

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

Maine Powerchute Association Newsletter

www.mainepowerchutes.org

February 2006

MPA Christmas party big success

With the largest turnout of our members in memory, a good time was had by all at our annual event. We tried a new place – Jeff's Catering in Bangor, and it suited our purpose very well. The location seemed to be fairly central, the food and service were great, and the facility itself was just right for a group our size.

This year, we did not have the stripper in a Santa outfit popping out of the Christmas fruitcake (oh, you missed that last year??), so it was a little quieter than usual, but it was great to catch up with old friends (since that's the only kind we have in the MPA – OLD!). Because most of us haven't flown for a month or longer at that time of the year, it was fun to at least talk some flying.

We had the usual video highlight tape (DVD, actually – keeping up with technology), which included about 10 minutes of our Chute Across Maine trip, and a bunch of other stuff from our many events last year. Fortunately or unfortunately depending on your point of view, we did not have any really funny screw-ups captured on tape this year, so our "You Amuse Me" section of the presentation was somewhat mild – Herb covering Jerry's plane with his chute, and Jerry doing his usual antics with his high-performance, low-predictability chute.

Anyway, the show had a lot of us in it, along with the usual pretty aerial footage and scenery that we all enjoy so much, and it was well received. We had 15 extra copies of it, and all were snapped up at the end.

By the way, if you're interested in getting a DVD of the Highlight Video for 2005, call me or e-mail me and I'll send you one. jgobel@northwaybank.com or 207-852-7300.

Ed Nadeau's lovely and talented wife Carolyn was kind enough to make some gifts for the club officers and some others who have done a lot to make our club a fun place to hang out – thanks, Carolyn!



Landing on thin ice and a little snow – notice fingers crossed on both hands inside the mittens.

Treasurer's report

Our treasurer/secretary extraordinaire Bonnie Micue gave a report at our Christmas party and annual meeting, and here are the highlights for the year 2005:

Balance at beginning of the year:	749.28
Dues paid to MPA:	880.00
Total assets:	<u>\$1,629.28</u>

Less expenses:	
Gifts to Fly-ins, etc	347.00
Christmas party	420.11
Rental fees	106.00
Supplies:	9.00
Website registration	100.00
Total expenses:	<u>\$982.11</u>

Balance at year-end: **\$647.17**

So once again, due to Bonnie's diligence, the club is still in good financial shape. We don't have any serious outstanding obligations, so we're sending Bonnie to Las Vegas to try to double our money so we don't have to pay the club dues come June.

Death spirals – fun but fatal

From our ace reporter from Florida (Scott A.) comes this clipping from Belgium:

“A PPC pilot with a passenger aboard was flying at an altitude of 1500 feet and performed a continuous spiral maneuver. After several spirals, the extreme G-forces he encountered caused the pilot to lose consciousness, and the craft hit the ground at the speed of about 80 feet per second sink rate. Both were killed instantly.”

Most of us have done a little bit of spiraling, but it's generally too scary so we just stop it pretty quickly. However, if you're ever tempted to see how many you can do, read the clipping again...

By the way, this constitutes our safety message for the month. That, plus the always good advice “Don't deep-fry in the nude!”

Sport Pilot, Aircraft certification and other unpleasant things to do...

We only have 11 months before we have to transition to the new FAA rules for two-seater ultralights, so this is a good time to start the process. Actually, it's a good time to be in the middle of the process, or to have finished the process, but...

Luckily, we have several of our more responsible and alert members who have actually done both the licensing process and the Light Sport Aircraft (LSA) certification process, so we can draw on their expertise.

We even have our own Peter Wallace signed off to give us check rides, and Randy Autrey to give us knowledge on how to register your plane, and Ed Nadeau to talk about any of that stuff. Also, congratulations to Carroll Werrin, who just completed his Sport Pilot process.



To motivate people to get their Sport Pilot licenses, the FAA hired this lady to give the check rides.

We're thinking of setting up a serious meeting at which we can review the steps needed for both processes in detail. We'd invite some FAA expert (if there is such a creature), as well as some of our own MPA guys who have gone through the process. Maybe late March would be a good time. Let me know if you're interested.

Procrastinators Club membership drive

The club officers asked us to run this notice: “We know you've been meaning to join, but you've kept putting it off. That makes you OUR KIND OF GUY! Sign up now! Of course, if you do, you're no longer a procrastinator, so we don't want you.”

Tentative fly-in schedule for 2006

The following is probably pretty close to the actual – a few of the people organizing the events have not finalized their dates, but based on previous dates for their events, this is the likely schedule.

