



Meeting Notice

Date: August 18, 2006
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:30PM
Program: 7:00PM
Board Meeting: August 16

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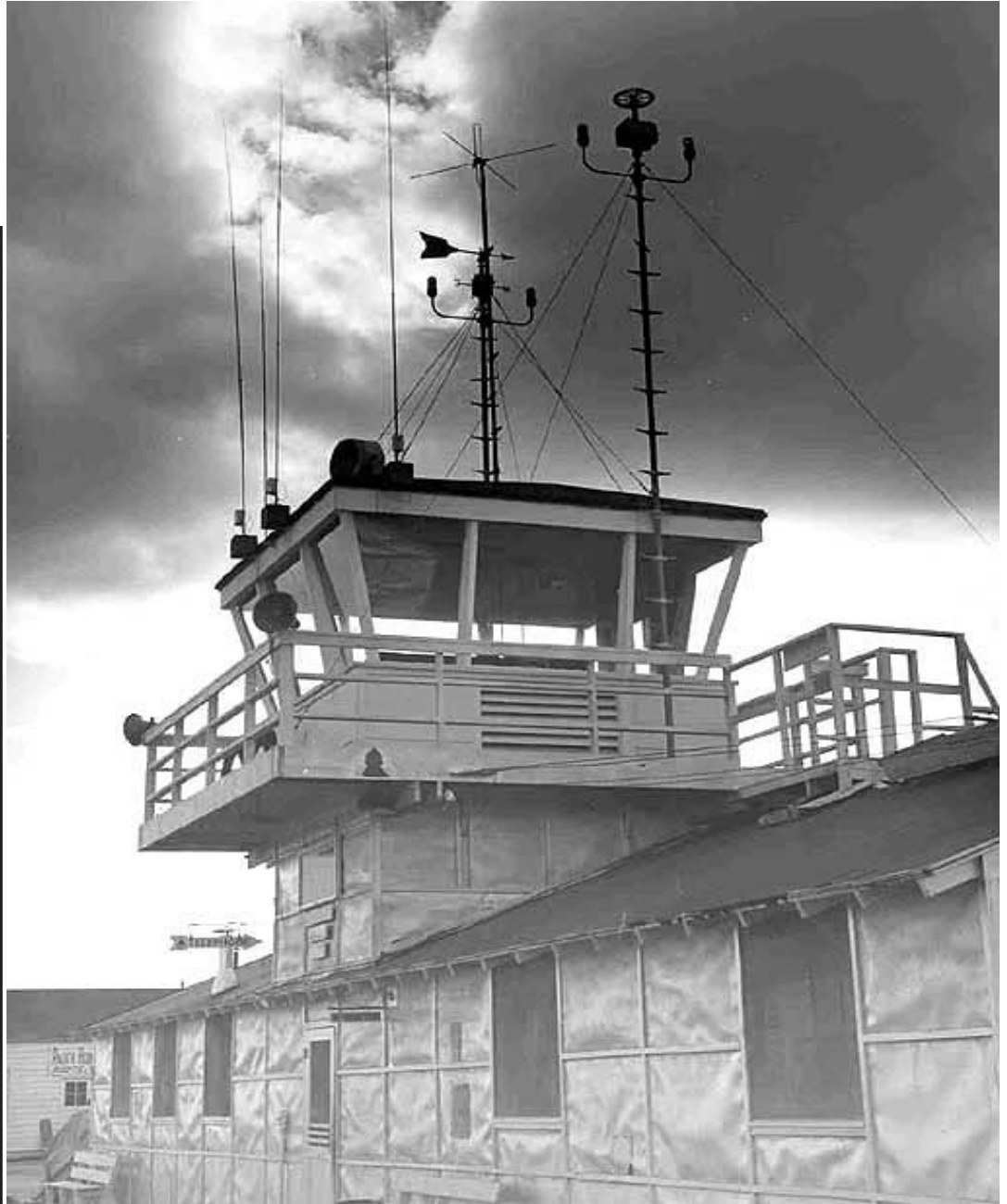
A summer sale is now in progress. As of July 1st, membership in MDPA is now 50% off. You get all the advantages of membership for 50% less. To quote a notable local celebrity, "you'll have some great food and meet some wonderful people. So Join now. Only \$60 for the rest of 2006. Check out www.MDPA.org or send your checks to:

MDPA
PO BOX 273073
Concord, CA
94520

MDPA news

July , 2006 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 33 Issue 7

FAA to Spend Millions to Upgrade Buchanan Control Tower !



Ok, well not exactly, but this is what the control tower looked like on August 4th, 1946 when the field was turned over to civilian use. This is cause for a huge 60th anniversary celebration. Articles on the celebration are inside.

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**Articles and photographs for the
 newsletter should be e-mailed to**

Newsletter@mdpa.org

President's message-August

August is here and MDPA is doing fine. MDPA membership could use a little help though. We have not met our goal of 100 members for 2006 so we are asking all of you to invite a friend to one of our dinners, to go on one of our trips or just join MDPA. You have a friend who has talked about joining MDPA or seen pictures of one of our trips soooo ask them to join our ranks and become a member. In addition, when was the last time you asked a non-pilot if they wanted to go flying? There are neighbors, co-workers and friends who would love to go up for a sightseeing trip around the bay or fly over to Half Moon Bay for lunch. Like the Nike slogan says, "Just do it" or in this case "just ask them".

