



MDPA news

December 2008 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 35 Issue 12

Meeting Notice

Date: December 19, 2008
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:30 PM
Program: 7:00 PM
Board Meeting: December 10th

November MDPA Breakfast and Flying Clinic

John Potter, Moderator

“Flying isn’t dangerous. Crashing is what’s dangerous”

First, thanks to Richard, Patrick and the ladies who helped, for doing the breakfast. No breakfast, no safety clinic, and the breakfast IS what makes it work.

Next, thanks Vince Siebern for running the last clinic. Inbound you had a real life experience -- when the electrons cease and all that depends on them die. Your write-up did a good job of describing the

topic at the last clinic.

That struck me. I have been taking a different approach. My write-ups are full of “bait”----not much detail. Vince provided no bait, rather all the meat, line and verse. He told the story so that you did not have to come to a clinic to hear “the rest of the story.” You are off the hook.

I have deliberately not tried to educate through the newsletter articles, but rather have chosen to entice pilots to attend in order to learn from the other pilots. I happened to peruse an old AOPA Pilot article (7/99) by Machado, the humorist. He wrote about how we learn by *rumor*. Pilots do a lot of “hanger flying,” as Machado described. That’s my point, it is just that, “hanger flying,” unstructured and prone to exaggeration and hand waving. Some information is spoken as gospel and gets no cross examination. A youngin’ could walk away thinking, for example, “--you can get away with loading up with a lot of ice, it’s exciting.”

Preparing for the clinics has changed my own behavior. Typically I search out articles to glean some truths that can become fodder for discussion. This last clinic, I pulled from three articles to present the one liner idea about flying at night, “losing your cones” and then tying that to the recent story about a pilot telling the controller that he “couldn’t see a thing and that it was pitch black (14k feet & no O₂.)” That was his last transmission. I never thought too much about safety before, it was an afterthought. (Hey! Sometimes you can too much information ---maybe that is why I don’t fly so much anymore!)

I argue that coming together with other pilots, in a serious discussion about bad things that can happen and how to avoid them, is a good investment----especially with wealth of experience that our members have to share. Join us next month.

Open Letter to the MDPA Membership and Board--11/25/08

John Potter

Subject: Arianna Jimenez, child severely injured in April ‘04 CCR accident

At the last dinner meeting, I asked if anyone knew how the little girl was doing. Steve Kennedy was the only person who seemed to recall anything, that there had been a news article in recent times about the accident. I did a little research and found these Oakland Tribune articles (I live in another county and do not get Concord area news):

9/1/04

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4176/is_ai_n14581089?tag=artBody;col1

Summary: Back to school.

(Continued on Page 2)

MDPA Mailing Address

PO Box 273073
Concord, CA 94520

MDPA Officers

President:

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

VP Activities:

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

VP Programs:

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

VP Communications:

Steve Kennedy 925-370-0828
Communcations@mdpa.org

Treasurer/Membership:

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

Membership@mdpa.org

Facilities Manager

Lorraine Bartneck 925-383-8820
Facilities@mdpa.org

Secretary:

Bev Levy 925-937-3444
Secretary@mdpa.org

Director at Large:

John Levy 925-937-3444
Atlarge@mdpa.org

Past President:

Vince Siebern 415- 897-0861
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

(From Page 1)

11/24/06

file:///Users/johnpotter/Desktop/Danville%20teen%20settles%20suit%20with%20pilot%20who%20landed%20on%20highway%20Local%20%7C%20Oakland%20Tribune%20%7C%20Find%20Articles%20at%20BNET.webarchive

Summary: Settlement

12/21/06

file:///Users/johnpotter/Desktop/UPDATE:%20Three%20killed,%20one%20injured%20in%20Concord%20plane%20crash%20%7C%20Oakland%20Tribune%20%7C%20Find%20Articles%20at%20BNET.webarchive

Summary: After a recent CCR '06 crash, reflects back on the Jimenez '04 accident.

