

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

# Maine Powerchute Association

## Newsletter

[www.maine-powerchutes.org](http://www.maine-powerchutes.org)

November 2006

### Last chance 'til spring!

Well, it's finally happened – we're in November, and those of you who wanted to get your Sport Pilot license, there's only one more chance, and it's this month. Otherwise, your "grandfather" status as a BFI expires on January 31<sup>st</sup>, and there's more stuff (some would say BS) you have to do after that date to get your license. More on that in a minute.

First, the good news. At this point, Peter Wallace is the only designated FAA examiner for Sport Pilots in this areas, and unfortunately for us, he has moved to Florida for good. However, he will be coming back to give all of us slackers one more chance to do what should

have been done many months ago – get the check ride. Peter will be flying in on November 26<sup>th</sup>, and will be doing practicals for 5 days in Bethel (27<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>)

Of course, to qualify, you have to have passed your knowledge test before he gives his exam, and you have to have the famous letter from ASC certifying that you were a BFI. If you have those two items, you are eligible for the practical test given by Peter, which consists of

an oral test and a check ride in an "N" numbered (i.e. a registered) aircraft. If you pass both, you will have an official FAA pilot's license!

We have purchased Peter's ticket to fly down here, and we have arranged a condo for him to use during his visit (thanks to Randy and Cathy Autrey, who donated their timeshare for this event!). Since the maximum number of student



Bethel at the peak of leaf-peeping season – great shot by Ray G.

Peter can legally do is about 8 or 9 during his stay, we will split his flight expenses with the MPA members who want to participate, which should come to about \$80 each. This is in addition to what Peter has to charge for his work, although he said he would try to arrange some kind of MPA club discount.

So at this point, we need some FIRM commitments, as Peter has to speak with each individual before he arrives, so he can verify qualifications and to coordinate the method of the testing. The first 7 people to let me know that they definitely want to do this and who send me \$100 to share the expenses will be signed up for the event. The money you send will all be applied towards the cost of Peter's flight, and whatever is left over towards his FAA examiner fee. Also, the aircraft has to have dual controls, so the Buckeye owners need some throttle work!

My number is 207-852-7300.

The mailing address is:

John Gobel

P.O.Box 522

Intervale, NH 03845

### **Other options if you miss this one**

If you miss out on this opportunity with Peter Wallace, all is not lost – it just becomes more difficult.

First option is for you to fly wherever an examiner is before January 31<sup>st</sup>, and arrange to take a practical test. There are a number of examiners around, but unfortunately, none are in the north east. Look on the web under [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov) for a list of examiners.

Second option is to skip the “grandfathering” portion, wait until spring when we’ll have a couple of instructors qualified in Maine, and they can give you the necessary instruction and then sign you off for a flight with an examiner. The bad part is that you’re then required to receive 12 hours of instruction.

The third option is to sell your two seater and buy a Part 103 legal single seater, and say “Hell, No” to the FAA and to a real license. Of course, you have to sell the two seater pretty quickly, because if it’s not registered by Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> of 2008 (i.e. next year!), you’ll never be able to sell it, as the exemption expires then. In other words, nobody can register it after 1/31/08, so nobody would buy it.

The fourth option is to still say “Hell, No” to the FAA and fly it illegally and hope nothing happens, which is a REALLY BAD idea. Because as we all know, something WILL happen, and then you will be paying some huge fines. And you may even lose your house, your dog, your truck, maybe even your big-screen TV (including your remote!), and your wife will leave you for a guy who doesn’t fly, and then about the only thing you’ll be able to do is write country songs (I’ve given you a head start on that, if you notice).

By the way, I’ve recently received my official selection notification from the FAA for the examiner course, but unfortunately they do not have any classes scheduled until the spring. But anyway, we should have an examiner here about that time, so we don’t have to hunt all over the country for one.



Just in time for Halloween picture – SOMEBODY had to fly in front of the moon – it was just the perfect evening for it

### **Few things you never thought about**

- Can you cry underwater?
- Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- What disease did cured ham actually have?
- Why do people say that they “slept like a baby” when a baby wakes up like every two hours?
- Why is “bra” singular and “panties” plural?
- If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

### **Fly-in Summaries**

We had some pretty good flying opportunities since the last Newsletter, and here’s a whirlwind tour of the scheduled fly-ins we had:

#### ***Bingham***

Doug Sukeforth and his lovely and talented wife Rita hosted this annual event, and once again, we had some real good flying and a

superb dinner and hospitality. Unfortunately, some of our more wimpy guys got scared off by the somewhat dire weather forecast, but as usual, we found ample opportunity to fly, and of course to just “hang out.”