Feb 4 or 5 - Winthrop Lake (whichever day has better weather)
 Feb 11 or 12 – China Lake, ME (Doug Sukeforth's) (same as above)
 Mar 4-5 – Greenville, ME (Kelly's Landing)
 Mar 18 – Chili cook-off (Wiscasset airport)
 Apr 11-17 – Sun 'n Fun (Lakeland, FL)
 May 6-7 – Knox County A/P & **MPA Meeting**
 Jun 10-11 – MPA Spring fly-in (Deblois)
 Jun 24-25 – Hampden (J. Williams field)
 Jul 1-4 – Eastport, ME (airport) & **MPA meeting**
 Jul 8-15 – Yankee Fly-in (Greenland, NH)
 Jul 22-23 – MPA Top Gun (TBA)
 Jul 24-30 – EAA (Oshkosh, WI)
 Aug 5-6 – Norridgewock, ME (airport)
 Aug 12-20 – Chute Across Maine (MPA Charity ride)
 Aug 18-20 – Lewiston Balloon Festival (airport)
 Aug 26-27 – Bowman (Livermore, ME)
 Sep 8-10 – Seaplane fly-in (Greenville, ME)
 Sep 23-24 – Bingham (Gadabout Gaddis) & **MPA meeting**
 Sep 30- 10/1 – Presque Isle (Cyr field)
 Oct 7-8 – Bethel, ME Fly-in (airport)
 Dec 17th – MPA Christmas Party & **MPA annual meeting** (Bangor)

Next events

The next three events are strictly winter fly-ins off frozen lakes, so if you're a wus, (or if you have a brain) don't read any further. Just kidding – winter flying is terrific!

Better directions to these sites can be found on our web site.

Winthrop

Either Saturday Feb. 4th or Sunday Feb. 5th, depending on the weather, we'll try to do some serious flying off Winthrop Lake. We had some good times there in the past, with many of the locals coming out to watch, with hardly a shotgun or baseball bat amongst them.

Best way to get there is take Rt 11 out of Augusta for about 7 miles, then right onto Rt. 133. It's less than a mile on the right – there is a large parking lot at the end of the lake.

China Lake

The event after that is at China Lake on either Feb. 11th or Feb 12th, again depending on the weather (with Saturday being the primary choice). To get onto the lake, park in the church parking lot, then cross the street. Doug and his lovely and talented wife Rita were foolish enough – no, I mean kind enough- to invite us to their house on the lake for breakfast after flying.

To get there, follow Rt. 202 from Augusta or from anywhere until you see the lake, then look for the white steeple of the church. Or call Doug

at 207-649-6160, or 968-2100 if you get lost.

Greenville

On the weekend of March 4th & 5th, we'll be at Greenville flying off Moosehead Lake from Kelly's Landing restaurant. That's usually an excellent place, as you can sit in the warm restaurant all day and watch the morons flying in zero degree temperatures outside. We do get a lot of attention there too from all the snowmobilers and ice fishermen.

The easy way to get there is to follow the map to Greenville, then ask anybody how to get to Kelly's Landing. Of course since we're real men, we don't ask directions, so sort of go straight on Rt. 6 and you'll find it.

Oh yes, don't forget your skis. And lots of warm clothes. Also, call well ahead of time if you want to stay at the motel at Kelly's Landing, since they only have about 6 or 7 rooms. Our other alternative is Chalet Moosehead, which is close to Kelly's Landing.

Wiscasset

On March 18th, the FBOs at Wiscasset airport are holding their annual Chili cook-off and powered parachute fly-in. We fly in the morning (no lakes here), then there's a seminar at 10 AM (this year it's given by the Garmin people on GPS technology and usage), then a great chili lunch at noon, then more flying.

Ordinarily, many GA aircraft fly into this event since there's generally an FAA safety seminar, but we're usually the stars of the show since the GA pilots can't figure out why we'd want to fly without heaters. Also, our hostess Anne is a terrific and fun lady.

Follow Rt. 1 to get to Wiscasset, then follow the sign to the airport. Or watch the sky and follow the airplanes.

MPA Wisdom Quotes

The difference between the Pope and your boss... the Pope only expects you to kiss his ring.

I hate sex in the movies. Tried it once. The seat folded up, the drink spilled and that ice, well, it really chilled the mood.

A husband is someone who, after taking the trash out, gives the impression that he just cleaned the whole house.

I'm so depressed. My doctor refused to write me a prescription for Viagra. He said it would be like putting a new flagpole on a condemned building.

Disclaimer

We certify that no child labor from Malaysia was used in the production of this Newsletter. (If it were used, it would have been much better.)

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