



MDPA news

December 2007 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 34 Issue 12

Meeting Notice

Date: December 14, 2007
Place: Club House
Dinner: 6:30 PM
Program: 7:00 PM
Board Meeting: N/A

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dec. 2007

by Vince Siebern

Well, we received our 30 day eviction notice. Keith, the grinch, wants to evict us just before our Christmas dinner!! Real good PR job .. Keith. So what are we going to do? First, we asked ADG, the developer, if we can continue to rent the clubhouse until they are ready to start construction. We have sent them a proposed rental agreement. Next, we are talking to the Crown Plaza to see if we could hold our meetings there. Then we will talk to Keith, airport manager, to see if we can use the Budget rental building or the terminal. Lastly, we have the PSA hangar for our Christmas dinner if all else fails (thank you PSA).

So we have Christmas dinner covered and other options available if we are really evicted. Why do I say that, well, ADG and the County don't have a lease yet and that process normally takes a year or two. However, Keith plans to have the Board approve a lease on Dec. 18th. About two years ago we asked the Board and Keith to not evict us before construction was about to begin and they have done just that. Thank you public servants!!

Speaking of Christmas dinner, ours will be on the 14th of Dec. The Club will furnish the turkey, ham, gravy, mashed potatoes and drinks. You the members will provide the salads, veggies, and dessert. In addition, I would like seven of you to volunteer to provide real plates, glasses, and silverware for the tables (like we had last year). So please let me know what you are going to bring to the dinner, if we get too many desserts I will ask you to change. Call me at 707-373-1251 or e-mail me at tydow@verizon.net. So far I have three volunteers for place settings so we only need about four more. Oh, I forgot, we do have a gift exchange, so start looking for that perfect gift. In the past we have had pink flamingos, singing elves, and other infamous presents. Pat Miller will outline the rules for the exchange later in this letter. I hope to see you at the dinner. Merry Christmas.

Don't forget to renew your membership at MDPA. You will still get a discount at PSA or Sterling if you are a member of MDPA so send in your check or use Pay Pal and sign up on the web at MDPA.ORG. You get the gas discount, monthly dinners, the monthly safety meeting and breakfast, group trips and a voice to help guide aviation in the county.

Speaking of trips, I flew to Guatemala last month! First stop was Guaymas, then on to Mazatlan, next was Uruapan, Puerto Escondido, Guatemala City, Rio Dulce, Palanque, Isle de Carmen, Vera Cruz, Puerto Vallarta and then back home. We saw, beautiful sunsets, Mayan ruins, active volcanoes, 19,000 foot mountains (taller than any in the US), and a lot of Mexico and Guatemala. In addition, we saw lots of rain. Around the Isle de Carmen is where the flooding in Mexico was and we saw miles and miles of land that was underwater. So now that I know how to get to Guatemala is anyone ready for a MDPA trip to Guatemala or Costa Rica? Keep the blue side up.

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 newsletter should be e-mailed to**

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Super Sopa's
 By Steve Kennedy

Richard and Kathy Roberts did it again. This traditional Portuguese soup (Sopa's is pronounced "soap-ish") served during the Holy Ghost Festival, has become an annual tradition at MDPA. This is the third year that Richard and Kathy have shared this wonderful tradition with us. For those of you who couldn't join us. The Sopa's are made with lots and lots of Pot Roasts, then boiled into a wonderful soup that is served over a piece of French bread. The meat is so tender it just falls apart on your fork (plastic forks at that). And with all the juices absorbed into the bread. Mmmm it doesn't get any better than that. To top it off, we had some appetizers prepared by Pat Miller. These kielbasa sausage bits were the perfect way to whet our appetites for the Super Sopa's.

At our dinner was the new tower chief in Concord, Patricia. She has been working in Concord for 10 years, and the assistant chief for several years. Jason our former chief has take a position at SFO, so Patricia has been promoted to take his place. She told us how the FAA is currently hiring controllers to meet an expected shortage as many controllers are retiring. We also found out that tower tours are being allowed again. After 9-11, tours were banned. But now, with some advance notice the tower will do what they can do to accommodate requests. It was also interesting to find out that several of the controllers here are also pilots. A most enjoyable evening all the way around.

Our Annual Holiday Party

As stated in the Presidents Message, December 14th will be our annual Holiday Party. This year we will follow the same format as last year. The club will supply the ham and turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes etc. and the sides, and desserts will be "Pot Luck". Vince is looking for several individuals to "adopt" a table and provide dinnerware, settings, napkins etc. to make this have all the comforts of home. The MDPA famous gift exchange will also take place. (see the rules later in this newsletter). Why, you may ask, is this "famous"? Well we've provided an article that originally appeared in last years newsletter describing the history of this event. Many members spend all year looking for just the right gift that they think will become the "it" gift for the year. Is yours the "ONE" for this year?

MDPA Mission Statement

The Mount Diablo Pilots' Association is a non-profit organization based at Buchanan field in Concord, California (KCCR). There are many benefits to joining the club. 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.

THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

(This article appeared in Last Years Newsletter, but since it was well received and many new members may not have seen this History).

