



MDPA news

April, 2006 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 33 Issue 4

Meeting Notice

Date: May 19th
Place: MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner: 6:30PM
Program 7:00PM
Board Meeting: TBD
Next Meeting: May 19th

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE APRIL

Finally spring has arrived! The rains (it was more than 40 days this time) have quit and it's time to dust off the plane (oh have it washed) vacuum it out and go flying. First, check for any bird nests in the cowling and if it has been a while since your last flight maybe take an instructor along. It looks like we will have morning fog for a while so be ready to leave later or file IFR to get out of the bay area. Then brush up on your border crossing requirements because MDPA is headed to Mexico on May 25th. This year we will get pictures of the trip up on the web site for all to see. Of course if you don't want to look at pictures of us having fun then join us for the trip!

There have been all kinds of development proposals for CCR the past several months. Right now it looks like ADG, the Colorado developer, will develop the nine-acre site where our clubhouse sits. Airport management, Keith, will negotiate the final details and lease with ADG and that should include some kind of community house for MDPA.

The Board of Sups must approve that lease. So if it does not protect MDPA's interests we can always appeal to the Board. Jerry is still working on developing the 11 acres South of Reach and has said we can have some of the space for a pilot center to include MDPA! So it looks like we should be covered in either or both developments. I am still pulling for Jerry, as it looks better for MDPA's long-term interest if we can get the pilot center he envisions. Go Jerry!! There was a public meeting of the Aviation Committee on April 27th with Mark DeSauinier and Mary Piepho present. Both indicated strong support for MDPA and appear to have our interest covered in the development proposals. Now lets see how things work out.

We are still looking for new members.

Right now we have about eighty paid members for 2006 and it would be good if we could get to 100. Remember membership dues pay for the clubhouse. So invite all your neighbors to the next dinner or the Saturday breakfast. The food is always great, the camaraderie is outstanding and the price perfect. So invite all your friends to one of our dinners.

My wife decided she wants a new headset; her old one just doesn't fit right. While she was trying on several I tried one of the active noise cancellation headsets. What a difference a new headset can make, quite and comfortable! Go try one or more of the headsets available at PSA or Sterling; they will make the trips a lot more comfortable. Besides your old one has leaking ear seals and hardly fits anymore, and you deserve it!!

Keep the blue side up!

Vince

Cinco de Mayo
on
Diez y Nuevo de Mayo
The May Dinner will be a
Mexican Fiesta.
May 19, at 6:30 p.m.
\$13 per person courtesy of PSA
Speaker: Concord Mayor
Susan Bonilla, candidate for County
Supervisor

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

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What a dinner it was. Blue ribbon cranberry chicken, rice pilaf, green salad,

Brownies and ice cream. If the brownies and ice cream weren't enough then there was carrot cake. Thirty people RSVP'd and forty-nine showed up to eat everything!! We had one piece of chicken left. Diane did the cooking and the usual people helped. Thanks go out to the Potters, Pardeep and Jennifer and Vince.

Greg Holdbrook, the new owner of PSA, came and talked to us about his vision for PSA. That vision includes a 135 program and some multi engine aircraft. He did say the gas discount would continue for MDPA members. In addition, Greg volunteered to do the next dinner! What a guy! Drop by PSA and get a new sectional or something.

The arrival of Greg means the departure of Maureen Bell from PSA. Dave Evans gave us a short history of Maureen's forty years at Concord. She arrived at the field at about age seven and worked at Concord Aviation, PSA and a variety of other places until she and her husband, Frank, purchase PSA. The rest is as they say history. In recognition of her service

to CCR and MDPA we made her an honorary member for 2006, presented a plaque and a bouquet of roses. Maureen was so overwhelmed she volunteered to take over as Secretary of MDPA for the rest of the year. Thank you Maureen!! You will be missed at PSA.

Bill Lanstra talked about the trip to Baja. We will depart on the 25th and go to Imperial. Leave there the next morning and fly to San Felipe to clear Mexican customs and then on to Mulehe and the Serenaded Hotel.

Alex, the bartender, makes some of the best Margaritas in all of Mexico and you can sip them while sitting at the bar in the pool. Then on to La Paz for several days of sightseeing and for the more adventurous snorkeling with sea lions, otters, whale sharks and maybe even swimming with dolphins! Next we will stop at Loretto and stay at the lovely seaside hotel, Oasis. Finally we will say Adios to Mexico and head home on the 29th. Contact Bill at landstra@hosesunlimited.com if you are interest in going.

The trip to Campbell River BC was outlined by Vince Siebern. We will depart July 27th and fly to Victoria BC. Those wishing to stay in Victoria to see the gardens and attend a High Tea will deplane and the fishermen will go on to Campbell River "Home of the King Salmon". We will charter boats and take home the limit of great Kings on Friday and Saturday. If we have caught enough fish we will leave Sunday and head home. Those wishing to stay and catch more can!

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 and should be sent to:

MDPA
PO BOX 273073
Concord, CA 94520

Pat Miller talked about going to Ashland, Oregon on September 23 to see a play. Lots of people raised their hand to go to Ashland. Surprise Valley was mentioned in June or October. Contact Pat at pmiller@mystic.com if you want to go.

MAY IS THE MONTH FOR SAVINGS AT PSA

Order any part during May and receive a 10% discount.

If we don't have it in stock – we'll order it.

Then, don't forget to sign up for the fabulous May dinner, organized by PSA. Wear your sombrero and get ready to have some fun.

(You can also order parts while enjoying a margarita.)



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Komputer Korner

With a lot of members planning to fly to La Paz with Bill Landstra later in May, I thought it might be a good time to discuss a couple of web sites that discuss international flying, and flying to Mexico specifically. I know I've said this before, but AOPA has a wealth of information on it's site. They have a section on flying to Mexico and it covers regions and attractions, Mexican Flight rules, Mexican airports of entry, US airports of entry, Customs, required documents etc. It is a treasure trove of information for the novice and experienced Mexican flyer alike. It also has a Forum where International flyers can share their experiences and stories. We all enjoy hanger flying, so this is a great place to just read other peoples experiences. You need to be an AOPA member and be logged into the members section of their web site. Here is the address; <http://www.aopa.org/members/pic/intl/mexico/>.

Another must for anyone flying to Baja is the Baja Bush Pilots Association Web site. In addition to flying conditions, weather, information about fuel availability, and tie down availability, they have great stuff about exchange rates, fees, insurance, and you can order books, charts, hats etc. Its a wonderful site. You may even consider joining the BBPA. It's only \$49 per year, and there are many benefits for members. You may also buy Mexican liability insurance (a necessity) through them. They too have a forum section where you can vicariously enjoy the exploits of others. Their web site is at: www.bajabushpilots.com

Steve

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Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

In This Issue:

- 1 Presidents Message
- 2 Cranberry Chicken and Friends
- 3 Komputer Korner

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