay tuned.

Chute Across Maine & Camp Sunshine

We have finally decided on a charity to whom we will donate any proceeds from our charity ride across Maine – Camp Sunshine.

Camp Sunshine is a retreat for children with life threatening illnesses and for their families. From their mission statement, "At Camp Sunshine, we work to restore some of the fabric

of the family by providing happy memories and the opportunity to develop coping skills."

The camp is located in Casco Bay, and offers professional counseling, workshops, recreational opportunities, and on-site, 24 hour medical support for families. There is no charge to participating families.

Since we were looking for some worthy Maine based charity organization if possible, the choice of Camp Sunshine seemed like a perfect fit. I contacted them, and they were very happy to participate in this venture with us, and even to associate their name with us! That was a big surprise – obviously, they didn't do their homework.



The MPA cheerleading squad practicing for the send-off celebration of our Chute Across Maine adventure in August.

Meeting set for Chute Across Maine

Our trip is planned to start August 13th from Bethel, ME, and end a week or so later in Eastport, ME with 8 stops along the way. Obviously, weather may impact the start, end, or duration of our trip, but we adjust quickly.

We will have a final coordination meeting of all members who'd like to participate for the full trip, or even for part of it. Obviously, while this is not a high precision military exercise, we still do need to stay coordinated, safe, professional, and organized. We also need to finalize our itinerary, departure times, advertisements, and dozens of other details.

At this time, that meeting is set for Sunday, June 19th at 4 PM at Jerry Sukeforth's house in Warren, ME – on Rt. 1 – you can't miss it. If you do, call him for directions at 691-3800. We'll go over all aspects of the trip, and should be able to address all details in one meeting so that we shouldn't have to meet again until our take-off at Bethel on August 13th.

Joel McCabe memorial event

Ellen (Scooter) McCabe, Joel's widow held a lovely memorial event for her recently deceased husband and our good flying buddy Joel, on Memorial Day weekend Sunday. Many of their fiends from the area, and quite a few of our MPA members showed up, and the weather obliged by staying dry throughout most of the event.

The weather was forecast to be sort of iffy for most of the day, so only two of our more optimistic members brought their planes for the planned fly-over. As it turned out, right around 3 PM it got calm and sort of dry, so Curt Turner and John Gobel took off from Eastport airport, flew a couple of low circles over Ellen's house, did the PPC version of the missing man formation (chutes flying one over the other), and returned to the airport before the weather got bad again.

The effort was well received by Ellen – she said she was very touched by both the number of his friends who showed up and by the fly-over. She said it brought back many happy memories for her. Thanks to all who participated!

Late bulletin

The Procrastinators' Club of Maine, to which many of our members belong, wishes to announce that their monthly meeting

originally scheduled for June 13th has been postponed until sometime later this month or maybe next. Thank you.

Art Willard hanging in there

One of our long-time members and probably the most experienced powered parachutist in New England, Art Willard has been diagnosed with lung cancer a number of months ago, and has undergone a series of treatments with little positive results. However, in speaking with his lovely wife Dot recently, she said that Art is "hanging in there," and fighting to the best of his ability. Good luck to both of you, Art and Dot – our hopes and prayers are with you.

A new mini-adventure

As the MPA reputation grows throughout the state, or maybe in spite of the MPA reputation growing throughout the state, we have been asked quite often lately to introduce the sport to people who are intrigued by the kind of flying we do. Here's a request which sounds like fun – anyone interested in participating should contact me, John Gobel at 852-7300.

The St. Dominic Aviation Camp, operating out of the Lewiston airport has asked us to be the highlight event of their week-long camp for kids interested in all forms of aviation. The date is Friday, July 1st. We're asked to demonstrate PPC flying, talk a little about the principles of it, and possibly give an instructional flight or two to their top students – they will have a contest throughout the week to determine the winner(s). I believe the first prize is a 10 minute ride, and second prize is a 20 minute ride.

We're still negotiating the time, but obviously we'd be safer if it were in the morning, but we could get lucky.

It would be nice if we could set up a static display, and to also have 3 or 4 chutes do some flying stuff, that is go through our usual captivating array of flying stunts – you know, left turn, right turn, climb, descend, and other equally breathtaking maneuvers.

