



MDPA *news*

Dec 2002/Jan 2003

Volume 30 Issue 1

Meeting Notice

Date: Jan. 24, 2003
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting: 7:30 p.m.
Board Meeting: TBA
Next Meeting: Feb. 21, 2003

Outgoing President's Message

by Dennis Byron, MDPA President 2002

Twas the night before ...
No that's not right. Actually it's time to say goodbye as president. I want to thank everyone for all the great support we had this year at MDPA. We are exiting the year as a very strong club. I want to thank all the board members for pitching in and making it a great year. I would also like to thank the members for doing such a great job in promoting the club, managing our events and just being fun folks to be around. I will still be involved as VP of Communications for the upcoming year and look forward to receiving all sorts of great articles from everyone.

Our holiday party was a great success. What a magical night :-). Dianne, Ken and George Ann did an outstanding job in updating our facility. If you did not attend the party, stop by and check it out. Rudy arranged to have the tables decorated and Maurice did a great job in managing the food. We hired 3 folks to help serve, Mat, Jamie and Mike. They were more than attentive and received numerous accolades.

I just attended a meeting at the Concord Chamber of Commerce to discuss the potential of an air show for next year. We are in the discovery phase currently and can not give you any other details at this point.

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Incoming President's Message

by Dianne Cole, MDPA President 2003

What a year this has been; membership was up, revenue up, fun trips and a truly memorable July BBQ (how much did that hog weight Brian?). The club is energized again and what fun it is to see that happen.

Kudos abound! First to Dennis, who provided deft leadership and with Mary to keep him focused, inspired people to get involved. Seems Dennis knows everyone, and that helped make meetings fun and interesting.

Brian Enbom and Bob Sisneros did the almost impossible...BBQ a whole pig for our annual July party. May sound simple. NOT! Can you imagine lifting a pig (stuffed with pork loins), then basting the beast for hours on end? Hey, is it true that it got up for a walk after being turned on the spit...just wondering. Truly a remarkable job by both Brian and Bob.

Maurice Gunderson, our dinner coordinator, saved the bacon (bad pun, sorry) on many occasions, even pitching in to help cook the dinners and running out for food and supplies at the drop of a hat.

Of course there was George Ann Garms, who found the fabric, and cut it and stapled it so it could be attached to the ceiling of our clubhouse, all a mere day before our party. Bob Hawkins, a new member who helped construct the stage, and of course my partner in crime (and husband) Ken Cole who hauled stuff, helped build and listened to me complain.

There were also many of the always dependable helpers, whose help is the glue

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If you're not currently a member...

Join MDPA!

The benefits of an MDPA membership can more than pay for its cost – and the intangible benefits of friendship and good times are priceless! Why not join us? Application forms are available on the web. Dues for new members and renewals should be sent to:

MDPA Treasurer
P.O. Box 273073
Concord, CA 94520

Outgoing President's Message

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Our installation dinner is going to be held Friday January 24th which is the 4th Friday in January not the 3rd. Please plan on attending this delicious crab leg and tri-tip dinner.

Well that is all for now. Have a great holiday season and a very happy and prosperous new year.

Thanks for All the Fish

by Nancy Miller

This is my last issue as newsletter editor and VP of Communications. It has been fun, but other things in my life need my attention right now and after two and a half years it's time to pass the reins along. Lynne McWilliams once said there is nothing like serving in the leadership of an organization to really get involved and that's certainly true. I have made more friends within our MDPA family and had a better time than I would have if I had stayed in the background. On the other hand, I'd probably have had the time to wash my airplane more often!

I would like to especially thank Dave and Kathleen Cunningham, who filled in for me on three occasions when I was out of town and could not get the newsletter out. Also, John Potter and Teeb Thomas, for volunteering articles without my having to beg for them - you're the best! All of the folks who have worked to pull together flyouts and activities gave me stuff to publish. The list is too long, but Lynne and Jon McWilliams stand out for coming up with trip after trip that challenge us as pilots while taking us to places of breathtaking beauty within week-end range of even our littlest airplanes.

