



MDPA news

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MDPA Baja Trip May 2008

By Ken Witham

We had a great trip to Baja and back this year. Two planes took the trip: Our Arrow with Collins and Whithams, and Vince's P210 with Sieborns and Landstra's. We enjoyed the trip very much although the numbers were small. We had good news and not so good news as we went down and back. Let me tell the story.

We planned a slightly different itinerary this year. We flew to all the way to Mulege the first day.

Good news: We had terrific tail winds up to 70 knots, so the trip was shortened. Fuel in Mexico was \$3.30 a gallon vs. 5.30 in Concord or \$6.38 in Palm Springs. We cleared customs in San Felipe in record time. We got to the Serinidad in time for cocktails and dinner at Equipali's.

Not so good news: We had some turbulence enroute. I managed to leave my pilot's license in San Felipe. The ladies were not happy about being cooped up so many hours in the plane.

Lessons: Fly higher, or buy a bigger, faster plane, or take shorter hops. I am proposing the latter for our plane. In any case, land in Mexicali first if you want to take best advantage of Mexican fuel prices. You can go through customs there as well. This is what Vince did. Are there any good hotels there? It would be a big advantage to fuel at Mexicali and then again at La Paz. Alas, our Arrow does not have the range, so we would fuel again at San Felipe. Also, remember to pick up all your paperwork and belongings when leaving the customs area.

The Serinidad was great. The margaritas are the best. The entire week had much cooler than normal weather. It was in the 80's instead of the 90's or 100's. It was pleasant and we did not swelter. We walked into town for dinner both nights. Equipalis was the choice the first night for lobster. El Candile was the choice for the second night. It felt strange to be chilly in the evening in Mulege. We used a taxi both nights to return to the Serinidad. What did we do for the day there? What we always do, loaf, read, walk, shop. Prices in Mulege are still pretty much the same as before. The winds kicked up at Mulege while we were there, not when we were taking off or landing. Results: the planes picked up lots of dirt.

We then went to Punta Pescadero. It's about 30 minutes south east of La Paz. We had to stop at La Paz for fuel and then continue. Punta Pescadero is a beautiful place.

Good news: The place is spectacular

We landed at the strip ¼ mile away had radio contact and they picked us up.

It's a full service resort with snorkeling, kayaks, etc available

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Not so good news:

Vince, Bill Landstra, and Konnie were stung by jelly fish within an hour of getting there. Vince and Bill were snorkeling, Konnie was walking on the beach.

The bill for the room and all meals seemed somewhat reasonable until they assigned a 30% tax and tip to it. Ouch.

Lessons:

Avoid jelly fish season. I think the weather blew them on shore. They are not usually there according to the staff.

Jelly fish stings can be treated with shredded potato and vinegar.

The place is probably worth the fees. It was just a surprise to think your bill was one thing and then it was 30% more.

The next day we went to La Paz and stayed at the Landstra's home. It

was a very pleasant stay. The weather was pleasant. We walked into town the first night for dinner. The next morning we walked to the Gorilla Grill for a great breakfast. With all the eating, walking is good. The rest of the day was spent walking, shopping, reading, loafing, and eating, as usual. I'm sure there are many other activities like snorkeling, fishing, etc, but I



The beach had wonderful rock formations and places to snorkel as well as lots of coral and shells.

The rooms are exquisite with beach front patios with surf sound all night

The food was good, beautiful presentation and served on a patio overlooking the beach

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.

was quite content to hang around the Landstra's back yard and read. I would characterize this vacation as a flake-out vacation vs. a go-go vacation. It was very relaxing. I'm sure you could make it a go-go time if you chose to. We did not. We went out to dinner at the 7 Crown hotel in La Paz. It's a beautiful setting and they serve great Margaritas. The dinner was not bad either but was very slow.



Good news:

- Landstra's home is beautiful inside
- The garden in back is very lush and welcoming
- There is a wifi at the coffee shop around the corner
- We are within walking distance of a lot of activities in La Paz
- We got the plane washed in La Paz for \$30. They did a great job.

Not so good news. The 7 Crown Hotel served dinner in stages. Some people ate early. Some later. Summary: It is a nice place to have drinks.



After flying into Loreto we were driven to the Oasis. It was as nice as always. The pool is great. The beach is interesting. They have great landscaping. We had 'Shark Bites' for drinks. They are basically tequila sunrises. We did our customary loafing, reading, walking, shopping, had a nice dinner and caved in.

Breakfast the next day started early but breakfast was



slow so we did not get away as early as we liked. It was OK since when we got to the airport, the most of the staff was not there yet so we had to wait for them. We finally got away about 8:45 and headed to San Felipe where we got gas and I was able to retrieve my pilot's license. That was a relief.

