



MDPA *news*

May 2001 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 28 Issue 5

Meeting Notice

Date: May 18, 2001
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting: 7:30 p.m.
Board Meeting: Jun. 7, 2001
Next Meeting: Jun. 15, 2000

Wings to Catalina

by Rick Mann

The trip to Catalina was FANTASTIC! We couldn't have asked for better weather. There was a great turn out with seven airplanes. Danette and I, Ed and Mary Broda, their kids, Jessica and Sean, new members Steve and Terri Lorain all left together at 8:30 am out of Byron. We stopped in Bakersfield for a great lunch. Just as we were finishing lunch, Jon and Lynne showed up. Jon and Lynne were not able to leave Byron with us because the strong

winds we had the night before blew part of their roof off. We flew over the grapevine into Los Angeles class B airspace on the way to Catalina. It was interesting to have SoCal Approach tell me that I had a 747 at 12:00 o'clock 9300 ft climbing, when I was at 9500 ft. Steve and Terri were told to remain outside Class B, but were able to get through after a few 360's.

After arriving at Catalina, while securing our airplanes, Ben Pfaff, Dave and Cathy Mansker arrived. We had a pretty



The Airport Advisory Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Airport Manager's office.

good turnout at the airport for the wild bus ride down to Avalon. Maurice and Rebecca Gunderson showed up later, and Bill and Eli Ellis arrived shortly after them. After registering at the Pavilion, we checked out the town for a little while, then returned back to the hotel for appetizers and margaritas. A few of us played shuffleboard while enjoying our drinks. Friday night we had a great seafood dinner at Armstrong's.

Saturday everyone had their own adventures on Catalina. Ed and Mary and their kids and Steve and Terri braved the Pacific Ocean in kayaks, found a beach and had lunch. Jon, Lynne, Danette and I walked around town to check out the shops. We also went on the Yellow Submarine to see the underwater world of Avalon Bay. While we were walking around Avalon, Ben, Dave and Cathy came buzzing by in a rented golf cart (the means of transportation around the Island). Saturday night we enjoyed an Italian Dinner at Antonio's.

Sunday everyone did their own thing. Maurice and Rebecca flew to San Diego. Steve and Terri flew to Camarillo. Danette and I stayed and did the one-hour golf cart tour.

The trip turned out to be a great success. Danette and I really enjoyed everyone's company. We are looking forward to the next M.D.P.A Flying Adventure!

If you're not currently a member...

Join MDPA!

Check out the many benefits of an MDPA membership on page 6 of this newsletter. You'll find an application form on the inside back page. Dues for new members and renewals should be sent to:

Paul Chelew, Treasurer
MDPA
3157 Diablo View Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

MDPA Officers

President:

Lynne McWilliams 925-516-1840

VP Activities:

Steve Wise 925-376-9018

VP Programs:

Dennis Byron 925-934-1750

VP Membership:

Chris Rossi 925-634-5211

VP Facilities:

Leo Saunders 925-676-7766

VP Communications:

Nancy Miller 925-685-3354

Secretary:

George Ann Garms 510-548-2264

Treasurer:

Paul Chelew 925-933-2400

Director at Large:

Daniel Meredith 925-687-2947

Past President:

Bob Lively 925-798-1028

Motivator:

-OPEN-

Airport Advisory:

-OPEN-

Dinner Coordinator:

Dennis Byron 925-934-1750

Safety/Maintenance:

Dick Rihn 925-938-4236



MDPA Angels

If you've been to the clubhouse lately, you are sure to have noticed a few changes for the better. First, there's a large flight planning desk, donated by Leo Saunders. On top of the desk there is a flight planning computer, donated (along with Internet access) by Patrick and Nancy Miller. Word on the tarmac has it that the phone line is even working now! And finally, there's the new sofa which is actually old news, because everybody notices pretty furniture; a fine feature!



Have you purchased a raffle ticket today?

Surprise Valley Hot Springs June 8-10



Take a trip up Modoc way to Cedarville and Surprise Valley Hot Springs! Last year this was a hit and we only stayed one night. This year we're making a weekend of it. We'll fly up Friday, June 8th, and land at the Cedarville airport this time. (For those of you who didn't go last year, we scored an all-time MDPA high for off-airport landings!). A car will be at the airport for the 15 min drive across the dry lake to

the spa. We'll have dinner together. Each villa has a private patio hot springs which is very cozy (can we say "intimate?"). They have a huge number of videotapes you can borrow. One veteran of last year got up before sunrise and says the surrounding landscape was surreal in the dawn light; steam from the fumeroles dotted the landscape for miles around and the local birds took advantage of the cool hours to feed and frolic.

