



# MDPA News

Mount Diablo Pilots Association  
Buchanan Field, Concord, California

February 2020

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## MDPA BREAKFAST AND SAFETY FORUM, SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2020

*By Tom Hammitt*

### **MDPA Calendar Upcoming Events**

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#### **February 2020**

- 1 Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout*
- 5 Board Meeting*
- 22 Dinner Meeting/ Crab Feed*

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#### **March 2020**

- 4 Board Meeting*
- 7 Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout*
- 20 Dinner Meeting*

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#### **April 2020**

- 1 Board Meeting*
  - 4 Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout*
  - 17 Dinner Meeting*
- 

As the new breakfast coordinator, I'm pleased to report that the First Saturday breakfast last January 4 attracted the LARGEST CROWD SINCE THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION! (among MDPA members, at least.) Nine members volunteered to cook, after a reminder e-mail sent midweek pleading for more chefs. And Elaine Yeary brought her famous grits, in return for which we broke the handle on her crock pot during cleanup.

For those who don't attend, you should! The breakfasts are pretty full-on affairs, including eggs (two ways!), side meats (two ways!), starches (four ways!) and Country Gravy (transcends food groups!). Bad Coffee, of course! Probably you shouldn't eat this way more than once a month, but here it is!

Attending the breakfasts also is a great way to stay informed about aviation developments near and far. At least one airport manager attends and reports on developments here at home, and the member-coordinated safety seminars provide a breadth and depth of commentary that reflects the vastness of our members' combined experience. The seminars are one place where our culture of safety as pilots finds common ground, and often lead to some truly informative hangar-flying. And the monthly fly-out that immediately follows is a great way to get in some real flying, and further enjoy the company of fellow pilots and friends.

As the new breakfast coordinator, I am open to some heart-healthier additions to the usual menu, in the hope of boosting attendance and member participation. Lacking any good ideas, I am turning to the membership. If you have an idea for a healthy breakfast side-dish, please contact me at [tomhammitt@astound.net](mailto:tomhammitt@astound.net) when you receive the initial request-for-cooks e-mail before the next monthly breakfast meeting. Winning suggestions will be rewarded with a request to bring enough for 30-40 people (as satisfaction is its own reward). Thank you!

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

### **Director of Airports' Comments**

During the January 4, 2020 MDPA breakfast Keith Freitas, Director of Airports, discussed the following items:

- The new airport security signs have been installed. The signs direct tenants to wait until the gate is closed and then use their access card. No piggy-backing please!
- Invited pilots to attend the monthly Aviation Advisory Committee (AAC) meetings to hear about what is going on at the two airports. Meetings are the second Thursday of each month, Maurice Gunderson is the current Chairman.
- Airport staff will be conducting hangar inspections at the Byron Airport this year. Inspections are conducted at each airport every four years.

***We must look out for each other ---- MDPA's "safety culture".***

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## **AVIATION HUMOR**

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*Pilot* (nervously) Concord Tower, this is Cessna Six Three Romeo. I'm a student pilot and I'm out of fuel. What do I do?

*Tower* (as he's pressing the 'crash button'): Student pilot who just called the tower.....remain calm. Don't panic. Can you give us your exact position?

*Pilot.* Yes sir, I'm parked in front of the tower and was just wondering where the fuel truck could be found.

\*\*\*\*\*

Late one afternoon, the Air Force folks out at Area 51 were very surprised to see a Cessna landing at their "secret base". They immediately impounded the aircraft and hauled the pilot into an interrogation room. The pilot's story was that he took off from Las Vegas, got lost and spotted the Base just as he was about to run out of fuel. The Air Force started a full FBI background check on the pilot and held him overnight during the investigation.

By the next day they were finally convinced that the pilot really was lost and wasn't a spy. They gassed up his airplane, gave him a terrifying "you did not see a base" briefing, complete with threats of spending the rest of his life in prison, told him Las Vegas was that-a-way on such and such a heading and sent him on his way.

The next day, to the total disbelief of the Air Force, the same Cessna showed up again. Once more the MP's surrounded the plane...only this time there were two people onboard. The same pilot jumped out and said "Do anything you want to me, but my wife is in the plane and you have to tell her where I was last night".

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

**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

**MDPA Directors & Officers:**

President - Rich Cunningham  
Vice President - DeWitt Hodge  
Treasurer - Elaine Yeary  
Secretary - Maureen Bell  
Programs/Guest Speakers – TBD  
Facilities - DeWitt Hodge

**MDPA Managers:**

Safety Forums – Tom Hammitt & Stewart Schuster  
Newsletter & Social Media - Natasha Doktorova  
DART Program – DeWitt Hodge  
Members' Aviation Oil Program – Vishal Goyal  
Webmaster – Maurice Gunderson  
Flyout Coordinator – Ron Lem

**The MDPA clubhouse is located at 200 Buchanan Field Road in Concord, California,  
*do not send mail to the clubhouse address, use the USPS address instead:***

**Mount Diablo Pilots Association**

**P.O. Box 6632**

**Concord CA 94524**

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