



MDPA News

Mount Diablo Pilots Association
Buchanan Field, Concord, California

May 2016

media@mdpa.org

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MDPA Calendar

Upcoming Events

May

- 4 Board Meeting
- 7 Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout to Auburn
- 20 Dinner Meeting

June

- 1 Board Meeting
- 4 Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout to Oroville
- 17 Dinner Meeting

July

- 2 Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout to Boonville
- 6 Board Meeting
- 15 Dinner Meeting

August

- 3 Board Meeting
- 6 Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout to Salinas Municipal
- 19 Dinner Meeting

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Tuesday, April 19 was a big day for Buchanan Field. JetSuitesX has now started scheduled charter service between Buchanan and Burbank on weekdays, and Buchanan and Las Vegas on the weekends. More flights and destinations are in the planning stages.

I was present at the launch ceremony, thanks to an invitation from Dominic Aliano of Supervisor Karen Mitchoff's office. The photo shows Supervisor Mitchoff introducing Keith Rabin, JetSuite President and CFO, and Alex Wilcox, JetSuite CEO. Previously Alex was a founder of JetBlue, and Keith worked in private equity and management consulting in the aviation field. Clearly JetSuiteX has an experienced management team, and we wish them great success operating from Buchanan Field.

I've bought several hundred round-trip tickets between Oakland and Burbank in my business career. I really look forward to the ease of flying from Concord instead. "We're happy to free everyone of the (Caldecott) tunnel and all the traffic," said Keith Rabin, referring to the drive to Oakland airport. That pretty much sums it up for me!



Of course the elected officials and executives get all the glory at a launch event. But much of the work to make JetSuites happen

was done by Keith Freitas and Beth Lee in the airport office. Next time you see Keith and Beth please be sure to thank them for their efforts.

JetSuitesX operates Embraer 135 regional jets, with the interiors reconfigured for comfort equivalent to corporate jets. The flights are priced to be competitive with flights from Oakland. You can book your flights at <https://x.jetsuite.com/> You can also download an app for your iPhone or Android.

Maurice Gunderson

MDPA BREAKFAST AND SAFETY FORUM, SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2016

By John Potter

BREAKFAST

All went well. We start one cook short and just then the President, Maurice, walks in and asks "what can I do,"----- I say, "---the gravy, make the ready mix gravy!" We had food for 50 and 42 showed up. I say, "---always best to not run out of food!"

For 2016 I will continue to coordinate the Safety Forums.

For 2016, I will be the Head Cook once a quarter.

We need a Head Cook volunteer for July:

May	- John Potter
June	- Jim Coupe
July	-

I have a checklist and it will take a newbie about 4 hours to shop and set up. (I now have it down to less than 3 hours.)

**Note: The club policy is to deliver leftover food from the dinners and breakfasts to a needy family.*

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

MDPA President's Comments

President Maurice Gunderson reminded the pilots of the regularly scheduled Airport Advisory Committee meeting and encouraged pilots to attend. He presented his argument for visitors to join MDPA with the monetary benefit that any reasonable flying soon pays for the minimal annual club dues.

MDPA Treasurer's Remarks

Treasurer Elaine Yeary reported the club's account funds on hand.

Activities

John Barrella announced the change in the flyout destination to be Ukiah since the restaurant at the originally planned destination of Red Bluff was not open.

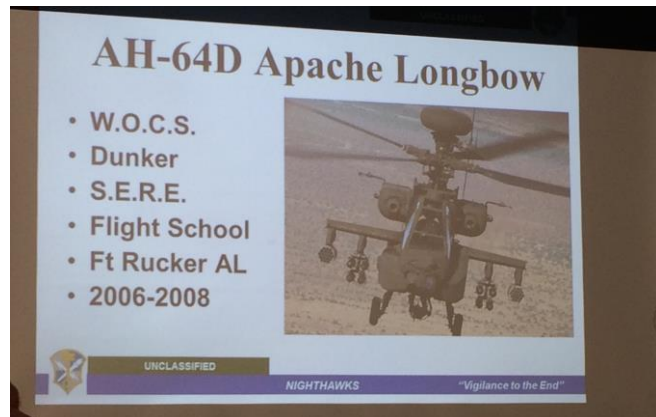
Here are some photos from the flyout to Ukiah Municipal Airport - KUIK and lunch at a restaurant close to the field.





SPECIAL PRESENTATION **Helicopter Warrior**

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jason “Johnny” Boston, USA, told us about his life since deciding in his late 20’s that his civilian life was not what he wanted so he enlisted in the army. His promotion progress was extraordinary, to say the least, and his accounting was candid and telling about what it is like in combat, and specifically in Afghanistan. Many veterans in the audience related closely to his going into harm’s way as a part of military life that many vets have experienced. See the attached [Jason "Johnny" Boston Flyer](#) - for more information about CWO Boston.



---We must look out for each other---an MDPA "safety culture."

MDPA DINNER MEETING, FRIDAY, APRIL 15 2016, 6:30PM

by Maureen Bell

Once again we had a perfect evening for April's dinner meeting. You can't beat BBQ ribs and chicken – thanks to Scott and his assistant, Rich Johnson.

Captain Hill and his two air traffic controllers made the evening special, as instead of telling us what we should and should not do, they asked us to question them.

This turned into a lively discussion and they showed a large map depicting the Alert Area around Travis which they donated to MDPA. Hopefully we will be able to display it somewhere in the Clubhouse.

Many thanks to Bob Torrey for getting the room ready and staying until the end to make sure everything was left in good order. Also thank you to the members who helped clean up – if we all take it in turns it will be so much easier.



Our speakers explaining the Alert Area map which they donated to MDPA



Speakers with The Little Man



Bob not sure about the menu with the chef and George Achelis.



Maurice and Pierre with our speakers





Rich Johnson & Scott Davis



The Potters—I want some of what they're having!



Leslie Adams



Our photographer Kevin with Steve and Diane



Kevin and The Little Man



Norm, Knute, DeWitt, Pete Monillas, Patti Krebs and John B



Elaine, Bonnie, Maureen, Patti and Mel Nordahl



Scott, Rich, Jim standing and Scott's guest.



George A, Scott D, Scott A, Leslie A and Rich B.



Knute, Norm and John



Chet, Maurice and Pierre with our speakers



A Gentlemen's Group using the Clubhouse.



Beautiful warm night at KCCR

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
HISTORIC AIRCRAFT DISPLAY
EVERYONE WELCOME!



Buchanan Field Clubhouse –
200 Sally Ride Drive Concord
For details visit the Mount Diablo Pilots
Association @ www.MDPA.org

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

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

MDPA Board Members:

President - Maurice Gunderson
Treasurer - Elaine Yeary
Secretary - Maureen Bell
Programs/Guest Speakers - Pierre Bidou
Website/Dinner - Robert Torrey
Facilities - Scott Achelis
Activities/Flyout – John Barrella

Non-Directors:

Safety Meetings – John Potter
Past President – David Thacker
Newsletter/Social Media - Natasha Doktorova

**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