



MDPA *news*

June, 2004 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 31 Issue 6

MEETING NOTICE

Date: June 18 2004
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:00P
Program: 7:00PM
La Paz In Pictures
Board Meeting: June 16 2004
Next Meeting: Aug 20 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
CONCORD, CA 94527

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE "I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MAY IS GONE!"

I can't believe that May is gone! Kathy and I just got back from a great trip to Baja, only to find that we're very behind in all our chores (including the President's column for May!) and brought home good old Mexican colds. So what happened last month? Well...we have assisted businesses and organizations on the airport to revitalize an existing organization, The Airport Coalition (TAC), and helped the elected chairman, Arnold Peterson, to lobby county supervisors for the abandonment of the RFP for the relocation of the airport. While the RFP looks like its going to proceed, we have gotten some very important language inserted into the document which should give us some protections. Dave Evans has been busy keeping AOPA in the loop which is critical because they will ultimately be our advocates in Washington DC as this process winds its way through the red tape. It also looks like we may have identified Gail Uilkema and Millie Greenberg as not particularly enthusiastic supporters of the airport RFP process. This all helps, but needs continued work on all fronts to ensure a successful outcome for our airport.

For our club, the rising of TAC to the fore of the political arena is a very good development. The mix of politics and a flying club seems to sap the vitality out of the group in a never-ending stream of meetings, votes and procedural wrangling. Now we can support TAC at meetings and letter writing campaigns, but then go home to exciting club functions, dinners, fly-ins, and stuff much more interesting than politics! (Sort of like being grandparents!) Dave and Pat will try to make sure that you have all the information available through links and articles and I will try to give a brief summary of the current events at the dinners. Speaking of events, look elsewhere in the newsletter and web site for articles on the Indian dinner and Baja trip.

And what's coming up in the near future for all of you who can't wait for the next fly out? Two great little adventure trips to Ruth Lake and Hyampom. We also have the always-popular open house at Ken and Dianne's house in Pine Mt. Lake. And for those of you who have the need for adventure, the trip to Alaska. Look in the web site for details and links.

Remember that the first Saturday of the month is the EAA young eagles fly-out and antique aircraft display. July will have all that and more on July the 10th. That will be the annual open house. We hope to have some exciting aircraft and/or folks to get a big draw similar to last year. Pat Miller is hot on that! Bill Landstra is going to be the celebrity chef for June's Cowboy BBQ. Come in your western duds for a great time and some great grub. The raffle prize has already been purchased and it's super! One hint from a John Wayne movie, "Hey McClintock, great party, where's the whiskey?" And another from a Willie Nelson song, "Whiskey for my men, beer for my horses." If you can't figure that one out, well, Dave Smith will have to enlighten you with a string of Texas Stories! (Just ask Paul Hunter!)

See all you all at the BBQ. Keep flying, fly safe and get additional training!

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

GATHER ROUND THE CAMP FIRE FOR THE JUNE DINNER

Well, I'm not sure how we're going to top the fantastic Indian dinner put on by Pradeep Panikar, Maureen Bell and the staff at Pacific States Aviation (see Richard's review on page 6 in this newsletter) but we're sure going to give it a try!

Our June membership meeting will feature an Old Fashioned Cowboy BBQ, prepared by Celebrity Chef Texas Bill Landstra and his cowhands, beginning at 6 pm on Friday, June 18 at the MDPA clubhouse. Check out page 7 for the formal menu.

As usual, dinner will be \$10.00 per person and advance reservations are requested so that we can accurately estimate the number of steers Bill has to wrestle. Bring your family and friends to this special dinner event and don't forget your cowboy (or cowgirl) duds!

All those who RSVP before Wednesday, June 16, will be entered in a drawing to be held at the dinner for a special bottle of cowboy hooch (not red-eye – the good stuff) to go with your dinner!

Now, about the dinner. You make think that this is just your ordinary barbecue dinner but not so. In addition to the basic BBQ tri-tip, corn on the cob and green salad, we have two specialties not to be found anywhere else.

First, the beans. The menu says Chuck Wagon beans but these are not your everyday out-of-the-can beans. Kathy Roberts is making her famous Camp Beans. These beans have onions, bacon and ground beef all seasoned, cooked and drained. Then the beans, 3 or 4 varieties, are added along with spices. This mixture is cooked for about 6 to 8 hours to marry the spices with the beans and meat.

