

# MDPA General Meeting 2022

(With notes from the meeting)



**Prepared for all MDPA Members  
by the MDPA Board of Directors**

September 10, 2022

# Remembering Commander Dean S. “Diz” Laird

US Navy (Ret)  
1921 - 2022

**The only US Navy Ace to have scored combat victories in both the European and Pacific theaters in WWII.**  
Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with five Gold Stars, Meritorious Service Medal,  
and two Presidential Unit Citations. He served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.



MDPA General Meeting 2022

# A Fork In The Road for MDPA



- MDPA BoD's SWOT Discussion
  - Strengths
  - Weaknesses
  - Opportunities
  - Threats
- MDPA must (and will) change!
- Bottom Line:  
**We Need New Volunteers!**



# MDPA BoD's SWOT Discussion

## Strengths

- California Non-Profit Status
- 46 year tenure
- Well regarded by airport staff & Board of Sups
- Loyal core of Members
- Dedicated core of Officers and Volunteers
- Financial membership benefits (Oil & Fuel)
- Nice clubhouse at minimal cost
- Modern administrative systems
- Financially stable

## Opportunities

Many!  
See Next Page!

## Weaknesses

- Stale programs
- Most members are passive
- Shortage of volunteers
- Limited membership financial benefits
- Limited flying events
- Competition from other flying groups

## Threats

- Personal GA (non-EAA) is shrinking
- Ageing MDPA membership
- Uncertain fuel future
- Future erosion of public support
- Social media divides attention and participation
- Southwest, Allegiant, other airlines
- Internet based aviation education



# MDPA BoD's SWOT Discussion - Many Future Opportunities!

- Participate on AAC and ALUC
- Expand beyond Buchanan & Byron
- Produce new member packets
- Become fuel provider
- Get Federal 501-C-3 status
- Provide aviation scholarships for young people
- Become flying club and/or training center
- Calif Disaster Airlift Response Team (CalDART)
- Become FAA FAST/Wings provider
- Revive overnight flyouts
- Revive Saturday safety forum
- Revive Saturday afternoon flyouts
- Revive dinner speaker program
- Revive Veterans' holiday program
- Add products to oil store
- Expand Facebook and Twitter feed outreach
- Broaden our reach to non-pilot aviation groupies
- Use FAA database to reach local student pilots
- Distribute flyers all over flight schools
- Hold ForeFlight (and-or other) classes
- Start mentoring program for young people
- Education and training to differentiate MDPA from other groups
- Encourage younger pilots to fly along with us
- ...and Many More!

- **Bottom Line: We Need New Volunteers!**



# Alternative No. 1: Steady As She Goes

- Keep doing what we were doing pre-COVID
    - **Requires New Volunteers, Directors, Officers**
    - Freshen up program offerings
    - Maintain existing oil & fuel benefits
  - Outlook
    - Maybe continue for two to five years
    - Make it to 2026, MDPA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Date
    - Growth and survival of MDPA will be difficult
- **Bottom Line: We Need New Volunteers!**



## Alternative No. 2:

# Develop a Few New Big Ideas

- Keep doing what we were doing pre-COVID plus one or two new activities
  - **Requires New Volunteers, Directors, Officers, New Champions**
  - Freshen up program offerings
  - Maintain oil & fuel benefits
  - Pick one or two from the long list: Geographic Expansion, Overnight Fly-Outs, CalDART, Training Center, etc.
  - Add more in future as success & volunteer base allows
- Outlook
  - Growth, longevity, and stability will depend on new volunteers.
- **Bottom Line: We Need New Volunteers!**



# Without New Volunteers, Our Alternatives Are Less Attractive

- Fold MDPA into another aviation club
    - Spread membership over a larger number of volunteers
    - MDPA programs (eg oil) could possibly be expanded
  - Turn MDPA into a solely 501-c-3 charitable organization
    - Receive donations from general public
    - Fund aviation related scholarships and-or other non-profit groups
  - Make 2022 MDPA's last year - Perform an orderly dissolution
    - Follow California rules for dissolution of a non-profit corporation
    - Liquidate assets, pay bills, distribute proceeds to another non-profit
    - Entire process takes ~ 1 year
- **Bottom Line: We Need New Volunteers!**





