



# MDPA news

June, 2005 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 33 Issue 5

## Meeting Notice

Date: June 17 2005  
Place: MDPA Clubhouse  
Dinner: 6:00PM  
Program: 7:00PM

Board Meeting: June 15 2005  
Next Meeting: July 15 2005



The Aviation 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

## President's Message

A friend of mine and I flew down to the Chino Air Show, Planes of Fame, last weekend. There were 25,000 people there! Let's see, 25,000 times \$15.00 per person per day times 2 days, throw in some food and drinks, that's a million dollar event! Have you ever been to the Chino Airport? It's no great shakes, old buildings, no terminal building; it doesn't even have a tower. But it has a collection of buildings making up a pretty nice museum and the museum uses the event as one of its main fund raisers for the year. They had 30 or 40 warbirds, mainly WWII types on static display and then flying around, it was pretty neat! They even had a recreation of the flying wing do some low approaches.

As we left, we did the old, "Why can't we do something like this at our airport?" First, of course, we need some organization take charge of the thing and keep it going over many years. There's lots of knowledge that is learned over the years. We started to get an open house going on Father's Day, and it was pretty well received (5000 or so people), if my memory serves me right. But I think insurance was hard to get, or something, so the event was cancelled and never returned. It's my observation that we have this collective mindset, from our Supervisor on down, that we spend our time determining why something can't be done, rather than on how we can make it happen. We spent tons of energy on whether or not to close the airport instead of making it a better place for everyone. OK everyone lets snap out of this and get positive!

What are some of the things we can do to make this airport a positive place for more people in this community?

- An open house. I'll bet we can somehow get this to be an EAA sponsored event and get some insurance.
- More publicized Young Eagles events. Someone needs to help Pat Peters get the word out on the Young Eagles days. We should have 100 to 150 kids, they're out there, they just don't know.
- MDPA Breakfasts. We have 15 or 20 folks turn out each month, what if we actually got our act together and publicized the event as a fly in? I read where one little airport serves 500 meals on a good Saturday! (Not 500 this weekend, PLEASE!)
- Publicize the MDPA Dinners over at the mobile home parks. A lot of those folks are retired and are looking for a place for a good cheap meal and a place to meet some nice people close to home. It would sure help in the neighborhood view of things.
- A 99's sponsored right seat course over a weekend, including ground school and flights in rented planes from PSA and Sterling, or in their own planes. We have the instructors, and there are right seaters looking for the place to learn.
- Let the Airport Staff and Supervisor DeSaulnier know we want more hangers and airport property developed to serve the airport. I don't think there is anyone young enough in our club to be able to wait through the list to get a hanger in their lifetime!

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:

Peter Danto 925-788-9010  
programs@mdpa.org

#### VP Communications:

Patrick Miller 925-685-3354  
muncunations@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:

Fran Schlatter & Dan Dulava  
925-285-2007  
secretary@mdpa.org

#### Director at Large:

John Levy 925-937-3444  
atlarge@mdpa.org

#### Past President:

David Evans 925-685-0921  
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**

· So there's stuff for individuals, MDPA members, EAA members and the 99's to do, right off the top of my head, what else? Let's hear some ideas from you guys. Just email them and let's see if we can infuse some life in this joint! If one of these ideas or others makes you want to join in, do it! It can only make this a better place to fly.

OK, off the soapbox! Wait! One more thing. I am termed out at the end of this year. I will serve as Past President on the board, but we need a new Fearless Leader! If you have a secret desire to run the show, let me know! We will have a lot of great talent on the board and in the club to help make the job easier, but there is, after all, only one "Fearless Leader"! (A misspent youth watching too much Rocky and Bullwinkle?) Well, let me know, December will be here before we know it! Thanks ahead of time. Richard.

## BAJA Memorial Day 2005

**B**ill & Suzie did it again! They planned and hosted a wonderful trip to LaPaz BCS.

For the first leg of the trip, we flew to Borrego Springs. The good news was the hotel and its pool....bad news - no restaurant (closed for the season!). To their credit, they freely shuttled us to and from town to a nice restaurant. Also, the airport had questionable fuel (old truck with maybe fuel)...we couldn't know because when we all arrived, (after 5 pm) no one was there, and the next day, we all wanted to leave before 8 am, and again, no attendants. Bill Collins jumped the fence to open the gate, but Judy Whitham discovered a far easier (and less painful!) way to open it...her finger fit thru to the other side of the gate latch, and she opened the gate! Oh well, Bill's foot has fond memories of Borrego Springs...

