



# MDPA *news*

August 2000 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 27 Issue 8

## Meeting Notice

Date: August 18, 2000  
Place: MDPA Clubhouse  
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: Aug. 16, 2000  
Next Meeting: Sep. 15, 2000

## President's Message

by Bob Lively

I'm happy to say that our annual barbecue was a huge success. We had about 30 more people show up than we had reservations for so if some people felt we shorted them on food that is the reason. Leo was made to jump through many hoops (try to picture that) but came through for us and we had a fine program that night. I was also glad to see some of the tower personnel came by to see the clubhouse and we got a chance to put a face to the voices we hear over our radios.

You'll hear more about our trip to Hyampom later in the newsletter but I have to say what a great job Bill did and I'm sure all who went on the trip will back me up. One thing that I discovered on this outing is that we have a member who's way too competitive and will bend to the breaking point and beyond any rules that common citizens live by. I normally would not mention (Chris Rossi) this member's name and I won't now but you all should be aware to watch out if anyone (Chris) tries to pull you into any games with money involved. You have been warned.

Anyone who looked around the clubhouse lately will have noticed that the condition is way below the level that we all would like. I would like to apologize for that but I can't because this is a volunteer group and the same people are getting tired of doing all the volunteering. More will be said about this later.

Sharpen up your skills because the annual spot landing and flour-bombing contest is coming and this is the year someone will wrestle the trophy away from Teeb. The date should follow later in the newsletter. We should invite the 99's and EAA members to come and show us what they can do. We plan on a barbecue after. This should be a good opportunity for pilots all over the airport to meet and have some friendly competition. Chris, remember I said "friendly."

... Bob



BOB LIVELY SHOWS GREAT STYLE AS HE AND TEAMMEMBER STEVE WISE VAINLY ATTEMPT TO BEST CHRIS ROSSI AND THE CITIZENS OF HYAMPOM IN A "FRIENDLY" GAME OF HORSESHOES.

*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:

Paul Chelew, Treasurer  
MDPA  
3157 Diablo View Road  
Lafayette, CA 94549

## VFR Flight Not Recommended

The Oakland FSDO will sponsor an Aviation Safety Seminar on Tuesday, August 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Contra Costa Water District building. The seminar, titled "VFR Flight Not Recommended" will cover VFR flight and Special VFR and changes in weather patterns. The new airspace for SFO Class B and VFR fly ways will also be discussed.



Visit our Web site at <http://www.mdpa.org>

## New MDPA Members

You may have noticed a sporty new addition to the MDPA ramp recently. One of our newest members, **Keith Ritthaler**, is restoring the 1954 Tri-Pacer and has it about ready to fly. Keith, at one time an active CFI, hasn't had an airplane in 30 years. But with his kids almost finished with college, he's looking forward to flying the short-wing Piper on trips to Nebraska.



**Bill Gardner** is a familiar name to many MDPA members. He's been active in the NRI Flying Club for many years. Now retired from running his own business, Bill is looking forward to joining us on our fly-outs.

Although he is not quite as new a member as Bill and Keith, **Daniel Meredith** has jumped right into the club's activities. After joining us on our

fly-out to Hyampom, Daniel agreed to take on the responsibilities of **Director at Large** on the MDPA Board of Directors. The Director at Large is a jack-of-all trades who takes on one-time projects or assists the other directors and committee chairmen. Daniel's first task will be organizing the clubhouse cleanup brigades, so help him out and do your share!

Daniel had the good fortune to attend an aerospace magnet high school, where all students learned to fly as part of their high school education. He earned his private pilot certificate in his senior year, but college took precedence over flying. Living at that time in fair-weather Phoenix, he also saw no reason to get an instrument rating. (Having watched northern California weather for a few months, he's beginning to reconsider.) Daniel has been an amateur radio operator since he was 12 and now works in the wireless data communications industry.

We'll be continuing to profile new MDPA members in the coming issues of the newsletter. If I've missed you this month be patient, or drop me an e-mail at [webmaster@mdpa.org](mailto:webmaster@mdpa.org).

