



MDPA news

March, 2004 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 30 Issue 3

Meeting Notice

Date: Mar 19 2004
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:00PM
Program: 7:00PM
Tim Huber from PSA
Board Meeting: Mar 17 2004
Next Meeting: April 16 2004



The Airport advisory committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the airport manages office.

If you're not currently a member ...

Join MDPA!

MDPA membership has many benefits, including discounts on tie-downs, fuel and services. Dues are \$120 (\$60 for half-year beginning July 1) and should be sent to:

MDPA
PO BOX 273073
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I just got back from our first pancake breakfast and day one of the Historical Aircraft Display. This was Stew Bowers' event and he did a great job in getting it going! We had about 30 folks wander in from 9 to about 1:30 and it was really neat to see everyone walking about the airplanes and talking about this and that. We had 10 or so planes, the Navions were out in force! In the afternoon, an artist was painting a picture of a few of the planes. Some flew out for lunch, it was a beautiful day. Actually, it was just right as a shake down event as the next one, on April 3rd and 4th, will have the young eagles rally to increase the draw. We're resurrecting old kitchen equipment and got some new stuff. Pat Peters got a great gas powered double burner and griddle that both MDPA and the Young Eagles can use. (Visions of Tim the Tooltime Taylor are appropriate! Just picture the two Pats and Tracy assembling and seasoning this monster double burner and griddle!) We still have a few bugs to work out, Pat Peters tried his darndest to smoke us out! "Do you think I overdid this?" "Oh no Pat, it looks great!" Now we just have to learn how to use this stuff! Bill Seemann was flipper extraordinaire, and Bill's friend Nas had a spiffy pancake maker thingy. Evangeline Peters and Nancy Miller cooked, helped cleanup and made sure that all the men were kept in line. Tracy was everywhere assembling the new griddle, cleaning, mixing, you name it. Frank and Rachel Hoffman made signs and got them up for the event. Pat Miller took lots of pictures and Dave and I ate and took out the garbage! By the end we were ready for the hordes next month! Once we get the Explorer Post in place, they can put on the pancake and sausage part of the pancake breakfast. By bundling the events, with the Explorers and Young Eagles, we will get more publicity, more people and more synergistic energy for the events. The best part was that again, many people made this a great event, and most of the people involved in putting on the breakfast and display were different from the Crabfeed group. This is really important so we don't burn out the same small group of people doing everything. We even cleared \$36.00 and signed up 2 more members! Atta boy Stew!

There is a write-up of the Crabfeed on the Website and elsewhere in the newsletter, so I won't talk about it here, except to say that if you missed it, you missed a really fun dinner and unbelievable crab!

MDPA Mailing Address
PO Box 273073
Concord, CA 94520
MDPA Officers

President:

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

VP Activities:

Bill Landstra 510-483-8520
activities@mdpa.org

VP Programs:

Greg Vogel 925-254-6689

VP Communications:

Jim Anthony 925-355-1989
communications@mdpa.org

Treasurer/Membership:

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

Pat Peters 925-930-6447
membership@mdpa.org

Facilities Manager

Russ Roe 925-228-0138
facilities@mdpa.org

Secretary:

Frank & Rachel Hoffmann
510-522-3221
secretary@mdpa.org

Director at Large:

Steve Wise 415-981-4003
atlarge@mdpa.org

Past President:

Dianne Cole 510-758-2325
pastpres@mdpa.org

Committees:

Dinner Coordinator:

Open

AAC:

Russ Roe 925-228-0138

Safety/Maintenance:

Steward Bowers 925-254-0804

Web / Newsletters :