We used the long and empty field at Bingham to have our newest member Kevin Oliveira go for his first solo. Of course, everybody there had to fly over to the Gadabout Gladis field to watch.

In spite of all that peer pressure, Kevin did one of the best first solos anyone has seen, and followed it with an equally successful second one. He is all ready for putting in his minimum hours and then taking the Sport Pilot tests. We have it all on video – to be previewed at our upcoming Christmas party.

Kevin now has almost 20 hours since the solo, and so far he has stayed out of trees and every other bad place many of our MPA guys have visited. Oh, by the way, did I mention he is another Gobel student? Yes, including the parachute roll on the ground too.



We had some low clouds most of the time, but of course that doesn't bother us low & slower. We did have one interesting event though, as three of us were out from Doug's camp for about an hour, and on the way back the clouds kept getting lower, so we kept getting lower. Until we

realized that the camp is on top of a hill, and the top of the hill is IN the clouds. We did manage to stay right on top of trees, and thanks to GPS technology, all got right back to where we should have.

### ***Presque Isle***

Robin and his lovely and talented wife Darlene hosted this event, or more correctly would have hosted it if it wasn't rained out. We had scheduled the once-delayed Top Gun event there, so we had to postpone it a second time.

About this time, Robin decided to have an emergency hernia operation, which would have slowed him down in a flying competition just a tad. Apparently he had the problem at Bingham, but tried to walk it off. Not a good idea, the doctors said. It's like trying to walk off a broken leg.

So the delay worked out for the best anyway. The Cyr field we would have used is really spectacular, so we're looking forward to it next year.

### ***Warren***

A sort of pick-up fly-in at Grinells field in Warren was a big success, as we had nice weather and lots of chutes (7!) show up. We know that area pretty well, so nothing too exciting happened, other than winds aloft were about the same velocity as our air speed, so we enjoyed hovering for a while.

The real highlight of that morning, of course was the serious MPA 4000 calorie breakfast at Andee's restaurant (I'm not sure it's actually called a “restaurant?” since they sell gasoline, motor oil, hunting boots, and toilet paper.)

### ***Bethel Top Gun event***

So we're down to our last scheduled fly-in event of the year, and still no Top Gun for 2006. But our hosts Randy Autrey and his lovely and talented wife Cathy arranged to have pretty good weather for most of the weekend, so we finally did it!

We had a huge turnout – had 12 chutes in the air, and numerous wanna-be-s and spectators, including two sexy and talented reporters from the Portland Herald & Maine Sunday Telegram. Yes, female. Other than some morning fog, we could have flown pretty much the entire time. And we used the fog as an opportunity to show our reporters what it's like on the other side of a cloud bank – bright sun! Of course, we had to come back to the fog covered airfield which was somewhat of a challenge, but nothing we haven't done before. I think.

It was about the peak of the leaf-peeping season, and the colors were truly spectacular.

One of our poet members said it was “like flying through a box of fruit loops.” Well, said something close to it anyway, but it was awful poetic for MPA, anyway. Thanks, JM!

The hills and mountains and valleys in that area are just exciting to fly through, and we got lots of post-card pictures and videos. On the edge of one of the remote fields in the hills, there were several moose standing around, pretty much ignoring the commotion over head. Moose, you know, have long faces, are pretty much all black, with four legs... Well, it turns out much to my surprise that cows sort of share that same description, as our more savvy outdoor types were quick to point out and to rub it in. It’s not like I could see their udders, for heaven’s sake!

The two reporters got some nice pictures, and wrote a pretty neat article about what a bunch of fun guys we are doing some really fun things. Obviously, they had low standards, which of course we prefer... Anyway, if you didn’t get the paper, it’s on line at:

<http://outdoors.mainetoday.com/news/061022flying.html>

In addition to the Top Gun award, we did award one more unofficial prize this weekend, called “Flying the Hot Chick Passenger of the Year” award. Luckily, yours truly won it. Through some freak accident, it was my turn to give a ride to the many would-be passengers, and it turned out to be the winner!

I’m not sure she was aware of the honor that was bestowed on her, since she was busy getting the knots out of her long blond hair for the next two hours while muttering sweet nothings under her breath. See the video at Christmas for details.



