



MDPA news

February, 2005 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 32 Issue 2

Meeting Notice

Date: Feb 18 2005
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:00PM
Program: 7:00PM

Board Meeting: Feb 16 2005
Next Meeting: Mar 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

As you can see, the newsletter is late this month! A combined overworked condition of our newsletter staff - me (all my clients are yelling to get their stuff done right now!), Pat Miller (he made the cut at People Soft and now is running around all over the country!) and Dave Evans (his clients are yelling too, and he's had the flu for a week!). What a group! Hopefully you'll ignore the date and enjoy the result.

I flew down to LA a couple of weeks ago, filed IFR and felt pretty smug about my piloting skills, my excellent flight planning abilities and life in general. After all, what could go wrong, it was an MVFR day, the plane was running fine and I was current. Never mind the crazy work schedule or the fact that I had never landed at Long Beach before.

Wheels up at 6:00 local and off I went. No problems until I was 8 miles from the airport still at 8000 feet, the airport is at about 150 feet, I think. Down I came, cleared for the visual, managing energy, remember shock-cooling, airport under the wing. There it is! Wait, that doesn't look right. Oops, wrong airport. Go back to ATC and the beginning of the line. The controller says, "You are now behind 2 jets, do you see the Airbus at 12 o'clock and 2 miles? Follow him to the runway!" Thanks a lot buddy!

Then on takeoff back to Concord, I filed again as it was IFR in Concord. All OK, then the controller comes on and amends my route. OK, then another controller comes on and tells me to, "resume own nav". OK. Now the new controller comes on yelling at me to turn right RIGHT NOW. OK. Then the following occurs:

Controller: Call me when you can talk!

Me: I can talk now.

Controller: What are you doing?

Me: Going direct to Lake Hughes.

Controller: Why?

Me: That's the amended routing I have.

Controller: Who told you to do that?

Me: The last controller I talked to.

Controller: Who!

Me: He didn't tell me his name.

Controller: I'm getting to the bottom of this!

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

newsletter@mdpa.org

A few moments later, Controller: There must have been a mix up. Sorry. (Translation: We screwed up!) Whew! It's not me!

By now I'm ready to land at Cable and get a room for the night! Moral of the story: There are always plenty of things that are waiting to go wrong! We aren't usually flying as much at this time of the year and although I hate to admit it, it shows. The trip home was uneventful and the LDA into Concord successful.

I have stepped up my flying since then and the cobwebs are gone. Probably just getting ready for the next humbling experience! My advice, for what it's worth... when the fog clears for a day or two, get out and fly, get rid of those winter cobwebs. Trust me, they're there!

Remember, February 15th is the deadline for both the Historical log to the county and the end of the grace period for renewals to MDPA. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership; we're looking forward to a great year of fun flying trips and eating wonderful dinners! Not to mention the great company, and we want to enjoy it with you. See you around the airport!

Richard.

Have You Paid Your Dues Yet.



If not this man
would I like to see
you.
Dues are Due
now.

Wanted: Aspiring Chefs.

Come show off your cooking talents to your fellow flyers, dig out the hidden family secret recipes to dazzle and impress us.

Bask in the joy of munching sounds knowing you are the one who pulled it all together.

Please See Rich Roberts or Pat Miller if Interested

Crab Dinner 2005

We actually got our crab dinner in January! Last year, as you remember, we didn't do crab until February and the crab was noticeably better this year. Also, at Pat Miller's insistence, we included tri-tip for the meat eaters of the group. Again, a really good idea, if the fact that there was NO meat to be

found during the cleanup is any indication. Everything was superb. The crab the best I've had in memory and the meat done to perfection, if I do say so myself! (I cooked it!) Everyone seemed to have a great time, the installation was fairly anti-climactic as half of the board is returning and Milan graciously donated their dumpster for the crab carcasses. It wasn't picked up for a week and a half, however, and things got



pretty ripe in the meantime! That hanger group may not be so generous next year. The bottom line: 50 people showed up and we made about \$400 on the evening. Great job everyone! We hope to see you next month when the good times and good eats will just keep on coming.



See potential criminal activity at your airport?
call **1-866-GA-SECURE**

America's pilots are banding together to protect our airports.

Participate with your fellow pilots in the safekeeping of general aviation's neighborhood - our home airports.



Mt Diablo Pilots Association
PO BOX 273073
Concord, CA 94520

Blue Skies and Tailwinds To:

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First Class Mail
Address Correction Requested