



# MDPA *news*

July 2000 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 27 Issue 7

## Meeting Notice

Date: July 21, 2000  
Place: MDPA Clubhouse  
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: July 19, 2000  
Next Meeting: Aug. 18, 2000

## President's Message

by Bob Lively

I know time flies when you're having fun and when your fun is flying time can really slip away. I know that some of you are thinking that too much time has gone by since you received your last newsletter and it has left many of you in an informational void. I'm sure you'll all like to thank Mikhak for the fine work she did on the newsletter after I pressured her to help us out of a real jam. As luck would have it just as Makhak's life took

a happy turn (a new little Oakes in the world) up steps Nancy Miller, a relatively new member who heard we needed help and jumped right in and took charge. I think it's only fair that the rest of us pitch in with news, photographs, articles, and info for the newsletter so the job doesn't have to be any more time consuming than it already is.

Hopefully next month I'll have a story or two about my Baja adventure, which starts July 1 and should



PHOTO BY JEANNE CECCHI

The Airport Advisory Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Airport Manager's office.

whet your appetites for Bill's trip into Baja later in the year. Anyone who has thought about flying south of the border should start planning now and contact Bill about updates. Don't get left behind on what I'm sure will be a unique excursion into Mexico. A prime example of waiting too long is our trip to Hyampom. Who but Bill would have the Hyampom Volunteer Fire Dept. do a barbecue for our fly-in? I'm sure we will have some stories when that comes along, but it is just one example of the work that goes in and the fun that those who participate can have. If this sounds like the kind of trip for you contact Bill and see if he can fit you in. If not don't be discouraged but sign up early for the next trip.

I can't impress upon the members too much how important it is to spread the word about MDPA to the other pilots on the field. I know that we have lost several members this past year but we have gained some new members who will prove to be a real asset in the years to come. I'm not sure if everybody knows Stew Bowers but you should. He has been a member for several years and has always promoted the club and tried to support instead of complain. His efforts have paid off in many new members already this year. So anybody who doesn't know what they can do should talk to Stew.

I'm sure that you don't want to hear about our septic problems and

Continued on page 2...

*If you're not currently a member...*

## Join MDPA!

Check out the many benefits of an MDPA membership on page 6 of this newsletter. You'll find an application form on the inside back page. Dues for new members and renewals should be sent to the MDPA Treasurer:  
Paul Chelew  
3157 Diablo View Road  
Lafayette, CA 94549

## President's Message

... continued from page 1

other assorted trials and tribulations that your board battles every month on your behalf and I don't want to get into that because it's late and I still have to pack for Mexico. So anyone who is flying over the 4th of July holiday have fun and be safe.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make all of them yourself.

-- Bob



## MDPA Angels

Dick Rihn won the motivator prize at the June meeting and graciously donated it back to the club.

## New MDPA Members

Marielle Moyer is the newest member of the MDPA. She attended the June meeting and was so impressed she joined on the spot! Marielle is a part-owner of a 1978 Archer (which received a beautiful paint job just last year) and is working on her instrument rating. She frequently enjoys flying to San Diego and Santa Barbara and is looking forward to planning a second trip to Montana soon. You will often see her at AAC meetings and she is in her third term as chairman of the local 99s chapter. Whenever her boss can pry Marielle away from the airport, she works as a project manager for AT&T. One of her projects is the build-out for the new facilities at SFO.



## Aviators Restaurant Now Open

There is once again a restaurant at the Sacramento Executive Airport. The Aviators Restaurant is now open for business. Hours are Sunday-Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## Classified Ads

Classified ads can be placed in the MDPA newsletter free of charge to members only. We restrict ads to items or articles pertaining to aviation. To place a classified ad, contact Nancy Miller at [njh@mystic.com](mailto:njh@mystic.com).

## It's Barbecue Time Again!

The July meeting is special! It's time for MDPA's annual BBQ. We've invited the Tower staff and are getting the word out to other airport groups such as the 99s and the local EAA chapter to join us. Tell your non-MDPA pilot buddies they're welcome to join us for this fun event. See the enclosed flyer for more information, then post it!



## Economic Research Associates Airport Study Released

Economic Research Associates (ERA), the consulting firm retained by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, revealed the results of its Airport Economic Impact Study at a County Airport Subcommittee meeting on June 21st.

