



# MDPA news

November, 2004 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 31 Issue 11

## Meeting Notice

Date: Nov 19 2004  
Place: MDPA Clubhouse  
Dinner: 6:00PM  
Program: 7:00PM  
**Avoiding Runway Incursions**  
Board Meeting: Dec 8 2004  
Next Meeting: Dec 11 2004



The Airport advisory committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the airport managers 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 94520

## Presidents Message

The week after last month's dinner was a blur of activity, as Kathy and I got ready for a vacation with her mom, Carol, on the Sapphire Princess, Princess Line's newest ship. It was a gift Carol gave us, and herself, celebrating the end of 3 years of a mostly not so pleasant journey of surgeries and endless doctors' visits treating Kathy's acoustic neuroma. We left on Oct. 22 and returned on November 1, going from San Francisco to Catalina down the Mexican Rivera to Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan, and Puerto Vallarta and then back to San Diego and home to SF.

Since we try to do Bill and Suzie's La Paz trip each year, I thought some thoughts on comparing the two trips might be interesting. For those of you who have never gone on a cruise, just think of King and/or Queen for a week and a half! The ship had 2600 passengers and 1500 crew (140 in the 4 kitchens alone!) with 24-hour dining and room service available and 6 major dining rooms all as part of the package! My plane carries 4 including one crew and some snacks Kathy always packs. These were really different trips! We had GPS displays on both trips, although I like the information presented on my moving map in the plane much more than the one on the TV in the cabin. My plane cruises at about 160 to 170 KTAS while the ship went between 10 and 25 knots. No wonder you need all that food, it takes so long to get there!

People (both fliers and non-fliers) always comment on the risk on a flight into Mexico. Kathy and I signed up for the ATV ride shore excursion at Puerto Vallarta, an innocent enough endeavor. It started with all of us going single file down the main freeway at 40 KPH, 3 of the 10 vehicles carrying 2 on placarded 1 passenger ATVs with 2 drivers having no experience! We then went through back streets with buses and trucks zooming around followed by a construction zone, more trucks! We ended up at, where else, a Tequila distillery where we were given a short tour, 8 samples of the various Tequilas produced there, and a nice lunch (only one beer included because we were driving!) and then back on the rigs to retrace our steps back to the boat. No injuries, only one girl fell off her ATV into a river, and all had a great time, but no risk?

On the ship they had about 25 bars, and every drink, including soda, is extra. Just give them your plastic card; you won't know how much you owe until the end! At Bill and Suzie's, there's plenty of beer,

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

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and I have to arm wrestle them to buy a couple of cases of Pacifico as my contribution! The cost for the La Paz trip is about \$1500 to \$2000 per couple (gas is expensive!), and the cruise is about \$3000 apiece, depending on how much you drink, but it is 10 days instead of 6.

So, on balance, both trips have risk, plenty of cost, and lots of time for relaxation. The La Paz trip gives you the satisfaction of piloting your own craft, while the cruise lets you be part of a cast of thousands. I loved them both! Please note, Bill will need to know if you want to go to Mexico earlier this year so he can get the reservations squared away. It's on the Memorial weekend in May and we always have a blast!

Well, now that Kathy and I are back to the land of the working, it's time to start thinking about next year. Do you have a special dinner you want to share with the club? One woman complained about the lack of salads to me at the beginning of Pat's Chili dinner, and at the end asked if I was going to have a salad at the Portuguese dinner. "I want something green on my plate!" she informed me. When I said no, she let me know she wasn't happy with that answer! As she was leaving she told me that she would make the salad for the dinner next month. What a great response! She showed by example that this is your club. You can change things you might not like, and with everyone's input we will make this a better club, just get involved. Now if I can only remember who she was! Well, it'll all work out, I'm sure.

See you at the airport and at the clubhouse.

Richard.

## MDPA Members Soaring High

It's been a long time coming but we're pleased to announce that on Thursday afternoon, October 28th, MDPA member **Mike Bruno** climbed into his heavily customized Cessna 150, N21999, and handily passed his private pilot check ride two days before his 40th birthday.



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## Congratulations to Mike and Rob

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If that weren't enough we should mention that **Rob Goldman** got his CFII last week. Need a proficiency check? Between flight students and that, he's been busy the past few months. Hope to see you back around the clubhouse soon.



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## NOVEMBER DINNER FEATURES PORTUGUESE SOPAS

Continuing with our theme of international dinners, the November General Membership meeting will feature a menu of Portuguese “Sopas” prepared by Richard & Kathy Roberts with a home-made green salad and dressing provided by Rudy Thomas.

Now if you are like me and not from a Portuguese background, you may wonder, “What in the world is sopas?”. In Portuguese, “sopas” means “soup” but this is no regular soup!! It is more like a savory beef stew flavored with mint served over a bed of more fresh mint and French bread. The sopas are traditionally served as part of the annual Portuguese Holy Ghost Festival. Or as some call it, the Festa. A tradition from the Portuguese Azores, it is celebrated all through the summer months, usually on the weekend culminating with a dinner of sopas that is prepared and served on Sunday. Most Holy Ghost Organizations serve hundreds of people and some serve thousands of people the sopas meal which is usually served free of cost to the guests.

