



# MDPA news

March, 2005 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 32 Issue 3

## Meeting Notice

Date: Mar 18 2005  
Place: MDPA Clubhouse  
Dinner: 6:30PM  
Program: 7:00PM

Board Meeting: Mar 16 2005  
Next Meeting: April 15 2005



The Airport advisory committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the airport managers office.

If you're not currently a member ...

## Join MDPA!

MDPA membership has many benefits, including discounts on tie-downs, fuel and services. Dues are \$120 (\$60 for half-year beginning July 1) and should be sent to:

MDPA  
PO BOX 273073  
Concord, Ca 94520

## President's Message

I took the three-day weekend and read through my stack of unread airplane magazines. There were a ton of them, but I actually did get through most of them although Kathy was unimpressed as there is still a stack on my side of the bed! One of the articles talked about the fact that cross-country skills are the most devalued skill by both the FAA and flight instructors. As the author asked, when was the last time an instructor said let's go out a couple of hours and see how you navigate and knock off the rust?

So how do we get back that proficiency? By going on club trips, of course! We have planned some great trips from the simple to the more complex, all designed to give everyone a bit of a challenge in navigation, landings, border crossings and/or a little adventure that you might not take on by yourself. Look elsewhere in the newsletter for Bill Landstra's article on the planned trips for the year. Pick a couple and go! You'll have a great time, I guarantee it!

Speaking of trips, I'm planning the trip to British Columbia this summer (June 20 to 27) and it's going to be fun. We're going to meet in central Washington on Monday morning the 20th, similar to how we start the trips to La Paz.

Most folks will want to spend the night on Sunday. Then it will be off to Kelowna for border crossings and then to Tsuniah Lake Lodge ([www.imagehouse.com/tsuniah/](http://www.imagehouse.com/tsuniah/)) for three or four nights of fishing, horseback riding, boating, etc. It's some beautiful wilderness flying that is not particularly taxing, but keeps you on your toes so you don't get lost. Then we'll mosey on home, with maybe a stop or two along the way in south central BC for a night. There will be the opportunity for some float fly outs, some wilderness fishing/horseback riding trips and plenty of fun at the lodge. Check out the web site, it's going to be one of those great trips! And we'll be there at the height of the lake trout season! 30 pounders!

And lastly, we need you to volunteer to adopt a dinner. Take 2 couples and work it together. It's a chance to show off your cooking prowess and I promise I will help! We've got a couple of fantastic ones planned for later in the year, so we only need 6 or 7 dinners to fill out the entire 12 months. Last year's dinners really stepped it up a notch and it was because individual members wanted to show us a good meal. Do it, you'll be glad you did! See you around the airport.  
Richard.

MDPA Mailing Address  
PO Box 273073  
Concord, CA 94520

### MDPA Officers

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#### Dinner Coordinator:

Open

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Articles and photographs for the  
newsletter should be e-mailed to  
newsletter@mdpa.org

## Upcoming Trips

Here's a quick summary of the MDPA flying trips planned for the next few months. All these trips require advance reservations so please send me (Bill) an email or give a phone call (information below) and let us know if you want to participate. In some cases, space is limited so it's first-come first-served.

**March 12-13** Overnight Fly-in to Harris Ranch. Fly into Harris Ranch Saturday, check in at the hotel and meet Bill at the Jacuzzi for happy hour. Dinner will be at the Harris Ranch restaurant with live evening entertainment in the lounge. Fly home after breakfast the next morning. RSVP ASAP so that we can get a group rate at the hotel.

[http://www.harrisranch.com/directions\\_flyin.html](http://www.harrisranch.com/directions_flyin.html) for information.