KCCR will celebrate its 60th birthday on August 5th with an open house and static displays. MDPA will have a booth to let visitors know about us and what we do. We need some help with two time slots, 1 PM to 2PM



and 2PM to 3PM. If you can help man the booth let me know. We will also have our Saturday breakfast at the PSA hangar; we will be cooking for the people that are working the booths and the open house. We will start at 8:15 so everyone can get breakfast and be ready to work on the open house by 9:30. Don't go to the MDPA clubhouse for the Saturday breakfast because we will be at PSA!

Maureen and PSA will put on a party on August 4th at PSA in the evening. Tickets are available at PSA until July 30th ONLY. Sorry no tickets available at the door. \$15.00 each for great food and a fabulous live swing band! Your first drink is on PSA. Prizes for the best 1940's costume, (if you ex-military types can still get into your uniform, you'll fit right in). You know any party Maureen puts on will be great and there are a limited number of tickets left so get over to PSA and purchase yours soon. See you on the 4th.

The summer picnic on the grass of the MDPA clubhouse was a great success. We had about 50 people show up for the dinner. After dinner people actually stayed and talked for along time. We auctioned the VLJ trainer off; Richard was the auctioneer and did a great job. In fact, he did such a good job he got Vince & Diane to pay \$425.00 for the plane!!! Diane really wanted that for her grand son! George Ann donated the VLJ trainer to MDPA and we owe her a big thank you.

We will see everyone on August 4th at Maureen's party. Keep the blue side up.
 Vince



AUGUST 4TH 1946

THE ARMY AIR CORPS LEAVES BUCHANAN FIELD AND GENERAL AVIATION ARRIVES

Sixty years later, let's celebrate by recreating the AAF barracks on Friday, August 4th, 2006, 1900-2300 hours at Pacific States Aviation. Entrance through the gate between our two hangars on John Glenn Drive.

Tickets are available at PSA until July 30th ONLY. Sorry no tickets available at the door.

\$15.00 each for great food and a fabulous live swing band!
Your first drink is on PSA.

Prizes for the best 1940's costume.
(if you ex-military types can still get into your uniform, you'll fit right in)

Tonight, we'll celebrate 1946.
Tomorrow -- come out and celebrate 2006.



Pilots of the 444th Fighter Squadron were part of the 328th Fighter Group and trained at Concord AAF in P-39 Air Cobra's from September to December 1943.

AVIATION'S DIRTY LITTLE SECRET

One of our members has been flying most of his life, and has one of those minds that spots myths a mile away. One of his pet peeves has been the fact that the average age of pilots is going up pretty much year for year with the passage of time. So if the average age of pilots in 2000 was 50, the average age in 2010 will be 60. Run that out for a couple of decades, and you have a depopulated activity that the non-flying public will refuse to protect. Why have an airport somewhere, if no one ever lands there? We are fighting to keep airports open and safe from developers; they only have to wait a few years, and most of the smaller ones will be closed due to lack of use! Our member brought those facts up to Phil Boyer a couple of years ago when Phil was here for one of his town meetings. His response was a sort of shock, (he almost dropped his coffee cup) and a couple of minutes of tap dancing around for a plausible reply. AOPA just didn't seem to be really talking about this ticking time bomb. They had their Mentor program, but no one seemed alarmed. After all, those facts could be used by the enemy and who wants to expose his underbelly needlessly? And who wants to sound so morose; that doesn't sound like a fun group you would want to join. They will, of course say that they had been talking about this all along, but not in a way that got our attention.



Look at your AOPA Pilot for July. Phil Boyer, in his column, describes how AOPA contracted out a research firm to target the most likely demographic for new pilots. Who is this guy/gal? Married, with children, 40 to 49 years old, annual income of \$100k or more. How many of them are there estimated to be in the US that said they would be interested in learning to fly? 3 million! And the kicker is 80% of them know a pilot! Compare this to the fact that there are only about 650,000 pilots and only about half of them fly much at all! Remember, it wasn't that long ago when we had a million pilots. Just to make sure we "get it", Thomas Haines also writes in his column: *General aviation as we know it is on the brink of extinction. Without some serious efforts at rejuvenation, certainly GA as we know it-recreationally flying single-engine piston airplanes most anywhere and whenever we want-will be gone in a generation.....The solution to GA's malaise can be summed up in two words: **pilot population**.* Holy mackerel, they get it!

Now what? Well, 80% of the solution knows you and you know we need them. Seek out those people and give them a nice introductory flight. Help them find an instructor if they're interested in learning to fly. Get the packet from AOPA on mentoring. "How will I know it's really them?" If you let people know you fly and just ask them if it sounds fun, they'll let you know. Where can we do this meeting and mentoring? A really good place would be at a great new clubhouse, where we could put on events and the airport staff could do some education in a more productive setting than they now are able to do. This is why some of us are so passionate about a new clubhouse. It becomes the catalyst for so many good things. (Remember to let the decision makers know how much you feel the need for a new clubhouse, no matter who builds the project.)

