



# MDPA news

April 2007 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 34 Issue 4

April President's message 2007

By Vince Siebern

## Meeting Notice

Date: April 20, 2007  
Place: MDPA Clubhouse  
Dinner: 6:30PM  
Program: 7:00PM  
Board Meeting: April 18

April is here and it is time to do a little spring-cleaning on your plane. I am not talking about having it washed and the carpets cleaned although that might not be bad. Let's start with the tires. Do you see any cracks in the rubber or any flat spots? If so maybe it is time to change those old tires. Check with PSA or Sterling for some new tires. If yours don't need a replacement then when was the last time you checked the pressure? Your POH will give you the proper inflation so check it out and add if necessary. While you are down there how do the brake pads look? See any hydraulic leaks. Next up the battery. Has it been a few months since you last started your plane? If so at

least turn the prop a few times before you start to crank the thing. And just in case it doesn't start where did you put that battery charger? While you are looking in the garage for your charger pick up some bottled water to fill your plane battery, it has probably been six month or more since you put any water in the battery. But wait—you can't start it before you remove the cowling to see if any critters have nested between your cylinders during the winter. While you are there check out the wiring harness to see if any mice have chewed on your leads. Check everything over while you're there. Clean up any dripped oil you see on the cowl. Button her up and after completing the checklist hit the starter. I could go on and on but you get the idea. Check it out so you can have an uneventful flight. Safety is Paramount or Warner Bros.

It's time to sign up for those trips. We have the Las Vegas, La Paz, Kalispell and the St.. George, UT. trips ready to go and I have seen only a few of you sign up for any of the trips. Lets get going or the trip leaders will give up. To see a list of the trips go to [MDPA.org](http://MDPA.org) and click on the 2007 trips. Then let us know when you want to go.

The corn beef and cabbage dinner of March was great. The Peters, all four of them did an outstanding job. Not only was the food delicious but they decorated the clubhouse and the tables so you thought you were in the old country, green was everywhere! After the dinner Pat even vacuumed up the place. Great job!! We had the tower chief come to speak to us. He explained their problems (fewer controllers) and what we can do to help. Then he talked about our problems and how to avoid them. It was very good to hear from our partners in flying on the FAA side.

April 20<sup>th</sup> is the date for an Italian dinner. This feast is hosted by Maureen and I expect it will be one of her usual great hits, so plan on attending. Bob Gonzales will talk to us about the history of aviation in the Bay Area, he flew B-29s and B-36s out of Travis? You must RSVP by the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Speaking of old planes there will be several B-29s in the area in the coming months. You will be able to get rides in B-29s, B-17s, B-25s and B-26s at Concord and Napa. We will send an e-mail out as these events get closer.

Keep the blue side up  
Vince Siebern

**MDPA Mailing Address**

PO Box 273073  
Concord, CA 94520

**MDPA Officers****President:**

Vince Siebern 415- 897-0861  
President@mdpa.org

**VP Activities:**

Activities@mdpa.org

**VP Programs:**

Maureen Bell 925-381-7679  
Programs@mdpa.org

**VP Communications:**

Dave Evans 925-300-6437  
Communcations@mdpa.org

**Treasurer/Membership:**

John Levy 925-937-3444  
Treasurer@mdpa.org  
Membership@mdpa.org

**Facilities Manager**

Lorraine Bartneck 925-383-8820  
Facilities@mdpa.org

**Secretary:**

Bob Belshe 925-376-7677  
Secretary@mdpa.org

**Director at Large:**

Patrick Miller 925-685-3354  
Atparge@mdpa.org

**Past President:**

Richard Roberts 925-939-0173  
Pastpres@mdpa.org

**Aviation Advisory Committee**

Russ Roe 925-228-0138

**Safety/Maintenance:**

Stewart Bowers 925-254-0804

**Web / Newsletters :**

Patrick Miller 925-685-3354  
Dave Evans 925-300-6437  
Steve Kennedy 925-370-0828

Webmaster@mdpa.org

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

Newsletter@mdpa.org

**MDPA Mission Statement**

The Mount Diablo Pilots' Association is a non-profit organization based at Buchanan field in Concord, California (KCCR). There are many benefits to joining the club. The purposes of the Mount Diablo Pilots' Association are:

- To promote good public relations between general aviation enthusiasts and the local community.
- To encourage participation in fly-ins and other aviation activities.
- To promote safety and educational activities for pilots.
- To provide mutual resources of information on flying for members.
- To furnish information and support to the Contra Costa Airport Advisory Committee and other governmental agencies concerned with aviation.
- To be a proxy on aviation matters of community concern for its membership.

**If your reading this in a black and white hardcopy, wouldn't you rather see this in all it's beautiful color? You can! Go to [www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org). You can also save the club money by dropping us an e-mail and telling us you'd ONLY like to view the newsletter on-line. That way we can save the cost of printing and postage.**

**March's Napa Trip**

**By Vince Siebern**

Weather almost stopped our second MDPA trip this year. Something about 200 overcast and ½ mile visibility said we should try somewhere else. So we reprogrammed our GPS and headed to Jonesy's in Napa. On Sunday they have only breakfast and dinner menus and we weren't that hungry so breakfast it was. Fine linen tablecloth, great view and a price that equals the 29er diner in Petaluma. What more could we ask for? How about two old pilots (79 & 81) that had just completed a trip around South America in a Cessna 182 RG!! They taxied up just as we were finishing breakfast. They had a band and about sixty spectators to welcome the two back home. They left Panama on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> ( we couldn't find out when they left Napa) and traveled down the Western side of South America and returned on the Eastern side arriving in Napa on March 25, so they could have been gone for two months. Now that sounds like a possible MDPA trip. Even though it was a short flight it was good to get the first trip of the year completed. Everyone there thought it was worth the effort. Don't forget to sign up for our April trip to Las Vegas.

