



MDPA news

June, 2006 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 33 Issue 6

Cessna Introduces it's New VLJ at the MDPA Bar-B-Que!



Not really, but we sure got you attention didn't we? This wonderful "primary trainer" could be yours for some deserving child or grandchild. MDPA will be auctioning off this beautiful piece of Americana. Be sure to come to the next meeting and bring your checkbook (no tail wheel endorsement needed). New versions of this type of toy sells for well over \$350. Classic and antique versions are worth much much more, so get ready to place your bids for this exquisite example of aviation history.

MDPA Mailing Address

PO Box 273073
Concord, CA 94520

MDPA Officers**President:**

Vince Siebern 415- 897-0861
president@mdpa.org

VP Activities:

Patrick Miller 925-685-3354
activities@mdpa.org

VP Programs:

Paul Hunter 925 938-7720
programs@mdpa.org

VP Communications:

Dave Evans 925-300-6437
communications@mdpa.org

Treasurer/Membership:

John Levy 925-937-3444
treasurer@mdpa.org
membership@mdpa.org

Facilities Manager

Russ Roe
925-228-0138
facilities@mdpa.org

Secretary:

Maureen Bell
925-381-7679
secretary@mdpa.org

Director at Large:

Bob Belshe 925-376-7677
atlarge@mdpa.org

Past President:

Richard Roberts 925-939-0173
pastpres@mdpa.org

Aviation Advisory Committee

Russ Roe 925-228-0138

Safety/Maintenance:

Stewart Bowers 925-254-0804

Web / Newsletters :

Patrick Miller 925-685-3354

Dave Evans 925-300-6437

Steve Kennedy 925-370-0828

webmaster@mdpa.org

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

President's Message July

Am I having a senior moment or did half the year just fly by? It seems like yesterday was January and we were being flooded. So what has 2006 brought us so far? Lots of rain and not much flying the first few months of the year. We have had some great dinners with a lot of members attending. We lost some longtime members who moved out of the area and out of the State and we will miss them, however, we have some new members sign up and we are glad they did. MDPA has been on some trips, Hola Baja, thank you Bill & Sue for your hospitality. Fishing in British Columbia is coming up next in late July. We have had all the development plans for CCR and it looks like we may get a clubhouse to replace our aging clubhouse. One of our members, Bev Levy, got her private pilots license, way to go Bev!

Mark your calendar because on July 21 we will have our dinner and an auction. What are we selling you ask? Just about the cutest toy plane for the grandchild you have ever seen. I expect the bidding to be fast and heavy for this great present so bring your checkbook. George Ann Garms donated this and a small folding motor bike (to be auctioned off in August) to MDPA and we thank you for your donation George Ann.

We are looking for volunteers to lead trips in 07 so let Pat Miller or myself know if you will take on a MDPA trip. How about a golf trip or a skiing trip to Utah? We can use your help.

Keep the blue side up.
Vince

Meeting Notice

Date: July 21
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:30PM
Program 7:00PM
Board Meeting: TBD
Next Meeting: July 21

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 (After June 1st, they're; \$60) and should be sent to:

MDPA
PO BOX 273073
Concord, CA 94520



TRI-TIP BBQ FOR JUNE DINNER

This was a dinner for the ages! Pat came through in spades with his deep fat fryer and masses of cut potatoes. They were truly unbelievable! Kathy again out did herself with a huge pot of her famous ranch beans. Throw in a salad and ice cream for desert, and you have a real feast. Oops! I almost forgot the meat! Well, there's a story for you! (As you know, there's usually a story when I am cooking!)

Pat and I planned this meal well in advance, he went down and made sure there was plenty of propane and everything was a go. At the last minute, his old employer needed his services, on his last day, for a change over. Tracy and Bridget Peters came to the rescue to cook the French Fries. Then, on the day of the dinner, Dave Evans, Evangeline and Pat Peters and Tracy and Bridget, along with yours truly got this thing under way. Half way into the cooking of the first round of meat, no more propane. No problem, we've got 2 more bottles in the back. They hook up to the fryer but not the BBQ. Yikes! Johan Verhoek to the rescue! Off to the hardware store for a new bottle, then finish the meat. It was a slight delay, but everyone took it in stride. I found that a bowl lined with the fresh fries and filled with beans was out of this world!



Everyone had a great time. The weather was nice and balmy after the sun went down, and it was just a really nice low key event that makes one appreciate this area, our airport, good friends and a clubhouse where we can make it all happen.

We made money, but I don't know how much! Again, what a slacker I am! Maybe John Levy can shed some light on that somewhere else in the newsletter. Maybe I can turn in my receipts so he actually knows what the number is!

