



# MDPA *news*

Sept 2002 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 29 Issue 9

## Moab Adventures

by Kennan Kellaris

### Meeting Notice

Date:	Sept. 20, 2002
Place:	MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner:	6:30 p.m.
Meeting:	7:30 p.m.
Board Meeting:	Sept. 26, 2002
Next Meeting:	Oct. 18, 2002

Jon and Lynne chose a great spot to bring the rest of the club to with their choice of Moab, Utah for the late-summer trip this year. The weather was perfect and the scenery breathtaking. Club members that took part in the petroglyph/arches/jeeping and boating fest included Jon and Lynne, Brian and Diane Enbom, Dr. Bill Ellis, Wei and Valerie, Stu, Joyce and Byron Bowers, and new members Bill and Konnie Collins who bring their own sense of humor and wit to the club.

Jon, Lynne, Rick and I began the trip early Thursday afternoon, flying over Minden, Nevada and on to Tonopah, Nevada for an overnight stay. Tonopah really is a one-restaurant town, but the good news is that the restaurant has excellent Mexican food as well as Margaritas.

The early morning departure the next day apparently paid off, as the bumps and jumps endured by co-pilots Konnie and Wei later that day were completely absent in the early morning calm. The only disadvantage to the 6 a.m. take off is the habit that the sun has of rising

in the east – leading to a lot of squinting and makeshift shades as Rick did S-turns trying to figure out where the heck Jon and Lynne had disappeared to in the bright haze ahead.

Though the dinner (delicious) and night-time boat tour of the Colorado river (ask us anything about the Mormons that settled in the area a hundred years ago and we can all provide detailed answers) were great fun, the highlight of the trip was the sightseeing at Arches National Park (ooh aahh) on Saturday and the jeeping trip to Dead Horse Point on Sunday. The rain showers two days before our arrival made the scenery a little greener and the road a little bumpier. We all had quite a thrill heading up the side of a cliff in a series of switch-backs over big rocks on a narrow one-lane jeep trail. The Jeep Cherokees did a great job keeping up with the leader Rick in his little four-wheeler, though there was some considerable doubt as to whether they would make it under the boulder bridge on the road back out (they did). Wei, Jon and Rick turned out to be excellent drivers – not a single oil pan busted.

The food, company, and sights were all superb, making for a great trip for everyone. Thanks go to Jon and Lynne for an excellent choice of locale and for all their hard work in bringing it together.

\*\*\* Look for more Moab stories inside! \*\*\*



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

### Join MDPA!

The benefits of an MDPA membership can more than pay for its cost – and the intangible benefits of friendship and good times are priceless! Why not join us? Application forms are available on the web. Dues for new members and renewals should be sent to:

MDPA Treasurer  
P.O. Box 273073  
Concord, CA 94520

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

# MOUNT DIABLO PILOTS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of August 16, 2002 Meeting

Prior to the regular monthly meeting of the Mount Diablo Pilots Association, members enjoyed a delicious and generous Chinese dinner prepared and served by Dianne and Ken Cole. The business meeting was opened at 7:45 p.m. by past president Lynne McWilliams in the absence of the president Dennis Byron.

Dennis left several announcements: First he wished to thank the work of the committee who staged the July barbecue which was very successful in spite of the water line breakage which dampened some of the enthusiasm. Next it was noted that there will be two events on the same date August 29<sup>th</sup>. The FAA Safety Seminar will be at the Contra Costa Water District building, Another safety seminar will be held at the clubhouse in cooperation with the Civil Air Patrol.

Rudi Thomas gave a report on the trip to the winery at Pope Valley. All participants enjoyed the outing.

Lynne and Jon McWilliams said there were still openings for the Labor Day weekend trip to Moab and reservations must be made for motel and boat ride right away.

Steve Wise's fly-in to Surprise Valley at Cedarville, O59, is scheduled for Sept.24. Call Steve if interested.

Tracy Peters spoke about the EAA Regional Fly-in, Sept.6, and 7,8 at Marysville. That organization is offering rides to kids during that weekend. They need more pilots and planes for the event, but volunteers must be members of EAA to be covered by their insurance. The crew of the Enola Gaye will be in attendance.

Nancy Miller, the very capable editor of the newsletter, asked for a volunteer to replace her, as she is unable to continue in that capacity after these several years of service. There was no July issue as there were no articles or reports submitted. Come on, all you members. Give us write-ups of all your flying trips and comments upon things avian.