**April 16-17**. Surprise Valley Hotsprings. They have 10 rooms available with personal spas but based on previous trips these will go fast (Only 4 left). Call the Hotsprings and Book your room and Massages before March 25th. Fly in to Cedarville Saturday afternoon where a car will await you. Pick up supplies in town and then head to the resort for a welcome cocktail party. Then back to town for dinner. Afterwards, view the stars from your own private spa fed by natural artesian hot springs. See the <http://www.svhotsprings.com>, web site for photos and details or call 1-877-WARM-H2O or email to WarmH2O@hdo.net

**May 26 - June 1** Baja Mexico Trip. We'll meet and overnight in Imperial, California the evening of the 26th then hop across the border on the 27th and spend the night in Mulege. Then on to Bill & Suzie's place in La Paz for the 28th and 29th There will be one or two stops on the way back re-entering the US on May 31st or June 1st. Book your reservations now so that we can make all the necessary arrangements.

**June 20 - 27** Richard Roberts' British Columbia Extravaganza. Richard plans for everyone to meet at an airport in central Washington on Monday morning to fly across the border to Kelowna and then on to <http://www.imagehouse.com/tsuniah/Tsuniah Lake Lodge> for 3 or 4 nights of fishing, horseback riding, boating etc. This is trout season and we're talking 30 pounders. Let us know if you are coming so Richard can make all the necessary arrangements. That's it for now. Hope to hear from you soon  
Bill

### Wanted: Aspiring Chefs.

Come show off your cooking talents to your fellow flyers, dig out the hidden family secret recipes to dazzle and impress us.

Bask in the joy of munching sounds knowing you are the one who pulled it all together.

Please See Rich Roberts or Pat Miller if Interested



Sterling at 122.95 or call our office.

# STERLING

Tel: (925) 676-2100 → Fax: (925) 676-5580 → Unicorn: 122.95

## Discover the Difference in Concord

March 5<sup>th</sup> Cirrus Mobil Showroom will be available between 10am and 3pm. Don't miss this opportunity. And some services we offer:

- Aircraft Rentals: C-150, C-172, C-182 and a Warrior.
- Aircraft Sales: New and Used
- Quality Chevron Fuel at Competitive Prices
- Buy, Sell, or Trade of Used Avionics
- Great Prices on Pilot Supplies and Headsets
- Aircraft Wash and Wax: \$100.00
- Ask about our 182 Club

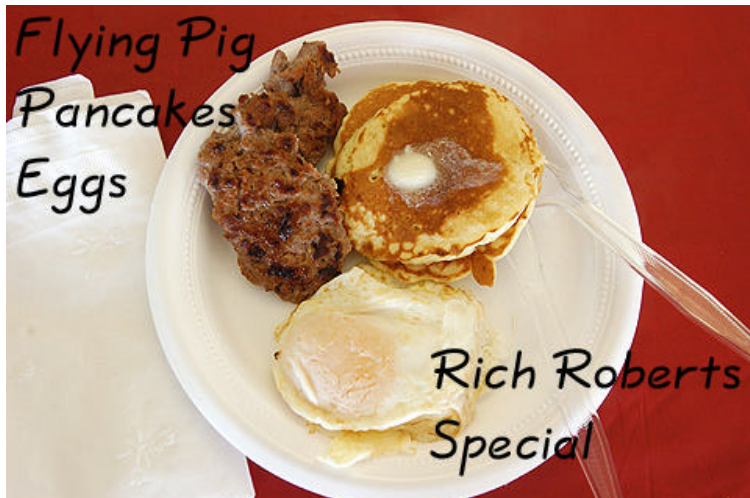
For every day low Fuel Prices! Contact

## Sterling now has Cirrus online for Rent!

### Breakfast - 1st Saturday Of Each Month

February thru November on the first Saturday / Sunday of the month MDPA hosts an antique airplane display come by and see the airplanes almost as old as their owners.