Cedarville is on your sectional. It's paved (and in fact, we know exactly when it was LAST paved) and long with clear approaches in both directions.

This is sure to be a popular event. RSVP NOW!!!! Make your reservations directly with Surprise Valley Hot Springs at 1-877-927-6420. Then call Bill at 510-524-9022 to let him know you're coming along.

Solvang Weekend July 27th-29th

It's time to use that Liberal Arts education! We're going to Solvang and the Royal Scandinavian Inn on Friday, July 27th -29th.

This trip will fill up fast so make your reservations soon! We've arranged a Theaterfest Package with the Inn which includes two nights stay in deluxe accommodations, welcome beverages, dinner for two, and two tickets to Shakespeare's The Tempest on Saturday night at Solvang's very popular outdoor theater. Other options and activities are listed below.

Trip Coordinators: Chris and Michelle Rossi - 925-634-5211

What We've Arranged: Two nights stay, dinner, beverage coupons, theater tickets--\$375. We've "run the numbers" and this is a good deal. 10 rooms held under "Mt Diablo Pilots Association" until June 27th.

Cocktail Party/Reception: Michelle and I have rented a suite on the first floor which opens to a patio and will be hosting all the craziness on Saturday night plus a reception on Friday evening as folks arrive.

Dinner: Saturday evening. Includes a plated entree, soup and salad, dessert. No alcohol but you can use your beverage tickets at this time if you wish.

Airport Pick Up: The Inn will provide this for us free of charge.

Golf & Options: There are several golf courses in the area that our Inn coordinator will gladly help us with for those that want to play--cost is around \$75 with cart. The area also features museums, shopping, wine tasting and more. Rooms etc., not under the Theaterfest packages, may be reserved "a la carte," but rates will vary.

Take a Tour: See the Inn, a room, and more at <http://www.solvangrsi.com/main.shtml>. Learn more about the Tempest and the theater group at <http://www.pcpa.org/ply7amore.html>

What You Need to Do: Call the Inn at 805-688-8000 or 800-624-5572 and book your reservation BEFORE June 27th. Our group packages are under the name Mt. Diablo Pilots Association.



General Membership Meeting Minutes

20 April 2001

Lynne McWilliams called the meeting to order at 19:30

We welcomed as guests Steve and Terrie, both prospective members that own a 172 out of Byron. Joe Keaton was a guest of John Potter; Joe flies a 172 and is also a prospective member.

Programs

Dennis Byron provided a readout on upcoming programs, please see your newsletter or the website for specific dates and events.

■ EAA Young Eagles program – June 9th is National EAA day, there are currently 50+ children signed up for the event in June.

■ A very special guest will be the program speaker for the MDPA 25th anniversary BBQ celebration in July.

■ A dinner sign-up sheet went around the room for additional volunteers to help out with the monthly dinner meeting.

Clubhouse

A couch has arrived from so far is an anonymous donor. The club board and members are extremely appreciative and thank you! If anyone would like to donate any items to the club, please contact the clubhouse manager or a board member to make arrangements, you may request ano-

nymity if you so desire.

All members are requested to assist in taking out the trash as there is an ant issue brewing as well as other issues are arising, not to mention the mere fact it is overflowing. Treat the clubhouse as if it were your own home, as we do not have a trash service or the amenities of a typical household. If



you could remove the trash it would be a significant help to all of us in our effort to keep the clubhouse in tip-top shape.

Membership

Kindly remember, the fuel list is ONLY updated ONCE PER MONTH. Your patience is requested if you are a new member or have just renewed your membership, it may take some time for your name to appear on the list at PSA.

The club retention program is working out well and membership is on target. There is also a member profile program that Chris

is spearheading; Chris thanks everyone that is responding to the profile requests.

Safety Presentation

Dr. Dick Rihn reviewed the Nall Report and specifically the mistakes we make as pilots.

Activities

Lynne reviewed with the group the upcoming Catalina Trip. Rick Mann is hosting the trip and still had 3 rooms available at the time of meeting. See the newsletter or website for all of the great upcoming trips.

New Business

In Lieu of the motivator a raffle to be drawn at the 25th anniversary celebration is being held for 100 gallons of Aviation fuel. Prices are \$1.00 per ticket and the raffle is available to members and nonmembers alike. This is an excellent opportunity to raise funds for the club. An anonymous club member donated the 100 gallons. Buy your tickets today!

