



# MDPA news

Dec 2009 Concord, CA webmaster@mdpa.org Volume 37 Issue 12

## Meeting Notice

Date:	Dec 18th 2009
Place:	MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner:	6:30 PM
Program:	7:00 PM
Board Meeting:	Dec 2,, 2009

## **December's President Message**

By Steve Kennedy

December already, wow. It seems like I just got used to writing the year 2009 and now it's almost over. December can be a time of excitement; a time of reflection; and for some, a time of spirituality. You can look backwards, forwards, or up. Right now, I'd like to do some of each.

As we look back at 2009, we see that even though we didn't have as many trips as past years, we have had an exciting year none

the less. This was the first **full** year we spent in this new clubhouse. We've had some interesting dinners and dinner speakers. We've had some great breakfasts and safety seminars. We've gotten a few new people involved. And, we've shared some great times together. It's been an interesting year in the field of aviation as well. We've seen everything from the Miracle on the Hudson to the year of the Light Sport airplane. Fuel prices have stabilized even though they are higher than any of us would like, they have been relatively stable for several months now. So, over all, this year hasn't been too bad.

As I look forward to 2010, I'd really like to make it a GREAT year. There are a couple of thing you can do to make that happen. First. You talked and we listened. We lowered the MDPA dues to \$99 a year. You told us that this would help to increase the membership. Now, we need to make good on that potential. I'm sure we all have pilot friends who are NOT members. Now is the time to recruit them. Bring them to a dinner or breakfast. Spread the word about the new lower dues. Tell them about the lower fuel prices for members. SELL MDPA. If every member recruited just one new member, we'd double our membership. You may not realize what a STRONG marketing force you are for MDPA. A large membership is the sign of a healthy club.

Also for 2010 I'd like to see us have and participate in more trips. I know that times are tough, and people are busy, but I think we can do probably do several trips. If long trips aren't in your cards this year, let's have some day trips. Send me your ideas. Come on.... Let's fly....

Speaking of doing things in 2010, we are starting to plan the dinner schedules for next year. Have you hosted a dinner in the last year or two? If not, why not? The same group of people have been hosting most of the dinners over the past 2 or 3 years. During 2009, a couple of new hosts stepped forward, and we experienced some new amazing dinners. But we need more. Hosting a dinner is not easy, but it is very rewarding. Please consider hosting a dinner. We'd love to try your favorite dish. It's not enough to just pay your dues, you need to participate, and share. A club with high participation by its members is a healthy club.

So as we enter this holiday season, I want to wish you and your family health, happiness, and love. There is an Irish blessing that I think is very appropriate for the holiday season.

May you always have walls for the winds, A roof for the rain, Tea beside the fire, Laughter to cheer you, Those you love near you, And all your heart might desire! Happy Holidays!

Respectfully Steve

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newsletter should be e-mailed to

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## Gift Exchange 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!



### 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.



John Potter and the flying boat presentation

Mark Gilchrist,  
Patty Gilchrist &  
John Potter





Our hosts for  
the evening,  
John and Cheryl  
Summers



Everyone can't wait to eat!







The little Man directing traffic in the food line.

Jim Clarke and Stewart Bowers discuss the finer points of a potato bar.



Bob Belshe does the most important job of the evening... Counting the money.

The little man is trying to get in on the conversation with John Potter, Joyce Bowers, Stewart Bowers and Pat Peters



Rudi Thomas and Jude Potter

After dinner a fine conversation as well/



## MDPA BREAKFAST AND SAFETY CLINIC SATURDAY, 10/3/09

John Potter--Moderator

We launched with a guy's "normal" breakfast -- eggs just like you wanted them and pancakes with bacon alongside. Forget your diet! Thanks Steve and Vince and whoever else pitched in.

The discussion first addressed, "----are we our brother's keeper?" If you see or hear something wrong that a pilot should know about, should you do whatever you have to get that information to that kindred spirit, with a possible bad outcome because you were not minding your own business? It was clear from those present that they would rather know even if they had to shutdown or return unnecessarily. But, of course, that was the church choir.

Our recent take-off mishaps have brought to light that the MDPA club trips place a burden on the organization to be better at making ourselves responsible to each other for safety. If we see something wrong or ripe for an accident, we should take the initiative to say something to the pilot. We discussed a need for a policy on club trips to detail what preparations, briefings and follow-up on returning flights should be done.

We watched two videos of botched landings, one was being "too hot" on touchdown on an incredibly challenging strip and the other was "porposing," both to spectacular crashes. In each case, simply executing a go-around would have been best.

Then a couple of safety audios by noted safety instructors. The first highlighted avoiding weather fronts, or maybe just sitting out the passage at a bowling alley. The point, no use in entering a storm cell and getting torn apart just because you wanted to get some place in a hurry! The other was the use of the terms "emergency" and "immediate" in the lexicon of the controllers. The big point, if you use the term "emergency" with a controller, you reduce your work load since aircraft will be cleared from the area. That's good. Sure, there might be some paperwork, but so what!

# STERLING



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Holidays!



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Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

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