I'll still be involved in maintaining the Web site, and happily so. I hope to continue to tweak it (and maybe even put some content in that mysterious "Members Only" section).

Judging from the transitioning board members I've talked to in the past few weeks, we have a really energetic and exciting year ahead of us. I'm looking forward to a whole bunch of air time. See you all on 122.75!

Incoming President's Message

Continued from page 1

that keeps the club together.

The vision for 2003 is ambitious, but easy to achieve with the talent we have in our club.

2003 means having fun, interesting meetings, more events at the clubhouse, more educational seminars and more socials with other Bay Area clubs. And more flying.

Richard Roberts is planning a lot of fun trips for the club this year. I am sure you will be anxious to participate (especially after you hear about how much fun everyone is having).

2003 means breaking the 100 membership mark, and getting some real clout with airport management; having a spectacular July BBQ (maybe even with our own copy of the 1905 Wright Flyer visiting us), and many other surprises to follow.

The catch is, to have all this fun, you need to join, or renew your membership. So when you receive your renewal notice, please take a moment to fill out the form to update our records, and send that check in!

Remember, "Membership has its privileges". Not being a member, and thus "privileged", is so, well...pedestrian.

2002 - The Year In Review

January: Tri Tip and Crab Feed Installation Dinner. Bill Seeman awarded Lifetime Membership in MDPA. Membership cards replace the fuel list and the list of discount sponsors starts to grow. **February:** The Airport Coalition starts meeting at MDPA. Brian Enbom takes us on a trip down memory lane. **March:** Lunch fly-out to Harris Ranch. Jim Barnes educates us on air tankers. BSA Aviation Merit Badge workshop held at MDPA. **April:** "Fly for Torrie" Day. (Thanks, Bill Belk!) Pancake breakfast with Pacific Union college pilots. Crazy Creek Soaring fly-out. William Larkin wows us with his photographs. **May:** MDPAers help out with the EAA Young Eagles program. Memorial Day trip to Baja.

2003 MDPA Officers

President: Dianne Cole

510-758-2325
president@mdpa.org

Activities: Richard Roberts

925-939-0173
activities@mdpa.org

Membership: -- OPEN --

membership@mdpa.org

Communications: Dennis Byron

925-934-1750
communications@mdpa.org

Webmaster: Nancy Miller

webmaster@mdpa.org

Programs: Bill Collins

925-672-7010
programs@mdpa.org

Dinner Coordinator: Pat Miller

925-685-3354
dinners@mdpa.org

Secretary: Kathleen Cunningham

925-933-4528
secretary@mdpa.org

Treasurer: George Ann Garms

510-548-2264
treasurer@mdpa.org

Facilities: -- OPEN --

Director at Large: -- OPEN --

Past President: Dennis Byron

Motivator: -- OPEN --

Airport Advisory: -- OPEN --

Safety/Maintenance:

Stewart Bowers

Rex Crandall gives us the lowdown on ultralights. **June:** Taxiway E gets resurfaced. The Mig Guy visits MDPA. **July:** A really big pig, and a really wet front yard. New MDPA web site design makes its debut. Pope Valley, the Sequel. **August:** Much confusion about concurrently scheduled FAA seminars: MDPA sponsored one at the Water District Building and hosted another at the clubhouse. Dick Rihn designated a Master CFI. Labor Day weekend in Moab. **September:** Jim Anthony explains all about the Civil Air Patrol. **October:** Golf outing to Ridge in AUN. **November:** Flamingoes appear on MDPA's lawn, move about daily as if alive. **December:** 99 years since Kitty Hawk.

MDPA Calendar

JANUARY

7 **The Airport Coalition meeting:** MDPA clubhouse, 6:00 p.m.

11 **Clubhouse Appreciation** 9 a.m. to noon at the clubhouse.

11 **Lunch Bunch fly-out.** Leave at 11 a.m. for a \$100 hamburger.

21 **Airport Advisory Committee:** 7:30 p.m. in the Airport Manager's office.