New address for postings to the MDPA mailing list: mdpa-members@mdpa.org.

Sue Landstra, membership chair, reported that we have 91 members.

Dianne Cole, representing the MDPA

Boutique, displayed the new MDPA caps in four colors with a classy pewter emblem. \$20.00, and some nifty rulers for a dollar.

Maurice Gunderson, dinner chairman, thanked the Coles for the great dinner.

The Civil Air Patrol program originally planned for August had to be rescheduled due to a scheduling conflict for the speaker. We will have this interesting program in September. Lynne and Jon McWilliams stepped up to the bat with the fascinating film "Arch Enemy."

Respectfully submitted,  
George Ann Garms, Acting Secretary



## The President's Message will return next month.

### 2002 MDPA Officers

<b>President:</b>	Dennis Byron	925-934-1750
<b>Activities:</b>	Steve Wise	925-376-9018
<b>Programs:</b>	Lynne McWilliams	925-516-1840
	Chris Rossi	925-634-5211
<b>Membership:</b>	Suzie Landstra	925-283-3331
<b>Communications:</b>	Nancy Miller	925-685-3354
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mary Byron	925-934-1750
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dianne Cole	510-758-2325
<b>Facilities:</b>	Bob Lively	925-798-1028
<b>Director at Large:</b>	Brian Enbom	925-687-2947
<b>Past President:</b>	Lynne McWilliams	925-516-1840
<b>Motivator:</b>	Bob Lively	925-798-1028
<b>Airport Advisory:</b>	Dave Evans	925-254-6719
<b>Dinner Coordinator:</b>	Maurice Gunderson	925-254-8347
<b>Safety/Maintenance:</b>	Stewart Bowers	925-254-0804

## Report from Moab

by Rick Mann

Moab? Where and what is Moab I said. It turns out that Moab, Utah was one of the most scenic and exciting places that I have ever been! Jon & Lynne once again have found and chosen a fantastic place to fly. I really enjoyed the trip to the Sedona that we did with them a few years ago, but this one tops Sedona in my book. The prices were all very reasonable and there was plenty to do.

Kennan and I enjoyed the four-wheel drive roads the most. We were lucky to have the company of Bill & Konnie on our long 4 wheel drive trip. They are a couple of brave souls to climb in the back with me driving. Jon & Lynne let us lead since we were in the open air Jeep. They were in the luxury jeep with Bill Ellis, Wei and Valerie in the rear. It turns out that Wei wouldn't let Bill drive and she did a fantastic job through some pretty rough terrain.

Saturday night dinner was really good with a cowboy ranch type feel to it. Dinner was followed by a beautiful trip up the river at night.

We had a really great time and enjoyed everyone's company. We are looking forward to more flying adventures with the MDPA. The MDPA is a great way to enjoy flying to new places with outstanding pilots and family.

**Editor's note:** Rick was also the photographer for that great picture of Moab's canyons (and Jon McWilliams) on this month's front page.

## MDPA Angel

A donation to MDPA has been made in the name of Dr. Gary Cecchi in exchange for FAA medical services. Thanks, Gary, for this generous option!

## Notams

■ Remember, Sacramento Approach has been replaced by Sierra Approach. All frequencies remain the same.

■ Willows Airport is closed for repaving through October 4 and again on October 21-22.

■ Sam's Club has Aeroshell 100 at a good price, recently reported at \$19.39.

## ANR Headset Conversion Kit

by Teeb Thomas

Having used my son Jim's Bose ANR headset I was amazed at how quiet N172TT became. I just had to have one. Not being gainfully employed there was no way I could justify the \$1000 for one. I probably could have sneaked it out of our bank account but Rudi would discover it sooner or later. Then I would have no use for a headset if I didn't have a head.

I saw an advertisement in "In Flight" magazine for a kit to convert a conventional headset to ANR that could be installed in headsets made by many different manufacturers. The kit for my David a \$15 AMP cable which is the mic plug, audio plug made for a neater installation and is well worth the extra money.