Aprils Dinner Agenda  
By Maureen Bell

Dinner will be an Italian Feast from Luigi's on Clayton Road. The Menu will be:

Salad  
Rigatoni with Italian Sausage Sauce  
Garlic Bread  
Tiramisu for Dessert

**YOU MUST RSVP BY APRIL 15TH OR YOU WILL GO HUNGRY!!**

***RSVP by sending an e-mail to [dinners@mdpa.org](mailto:dinners@mdpa.org)***

Our Guest Speaker will Bob Gonzales who has lead a very interesting flying career, and worked on restoration projects for many military War Birds. Here is some of Bob's Biography:

Born in San Francisco on October 19, 1924

Worked at Kaiser Ship Yard #3 in 1942.

Drafted in January 1943

Poddington. England in 1943 Between Northampton & Bedford.

Took over the airdrome from the RAF for the 92<sup>nd</sup>. Bomb Group

During the Battle of the Bulge in 1945 I joined the Army Infantry.

Trained to fight Germans. Finished training on VE day.

Trained to fight the Japanese. Finished on VJ day.

Transferred to a Troop Carrier unit in Orleans, France.

Transferred to an MP unit in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Home in late 1946.

Entered Aero Tech Institute at the Oakland Airport.

Joined the Northern California Racing Association building race cars.

Took beginners driving test and raced cars until 1950.

Re-enlisted in the US Air Force and assigned to Travis AFB.

Phased out of B-29s and assigned to the first operational B-36 in the Air Force. 005

Joined Travis AFB Museum and donated my Uncles 1912 Biplane.

1987 I became President of Travis Historical Society.

Took over Recovery Project of the Swamp Ghost B-17E 412446

October 1987 Marlin White and I went to Papua New Guinea and on the B-17E.

Made a second trip to Papua New Guinea to complete arrangements with their new manager at the Museum.

All arrangements were made for recovery and shipping out of the swamp to Poppendeta Airport for cleaning and transporting by ship to Port Moresby and to the airport for a pick up by Air Force C-5A.

During that time at Travis I was restoring Navion's.



Out St... Patricks Day Cake



Bob Everett



Bridget Peters



Bridget and Evangeline Peters



Russ Roe  
AKA the Leprechaun



Pats Mystery Picture of the Month  
Do you know who this is?



Young Eagle and Tracy Peters



Jason Ralph - KCCR Tower  
Chief



Elaine Yearly and Marielle Moyer



George Ann Garms, Betty Dunn, and Elaine Yearly



Suzie Landstra and Diane Siebern



Steve and Diane Kennedy

Las Vegas is our next trip. We will depart KCCR about noon Friday the 27 and arrive about three hours later at North Las Vegas (VGT). Remember this is close to Nellis AFB so plan your flight carefully and don't overshoot VGT or you will be in Nellis air space. No, Richard and I will not be flying together and I do have a new GPS so I hope I don't have to call Nellis. Transportation from VGT to the hotel is via public transportation (the bus) or cab, your choice. I suggest we stay at New York New York. They have rooms available and the average cost is only \$265 per night for two. I know that seems high but this is Friday and Saturday so they charge a lot more for the weekends. You can book a room at Las Vegas.com to get the \$265 rate. I suggest we meet Friday evening at Il Fornaio in New York for a fine Italian dinner. Saturday and Sunday activities are open. Remember, what happens in Las Vegas stays in Vegas. If anyone is looking for a round of golf let me know and I will bring my sticks, we can play Saturday morning.

It is imperative that we sign up early to secure our rooms so let me know if you plan on making this trip and book your room **now**. I have two seats open if anyone wants a ride.

For Sale

1980 Cessna 182RG 3600TT 1360SMOH.  
Cessna 300 radios with a King 64 DME and Air  
Nav RNAV. Dec annual. Hangared at CCR. 1/2  
fractional ownership available for only \$55,000.00

Call 707-373-1251

Your AD Here

Please send your ads to [newsletter@mdpa.org](mailto:newsletter@mdpa.org).

Commercial Rates:

- \* Half Page Ads - \$50 per month or a Corporate 12 month membership for \$300.
- \* 1/4 page ads \$25 per month or a Business 12 month membership for \$150.
- \* Business Card size ads for Non-Members \$15 per month. Free for Members.

**STERLING**  
**FLIGHT**



With the New Year bringing in weather concerns wouldn't it be nice to have weather in the cockpit

**Stop by Sterling and see the new cool products available!**  
**Discover the Difference in Concord**

Tel: (925) 676-2100 → Fax: (925) 676-5580 → Unicom: 122.95

*Self-service ain't what it's cracked  
up to be. Next time call PSA and  
we'll come to you.*



Pacific States Aviation  
51 John Glenn Dr  
Concord, CA 94520  
(925) 685-4400  
Unicom 122.95

Mt.. Diablo Pilots Association  
PO Box 273073  
Concord, CA 94520

Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

## In This Issue:

- 1 Presidents Message
- 2 March's Napa Trip
- 3 April's Dinner Menu
- 7 April's Las Vegas Trip

First Class Mail  
Address Correction Requested