



MDPA news

March 2008 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 35 Issue 3

Meeting Notice

Date:	March 28th, 2008
Place:	Watch for E-mail update
Dinner:	6:30 PM
Program:	7:00 PM
Board Meeting:	N/A

March Presidents Message

By Pat Miller

It has been a long and exiting month. The county has given us till then 16th of March to vacate the building. We are still working with Mike Bruno to secure a lease on a portion of the Budget Building. As soon as I have good / stable information I will call an emergency meeting to share and get additional feed back before we proceed.

Thanks to the clean up crew this month, you were great. John and Cheryl Summers, John and Jude Potter, Elaine Yeary, and Maureen Bell all volunteered to clean up at the February dinner. That help was invaluable.

It really makes it easier to prepare a meal when you know you have some help.

The planning for our summer trips continues. The Levy's are blazing a path toward Ashland and the land of Shakespeare. (Possible dates are July and September - See article later in this newsletter). Please let John or Bev know if you want to go. Need a ride, can you offer a ride? With the price of fuel high, ride sharing might be practical. Who knows it could even be fun.

Richard has put out some information on the Alaska trip. The dates are July 27 till Aug. 10th. Here is an excerpt from his e-mail on the trip.

“Dates for the Alaska trip are as follows:

- * Off to Bellingham 7-26
- * Travel Day 7-27
- * Fishing in Yakutat 7-28 & 29 (Halibut in the ocean)
- * Arrive in Soldotna 7-30 (Salmon & Trout in the river, possible touring as well)
- * Arrive in Gustavus 8-6 (Tour Glacier Bay)
- * Tour Skagway & arrive in Ketchikan 8-8
- * Tour Ketchikan 8-9 (Foo Foo shops or fish or tours)
- * Arrive Home 8-10”

“The trip will be about 3800 NM in total length. Assuming 3 seats and including fees, licenses, lodging and gas, I'm looking at about \$2500 per person. All planes and pilots must be IFR certified and current and should be capable of a 600 NM leg with reserves. You should have a fresh oil change so you're not looking for service while we're on the trip, although Soldotna has a great FBO with mechanics. This is not a super difficult trip, but there are procedures required to fly in Canada and Alaska and we will be following them! Proper emergency survival kits are a must. PLB's and SAT Phones are highly recommended. This is no trip for a low time pilot or someone not ready to take the planning seriously. I don't want to sound too harsh on this, we are going to have a really great time, but as we all know, flying can be terribly unforgiving of mistakes, and we are going to be a really LONG way from any help should we mess up. “

We had a great turn out for our monthly breakfast. Come on out next month and join us, then stay and join our moderator John Potter as pilots share with pilots.

Due to the Easter Holiday our meeting has been moved to the 28th this month, Lorraine and Leo are doing corned beef and cabbage a tradition this time of year. It will probably be held at the terminal building. Look for an e-mail with the final location.

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**Articles and photographs for the
newsletter should be e-mailed to**

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The February Dinner
by Vince Siebern

The dinner was a huge success. About fifty people showed up for our dinner. Richard and Patrick cooked up some great chicken. Richard and Kathy brought some great beans/chili that was excellent; everyone thought it was good also because it was gone by the end of the meeting. The main course was completed with salad and finished off with a great dessert (brownies, ice cream and a waffled cone)!

Patrick explained how the transition from our clubhouse to the old Budget building was going. It looks like we might move there in April if we can get the improvements done in time. We hope to share the area with Concord Flying club, EAA and others. So if you know anyone wanting to use the building let us know so we can contact them and get a commitment.

There was a long discussion about MDPA trips. Richard talked about the trip to Alaska this summer. There are some serious requirements for this trip. Instrument rating, rent or buy a personal locator beacon (Canada may require this) maybe a satellite phone per plane. If you want to go contact Richard. Bill & Suzie have invited us to La Paz once again, thank you Landstra's. This is a great trip in late May. There is talk of going to Ashland, Oregon for the plays. If you want to do this contact John Levy soon to get tickets and a place to stay.

We had three members of the AAC at the dinner. Tom Weber (District 4) came to dinner with Pat Howlett and we almost always have Russ Roe at our dinners. Tom Weber talked to us about AAC and it's purpose and function. Sometimes a little push in the right direction can make everyone happy. Keep up the good work guys.

**Have you renewed your membership
yet?
If not---why not?
Now would be a great time to do that !**

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.

Fly-In to Ashland
By Bev and John Levy

We are planning a trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, and have picked three weekends. We are looking at flying out of CCR on Friday afternoon, in time to catch an evening play, and flying home Sunday afternoon, after the Sunday matinee. Add the Saturday matinee and evening plays, and you can see up to four plays—that's a whole year's worth of culture—in one weekend! If you can't go Friday afternoon, you can fly out Saturday morning.

The weekends are July 11-13, September 12-14, and September 26-28. For those of you who are not Shakespeare fans, please note that of the eleven plays this season, seven are not Shakespeare.

If you think you'd like to go, please check your calendar now, and check out the Festival's web site, www.osfashland.org. Look for descriptions of the plays presented on each of the three weekends as well as lots of information and photos of the theaters and the Ashland area. If you want to see the plays, but your spouse doesn't, check out the site's Visitors' Guide. Fishing (yes, really), wineries, museums and shopping are all available for theater-phobic spouses.

Tickets and lodging must be purchased well in advance, because everything sells out quickly. As we all found out last year, this can't be a last minute decision. Therefore, we would like to get a response from anyone who is interested by the March Dinner on March 28th.

