



# MDPA News

Mount Diablo Pilots Association  
Buchanan Field, Concord, California

March 2019

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## Inside This Issue

February Breakfast and Safety Forum .....	1-3
MDPA & EAA 393 Crab Feed .....	4-7
Historic Aircraft Display – Public Notice .....	8

## MDPA Calendar Upcoming Events

### March 2019

- 2** Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout
- 6** Board Meeting
- 15** Dinner Meeting

### April 2019

- 3** Board Meeting
- 6** Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout
- 19** Dinner Meeting

### May 2019

- 1** Board Meeting
- 4** Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout
- 17** Dinner Meeting

## MDPA BREAKFAST AND SAFETY FORUM, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2019

*By John Potter*

### **“HANGAR TALK” HOUR**

We had about 35 attendees for breakfast, I miscalculated since I expected 50. (Oh well, that just meant that I had more leftover food to give to a needy family.) Ron Lem saved the day for me. As Head Cook, he showed up early and took charge of setting up since I did not have a volunteer to do it (I thought I did!). I relearned how to make a 65 cup pot of coffee ---good and strong, like the old Navy.

Cooks were on time, with a specialist on scrambled eggs delighting us, Bob Weiss. Bill Darnell (old Army Red Beret), Paul Millner (from Oakland), and Tom Hammitt (lawyer), with Elaine Yeary’s home cooked grits. Now, what more could you want?!! Well, we got more than expected, Scott Davis, Chef extraordinaire, stepped to do the eggs-over easy on the griddle. The real foundation of getting the breakfast on is the duo shopping team, Tony Tiritilli and John Ewins. Tony stepped in several years ago to take on the shopping when I was at my wit’s end in getting people to volunteer. That saved the breakfast program since I was incarcerated in a hospital many times in those years and could not do it reliably.

It is essential that volunteers

**!!!!Register!!!!!!!**

so that we can have the “right” number of people,  
but not too many!

We are now depending 100% on MDPA members to respond to the request for helpers that comes out a week before the Saturday Safety Forum by going to the MDPA website calendar and registering. Failure to register means that we do not know how many will show up.

The “Cooking Team” is divided to do these tasks:

- **Head Cook** - Makes sure that the food is ready on time and properly prepared.
- **Cooks (at least 4)** – Prepare the food and cleanup the kitchen.
- **Shopping** - Get the food (usually at Costco and/or Safeway).
- **Set-up** - Prepare the kitchen and serving area for serving and store the equipment afterwards.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

1. A Ford Trimotor will be on exhibit at PSA and available for flights on March 14-17.
2. AOPA ASI has a FAAST presentation at Crown Plaza on February 11 on back country flying titled “Peaks to Pavement.”
3. Pilots are reminded that you are the “Boss” when you need to say to a controller “unable” or “emergency.” You might have to explain it later.

### **MDPA President’s Comments**

Maurice Gunderson announced that the next dinner meeting will be joined with the EAA as the annual crab-feed on SATURDAY, 2/16/19. Guests and new members were introduced. We were delighted to have the owner of PSA (and CFO), Bob Thompson, join us with his maintenance manager, Ammar. Maurice announced that negotiations were ongoing in regards to the PSA fuel discount. He also had cases of oil available for those that had ordered it. Maurice thanked the cooks and others that assisted in putting on the breakfast.

**Note:** The Historic Aircraft Display, when weathered out, is noticed by MDPA. For this provision to permit an exemption for showing an aircraft, the aircraft must be registered on the MDPA website for that date in advance.

### **Director of Airports Comments**

Keith Freitas provided a quick update on airport events.

He reported that the Runway 14L/32R pavement reconstruction project continues to have a target construction start date as of August of 2019. A final design approval conference call between the Airport staff, design engineering firm and the FAA is set for Monday, February 4, 2019.

The F-Row hangar project is completed and tenants were able to move back into their hangars starting January 25th. Keith reported that “he screwed up” during the project by initially providing tenants an estimated project completion date that was presented by the contractor as December 24th, however, the contract completion date was January 24th. He stated that he knows that contractors are more likely to finish when liquidated damages start and he failed to catch the disparity between the two dates.