In short, the settlement money pretty much went to the lawyers and Kaiser Permanente and very little was left for Arianna, perhaps enough for a state college and certainly not much for any future cosmetic surgery

I believe that the Board should consider a reasonable contribution to the Jeminez Trust Fund on an annual basis until she is 21. This would be a statement from a pilot organization to encourage her.

At the MDPA Safety Clinics we have been discussing the potential consequences of taking off on runway 19 and losing the engine, just as happened in the Jimenez case. The biggest point that can be made is that if there is any question about engine performance, i.e. after an annual or any repair work (e.g. magneto, fuel system, etc.), you as pilot. can request another runway for take-off. Food for thought.

Reminders:

**Monthly Breakfast/Safety Seminar/ Antique Plane show
Saturday December 6th**

**Holiday Dinner Party - Friday December 19th
Adopt a Table RSVP's to dinners@MDPA.org
(only a few left)**

**Gift Exchange Rules later in this newsletter
Side Dish RSVP at dinners@mdpa.org**

MDPA Mission Statement

The Mount Diablo Pilots' Association is a non-profit organization based at Buchanan field in Concord, California (KCCR). There are many benefits to joining the club. The purposes of the Mount Diablo Pilots' Association are:

- To promote good public relations between general aviation enthusiasts and the local community.
- To encourage participation in fly-ins and other aviation activities.
- To promote safety and educational activities for pilots.
- To provide mutual resources of information on flying for members.
- To furnish information and support to the Contra Costa Airport Advisory Committee and other governmental agencies concerned with aviation.
- To be a proxy on aviation matters of community concern for its membership.

MDPA Trip to Ashland for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, September 2008

By Bev Levy

Bill and Konie Collins, John and Jude Potter, George Ann Garms and Andy Marshal, Michael and Jenn McCosker, and John and I took off for Ashland at various times on Friday, September 12th in three airplanes and one rental car. Michael and Jenn, brand new MDPA members, discovered a fuel leak in their plane, and quickly rented a car and drove to Ashland to join the group. They arrived in time to see the Friday night play before checking into the hotel that night. We all met them for the first time the next morning at breakfast.

We stayed at the Stratford Inn Ashland, about five blocks from the theaters and restaurants. The hotel had an indoor swimming pool and Jacuzzi, and included a continental breakfast. (John Potter REALLY missed his MDPA flying pig, pancakes and eggs.)

On Saturday, Bill and Konie went Antique shopping and apparently the others just rested up from all that flying, but John and I went on the Backstage Tour of the theaters. Unfortunately, photography was not allowed indoors, but pictures in the outdoor Elizabethan theater were allowed.

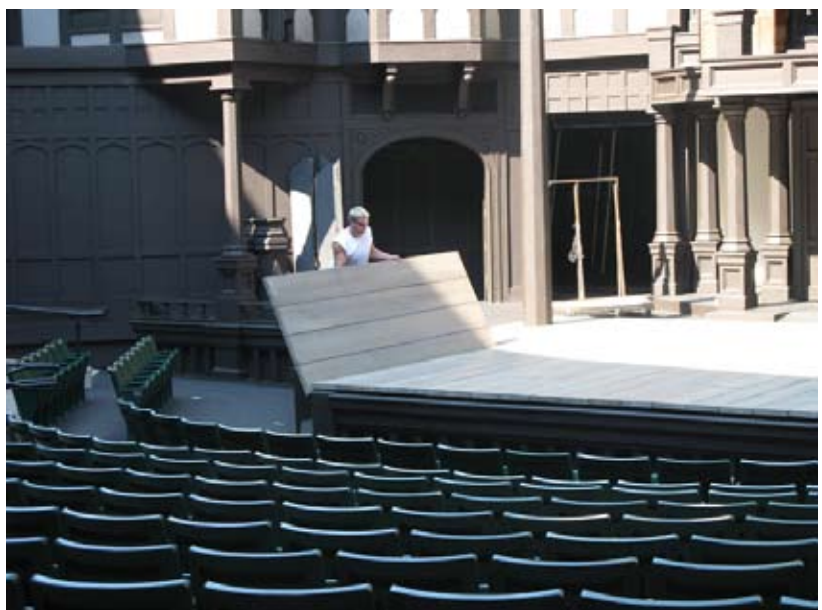
The tour took us on stage so we could look out at the seats where we would sit that night. We also saw the Green Room, located downstairs between two of the theaters, where the actors wait until it's time for them to dash upstairs to the stage. We learned about the stage manager and assistant managers' jobs and how they get the right actors on stage at the right time.