24 **MDPA General Meeting:** MDPA clubhouse, 6:30 p.m. Annual installation of officers and our famous crab and tri-tip feed. Please RSVP to Bob Lively at 925-798-1028 ASAP.

TBA **MDPA Board Meeting:** MDPA clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

8 **Clubhouse Appreciation** 9 a.m. to noon at the clubhouse.

8 **Lunch Bunch fly-out.** Leave at 11 a.m. for a \$100 hamburger.

11 **The Airport Coalition meeting:** MDPA clubhouse, 6:00 p.m.

18 **Airport Advisory Committee:** 7:30 p.m. in the Airport Manager's office.

21 **MDPA General Meeting:** MDPA clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.

TBA **MDPA Board Meeting:** MDPA clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.

It's that time again...

Dues are due!

If you haven't already sent in your 2003 dues, please do so as soon as possible. You can use the application form on page 6 to correct or add information, or just send your check for \$120 to MDPA Treasurer, P.O. Box 273073, Concord, CA 94520

Holiday Party a Jolly Good Time

The members of MDPA outdid themselves this year at the holiday party on December 7th. Rudi Thomas organized the table decorators and the effect was cheerfully elegant. George Ann Garms and Dianne Cole knocked themselves out before the party, building a dais on the south end of the meeting room and decorating the ceiling with trendy fabric coverings. A special thanks goes to Jude Potter, who decorated a table but couldn't stay for the festivities. We missed you!

Before dinner, a magician entertained us with parlor tricks while we snacked on tasty appetizers and quaffed fine wine. The meal was served without a buffet line and consisted of ham, turkey, pasta salad, vegetables and several other delicacies. We had a choice of savory pumpkin pie or toothsome apple pie for des-

sert, either topped with a generous dollop of whipped cream. After dinner, the magician really turned on the magic, amazing us with his sleight of hand.

Then, the traditional gift exchange. One gift basket in particular was very popular, and a wine rack shaped like an airplane saw more than one claimant. The gift tree hid its share of candies, nuts and a big confectioned apple as well. As usual, there were a few clinkers that kept things interesting, and Lynne proved she couldn't hold her likker as she dropped her gift, apparently a bottle of wine. Even with little mishaps, a fine time was had by all.

The party seemed to be scheduled so early in the month, but the rest of December has just flown by. Here we are in a new year, ready for new adventures.

Minutes of November 15, 2002 Meeting

We all enjoyed a fantastic chili dinner, brought to us by Patrick and Nancy Miller. If you missed the return of his famous (infamous) chili, it's your own fault! Rumor has it Patrick's planning on October next year!

Dennis Byron opened the meeting at 7:35 PM. He welcomed everyone to the last "real" meeting of the year. The MDPA holiday party is set for December 7th – Honeybaked ham, smoked turkey, appetizers and dessert! Please remember to send your RSVP's in as soon as possible.

Dennis introduced tonight's guests:

- Danny flies for United Airlines and owns half of a Bonanza
- Ken (president of the Concord Flying Club) and Judy aircraft partners with Bill and Connie Collins
- Rod Michaels – student pilot
- Bob Hawkins – long time pilot out of Concord (has a 172 and a 182)

Dennis announced that we're looking for the book "Aviation Nose Art." If you have it in your possession, please return it to the club.

Pat Peters presented official bright, red "Young Eagle Pilot" shirts to the following volunteers:

- Lynne McWilliams
- John McWilliams
- Richard Roberts (special notice to Richard – he had 3 kids "urp" on him!)

Pat also announced that the local EAA chapter has flown about 350 kids this year! They flew 137 in 3 days at the Golden West Fly-In this past September. Nationally the number is 865,000. Dennis reminded everyone that EAA is looking to fly one million kids by the anniversary of the Wright Brothers flight!

Dennis announced the open positions and nominations for 2003 board members. The following were nominated and approved by the membership: President, Dianne Cole; VP of Activities, Richard Roberts; VP of Programs, Bill Collins; VP of Communications, Dennis Byron; Treasurer, George Ann Garms; Secretary, Kathleen Cunningham; Safety Officer, Stu Bowers will stay on until the position is filled; Dinner Coordinator, Patrick Miller.