# Volunteering for MDPA's Future - MDPA Board of Directors

- Nominate yourself (or another Member) for MDPA's Board of Directors
  - **You will receive your nomination link this morning by email**
  - Nominations remain open through September 30.
- Vote For MDPA Directors
  - Minimum of five, maximum of seven directors
  - You will receive your ballot link in October by email
  - Election ballot remains open through October 31
- New Directors Take Office January 1
  - As soon as elected, new directors meet to select President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer

• **Bottom Line: We Need New Volunteers!**



# Volunteering for MDPA's Future - MDPA Activity Managers

- To volunteer you don't need to be nominated or elected for anything!
  - Examples:
    - Newsletter Editor
    - Webmaster
    - Saturday Breakfast Manager
    - Oil Store Manager
    - New Idea Managers...
  - Send an email to [MtDiabloPilots@gmail.com](mailto:MtDiabloPilots@gmail.com) to get started.
- **Bottom Line: We Need New Volunteers!**



# Notes from the Meeting

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- (A positive and spirited discussion ensued during the General Meeting. These notes capture most of the comments from the discussion and the on-line chat.)
- Participate on AAC and ALUC
  - Not officially an MDPA function, but very important regarding Buchanan Field and Byron Airport
- Ask each MDPA member, “What could YOU do to volunteer?”
  - Could be done in meetings or through an on-line questionnaire
- Make a “service requirement” either mandatory or strongly suggested for each MDPA member.
  - Could be breakfast cook, clubhouse maintenance, recruiting, etc.
  - Enable sign-up for sessions via WA system
- Create welcome and integration activities for new members
  - Have welcoming committee to contact each new member, personally invite to an event
  - Ask each new member to introduce themselves, tell about their airplane or flying interest, etc.
  - Feature new members on first page of newsletter
  - Don’t just take their dues and send them a fuel card. Welcome and engage them.



# Notes from the Meeting

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- Approach new airport tenants, BATS and other businesses to engage with MDPA
  - Invite them to present at an MDPA meeting, give briefing on their business ideas, products, technologies, hiring needs, etc
  - Discuss how their operations and traditional airport operations can coexist and benefit each other
- Revive Flyouts.
  - Ask all Members what their favorite flyout destinations would be, duration, accomodations, etc.
  - Schedule well ahead throughout the year, publish on the calendar, use on-line registration
  - Have a “cruise director” for each event to serve as single point of contact and schedule details
- Move past COVID. Other clubs and organizations have stepped up with new activities. MDPA is behind.
- Schedule more joint meetings with EAA393.
  - Thanksgiving, holiday, barbecues, crab feed have been especially successful in the past.
  - Easier to get excellent speakers with joint events and resultant larger crowds.
  - Maybe include other organizations also (NRI, Concord Flying, etc.)
  - Have quarterly joint EAA393/MDPA “special” events with good speakers, special dinners



# Notes from the Meeting

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- Create a forum for Members to ask questions, discuss issues, etc.
  - On-line forum can be done in the WA system. Need a volunteer to moderate.
  - Also could be done via Facebook. (Does MDPA have a Facebook presence? Yes, but seldom used and account shows up as obsolete.)
- Breakfasts would be more efficient if we required online sign up and payment.
  - Currently it's impossible to predict crowd size to plan for supplies and cooks
  - On-line sign up can be done in WA just as we do now for dinners.
  - Have sign-ups for both cooks and participants. Maybe charge cooks \$5 and other participants \$10.
- Dinner Meeting Programs
  - Need committee of at least 3 people. Too much for one person to do. Need to spread the work, ideas, and contacts.
  - Don't hesitate to bring in speakers from outside area. Pay for travel and lodging. Would be worth it to get several good speakers per year.



# Notes from the Meeting

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- Create procedures and training for routine tasks
  - Example: Buying supplies for breakfast or dinner is now done by person doing it estimating..
  - Have checklists, stock levels, basic procedures written down. Would make it much easier to bring in new volunteers. Now everyone has to learn and adlib on the job.
  - Should be possible for a newbie to walk into the stockroom and determine what needs to be purchased.
- Create “MDPA POH” for the main repetitive tasks.
  - Breakfast or dinner purchasing
  - Breakfast or dinner cooking
  - Kitchen cleanup and stowage
  - Setting up and tear down AV equipment for a speaker or presentation
  - “We are all pilots after all, why are we just winging it?”



# Notes from the Meeting

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- Please supply MDPA's basic documents, that show mission statement, bylaws, procedures, history.
  - (Most of this material is on the website. Some is accessible to the general public, some requires members to log in. Please contact an officer if you can't find the information you are looking for.)