On Saturday mornings stop by and get the Rich Roberts Special or Donuts if Rich is out of town. Have some coffee and share the time told stories. And if the weather is good and the world is smiling you might get some photos of your airplane like that



## Tritip dinner February 2005



February's dinner was really fun! We had tons of tritip, 4 little pieces left, and NO beans left. Now, Kathy had made enough for 60 to 70 big servings and there were only about 45 people there. I have to say it, "MDPA members that attended that dinner are full of beans!" It was the usual pandemonium. Ralph Foltz collected the money because Bob was out of town, and did a great job of it. Suzie Landstra got the cake, the idea being that she would order the chocolate cake with custard filling and whipped cream frosting. Unfortunately, Bill forgot to tell her until about 20 minutes before the dinner. So we got a cake from some bride shower that apparently never happened (some poor future bride sobbing out there somewhere?) and some other chocolate cake that had a clown on the front or something (some poor kid whose party was a bust?). We ate it anyway, and it was great! By the time Rudi

Thomas got there to assemble the salads, Tracy Peters and his mom had already done it (and done a fine job!), but she brought her killer dressing, so everything was on time and delicious! We had forgotten the bread, and Pat Peters made an emergency run to get dinner rolls. A good thing, too, as they also went the way of the beans! I never did see a dinner roll; I'm assuming they were good.




John Potter brought some neat space calendars, which we raffled off. Unfortunately, I don't think they were for 2005, but we had two winners, none the less. Peter Danto won the blue MDPA jacket with matching green hat, and looked pretty darn good in it! Bill Landstra gave us a heads up on trips, Peter talked about brakes and tires and Pat Roberts (a guest and no relation) talked about a new agg airplane being manufactured in Sacramento. Weather permitting; they're going to have one at the March or April dinner for us to see. Everyone helped to cleanup and Tracy and I locked up around 9:30 to be met by the Sheriff. After passing muster, maybe they are being more attentive to security at the airport, home to bed!



The bottom line? We brought in about \$650. After expenses we should clear \$250 to \$300. Not bad at all, considering that with all the stuff going on this thing was put together in about 3 days! The food was really good and everyone left smiling. See you next month.





# America's pilots are banding together to protect our airports.

See potential criminal activity at your airport?  
call **1-866-GA-SECURE**

Participate with your fellow pilots in the safekeeping of general aviation's neighborhood - our home airports.

## AOPA Buchanan Field RFP Update

Wondering what ever happened to the RFP to redevelop Buchanan Field? Well, Tuesday, March 15th is the appointed date for the County Community Development department to announce their findings concerning the one and only proposal submitted. However, inside sources have it that rather than announcing any decision, the county will be asking for an extension of time for their review. Why? Because the developer in question hasn't yet made all the required submissions to get the process started.

Since there has been essentially no progress in the evaluation process since this issue was last visited by the Board of Supervisors, you might wonder why any further time and money should be spent on it at all and AOPA California Rep John Pfeifer will be on hand Tuesday to make just that point. This is a very important meeting and all pilots and other airport advocates are urged to attend the meeting and make their feelings known. Meeting time is 9 am in the Supervisors Chambers, Martinez.

### Master Plan Update Kickoff

Later in the day on Tuesday, the Buchanan Field Master Plan Steering Committee will meet with the chosen consultant Bernard Dunkelberg of Tulsa, Oklahoma to kick off the update of this important document. Much effort was put into choosing a consultant that was independent of the RFP evaluation process. Pilots are well represented in this process by people such as Richard Roberts representing MDPA, Dave Evans and John Pfeifer representing AOPA, Russ Roe representing the AAC etc. More information will be forthcoming as this process gets underway and there will be many opportunities for public input and comment.

### AAC Meeting Features Supervisor DeSaulnier

Finally, Tuesday evening, there will be a special meeting of the AAC at the hotel formerly known as the Sheraton on the airport property next to PSA. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm and after a few business items will be turned over to the airport staff who will provide a presentation on the current effort to upgrade security on the airport. Supervisor DeSaulnier will also be present to add his comments.

**Looks like a big day on Tuesday, March 15th.**





## **ATTENTION ALL IRISH LADS & LASSIES**

**On March 17, if you are wearing green  
and give our lineman a four leaf clover,  
you are entitled to a 17 cents discount on  
a gallon of fuel.**

**[www.pacifcstatesaviation.com](http://www.pacifcstatesaviation.com) (925) 685-4400 Unicom 122.95**

Mt Diablo Pilots Association  
PO BOX 273073  
Concord, CA 94520

Blue Skies and Tailwinds To:

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First Class Mail  
Address Correction Requested