They're a meal in themselves! Kathy usually makes about 3 or 4 gallons at a time. As the camp cookie says, "No use awaste'n time on some measly 3 or 4 portions!" The Roberts used to serve them at their company BBQ and they were as popular as the meat. "Any cowpoke worth his salt would be all mighty pleased to set down to a plate of Kathy's camp beans! I'm agettin' hungry just writin' about 'em!"

Then on to the desert. Bill Landstra, our Celebrity Chef for June, has just advised that he is adding his own special recipe for Apple Crisp to round out the meal. What else could you possibly want?

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

So put on your western duds and join us on Friday June 18th for a barbecue you won't soon forget.

See you there, pardner!! Yahoo!!





"The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you."
- General Dwight D Eisenhower, address to his troops D-Day 1944

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NEWS FROM NEVADA

Hi everyone,

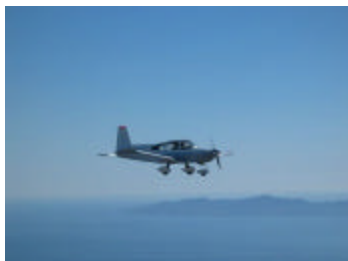
I wanted to wish you all the best in your fight against the closure of the airport. We still are delighted with living on an airport and are currently working with the developer to insure the buyers of the new homes being built close to the approach end of the runway understand noise is part of the package. Definitely want to avoid future problems. The repairs to the runway are targeted to be completed this year and the new airport lots to be available for sale. This is a wonderful resource for the area and has the advantage of a great golf course next to us. Excellent hamburgers too!

I thought I would brag a bit and tell you that Paul was honored in May by the Alta Bates Summit Foundation as Philanthropist of the Year. Some of you may know that he has a background in hospital administration, his Mother was a nurse and my nursing career along with Alta Bates is a big part of our lives. This all led to his having a strong desire to make a difference in the healthcare field.

Paul has a new Maule and is enjoying all the improvements that have been made. He flew it home from the factory in Georgia in February between snow storms. Fortunately a full moon on the mountain snow is a good guide in the dark. Having an Alaska bush pilot with him also an excellent resource. He still gets a wide grin when he flies and this is a beautiful area to tour around. We want to get back to Soldier Meadows this year and for those of you who did not go on the club trip to let you know it is a lot of fun there.

We saw Ken and Pat Helling when they flew in here and look forward to seeing more of you pop over the hill.

Have a great Summer,
Shirley McKenzie (and Paul Chelew)



APPLAUSE FOR LA PAZ

MEXICO TRIP REPORT BY RICHARD ROBERTS
PHOTOS ARE COURTESY OF BILL LANDSTRA, BRUCE HOBBS & KEN WHITHAM

Well, we made it back all safe and sound! What a crew we had down in Baja, it may never be the same again. First, here's the roll call:

- * Bill and Suzie Landstra in their Maule
- * Jon and Lynn McWilliams in their Tiger
- * Bill Ellis, Weh and Valerie in their 414
- * Stew and Joyce Bowers in their club's 182RG
- * Arnold and Virginia Peterson with John and Carol Peterson in his Aztec
- * Nigel Ellis (no relation to Bill) and Richard in his 180
- * Dave Smith and Gerald in his 180
- * Bill and Koni Collins and Ken and Judy Whitham in their Arrow
- * Paul Hunter and Jacquelyn and Bruce and Susan Hobbs in their club's 182
- * Mike and Jane Leach and Rich and Kathy Roberts in his Barron



That's 29 people in 10 planes! They had us confused with the Baja Bush Pilots' annual fly in! Getting all those folks into restaurants and served and shepherded around was no easy feat! Suzie and Bill get real kudos for a job well done! The weather was unbelievable, the food fabulous and the vistas unforgettable. Going down, we had smooth air at 55 to 65 degrees F between 5500 and 7500 feet. No real mechanical problems bothered anyone and the whole crew descended upon Hotel Serenedad on cue. They make the best Margaritas in Baja and many were sampled to make sure all agreed with the claim.

Then on to La Paz. We had 2 glorious days in La Paz, including shopping, beach lounging, a great party at the Landstra's and a great dinner at Buffalo BBQ. Everyone rechecked his or her weight and balance and folks went all over the place with the largest group gathering in Loreto for a night at the Oasis. We met Anna, the owner, and she told us about the good old days when her mother used to radio pilots to come and stay at their hotel. The food great, the pool sparkling and a beautiful small Mexican village made for a memorable stopover.

The last night was at Alphonsino's. This place was somewhat rustic but has great food and unbelievable vistas. We had the Bill Landstra patented full moon and plenty of good times. Irma got me going over who went where, everyone thought it pretty funny that I actually thought Irma, the owner, really cared which room anyone stayed in!