Please let me know if you're interested, and we'll coordinate the details. We're committed to have at least one plane there, flying if possible, static if the weather doesn't want to play nice.

Deblois fly-in successful

In spite of the screw-up of the dates (I take full responsibility), a large number of our members made it out to Deblois, which is one of our favorite venues. Saturday was quite flyable, and everybody had a good time. Since I couldn't make it there, I can't do my usual coloring in the telling of flying adventures or episodes. I must be getting soft – that never stopped me before!

Anyway, several MPA members took some nice pictures, which are attached – maybe you can make up your own story from the pictures.

Again, we'll probably do another trip to Deblois later in the summer, even though it's not on our schedule – we'll do it through the usual phone tree or possibly put it in the next Newsletter.

Next event - Hampden

This one didn't make it onto our official published schedule, but it is on the web. Last year, we were invited to the EAA chapter's fly-in at Hampden, and the event was a big success with lots of MPA members attending. We even got to see our own Scott Adair demo his back-pack flying machine, and win the coveted "You Amuse Me" award of our annual Christmas highlight video.

So this year, Jeremy Williams who is coordinating this event invited us back (obviously he is our kind of guy – has very low standards!) The event is scheduled to start Friday, June 24th and run through Sunday, June 26th in Hampden. Best way to get there is Exit 174 off I95, go east on Rt. 69, and the airfield is on your left on Rt. 69, just about a mile past where 69 intersects Rt. 9/202.

As part of the activities, there will be a thorough briefing on all the puzzles of the new Sport Pilot rules and the Light Sport Aircraft certifications, etc. This will impact us all pretty soon, so it really would be great to get the authoritative information on these issues. In addition, Jeremy is planning to do the HUGE bon fire like he had last year on Saturday night. Bring huge marshmallows, and a really loong stick.

The strip is a 2500' grass runway, and we can camp along side of like we did last year.

Officer elections again

Our next major event and official MPA meeting will be held on July 2 – 4 in Eastport at the fly-in - see next article. At that fly-in, we need to do our annual election of our 4 officers – Safety



Scene from Deblois by Charles Beck. He violated rule #1 of MPA photography – never take a picture for which no funny caption is possible.

Officer, Public Relations Officer, Treasurer Secretary, and President. The meeting is scheduled for noon on Saturday, July 2nd, with a rain date of noon on Sunday, July 3rd.

Any MPA member can be nominated at the meeting, or if you want to send a note ahead of time nominating an individual, he/she will be put on the ballot. We can elect a person even though he or she is not there, so it's in your interest to attend so you can defend yourself!

Eastport July4th Fly-in

The big annual event of Eastport is their July4th celebrations. Most of the time the Governor, US Senators, navy ships, etc. attend. For the last several years, we have been one of the highlights of the event, and it has become one of our favorite outings.

Ed Nadeau has done his usual superb job in coordinating our participation with the local authorities, so we can camp out at the airport, do our usual camp fires, and generally be welcome. Eastport, by the way, is one of the most PPC-friendly towns we've seen!

So, plan on coming over Friday night or Saturday July 1st or 2nd, and stay for the duration – lots of stuff to do, and some beautiful flying in that region.

A lesson for pilots too

First year students at a medical school were receiving their first anatomy class with a real cadaver. They all gathered around the surgery table with the body covered in a white sheet.

The professor started the class by telling them “In medicine, it is necessary to have two important qualities if you're going to be a doctor. The first is that you must not be disgusted by anything involving the human body.”

To illustrate, the professor pulled back the sheet, stuck his finger in the butt of the corpse, withdrew it, and stuck it in his mouth. “Go ahead and do the same thing,” he told his students.

The students freaked out, hesitated for several minutes, but eventually took turns sticking a finger in the butt of the dead body and sucking on it. When everyone was finished, the professor looked at them calmly and said:

“The second most important quality is observation. I stuck in my middle finger and sucked on my index finger. Now learn to pay attention to detail!”

New Members

We welcome two more new members, and welcome back an old one (not age wise, of course, but as in previous membership). Yes, we continue to defy the odds – must be the solar flare activity that's affecting people in a weird way.

