



MDPA news

January, 2005 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 32 Issue 1

Meeting Notice

Date: Jan 21 2005
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:00PM
Program: 7:00PM

Installation of Officers

Board Meeting: Jan 19 2005
Next Meeting: Feb 18 2005



The Airport advisory committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the airport managers office.

If you're not currently a member ...

Join MDPA!

MDPA membership has many benefits, including discounts on tie-downs, fuel and services.

Dues are \$120 (\$60 for half-year beginning July 1) and should be sent to:

MDPA
PO BOX 273073
Concord, Ca 94520

President's Message

Well, here we all are trying to recover from a nonstop holiday season, come to terms with the fact that 2 of our members, Pap Phelps and Roger Picchi, won't be with us and get ready for another year. It's a mixture of tired, sad, hopeful and high expectations. I guess that pretty much sums up life!

As you have probably read already, we made the 100 mark for the year, actually 105. We're shooting for 110 to 120 for 2005. I think we'll make it; we're already ahead of last year for renewals. Since members are the life's blood of any organization, it's really important that you renew and maybe get one of your pilot buddies to join also. That will insure a vibrant and healthy club going forward. Thanks ahead of time!

This year we're going to have a bunch of really neat trips. We've got the Baja trip to La Paz, Surprise Valley, British Columbia, a couple of day trips to get a nice lunch or dinner, and Bill's got a couple of fun ones up his sleeve. We'll have more on that as soon as Bill and I get together and finalize some dates. We had a preliminary meeting but need to finish the schedule. He's a tough one to get to slow down long enough to talk to! For someone that flies such a slow plane, he sure is active!

I'm really excited about this coming year. Many of the board members are returning and that means that our learning curve should be lower. With some returning veterans and some new energy from new members, we should get some of these older issues put to bed. We're working with the Airport staff to get the income from the tie downs, pave the tie down area, and set ourselves up as the head of a coalition of the various airport clubs and groups. More on all of this as we get tangible news to report.

If you haven't clicked on the links for Pap and Roger that Dave Evans has provided in the email communications, please do. These guys were the real deal. Their respective lists of accomplishments are amazing and make me realize how blessed we are to have friends and fellow pilots who are so interesting and have done so much. Which brings me to another reason to come to the monthly dinners. We have an incredible group of folks in this club. Come have dinner with them, get to know them, listen to their stories. We have retired fighter aces, captains of industry, world adventurers and just plain neat folks. They all have a story. As pilots, we tend to be a little understated, but don't let the cover fool you! There's gold in those relationships! (And I don't mean money!) So come and get to know the folks you share the bond of flying with, you won't be sorry. See you around the airport.

Richard.

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Articles and photographs for
the newsletter should be
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Installation Dinner
Crab & Tri-Tip
Salad
Bread & Butter
Chocolate Cake & Ice Cream

MDPA Income/Expense 1/1/2004 Through 12/31/2004

INCOME	
Corporate Dues 2004	550.00
Donations	
Angels	624.08
Clubhouse users	640.00
Misc	407.92
TOTAL Donations	1,672.00
Dues 2004	10,560.00
Event Income	
Dinner Beverage Sales	1,099.00
Dinner Food Sales	7,020.00
Merchandise	54.00
Open House Beverage	29.00
Open house Food	118.00
Open House Merchandise	10.00
Pancake Breakfast	256.37
TOTAL Event Income	8,586.37
Interest Income	5.54
Newsletter Subscriptions	80.00
Tiedown Income	105.00
TOTAL INCOME	21,558.91
EXPENSES	
Awards	28.39
Bank Charge	45.96
Calif Pilots Assn Dues	50.00
Clubhouse	
Maintenance	294.37
Rent	7,665.00
Supplies	45.43
Utilities	
Electricity	1,190.65
Gas	398.00
Sewer Fees	312.48
Taxes	75.51
Telephone	247.58
Water	471.85
TOTAL Utilities	2,696.07
TOTAL Clubhouse	10,700.87
Event Expenses	
Dinner Beverage Cost	692.78
Dinner Food Cost	4,261.28
Open House Food	36.21
Pancake Breakfast	174.41
TOTAL Event Expenses	5,164.68
Insurance	784.00
Membership	44.40
Clubhouse Keys	-5.00
Name Tags	298.69
TOTAL Membership	338.09
Newsletter	
Postage	547.40
Printing	771.28
TOTAL Newsletter	1,318.68
Office	70.00
Web Site	239.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	18,740.07
OVERALL TOTAL	2,818.84

MDPA Morns Passing of Two Long Time Members

Pharo Alfred Phelps, "PAP", died at home surrounded by his family on December 20, 2004 of cancer at the age of 76. Pharo was born in Biggs, California on August 24, 1928, and attended Sacramento High School where he met his life-long sweetheart, Lois May Higgs. Married 54 years, he created a family of unbreakable bonds and helped each of his children find and grow their own passions.

Pap graduated from the Naval Academy in 1950, completed a Civil Engineering degree at RPI in 1953, and a doctorate at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA in 1963. He taught physics at the Naval Academy, a subject he followed, like a religion, through the last days of his life. His other life-long passions were literature, music, the arts and later, tracing his ancestors, who came to America in 1630 on the ship Mary and John.

