



# MDPA News

Mount Diablo Pilots Association  
Buchanan Field, Concord, California

October 2014

[activities@mdpa.org](mailto:activities@mdpa.org)

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## Inside This Issue

September Breakfast and Safety Forum

September Fly Out to Watts Woodland Airport

September Meeting and Dinner

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### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE - OCTOBER 2014

The Summer days of blue skies appear, once again, to be waning. For me, this summer has been a great time of flights, food, and friends. The most important thing to me as President and Member of MDPA is the guidance and friendship I have received from many of you. You know who you are. From helping me purchase my first airplane to helping me learn more about aircraft maintenance, plumbing, electric, AstroTurf, water levels, etc. MDPA members are the best.

As we maneuver into fall, I want to give you a summary of where we have been and where we hope to go. This past year has brought good things to the Mount Diablo Pilots Association. I am very proud of our ability to bring flyers and friends together for common goals of safety, learning, and fellowship. We now have a membership of over 80 individuals and businesses.

Our Breakfast and Safety Roundtable sessions coordinated for many years by John Potter are continually bringing together more people who are interested in not only an all you can eat, full breakfast but also who stay for the safety roundtable where we all have an opportunity to learn and help others to understand better how to fly safely.

The 1st Saturday of the month fly-outs to airports near and far help us to gain and retain flight proficiency and also allow for an informal gathering of pilots and passengers. Natasha Doktorova has posted the future destinations on the web site. If you have not joined in this activity for a while, come join us; there is usually an open seat for you.

On each 3rd Friday we host the MDPA membership meeting, sometimes referred to as 'Dinner'. Bob Torrey and Kristy Logan have done a fantastic job of bringing the dinners to us. Steve Mink has brought us great dinner speakers. In October, the venue moves to the PSA Hangar across the field where Maureen Bell and the PSA FBO will host a James Bond theme dinner and casino night. "Casino Royale" dress is encouraged. This will be a fun event with prizes, great food, and actual hangar talk in an actual hangar. Rumor has it Goldfinger and the Bond "Girls" will attend. Dinner hosts are still needed for some of the future Friday dinners.

The Clubhouse continues to improve. Recently Scott Achelis removed and replaced the kitchen sink and repaired the garbage disposal switch. The improved air conditioning systems are now under construction. Our expanded affiliation with EAA Chapter 393 has really been great. Together we have transformed the clubhouse and the back yard into great gathering places. Scott has continued to be the ramrod on these projects devoting many, many hours of volunteer time, tools, and tenacity. If you have a shovel and a rake, or know how to install heating and air conditioning units, please offer your skills and labor. Contact me at the email or phone below.

In October will be the start of MDPA Officer Elections cycle. YOU are a key part of the Association. Your ideas will help the Association move ahead and build on a great base of activities and programs.

Our Association is currently guided by:

Maureen Bell, Secretary

Elaine Yeary, Treasurer

Bob Torrey, Communications and Dinners

Natasha Doktorova, Activities and Fly-outs

Steve Mink, Director and Dinner Speakers

Scott Achelis, Director at Large, Chief of Clubhouse Maintenance, EAA Liaison

John Potter, Breakfast and Safety Forum Coordinator

Please email or call me direct to show your interest in helping guide the MDPA.

David Thacker, President, MDPA

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## **MDPA BREAKFAST & SAFETY FORUM, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2014**

**By John Potter**

### **BREAKFAST**

We had about 30 for a "professionally" directed and cooked breakfast by the bistro owner, Scott Davis. He even had an Assistant Head Cook, Duane Fey from the Knights-of-Columbus in Benicia. The meal was ready on time and the cooks were able to join everyone else for the Forum. We had a lot of food left over since we were expecting a larger crowd due to the EAA being invited to join us.

The club policy is to deliver leftover food from the dinners and breakfasts to needy families. So, that extra food was bagged up and delivered to an apartment complex in Benicia. I was told today by the father of one of the families that they had never had such good food and the pancakes were special (thanks to Rich Webber). The kids were asking for more after each serving. It was a real treat for many in that complex.

Almost everyone had a nametag "of some sort" -----on -----we are getting there. This time I even had stick-on labels for those who did not have or had forgotten their nametag.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

#### Opening remarks by the MDPA President

Dave Thacker thanked the cooks and discussed participation. In particular he asked those who were interested in being next years officers to stand for election or at least let someone know that they are interested in helping in some way.

#### Lemon Pledge

I mentioned a recent article in AOPA (Dave Hirshman) about the effectiveness of Lemon Pledge as an excellent windshield and wing leading edge cleaner. Some in the audience scoffed at the idea (but I have a can in my airplane now ready to test).

#### ASN

It was noted that the AOPA ASN for Concord was the airport staff itself and in general it was a surprise because that may well be a conflict of interest according to someone in the audience. Of course, what is really needed is for someone to step forward and declare loudly that they want the job! I said that I would mention it to our representative to the new airport business committee, Maurice Gunderson. (Maurice Gunderson has since volunteered and has been accepted as the CCR ASN "volunteer".)

