



MDPA news

March 2009 Concord, CA www.mdpa.org Volume 36 Issue 3

Meeting Notice

Date: January 23 2009
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:30 PM
Program: 7:00 PM
Board Meeting: January 14, 2009

March Presidents Message Steve Kennedy

Here I sit waiting for another storm to blow through. Considering that just a couple of weeks ago we were the envy of the nation as we had temps in the 70's while the rest of the country was sitting in single digits, I sure am getting tired of this rain. Between work and rain, it sure puts a crimp in flying.

We've been doing some great "hanger flying" though. We had a great time at the breakfast/safety clinic earlier this month. The group may have been small, but the discussion was lively. A lot of useful information is shared at these breakfasts. If you haven't been to one in a while, now is time to come back. March 7th is the first Saturday in March and hence, the breakfast. Breakfast usually starts about 9am or so with the safety clinic immediately after everyone finishes eating.

On the 20th of Feb we had our monthly dinner. This month it was Hungarian Goulash. George Ann Garms was our hostess for the evening. And what a hostess she was. The dinner was superb. We had goulash, Hungarian salad (Thanks to Maureen Bell for this wonderful salad), French bread, and pies from Marie Callenders. WOW, we were all very full at the end of dinner. Then to add a topping to this wonderful evening, George Ann was also our guest speaker. She told us about her trip to Russia just as "glasnost" was taking hold in the Soviet Union, in a C-182. Many of the "old-time" members may have heard the stories before, but many of the members present had never heard the story. Needless to say, everyone was enthralled.

With the "hanger flying" out of the way, we need to focus on some real flying. Coming up in March is the whale-watching trip to Mexico. The details are available on the MDPA website (www.mdpa.org). We have many people interested in going, but we only have 2 airplanes going, so if you would like to go, please contact Vince Siebern at tydow@verzion.net. He'd love to hear from you.

John and Beverly Levy are planning on leading a trip to Ashland, OR for the Shakespeare festival. If your interested in going, look at the Shakespeare festival web site to get an idea of some dates for the plays you'd like to see (<http://www.osfashland.org>), then contact John or Beverly suggesting some dates. You can contact either of them bev@LevyCPA.com or John@LevyCPA.com.

I'm trying to put together some day trips during the year as well. Some suggestions we've had so far are Columbia (the only town in the country that is also a state park.), Los Banos for fried chicken, and Harris Ranch for lunch. These are all good suggestions, but I am open to any others. I would really like some new or original suggestions. If you have any ideas, or want to lead one of these trips, send me an email at sk3979@gmail.com.

I'm thinking that if we get back to what we do best (no, not drinking and eating!!). FLYING! Maybe we can shake off some of these winter doldrums. So, let's plan some trips.

Respectfully, Steve.

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Articles and photographs for the
newsletter should be e-mailed to
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Tentative Dinner Schedule For 2009

March 20th - St. Patrick's Day Dinner hosted by the Kennedy's.
The menu will be homemade potato leek soup, corned beef & cabbage, Irish soda bread, and dessert.

April 17th. - Italian Dinner, hosted by a team effort, lead by Diane Kennedy. Tentative menu will be salad, Meat Lasagna, Vegetarian Lasagna, garlic bread, and Tiramisu for dessert.

May 15th. - Hawaiian Luau hosted by the Peters family, Tracy, Bridget, and Papa Pat. Stay tuned for details.

June - Casino Night-Hosted by Maureen Bell @ PSA

July - Old Fashioned Summer BBQ-Hosted by The Sieberns

August - Korean Short Ribs-Hosted by The Bartnecks

September - Chili Dinner - Hosted by The Millers

October - Holloween Party/Dinner-Hosted by The Kennedys

November - Still need a volunteer

December - Holiday Party

NOTICES:

Your 2009 Dues are now OVERDUE
THINK GREEN AND LET US EMAIL
YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS
Reminder: ANY RESERVATIONS FOR THE CLUB-
HOUSE ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN EMAIL OR
LETTER FORM.

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.

February Safety Clinic

“Ditching and Then Some”

February’s Safety Clinic, breakfast and antique airplane display had a small but enthusiastic group. Steve Kennedy and Vince Siebern, our cooks for the day, also hosted the clinic.

No discussion about safety in the last month or two would be complete without a discussion about the “miracle on the Hudson”. So we started off with this topic. We discussed all the things that went right that day. We also discussed the complex number of things that went on inside the cockpit during those short minutes after take off. Several web blogs and e-mails are making the rounds that go into detail around all of those things, and what they meant. We all felt that we hoped we were as cool under pressure as that crew was.

Since we were talking about “ditching”, we discussed the recent situation where a pilot flying out of Half Moon Bay, was going “sightseeing” out to the Farallon Islands. He lost an engine and ditched into the ocean. Luckily, the Coast Guard and National Guard were conducting rescue-training exercises nearby, and rescued the man from the icy Pacific shortly after the incident.

Since the above incident happened out of Half Moon Bay, we also discussed the C-150 out of Sterling Aviation that went to Monterey for a lunch, and then was to proceed on to Half Moon Bay. About 10-15 miles south of Half Moon Bay, the pilot and his wife decided that they were very low on fuel, and decided to make a “precautionary” landing in a field. Upon hitting the soft dirt and grass, the C-150 flipped over. We discussed if the precautionary landing was necessary or advisable, considering his proximity to Half Moon Bay. That’s only a decision that the pilot in command can make, and he made it.

Next month, we’re looking forward to having Mr. Potter, our moderator back.



Just before dinner was served on Friday night we had a beautiful sunset.



George Ann Garms was our dinner host and Maureen Bell assisted by making that fantastic salad.

Andrea Achelis holding our littlest member Stella Peters.



A group picture.



George Ann Garms talking about the trip to Russia and China with her friend Mary lee.

Steve & Diane Kennedy, Kevin Kennedy, George Ann,



Maureen Bell, Marielle Moyer, Tracy Peters with Stella and Grandpa Peters. I hear he is an excellent baby sitter.

George Ann, Andrea Achelis,



Andrea Achelis & Konnie Collins



George Ann Andrea Achelis Judy
Whitham Konnie Collins



George Ann, Lorraine Bartneck, & Patty
Gilchrist



YOU CAN RENT THE MDPA CLUB HOUSE
FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT!

Club House Rental is Only \$50.00 to Members

(with an additional \$100.00 cleaning deposit)

Need a BBQ for you function?

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STERLING



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Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

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First Class Mail
Address Correction Requested