## MDPA Angels

A donation was made in the name of Dr. Ceechi in exchange for a FAA medical exam.

Rod Pierson won the motivator prize and generously donated his winnings back to the club.

## Auto Break-ins at CCR

There have been at least two recent automobile break-ins on the west side at CCR. Neither was in the MDPA parking lot, but the incidents happened nearby. Car windows were broken to gain access to the contents. Remember not to leave "tempting" items such as backpacks or boxes visible in your car and to lock your trunk so it cannot be accessed from the inside of the car. Don't leave anything in your car that you can't or don't want to replace (logbooks, headsets, housekeys, etc.)

## 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 the editor at [webmaster@mdpa.org](mailto:webmaster@mdpa.org).

## Kickin' Back in Hyampom

by Mary Byron

It's summertime, and the livin' is easy. This was especially the case for MDPA's latest fly-in to Hyampom. Six airplanes, thirteen people and two dogs made it for this trip. After a spectacular, clear flight into the Trinity Alps, Dennis and I ran into a little excitement trying to land there for the first time. We made sure we had plenty of altitude to clear the hills, but that same altitude proved way too much for the short canyon approach. The runway looked very tiny underneath the Musketeer. Our first right downwind approach proved way too short, way too fast and unsuccessful. I had a great close up view of the valley (and the ridges) while we gained some height and tried it one more time. The second approach still didn't feel right so, with some helpful advice from Bill, who was hovering and watching the whole thing, we tried a long, slow downwind and made a perfect landing. Nothing like having to do this in front of an audience! Nancy Miller (with passenger/pilot Daniel Meredith) and Bill and Suzie Landstra were in the air circling, waiting patiently for their turn, and they both executed a perfect landing. (Ed. note: that's stretching the meaning of "perfect" at least for N38517.)

The Ziegler's Trails Inn van was waiting for us at the airport, and Thora Ziegler whisked pilots and luggage off to the inn, less than a mile from the airport. This is definitely the place to get away from it all. The 6 cabins were quite rustic (none of the luxuries of the Hilton, mind you), but enjoyable nonetheless. The satellite system only carried two channels, but I don't think any of us flew to this incredibly scenic place just to sit back and watch a movie or two. We all checked in, dumped luggage and took the short hike to the river. Michelle Rossi quickly found the old swimming hole, a sunny spot with a slow moving current. While a few people enjoyed the chairs under the shade trees back at the inn, most of us quickly took advantage of a refreshing swim in the South Fork of the Trinity River. We felt like kids without a care in the world. On a side note, one of the big differences between Ziegler's and the Hilton is that they allow you to bring your dog with you, and some folks in our group did just that. I think the dogs loved the fresh air and water just as much as the people did!

Back at the ranch, the Volunteer Fire Department was cooking up a fund-raising barbecue of hamburgers and hot dogs, served with homemade salads and deserts. The volunteers, most of them transplants from the Bay area, were easy-going, pleasant and eager to please. We swapped stories about the hectic lives they left behind and the hectic lives we still lead. I'm fairly sure everyone thought they had the better deal. After dinner, some of the pilots played in a heated horseshoe tournament. It

... continued on page 3

## 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 and/or post it on the MDPA Web site, <http://www.mdpa.org>. **Photographs are encouraged!** Please send submissions by e-mail or snail mail to:

[webmaster@mdpa.org](mailto:webmaster@mdpa.org)  
Nancy Hattaway Miller  
P.O. Box 6765  
Concord, CA 94524  
925-685-3354

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was touch and go there for a while, but our heroes were victorious!

The temperature was perfect, compared to evenings in Walnut Creek, and a few of us just didn't want to go inside. The story swapping continued well into the night, with some impromptu hangar flying thrown in. When the gigantic full moon finally crested the ridge, we reluctantly called it a night.

Anxious to see what the community really consisted of, we took a short, exploratory walk in the morning, and found it exactly as billed. We found a café and bar in one building and the general store next door, which had all the right emergency supplies; beer, soda, water, milk and snacks!

