

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

Maine Powerchute Association

Newsletter

July, 2006

www.maine-powerchutes.org

Fly-in updates

We've had a series of really bad flying weather this past month, canceling our Deblois fly-in altogether, and reducing the attendance at the others. However, some of our MPA members are undaunted by such little things as hurricane force winds, so we can report on the fly-ins that did take place.

On the weekend of June 24th, the **Hampden fly-in** was hosted by our good friends Jeremy Williams and his lovely and talented wife Sheila. It did not have as many flying opportunities as in the past, but the other activities almost made up for it. On Saturday night, we had a great little rock & roll band, composed of some excellent musicians playing a variety of stuff. Although I personally did not pay any attention, I'm told there was also a very hot, twenty-something, lead singer lady in revealing clothes. ("Revealing" of course is in the mind of the beholder). Many of the neighbors showed up (this time, they brought no guns), and a good time was had by all.

The bon-fire was moved to Friday night from the usual Saturday night flirtation with a major forest fire. Our hosts had the grill going almost non-stop, and provided lunch, dinner, and breakfast for all us rag-tag pilots throughout the weekend.

We did get to fly all three days, and it was actually quite pleasant most of Saturday afternoon and evening. Our Sunday morning cross country trip to the Winterport drag races got to be quite exciting, as the thermals decided to play some cute games with us on the way back – 300 to 500 foot drops and rises while you're sitting there basically along for the ride. But, we managed to wave to the drag racing crowd, who made the usual circling motions with their index finger around their temples. I think they were complimenting us on our nice hair-dos.



Some exciting over-the-wire flying in Eastport – it was the only way to head into that 15 knot wind. Notice how all the spectators are hiding behind cars and other hard objects.

A week later, the long-awaited 4th of July extravaganza at **Eastport** took place. Again, the forecasts were pretty dire, with high winds for most of the next 3 to 4 days. The high winds did go on and on during the day, but we did get some very good flying in during the evenings of all 4

nights, and a bit in the mornings too.

For the famous annual pancake breakfast at the Eastport airport on Tuesday morning, the winds also calmed down just enough for our usual spectacular PPC airshow over the long lines queuing up for breakfast. By this time, all the smart MPA-ers left, leaving the heavy responsibility of maintaining the MPA honor and tradition to one confused member. "How did I get into this?" was written all over his face, although it was hard to read it due to the

nervous ticks he was developing as the winds got higher and higher.

But, all is well that ends well, and the Eastport event was again a success, although most everybody missed it. Which brings up the next point – our annual MPA meeting on Tuesday morning at Eastport as scheduled. It went smoother than usual, and all the resolutions were passed unanimously. Here they are:

- 1) The salary of the President was doubled.
- 2) If you see anyone with a back-pack powered parachute, you MUST make at least ONE derogatory comment.
- 3) If anyone is caught eating healthy foods or healthy portions at any MPA fly-in, they must pick up the food bill for the whole group.
- 4) The first guy awake in the morning at a fly-in must make enough noise with whatever methods possible to wake up everyone else as well, including nearby neighbors.



Dunbar being chased by two evil clouds at the Hampden fly-in. After a couple of zig-zag moves from his old football days, Dunbar managed to lose them.

Updated rules for men

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion by some of our members regarding basic rules for being male. As a public service, we run these again.

1. *It is OK for a man to cry ONLY under the following circumstances:*
 - (a) *When a heroic dog dies to save its master.*
 - (b) *The moment Angelina Jolie starts unbuttoning her blouse.*
 - (c) *After wrecking your boss' car.*
 - (d) *When she is using her teeth.*

2: *Any Man who brings a camera to a bachelor party may be legally killed and eaten by his buddies.*

3: *If you've known a guy for more than 24 hours, his sister is off limits forever unless you actually marry her.*

4: *No man shall ever be required to buy a birthday present for another man. In fact, even remembering your buddy's birthday is strictly optional. At that point, you must celebrate at a strip bar of the birthday boy's choice.*

5: *On a road trip, the strongest bladder determines pit stops, not the weakest.*

6: *It is permissible to drink a fruity alcohol drink only when you're sunning on a tropical beach... and it's delivered by a topless model and only when it's free.*

7: *Never join your girlfriend or wife in discussing a friend of yours, except if she's withholding sex pending your response.*

8. *Never talk to a man in a bathroom unless you are on equal footing: i.e., both urinating, both waiting in line, etc. For all other situations an almost imperceptible nod is all the conversation you need.*

9. *Never allow a telephone conversation with a woman to go on longer than you are able to have sex with her. Keep a stopwatch by the phone. Hang up if necessary.*

We hope this clears up any confusion.

Next events:

The long-awaited Top Gun fly-in is coming up on the weekend of July 22nd. This year again, Wayne Kenney was kind enough to let us use his field in Fairfield (intersection of Rt. 23 and Rt. 201), and a couple of MPA guys (Dunbar, Jim, and Mike?) volunteered to mow it to its usual perfect flying length.

This year, we're going to mark the field correctly, which will take away some of the advantage our current Top Gun holder Mike O'Donnell had last year with his little light plane. Of course, we can't take away the flying skills he has, but as you may remember, the organizers got confused with the tape and

marked the field at 70 feet instead of 70 yards. So now, all of us heavies are back in the race!

