



# MDPA News

Mount Diablo Pilots Association  
Buchanan Field, Concord, California

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**February Breakfast and Safety Meeting**

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## MDPA Safety Forum, Saturday, 1 February 2014

**John Potter**

We had a marvelous to-die-for breakfast put out by a gang of very enthusiastic cooks, followed by opening remarks by John Potter followed by Tracy Peters who conducted the Safety Forum.

### **AUTONOMOUS AIRLINE**

The January Safety Forum featured the idea of computer flown "big iron," and ultimately the nature of autopilots for good, and, sometimes, bad. The idea of the trend being featured in an article by St. Louis University that foretells of getting on an airliner with no pilot, (maybe a little like the SFO airport transit system). The survey they ran showed some reluctance to not having a human who was able to intervene, in case the digital system went awry. Check out the article:

<http://www.avweb.com/eletter/archives/102/2730-full.html?ET=avweb:e2730:a:&st=email#221343>

## **"SAFETY CULTURE"**

The thought of trying to create a Safety Culture among the MDPA pilots was wrapped around the article referred to below by Rod Machado, the AOPA humorist and author.

This topic was introduced in the announcement for the MDPA Breakfast/Safety Forum for this meeting as "required reading." I ran across the article that I had tagged as something to go back to and take a look at someday when cleaning out my "Pending Box." It immediately struck me as the key to what we were trying to do with the Safety Forum, create a Safety Culture. (The breakfast was only a lure to get pilots there!)

I know that I had heard the term in my working life in the submarine service and in nuclear power plant business, but had not thought deeply about it. Rod points out that that such a culture only emerges when the community where it grows and takes form is one where "bonds" are formed such that there are expectations of a member's behavior and mindset about doing things in a highly responsible and accountable fashion. This serves to protect and safeguard each other and others. It seems that this readily occurs where there are high consequences of not doing so. Certainly this was true in submarines where I spent ten years at sea, as well in the construction and operation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant where I spent a career. Rod points out that even aviation owner's groups are the same. I belong to the Commander Owner's Group and every morning I am on the website communicating and relating to other owners around the world. With this group I have seen expectations grow as we get to know the others and stories are shared-----bonds are formed. I see that in the EAA local chapter where they regularly run safety meetings and talk about being careful. Rod's "strong group cohesion" is readily apparent in these groups.

Rod's conclusion was that general aviation pilots do not readily bond. It is not the culture of the pilot by nature-----and that is where most of the accidents happen---those that are operating outside of influence groups---termed "the outliers."

That is the real purpose of our flyouts and the forums, to take in the "outliers" so that they have a place to go to share and bond!

"TIES THAT BIND"----~AOPA Article by Rod Machado Sept 2013

For the article paste this in to the address box:

<http://www.aopa.org/News-and-Video/All-News/2013/September/1/License-to-Learn-Ties-the-bind-us.aspx>

## **"CHICKEN STRIP"**

For those that like back country airstrips, especially challenging ones, we talked about this one that is being reviewed by the Nat'l Park Service for keeping open. I would be a real setback to lose this classy place to go.

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=297&projectID=39438&documentID=56823>

## SAFETY FORUM

Tracy Peters

Tracy shared what he had experienced in his defense contracting work with putting on programs requiring the FAA to establish TFRs and how they are regularly violated by pilots not checking during preflight.

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## MDPA Flyout to Half Moon Bay, Saturday, 1 February 2014









































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## **MDPA Meeting and Dinner, 21 February 2014**

Steve Mink hosted the the very well attended dinner of Mexican food catered by the New Mecca Restaurant.

The speaker was Fred Abrams, Director of Pilot Training, Sterling Flight Training Center. He is a nationally known aviation lecturer, humorist, veteran instrument instructor, volunteer FAASTeam (FAA safety team) representative, and aviation technical writer.

His aviation career began in the U.S. Air Force, where he was assigned to the 4017th Combat Crew Training Squadron at Castle Air Force Base, Atwater, Calif., as a KC-135 simulator operator. While in the Air Force, he joined the aero club and obtained a Private pilot certificate. Later Fred earned a Commercial pilot certificate and a Flight Instructor rating. After completing his military service in 1965, Fred joined a national flight school and trained GA pilots throughout the U.S. He has given more than 5,000 hours of instrument flight training and more than 7,000 hours of instrument dual in flight training devices and simulators plus an additional 8,000 hours of classroom training and one-on-one tutoring.

Fred started Abrams Aviation Seminars in May of 2004, specializing in FAA knowledge test preparation courses, individual tutoring, simulator training, and pilot proficiency seminars throughout the United States. Abrams Aviation Seminars joined forces with Sterling Flight Training Center in July 2013. By combining resources these two organizations are on a mission to provide the best pilot training available anywhere in the San Francisco Bay Area.

When not in the cockpit or the classroom, Fred may be found at the computer as he prepares training

material and syllabi for clients throughout the country. Or he might be at a podium as he is a well-known aviation lecturer and humorist. Examples of Fred's wisdom and wit are available by visiting: [www.abramsaviation.com](http://www.abramsaviation.com). You can hear him discuss his unconventional approach to pilot training by going to the following link:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/finer-points-aviation-podcast/id84885574?mt=22>

This link will take you to Jason Miller's "The Finer Points" where you can scroll down to number 129 for Jason's interview with Fred discussing his approach to teaching single pilot IFR (works for married pilots also). You can also scroll back up to number 124 for a second interview with Fred discussing the almost always fatal decision to continue VFR into IMC and the tragic final flight of JFK Jr.

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## SPRING IS IN THE AIR LET'S GO FLYING!



Pacific States Aviation is having a Friday Getaway special for MDPA members.

**(TOP OFF ALL TANKS ON A FRIDAY IN THE MONTH OF MARCH AND GET AN ADDITIONAL .15 CENTS OFF YOUR MDPA DISCOUNT WITH PSA.)**

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The Mount Diablo Pilots Association is a non-profit organization based at Buchanan Field in Concord, California (KCCR)

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

The MDPA clubhouse is located at 200 Sally Ride Drive in Concord, California,  
*do not send mail to the clubhouse address* use the USPS address instead:

Mount Diablo Pilots Association  
P.O. Box 6632  
Concord, CA 94524  
[www.mdpa.org](http://www.mdpa.org)