Presentation

Dennis Byron gave a very nice overview of the Sun and Fun event held in Lakeland, FL. Needless to say, many went away a bit jealous of the fun Dennis had!

WJN 100 GALLONS OF AVGAS FOR A BUCK!!

The Mt. Diablo Pilot's Association is having a drawing to

Win 100 gallons of AvGas

from Pacific States Aviation located on Buchanan Field.

Tickets are **one dollar** and you need not be present to win.

The drawing will be held on **July 7th** at the MDPA clubhouse, 200 Sally Ride Drive, Concord CA.

Tickets may be purchased at the following locations:

Pacific States Aviation (Maureen),

Buchanan Aviation (Mike) or the Mt. Diablo 99's.

You may also arrange purchase of tickets by contacting Lynne McWilliams at 925-516-1840 or via e-mail at mcws@pacbell.com.

This is a great chance to pick up some summer flying fuel and **your odds of winning will be very good.**

Upcoming Events

MAY

- 18 **MDPA General Meeting:** At the clubhouse. Dinner starting at 6 p.m., the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Daniel Meredith will be filling us in on all those gadgets he has and we don't with a talk on wireless technology.
- 26-28 **Open Cockpit Day at Castle.** Plus their 20th Anniversary celebration.

JUNE

- 7 **MDPA Board Meeting** at the clubhouse
- 8-10 **It's the return of Surprise Valley Hot Springs!** See article in this issue. Call now to reserve your room (tell them you're with MDPA) for this popular get-away. We'll fly to the Cedarville airport, where a car will be waiting to take us across the dry lake bed to the resort. Remember to book a massage! The Surprise Valley Hot Springs Web site is at <http://www.svhotsprings.com>. Contact SVHS directly for rooms at 1-877-WarmH2O (1-877-927-6420). For details about the trip or to tell him you've got your rooms booked, call Bill Landstra at 510-524-9022.
- 9 **Clubhouse Clean-up:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the clubhouse
- 9 **Lunch Bunch Fly-in:** depart 11:00 a.m.; tentatively to Columbia or another location of the pilots' choice
- 15 **MDPA General Meeting:** At the clubhouse. Dinner starting at 6 p.m. with Nancy Miller bringing us a tableful of Southern summer delicacies. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., with a special guest: a friend of Dr. Dick Rihn's telling us about life as a U2 pilot.

JULY

- 7 **MDPA 25th Anniversary Summer BBQ:** Win 100 gallons of AvGas for just a buck! See the article in this issue about this great raffle. As usual, the summer BBQ will be tasty (and tasteful) fun, spiced up this year with static displays and special presentations. Come help us kick off our year-long celebration of 25 years as the best pilots' club in California!
- 12 **MDPA Board Meeting** at the clubhouse
- 14 **Clubhouse Clean-up:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the clubhouse
- 14 **Lunch Bunch Fly-in:** depart 11:00 a.m.; tentatively to Willows/Glenn County or another location of the pilots' choice
- 27-29 **Solvang and Shakespeare,** or golf if you like. Chris and Michelle Rossi have worked up a fabulous weekend in Solvang (see article in this issue). Contact Michelle or Chris at 925-634-5211 for additional details. Make your reservations with the Royal Scandinavian right away as we expect this trip to sell out fast.



MDPA members gather at Santa Catalina Island Airport.

AUGUST

- 11-12 **Pitt River Fly-in.** We'll spend a relaxing overnight at this rustic retreat then fly back to Corning airport, where we'll enjoy a picnic of box lunches provided by the good folks at Pitt River. Contact Bill Landstra for details at 510-524-9022.

The Airport Management would like to remind us all to be neighborly and fly friendly!

Check out the new Contra Costa County Airports website at:

<http://www.buchananfield-byronairports.org>



Fly With the (Young) Eagles

As many of you know, Concord's EAA Chapter 393 is very active in the Young Eagles program. Young Eagles is designed to expose young people, ages 8 through 17, to aviation by providing free rides in private aircraft flown by EAA member pilots.

You can participate in this program if you belong to the national EAA organization and are licensed, current on your medical, and have an airworthy aircraft (that includes the paperwork, folks!) If you're interested, contact Pat Peters at pnnpeters@aol.com or Duane Allen at 925-687-3433. They have a full roster of programs lined up this summer and would welcome the help.

Important! Important! Important! Important!