We'll try to do our annual summer MPA general membership meeting there, since that event is usually the most well attended one we have. It's also time for our annual election of officers, so get your campaign speeches ready!

Two weeks after Top Gun, on the weekend of August 5th, the Norridgewock fly-in takes place. That has become a very nice event for us, with good location, generally good flying, lots of people watching, and very friendly hosts.

A week after that is the BIG event – our second Chute Across Maine trip. We'll meet in Bethel on Saturday, August 12th - entertain the Bethel crowd that afternoon, and leave for our next stop, Lewiston/Auburn first thing Sunday morning. We will have a coordination meeting at the Top Gun event, and at Norridgewock for anyone who misses the first one.



Again, our route is starting in Bethel, then to Lewiston, Augusta, Pittsfield, Brewer, Deblois, Machias, and ending in Eastport.

Aviation news from AVweb.com

A NEW PLANE FOR MAKING NEW PILOTS

AOPA says pilot numbers -- and new pilot starts -- are dwindling. The light sport aircraft category is the highest growth sector of general aviation, Cessna said. But that's not the only attraction of the market. "An important part of our thought process in looking at LSA is the value in terms of new pilot starts," added Pelton. "Experience has shown that Cessna brand loyalty is a powerful force in our success, and we believe this new category of aircraft could provide a conduit for new pilots to grow through the Cessna product line in the years ahead."

Fly Like A (Jet-powered) Bird

Just in time for summer, it's Batman meets James Bond ... not at the movies, but up in the skies. A German company, [ESG](#), introduced its prototype of a jet-powered wing that will enable



parachutists to fly over 100 miles from the airplane to a landing site. Designed for the military, the system enables paratroopers with a new degree of versatility. The wing is now being tested sans jet engines, but still has a glide distance of about 25 miles with jumps from 32,000 feet. The jumper would have to be supplied with oxygen and thermal clothing.

Greeting cards – free from MPA

As another public service to our members, the MPA Newsletter provides some “hard to find” free greeting card suggestions for those “unusual occasions” we all run into from time to time. **Blue** is the outside of the card, and **red** is the inside...

*I always wanted to have someone to hold, someone to love. And now that you've come into my life...
- I've changed my mind.*

*I must admit, you brought religion into my life...
- I never believed in Hell until I met you.*

*As the days go by, I think how lucky I am....
- That you're not here to ruin it for me.*

*When we were together, you said you'd die for me...
- Now we've broken up, I think it's time to keep your promise.*

*I'm so miserable without you...
- It's almost like you're still here.*

*Congratulations on your new bundle of joy....
- Did you ever find out who the father was?*

You are such a good friend. If we were on a sinking ship and there was only one life jacket....

- I'd miss you terribly and think of you often.

Your friends and I wanted to do something special for your birthday...

- So we're having you put to sleep.

Looking back over the years we've been together, I can't help but wonder...

- What the Hell was I thinking?

Sport Pilot and "N" Certifications

We have finally compiled all the information you need in an easy-to-understand, checklist type format in order to get your sport pilot license, and to register your PPC as a real "N" numbered aircraft. And you've got to believe us when we say it is really easy to do both those things.

At the Top Gun fly-in in a couple of weeks, we will have printed the documents you need to make it all happen, along with the checklist to guide you through the process. Even if you can't stay for the whole event, stop by on Saturday around noon when we will have a short session on this topic, and will hand out the paperwork.

If you can't make it, we'll have the instructions in the August Newsletter, but then you'll have to get the forms yourself from the web.

Last notice for annual dues!

If you're like me (luckily for you, none of you are), then you're actually happy when you get that letter from the power company or the phone company or the cable guys that says "THIS IS YOUR LAST NOTICE!" – you breathe a sigh of relief, and say "Those guys have been a pain in the butt – thank God they're not sending me any more notices!"

However, when it comes the your Newsletter, this means you won't be getting it any more, and you'll miss out on all the neat stuff we keep meaning to put in there, and you'll also miss all the junk that we do put in there. So, contact Bonnie and fork over your \$20 bucks – you won't regret it (until you sober up).

Finally – a female pilot in the making

It was bound to happen – we found a lovely lady who is adventuresome enough to go through the whole new process to become a FAA certified sport pilot in a PPC – she is well on her way to solo soon. Our newest MPA member is 28 year old Aimee Crosby – no previous pilot experience, but very willing to learn! The best part, she's going to bring down the average age of our merry group by a good chunk! See picture below.



“Let’s see – the left one steers something, and the right one makes it do some other stuff – Hey – this is easier than it looks!”

Ladies’ Corner

On their 25th wedding anniversary, he said to her: "Honey, 25 years ago, we had a cheap apartment, a cheap car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10 inch black and white TV -- but I got to sleep every night with a hot 25-year old blonde.

"Now, we have a nice house, nice car, big bed and plasma screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 50-year old woman with wrinkles. It seems to me that you're just not holding up your side of things."

His wife, who is a very reasonable woman, told him to go out and find a hot 25-year old blonde -- and she would make sure that he would once again be living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car, sleeping on a sofa bed....



The End