



MDPA News

Mount Diablo Pilots Association
Buchanan Field, Concord, California

December 2014

activities@mdpa.org

Volume 43 Issue 12

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings of the Season!

The Mount Diablo Pilots have had an outstanding year so far.....BUT there is more to come during December.

The MDPA Saturday morning '**Five Dollar Breakfast**', Safety Roundtable, and fly in will be this **Saturday, December 6, 9:00AM**. John Potter and his 'Team of Professionals' will once again appease your gastric desires with the "Best Breakfast at the Airport" (Independent Survey of 10 out of every 10 Buchanan Pilots attending the event).

Our '**Holiday Party and Dinner**' is scheduled for **Friday, December 19, 2014 @ 6:30pm** at MDPA Clubhouse. The party and dinner will be a catered event not to be missed. The great food, supplied by our own Scott Davis of Magoo's Grill of Pleasant Hill, the optional gift exchange, and a special presentation of the FAA Wright Brothers' Master Pilot Award to our own Stewart Bowers will round out this Event of the Year. Please save the date and reserve your place at the MDPA Holiday Party and Dinner.

Also, since we are a frugal group, you may wish to take advantage of an opportunity to save on your airplane property taxes at an event scheduled for later this month. Please see the announcement and information elsewhere in this newsletter.

I sincerely appreciate the time I have served on the Board of our Association. My two years as Treasurer were a time when I was able to get to know you as members and friends. Checking you in at dinner or receiving your membership renewal application allowed me to be introduced to our members one by one and in person. Being Treasurer has been a wonderful way to get to know you.

This past year as your Association President has been a terrific experience for me. The members of the Association Board of Directors worked so well together that membership in our Association has grown to a number not seen in recent years...numbering in the mid-80s and growing all the time. We did some new things this year to serve our Members and kept the things we do so well working for our Members.

I want to thank the people who have done so much for our Association and continue to serve on this volunteer-only team. I especially thank the Directors of the Association for their support and guidance. It is also gratifying to me that the entire Board, except me, has volunteered for another one year term serving you.

I will be turning over the proverbial President's gavel to Mr. Bob Weiss at the end of my term on January 1. I hope you will continue to support the Association by renewing your membership, attending MDPA events, and volunteering as your skills and interests allow. All the best,

David Thacker, President

MDPA PRESIDENT ELECT MESSAGE

Hello everyone and Happy Holidays to all,

Some of you may have heard that I am the incoming MDPA president and will take David Thacker's place in 2015. It's an honor to be back on the board following my stint as Activities Director a couple of years ago, and it's even a greater honor to serve with the rest of the board who have all agreed to stay on board for 2015.

The great thing about our association is that it serves the interests of a wide range of aviation enthusiasts. Young and old(ish) (you know who you are), student pilots, active pilots, retired pilots, pinch hitter pilots, wanna be pilots, CFI's, former and present FBO owners, interested and disinterested significant others, and lovers of aviation in general – we all belong and we are a;; welcome participants in the Mt. Diablo Pilots Association.

The Board of Directors' collective goal is to further the interests of the membership and to make sure that member desires are known and their needs are met. To that end, we are committed to continue our monthly breakfasts, safety forums, fly-ins, and dinners with noteworthy speakers and programs. But, we'll also try to kick it up a notch to take advantage of robust student pilot training at both Sterling and PSA, overall increased flight operations, low fuel prices, and the stated desire of airport management to revitalize public perception and participation in activities at CCR.

MDPA has the distinction of having the largest membership of any club or association at the airport. With a membership in excess of 80, we have a voice, a place at the table, and an advocacy that carries weight and importance. Therefore, it is important that each of you, not only maintain your involvement by renewing your membership early, but also engage your family and friends in a conversation about the good works going on in our association.

We all know aviation has general interest and appeal, but lot of folks don't know how or where to engage. Help MDPA grow its membership, involvement and community standing by reaching out and plugging folks in to the Association. 2015 will be a great year for MDPA, and I sincerely look forward working with our great Board of Directors and all of you to ensure a fantastic experience for everyone.

Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

Bob Weiss

MDPA President Elect

925-382-0586 Cell

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY ON
DECEMBER 19, 2014 @ 6:30 PM AT MDPA CLUBHOUSE**

We have a fabulous feast coming from Magoo's at the usual \$15.00 price and are looking for elves to decorate a table and bring their "small" favorite dessert.