We had all turned in our breakfast orders the night before and, right on schedule, they were ready for us: homemade pancakes and waffles, fresh eggs, hash browns and great coffee. The service was great and you couldn't beat the company – more hangar flying, more tall stories, and some reminiscing about past club trips. This was our first trip, and it definitely won't be our last!

## Page 3 Pilots... aka the MDNPA?



WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT ALL WENT ON--OR OFF--IN HYAMPOM!!

## Will Fly for Food

Hello from your stomach. So you want to eat around airplanes and with others with the same affliction? Well MDPA has a deal for you. First off we start with a nice clubhouse with kitchen facilities, dinning area and yes even a fireplace. Second, once a month you get the opportunity to hear great speakers, meet with your fellow club mates and even eat great food. Sounds like a great deal doesn't it?

Yes it is, but it does come with some responsibilities on our part. With this wonderful facility comes KP duties. I know you probably thought you wouldn't have to do KP since you left the military. Or you were never in the military and only know about KP duty through movies and stories that your uncle told you. Well MDPA also has KP.

Here is all we are asking. If you use the kitchen, please clean up after yourself. This doesn't take much time and it makes for a nice looking club house. Following are just some requests:

- Wash and dry any utensils, pots or dishes that you use. Please use the dish soap. Even dishes with only chips in them can attract critters.
- Clean the counters off with Windex or one of the other cleaners under the sink.
- If you use any of the hand towels, please hang them up somewhere. If they are left in a pile they stay damp, create mildew and attract ants. I don't know about you but ants in the kitchen are not one of my favorite things, of course that unless they are chocolate covered.
- If you use a sponge, wring it out very well and place it so that it can dry quickly.
- If you have a large amount of trash, take it with you. Just like camping, pack it out.
- After use, please put all items back in their storage spot.

by Dennis Byron, Dinner Coordinator

- If you find that we are short on something, like plates or cups, notify the dinner coordinator, that would be me, so that we can purchase them prior to the next monthly dinner.

If we all pitch in and perform these simple tasks, our clubhouse will be a nice place for all of us to enjoy.

Now on to the food portion. I hope everyone is aware of our

monthly dinners. We will have regular dinners in August through November. I will be asking for volunteers to assist with these dinners. If you feel like you have a knack for some type of dish or are good at mixing salads, let me know. I am sure we can put you to work. I will be looking for help in setting up the dinners as well as clean up. Just drop me a line.

So what about December? Being that it is December, I believe we would be having a holiday party. The question is, what would you like? Would you like to have a dinner at our facility? Or would you rather go to an outside facility and let them cater to us? Here are the plusses and minuses.

If we have the party at our facility, we will decorate, cook, serve and clean up.

I would be looking to create a committee to manage these tasks. We could potentially get by with less out of pocket expense. On the other hand if we have it off site, someone else can manage the food and the facility. We would probably have to pay more per person for this. So I will leave it up to you, the membership to decide. We would like to make the decision at the end of August so that if we do go off site, we can get a good place scheduled.

If you have a favorite dessert that you would like to share with 30 or so of your close personal friends let me know. We would love to have you add your personal flair to this dinner.

... Dennis

### Menu for August 18

- Salad
- French sour dough bread
- Chicken Spaghetti Casserole Contains:
  - a. Chicken breast
  - b. Spaghetti
  - c. Petite green peas
  - d. Pimentos
  - e. Mushrooms
  - f. Chicken broth
  - g. Cheese
- Dessert
- Coffee, drinks, beer and wine



# General Membership Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2000

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

We did not have the usual committee reports due to a slavish devotion to the excellent barbecue food in front of the Board members. The following is summarized from the Board meeting two days before.

## ACTIVITIES REPORT

The Hyampom trip was a fantastic success. 4 people have expressed curiosity about flying to La Paz. Surprise Valley is a possibility for a September fly out. Bill L. and Bob L. will organize the annual flour bombing and spot landing contest.

MDPA requires pilots flying as PIC in club-sponsored activities to have the appropriate airman's certificate and a current medical, flight review and currency as required for the flight.