Nancy Miller 925-685-3354

Dave Evans 925-685-0921

Patrick Miller 925-685-3354

webmaster@mdpa.org

**Articles and photographs for
the newsletter should be
e-mailed to
newsletter@mdpa.org**

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Enough talk of food and eating, on to the flyouts! (I'll need to check weight and balance!) In case all of this has passed you by, Bill Landstra has some killer trips coming up. March is Surprise Valley which is sold out. I think there is one room left for April's trip to Solder Meadows, but don't despair, there's camping sites on the property and we can use them! We have the entire facility to ourselves! I will probably camp, if I can get back from adventure trip, to La Paz. Bill will have a meeting after the dinner in April to go over the itinerary and planning issues. However, if you are planning to go you need Mexican insurance and you'll want to get multiple entry forms and a radio license application sent in during April. Ask Bill, or go to www.bajabushpilots.com for info. It's not hard or complicated, but it takes time. Don't delay! Do it now! (Richard!)

The other big adventure trip is to Alaska in August. I am definitely going, and Dave Evans and Bill Landstra are at least seriously talking and I have 3 or so other planes on the interested list. I am doing research on where to camp and hookup with guides. Bill and I should have a tentative itinerary done by the end of March. I hope to have some details for the next newsletter. We were looking at possibly staying at a fancy lodge, but the prices are just too high. Basically, 3 days and nights would cost as much as the rest of the trip! Besides, none of us really do fancy very well! Afterall, this is an adventure trip not a socialite outing! We're pilots! Errrrr, Errrrr, Errrrr! Pass the Cowboy Coffee!

And finally, a shared vision for the rest of this year. Our goal was and is to involve the maximum number of people in activities that interest them, so its not work and everyone has fun while we get a lot done. We want you to have opportunities to fly and go places you haven't been or might not ever go to without company. We want you to have a place to come and talk airplanes in a comfortable environment. Its important to involve the community and we want to be a catalyst in that so that the public sees that our airport is also their airport and is a place where fun and interesting things happen, not just a place where noise is manufactured. We don't want to have to continually ask you for money. We're on track with the budget, and financially our goal is to make sure that at each event we make a little money. We don't have to make a killing, just a little bit. If we follow our budget and keep each event in the black, we'll have 2 or 3 thousand dollars in the bank at the end of the year. In summary; fun times, great trips, good food, comfortable surroundings, community outreach, solvency. We're on track, but you can make it better. What interests you? Make the most of your club. See you at the March 19th dinner, Rachel and Dave are going to prepare an unbelievable Italian feast! Thanks.



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ANNUAL CRAB FEED NOTHING TO CRAB ABOUT

Great job to everyone concerned! What a great dinner, almost 40 people showed up and it was the best crab I have had in memory. Rachel Hoffman got some really nice wines that everyone raved about, the setup crew had fun (Ralph Foltz, “Richard, these hands are empty, what should I do?”), Dave Evans used his “duck” tape to secure the table cloths (quack quack) and everyone got tons to eat. It was not without some anxious moments, the delivery guy got his North and South mixed up and ended up in Walnut Creek (“Do you see the lumber yard on your left?” “No, its a Beverages and More”.....).



Arnold Peterson brought his dog, Pilot, who about had a cow at the mention of pancakes! Bill Landstra was paying for EVERYBODY, it seemed to him! After dinner

TRIP TO MEXICO

Bill Landstra, our Activities VP has just announced the detailed itinery for our Memorial Day trip to Bills home in La Paz, Mexico. The trip will start on May 27 with a flight from Concord to Imperial just on the US side of the Mexican border. MDPA members will meet there in the late afternoon or early evening and spend the night at the hotel on the strip. Plan to arrive in plenty of time for a 7:30 dinner with the rest of the group.



The next morning May 28, the group will fly from Imperial to San Felipe to clear Mexican customs and then on from there to El Gallito Airport at the Serenidad Hotel in Mulege for an overnight stop. There’s lots of information about this great hotel on the web at .

The next morning, we leave Mulege and proceed on to our destination, Bill and Sue Landstra’s home, Casa Colonial, in La Paz where we will stay May 29 and 30.

On May 31, we’ll be off on our way home once again, making an overnight stop at Loreto (), then on to Alfonsinas on Gonzaga Bay on June 1.