Membership Roster Privacy

The MDPA board has had multiple requests from our members for copies of the membership roster. This roster includes each member's name, address, phone number and tail number. We would like to make this available (to members only, of course), but want to offer members the ability to opt-out and not have their information included.

If you have concerns about the MDPA roster or would like your contact information to be omitted, please contact Chris Rossi as soon as possible at 925-634-5211 or Rosco1111@aol.com. We need to hear from you by June 30.

Once the rosters are distributed, please remember that they are not to be used for any commercial purpose whatsoever!

The Lowdown on Tie-downs

Some MDPA members have had questions about how the tie-downs in front of the clubhouse are assigned. The tie-downs are owned and operated by the airport management, as are the rest of the tie-down locations on the field. Although the tie-downs in front of MDPA are rented only to MDPA members, the club does not control the assignment of the spots. It is on a first-come, first served basis through the county.

Currently, there are tie-downs available both on the airport property in general and in front of MDPA in particular, so there is no waiting list for a tie-down spot. A few tie-down locations (but none at MDPA) have a waiting list that is specific for that tie-down location. The airport management maintains these lists. Therefore, if there is a particular spot that you want but which is already rented, you can ask the airport to be placed on a waiting list for that spot.

The airport managers also want to reiterate that each spot is assigned to one particular aircraft. They are checked every night and are not mix-and-match. If you "loan" your tie-down spot to a buddy, that airplane may get a transient parking fee envelope and/or be towed to the Sheraton.

The tie-downs near MDPA are a bit less expensive than others on the field, and since they are only rented to MDPA members, this is a real benefit to MDPA membership. However, the club is not involved in the actual rental and assignment of these spaces.

Help MDPA Celebrate Its 25th Anniversary!

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, 2001 marks the 25th anniversary of the Mount Diablo Pilot Association. We've planned a roster of memorable events to celebrate the first 25 years and rev us up for the next 25.

We've already whetted our appetites



with an awesome weekend trip to Catalina Island. We'll really get the ball rolling with a better-than-ever summer barbecue. This year it's on a Saturday, July 7th. We'll have static displays of aircraft and our usual, unusually great food. We're inviting all past and present members to join us for this traditional celebration of summer in the best flying region of the country.

And as you must know by now, we're sweetening the pot: we're giving away 100 gallons of AvGas to a lucky raffle winner! Raffle tickets are only one dollar, just a sawbuck, a mere eight bits... you get the picture. Go to PSA, Buchanan Aviation, your favorite 99 or one of our esteemed board members to pick up your chance for a tankful or two (or three, for those C-152 drivers out there) of liquid happiness.

In late July and August we'll be busy flying to some extraordinary events. See the calendar for more details.

Newsletter Editor Needed for August

Yours truly will be out of the country* for a full month this summer, and we need someone to step in and do the newsletter for August. I will cheerfully provide a willing substitute with the PageMaker software and newsletter templates, or alternatively I'll work up a Microsoft Word template that will do the trick.

I'd like to get this squared away as soon as possible, so if you can help out, leave me (Nancy) a message at 925-685-1230 ext. 1843 or webmaster@mdpa.org and I will get back to you right away to set you up with the necessary tools.

***Assuming south Georgia is a different country. A case can be made for this. Really!**

Then, in September, get ready for our big anniversary bash: the 25th anniversary dinner. We're inviting all 23 past presidents and planning some special activities. Dennis promises the speaker will blow us away. Rumors that he's invited the Moffett Field Wind Tunnel are totally exaggerated, I'm sure. This dinner promises to be an event full of memories and good friends. Please plan on joining us!

If you want to be involved in the planning of these great events, or if you have ideas how we can make our 25th anniversary celebration even better, pick up the phone and call Lynne at 925-516-1840.

President's Message for May

May flowers are blooming and planes are flying. Jon and I had a great time on Rick and Danette Mann's trip to Catalina. Seven airplanes and seventeen people enjoyed perfect weather on the island. Thank you Rick and Danette! Don't miss the next club trip to Surprise Valley Hot Springs Spa hosted by Bill and Suzy Landstra. If you haven't been on club trip recently, please plan to do so. Attending a fly-in is the best way to get to know your fellow club members. We always have a lot of fun, and we enjoy getting better acquainted with folks that we didn't previously know. I guess the only problem is that we always talk about flying! At least that's what I heard. (Better than talking about work!)