Pharo's career as a leader, engineer, builder, military officer and scientist included tours in the Antarctic, Guam, Vietnam, England, Spain, Kuwait and Turkey. He was both revered and loved as Commander of MCB 8 (Seabees), and he retired from the Navy as a Captain in 1974. Pharo worked for Bechtel, San Francisco; Phelps Associates, his engineering consulting firm; and was CEO of FMC-Nurul in Ankara, Turkey, where he built a major defense manufacturing facility that was dedicated by President Ozal of Turkey.

Pharo was in his element either flying his Mooney N1164G or

being in the ocean. He earned his commercial, instrument and glider ratings in addition to qualifications in aerobatics and scuba diving. He found ways to include flying in any event — most satisfying were the volunteer medical transport flights with Lois, touching many people at difficult hours in their lives. His charisma, humor and sharp wit charmed both friends and strangers.

Mr. Phelps was a registered professional engineer, a former director and fellow of the Society of American Military Engineers, a Fellow of the Society of Civil Engineers, a member of American Physical Society, Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, and Chi Epsilon. He flew with Bay Area Soaring Associates, Mt. Diablo Pilots Association, and volunteered for Airlifeline and The Wellness Community of Walnut Creek.

Pap is survived by his wife, Lois, 3 children and their spouses: Andrew and Barbara of London, John and Rachel of Munich, and Jennifer and Frank of Maryland, along with 9 grandchildren: Marina, Edward, Michael, Sonnet, Hannah, Isabella, Olivia, Sebastian and Pharo. He was predeceased by his eldest son, Pharo Thomas. Pap's life is an inspiration, always exploring new interests and vocations — he frequently remarked that he did not know what he wanted to be when he grew up.

The family will hold a memorial service in Annapolis, MD, and suggests memorial contributions be made in his name to The Wellness Community, a charitable concern providing help and comfort to those affected by cancer. Donations may be sent to 3276 McNutt Ave. Walnut Creek, CA 94597.

Roger Albert Picchi

April 22, 1941 - January 3, 2005

Roger is survived by his beloved wife of 45 years, Constance; he was the devoted and treasured father of Nancy McCullough, Kathryn Picchi-Concepcion, Anthony Picchi and Gino Picchi. He was the cherished, loving grandfather of Pamela McCullough, Lauren McCullough, Jennifer McCullough, Matthew Anderson, Alisa Anderson and Nicholas Picchi. Roger is also survived by his mother, Edna Picchi, and sister, Alta Picchi. Roger touched many lives throughout his 63 years. He enjoyed cooking and the great outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. Roger was also an avid pilot. Friends and family are invited to a visitation on Friday, January 7, 2005, 3-8pm at Wilson & Kratzer, 825 Hartz Way, Danville, CA 94526. A funeral will be held at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Danville, CA on January 8, 2005 at 11am. Interment private. Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley (925) 820-2999



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Christmas Party 2004



Well, the 2004 Christmas party is history! Pat Miller got smoked turkey and ham again this year and it was great! I think it might have been better than last year. We all brought different stuff, great stuff, and went home stuffed. While there was no pink flamingo, we had lots of great gifts for the gift exchange, including 3 standouts. The big deal was a metal model of a DC3, one of those Texaco models. Was Rachel really searching under all the tables for it? That was followed closely



by a bottle of brandy in a wooden box and a singing rose bush! Brian Enbom got to be the first, and last guy for the first time in 20 years, and he was excited! He also set a world record by getting the first 4 or 5 gifts stolen one after the other! His arm got tired opening so many presents one after the next. My friend Geoff, the English guy who went to Alaska with me, stole the rose bush from Russ Roe. He, or someone else stole it back. In Geoff's own words, "I was crushed!" However, he finally got it for good later in the evening. He informed me that it would forever have a place of honor in the



Earnshaw household at Christmas time! (Refer to picture in their "lounge") Sue, his wife, wasn't particularly impressed!



Maureen Bell emailed me the "Official" rules for the gift exchange the next day, noting that I had interpreted them incorrectly and it cost her the gift of her dreams. Next year, we will print out the MDPA Official Gift Exchange Rules so no one is confused. Fat chance!

Fast forward to SFO check-in. "What's in the box?" "A singing rose bush." "You'll have to open it for us." "Tada!" "Please turn it on." "Some where over the rainbow." Even the terse inspectors were cracking up, especially when the little arms went up and down and the eyes blinked in time with the music. What a prize! Was I jealous!

We also had a DVD on the trip to Alaska and previewed the upcoming trip to Scoop Lake, which was a real hit. I think we may have 3 or 4 planes interested in the trip.

We ended up with about 45 folks at the dinner, and because EAA left us a bunch of wine, had free drinks. I think we still netted about \$200. Not too bad for a year-end bash. Lots of folks helped clean up, Pat Miller gets lots of pats on the back for a job well done! The food was superb! Russ Roe took a huge load to the dumps, and everything is back to normal, so to speak!

So there we are. Look elsewhere in the newsletter for details on next year and think about that special meal you want to cook for the group next year! See you in January.
Richard.



Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings,
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Flou'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew.
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

We will miss you Roger and Pap.

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Mt Diablo Pilots Association
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Concord, CA 94520

Blue Skies and Tailwinds To:

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First Class Mail
Address Correction Requested