The following positions were tabled

Crab & Steak Feed Set For January 24th

Featuring 2003 Installation of Officers

As is our custom, MDPA is once again ready to ease out of the holiday gluttony by indulging in the Annual Crab and Steak Feed and Installation of Officers Dinner. Or is that Annual Official Steak Feed and Installation of Crabs? Whatever, it's time to party!

NOTE: This year's Installation Dinner will be held one week later than our normal meeting date. That is, it will be on the 4th Friday of the month, January 24th.

Please RSVP as soon as possible to Bob Lively. We need to have a firm head count no later than January 20.

The cost of this year's fete will be \$25, which includes tasty crab legs, sizzling steak, and all the trimmings.

Our dinner program will be the installation of officers for 2003. Ru-

mor has it that Suzie Landstra, our outgoing VP of membership, will give the Safety Presentation on weight and balance, with an emphasis on prioritizing lamps vs. passengers.

RSVP today to Bob Lively at 925-798-1028 or by e-mail to bnclively@msn.com.

RSVP Today!



and are to be filled later. Please contact Dianne if you are interested in these rewarding Board positions: Membership Director, Member at Large, Motivator, Airport Advisory Committee.

Our airport reps are as follows: California Pilots Association Rep, Dennis Byron for CCR. AOPA Reps, Leo Saunders for CCR and Chris Rossi for Byron.

Dennis announced our guest speakers: Will Whittaker (Concord tower) and Debra Dew (Concord Air Traffic Manager.) Will presented info on "special VFR." If you're confused about "special VFR," I highly recom-

mend you track someone down who attended the meeting and get their take on Will's comments! He presented some great information, and his delivery kept everyone involved and amused. Will wrapped up with a reminder to GET THE WEATHER before you fly!!! **1-800-WXBRIEF**

Debra advised that radar is due in Concord in the spring or summer of 2003. The equipment is there; they just require a feed and some software. Once completed, they will be able to see down to 400 feet.

Dennis presented Will with an MDPA mug and t-shirt in appreciation of the time Will

It's Time to Renew! Use the handy form on page 6 and send in your dues today!

Mt Diablo Pilots Association, Inc.

The Mt. Diablo Pilots Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose purposes 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 County Airport Advisory Committee and other governmental agencies concerned with aviation.
- To be proxy on aviation matters of community concern for its membership.

Officers and Committee Chairs:

President	Dianne Cole
VP Activities	Richard Roberts
VP Programs	Bill Collins
Dinner Coordinator	Patrick Miller
VP Membership	--OPEN--
Facilities Manager	--OPEN--
Communications	Dennis Byron
Webmaster	Nancy Miller
Secretary	Kathleen Cunningham
Treasurer	George Ann Garms
Director at Large	--OPEN--
Past President	Dennis Byron
Motivator	--OPEN--
Airport Advisory	--OPEN--
Safety/Maintenance	Stewart Bowers

MDPA Membership

TO: NEW PILOTS IN THE AREA or OLD/YOUNG ONES THAT NEED A PLACE TO TALK AIRPLANES

You are invited to join the Mt Diablo Pilots Association, better known around Buchanan Field as MDPA. The association is a family-oriented club with events throughout the year that include monthly meetings with speakers on aviation topics, regular fly-ins, and trips to a variety of places in the West. The focus of the club is to promote safety and aviation education and to be proxy on aviation matters for its membership.

Membership dues are \$120 per calendar year. This provides for the use of the clubhouse, the monthly newsletter, and nametags. Dues also help to sponsor club activities such as the Christmas party and summer picnic.

With discounts offered to MDPA members by businesses on the field your membership can pay for itself.

