

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

Maine Powerchute Association

Newsletter

April 1, 2006

www.maine-powerchutes.org

The streak continues

Our fourth event of the year didn't want to be the one to break our streak of cancellations or modifications due to really bad weather. The Wiscasset chili cook-off event was actually quite pleasant and fun as usual, but once again, we were not able to do any flying because of high winds.

Usually, we show up all the general aviation pilots by flying in the cold March weather without the sissy heaters and windshields that they have, and we usually do it in just a T-shirt (the really hairy MPA guys fly even without a shirt – yuck!). However, this time they got the better of us as they flew away after the meeting while we had to drive.

Anyway, about 3 or 4 of our near-by members attended, and a good time was had by all. And no frostbitten nipples this year. Ouch!



To cross over the snow covered mountains of New Hampshire, you have to get some serious altitude and have to strip to your underwear

People in Aviation news

Motion picture and television actor William Shatner was arrested upon arrival at Los Angeles airport over the weekend after discharging a .38 caliber revolver out of his passenger side window. Shatner was traveling in coach on United flight 133 flying on a discount ticket from Priceline.com.

The aircraft was escorted by two F16s of the 101st Fighter Wing after the captain announced that a passenger had gone crazy and started firing at imaginary creatures that were “messing around on the wing.”

Upon landing, Shatner was subdued by paramedics and a SWAT team. “They were out there, I tell ya!” he screamed, “They were going to kill us all – why won't you believe me?”

Chute Across Maine preparations

Since time flies like an arrow (and fruit flies like a banana), it's not too soon to start thinking about clearing your calendar for this event if you'd like to join the elite and adventuresome group flying from Bethel to Eastport.

We will be starting at Bethel on August 12th (Saturday), and arriving in Eastport on the 19th. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we're still stick to our schedule, as there will be people waiting for us at each site on the dates we promised, so we'll just drive there if we have to. True, it's not quite as dramatic an arrival.

We learned a few lessons during last year's trip, so we're doing it a little better this year. Which means we'll be a little better organized, with a

serious flight planning and briefing before each leg. Radios are a must, and GPS is highly recommended. Our blue flight suits are the standard flying attire – call me if you need to get one. We’re also having one big meeting with all the pilots who want to participate about a month before the event.

We’ll be raising funds for Camp Sunshine, which is a very worthy charity which cares for children with life-threatening diseases. We’ll be accepting donations from the public, and we’ll be providing them with introductory flights (i.e. lessons for those of you without the Sport Pilot licenses).

Since our flying schedule is not too strenuous, (we fly one leg of 30 to 40 miles per day, plus generally about 3 to 5 intro rides per person, each of about 15 minutes), we treat this as a nice vacation – hanging around the camp most of the day, with campfire at night. Bring a wife, a girlfriend, a friend, a child – whoever you can stand for a week, and who can also drive your rig from one airport to the other while you’re flying, and who can also stand you for a week (or knows how to get home on his/her own in case a week proves to be too much).

Anyway, clear your schedule for that period, and we’ll all have a great time again. Also, let me know via e-mail or phone if you’re definitely planning on participating. (That’s a little joke, since no MPA member ever commits to anything until like the day before.)



Some have said that this Newsletter needs to be cleaner, so we’re running a bathing scene to show our dedication to cleanliness

Treasurer’s report

Once again, our Secretary/Treasurer Bonnie Micue has done a superb job in keeping our finances under control and in the black, so here’s her report for April.

Opening balance	\$647
(from last report)	
Plus	
2 new members	\$40
Less	
Web site renewals	\$159
Jewelry for Bonnie	\$528
Closing balance	\$0



Here are a couple of typical people who want to get orientation rides during our Chute Across Maine event. We give discounts to twins.

New members

Continuing our streak of defying the odds and common sense, we somehow attracted two more members to our jolly organization. What has happened to good taste, clear thinking, and imagination? You guys really couldn’t think of better uses for twenty bucks?

Anyway, we welcome Paul Ferland from Hondo, Texas – yes, Texas. With Paul, we now have members in 6 states. Hope we get to meet you at one of our many upcoming fly-ins, or at our *Chute Across Maine* event. We have this problem with all new members, so we need to remind you, Paul, of the small print on your application – no refunds after you meet some of our members.

Our second new member this month is a lady from Washington, DC according to her membership application. She is some kind of secretary, and said that she joined because she is tired of dealing with intelligent, interesting, and powerful men all the time and needed a drastic change of pace. Hey – that may be an insult! But anyway, we welcome Condoleezza Rice – she is eager to learn to fly to get a break from all those boring and mind-numbing secretarial duties like filing, copying, etc.