The clubhouse is looking better all the time thanks to our combined efforts. Thanks to Ben Pfaff, we have a new sofa. It is a good improvement. The front room looks much nicer. With the computer donated by Patrick and Nancy Miller, the clubhouse is now more beneficial for flight planning. If you feel like life is going by too fast, stop by sometime, sit on a bench, or at a picnic table, and watch the world go by. We have a great view of Mount Diablo, not to mention the aircraft taking off and landing.

Speaking of flying, we have a raffle to help make it easier for you to pay for fuel. In fact you might win 100 gallons of free gas. The drawing is to be held at the MDPA 25th Anniversary Barbecue Saturday July

7th. Simply purchase a ticket for a chance to win. Tickets are only one dollar each. Your odds go up with every one you purchase. They are available from PSA, Buchanan Aviation, Mount Diablo 99's and MDPA board members. Please purchase lots of tickets to help further improve our club. Winner need not be present to win.

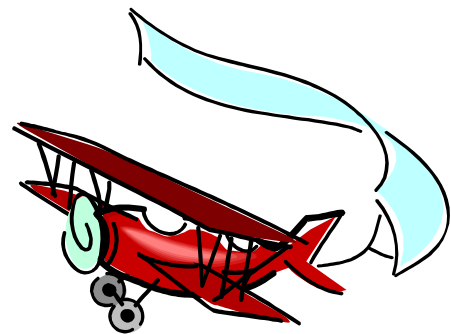
Several past MDPA presidents are getting involved in planning our 25th Anniversary Celebrations. We are going to have some great events. Please contact me ASAP with your ideas about how to celebrate this great occasion. You can contact me at 925-516-1840.

We should have an interesting May meeting hearing about wireless technology as it relates to General Aviation. We will also have a safety program.

MDPA is about the joy of FLYING. You do not have to hold a pilot's certificate to be a valuable member and an asset to our club. Please call me if you have any suggestions on how to improve our club. I hope to see you at the May 18th meeting. Please don't forget to mark your calendar for the July 7th Barbecue and Open House. I hope you win the 100 gallons of gas. (I can't since I'm a board member.)

Wishing all of us severe clear skies and tailwinds

-- Lynne



Member Profile: Ed and Syble Zeigler

Ed Zeigler and his wife Syble are both active pilots. Ed is VFR, with 500+ hours, while Syble is a student pilot.

Ed's father was a B-24 and B-29 pilot in WWII. Ed first remembers seeing and hearing big planes fly overhead when he was 3 years old in Alamogordo, NM. He says he's been hooked every since. By age 15, he was in the Civil Air Patrol. He began taking lessons in 1973 and got his license in 1984 in Charlotte, NC.

Ever practical, Syble decided to take a couple of lessons so she could get it down, as Ed delicately puts it, "if I kicked the bucket." Not too surprisingly (to all the flying addicts reading this), Syble liked flying and has continued learning. Ed plans to work on his Instrument rating after Syble gets her ticket.

The Zeiglers have a 1969 Cherokee 140, N95463, and a 1959 Comanche 250, N5964P. They usually park over by the fire trucks at Concord, although the Comanche recently took a vacation in Redding getting a new interior.

Syble is a Program Administrator at Honeywell, where Ed is a Program Director. Currently, they are doing a long term project at Chevron - Richmond.

The Zeiglers use their airplanes for fun. Occasionally they fly to Houston in the Comanche and they took the Cherokee to Oshkosh in 1999. Ed first heard about MDPA when he picked up a flyer in the terminal at Concord two years ago. Ever on top of things ("I procrastinate," Ed says) he joined the club this year.

Ed and Syble didn't include any extraordinary flying tales in their member profile. Ed says, "I require Silver Bullets to remember and enhance all of my flying stories." Anyone want to break out a six-pack and turn on the tape recorder?

Member Profile: Bob and Terrie Ellsworth

Bob Ellsworth started flying at Montgomery Field (MYF) in San Diego in 1976. MYF is also home to the effective but somnigenic King videos and, while Bob claims he took a break to raise a family, it's entirely possible that he just watched the Kings explain "high to low, look out below" and, like Rip Van Winkle, didn't wake up for a few years. In any case, the thrill of calling CCR home got Bob back into flying 12 years ago and he's been averaging a steady 50-75 hours per year ever since.

Bob's currently certificated as a Private Pilot, Airplane, Single Engine Land (PP-ASEL). By that, he means pretty much any "ASEL," as he has added tailwheel, high altitude, and high performance signoffs to that certificate. Ever watchful, he has noticed that the Bay area has 1) a large body of water next door and 2) ground fog and summer stratus, and he is working on his floatplane and instrument tickets.