See you next month for another great meal. Bring some of your friends who aren't connected with the club. I know they'll have a great time. I've been bringing Carol, Kathy's mom, and she really looks forward to these now! It's a nice way to introduce folks to the airport in a non-threatening positive way. Thanks everyone for helping make this a really

Richard



DETAILS, DETAILS, AND NOTAMS

I go to a local Catholic Church, and our pastor knows I am a pilot. Last week, he asked me if I could fly him to Lakeport, as he had to give a talk to a bunch of Priests having a retreat at the Konocti Resort. He has had me fly him up there before, when his schedule wouldn't allow for the two and a half hour drive each way. I agreed, and we met at 07:30 for the flight.

I had done a thorough preflight, checked weather and notams on EAA, they have a nice map of TFR's, and all was good. After a completely uneventful flight, we were over the upper lake, ready to join left base for the runway. A call for traffic, and the response: "The airport's closed 8:00 until 5:00 for resurfacing." OKAY. Let's see, plan B is what? We could go to Angwin, Cloverdale, or Ukiah. All at least an hour away! He needs to be talking in less than an hour.

I remembered there used to be an airport at the lower lake. Gone, dug up and houses there now! At 5,500 sort of loitering around, heading in a generally southern direction, what do my wandering eyes should appear, but a long, freshly mowed grass airstrip with a big old twin at one end! Do we play the, "I am a priest and need to give a talk and the airport is closed" card? (Hopefully, that will slow them down enough so we won't get shot on sight!) Brian says, "Sure, why not?"

I circled down, runway clear, smooth, no obstacles, down to 500 feet agl, into box canyon, committed now! Nice smooth landing! Taxied down to the hangar where there sat a derelict DC3 (the big twin I saw) and a nice little Warrior. The caretaker came and met us, a really nice guy named Mark, who has been at the ranch for 15 years. It's called the Diamond J Ranch, is 4000 acres, located in Middletown, and was owned by Bill Bottoms, the Piper dealer for years and the original owner of John Levy and Arnold Peterson's Aztec! We got a hold of the guy picking us up, were only 45 minutes late (Brian didn't want to talk as long as they gave him anyway!) and had a great time!



And the moral of the story? Firstly, I should have gotten a standard briefing from the FAA. At least I would have known about the closure. But if I had done that, I wouldn't have taken Brian, and I wouldn't have met Mark or given Brian an adventure to remember for years! So don't give up easily, don't do something too far out of your comfort zone (i.e., be careful out there, aviation is terribly unforgiving!), and it sure helps to have a priest along or at least have God on your side!

Richard

Pacific States Aviation



www.pacificstatesaviation.com Unicom 122.95 (925) 685-4400

Komputer Korner

Elsewhere in this news letter you'll see Richards discussions about the pitfalls (and in his case the benefit of getting a Standard FAA Weather Briefing. It's obviously more than just checking to see if the weather is OK, and there are no TFR's that you need to know about. In California we tend to get a little spoiled because we have such great weather. If the fog is light enough that we can read the numbers on our plane as we drive up, we think there isn't any weather to worry about. I thought about this the other day when I read Richards article, and I listened to the weather reports talking about the "possibility of thunderstorms" or even "dry lighting' here in the bay area. When you dial 1-800-WX-BRIEF, you'll get a live specialist who will talk to you about the weather, and the TFR's and the NOTAM's and even offer alternatives of other possibilities. But when you use AOPA, or one of the DUAT software products to get an On-Line Weather Briefing, there are no guarantees that YOU'LL READ it. If you're like me, and you print out the NOTAM section of the briefing, you'll see all the warnings about flying to the middle east, thunderstorms over Kansas, and it's easy to gloss over those and occasionally miss the ones that say "Airshow at VCB (The Nut Tree) overflight below 10,000 ft. restricted".... or maybe "Q88 (Rio Vista) closed due to sink hole in the middle of the Runway".

So remember, whether you get your weather briefings on line or over the phone, what you don't know (or didn't hear, or pay attention to) can hurt you.

Steve

STERLING



Now taking care of your Cirrus and Diamond products as well as Cessna, Beech, Commander and Piper aircraft

Stop in and check out our maintenance facility.

Stop by Sterling and see the new cool products available!

Discover the Difference in Concord

Tel: (925)676-2100 Fax: (925)676-5580 Unicom: 122.95

Mt. Diablo Pilots Association
PO Box 273073
Concord, CA 94520

Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

In This Issue:

- 1 Cessna's New VLJ
- 2 Presidents Message
- 4 Tri-Tip Bar-B-Q for June Dinner
- 6 Details, Details and NOTAMS
- 7 Komputer Korner

First Class Mail
Address Correction Requested