The results should not surprise pilots. Buchanan Field currently generates \$44 million in revenue annually and provides 664 jobs. The addition of 27 commercial airline flights weekly and general increased activity of the airport could generate about \$170 million in annual revenue and 1,584 jobs after 15 years, according to the report.

ERA found that removing the airport totally would raise neighboring property values by only 3 percent annually.

## 2000 Golden West Moves to SAC

The 2000 Golden West EAA Regional Fly-In is scheduled for September 8-10, 2000. This year there is a change in venue to Sacramento Executive Airport, bringing the fly-in and airshow closer to the population centers of the Bay area and Sacramento Valley (not to mention the drive-by traffic on I-80 and Hwys. 50 and 99). For more information, check out their Web page at <http://www.gwfly-in.org/gwaa/index.shtml>.



## Groveland Get-a-Way

by Chris Rossi

If you're asking yourself what you can do with your ticket and your airplane this weekend, consider a trip to Groveland, CA. Having had quite enough of my cellular phone, voicemail, e-mail and U.S. Mail to last me the fiscal year, my wife Michelle and I decided to check out and check in at the All Seasons Groveland Inn. A very short flight to Pine Mountain Lake on a Friday evening and the stage was set for some gear-down-weekend relaxation. Figuring I'd write about the trip, I wanted to see just how easy everything was going to be.

Getting from the airport to Groveland proved to be a snap on the Yosemite Pine Shuttle, which was waiting for us at the airport when we arrived. Being a self confessed city slicker capable of a grimacing freeway commuting snarl, slowing my pace down took a few hours once we arrived in Groveland.

Having read about the Groveland All Seasons Inn and the Groveland Hotel in *Pilot Getaways* magazine, we opted for the Inn. The proprietor, Jack Jenkins, took care of everything. With one phone call all our accommodations and activities were arranged through him—as he wouldn't have it any other way. Located within walking distance of any point in town, and 26 miles from Yosemite, the Groveland Inn is perfectly located for those without

a bike, horse, powered skateboard, or car.

Jack is a friendly guy who clearly enjoys what he does. He goes out of his way to make sure his guests have an easy time making the transition into his Inn, scheduling things to do, and getting around. Further, he can work with any budget you might have such that having a good time doesn't mean you have to stress the BILL later on.

The Inn features five custom designed and recently remodeled rooms, all in different themes. Take a look at Jack's website to get the "cyber-tour" of each. For hopeless romantics, Jack offers three different "get spoiled" type packages to make your stay even more relaxing—too steamy for this article, however details of each are also listed at his site. We opted for my best Billy Crystal imitation with some horseback riding at Pine Mountain Stables, a night dancing at the Iron Door (check your holster at the bar), and an awesome dinner at the Groveland Hotel—another unbelievable place to hang your hat.

However, if aviation remains your bag, Jack can arrange a tour of Kent and Sandy Blankenberg's UNBELIEVEABLE air museum located at the airport. I now have a photo sitting left seat in a Lockheed Electra, albeit landlocked in a hanger with the engines off. Kent and Sandy are truly remarkable hosts and have made aviation a way of life—literally—as the museum is also their home.

**Bring in a new member!**

## Do You Have Something to Say?

If you have an article of interest or a message you would like to relay to the MDPA members, we will include it in the next newsletter (mailed as close as possible to the first of the month) and/or post it on the MDPA Web site, <http://www.mdpa.org>. **Photographs are encouraged!** If you cannot provide digital images, we will scan your photograph and return the original to you. Please send submissions by e-mail or snail mail to:

njh@mystic.com  
Nancy Hattaway Miller  
P.O. Box 6765  
Concord, CA 94524  
925-685-3354

## General Membership Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2000

Meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. by Bob Lively

### ACTIVITIES REPORT

Bill Landstra reported that it was a good trip to Idaho. The trout were 15 to 16 inches long. The weather was good.

The Hyampom trip is booked up. If any additional folks wish to come, they might be able to camp. It should be a lot of fun. The volunteer Fire Dept will put on a BBQ. We will pretty much have the run of the place. Please call Bill if you want to try to squeeze in as a last minute participant.

Continued on page 4...

## General Membership Meeting Minutes

... continued from page 3

Please contact Bill if you want to go on the Lake Isabella camping trip.

LA PAZ! The preflight briefing will be Aug 18.

Bill has a place there. It should be a great trip. If you have wanted to go to Mexico but don't know the ins and outs, this is a good opportunity to figure it out.