Finally, we leave Alfonsinas on June 2 and back to Concord with a brief stop-over in Calexico to clear US customs back into the United States.

Looks like this shaping up as a great trip and many people have already signed up. Bill Landstra is making all reservations so don’t get left out: Call Bill at 483-8520 or to let him know you’re coming. And don’t forget to come to the April MDPA meeting April 16 as Bill will give a detailed pre-trip briefing that night.

everyone helped clean, Suzie got her girls busy, actually I think she did most of the dishes! (NOW, the kitchen is pretty darn clean, cleaner than its been in a LONG time, so please help keep it that way, ok?)



Ralph Foltz restocked the storage room and I think we can actually get to most everything now! We got two members to renew, Maureen Bell, of PSA fame, signed up as the 2nd corporate membership and we have 3 potential new members including one guy (Rob Goldman) who was head chef at a few VERY good restaurants around the bay before a career change! I begged

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him to join and be the dinner coordinator!!! Who knows! Who knew!! Wowzers, what a night!

And now for the business end. After all costs we will net about \$400.00 not including the money that will be collected from wine that was purchased and will be consumed at future dinners (about \$120.00). We sold all the uneaten crabs, and after all was said and done, there was virtually no waste. The only thing left was wine and ice, all put away and ready for the next event. The only thing left undone is a trip to the dumps, and I think Russ Roe, out fearless Facilities Director, is planning a cleanup weekend soon. If not, this will be the ferrel cat hang out of the century!

So for all those who didn't make it, you missed a great party. There were lots of laughs, lots of fun, and everyone had a great time. Hope to see you at the next dinner on March 19th. Celebrity chefs will be Rachel Hoffman and Dave Evans.

March Speaker

Guest speaker for the evening will be Tim Huber whose topic will be "Those Magnificent Magnetos in Our Flying Machines".

Tim is currently the Service Manager of Pacific States Aviation. He got his start in 1989 working at Thompson Aeronautical in Chico, CA restoring antique and aerobatic aircraft including Stearman, Cub, Champ, Stinson and Fairchild. In addition, he worked on a number of other more conventional aircraft including Cessna, Piper and Beechcraft. In 1993, Thompson began catering to the airshow and competition aerobatic crowd by first completely renovating a Pitts Special S2-A for the well known airshow performer Wayne Handley,



then a major reconstruction of the wings on airshow favorite Eddie Andreinis' Stearman, and from there a list of aircraft including Sukhoi, Extra, Zlin and various exotic aerobatic machinery. In 1995, Tim began traveling around the country with Wayne Handley on his airshow circuit, as a crew member, then received aerobatic instruction in the winter. As confidence (and the stupidity of youth) grew as a result of these flying sessions, he co-purchased a beautiful single seat Pitts Special and tried his hand at the world of airshow flying. While this was the time of his life, he learned early on that the dedication, raw nerve and stacks of \$100 bills it takes to be successful at this game were not qualities he possessed.

MARCH IS ITALIAN DINNER MONTH

The March membership meeting will feature a special Italian dinner prepared by Celebrity Chef Rachel Hoffman & her humble kitchen assistant Dave Evans. Dinner will be served beginning at 6 pm on Friday, March 19 at the MDPA clubhouse.

Check out the next page for menu details for this special gourmet treat. No pasta this time!!

Dinner will be \$10.00 per person and advance reservations are requested so that we can accurately estimate the number of people attending. Bring your family and friends to this special dinner event. All those who RSVP before Wednesday, March 17, will be entered in a drawing to be held at the dinner for a free bottle of wine!

To make reservations call Rachel Hoffman at 510- 522-3221 or Dave Evans at 925-685-0921 or send email with name and the number attending to dinners@mdpa.org

In early 1999 Tim and his partner hung up their spurs and parted ways, at which time Tim moved to the Bay Area and became involved with the West Valley Flying Club. Here he acted as the Maintenance Supervisor of a crew of mechanics and 50+ aircraft of all types for the next 4 years. Then, after a short stint at Clarksburg Air Repair in Sacramento, Tim came to Pacific States in August 2002. A year later, in August 2003 he took the position of Service Manager and has since worked with Maureen Bell and the hard working staff there to get the repair station re-certified under the new Part 145 regulations that took effect on January 31, 2004. In his spare time, Tim have been interested in film and videography and as time allows I attend film classes in hopes of creating aviation documentary films in the future.

