



MDPA news

December, 2006 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 33 Issue 11

Meeting Notice

Date: December 15, 2006
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:30PM
Program: 7:00PM
Board Meeting: Dec. 13th

President's message December

We have been blessed with some great weather this year. Not much rain, only a few days of fog and some great days for flying in November. The valley has had some thick fog so trips to Fresno or Bakersfield have been iffy. I was flying out of Fresno headed back to CCR with flight following when I heard a pilot on a VFR flight getting flight following for a practice approach respond to the controller after being advised of jet traffic that he couldn't see the traffic because he was IMC!! The controller didn't think much of that statement either. He jumped on the pilot letting him know he was on a VFR flight and not cleared to enter the clouds. The moral of this story is? There are all kinds of pilots out

there so when the weather gets marginal stay alert for those who don't know what they are doing. Keep your head out of the cockpit and watch for those nuts.

Don't forget to attend one of our breakfasts. We meet on the first Saturday of the month at about 9AM. Pat, Richard and myself cook up some good eggs, sausage and pancakes. After the breakfast we hold a safety meeting to talk about some of those nuts I mentioned above and other safety items.

November's dinner was a great success. Many thanks to Pat for his home made chili. He took the day off to cook that meal and it was great. That brings me to the December dinner. December 15th, Friday at about 6:30 PM we will have the annual Christmas dinner. We will have ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, and sweet potatoes. What we need you to bring are salad, dessert and side dishes. We are also looking for people to bring place settings for eight so we won't use paper plates. When you RSVP for dinner let us know what you are bringing. Don't forget to bring a gift to exchange to the dinner. Some gifts are crazy (pink flamingos) some are much sought after (the die cast airplanes) and many are just gifts. They all are appreciated but try to keep the value of the gifts to \$10 or \$20. We will be e-mailing out more on the Christmas dinner and rules for the exchange soon. Hope to see all of you on the 15th.

I have noticed ADG, the group selected to develop the hangars where our clubhouse is located, is advertising and soliciting deposits for the hangars already. They don't even have a lease with the county yet!!! I sure hope those deposits are secured somehow. I would hate to see local pilots lose their deposit if something goes wrong.

We will be sending out your dues invoices shortly. Please take the time to send us a check. Your dues help pay the rent on our clubhouse so we really need you to sign up. Why sign up? Political voice, fuel discount, dinners, reduced tie down, trips to international locations, and local club trips are just a few reasons to join MDPA. Your average airplane if flown just 60 hours will pay for the MDPA dues with your fuel discount!!! Then all the other benefits are free. So sign up early and talk someone else into joining MDPA.

Let me know what trip you want to lead. I would like to get a calendar of all our trips for 07 done by February. Then we can get it up on our website for all to see and plan for. So far I have heard about Copper Canyon, whale watching, Shakespeare festival and an air museum. However, we need more than that so let me know what you will lead.

Keep the blue side up
Vince Siebern

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TIME TO RENEW YOUR MDPA MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year again to think about renewing your membership in MDPA for the coming year. Annual dues invoices will be appearing in your mailbox in the next few weeks. Dues for the coming year will remain at \$120 for the year and are payable on the 1st of January. Members not renewing will be dropped from the membership list (and fuel discount) 45 days later on February 15th.

So look for your renewal letter in the mail or if you want to get going sooner, just go to <http://members.mdpa.org/> log in and renew your membership on line using your credit card or Pay Pal account.

By the way, for those of you who are not current members if you pay your dues now, your membership will be effective immediately and will be good until Dec.. 31, 2007. Same goes for new members so take the time to talk to your pilot friends and tell them about the benefits of MDPA membership. After all, the more the merrier.

Best wishes to all this holiday season.