We all left for Calexico to get fuel and file our flight plans to Mexico. We all entered Mexico at San Felipe, fueled again, then made the 2+ hour flight to Mulege and the Serenidad. I feel my Baja vacation really got its start at the Serenidad. The warm pool with its seats at the bar, the fish tacos, the punch bowl margaritas...aaahhhhh!

After our dinner and several margaritas, the next morning, we were all glad it was just a short 70 mile hop to Loreto. The Oasis Hotel there truly lives up to its name. I really enjoy just sitting in front of my room, listening to the surf roll in and the birds sing. Oh, baja is wonderful. From Loreto, it was a beautiful flight to LaPaz...the multi-colored rock of the cliffs along the shoreline are quite impressive. Some of you may remember my "reluctant passenger" reports from years back. Well, now that I am more relaxed, I now appreciate the beauty of Baja.

LaPaz was great. Bill and Suzie are wonderful hosts. There is much to do in LaPaz - fishing, snorkeling, going to the beach, etc. But that would require getting up from the Landstra's patio! Anyway, they have a pool, great drinks and food...why leave? What a luxury to have time to do exactly what I wanted by this point in the trip...absolutely nothing!

After 2 days in LaPaz, we headed back north. We went to San Felipe for overnight, then on to Concord via Calexico and Delano.

I still get nervous at times when I fly, especially around traffic, but I listen to music and knit now. What is the best is the people and places I see with these MDPA trips. -- Konnie Collins

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## Farewell I to Winnie

Winfred David “Winnie” Hull, a well known figure on our airport for many years, died May 31,2005 in Martinez at the age of 90. A native of Kansas, Winnie lived 60 years in Concord and Martinez. He ran his aircraft repair shop on Buchanan Field for 43 years and was an instructor for the Mount Diablo Flying Club. During WWII, he taught Air Force cadets to fly and was a flight engineer for US air transport missions in the Pacific.



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## WEI WOWS WITH CHINESE CHOW!



What a night! It all started with some phone calls in which Wei and I coordinated what seemed like an undoable feat; 27 different things, all cooked at the last minute, for a crowd of 45 expectant discerning pilots' pallets! Well, I was to be there about 2:00 pm. Wei was going to start about noon, and then go to get her daughter at school, but she'd be back before I got there. I busted a gut, but still was there only by 3:30. No Wei! Not here, not there, not anywhere! Finally at about 4:15 she arrived with a TON of food. Luckily Bill Landstra was there by 4:00, so we got busy stuffing won tons, 1500 needed according to Wei! (Bill: "This reminds me of when I worked graveyard on a production line during college, its hopeless!") We got on the

phone and reinforcements were called in, then the first 25 people to arrive were called into service. While all were stuffing the 15 different kinds of won tons, we had our board meeting. It probably wasn't the most focused meeting we've ever had, but it was sure the quickest! Bev Levy arrived with the dessert and immediately started helping Wei cook. Then others came and jumped right in to assemble the salads. Peter Danto did his electrical presentation, which was very good, by the way. He had some good things to watch out for and some great safety tips for us to look out for on our electrical systems. Then, dinner was served!

I couldn't believe it. All 27 things (or there about, and I'm not exaggerating by much!) were present and more than edible. It was the best Chinese food I've ever had. All the tastes combined well, we had lots of good left over wine from the English dinner, and there was way more than enough food, in great Chinese tradition, as I was told. Bev made almond cookies and home made ginger ice cream for dessert. What a feast! Lots of folks helped clean up. As everyone was cleaning up, we had a quick update meeting for the pilots going on the BC trip, what a busy evening!

Bev and John Levy, Wei and I closed the place down and made sure all the doors were locked, another really successful dinner! Unbelievable job everyone! As I locked the office, oops, we forgot the raffle! Oh well, there's always next month!

The bottom line: We took in \$550 and costs were about \$300 not counting the drinks, which were prepaid. Just like signing up 2 more members!

And for next month? First, we're going to have the board meeting when it should be held, on the Wednesday before the dinner! Then we're going to do a simple all American BBQ. The usual tri tip meal. It's simple, good and everyone, almost, likes it! Please sign up early so we know how much meat to buy. So, until next month, we'll see you at the airport, or similar to what Charles Osgood says, I'll see you on the email!



# **MDPA OLD FASHIONED COWBOY BBA**

**MDPA Clubhouse June 17 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**





Steve Fossett and Mark Rebholz completing  
M.D.P.A. application at P.S.A. on May 19, 2005  
(Dont know yet if they'll be back in time for the June dinner)

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Mt Diablo Pilots Association  
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