## Cleanup

It is a sad commentary to have to say that I was disappointed at the clean-up at this meeting. There were heroes that volunteered, even some wives of members, but no one mopped the floor. Some did take the initiative to put the tables and chairs back in place. I take the blame in large part because I did not nail down some people to do it, as I normally do. Some are going to be offended when I just assign people, largely those that do normally do nothing. I can surely take the heat with my military background.

## **SAFETY FORUM**

The Moderator for this month was Ray Rowan of the FAA FSDO in Oakland. (previously he was the Chief Pilot at Sterling for many years.) Although this was not a FAAST presentation, Ray offered to talk to us about his experience at the FSDO and to update us on the current move towards more aircraft ramp checks, medicals and efforts focused on safety for General Aviation. Of particular interest to the FAA is their complying with the PBOR2\* requirements.

If you need help or information call or email Ray at the following:  
510-748-0122 ext 258  
raymondrowan@faa.gov

In addition, he offered these websites for the FAA for additional information. Note that the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) is normally for FSDO agents to use for guidance.

[www.faa.gov/training\\_testing/](http://www.faa.gov/training_testing/)  
<http://fsims.faa.gov/>

\* Senator Enofe's Pilot's Bill of Rights, 2nd edition

## MDPA FLYOUT TO WATTS-WOODLAND AIRPORT, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 2014

Turned out San Carlos Airport is not a popular/favorite destination amongst MDPA pilots. I will probably take this airport off our calendar/schedule next year. The weather (MVFR) was not the only reason we cancelled the flight in that direction, airspace regulations along the route and quality of food at Sky Kitchen were the main reasons of a “no go” decision. We had Merced as an alternative and that one was declined by all as well. Auburn seemed like a good option but we eventually mutually agreed on Watts-Woodland Airport.

Flight was short and pleasant, good food at the clubhouse. We bumped into Bob Tucknott while walking back to the airport from the clubhouse. Turned out he was chasing us and flew to San Carlos first not knowing that we changed our destination. That is the reason why we encourage all participating pilots to attend the flight briefing after the safety meeting to confirm the destination and share /obtain all available info regarding the flight.



Left to right (above): Evgeny Brusilovsky, Jerry Alves, Rich Webber, Bob Weiss, Betty & Dave Thacker, Pete Monillas, Pattie Krebs, Steve Elefant



Natasha Doktorova, Bob Weiss, Steve Elefant

Happy flying!

**MDPA MEETING AND DINNER, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 2014, 6:30PM**

The dinner was co-hosted by Ed Ott and Scott Davis of Magoo's Grill (1250 Contra Costa Boulevard, Pleasant Hill, <http://magoosgrill.com/>). The menu included Scott's famous Prime Rib, garlic mashed potatoes, fresh sautéed vegetables, and bread rolls. Our speaker was Charlie Deavers from the Concord tower.



Franz Krispel, Ed Ott (co- host), MDPA's "Little Man" standing on the table, Scott Davis (co-host), Franz's guest, and Bill Ellis.

Delena and Bill Darnell, with Pierre's guest standing next to Pierre Bidou. In the background George is getting MORE cake for Scott Achelis!



John Potter, Bob Belshe with guest and Charlie Deavers, CCR tower manager and our speaker for the evening.



Chet Robbins, Richard Johnson who joined MDPA as soon as he tasted the prime rib, Scott Achelis, Andrea “George” Achelis and Scott Davis.

Bev and John Levy, Patti Gilchrist, Mark Young and Elaine Yeary.



Looks as if Bob Torrey is trying to persuade Bill Darnell to host one of the dinners!

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### **MESSAGE FROM MAUREEN BELL**

Just a reminder that Casino Nite will be held on Friday, October 17th at 6:30 pm. Please note that it will take place at Pacific States Aviation and will be a James Bond theme, so all you gentlemen please wear a bow tie, (at least). Ladies, you may come as the Bond women!

This has always been a popular event, so please reserve your place early. Reservations should be emailed to [dinners@mdpa.org](mailto:dinners@mdpa.org)

Lucky winners will have their choice of many extravagant prizes, including an airplane, a truck, several trips, free gas, auto vacuum, cooking utensils, special case of oil and many more.

### **MESSAGE FROM SCOTT ACHELIS**

On August 27th President Dave Thacker and Clint Beacham flew Dave's newly purchased Cessna Cardinal to Half Moon Bay to dine at the on field 3-Zero Cafe as part of EAA's Wednesday Fly-Out.

Left to Right: Clint Beacham, Harvard Holmes, Andrea Achelis, Dean 'Diz' Laird (WWII Ace), Scott Achelis, Dave Thacker



The Mount Diablo Pilots Association is a non-profit organization based at Buchanan Field in Concord, California (KCCR).

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 MDPA clubhouse is located at 200 Sally Ride Drive in Concord, California,  
*do not send mail to the clubhouse address, use the USPS address instead:*

Mount Diablo Pilots Association

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[www.mdpa.org](http://www.mdpa.org)