



MDPA news

June 2009 Concord, CA webmaster@mdpa.org Volume 37 Issue 6

June 2009 Presidents Message

By Steve Kennedy

Meeting Notice

Date:	June 19, 2009
Place:	MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner:	6:30 PM
Program:	7:00 PM
Board Meeting:	June 3, 2009

It was just a couple of months ago I was writing this message about how proud I was to call myself a pilot in light of the heroic actions of Captain Chesney Sullenberger. This month, as I write this, I'm reading a lot about the two pilots of Colgan Air Flight 3407 who crashed in Buffalo earlier this year. There's been a lot of talk about their training, their salaries, their experience, and their mistakes. All are fair questions that need to be asked in light of the tragedy.

This got me wondering about how each of us, whether we know it or not, carries the burden of representing all pilots anytime we fly. If the flight is ordinary and uneventful, it's never questioned. But, if the flight is extraordinary for either a good or a bad reason, the spotlight of a thousand lights can fall on us unexpectedly, and we could be considered either a good example or a bad example of our avocation. I'm really not interested in that kind of scrutiny. I guess that means that I should try and make sure all my flights are ordinary, and uneventful.

Maybe we should start celebrating the pilots who have an "ordinary" flight. (i.e. "safe flight"). I can hear it now. "Hey Bob, how was your flight?"

"Just ordinary Steve."

"Hey, Way to go... Keep it up!"

That will probably never happen, but maybe it should. Ordinary is safe. Ordinary is professional. Ordinary is the result of a lot of hard work, and dedication. Ordinary is a goal to aspire to. Ordinary, isn't. Ordinary is really EXTRAORDINARY. Anyway, just some of my rambling musings.

The Luau hosted by the Peter's family that we had in May was fantastic. We had OVER 50 people show up. The food was fantastic, and Hawaiian atmosphere was great. Thanks, Pat, Tracy, and Bridget.

For the month of June we have several activities lined up. First, there will be our normal monthly breakfast on Saturday June 6th. We'll have our annual Casino Night on Friday June 19th. It's a little earlier in the year this year so that maybe it won't be so cold in PSA hanger. The dinner will be Fried Chicken and "fixins". Then, on Fathers Day, Sunday June 21st, the Airport will be having an Open House hosted by the 99'ers. MDPA will have a SECOND breakfast at an earlier time of 8:30 on the 21st. We'll be inviting any of the Open House set up people to join us as well. It will be a busy month. I hope to see you at some of these.

A call for volunteers! Since several of the trips this year have evaporated due to lack of interest, I'm putting out a call for Trip Leaders, and trip ideas. If you have an idea for an MDPA trip, or are willing to put a trip schedule together let me know.

Also, we're looking for some help in putting this newsletter together. If you have some computer experience and would like to help, let me know. You don't need to be experienced with newsletters, writing, or any specific software, you just need a computer and a willingness to help out. Or if you don't have a computer you can help by picking up from the printers and preparing the mailings. Any help is appreciated. I knew nothing about newsletters when I started working on it several years ago. The club needs your support to help make it successful. Why not lend a hand. Respectfully Steve.

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Luau Luau

Our Hawaiian Luau on May 15th was fantastic. Tracy, Bridget and Papa Pat Peters put on an amazing meal. Not only was the food fantastic, but the atmosphere was authentic. Tracy brought a CD player with Hawaiian music. The tables were decorated with pineapples. There were flowers and lei's all around. Everyone got into the spirit as well by wearing their best Hawaiian shirts, muumuus, flip flops, and straw hats. Everyone really enjoyed the change pace from our normal dinners.

Our guest speaker for the evening was the world famous outdoors man, and survival expert Richard Roberts, who got lost coming to the airport (OK, so I lied about the world famous part). Richard and his son Tyson, had attended a survival training exercise in Montana. Some of the key topics he discussed were H₂O + 98.6 = life. In other words, you need warmth, and water to survive. As Richard pointed out, you can survive for 30 or 40 days without food, but hypothermia can set in within hours. Within a couple of days you'll die of lack of water. The other key point he made was to have each passenger have a little survival fanny pack. After a plane crash many times, the survival kit you store in the back of the plane will go up in flames with the plane. Maybe the pilot dies, and then the passenger is stranded alone, with no survival kit or expert like you to tell them what to do. I think all of us learned something from his presentation.

June Events

June 6th First Saturday Breakfast 9 am

June 19th - Annual Casino Night - PSA Hanger

June 21st - 99'er Buchanan Field Open House
(10 am to 4 pm)

8:30 - 9:30 am, MDPA Breakfast

MDPA Mission Statement

The Mount Diablo Pilots' Association is a non-profit organization based at Buchanan field in Concord, California (KCCR). There are many benefits to joining the club. 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.