### PROGRAMS REPORT

We will have our annual picnic in July. The Sheriff's Department plans to bring their helicopter over. The tower crew is invited.

In August our slated guest speaker is a pilot who helicoflew Desert Storm operations.

### FACILITIES REPORT

No report due to member not present.

### TREASURER REPORT

We currently have 92 members. We need 100.

The County Sanitation District has sent us a bill for sewer. We are on a septic system. There is a problem with the roof of the septic tank. We will check with the county to see if they want to repair the tank or put us on the sewer system.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

No report due to member not present.

### COMMUNICATION REPORT

Nancy Miller is our new Newsletter Officer. She requests that any member who wishes to have an item published in the newsletter, please get that to her in a timely manner. She welcomes any articles on flying or technique. If you have a member profile, that also would be welcome.

### COMMITTEES

Russell Roe is on the Airport Advisory Committee. He has been flying since 1969. He stated that we in the aviation community need to be active in presenting our point of view about general aviation.

There are a few people in the community who get the ear of our elected officials. At times the officials are presented with a negative picture of the impact of activities around an airport. Sometimes these presentations are lacking in actual facts, but without a rebuttal an official might be inclined to look at general aviation as a nuisance, rather than an asset. There is an Economic Impact Report that should be ready by our next general meeting.

One of the Supervisors has requested that some rents be doubled. It appears that some local airport business might be relocating to other areas.

### SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE

Dick Rihn gave a talk about Density Altitude. Look at your POH or consult a Denault computer before you take off. There is not much point in getting airborne if you can't climb. Turbulence makes the situation worse. Also, don't forget to lean for performance, but keep it rich enough for cooling.

Bob Belshe, president of the local EAA chapter, spoke about Oshkosh. It is held at the end of July and first of August. The Great Circle distance is 1552 nm. Surprisingly, adding stops in Windover, Casper and Minnesota increase the distance only to 1595 miles. Many people arrive early to ensure a spot. There are two alternate airports, Fond Du Lac to the south and Appleton to the north, if you can't get into Oshkosh. The airport is open in the morning for arrivals. It is closed during the day. For more information about landing at Oshkosh there is a web site, <http://www.airventure.org>. There is a link to the Notam on the FAA website, which can also be reached directly at <http://www.faa.gov/oshkosh/notam.html>.

This year the GoldenWest fly-in will be held at Sacramento Executive Airport. Like Oshkosh, these events don't happen without a lot of effort by individuals. Volunteers are always welcome. It will be held Sept. 8, 9 and 10<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to park or register planes, or help out in any other way, please contact Bob at 925-376-7677. Local EAA meetings are held the 4th Wednesday at the old terminal building.

—Respectfully submitted, Lynne McWilliams

# Calendar of Events

## JULY

- 15 **Clubhouse Clean-up:** 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the clubhouse
- 15 **Lunch Bunch Fly-in:** 11:00AM at the clubhouse
- 15-16 **Hyapom Fly-in**  
Contact Bill Lanstra 925-283-3331  
Hyapom Airport is in the Trinity Alps. There is a 15 minute walk to the Trails End house-keeping cabins, right on the Trinity River. The cabins have kitchens and a store is nearby. Walking, bike rides, fishing or resting, all in a beautiful setting.
- Note! The Hyampom trip is fully booked.** If you're still interested in going, call Bill to check on the possibility of camping or any last-minute cancellations.
- 21 Lake Isabella Fly-in briefing: 5:30 PM at the clubhouse. Contact Bill Lanstra 925-283-3331.
- 21 **MDPA Meeting: Annual Barbecue** 6:00 PM

## AUGUST

- 6 **Lake Isabella Fly-in**  
Contact Bill Lanstra 925-283-3331  
This is an overnight camp out in the Sierra foothills near Bakersfield. Land at the Kern Valley Airport on the edge of the lake. The camping is for fly-ins only. Grass, picnic tables, water, BBQ pits, tie downs and a restaurant on the field for breakfast in the morning.
- 12 **Clubhouse Clean-up:** 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the clubhouse
- 12 **Lunch Bunch Fly-in:** 11:00 a.m. at the clubhouse
- 18 **Mexico Fly-in Briefing:** 7:00 PM at the clubhouse. Contact Bill Lanstra 925.283.3331
- 18 **MDPA Meeting:** 7:30 PM at the clubhouse Dinner at 6PM

## SEPTEMBER

- 1-5 **La Paz, Mexico Fly-in** with stops in San



PANAMINT MOUNTAINS OVERLOOKING THE LOWEST ELEVATION GOLF COURSE IN THE WORLD, FURNACE CREEK RANCH RESORT DEATH VALLEY, CA.

