



MDPA news

April, 2004 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 31 Issue 4

Meeting Notice

Date: April 16 2004
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:00PM
Program: 7:00PM
Supervisor Mark De Saulnier
Board Meeting: April 13 2004
Next Meeting: May 21 2004



Who is our Mystery Member
This Month.

The Airport advisory committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the airport manages office.

If you're not currently a member ...

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President's Message April 2004

The first weekend in April was both great and not good enough. First, the great part. We had a wonderful turnout for the antique air display and Young Eagles fly out at Sterling. I think over 60 kids as well as new tower personnel were flown on Saturday, the third. It was a beautiful day, the kids were excited and we even got our picture in the paper! That great looking guy was none other than our own Jon McWilliams! We had a guest flyer from another EAA chapter who remarked that this was the smoothest Young Eagles event he had ever attended. Pat Peters and his Concord EAA Chapter 393 staff get the credit for that! We have to get young kids excited about flying, it's the only thing that will ultimately keep the skies open for all of us in general aviation and Young Eagles is a great way to help accomplish this important task.

And now for the "not good enough" part. We, Stew and I, decided at the last minute to scrap the clubhouse everyone would field. Stew put effect but many members, not up the event and for some Roe was there to were on display open. There were didn't follow knows any of the folks that came to the clubhouse and knows how to contact them, please let me know and I will call them personally to apologize. (My number: 925-363-8205) Next month we will combine the events at the clubhouse, and we will never have this happen again. If we decide to host an event, I will make sure it happens, NO MATTER WHAT! Again, please accept my apologies for the mix-up.



the pancake breakfast at because we thought be on the East side of the out an email to that good and faithful seeing the email, talked folks showed up ready pancakes. Luckily, Russ organize the planes that and keep the clubhouse people available, but we through. If anyone

As we announced at last month's dinner, we have a Political Outreach Committee appointed to develop the Club's official platform on the myriad of issues that we seem to be in the middle of this year. The members are Jerry Alves, Dave Evans, Russ Roe and myself. Awhile back we had no less than 4 members being questioned in one day by various reporters and I could tell by the questions I was getting that they were looking for discrepancies in the stories. The committee was formed in response to this so we look and act more cohesive and don't let them divide and conquer. Once our stand on issues is developed, they are presented to the board for its approval and adoption. Then the one official representative to the press is the President. This may seem like a lot of new bureaucracy, but with DeSaulnier's RFP committee to "study" alternate uses for the airport (read close and relocate the airport) we need to project all the clout we can muster. To that end, your Political Outreach Committee has been very busy. We will be presenting a position paper to the Board at the April meeting and after that should have a more coordinated approach to counteract the forces (Airport Closure RFP's, etc.) that seem to be pushing us around these days. There are some interesting ideas being offered up as an alternative to the

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**Articles and photographs for
the newsletter should be
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moving and closure of our airport. One of the most interesting, currently being studied by the City of Concord, is to have the developers and local governments focus on improving our airport and develop the Naval Weapons Station. This gives them more land to develop and not only continues to improve the quality of the airport, but keeps it in the best location around, right where it is. Look at the Club Web site for announcements for meetings concerning the airport and plan to attend to show your support if you can.

The monthly dinners are getting pretty darned exciting, especially if you like to eat! Remember after the crab feed, when I talked about a potential new member that had been a chef? Well his name is Rob Goldman; he joined and he's in charge of this month's dinner! If you know what's good, you'll be there! It's going to be an Olympic Greek Spring BBQ. Then in May we'll have a guest chef cooking an Indian (as in Asia) feast and June will be Bill Landstra's famous tri-tip BBQ! Better get that gym membership paid up! Just a reminder, because these meals are more expensive to prepare, we are requesting you to RSVP to help the chefs estimate the quantity of food to buy. If you RSVP by April 14th for the Greek BBQ, you will qualify for a drawing for a bottle of real Greek wine, and not Retsina, but REALLY GOOD WINE (at least \$5.00 per bottle!) that you will want to drink! Its fun, you might actually win and it really helps the folks get the appropriate amounts of food so waste is minimized. Not to mention we all will get plenty to eat, see the menu on page 5.

There's an article about the last fly out to Surprise Valley elsewhere in the newsletter, but suffice it to say that it was great and Soldier Meadows is sold out except for camping. The trips keep getting better and better and more members are joining the fun (which makes them better and better!). Plan to attend one; you will be surprised (like we were at Surprise Valley!) at how fun the fly outs are with the perfect blend of excitement and relaxation. Well, that's all for now. Hope to see you at the clubhouse; the weather is turning and its time to get those airplanes in the sky! Great flights everyone.

Richard.

Surprise Valley

Here's the group that went to Surprise Valley:

Bill, Suzie, Tiffany and Ashley
Landstra
Rich and Kathy Roberts
Mike Bruno and Rita Watson
Jon and Lynn McWilliams and friends

As the pictures show, we had unbelievable weather! The snow capped mountains looked close enough to touch, and the air was brisk and clean. As advertised, we had a full moon, millions of stars and not a cloud within a million miles. The resort is unique in that all the water for the hot springs comes from an artesian well, so they run into and out of the hot tubs all the time. Therefore, after draining and cleaning for each visitor, they don't have to put any chlorine into the water to keep it clean. The result is a nice hot mineral springs fed private hot tub for each room with not a trace of sulfur or chlorine! Right out the door and into the tub, not a bad place to go! We all met at the resort, cars were provided and already at the airport waiting for us. Bill buzzed



the main building, but showing considerable restraint, didn't land on the road into the place. There were too many folks strolling around. They probably wouldn't want us back if we started hitting guests with landing airplanes! As it was, we had meals at the local eatery, the Country Hearth Restaurant, I think. The food was great, the steaks huge, and the bread to die for. We HAD to go back for the bacon at breakfast! It was Bill's birthday and Suzie brought a cake. He sure looks good for 65 or whatever age he is!