According to Richard’s cousin, Carlos, the practice started in the 14th century during the reign of King Diniz and his wife, Queen Isabel, who gave her crown and jewels to the Church to buy bread and meat for the poor when all in Portugal were starving from a great famine. As a consequence, Queen Isabel became St. Isabel and is, today, the patron saint of the Festa.

But, however the tradition started, it is a meal not to be missed. So please join with us at the clubhouse Friday November 19th at 6 pm to sample this famous Portuguese fare. As usual, please RSVP ASAP to Dave Evans via phone at 925-685-0921 or via email at dinners@mdpa.org so that we can lay on the proper supplies.

We’re looking forward to seeing you there.

## FILM SHOWING IN NOVEMBER

Here's something different!

**M**DPA has just received information concerning a new Martin Scorsese film on the life of Howard Hughes. Miramax Films is interested in holding one or more free private screenings of the film for aviation related groups and is wondering if we as a club would be interested in participating.

At this point, no definite date or place has been established but if there is a good demand it will probably come about.

If you would like to participate please indicate your interest to via email to [activities@mdpa.org](mailto:activities@mdpa.org). Looks like it might be fun. Probable dates are later this month (15th to 20th?)

### THE AVIATOR

Opens Nationwide on December 17th

Directed by MARTIN SCORSESE

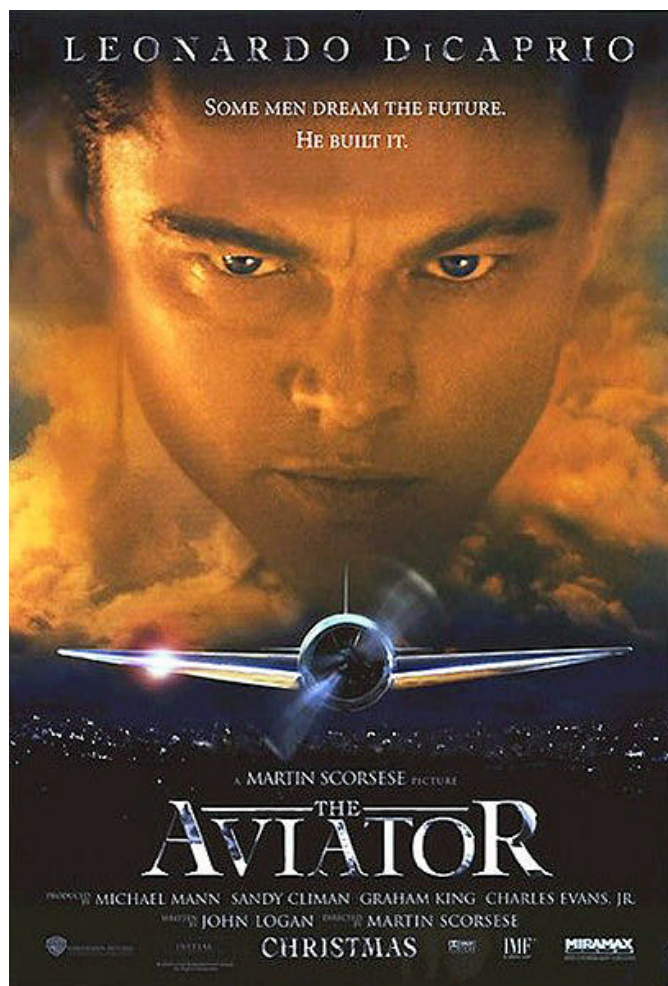
Written by JOHN LOGAN

Produced by

MICHAEL MANN, SANDY CLIMA, GRAHAM KING, CHARLES EVANS JR.

### Cast

LEONARDO DiCAPRIO, CATE BLANCHETT, KATE BECKINSALE, JOHN C. REILLY  
ALAN ALDA, ALEC BALDWIN, GWEN STEFANI and JUDE LAW



The Aviator, directed by Martin Scorsese and written by John Logan, tells the story of aviation pioneer Howard Hughes (Leonardo DiCaprio), the eccentric billionaire industrialist and Hollywood film mogul, famous for romancing some of the world's most beautiful women. The drama recounts the years of his life from the late 1920s through the 1940s, an epoch when Hughes was directing and producing Hollywood movies and test flying innovative aircrafts he designed and created.

The film is produced by Michael Mann, Sandy Climan, Graham King, and Charles Evans Jr. and also stars Cate Blanchett, Kate Beckinsale, John C. Reilly, Alec Baldwin, Jude Law, Alan Alda, Matt Ross (Down with Love, American Psycho), Frances Conroy (TV's Six Feet Under), Adam Scott (TV's Six Feet Under), Danny Huston (Birth), Ian Holm (The Lord of the Rings, The Sweet Hereafter), Kelli Garner (Confessions of a Dangerous Mind) and No Doubt's Gwen Stefani.