- Pacific States Aviation, discount on fuel
- Sullivan Propeller Specialists, discount on prop balance
- Rent-A-Wreck of Oakland, discount on car rentals
- Hoses Unlimited, discount

- Buchanan Aviation Services, discount on maintenance
- Pilot's Cafe, Park & Shop, discount on food items
- Strings Ristorante, Walnut Creek, discount on food items
- Golden Gate Petroleum, Martinez, discount on oil
- Metal-Air Flight Service, CCR, discount on annuals
- Sterling Aviation, discount on avgas and maintenance
- Tie-down at CCR for only \$50 per month (space available)
- Fabulous food and beverages at monthly meetings
- Fellowship, information sharing, safety education: priceless!

As you can see, your MDPA dues could pay out five times over—and more! Off the ledger sheet, consider the luxury of access to a fine clubhouse with a great view of CCR and Mt. Diablo. Imagine the fun of spending time with some very nice people. Think of the opportunities to fly into interesting places. And don't forget the benefit of access to information about the airport and a voice for aviation in and around CCR and other local airports. Good fun—and all of this for only \$120 a year.

Disclaimer: Your returns will vary according to the amount that you utilize the facilities available to you. However, the potential savings opportunities are there for you.

Monthly Events

2nd Saturday of Every Month

Clubhouse Appreciation Day: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the clubhouse. Pitch in to tidy up the clubhouse and perform needed minor repairs, yard work. Gopher Hunting optional.

Lunch Bunch Fly-in: depart 11:00 a.m. Fly out with others for that \$100 hamburger.

3rd Friday of Every Month

NOTE: In January 2003, the Installation Dinner meeting will be on a special date, January 24th (the fourth Friday rather than the 3rd).

MDPA General Meeting: Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Dinners range from \$6 to \$10, more for special events announced in advance. The meeting includes a business meeting with reports from committee chairs, a safety talk, and a speaker. **Non-members are welcome to attend our meetings!** Simply introduce yourself to the greeter at the door.

VARIOUS DATES & TIMES

Fly-Outs: a variety of destinations from Nut Tree to Idaho and Mexico for trips ranging from a few hours to over a week. Most are day or weekend jaunts.

President's Rallye, Spot Landing & Flour Bombing, Crab & Tri-Tip Feed, Summer BBQ.

Mt. Diablo Pilots Association, Inc.

Send dues to:

Treasurer, Mt. Diablo Pilots Assn.
P. O. Box 273073
Concord, CA 94520

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Last Name

First Name

Spouse's Name

Street Address or P.O. Box

City, State and ZIP Code

Work Phone #

Home Phone #

Fax #

Cellular/Mobile #

Other

E-mail address (if used)

Personal Web Page (if applicable)

Type of Aircraft #1 (e.g. C-182RG, PA-28, Glasair, etc.)

N#

Type of Aircraft #1 (e.g. C-182RG, PA-28, Glasair, etc.)

N#

Vocation

Hobbies & Interests

Please indicate on which Committee(s) you would be willing to help:

_____ Activities (hangar party, BBQ)

_____ Trips (brunches, weekend outings)

_____ Programs (speakers for meetings)

_____ Safety (flying tips, maintenance)

_____ Airport Advisory

_____ Other

_____ Publicity

_____ Membership (database updates)

_____ Hospitality (coffee, dinners for meetings)

_____ Clubhouse

_____ Communications (newsletter, Web site)

Name Tags: If you would like name tags, please print the name(s) as you would like them to appear on the tags:

Name #1

Name #2

New Member Dues with clubhouse privileges

Initiation fee (waived), Annual dues \$120.00 (\$60.00 after July 1)

Membership renewal with clubhouse privileges

Annual dues \$120.00

Annual dues are payable on January 1st of each calendar year. All delinquent members will be taken off the membership and fuel list by February 15th.

In order to take advantage of the MDPA fuel discount at Pacific States Aviation, you must identify yourself to the fuel attendant as an MDPA member with your MDPA membership card and pay with either cash, check, or Pacific States approved account.