## PROGRAMS REPORT

We will have the County helicopter for the BBQ.

## FACILITIES REPORT

Tie-downs are not first come, first served. There is a waiting list which Bob Lively maintains.

The position of VP Facilities / Clubhouse Manager is open. The Board and a few club members have been doing some of the necessary work but the lack of a central manager is evident. Daniel Meredith has accepted the Board position of Director at Large and has taken responsibility for organizing clean up days until we find a new Facilities Manager.

## TREASURER REPORT

We have a deficit compared to last year's financial position. We are investigating whether we will be reimbursed for past payments to the County Sanitation District while we were on the septic tank. The County is taking care of the septic problem.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have currently have 96 members. The new membership flyer is done.

## COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Many thanks to folks who commented positively on the new look of the newsletter. As usual, we welcome submissions of articles and photos for publication. The Web site is getting a facelift but changes won't be noticeable until it is finished. The newsletter is now available on the Web site although it isn't posted until a week or so after the mailings go out. MDPA maintains a number of mailing lists and we'll be working to utilize them better in the future. The two of greatest interest to MDPA members are "mdpa-members" which is a general e-mail list open to everyone for dis-

cussions and announcements of meetings and so forth and "mdpa-announce" which receives only the announcements but not conversational chatter.

## COMMITTEES

The Dinner Committee is planning the next several dinners and looking for helpful volunteers. Menus will be published in the newsletter in advance. Last year's crab and steak feed was a hit for the Installation Dinner and Bob L. and Dave C. will work to repeat that success this year. We are considering reinstating pancake breakfasts and looking at ways to make them valuable for the airport community as a whole.

## SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE

No report due to the BBQ festivities.

## MONTHLY PROGRAM

Deputy William Duke and Pilot Adrian Strutz of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office brought their Bell 407 helicopter for us to see. They explained their duties in helicopter patrols and discussed the capabilities of the chopper for marine patrol, search-and-rescue, short haul and assisting the Sheriff's ground patrols. Traffic patrol is not on their list of duties. The Bell is equipped with a daytime camera and a Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera as well as a 50 million candlepower "NightSun" spotlight.

## Join the MDPA E-mail List

What is a mailing list? Simply put, a mailing list is a way for a group of people to stay in touch via e-mail. Mailing list subscribers send one e-mail message to the list address, and the list software redistributes the e-mail to all on the list.

An electronic mailing list is available for MDPA members who want to meet and keep in touch with other members and discuss issues relating to the club. Reminders of meetings and other MDPA events of interest are regularly posted to the list. Commercial announcements or solicitations are not permitted.

**To join the list**, send an email message to [majordomo@earesearch.com](mailto:majordomo@earesearch.com) containing the line:

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subscribe mdpa-members
```

**To remove yourself from the list**, send an email message to [majordomo@earesearch.com](mailto:majordomo@earesearch.com) containing the line:

