

## **Minutes**

June 11, 2008 MSPA Meeting  
Best Western KwaTaqNuk Resort

Fourteen members were in attendance. Greetings to new member Mike Hatler from Whitefish. He hopes to open a sight seeing business based out of Lakeside this summer flying his Beaver. Another relatively new member, Ry Keller, was present. He is looking into becoming a licensed float plane pilot and is, actually, in the market for one such plane.

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Ashcraft at 12:05. Minutes were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given. We have \$4888.72 in our account. Chuck Jarecki wanted a brief accounting of what some of what our money has been spent on. We have spent for a booth at the Aviation Conference, set up and use of Charlo room for the annual meeting, attorney fees for research done and newsletters. It was also reported that we have 42 paid members.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Larry announced that, as of July 31, 2008, Polson will be an FAA designated seaplane base. He then asked if there would be a volunteer to serve on AOM. No one stepped forward.

Jack Konitz was unable to attend but he told Larry that he is working on the poster that he suggested last year. He's been in touch with Idaho SPA, a group that has created a very attractive one. They spent about \$1800 on that project. Chuck suggested we consider a joint poster with MPA and that maybe the poster would be more attractive to more pilots.

Chuck mentioned in 2007 that we should have a Seaplane Pilots Code of Ethics for seaplane pilots. Martin Hale thought that maybe we shouldn't because once something like that is in print, it becomes a liability. Chuck thought a Montana Code of Ethics would definitely be in order because it would then show that safety is a priority for us and it ratchets up our credibility with government officials. Don't know if we're moving forward with that.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Banff has relisted for emergency and diversionary landings and Jasper is now available for recreational landings.

NAVCanada is a good resource to become acquainted with. There is a lot of helpful information. A must-have booklet for all seaplane pilots, written by Bryan Webster, is titled Ditching Principles, Survival Guide to Ditching an Aircraft. It's a fabulous resource to read in the event you have a waterlanding that goes awry. Martin brought up the topic of dunking and how important it is that seaplane pilots go through the training. He would like to see this brought to the Montana Aviation Conference.

It was brought to our attention that cell phone towers are permitted to be unlit if less than 200 feet tall. Pilots beware!

ELT 406 Mhz change will go into effect on February 1, 2009. Continue to use old ELTs but there will be no coverage. In Canada the 406 must be a hard mount, not hand held. One can register on-line in the US and you are covered in Canada. It's good for two years, there is no fee. They will send you a reminder to re-register when that time comes. A reference was made of the SPOT but, unfortunately, it works off the same satellites that SAT phones use and that service is diminishing.

Vice President Bob Kembel reported that the Bureau of Reclamation has been repealed but not yet published. He also presented information about notifying customs and what to do and not do. He found a valuable source on the Internet which is [www.cpb.gov](http://www.cpb.gov).

Martin gave a brief report on border security. He talked to customs officials at Glacier National Airport about electronic notification. This process is still in the works but probably won't take place this year. Things are still quite vague as to exactly what is supposed to happen. Chuck indicated that bureaucrats are not privy to us and our needs. He suggested we forward a letter that he has already composed and has sent to our more local airport officials. He said he would take care of that.

Martin went on to show us a new form for Homeland Security to fill out when flying out of country. Great Falls Border Security has 39 pilots at work. They came to Kalispell to share what it is they do and that includes the use of drones, jets, Blackhawks, use of 121.5, etc. They have cards printed up with phone numbers to call to report suspicious activities. They involve the Search and Rescue in their endeavors. Martin also named another important booklet to read: U.S Customs and Border Protection Guide for Private Flyers.

The next report was given by Chuck who is Montana Pilots Western Director. He indicated that it is easy to get a new license. You can do it electronically, pay \$2.00 and get it within two weeks. The Waldo Lake issue is on-going and precedent setting. CSPA needs financial support to continue the battle. Chuck suggested we use some of our money to help support their endeavors.

Chuck recently went to Washington, D.C. to give a report to the RAF. He gave a presentation to the head of the Recreational Department for the USFS. They also gave the same presentation to AOPA. Mr. Boyer left and the staff was clueless as to what has been going on. We are getting very little support from SPA and Mr. McManus. Chuck has spent many hours putting together a workbook entitled Recreational Airstrips/Issues and Opportunities which is a guide on how to get things done effectively. He stressed writing presentations down before you deliver because you can quickly be made to look foolish. He sent this workbook to Bill Wainwright. Chuck said that, when dealing with the government, if you aren't there for every step and stage of the process, you will fall flat. Steps to follow would be to enter your "**agenda**" in the Federal Registry, make sure it is

printed in a local publication, notify agencies on the mailing list and be sure to get yourself on a mailing list that may have any influence in the decision making and be sure to stay on top of it at all times.

John Stene reported on the docks. There have been dramatic changes, i.e., retaining walls and ramps. John suggested that MSPA put some money towards these improvements, so it was moved and seconded that we send \$500 to PFI, attention: David Graham.

Mark Evanoff made a suggestion that we pay attention to police auctions of stolen bicycles. They are essentially free and can be left at the airport for transportation to town. They have them at the Ferndale Airport and, when the weather is conducive, are a great means to get around.

We were reminded as we wound down that we need to stay in close contact with WSPA and CSPA. We are kind of forgotten here out west, SPA back east does not always hear us and we need to group together to be heard. Chuck also suggested that we get a seaplane page on the MPA website, possibly posting our minutes. We will have to get MPA board approval and Chuck will pursue that.

Martin, again, stressed that the newsletter should be passed around and more people should get involved in writing one. Thanks to Michelle Weltz and Martin Hale for the last two. Mark has graciously taken over the next newsletter. He would like a lot of personal stories from members wants to including close calls! So, the next newsletter will go out November 1 and all contributed articles and writings should be in by October 15. Please, let's help him out! Bob volunteered to do the spring letter (we decided to just do two from now on) and he has set a deadline of May 1 for contributed items and it will go out by May 15.

Finally, nominations were called for and voted on. Officers for the 2008-2009 year are President: Larry Ashcraft; Vice President: Bob Kembel; Secretary/Treasurer: Dorothy Ashcraft.

The next meeting will be held at the Polson Airport in the Board's hangar (behind the FBO). We will have it catered and it should be a lot of fun! So, save the date of June 10, 2009!

**Dates to remember:**

July 11 Great Falls Riverfest  
August 8-10 Stillwater Splash-In  
August 16 Polson Fly-in  
Montana Aviation Conference  
March 5-7, 2009 in Butte  
March 4-6, 2010 in Billings

Respectfully submitted,

DOROTHY ASHCRAFT  
Secretary/Treasurer MSPA