Lastly, Keith reported that the airport had an unauthorized vehicle access on the west ramp that ultimately caused a FAA “runway incursion.” The individual gained access by piggybacking a west ramp tenant and in an effort to “find his way to Highway 4” crossed Runways 19R and 19L on Taxiway Juliet before being stopped by Airport Operations staff. It is expected that the airport tenant that allowed the unauthorized access will lose their ramp driving privileges for a significant period of time.

*Editor's note: Tenants passing through an access gate are reminded that security requires that they stop their vehicle once passing through and wait for the gate to close.*

Keith reminded tenants that airfield access security/safety is all of our responsibility and if there is an issue to contact Airport Operations 925-383-0005.

### **MDPA Treasurer's Remarks**

Elaine Yeary was present and collected the donations for breakfast. She noted that there were no new members. She also stated that letters for the charitable contributions that were made for the Paradise fire had been sent to those that donated.

### **Activities**

Mike Harris briefed on the planned future fly-outs. The fly-out for the day was cancelled due to rain. Maurice noted that the annual schedule on planned fly-outs is now posted on the website Calendar: <http://mdpa.org/calendar>

## **SAFETY FORUM**

### **Moderator – Stuart Sims**

Stuart Sims presented his experiences over the years in making goofy mistakes, one's that he vividly remembers. He owns a "Columbia" type aircraft. To summarize what he covered, it generally would be called having "situational awareness" experiences, the current buzz words for remaining alert to what's going on as you move from take-off to landing, especially somewhere else.

- ✚ Fuel Exhaustion
- ✚ Getting lost
- ✚ Defuel of body before flight (or during)
- ✚ Food container effects at high altitudes
- ✚ Thunderheads - entering and dealing with icing

He shared some words of wisdom:

- ✚ Plan for a trip early so you do not rush planning/preflight.
- ✚ If you wonder about having enough fuel, you do not have enough fuel!
- ✚ Have cash in case credit cards don't work.
- ✚ Your IQ drops progressively with the number and types of passengers you have (i.e. added stress can easily lead to more mistakes).
- ✚ Better landings come from learning from bad landings. (Need to continually challenge yourself with due respect for risk calibration.)

*Editor's note: Guy Black called in and said that his "safety word of the day" is "be aware." That seems very apropos given the nature of the Forum topic of the day. (He was home sick with pneumonia.)*

***We must look out for each other ---- MDPA's "safety culture".***

**MDPA & EAA 393 CRAB FEED, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018 @ 5PM**

*by Maureen Bell*

If you like crab, the place to be last week was the clubhouse.

So fresh, it almost swam off the plate, delicious green salad, garlic bread and even roast beef, followed by lemon cakes and coffee!

Our thanks to DeWitt Hodge and his wife Joanne for planning this delicious meal. Our bartenders, Jennifer and Kimmie from PSA made us feel as if we were in a 5 star restaurant!



On the right - Joanne and DeWitt



Kimmie and Jennifer

A great evening enjoyed by a large crowd.









**FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH**  
**9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**  
**HISTORIC AIRCRAFT DISPLAY**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**



Buchanan Field Clubhouse –  
200 Buchanan Field Rd Concord  
For details visit the Mount Diablo Pilots  
Association @ [www.MDPA.org](http://www.MDPA.org)

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

**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 Directors & Officers:**

President - Maurice Gunderson  
Vice President - - Pierre Bidou  
Treasurer - Elaine Yeary  
Secretary - Maureen Bell  
Programs/Guest Speakers - Pierre Bidou  
Facilities - DeWitt Hodge

**MDPA Managers:**

Safety Forums – John Potter  
Newsletter & Social Media - Natasha Doktorova  
DART Program – DeWitt Hodge  
Members' Aviation Oil Program – Vishal Goyal

**The MDPA clubhouse is located at 200 Buchanan Field Road in Concord, California,  
*do not send mail to the clubhouse address, use the USPS address instead:*  
Mount Diablo Pilots Association**