Felipe, San Francisquito, Mulege and Alfonainas.

Contact Bill Lanstra 925-283-3331.

Bill and Sue have been flying to Baja since 1979. One night will be at their home in La Paz. The house is downtown, two blocks from the bay.

- 8-10 **EAA Golden West Fly-in**, Sacramento, CA  
<http://www.gwfly-in.org>
- 9 **Clubhouse Clean-up:** 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the clubhouse
- 9 **Lunch Bunch Fly-in:** 11:00AM at the clubhouse
- 14-17 **Reno Air Races**
- 15 **MDPA Meeting:** 7:30 PM at the clubhouse Dinner at 6PM  
Speaker: Brian Horne, Environmental and Community Relations Officer

## OCTOBER

- 14 **Clubhouse Clean-up:** 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the clubhouse
- 14 **Lunch Bunch Fly-in:** 11:00AM at the clubhouse
- 20 **MDPA Meeting:** 7:30 PM at the clubhouse Dinner at 6PM  
Speaker: TBA

# Mt Diablo Pilots Association, Inc.

The Mt. Diablo Pilots Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose purposes 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 County Airport Advisory Committee and other governmental agencies concerned with aviation.
- To be proxy on aviation matters of community concern for its membership.

## Officers:

|               |               |              |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| President     | Bob Lively    | 925-798-1028 |
| VP Activities | Bill Landstra | 925-283-3331 |
| VP Programs   | Leo Saunders  | 925-676-7766 |
| VP Membership | Chris Rossi   | 925-634-5211 |
| VP Facilities | -OPEN-        |              |

|                   |                  |              |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Secretary         | Lynne McWilliams | 925-516-1840 |
| Treasurer         | Paul Chelew      | 925-933-2400 |
| VP Comm.          | Nancy Miller     | 925-685-3354 |
| Director at Large | -OPEN-           |              |
| Past President    | Dave Evans       | 925-254-6719 |

## Committees:

|                    |               |              |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Newsletter         | Nancy Miller  | 925-685-3354 |
| Motivator          | Carl Johnston | 925-254-7864 |
| Airport Advisory   | Russell Roe   |              |
| Dinner Coordinator | Dennis Byron  | 925-934-1750 |
| Web Page           | Norm Brudigam | 925-284-3300 |
| Safety/Maintenance | Dick Rihn     | 925-938-4236 |

## MDPA Membership

TO: NEW PILOTS IN THE AREA or OLD/YOUNG ONES THAT NEED A PLACE TO TALK AIRPLANES

You are invited to join the Mt Diablo Pilots Association, better known around Buchanan Field as MDPA. The association is a family-oriented club with events throughout the year that include

monthly meetings with speakers on aviation topics, regular fly-ins, and trips to a variety of places in the West. The focus of the club is to promote safety and aviation education and to be proxy on aviation matters for its membership.

Membership dues are \$120 per calendar year, only \$10 per month! This provides for the use of the clubhouse, the monthly newsletter, and nametags. Dues also help to sponsor club activities such as the Christmas party and summer picnic.

With discounts offered to MDPA members by businesses on the field your membership can pay for itself.

## For Airplane Owners:

- Pacific States Aviation, 12¢/gal. Discount on fuel
- Sullivan Propeller Specialists, 5% discount on prop balance
- Rent-A-Wreck of Oakland, 15% discount on car rentals
- Hoses Unlimited, 10% discount
- Buchanan Aviation Services, maintenance rate of \$50 per hour for all active members
- Tie-down at CCR for only \$50 per month (space available basis)
- Fabulous food and beverages served once a month at meetings for only \$6-8 a person
- Fellowship, information sharing, safety education: priceless!

As you can see, your MDPA dues could pay out five times over—and more! Off the ledger sheet, consider the luxury of access to a fine clubhouse with a great view of CCR and Mt. Diablo. Imagine the fun of spending time with some very nice people. Think of the opportunities to fly into interesting places. And don't forget the benefit of access to information about the airport and a voice for aviation in and around CCR and other local airports.

Good fun-and all of this for only \$120 a year.

Disclaimer. Your returns will vary according to the amount that you utilize the facilities available to you. However, the potential savings opportunities are there for you.