Next events

Don't forget the FAA briefing on Saturday, April 8th at 1:00 PM, just for us PPC types (all right, we'll let a few trike drivers in also). They will take us on a simplified guided tour of the road to getting your Sport Pilot FAA ticket, and certifying your aircraft as a Light Sport Aircraft with a real "N" number on the tail (if we had a tail – maybe on the outriggers?) The event is at the Holiday Inn in Bangor, right off exit 182B of Interstate 95.

The annual Sun 'n Fun in Lakeland, FL runs from April 11 through 17 – a fun event if you haven't been there before – a little tedious if you have. Definitely not a great PPC flying opportunity – they allocate a small window of time each day in a small area for the PPCs. Still, a lot of guys do fly there. And many of the PPC manufacturers set up their booths, so it's a good opportunity to see where your money is going to be spent in the near future.

The event after that is a PPC-only fly-in at Knox County airport in Owls Head. Jim Holloway has an admirer who owns a huge hangar near runway 21, and he was gracious enough to let us use his property as our base.

This is a new event for us, as we got rained out last year. It's an excellent venue, with many good flying areas nearby. And for extra fun, we can buzz Jerry Sukee's house and neighbors who already love Jerry more than he can take. It is slated for the weekend of May 6th & 7th – sleep over Friday and Saturday nights.

We have also scheduled an official MPA general membership meeting for Saturday, since that location is relatively close for many of our members. Bring any ideas for adventures, practical jokes, new member initiation sillinesses, or if you haven't got any of those, bring ideas for safer flying, better machine maintenance, or any of those boring serious topics.

Procrastinators' Club Update

The April meeting of the Club is the most important one of the year, with President Clinton being the keynote speaker, and with former intern Monica Lewinsky giving the rebuttal. Unfortunately, we didn't get the hall in time, so we have to postpone it. Hope somebody remembers to tell our important guests about the change...



Last winter picture for the year. Flying is dangerous, so a little prayer before engine start can't hurt.

More aviation news from AVweb.com

Inspired by Airline Pilots Association's (ALPA) initiative to sponsor a "Take Your Daughter to Work" day and by the movie "Iron Eagle," pilots of a Utah Air National Guard F-16 fighter squadron known as "The Flying Moroni" have begun a "Take Your Child On A Live-Fire Mission" program in which children of ANG pilots will be invited to accompany their fathers on live-fire missions over the Bonneville Flats range to get the feeling of the "real world" of combat flying.

Chip Canyon, commander of The Flying Moroni, told *AVweb*: "A lot of our children think that air combat is a joke and that their daddies only go to Guard weekends to get away from mommie and to drink. Through this program, we intend to let them see the other side of the coin."

Kids in Church

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

A little kid said, "Verge."

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

The kid said, "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

A little boy was overheard praying:

"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

FAA exemption to the Sport Pilot rule

In a rare admission that rules and regulations regarding the Sport Pilot rule for powered parachutes may be too complex and may not take previous experience into account, the FAA published an exception to the requirement in the Federal Register in February.

Rule 103.12 Section C34 allows for a waiving of the written and the flying portion of the test

if the pilot can prove that he or she has piloted a powered parachute into a live tree where at least \$100 damage has been incurred.

This, of course, gives many of our members a free ticket – nice going, guys! And thanks to the FAA, and to some of our MPA instructors whose students seemed to know ahead of time that this exemption is coming down the road and they were prepared.

From our roving reporter

As you may know, some of our less hardy men avoid the joys of winter in Maine by escaping to the south. Now of course we're not calling them sissies, or not-quite-real-men or anything derogatory like that, and in fact we benefit from their trips across the southern USA when they report back to us and send pictures.

Our most active roving reporter is Scott "Skyman" Adair, who spent the winter traveling with his backpack chute (no, you don't have to be gay to fly those!) and flying at different places from Florida to North Carolina to California. He sent back many interesting



stories but most are too obscene so of course we can't report it in a family Newsletter like this is, so we'll have to listen to them over a campfire this summer. But, here is one picture we can run. Thanks Scott!

Monthly maintenance tip

Our repair man extraordinaire Jerry Sukeforth has one message for us – MAINTENANCE, MAINTENANCE, MAINTENANCE! He's seeing a lot of sloppy planes that will eventually hurt us. More next month.

Disclaimer

Remember our logo motto – "If it's in the Newsletter, it must be true." However, note the date in the heading. Makes more sense now?