We crossed the border, cleared



customs, topped off in Calexico, and continued our flight home. I climbed to 8500 and took the route past Palmdale. We encountered IMC in the Tehachapi's so I filed IFR and went home mostly at 10,000. It was smooth but we did go through a few clouds. We popped out approaching Mt Diablo and came in VFR, landing about 5pm, gassed up and headed home. It was a long day but we were glad to get home.

It was a great trip. Mexico is not a hard trip and it now has the benefit of much cheaper fuel. I would probably add a day or so and spend fewer hours per day in the plane in the future.

June's Dinner



Teeb & Rudi Thomas
and
Johannes Verhoek



Patty & Mark
Gilchrist
and
John Potter

MDPA BREAKFAST & SAFETY MEETING

The June safety meeting and breakfast was well attended. Richard cooked the ham and sausage, Pat got the pancakes going and I flipped the eggs. We had a large turn out, I thought it might be for my safety meeting, however, most of the people there were getting ready to tape, texture, and paint our clubhouse!

This month we talked about weight and balance, and density altitude. When was the last time you did a weight and balance for your plane or the one you rent? I did one for my 210 and found out that with three large adults and myself I can only carry about 120# of baggage and the 210 is a six place plane. I guess it's six place if you limit fuel.

Next we talked about density altitude. I was talking about low power planes, 150, 172s and Tahoe during the summer when someone mentioned the Bonanza A36 that failed to take off from Cameron Park last summer. It turns out the A36 was over gross and with the heat that day the density altitude was too high. So check those books for weight and balance and take note of the density altitude.

Next month Steve Kennedy will lead the safety meeting. Don't forget the breakfast and safety meeting is on July 12th. See you then.

Vince Siebern



Nancy Miller and Suzie Landstra



Jeanne Cecchi



Andy Marshall & George Ann Garms



Bill Landstra



Bev Levy



July dinner

It will be an old fashion hamburger and hot dog picnic on the grass! You will provide the side dishes and I will bring the dogs, burgers and fixings. Root beer floats for the kids and my margarita machine will cool the adult thirst.

The cost for this feast will be a budget saving \$10 for adults and only \$5 for the kids.

I will need your help with the salads (fruit salad, potato salad, and traditional lattice), some baked beans, and some kind of desserts (cookies, cakes, pies). So think about what you want to contribute and e-mail me with what you will bring. If we have five people bringing baked beans I will ask you to change your contribution.

See you July 18th at the clubhouse.

Coming Attractions

July 18th - Old Fashioned BBQ (Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Root Beer Floats)

Aug 15th - Korean Style BBQ Short Ribs with Chinese Salad and Fried Rice

Sept 19th - Maureen Bell and PSA will host our annual Casino Night in the PSA hanger

December 19th will be our annual Christmas dinner with the world famous (or infamous Gift exchange. Plan now to adapt a table with China, flatware, and decoration).



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FLY-IN TO ASHLAND

By Bev and John Levy

The trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland has been set for September 12-14. So far, twelve members have signed up –the Collins, the Potters, George Ann Garms & Andy, the McCartneys, the Millers, and us, the Levys.

The plays we can see during that weekend are:

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

Please go to <http://www.osfashland.org/> to see descriptions of the plays and ticket prices. Everyone needs to purchase their own tickets, but if you send me an email with your choices, we will try to coordinate seating. That way everyone who is seeing the same play can sit together. I will also email a list of lodging choices and prices to everyone who signed up.

Bev@LevyCPA.com

Old Fashioned Picnic July 18th Breakfast and Safety Session July 12th

Come and check out the updates to the Club house. (YES IT NOW HAS A/C!!)

June Dinner

The MDPA monthly dinner in June turned out to be one of the hottest tickets in town. Literally. This Friday evening saw temperatures in excess of 100 degrees. Supposedly, our new clubhouse is supposed to be air conditioned, but that night it wasn't working. Speaking of the new club house, a lot of work has been done by a dedicated crew of volunteers. The store room doors have been hung, and trimmed. The walls patched, taped, and painted. Thanks to all who have helped. Once the club house is finished, we'll have a complete article recognizing all who have helped.

Nancy Miller brought pasta from Mary's Pizza Shack. We had Penne Pasta with either Pesto or Meat sauce. Jeanne Cecchi donated a case of wine from their winery in Orville. We had some of the best from the Grey Fox winery. Thank you very much Jeanne for your generous donation. It made the heat more bearable. After dinner, Richard Roberts gave us an update on work being done with the Airport Advisory Commission and Airport Management to get a WAAS instrument approach here at Concord.

The evening ended with a discussion about the upcoming Breakfast and Safety being moved to July 12 from July 5 because of so many people being out of town. Next month's dinner will be on July 18th and will be our Annual Hot Dog/Hamburger BBQ with DIY (do-it-yourself) side dishes, hosted by Vince Siebern. Please send a message about your Pot Luck reservation for your side dish to Vince so he can be sure we don't have 27 people bringing baked beans.

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Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

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