Bob's based in Byron, where he currently flies a Cessna 182. At other times, he has owned a Cessna 152, a Maule, a couple of Stinsons, a Bellanca, and a Bonanza V-tail. The last gave him a good cardiac stress test a couple of years ago when the engine failed on takeoff and Bob was forced to land off-airport. Minor injuries to the pilot (Bob) but the airplane did not fare so well. It's a good reminder for all of us to go over our "engine failure on takeoff" checklist regularly.

Bob is an insurance broker, and in addition to flying enjoys boating, water skiing, snow skiing, surfing, collector cars and antique collecting. His wife, Terrie, has an antique shop in Brentwood. He flies his airplane mostly in northern California for personal business and for pleasure. On occasion he returns to San Diego for surfing trips. He learned about MDPA from fellow Byronites Rick Mann and Chris Rossi.

Welcome to MDPA, Bob and Terrie!

Mt. Diablo Pilots Association, Inc.

Send dues to: Paul Chelew, Treasurer
3157 Diablo View Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

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-1 S2RG, PA-28, Glasair, etc.) _____ N#

_____ Type of Aircraft #1 (e.g. C-1 S2RG, PA-28, Glasair, etc.) _____ N#

_____ Vocation _____ Hobbies & Interests

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ Activities (hangar party, BBQ) | _____ Publicity |
| _____ Trips (brunches, weekend outings) | _____ Membership (database updates) |
| _____ Programs (speakers for meetings) | _____ Hospitality (coffee, dinners for meetings) |
| _____ Safety (flying tips, maintenance) | _____ Clubhouse |
| _____ Airport Advisory | _____ Communications (newsletter, Web site) |
| _____ Other | |

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

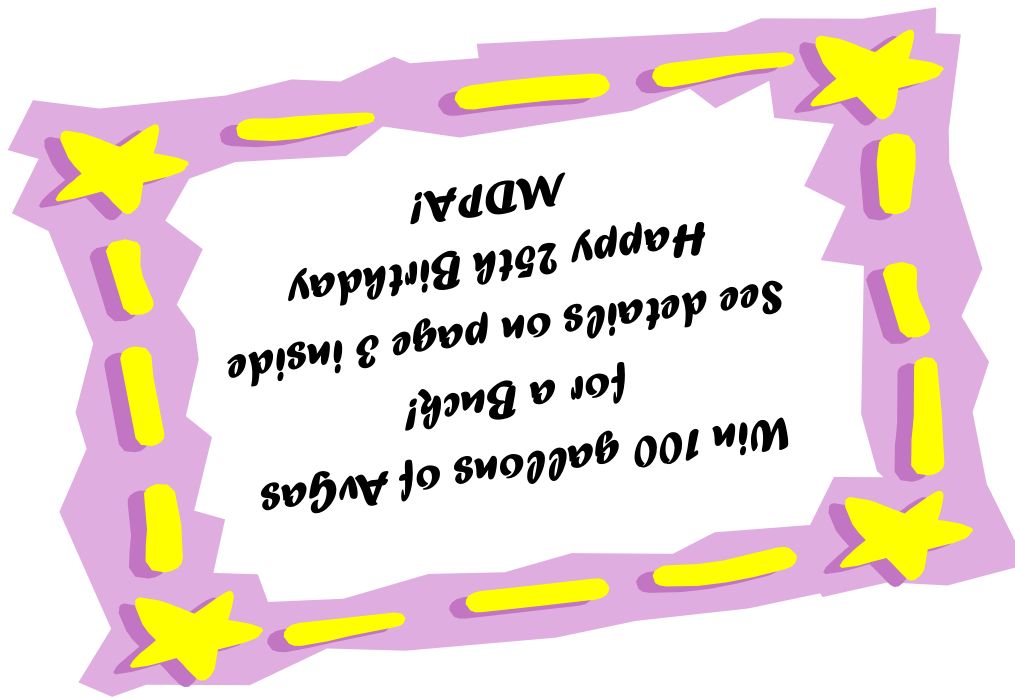
_____ Name #1 _____ Name #2

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. No bills are sent. All delinquent members will be taken off the membership and fuel list by March 1st.

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 and pay with either a Texaco credit card, cash, check, or Pacific States approved account.



Mt Diablo Pilots Association
200 Sally Ride Drive
Concord, CA 94527

Blue Skies and Tailwinds To:

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**First Class Mail
Address Correction Requested**