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SUPERVISOR DE SAULNIER TO ADDRESS MDPA AT APRIL 16th MEETING

We have just received confirmation that Supervisor Mark De Saulnier has accepted MDPA's offer to address members of the MDPA at the April membership meeting this coming Friday, April 16th. Supervisor De Saulnier will discuss recent changes that he is proposing in the RFPs currently being developed at the county level for plans to redevelop Buchanan Field. Among other things these changes make it clear that Byron is not an appropriate substitute for the current facilities at Concord and would impose the condition that any successful respondent to the RFP would have to demonstrate the ability to build and make operational to FAA standards a new airport providing equal or better facilities to Concord before any move to close the current airport could be considered. This condition is based on the supervisor's rather optimistic interpretation of a letter sent to him by regional officials of the FAA on January 20th expressing the FAA's unwillingness to approve

any plan to close Buchanan Field. One of the sites currently being considered in this role by developers is the Acme Landfill in Martinez, a site previously on the EPA Superfund list.

As reported earlier in the week, Supervisor De Saulnier will also be present at a meeting originally scheduled by Airport Manager Keith Freitas to address issues associated with East Ramp hangar leases Monday night at the East Ramp terminal facility.

This will be the first time that Supervisor De Saulnier has directly addressed the MDPA and as a member of the newly appointed MDPA Political Outreach Committee and your AOPA representative for Buchanan Field, I urge you to come and participate in one or both of these meetings. This is a great opportunity to hear directly from the Supervisor about his various proposals and will afford MDPA members a chance to get a direct response to questions they may have.

So plan to attend this coming Friday night, bring your friends and don't forget to RSVP so we can have plenty of food on hand for Rob

Goldman's Spring barbecue, Greek style.

Wow, good food and politics too! I hope to see you all there Friday night.
Dave Evans

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Then, barely 24 hours later, off we all flew to head for home, well fed, well rested, and relaxed ready for another trip!

In summary, it was another unbelievable weekend, great surroundings, great company and a great place. If you were thinking of Soldier Meadows or another one of the mountain flyouts, go! I can't stress it enough how great that part of the Sierras is. Hope to see you on the next trip.

Italian Dinner is Full House

Just about the best MDPA dinner ever! We had 50 people in attendance, Italian music wafting in the background, a beautiful mild spring evening, red and white checked table clothes and a fantastic combination of taste delights! This was Rachel Hoffman's brainchild and Dave



Evans joined her to give the idea critical mass. To say it was scratch built is an understatement. They even got Kathy, my wife, to grate the cheese, as pre-grated cheese for the chicken dish definitely would not fly for this event! Nice wines were selected for how they would combine with the dinner, and everything was assembled prior to everyone's arrival for a short in-line time and lots more eating time which resulted in a really great time! To top it all off was a sweet delicious candied orange rind and pine nut cookie and a one time pouring of Italian Grappa (one time for everyone but Bill L! "Whoa! What is this stuff?!").

How does one pull off



something like this? Rachel and Dave started a couple of days prior buying most of the stuff for the dinner. Then it was wrapping and tying the chicken, a million trips to the store, more wrapping! Kathy came to help in the food prep, another million trips to the store! Pradeep, of PSA fame, showed up with some of his line crew and they

got the place cleaned and the tables set up with the tablecloths, vacuumed, etc. Rachel cooked batch after batch of the chicken rolls. Finally, we all took a deep breath, a glass of wine, and the people started coming! Oops! Still more to do! We got Maureen and guests (also of PSA fame!) to get bread and olive oil on the tables, and after 45 minutes or so of shmoozing - great eats!

After dinner, lots of people stayed around talking and helped clean up. Kathy shouldered the brunt of the kitchen cleanup, thanks Kath! John Potter got a load of garbage to the dumps and all that's left is another small pile that Russ is going to get out this weekend. The clubhouse is clean, no leftovers, just lots of good memories.



And now for the bottom line. Bob Belshe did a preliminary accounting and we will make about \$250.00 for the evening. We had one new member in attendance, Peter Danto and family, and one new sign up, Timothy Wilson. I think we are pushing the 85 mark for paid members! We're closing in on that magic 100! Since our budget is based on 81 members, and we're tracking at or better than budget in pretty much all categories, we should have that surplus in the bank Bob has assured us will be there come December! Great work everyone! No pressure Bob!

And for those of you who couldn't make it? What can we say? It was an event not to be missed! However, never let it be said that we won't give you another chance to rectify the situation! Next month we will have an All American Tri-tip BBQ for all of you lusting for real meat! Bill Landstra himself will be the master chef, so don't say you didn't know! Thanks again everyone, see you next month at the BBQ.

Richard.



Our Mag-Nificent Speaker



Sparking Questions



Electrifying Stories



Hmm, When Did I Last Check My Mags

*MDPA Monthly Dinner
16 April 2004*

Olympic Greek Spring Barbecue

Grilled marinated chicken and beef

*Garbonzo bean and tomato salad
with olive oil/lemon*

Lentil-feta salad

Asparagus with oregano vinaigrette

Pita bread



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