



MDPA news

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Meeting Notice

Date:	November 20th, 2009
Place:	MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner:	6:30 PM
Program:	7:00 PM
Board Meeting:	Dec 2, 2009

November's President Message

By Steve Kennedy

The October 23rd episode of Oprah Winfrey was dedicated to "the Best". On this show she presented "the best stunt pilot in the world", Sean Tucker. (see <http://www.oprah.com/media/20091015-tows-sean-tucker>). As many of you will remember, in March, the FAA FAST team and MDPA co-sponsored a FAST team seminar by Sean. If you were there you will also remember that there was a drawing to give a "ride" with Team Oracle. Maureen Bell won this much-coveted prize.

She also said there was no way she would go on it, so she gave it to me. Well, I took that ride on October 10th during San Francisco Fleet week operations.

I arrived at Kaiser Air at Oakland International Airport about noon on Saturday. Team Oracle, the Collaborators, consisting of Sean Tucker, Eric Tucker, Ben Freelove, and Eric Stein, were preparing for their first flight of the day. I watched them go through their pre-flights, and walk through their routines. They then got in their planes. On cue they started their engines simultaneously, taxied in single file making sweeping S turns to the departure point. They then took off as a flight of 4. When they returned about 30 minutes later I was to get my ride.

Since Sean was tied up with show related activities, I was to go up with Operations Manager, Instructor Ben Freelove. Eric Tucker was to be our wingman. I was briefed, signed some waiver forms, and we were off as a flight of 2. What a rush! We went up to Susuin Bay, over Infineon Raceway. We did several loops, rolls, and finally a hammerhead stall. WOW. Then we broke apart from the flight of 2, and it was time for me to get a aerobatics lesson. Ben gave me the controls and I did some steep turns to get the feel for the plane. Then he talked me through doing an aileron roll. Whoa... I actually did that. Just to be sure, I did a couple of more. Now it was time to learn how to do a loop. Whoa, 3G's, not too bad. I did a couple of more. WOW. What a rush, I can't begin to tell you how thrilled I was. Then to top off the flight, Ben talked me through a half-Cuban 8. (A loop with a roll at the end to straight and level). MAN what a ride. We then formed up into a flight of 2 with Eric again. We were about 5-8 feet apart. Every move by each pilot was signaled and coordinated. It was an amazing exhibition of precision, and control.

I can't tell you what a wonderful airplane the Extra 300 is. It's tight, precise, amazingly responsive, and extremely light on the controls. I never had to move the stick more than a few inches in any direction to execute any of the above maneuvers. The power of the airplane, and extreme precision made it a dream to fly. The very small lesson I received also had some real world applications. In learning how to do a roll, Ben had me let go of the controls and then push the ailerons to the left. By releasing the controls and using the palm of my hand, it helped conquer the tendency pilots have to want to pull back on the controls. When your upside down, this makes you loose altitude. So this is how they teach you at Tutima Academy to handle an inadvertent roll (say from a larger planes wing tip vortices!). It was an amazing day, and it was an experience I will never forget.

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MDPA Mailing Address
PO Box 273073
Concord, CA 94520

MDPA Officers
President:

Steve Kennedy 925-370-0828
President@mdpa.org

VP Activities:

Richard Roberts 925-939-0173
Activities@mdpa.org

VP Programs:

Maureen Bell 925-381-7679
Programs@mdpa.org

VP Communications:

Lorraine Bartneck 925-383-8820
Communications@mdpa.org

Treasurer/Membership:

Bob Belshe 925-376-7677
Treasurer@mdpa.org

Membership@mdpa.org

Facilities Manager

John Summers

Facilities@mdpa.org

Secretary:

Bev Levy 925-937-3444
Secretary@mdpa.org

Director at Large:

John Levy 925-937-3444
Atlarge@mdpa.org

Past President:

Patrick Miller 925-685-3354
Pastpres@mdpa.org

Aviation Advisory Committee

Russ Roe 925-228-0138

Safety/Maintenance:

Stewart Bowers 925-254-0804

Web / Newsletters :

Lorraine Bartneck 925-383-8820
Patrick Miller 925-685-3354

Dave Evans 925-300-6437

Webmaster@mdpa.org

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

Newsletter@mdpa.org

Up Coming Dinners

November –Cheryl and John Summers will present Pork
Tenderloin and a Potato Bar.

December – MDPA –Holiday Party

(From Page 1)

This is the type of training that Sean and his team teach at Tutima Academy in King City. Now, that I've had a taste of this, I'm wondering how many of you would like to take a day trip down to King City to visit Tutima Academy? I've been told that they will give us a tour and explain all their programs to us. Who's up for it? Contact me at sk3979@gmail.com
Respectfully, Steve



Eric Tucker, our wingman!

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.



Sean Tucker in his custom built Pitts.

The Collaborators on the Flight Line.!



Our formation flight with Eric Tucker



Halloween Dinner And the Tuskegee Airmen

Our Halloween dinner was a big success. Not only did we have a great dinner done by Diane and Steve Kennedy, but we also had a fabulous speaker. Diane had decorated the clubhouse with her usual Halloween fare. There were black and orange tablecloths, table decorations, and decorations everywhere. Dinner consisted of salad, margarita chicken, fruit salad, and cupcakes or brownies for dessert. It was then time for our speaker.

Lt. Col. James Warren (ret) was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen. He also wrote a book about a mutiny by several Tuskegee Airmen at an Officers Club in Indiana. The Airmen were asked to leave a whites only Officers Club. The incident resulted in the Courts Martial of the airmen, but also directly led to President Truman desegregating the US Military.

Col. Warren had many stories about how he came to be part of the Tuskegee Airmen and about many of the people he encountered during his military career. After World War II he became an architect, but was called back to active duty for Korea. He then stayed in the (now) Air Force during the Viet Nam war. He was on the mission that picked up Apollo 14 Crew. He was also honored by being chosen to be the Navigator on the C-141 that flew into Saigon to pick up the former POW's at the end of the Viet Nam conflict.

We determined that Col. Warren had so many stories that we did not have time for him to get into, that we should invite him back again in the future to give us more stories. Pat Peters presented Col Warren with an autographed print of a Red Tailed (Tuskegee Airman squadron) P-51 Mustang by Rue Begay.



Halloween Decorations





Lt. Col. James Warren



Col Warren and Pat Peters



The Little Man in his Halloween Costume.

Scott and Andrea Achelis

Dan Sorkin





Col Warren and Al Humbert

Dennise Humbert

Col Warren, John Summers
and Johannes Verhoek



Col Warren and Johannes Verhoek





Al and Dennise Humbert with Diane Kennedy



Bob Belshe, Steve Kennedy, Kevin Kennedy, Ken Whithman, Jude Witham, Diane Siebern.

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Mt.. Diablo Pilots Association
PO Box 273073
Concord, CA 94520

Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

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