MDPA Monthly Dinner

19 March 2004

Antipasti -

Marinated Artichoke Hearts & Olives
Mixed Baby Greens with Hazelnuts & Mosto Dressing
Italian Bread

Carne -

Cool Chicken Braciola Messinese

Contorni -

Balsamic Glazed Onions

Dolci -

Pinoccate (Pinenut Sugar Cookies)

Grappa

Vino Rosso -

L'Authentique

La Caumettie 2003

Vino Bianco -

Aime Bouché

Muscadet Sevrè-et-Maine St Romain Sur Cher 2002

Web Site Report

By Nancy Miller, Webmaster

It's been another busy year for the MDPA web server.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Dave Evans, we finally have a secure Members Only page in place with tons of wonderful features. Members can directly update their personal information and preferences in the membership database, download an up-to-date roster of members, manage their email list subscriptions and visit the online archive of past submissions to the mdpa-members mailing list. Currently, members can view the new 2004 budget projection and compare it with actual figures from 2003 and it's even possible to renew online with a credit card and donate to the club via PayPal. More "members-only" features will be added to the site through out the year as they are brought on line. Usage of the Members Only site has increased steadily since its introduction in November with 38 members having registered a username and logged into the site to date.

We've been keeping track of web usage for the past three years. Web stats are necessarily an inexact science, but at least in 2003 we didn't have any major glitches. What we did see was major increases in usage, especially during the last third of the year.

Over the entire year, we served approximately 15,550 pages, an average of 43 pages per day. This represents a 60% increase in web usage over 2002.

The web site was more reliable, continuing a trend from 2002. The number of failed page requests had dropped 80% between 2001 and 2002 with the introduction of our current web design, and continued to plummet another 50% between 2002 and 2003.

Photographs were a very popular item. Last year the calendar got all the attention, but this year it's definitely the photos. Over a third of the web site usage was to display a photograph. Thanks to all our photographers for helping to make this a better web site: the Belshes, the Hoffmanns, Pat Miller and the Potters among others contributed to our photo gallery.

Possibly the most interesting specific report is the search word requests report. Here are the most common search words in order of decreasing frequency: "diablo, pilots, mount, mdpa, association, valley"... nothing unusual so far, then "hot, surprise, springs." Gee, d'ya think people want to go back to Cedarville or something? Other words that show up later on the search words requests report are

"gift, aviation, cedarville, fly, california, resort" and "mcwilliams." Hey, Lynne and Jon, people are looking for you!

Usage really picked up toward the end of the year, probably reflecting the increase in the quality of our content (largely due to Dave Evans) and the need for updated information about political threats to Buchanan Field. October was our busiest month, with 2,783 page requests, but December was not far behind with 2,769. September also broke the 2,000-page barrier. Interestingly, Monday was the busiest day. Traditionally it's been Friday but there is not much difference among days of the week. The web site is most active in the afternoon and least active at 3:00 a.m.

Most of our users appear to be local, judging from the domain names that show up in the report. Lots of pacbell.net and covad.net folks out there. About 2/3 of the site requests came from folks using Windows and 1/3 came from folks on Macs. There were a small number of hits from various flavors of Unix, with Linux the most popular of that group.

Calendar of Events

March

- 16 AAC Meeting
- 17 MDPA Board Meeting
- 19 Gourmet Italian Dinner Meeting

April

- 14 MDPA Board Meeting
- 16 MDPA Membership Meeting
- 20 AAC Meeting
- 24&25 Fly-in Soldier Meadows.



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Blue Skies and Tailwinds To:

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