What about the tremendous cost? Hey, I watch American Chopper; how many \$65,000 dollar choppers are they turning out every year? And they don't even have any rear suspension! Ever looked at how many Hummers are cruising around? Now, I am biased, but there's two pretty useless, gas guzzling toys! There's money if there is passion, and that's our job!

Do I sound like a cheer leader? Well, I have 2 granddaughters and they are crazy about flying. I want them to be able to grow up enjoying the incredible experience of flight that I have enjoyed so much. I'll bet you've got a child, grandchild, relative, etc. who loves to go on an adventure with you. What a fabulous, positive activity you can do with that cranky kid who is either on the phone or playing video games all the time! Get them interested, too. If we don't help get new pilots started, we are just going to have to get used to fewer airports, higher costs, and more ridiculous regulations foisted upon us by an uncaring public. In the words of the old radicals of my youth, "Are you part of the problem or part of the solution?"

I'm getting off my soapbox now! Just try to help get people flying and help us get a new clubhouse, OK? We have more aviation opportunities in California than in just about any other state. I love to fly and I

know you do, too. I don't want to see it all go away because I didn't do anything to help aviation grow. Oh, and who was our member who, if he didn't focus Phil, must have at least got him thinking? I'm sure most of you know because he has talked about it to you, Jerry Alves.
Richard.



Come to Buchanan's
60th Birthday
Party.
Saturday Aug 5th
from 10 am to 3pm

Booths, games for the kids, static aircraft displays. Bring a non-pilot friend and show them what the airport is all about. We're fun people!



Website: www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org

Wing Walker, U-2 Dragon Lady, C-17 Demo and Military Jet Performances Round Out Line-Up for the 'Wings Over Wine Country 2006' Air Show

Santa Rosa, Calif., July 19, 2006 -- The PACIFIC COAST AIR MUSEUM (PCAM) today announced the complete line-up of the performers, aircraft and special guests featured at its annual "Wings Over Wine Country" Air Show, to be held August 19-20, 2006 at the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport in Santa Rosa, Calif. Northern California's premier air show event, Wings Over Wine Country will feature many firsts this year, including a U-2 Dragon Lady flyby, a C-17 Globemaster III demonstration, and a wing walker. Air show organizers are also proud to welcome NASA Astronaut and USAF Colonel Pamela Melroy as a special guest. Melroy has piloted two space shuttle missions and logged 562 hours in space, and will be available to share her experiences with visitors to the show. This year's show will also feature exciting military jet demonstrations, precision aerobatic flying, vintage warbirds, static aircraft displays, aviation memorabilia and more. Presiding over the event will be Grand Marshals Col. H.D. Polumbo, Jr. and Col. Domenick M. Eanniello, Commander and Vice Commander, 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale AFB, Calif. respectively.



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Upcoming Schedule of Events

Plan your trips and RSVP NOW!!!

- ❑ August 4th, PSA Dinner Dance Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Buchanan Field. Purchase tickets at PSA before the end of July. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!
- ❑ August 5th: Buchanan Fields 60th Anniversary celebration. 10 am to 3 pm. Sign up to work the booth.
- ❑ Aug 19, 20: (Overnight) Solder Meadows NV. A repeat of a very popular flight in to a historic working cattle ranch in NW Nevada. Land on the ranch's private airstrip and enjoy a weekend of relaxation featuring the local hot springs. More details as to date as we finalize this trip. RSVP now if you are interested.
- ❑ August 26: (Day) Chili Cook off Pollack Pines Day Trip. Fly in to Placerville Airport to attend this day long chili extravaganza from 12 pm to 4 pm. Or if you want to complete, cooking begins at 9 am. At least one MDPA entry is planned (Pat Miller).
- ❑ Sept. 16: (Local) Half Moon Bay: Fly in to Half Moon Bay and park at the far south end of the field at 11:30 am. Then a short walk across the creek to Princeton-by-the-Sea for a great lunch at one of the many restaurants there.
- ❑ Sept. 23: (Overnight) Ashland Or, Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Plan to fly to Medford Oregon for an overnight stay. Transportation will be provided from our hotel to the Festival in Ashland to see the Merry Wives of Windsor performed on the outdoor Elizabethan stage beginning at 8 pm. Tickets are \$57.50 per person. If you are interested in this outing please contact Pat Miller immediately so we can book our reservations at a group rate no later than June 30. After that you will be on your own to make reservations.
- ❑ Oct 21: (Overnight) Surprise Valley Hot Springs, Cedarville, CA. Fly in to Cedarville then courtesy car to the resort where each room has its own private outdoor hot tub fed by natural mineral water from the local hot springs. Messages are available and recommended. Relax in rural elegance. Rooms are limited (only 10) so RSVPs encouraged now so we can make firm reservations
- ❑ Nov 18: (Local) Watsonville, A scenic flight down the coast to meet at 11:30 at Zuniga's Mexican Restaurant on the field for lunch. A great day trip with good food.

RSVP Now to activities@mdpa.org



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Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

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