Fri Eve (7/11)	The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler (Jeff Whitty) Coriolanus (Shakespeare) The Comedy of Errors (Shakespeare)
Sat Matinee (7/12)	A Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare) Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner (Luis Alfaro)
Sat Eve (7/12)	The Clay Cart (Sudraka) Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner (Luis Alfaro) Othello (Shakespeare)
Sun (7/13)	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner (Luis Alfaro)
Fri Eve (9/12)	A Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare) Our Town (Thornton Wilder)
Sat Matinee (9/13)	A View from the Bridge (Arthur Miller) Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner (Luis Alfaro)
Sat Eve (9/13)	The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler (Jeff Whitty) The Comedy of Errors (Shakespeare)
Sun Matinee (9/14)	A Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare) Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner (Luis Alfaro)
Fri Eve (9/26)	The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler (Jeff Whitty) Coriolanus (Shakespeare) The Comedy of Errors (Shakespeare)
Sat Matinee (9/27)	A View from the Bridge (Arthur Miller) Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner (Luis Alfaro)
Sat Eve (9/27)	The Clay Cart (Sudraka) Othello (Shakespeare)
Sun Matinee (9/28)	A Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare) Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner (Luis Alfaro)

Please contact John & Bev Levy at 925-937-3444

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Tentative Trip Schedule for 2008

La Paz, Mexico - May
Kenai, Alaska - July - August
Surprise Valley - TBD
Soldier Meadows - TBD
Ashland, Oregon - July - September



The food line is always a popular place to meet.

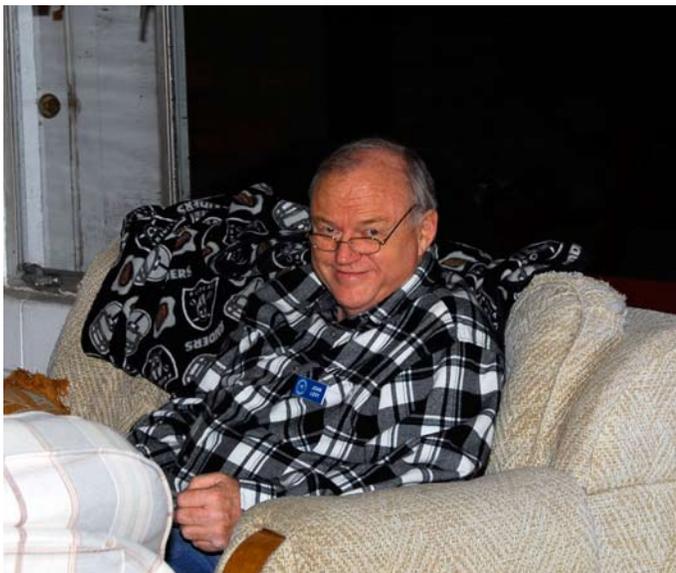
Safety Clinic-"Pilots teaching pilots" John Potter-----moderator

We kicked off the February discussion by telling a tale about Elmer Gantry (remember him?) and how someone up front can get the halo of credibility---without merit. The point--- the pilots should be doing the talking, not the moderator in these breakfast gatherings. Some info on WAAS was passed out and discussed based on a recent, local FAA pitch. Really eye opening --- this is NOT the FAA MLS debacle. An AOPA quiz was sampled to humiliate the audience as they squirmed to answer some of the questions --- -in front of their charitable peers. We discussed the Rick Durden's article on doing dumb things (http://www.avweb.com/news/pilotlounge/pilots_lounge_122_we_worry_about_the_wrong_things_196933-1.html) and, finally, the antics of "cowboy landings" with potential loss of control. The last question was, again ---- "can you hear your gear warning bell (with your noise canceling headset on)?"



Bill Landstra and
Vince Siebern
dig into the BBQ
Chicken.

Diane Sierbern



John Levy enjoys a
relaxing moment.



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Tom Weber and Pat Howlett from the Airport Advisory Commission (AAC).

Pat Peters and honorary member Stella Peters enjoy the warmth of the fireplace.



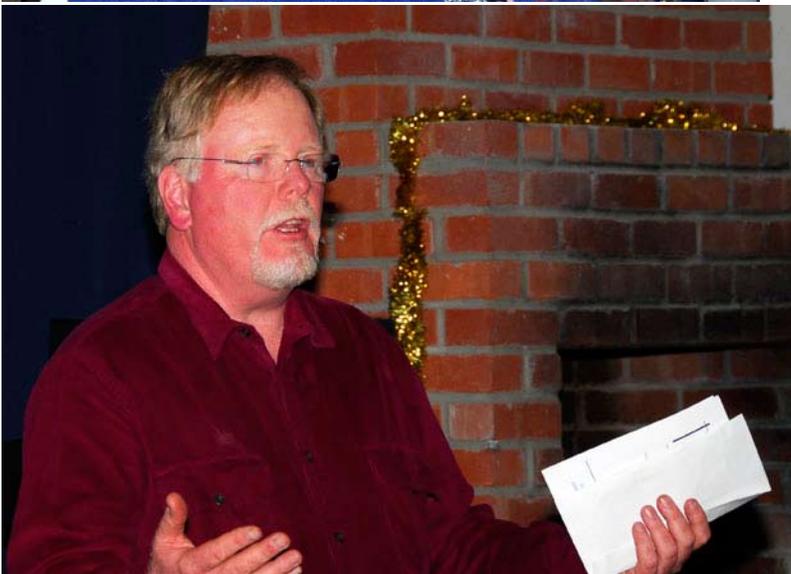
Richard Roberts takes a break from cooking to taste the product.



Carol enjoys the dinner.



Steve Kennedy takes a picture of Pat taking a picture.



Tom Weber talks to us about some of the AAC activities like the Tenant Appreciation award.

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Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

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First Class Mail
Address Correction Requested