Luau Luau

Pat & Tracy doing the cooking



Bridget & Tracy doing the Serving



Everyone got into the spirit of wearing Hawaiian Shirts
Steve Kennedy, John Summers, Mark Gilchrist, John Verhoek



The food line was Looooong
Elaine Yeary, Betty Dunn, Jude and
Ken Witham, Bill and Konni Collins



Ken Witham, John Summers, and
John Potter

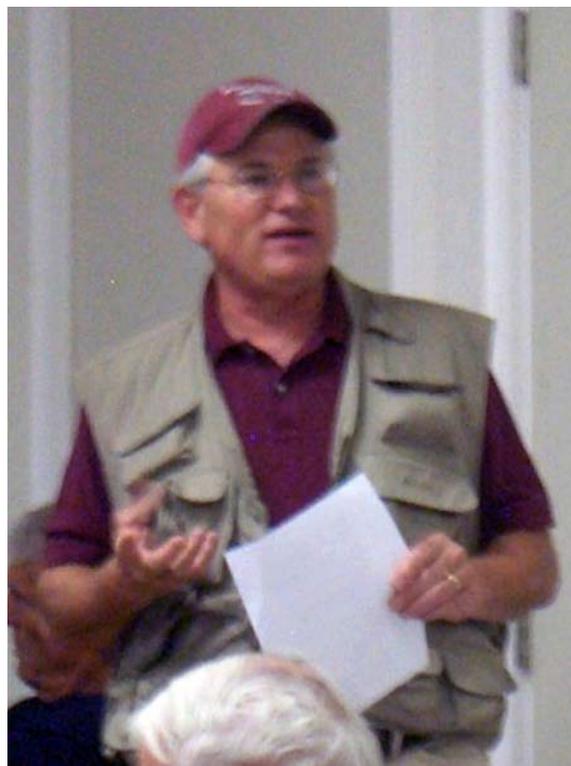


The tables looked very
Hawaiian

Suzie Landstra and Jerry Alves
wait for their food to cook



Carol Trapp, Tyson Roberts, Maureen
Bell, and Richard Roberts enjoy the
dinner



Richard discusses
Survival



Richard and Tyson explain their new Halloween costume (Nooooo, this is how to keep warm and be seen when stranded).

Rule number one of aircraft accident survival!!



MDPA Breakfast and Safety Clinic 5/2/09
Moderator--John Potter

What a splendid breakfast! 4 gents slinging hash, ----- Patrick's special pancakes, John Summers on the bacon, Vince not breaking egg yolks for the over easies, and ---of course, Steve in-charge. Thanks guys.

Can't think of a better way to spend a rainy Saturday morning than talking flying, keeping it just short of "hanger flying." It is always a challenge to keep it safety focused, and identifying the root cause analysis of what started the problem in the first place. The perennial question, should we have even taken off in the first place, given what was already a known potential problem.

How about fire in the cockpit, after already having written up a smoke and tripped breaker report on the aircraft on an earlier flight without anything being done. A lot of people died on that one.

How about not checking NOTAMS and landing on a closed runway, just missing the runway repair vehicles.

How about the sudden seeing of "skydivers away" and not having checked and worse yet, not even using the communications available (i.e. Flight Following) to keep out of trouble.

We wrapped up the discussion with "frozen control surfaces." That topic was a barn-burner. One of the pilots told a story that chilled your bones--- not so much frozen controls, but jammed controls----as John Summers often reminds me, FOD, this time in the cockpit.

MDPA Casino Nite



Friday, June 19th @ 1830

DO YOU FEEL LUCKY???

Blackjack-Craps-Roulette-Poker

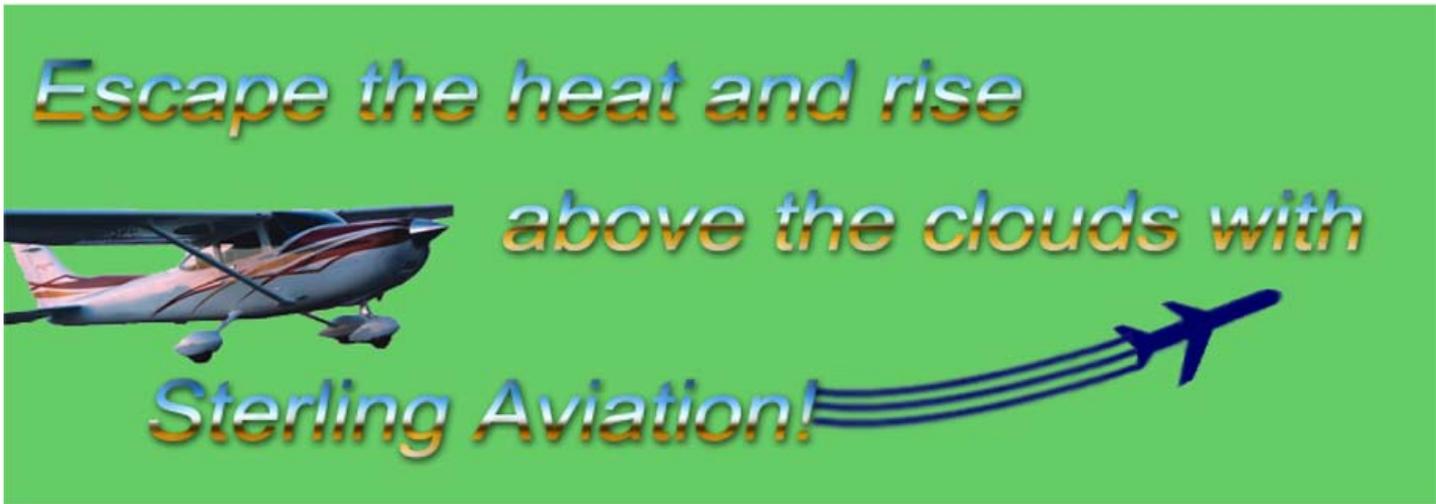
Once again, our Casino Nite will be held in the PSA Hangar.

Dinner will consist of Southern Fried Chicken, Side Dishes & Coleslaw

\$15.00 for dinner and casino chips.

Buy your ticket by June 12th @ PSA, or gamble on tickets still being available at the door for
\$20.00

Prizes for the lucky winners



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Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

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