## ALIEN TRAINING RULE UPDATE

Friday, October 22 Frank & Rachel Hoffmann and I flew to Long Beach specifically to hear TSA chief Rear Admiral David Stone speak to attendees of AOPA Expo 2004. In addition, we spoke to AOPA staff who are involved in negotiations with the TSA over the poorly thought out alien training rule. The Hoffmann's are a good example of people from our own club who are adversely effected by this rule: Rachel is a flight instructor and Frank is a resident alien with a green card. Under the new rule as it currently stands, if Frank wanted Rachel to give him instruction toward a new rating after Dec 20th, Rachel would have to insure that Frank was fingerprinted and had a new background check from the TSA before starting instruction even though he has already gone through extensive immigration screenings and homeland security checks to get his green card.

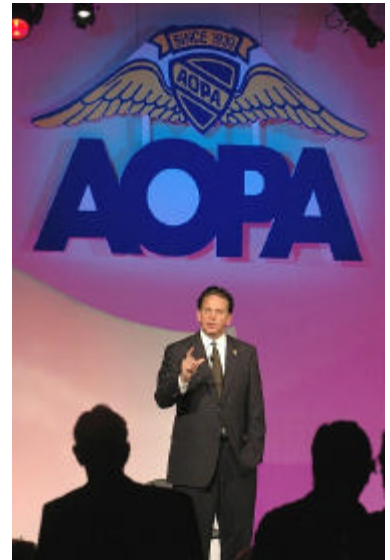
Admiral Stone's talk was well attended but based on his speech and his responses to the questions that followed from Phil Boyer and many outraged AOPA members who spoke to him from the floor, it's going to be a slow and difficult battle on this rule and the TSA is just getting going.

The good news is that AOPA was successful in getting some delays and concessions on the rule at the last moment last week and the AOPA is taking this issue "to the top" with new meetings scheduled with the TSA November 2nd through 5th as well as AOPA's ongoing lobbying efforts with key members of Congress. This later effort is being spear-headed by Phil Boyer himself assisted by over 20 members of Congress who are themselves pilots and AOPA members.

In the meantime, with all the confusion over the last minute announcement of this rule by the TSA with very little guidance on how to comply with it, AOPA has updated their regulatory analysis of the rule to include the new modifications and help clarify the requirements of the rule and who must comply immediately and who does not.

Since this rule is now in effect and effects all pilots and flight instructors, citizens and non-citizens alike, I strongly urge you all to familiarize yourself with this new, updated briefing which can be found at

<http://www.aopa.org/whatsnew/regulatory/regtsa.html>



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## Pat's Chili Feed



Well, last month Pat Miller made a fantastic chili dinner for about 55 of our members and friends. There was a mild pot, mostly gone, a medium pot, all gone, and a hot pot, some left. No, this is not a modern rendition of Goldie Locks and the 3 bears! The hot stuff was the best, but I think some of our eaters were a little cautious when it came to spices! We had a bit of a late start because Tracy Peters made some wonderful cornbread to go along with the chile, but he couldn't get it to cook right in our oven, so he cooked it at home. Once we located Tracy, and confirmed that the cornbread was on its way, we were all fine and in

no time the chilly was being consumed in huge quantities! Along with Tracy's cornbread, of course! Pat had ice cream sundaes for dessert! We were going to have banana splits, except most of the bananas got eaten during the dinner. When we put stuff out, it just gets eaten, or drank as the case may be. Remember last month's raffle prize, gone by the time the raffle took place! Great job guys!



We raffled off a bottle of Jack Daniels' finest



whiskey (hidden until the raffle!), Dave had C/W music on the sound system, and we voted the slate of officers for next year. Most everyone helped clean up, and by all accounts, had a great time!

The bottom line? We took in about \$650 dollars, and I think there was about \$200 in cost, so another economic success!

Remember, next month is Portuguese Sopas, cooked by yours truly, and Kathy, of course! It'll be a great dinner.

See you there.

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## PSA Fuel Discount Increase

Just in case, you haven't bought fuel from PSA recently, we've just learned that they have increased their fuel discount for MDPA members from 12 cents per gallon to 15 cents per gallon to help keep the price down for MDPA members in the face of rising fuel costs.

The current undiscounted is 100LL price is \$2.98.

The new MDPA 100LL discounted price is \$2.83.

MDPA thanks Maureen Bell and the staff at PSA for their ongoing support of MDPA over many years.



**MDPA Presents**

# ***A Portuguese Festa***

**Friday, November 19, 2004**

**6 PM MDPA Clubhouse**

**Traditional Sopas**

**(Savory Beef with Mint & French Bread)**

**Salad with Homemade Dressing**

(925) 685-4400

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On October 31, 2004 Mobil 76 from PSA beat the Buchanan speed record by departing the East side and fueling 11 M.D.P.A. aircraft on the West side within 19 minutes.



The Hughes H-1 racer was developed to be the fastest landplane in the world. On September 13, 1935, Hughes achieved the design goal by flying the H-1 to a new world speed record of 352 miles per hour.

Mt Diablo Pilots Association  
PO BOX 273073  
Concord, CA 94520

Blue Skies and Tailwinds To:

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**Holiday Party December 11**  
**Mark your Calendar for this once a year event**