

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

Maine Powerchute Association

Newsletter

www.maine-powerchutes.org

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Super Short Special Edition

Good news – the FAA still rules the skies

OK –maybe it's not the best news you've heard today. But, using the philosophy that if you can't beat them, join them, we have invited one of their cooler members to give us all the answers regarding the Sport Pilot rating and the Light Sport Aircraft certification process.

As we mentioned in previous Newsletters (get them out from the bottom of your bird cage, and you'll see I'm right!), a few of our members have actually gone through the process, and now have a perfectly legal, "N" numbered aircraft and are flying with a real FAA pilot license with a Sport Pilot rating.

For these brave MPA members, the process was painful, lengthy, and confusing (a little like a wedding ceremony), but in the end, it was all worth it (unlike a wedding ceremony). As they look back however, it really wasn't that complicated, but what made it seem so was the fact that there was no step-by-step guidance available, so they had to do a lot of trial and error navigation through the labyrinth of unclear rules and procedures.

But now, we have put together a rather simple set of steps we need to follow to reach this nirvana of FAA-legal status. We have also made copies of the various forms you'll need to fill in and mail to various agencies. And best of all, we've set up a meeting so we can review all that and clarify any confusing points.

Thanks to Randy Autrey and his smooth and persuasive personality, we found an FAA person who actually seems to understand the rules as they apply specifically to powered parachutes. He will be at our meeting as the authoritarian resource. Randy has also volunteered to take us through the step-by-step checklist. We're also recruiting Ed and Peter – stand by.

The meeting is set up for Saturday, April 8th, at the Holiday Inn in Bangor from 1 to 4 PM. Lunch is served at 1:00, followed by the meeting around 1:45 or so. To get to the Holiday Inn, take exit 182 B off the Maine Turnpike, and it's right there (next to Dunkin Donuts).

So, you ask, why should I bother with this? Well, besides being able to see your old buddies, being able to tell far-fetched flying stories, and being able to get of the house, you'll also be taking a BIG BIG step towards being the proud owner of a real FAA pilot license, and having pretty much the same privileges as an airline pilot flying a 747. OK, that's stretching it a bit, but not too far.

I know that some of our members are choosing to say "screw it," it's too much trouble, but if you're one of those, you should really reconsider it. First of all, it's not nearly as difficult as it seems. Secondly, if you don't do it, you're flying illegally, which is treated by law enforcement no differently than you going down to the airport, getting in one of the

Cessnas on the ramp, and flying it without a license or without training. Not smart.

Realistically, you'll be able to get away with it for a long time, maybe forever, but if anything happens, our two-seaters are now considered real airplanes ("N" number, remember) so there will be an investigation like with any other aircraft accident or incident. Fines, maybe a police record, bad publicity for the MPA and for you personally. Not a pretty picture.

So, I hope to see many of you there – you'll be pleasantly surprised. And the lunch will be good.

More logic defying events

Welcome to our newest MPA member, James MacLeay from Morristown, TN. Yes, that's Tennessee. We now have members in 5 states – yes, there are weird people in states other than Maine. James is an experienced pilot, logging hours in many different fixed winged and PPC aircraft, with over 40 years of flying behind him.

So James, we ask the question we ask of all our new members – you seem like a mature, intelligent guy – what were you thinking? Maybe proximity to the Jim Beam distillery affected your judgment?

Movie review

We recommend seeing the highly acclaimed western movie Brokeback Mountain– it is a well done, sensitive love story that won several Academy awards. It's also the first cowboy movie where the good guy gets it in the end.

Greenville, China Lake winter fly-ins are a big success.

Let's start with China Lake fly-in. Only two things were wrong with it – one, it wasn't at China Lake (too much open water) and was moved to South Pond, and two, only one person actually flew (too cold and windy, according to the wussies). However five showed up for the

usual MPA 4000 calorie breakfast, so it counts as a successful fly-in.

So on to the Greenville fly-in. Only two things wrong with that one. First, it wasn't at Greenville (high, high winds) and was moved to Lake Umbagog on the Maine-NH border. Secondly, only one person showed up, and he flew backwards for five minutes on Saturday, and then had a long flight moving slightly forward and then backward on Sunday for at least 15 minutes. Two people showed up for breakfast, so again, a successful winter fly-in.



We had so much interest in the lady FAA examiner we featured last month that she recruited a friend to help out with the bigger than expected load. Here she is.

Unfortunately, this winter has been awful for flying – unreliable ice, very little snow cover, and unusually high winds. Well, we still have at least another month, so maybe we'll get lucky for those of us into self-torture.

Ladies Corner

When Dan found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed a woman to enjoy it with.

So one evening he went to a singles bar where he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her beauty took his breath away.

"I may look like just an ordinary man," he said as he walked up to her. "But in just a week or two, my father will die, and I'll inherit 20 million dollars."

Impressed, the woman went home with him that evening and, three days later, she became his stepmother.

Women are so much smarter than men.

Next Event

Chili cook-off and seminar at Wiscasset airport, March 18th, Saturday. Flying in the morning if the weather is good. Fun little event.