Doug Sukeforth dancing with a big pussy cat during his Canadian hunting trip – there’s a short season on them.

### And now, for the Top Gun contest

With 5 eager contestants vying for the coveted Top Gun hat, and with Jerry Sukeforth moderating the event, we finally kicked off the contest. Some of our other contestants left because of weather earlier, so now it was down to the few and the rugged (or numb?)

To refresh your memory, the four events in the contest are the low bomb drop, the high bomb drop, the “touch - skip over obstacle – touch” and the spot landing. We did this in a big continuous loop with all of us in the air at the same time.

Coming in second place was previous two-time winner John Gobel, and in third place, also previous two-time winner Mike O’Donnell.

So, after careful measurements, the Top Gun winner for 2006 is **Robin Paradis!** Congratulations, Robin!!!

The weekend ended with a mooseburger cookout on Monday hosted by some of our local friends at the airport. Having been burnt once, I was suspicious, but they assured me it was really moose.

### Drug scandal shocks Top Gun contest!

Not only did Robin win the Top Gun hat, he did it while still bandaged up from the emergency hernia operation he had a few weeks before! Really demoralizing for the other contestants.

But, as it turns out, we suspect he was still on pain killers, so he may not have known what he was really doing. As is customary after all international events, we asked him to pee in a bottle for later testing. But when he said that the only way he’d do it was if one of us aimed it for him and another held the bottle, we all declined and called off the drug testing. We declared him CLEAN!

### **Christmas Party time almost here!**

The date is December 17<sup>th</sup>, which is a Sunday at 3:00 PM (which is in the afternoon) at Jeff's Catering (which is in Bangor) – same place as last year. Directions are on the last page of the Newsletter.

As usual, we'll have the great buffet that Jeff 's serves, and of course more importantly a chance to see your fellow MPA members that you haven't seen for oh, I don't know, maybe days in some cases and maybe never in others. We had a real nice time there last year with a huge turnout.

Again, as usual, we'll have our Highlight video of all the stuff we did during the year shown at the end of the dinner. No mercy in those.

We'll do the financing as we did last year, with the MPA treasury under the able stewardship of Bonnie Micue footing the bill for about half of it, and each member picking up the rest. I think last year it was something like 7 or 8 bucks.

Bring guests, wives, husbands, boyfriends, girlfriends, mature kids (with lots of tolerance), and well behaved pets. No alligators this year.

So, mark your calendar RIGHT NOW – this was actually on the MPA event calendar in February! A good time will be had by all!



Reason #7 why men should NOT be allowed to dress their children

### **Great Christmas idea for your wife**

Several men are sitting around the locker room of a golf country club. A cell phone on a bench rings and a man engages the hands free speaker-function and begins to talk. Everyone else in the room stops to listen.



MAN: "Hello"

WOMAN: "Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?"

MAN: "Yes"

WOMAN: "I am at the mall now and found this beautiful leather coat. It's only \$1,000. Is it OK if I buy it?"

MAN: "Sure, go ahead if you like it that much."

WOMAN: "I also stopped by the Mercedes dealership and saw the new 2006 models. I saw one I really liked"

MAN: "How much?"

WOMAN: "\$90,000"

MAN: "OK, but for that price I want it with all the options."

WOMAN: "Great! Oh, and one more thing .... The house I wanted last year is back on the market. They're only asking \$950,000"

MAN: "Well, go ahead and make them an offer of \$900,000. They will probably take it. If not, we can go the extra 50 thousand."

WOMAN: "OK. I'll see you later! I love you so much!!"

MAN: "Bye! I love you, too."

The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths agape.....

He smiles and asks: "Anyone know who this phone belongs to?"

## Directions to Jeff's Catering, MPA Christmas Party

**From 95 North or South**, take Exit 182-A onto 395 East.

Travel to Exit #5 (Parkway South) and turn left at end of exit.

Go 1/10 of a mile over railroad tracks, and take the very next right into the East/West Industrial Park.

Travel approximately 100 yards and turn left onto Coffin Avenue. Jeff's Catering is located at 15 Littlefield Avenue.

**From Ellsworth** take 395 West. Travel to Exit #5 (Parkway South) and turn left at end of exit.

Go 1/10 of a mile over railroad tracks and take the very next right into the East/West Industrial Park..

Travel approximately 100 yards and turn left onto Coffin Avenue. Jeff's Catering is located at 15 Littlefield Avenue.