**PAT'S CHILI FEED 2006**

Pat made another unbelievable batch of chili, cornbread and salad. I got to the clubhouse at about 9:00 am and brought a big pot. Shortly thereafter Pat arrived with that little Prius loaded to the gunnels with stuff. He immediately got the coffee going and then cut and chop, cut and chop all day. I dropped by after lunch to find, cut and chop, cut and chop. That evening we all arrived to the wonderful smells of pots of chili simmering on the stove. Vince and Dianne had come to help set stuff up and ice down the drinks. It was great. Pat had nothing but good to say about that new stove. It allowed him to cook at the club house instead of at home and then having to transport hot pots of chili. Thanks again, Lorraine.

It was an uneventful dinner in that we had nothing go wrong, the food was great, on time and well planned. What a concept! Maybe when I grow up I can do that! After dinner, we talked about what's going on at the airport and just had a great time with friends. That's what it's all about! Great friends, great food and nice times to share together. I took Carol home after dinner, so I couldn't stay for the cleanup, but it looked pretty darn good when I came by last week. Maybe Lorraine's group at Thanksgiving had something to do with that? Anyway, no complaints from me or anyone I talked to. Great job everyone!

The bottom line? I know we made some money, just not how much! We'll have to get an accounting for the year, but I think we've put another couple thousand dollars into the treasury for the coming rainy days! We know they're coming, just not when!

Next month will be the Christmas pot luck dinner. Be sure to sign up and come. Remember to bring a gift for the gift exchange!



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ONE AND ALL!
THANKING YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS
SUPPORT!**

UPDATE YOUR MDPA ONLINE PROFILE

It's that time of the year to make sure that your membership profile is current with MDPA as well. Information in your profile is used to mail your monthly newsletter, your annual dues letter and other official mailings.

MDPA takes your privacy seriously and so this information is not used for any other purpose than MDPA official business and is not shared with or sold to any other entity. So please take a moment to sign on at <http://members.mdpa.org/> take a look at your profile and membership preferences and make any corrections that may be necessary to the information there. By doing this, you help us keep in touch with you. If you haven't yet tried to log on to the members only web site and don't have a username and password as yet, its easy to get one.

Just click on the link that says "Don't have a username..." and fill in your membership number and last name along with your requested username and password. It's just that easy. By the way, your member number is printed at the top left corner of your newsletter label. Or if you can't find that just send an email to members-only@mdpa.org to request your number be sent to you via email.



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AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT NEWS

In a move out of the blue, we have a new enemy of progress here at the airport. It's never simple, but this is ridiculous! As seven new projects wind their way down the complicated road to construction, the new Fire Marshall has decreed that no new construction will happen here at the airport unless it is in compliance with NFPA 409. He also has indicated that he will not allow a Group III hangar, only Group II, by virtue of the fact that he wants foam systems in all new hangars. What does all this mean? And what is a Group whatever hangar or an NPFA?

Basically, NFPA is a national code that municipalities can adopt, should they choose to use its language in what is allowed to be permitted and constructed in their jurisdictions. The Group designations describe what activities are allowed within a given hangar and its basic size and construction type. Contra Costa County has not adopted NFPA 409 for general aviation hangar construction, nor has any other district in California. Doing so basically shuts down general aviation construction, as this code is written for hangars housing large jets and is for the likes of United Airlines, Delta, etc. The impact of conforming to the foam and containment requirements in this code will, and has, shut down all construction until it is resolved.

You may say, great, now things will stay the same. But wait a minute! An airfield languishing in a state of no growth is a prime target for closure. Does this sound familiar? Didn't we just have this fight? We won a battle, not the war, developers still out there want to close the airport and developer's money is patient money. What to do? Well, for now, we are trying to get explanations as to why this is being done, and to what end. After that, we may need to get everyone to start applying pressure. Know that the airport staff is on our side on this one, so Keith and company are not the culprits. The Fire Marshall works for the County and the Supervisors are his boss. It's time for the Board of Supervisors to exercise their authority to regain control of the development process. An interesting note is that the Fire Marshall has taken a leave of undetermined length. So, after his dropping this bomb, are we supposed to wait in suspended animation until he returns? As you can tell, I am not too objective on this issue, but time will tell, and we'll keep you posted. Thanks for your support in advance.



THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

After all of this heated discussion about the rules and all, many of you newer members may be wondering about what this is all about. Well, let me tell you! It all started long, long ago, in another galaxy. There used to be a gift exchange and the booby prize (no pun intended!) was a couple of boxes of pasta shaped like, in the words of that late night TV commercial, “that certain part of the male anatomy”. Well after so many years, the pasta was certainly beyond the expiration date on the box (I think it was so old it didn’t have one), and was a little long of tooth, so to speak. We then had an administration that was a little more sophisticated than your present folks, myself included! They concluded that, since most of the laughs and innuendos had long since been exhausted, the exchange should be discontinued. And so it was for a few years.

And then something happened! You all elected a president that had little shame, and no sophistication! Who was this poor misguided soul? Well, me, of course! We immediately reinstated the gift exchange, but even I couldn’t bring myself to wrap those old boxes of pasta. I mean, a lot of them were broken! Ouch! And I couldn’t find replacements. Oh well, on to a new and different tradition. That year, someone found a neon light pink flamingo and wrapped it for the exchange. Unbelievable! Absolutely no class, so much so that it was fabulous! I lusted after it! So did everyone else, but finally, Ralph Foltz got it and hid it in the way back. All went well until a cute little 9 year old named Valerie wanted it. We all shamed Ralph into giving it to her, thus the rule not to hid gifts. She got it and it is probably still hanging in her room. No new neon pink flamingos could be located anywhere in the known world.



The next year, we had house guests from England for the holidays. I had been to another gift exchange, and got a plastic rose bush, with two arms that moved up and down to the music, “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”, and two eyes that blinked. Do I hear the sound of neon pink flamingos? The best part was that it had a motion detector, so it went off at will, over and over! Simply beautiful! Geoff, my guest, fell in love with it (who wouldn’t!) and ended up with the gift. Picture him at Heathrow in the customs line with hundreds of other people trying to sneak in holiday presents, being asked if he had anything to declare. Only a rose bush, he declared. **NO PLANT MATERIAL ALLOWED!** Let me see this rose bush! And out it came, to strains of ...” Somewhere over the rainbow, Way up high, There’s a land that I heard of, Once in a lullaby...” Geoff blushed, the inspector couldn’t believe his eyes, and everyone within 50 feet couldn’t stop laughing! It now has a special holiday spot in their home every Christmas.

You then had the good fortune, or misfortune to elect Vince. He’s as bad as me! Maureen brought one of her Texaco airplane models, and there were almost fist fights over it! What a party! And now, here we are. Codified, blessed by Great Britain’s PM, and again, a dignified group of adults. **NOT!** See you at the party, and bring your present for the best ever! I may have a present to rival the flamingo! Then again, maybe you do!



PATS RULES OF GIFT EXCHANGE:

1. Participation is voluntary!
2. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift.
3. Participants will draw a number which determines the order in which they select from the collection of wrapped gifts.
4. When you get a gift, you must unwrap it and you can't hide it under the table or in your airplane, car etc. This is because selected gifts are vulnerable to ORGANIZED CRIME -- that is, theft by participants who drew numbers after yours. The first person selects a wrapped gift and unwraps it. The second and following participants have ONE MINUTE to either select a wrapped gift from the pile OR steal an unwrapped gift from someone else.
5. If you are a victim of GIFT THEFT, you then have one minute to either select another wrapped gift or steal from another victim.
- 5A. You can't steal your previous gift back, though!
- 5B. Also, there can be no more than two gifts stolen in a single round. If you are the victim of a victim, you must take a wrapped gift from those remaining.
6. After all the participants have selected or stolen a gift, there is one final round (maybe). If you were the #1 person to draw and IF the wrapped gift you drew was NEVER stolen, you can steal a gift from someone else. Usually this means exchanging your dog for their diamond, but if there are still wrapped gifts in the pile you just put your unwrapped gift on the pile and either choose from the remaining wrapped gifts or steal a gift.
7. That's all, folks!

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Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

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