All too soon it was all over but the flight home. We know that everyone made it safely home and all but one plane got back with no problems. As of this writing, I know that Bill and Weh, who left a day early, got home safely. Bill says his 414 lost an engine on the take-off roll at San Felipe. It was pretty scary but he was able to bring the airplane to a stop on the runway before becoming airborne. The plane is safe and unbent but parked at the San Felipe Airport, with the right prop fully feathered. Bill, Weh and Valerie managed to hitch a ride with another pilot to San Diego and then had a long ride home in a rental car from there. I don't know any more details than this but I'm sure Bill and Weh will have adventures to tell for many MDPA dinners to come!

The bottom line? We have 2 new members promised to sign up, Bruce and Paul, and one says he'll rejoin, Nigel. If all are true to their word, that's 94 paid up members counting Ted Scott who gave his renewal check to Bob Everett while we were away!. We're getting there!

And now I'm busy planning the trip to Alaska. Look in the web site soon for details and links which will help you decide and plan the adventure of a lifetime!





PRADEEP SETS RECORD WITH INDIAN DINNER

BY RICHARD ROBERTS

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! No, Dorothy, it figured that out as soon as the door to the eyes of a full sized smiling(?) lion met your gaze. appetizers of Indian origin along with Welsh drinking some lively music and his Indian sound track wasn't international affair. Maureen Bell & Pat Miller were the lion for a buck — completely ordered chaos! And where Maureen had rearranged the tables, added gorilla with its own coconut tree (don't ask!). And we down to dinner yet! Then Maureen led her crew, Celebrity Chef Pradeep Panikar, and all were served an incredible Indian meal without even having to get up to get it. Pradeep said he toned down the spices so that the uninitiated would still enjoy the food. Well, I f or one, haven't had Indian food that good, ever! He had a real variety of flavors and spices on the meat, chicken, rice, etc., etc. It was really a great time with fantastic food.



wasn't Kansas. We clubhouse was opened and There were some great songs?! (The cook needed cutting it!) It was certainly an taking pictures of folks with then off to the dining room, centerpieces and a blowup hadn't even begun to sit under the direction of

After dinner we had vanilla ice cream with a mango topping and Stew Bowers gave us the ins and outs of taxing, run-ups and takeoffs on dirt strips. Apparently some of us showed that we needed some reminding after the Soldier Meadows trip! We had two prizes for the raffle: Frank Siino won a 6 pack of India Pale Ale and Leo Saunders won a bottle of Bombay gin (the original 1770's recipe no less). Leo presented Dave Evans with an official AOPA hat for taking on the job of local Airport Support Network Volunteer and a great time was had by all! One thing is for sure, though, we now know how many people the dining room holds! (74 paid dinners but there may have been a few more!) Looks like we're going to have to include outside seating for the cowboy BBQ next month! It was really great!



Lots of people stayed and helped clean up. Jerry Alves and I took the lion back to its home in Roger Picchi's hanger while Pat took embarrassing pictures of me pushing the lion's rear end up the ramp onto the trailer. Pat and Dave are talking about a captions contest for this photo in the June newsletter! Was this in the job description? Maureen, Pradeep and Pradeep's girl friend, Jennifer, stayed to the bitter end and made sure the kitchen was clean and everything was ship-shape.



Special thanks go to Roger Picchi for lending us his stuffed lion as the main attraction for this event. The line crew from PSA did yeoman's duty on setup and cleanup. And Maureen probably slept really well Friday night. She really worked hard! Her parting words were, "We may do this again, but not too soon!" Pradeep's smile never dimmed, but it was a really long day for him, too! We all hope we can convince Pradeep and Maureen to give us an encore next year, it was that good!

And now for the bottom line: we took in a little over \$1,100 for the night. Not counting the drinks and wine already on hand, we should have expenses under \$500, leaving us with a profit of \$600 for the night. Which makes this the most profitable monthly dinner this year!

And next month? An Old Fashioned Cowboy Tri-Tip BBQ complete with chuck wagon baked beans and green salad with ranch dressing of course, courtesy of Texas Bill Landstra and his cowhands! Click here for full menu details.

See you then, and be sure to get your reservations in early!





MDPA OLD FASHIONED GOWBOY BBA

MDPA Clubhouse June 18 6 PM

Featuring

Cowboy BBA Beef Tri-Tip

Roasted Corn on the Cob

Chuck Wagon Beans

Green Salad with Ranch Dressing

Bill's Apple Crisp



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Blue Skies and Tailwinds To:

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