This will be a special night as one of our very own, Stewart Bowers, will be presented with the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. This prestigious award recognizes 50 years of excellence in flight.

Remember to bring a wrapped gift, valued up to \$20.00 if you wish to participate in our famous gift exchange.

Reservations lists will be arriving shortly, so don't forget to sign up, let us know if you are able to decorate a table and which of your favorite desserts you will bring.

Santa will not be good to anyone who does not show up for his party!



**MOUNT DIABLO PILOTS ASSOCIATION (MDPA) ANNOUNCES THE FIRST ANNUAL
PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AIRCRAFT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

- What:** Aircraft of Historical Significance will be on public display
When: Saturday, December 27, 2014, 10 AM - 2 PM
(4 hour minimum available display time required)
Where: MDPA Airport Clubhouse, 200 Sally Ride Drive, Buchanan Field, Concord.

Aircraft participating in this one-day event may be exempted from aircraft property tax for 2015/2016 tax year.*

If your aircraft has not been made available for public display in the past, and is all of the following: individually owned, 35 years old or older, not used for commercial purposes, *OR* is one of fewer than five known aircraft of its type or model, you may be exempted from paying property tax on your plane. Other restrictions may apply such as the need to display the aircraft during 2015.

This event may also serve as one individual day of exhibition for those who are displaying their aircraft under the twelve-displays-per-year program.

In order to fully avail yourself of this property tax exemption, your prior registration for the event must be received by December 26, 2014.

To register for this event: Email your name, email address, phone number, N number, Plane Make and Model to: President@MDPA.org or contact President David Thacker by text or phone at 707.344.4492 for more information.

If this event is canceled due to rain, *qualified* and *registered* participants may still receive the 2015/2016 property tax exemption.

* (Reference: California Revenue and Taxation Code Sec. 220.5, State Board of Equalization Letters to Assessors 2002-090, 2004-012, 2004-047; CA BOE "Aircraft Authoritative Citations")

MDPA BREAKFAST & SAFETY FORUM, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2014

By John Potter

BREAKFAST

We again had standard "Costco" chow, BUT, it was good and Bob Tucknott stepped in to show everybody how to do pancakes----*his way* (added butter to the "readymix"). It was exciting and he hadn't even signed up to cook!

*Note: The club policy is to deliver leftover food from the dinners and breakfasts to a needy family.

Head Cooks:

6 Dec 2014 - Pete "Pita" Monillas

6 Mar 2015 - Lyman Dennis

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Cleanup

Now that was a great cleanup! Thank you everyone!

New solo "Pilot"

Tom Cronin (not present) was recognized as just having done the solo!

Baja Bush Pilots (BBP)

BBP now facilitates both US and Mexican filing for border crossing using the Electronic Advance Passenger Information System (eAphis).

SAFETY FORUM

The Moderator, Felix Boston

Felix provided insight into what actually happened several months ago when he had an engine-out NE of CCR alongside the freeway in his Ercoupe. He had just recently flown it back from Florida where he had purchased it - took several days. Ercoupes are not know for high speed!

When interviewed on Television after a very nice, uneventful landing, he responded to the interviewer to the question of how he was so successful --- and Felix's understated response was --- (according to my wife Jude who saw the TV report) "--- because I'm a good pilot." Now that was a real classy answer.

It turns out that he had lost the electric fuel pump, the only fuel pump on that vintage aircraft. By the way, there are no flaps, but maybe that's O.K. because it takes off, cruises and lands at all the same speed-----slow.

His working with the tower illustrated that the Concord Tower is a training facility, and obviously there was a trainee on the radio at the time asking intrusive questions that could have only caused Felix, if he paid any attention to the questions, to have maybe made a decision that was not consistent with getting on the ground safely.

Always at the forefront of pilot thinking is, "fly the airplane."

Aside-The Straight-In-Approach at Non-Controlled Airports

We discussed (again) the prudency (invented word) of doing the straight-in-approach, and as it applies to larger/faster aircraft. The article below discussed that issue and the point was made that it was the result of court cases that established that no matter what, if that aircraft is not well established (generally more 4 miles out), then it is not a wise move. Take a look at what the AOPA legal advisor advises -- Under "Pilot Council:

<http://www.aopa.org/News-and-Video/Pilot-Magazine-Archive/2011/May/AOPA-Pilot-Magazine>

Angle-of-Attack (AoA) Instrument

As an aside we brought up the issue of the necessity of installing the AoA device now being offered in the market place. The take away was that generally "thin wing" aircraft (critical profile) warrant AoA use and it is not as important for the "fat wing" type aircraft like single engine Bonanzas, Cessnas, Commanders and Pipers. Tom Hammett presented information on his personal research into the necessity of installing such a system with the conclusion that not all single engine aircraft need the AoA device, depending on wing design, and pilot skills in that aircraft.

