

From the President's Desk

Well, here we are again on our website in December of 2011. MPAOA member John Chapman, our new webmaster, is bringing our website up to date and will manage it with his professional input. John is an educator and has a 1400' N-S strip south of Otsego and Plainwell and NW of Kalamazoo. Changes, modifications and updates to the website will continue as they come up and/or are required. Input from our members is always welcome. If you would like to contribute an article or see your strip featured on our website contact any Board member. A current membership roster will be sent to each member after the First of the year.

Now for an update. The second annual meeting of the MPAOA took place on July 9th, once again at Clare Municipal Airport. Before the Annual meeting was convened a short Board of Directors meeting was held for the purpose of electing officers of the Association. A motion was made to retain the current officers for another year. The motion was seconded and with only one opposed the motion was carried. Ray Vander Roest remains as Vice President, John Trudeau is our new Secretary and I remain as President and Treasurer. Twenty five people attended the Annual Meeting thirteen of whom flew in. Dick and Nicki Acker were once again our gracious hosts and everyone enjoyed a very nice lunch. Our scheduled speaker, aviation attorney Steve Chait called me the day before the meeting to tell me that he had to cancel his appearance because of some unforeseen circumstances that had arisen. I immediately made a phone call to MPAOA member Tim Doyle and asked him if he would fill in for Steve. Tim retired as Program Coordinator of the Aviation program at Eastern Michigan University and for twenty years investigated airplane crashes throughout the country. Tim graciously agreed to speak at our meeting. His talk centered on an accident that happened in Bloomington, Indiana and resulted in the death of the pilot and four passengers from Indiana University, all of them students in the IU music program. Weather, weight and the pilot's decisions all entered into the results of that flight. Everyone enjoyed Tim's slide presentation and we thanked him for coming to the rescue on such short notice. Our annual meeting went well and gave the members who attended an opportunity to meet and chat with other members from different parts of the State. One thing we will do at the 2012 Annual Meeting is to call the

meeting to order one hour after lunch. This change will allow more efficient use of our time.

As I have reported in several emails in the past the liability project is moving along very well. State Representative Dave Agema's staff has reviewed our proposal to add privately owned airstrips to Michigan's existing recreational activity statutes and has informed us that hopefully the proposal will be submitted to the legislature in January when the legislature resumes its sessions. Rep. Agema, a pilot, will sponsor the bill. We will keep everyone informed as the project progresses. In addition we are still part of the FAA/MDOT task force working on streamlining the 7480-1 process. This is the form used when requesting an identifier for an airstrip or when constructing a new strip.

We now have 94 members on our roster. As time goes on new applications come in and hopefully as word of our Association and its purpose spreads we will continue to gain more members. Let us all spread the word so that more private strip owners are brought into the MPAOA. There is strength in numbers. As time passes memberships come up for renewal. Reminder emails are sent and phone contact is made with each member as these renewals come up. I ask that renewals be made reasonably on time and if you are not sure what your renewal date is email me (zelconsult@gmail.com) or call me (248 960-7758 C 248 408-0943) for that information. Membership applications are available on this website.

One last note. The Great Lakes Aviation Conference and Expo will be held on January 20 & 21 2012 at Eastern Michigan University's Student Center in Ypsilanti. The MPAOA will be in Booth 27 at the Conference so should you attend be sure to stop by and shake hands. We will have applications available for new members! Highlights of the conference will be the appearance of NASA astronaut Story Musgrave and Flight Attendant Doreen Welsh who was on US Air Flight 1549 that crashed in the Hudson River. Hope to see you there.

That's it for now, don't forget to lock the canopy.

Steve Zelle, MPAOA President