Anyway, welcome to Robert Scheurer from Pownal, Maine. Robert is an experienced pilot with an FAA Commercial ticket, but apparently no PPC experience, so he's in for a treat. Also, no PPC experience probably means he hasn't met most of us, so he's in for a double treat. Run!

We also welcome new member Steven Goulet from Greene, Maine. Steven has very little flight experience, so he should do fine in a PPC – hope to see you at some of our upcoming events! Thanks for joining, but we have to ask the standard newbie question – what were you thinking?

Back in the fold are Paul Melanson and Rita Perrault, who are re-joining our merry little group – I guess the withdrawal symptoms from not getting the trashy Newsletter and not hanging out with a bunch of overweight but cool guys was just too much to bear. Anyway, welcome back, and hope to see you both soon!

Guys' Rules (tnx to SR)

We all have read women's rules for guys, so here are some rules for women from the guys. Note to guys: You may have to explain what some of these mean to your loved one, if you're foolish enough to actually let them read this Newsletter! By the way, please note that all the rules are numbered as #1!

1. Learn to work the toilet seat. You're a big girl. If it's up, put it down. We need it up, you need it down. You don't hear us complaining about you leaving it down.

1. Shopping is NOT a sport. And no, we are never going to think of it that way.

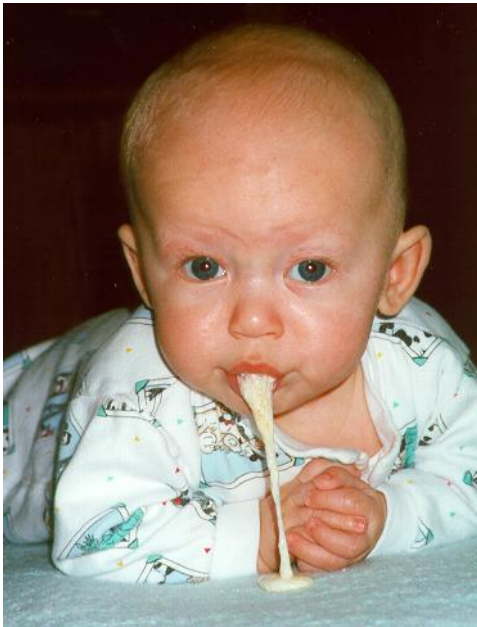
1. Crying is blackmail.

1. Ask for what you want. Let us be clear on this one:

Subtle hints do not work!
Strong hints do not work!
Obvious hints do not work!
Just say it!

1. Yes and No are perfectly acceptable answers to almost every question.

1. Come to us with a problem only if you want help solving it. That's what we do. Sympathy is what your girlfriends are for.



This is what typically happens when you leave a copy of the Newsletter anywhere near your child.

1. A headache that lasts for 17 months is a problem. See a doctor.

1. Anything we said 6 months ago is inadmissible in an argument. In fact, all comments become null and void after 7 days.

1. If you won't dress like the Victoria's Secret girls, don't expect us to act like soap opera guys.

1. If you think you're fat, you probably are. Don't ask us!

1. If something we said can be interpreted two ways and one of the ways makes you sad or angry, we meant the other one.

1. You can either ask us to do something or tell us how you want it done. Not both. If you already know best how to do it, just do it yourself.

1. Whenever possible, please say whatever you have to say during commercials.

1. Christopher Columbus did not need directions and neither do we.

1. ALL men see in only 16 colors, like Windows default settings. Peach, for example, is a fruit, not a color. Pumpkin is also a fruit. We have no idea what mauve is.

1. If it itches, it will be scratched. We do that.

1. If we ask what is wrong and you say "nothing," we will act like nothing's wrong. We know you are lying, but it is just not worth the hassle.

1. If you ask a question you don't want an answer to, expect an answer you don't want to hear.

1. When we have to go somewhere, absolutely anything you wear is fine ... Really.

1. Don't ask us what we're thinking about unless you are prepared to discuss such topics as sports, the weather, or hunting.

1. You have enough clothes and you have too many shoes.

1. I am in shape. Round is a shape.

1. Thank you for reading this. Yes, I know, I have to sleep on the couch tonight; but did you know men really don't mind that? It's like camping.



This Newsletter has been officially approved by the Paris Hilton Standards Board