After all of this heated discussion about the rules and all, many of you newer members may be wondering about what this is all about. Well, let me tell you! It all started long, long ago, in another galaxy. There used to be a gift exchange and the booby prize (no pun intended!) was a couple of boxes of pasta shaped like, in the words of that late night TV commercial, “that certain part of the male anatomy”. Well after so many years, the pasta was certainly beyond the expiration date on the box (I think it was so old it didn’t have one), and was a little long of tooth, so to speak. We then had an administration that was a little more sophisticated than your present folks, myself included! They concluded that, since most of the laughs and innuendos had long since been exhausted, the exchange should be discontinued. And so it was for a few years.

And then something happened! You all elected a president that had little shame, and no sophistication! Who was this poor misguided soul? Well, me, of course! We immediately reinstated the gift exchange, but even I couldn’t bring myself to wrap those old boxes of pasta. I mean, a lot of them were broken! Ouch! And I couldn’t find replacements. Oh well, on to a new and different tradition. That year, someone found a neon light pink flamingo and wrapped it for the exchange. Unbelievable! Absolutely no class, so much so that it was fabulous! I lusted after it! So did everyone else, but finally, Ralph Foltz got it and hid it in the way back. All went well until a cute little 9 year old named Valerie wanted it. We all shamed Ralph into giving it to her, thus the rule not to hid gifts. She got it and it is probably still hanging in her room. No new neon pink flamingos could be located anywhere in the known world.

The next year, we had house guests from England for the holidays. I had been to another gift exchange, and got a plastic rose bush, with two arms that moved up and down to the music, “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”, and two eyes that blinked. Do I hear the sound of neon pink flamingos? The best part was that it had a motion detector, so it went off at will, over and over! Simply beautiful! Geoff, my guest, fell in love with it (who wouldn’t!) and ended up with the gift. Picture him at Heathrow in the customs line with hundreds of other people trying to sneak in holiday presents, being asked if he had anything to declare. Only a rose bush, he declared. NO PLANT MATERIAL ALLOWED! Let me see this rose bush! And out it came, to strains of ...” Somewhere over the rainbow, Way up high, There’s a land that I heard of, Once in a lullaby...” Geoff blushed, the inspector couldn’t believe his eyes, and everyone within 50 feet couldn’t stop laughing! It now has a special holiday spot in their home every Christmas.

You then had the good fortune, or misfortune to elect Vince. He’s as bad as me! Maureen brought one of her Texaco airplane models, and there were almost fist fights over it! What a party! And now, here we are. Codified, blessed by Great Briton’s PM, and again, a dignified group of adults. NOT! See you at the party, and bring your present for the best ever! I may have a present to rival the flamingo! Then again, maybe you do!

The rules have been redefined from time to time. The current rules are below!

BEGIN PATS RULES:

1. Participation is voluntary!
2. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift.

3. Participants will draw a number which determines the order in which they select from the collection of wrapped gifts.
4. When you get a gift, you must unwrap it and you can't hide it under the table or in your airplane, car etc. This is because selected gifts are vulnerable to ORGANIZED CRIME -- that is, theft by participants who drew numbers after yours. The first person selects a wrapped gift and unwraps it. The second and following participants have ONE MINUTE to either select a wrapped gift from the pile OR steal an unwrapped gift from someone else.
5. If you are a victim of GIFT THEFT, you then have one minute to either select another wrapped gift or steal from another victim.
 - 5A. You can't steal your previous gift back, though!
 - 5B. Also, there can be no more than two gifts stolen in a single round. If you are the victim of a victim, you must take a wrapped gift from those remaining.
6. After all the participants have selected or stolen a gift, there is one final round (maybe). If you were the #1 person to draw and IF the wrapped gift you drew was NEVER stolen, you can steal a gift from someone else. Usually this means exchanging your dog for their diamond, but if there are still wrapped gifts in the pile you just put your unwrapped gift on the pile and either choose from the remaining wrapped gifts or steal a gift.
7. That's all, folks!

Passings

It is with great sorrow we bring you the news of two MDPA members who have passed away. Evangeline Peters passed away on November 11, 2007. Evangeline (Vangie to her friends), husband Pat, son Tracy and daughter-in-law Bridget have been extremely active members of MDPA and EAA for many years. The entire Peters family have been very active in aviation and the Young Eagles program. As recently as St. Patrick's day this year, Evangeline, Pat and family hosted the St. Patrick's day MDPA dinner. Many generations of pilots, and friends will miss her dearly.

On September 13, 2007 Ray Slattery passed away. Ray's wife Barbara says that Ray already was a member of MDPA when she met him and estimates that he's been a member for 40+ years. He was flying to the very end. He renewed his medical in June of 07. We will miss him.

Remember

It's time to renew your membership. Keep those benefits coming.
(We now get fuel discounts from BOTH fuel vendors on the field.)
Mail your checks in, use Pay Pal online, or come to the Holiday party and hand in your check in person.



Vince
Siebern



Beverly
Levy

Bill Landstra
and
John Potter



Leo
Bartneck



Richard
Roberts



Bob
Belshe

Jerry Alves, Vince Siebern
and Doug McPherson



Our new Tower Chief Patricia



Jude Potter
Gary and
Margrith
Byer

Our cook Richard
Roberts and our
treasurer Beverly
Levy



It's that time of year again! Along with Thanksgiving, Christmas planning and all the other Holiday fare, it's time to renew you MDPA membership. We take all forms of payment. Cash, check, Pay-Pal accounts, barter, whatever. So take a few minutes in your busy schedules and remember to renew your membership.

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Merry Christmas from PSA



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Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

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First Class Mail
Address Correction Requested