An added treat was watching the start of a set change. Usually, two theaters have a set change between performances on the same day. The set from the matinee has to be torn down and stored, and the evening set has to be set up and repaired, if needed, in two hours or less. When you see how elaborate the sets are, this is amazing.

The Shakespeare plays, *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Comedy of Errors*, were not presented in a "traditional" style. *Midsummer Night's Dream* was set in the mid-1900s, and the Duke's speech and mannerisms reminded me of "the Fonz." The fairies in the woodland scenes were not traditional, either. They were large men, dressed in black mesh tops, tutus and combat boots. I guess I would summarize it as, "the Fonz takes Shakespeare to Castro Street."

Comedy of Errors was also given an updated look and sound. It was presented as a musical (really!) set in the American Wild West. Both plays were a lot of fun.

In the photo at right you can see they are actually increasing and changing the shape of the stage.





Elizabethan and Angus Bowmer Theaters: A Green Show (free!) is held here before the evening performances.

After our Backstage Tour, John and I ran into part of our group at an Italian restaurant, and joined them for lunch. Andy Marshal, John and Jude Potter, George Ann Garms, John Levy



The whole group went here again for dinner Saturday night before the show. The food was excellent and the conversation was lively. We all flew home on Sunday. Michael and Jenn had turned in their rental car and flew home with us. The flight home wasn't too scenic due to all the brown, smoky air.



The trusty Aztec and John with Michael and Jenn McCosker Ashland and surrounding farmland Mount Shasta with little snow and lots of smoky haze.



Mount Diablo – We're almost home!
CCR, 19R



A Message From Steve

Next year as we prepare to develop the dinner schedule, I would like to ask for volunteers. These monthly dinners are only possible if people like you continue volunteering to put them on. I know it's an awful lot of work, and many people are reluctant to put in that kind of time and effort for a dinner. So, in addition to our traditional dinners, I would like to ask for volunteers who would be willing to do PART of a dinner. You can send emails directly to me and I will coordinate to bring people together who can put together a complete dinner. Maybe you make a killer roast beef, but don't want to do the side dishes, dessert, and preparation to do a complete dinner. Maybe I can team you up with a person who makes desserts to die for, and is willing to help with set up and clean up. Lets try and see if we can get more people involved, and different kinds of food, so that everyone can experience the wealth of diversity we have in the club. Send your suggestions, idea's and volunteer status to kennedys@pacbell.net



Richard Roberts and the Flying Pig

Johannes Verhoek, Steve Kennedy,
Richard Roberts and Pat Miller



Jay McCartney, John Levy, and John
Summer's back



Now, a front view, with Pat Miller and Bev
Levy



Betty Dunn, Elaine Yeary, Andy Marshall, and
George Ann Garms



George Ann Garms is really not eating alone

Mark Gilchrist, Johannes Verhoek, Rudi and Teeb Thomas, and Nils Parsons back



Jude and John Potter



Teeb Thomas, Joyce and Nils Parsons



Richard Roberts



Gift Exchange Rules :

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!

STERLING



You will know if you were good or bad this year...

If you were a good girl or boy...

The best present of all will be under under your tree.

Give the gift of flight with Sterling Aviation.

***Surprise Someone Special with a Gift Certificate from Sterling!!
While Discovering the Difference in Concord.***

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


Pacific States Aviator
51 John Glenn Dr
Concord, CA 94520
(925) 685-4400
Unicom 122.95

**Drop
on
by
For Great
Deals
Happy
Holiday's**



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

Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

In This Issue:

- 1 Safety Clinic
- 3 Ashland Trip
- 4 Message from Steve
- 7 Gift Exchange Rules

First Class Mail
Address Correction Requested