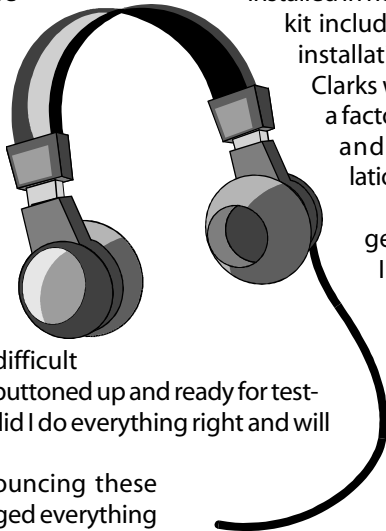
The instructions were counter some confusion. Several days, mainly studying everything was perfectly soldering and was not a difficult

When my headset was buttoned up and ready for test-to filter through my head; did I do everything right and will purchase?

I drove out to CCR bouncing these head. First, I excitedly plugged everything got ATIS! At least that circuit was properly connected to ground and they were there. The microphone circuit worked. But, so did both circuits before I started fooling around with the kit so what have I gained? Now for the big test.... I started to remove the cover from the airplane so I could start the engine, make some noise and see if I had truly built a \$1000 ANR headset.

Before finishing removing the cover I spotted Johannes Verhoek ready to fly his Navion so bummed a ride with him to make an actual on-the-job test. I didn't turn on the 9v power until we were gunning down the runway at full power making as much noise as possible. With great trepidation I activated the 9v power. WOW! I couldn't believe how quiet the cockpit became. We traded headsets and Johannes confirmed that I was not dreaming.

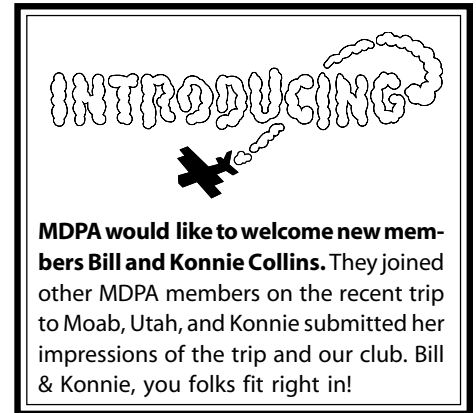
I would recommend to anyone that they buy this kit. Check it out on the Internet at [www.headsetsinc.com](http://www.headsetsinc.com). The link is available on the MDPA web site links page. If you do make the purchase give me a call before starting the conversion and I might be able to save you a little time: 925-254-5585.



generally good but I did not work on and off for several days. In the end clear. The actual work was task.

ing little doubts began it perform? Was it a wise

questions around in my in and tested the audio. I connected. Next I transmitted



## Flying to Moab, UT

by Konnie Collins

My husband is the flying enthusiast. Always asking me to fly here or there with him. I am the very reluctant passenger. So we went to the MDPA open house pig roast. Had a good time. Not thinking, I suggested we fly with the group to Moab and join MDPA. When I got home and looked at a map, I thought, "What was I thinking!" Could not think of a good reason to back out...so off we went.

We left from Sac on Friday, August 30 and flew to Wendover for a fuel stop. Weather was good and the ride smooth. Next leg was to Moab.

Weather still clear, ride not so smooth. Landed in Moab just a little airsick.

We meet the rest off the group for a barbecue. Was fun to compare notes on our flight. The next day we went to Arches National Park.

Sunday, Rick and Kennan let us tag along with them for a jeep trip. Monday we all flew home.

The trip home was very smooth. I was hardly nervous at all. We had a great time. The McWilliams did a fantastic job of arranging and organizing the trip. While several things were planned, we all had the option to participate, not feeling obligated. We always met up at dinner time with the group. I think about 14 of us went on the trip.

I had such a good time I am no longer the reluctant passenger and am looking forward to another trip. The people of the MDPA are a very welcoming group.

## Surprise Valley Trip in September

Steve Wise has reserved six rooms at Surprise Valley Hot Springs which is located in the northeastern corner of California near Cedarville for September 27 and 29. All rooms have private patios with hot tubs which are heated by the natural spring water. Massage is offered at the resort by licensed massage therapists. Rates range from \$95-115 per night. Book your massage when you call the spa to guarantee your room, as time slots fill up fast. The massage rates are \$36/half-hour, \$59/hour, or \$79/hour and a half. In addition to the above rates, cars are available for \$35.00 per day. In the past, we have shared the cost of the cars among either two or three couples.

Since the availability of the rooms is limited, please contact Steve at [sawise@pacbell.net](mailto:sawise@pacbell.net) to reserve space. It will be necessary for you to contact the resort directly to guarantee your room with a credit card. The toll free phone number of the resort is 1-877-WarmH2O and their web site is <http://www.svhotsprings.com>.