Web Site Report

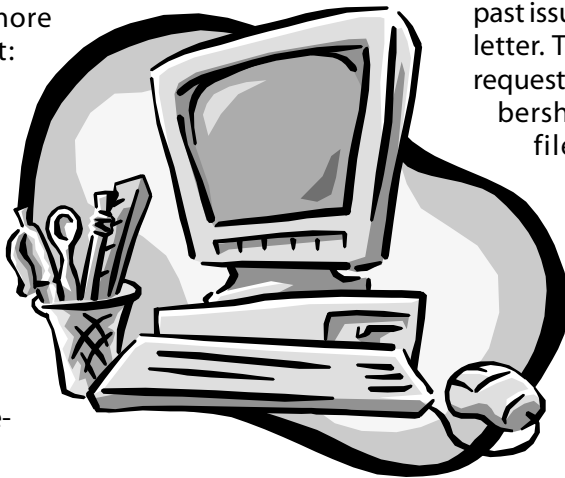
by Nancy Miller, Webmaster

There have been a lot of changes in the MDPA web site this year. You can see some of the results at <http://www.mdpa.org>. Note that there is still no "Members Only" section. You aren't being personally excluded, there is simply nothing there. I hope with all my "spare" time this year I will be able to finish this and other sections. Of course, I just tripled my load at the college so who knows?

Our web site statistics for 2002 are an estimate, for two reasons. First, the stats for May were way off kilter, showing about four times the average monthly numbers. Second, in July a link-checker 'bot (don't worry if you don't have a clue what that is) inflated the numbers. I disregarded the stats generated by the 'bot and estimated numbers for May. Furthermore, all the numbers below are rounded off to varying degrees. Web stats are necessarily an inexact science.

That said, we served approximately 9700 pages last year, an average of 27 pages/day. This is down about one page per day from 2001. Folks coming to the web site for info were more likely to get it: with the redesign, failed requests dropped 80%. Most of the failed requests remaining are to old graphics used with the previous design.

The calendar was apparently a big winner. It was in place for slightly less than half the year and received 483 requests. PDFs were the most commonly requested non-im-



age content files. PDFs are "portable document files" and the main ones on our site are the membership application and past issues of the newsletter. There were 407 requests for the membership application file and 711 requests for all newsletters combined. Usage was spread pretty evenly over the year, with a slight rise in the spring and summer months and a 3% decline in the last quarter of the year. Friday was the busiest day on the Web site. In case

you're wondering, none of this is a huge surprise. It reflects what we do and when we need information. In further breaking news, the most common search terms used to find our site via search engines were "Mount Diablo Pilots Association," "MDPA," and "Buchanan."

About 1/6 of the traffic to the site was by "robots" which troll web sites for content, usually in order to index them for search engines. Of the actual human users, the vast majority used the Windows OS, with Unix and Mac trailing far behind (and interestingly, about equal to each other).

Although I will resist the temptation to make this a monthly column of the newsletter (you folks can't take the excitement), I am considering creating a stats page on the web site itself. How else can we flush out the real geeks in the club?

MDPA Mailing Lists

The MDPA maintains a mailing list for MDPA members who want to meet and keep in touch with other members, and discuss issues relating to the club. Reminders of meetings and other MDPA events of interest are regularly posted to the list. The list is unmoderated (messages are forwarded to the list membership without any review by the list manager). Membership is restricted to MDPA members, past or prospective members and distant friends. To join the list, send an email message to mdpa@eneranalytics.com containing the line:

subscribe mdpa-members

To send a message to everyone on the list, address your message to mdpa-members@mdpa.org.

The mailing list is for the private use of members and friends of the Mount Diablo Pilots Association. Commercial announcements or solicitations are not permitted. Large messages, such as those with graphics or files attached, are automatically filtered out by the list software.

Many subscribers of the list receive a large number of email messages in their daily work, so please be considerate and send only messages of interest to the entire group. Use private email whenever possible to carry on a private conversation with another member. To remove yourself from the list, send an email message to mdpa@eneranalytics.com containing the line:

unsubscribe mdpa-members

The list is hosted by MDPA member Dave Evans and managed by MDPA webmaster Nancy Miller. If you have problems or questions, pop an email to her at webmaster@mdpa.org.