The Take Away for MDPA

----We must look out for each other----an MDPA "safety culture" -----

FLYOUT TO SANTA ROSA AIRPORT, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1 2014

By Bob Weiss

We had very good participation to our fly-in to Santa Rosa (STS), with about 6 aircraft making a ramp presence, and a nice group of new and "seasoned" MDPA members to enjoy lunch on the patio. A flight to Charles Shultz (Snoopy) airport continues to be a favorite go to destination, and this trip did not disappoint.



We had two out of the ordinary things happen during this fly-in. One was a "Where is John Potter" mystery that, fortunately, was solved when John and Jim showed up late as usual, but later than typical for them; but healthy and happy and with a good story to



tell. We'll save the story of John's French made ELT with a mind of its own for another time, but suffice it to say that John had our full attention and was the subject of much conversation over lunch.

The other was seeing Bob Tucknott with a nose wheel flat tire in the 19R run-up area transferring his passenger from his airplane to Scott Davis' C172. It's not every day that you see that much human involvement next to the active runway, but all's well that ends well.



Bob got his tire fixed that afternoon (no small feat to find a mechanic on a Saturday), and Bob's passenger still got his airplane ride and lunch at STS. Things just have a way of working out, don't they?

One very noteworthy event was when Bill Austin taxied up to the clubhouse in his pristine Stearman for display during breakfast. It was really nice to see some fine looking steel and fabric out on the tarmac.



Bill drew a big crowd and we hope to see much more of him and his machine at future events.

MDPA DINNER, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 2014, 6:30PM

By Maureen Bell



Our November dinner was also a wedding reception for a recently married couple, J.R. and Bethi Gibbs. J.R. is a long time member of EAA and a recent member of MDPA.



Our speaker was Steve Einshaus who discussed the nine personality types



Maurice Gunderson, our representative on the Economic Development Panel at Buchanan gave us an update.

Maurice is also the new AOPA ASN volunteer.

Here is some background from the AOPA website: "Pressure on public and privately owned airports continues to mount. This pressure takes many forms, including curfews, noise restrictions, lack of improvements, residential encroachment, and even calls to close the airport. The AOPA Airport Support Network provides the vehicle for AOPA members to work in concert with AOPA to establish that early warning system."





John Potter with Dave Thacker pleading for cooks at the upcoming breakfast.

Diane Kennedy, a member of the family we haven't seen for quite a while, at the front with Bob Torrey on the right, and several EAA members at the end of the table.



Pete Monillas, Scott Achelis, Duane Allen and Bob Tucknott.

Jude and John Potter who look just like a recently married couple, with Maurice and Rebecca Gunderson.



Jude Potter, Joyce and Stewart Bowers and Tony Tiritelli on the left, with John Potter, Maurice and Rebecca Gunderson on the right.



Steve Einhaus, our speaker, Maureen Bell on the left with Steve Mink, Robert Boyd, and Susan Boyd on the right.



Elaine Yeary, Mark Young, Chet Robbins in the front with several EAA members and the Gibbs.

As usual, the dinner was perfect, BBQ salmon with tri-tip thanks to Scott Davis and you saw the photo of the delicious cake brought by the Gibbs.

We raised our glasses in a toast to the happy couple “May you always have blue skies and starry nights”.

HAVE A SAFE AND MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM EVERYONE AT
PACIFIC STATES AVIATION.



PSA hours of operations for Christmas!

12/24/14

Line Service 0800-1700
Office 0800-1200
Maintenance/Parts 0800-1200

12/25/14

Line Service 0800-1700
Office Closed
Parts and Maintenance Closed

The Mount Diablo Pilots Association is a non-profit organization based at Buchanan Field in Concord, California (KCCR).

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

The MDPA clubhouse is located at 200 Sally Ride Drive in Concord, California,

do not send mail to the clubhouse address, use the USPS address instead:

Mount Diablo Pilots Association

P.O. Box 6632

Concord, CA 94524

www.mdpa.org