```
unsubscribe mdpa-members
```

The list is managed by MDPA member Dave Evans, who can be reached at [devans@earesearch.com](mailto:devans@earesearch.com). Contact him if you have any questions or problems.

# Calendar of Events

## AUGUST

- 12 **Clubhouse Clean-up:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the clubhouse
- 12 **Lunch Bunch Fly-in:** 11:00 a.m. at the clubhouse
- 15 **Airport Advisory Committee meeting:** 7:30 p.m. in the Airport Manager's office.
- 18 **Mexico Fly-in Briefing:** 7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse. Contact Bill Landstra 925-283-3331.
- 18 **MDPA Meeting:** 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Speaker: TBA
- 26 **Flour Bomb and Spot Landing Contest.** Contact Bob Lively 925-798-1025.



DENNIS BYRON, BILL LANDSTRA AND CHRIS ROSSI (L TO R) BRAVELY ENDURE THE RIGORS OF THE TRINITY WILDERNESS ON AN MDPA FLY-IN.

## SEPTEMBER

- 1-5 **La Paz, Mexico Fly-in** with stops in San Felipe, San Francisquito, Mulege and Alfonainas. Contact Bill Landstra 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 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the clubhouse
- 9 **Lunch Bunch Fly-in:** 11:00 a.m. at the clubhouse
- 14-17 **Reno Air Races**
- 15 **MDPA Meeting:** 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Speaker: TBA
- 19 **Airport Advisory Committee meeting:** 7:30 p.m. in the Airport Manager's office.
- TBA **Surprise Valley Hot Springs Fly-in.** Near Cedarville. Contact Bill Landstra 925-283-3331.  
Take a trip up Modoc way. After a scenic flight, we'll land at the Cedarville Airport where our hosts will have arranged to leave courtesy cars for the 5 mile trip to the spa. Think hot soaks. Think massage. This one's sure to book up fast!

## OCTOBER

- 14 **Clubhouse Clean-up:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the clubhouse
- 14 **Lunch Bunch Fly-in:** 11:00 a.m. at the clubhouse
- 17 **Airport Advisory Committee meeting:** 7:30 p.m. in the Airport Manager's office.
- 20 **MDPA Meeting:** 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Speaker: TBA

## NOVEMBER

- 11 **Clubhouse Clean-up:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the clubhouse
- 11 **Lunch Bunch Fly-in:** 11:00 a.m. at the clubhouse
- 17 **MDPA Meeting:** 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Speaker: TBA
- 21 **Airport Advisory Committee meeting:** 7:30 p.m. in the Airport Manager's office.

## DECEMBER

- 9 **Clubhouse Clean-up:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the clubhouse
- 9 **Lunch Bunch Fly-in:** 11:00 a.m. at the clubhouse
- 15 **MDPA Meeting:** 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Installation Dinner, details TBA

**Bring in a new member!**

# 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	Daniel Meredith	925-687-2947

Past President	Dave Evans	925-254-6719
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## Committees:

Motivator	-OPEN-	
Airport Advisory	Russell Roe	
Dinner Coordinator	Dennis Byron	925-934-1750
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 \$6-9 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.*

# Mt. Diablo Pilots Association, Inc.

## Membership Application and Renewal Form

Send dues to: Paul Chelew, Treasurer  
 3157 Diablo View Road  
 Lafayette, CA 94549

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name First Name Spouse's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address or P.O. Box

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State and ZIP Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone # Home Phone # Fax # Cellular/Mobile # Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address (if used) Personal Web Page (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Aircraft #1 (e.g. C-1 S2RG, PA-28, Glasair, etc.) N#

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Aircraft #1 (e.g. C-1 S2RG, PA-28, Glasair, etc.) N#

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Vocation Hobbies & Interests

Please indicate on which Committee(s) you would be willing to help:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities (hangar party, BBQ)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trips (brunches, weekend outings) | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership (database updates)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs (speakers for meetings)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality (coffee, dinners for meetings) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety (flying tips, maintenance) | <input type="checkbox"/> Clubhouse                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Airport Advisory                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications (newsletter, Web site)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                             |   |

**Name Tags:** If you would like name tags, please print the name(s) as you would like them to appear on the tags:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name #1 Name #2

New Member Dues with clubhouse privileges ..... Initiation fee (waived), Annual dues \$120.00 (\$60.00 after July 1)

Membership renewal with clubhouse privileges ..... Annual dues \$120.00

Annual dues are payable on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. No bills are sent. All delinquent members will be taken off the membership and fuel list by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

*In order to take advantage of the MDPA fuel discount at Pacific States Aviation, you must identify yourself to the fuel attendant as an MDPA member and pay with either a Texaco credit card, cash, check, or Pacific States approved account.*



## Don't Forget!

MDPA Annual Flour Bombing and Spot Landing Contest

Saturday, August 26th

Meet at the MDPA Clubhouse at 9 a.m.

BBQ to follow at the Clubhouse

Mt Diablo Pilots Association  
200 Sally Ride Drive  
Concord, CA 94527

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Blue Skies and Tailwinds

To:

First Class Mail  
Address Correction Requested