MISSOURI PILOTS ASSOCIATION
POKER RUN

The main objective of the MPA Poker Run is to get pilots, especially MPA pilots, into the air and flying their airplanes they enjoy the most. But another benefit is showing other pilots that Missouri Pilots Association is an active group and a good organization to be part of; so invite pilots that are not a part of Missouri Pilots Association to also participate in one of or both of these programs. Constant radio contact is a must which allows us pilots to sharpen our radio listening and communication skills. It gets us back into the correct mode of approaching and landing at towered and non-towered airports. In addition, an objective of the program is getting MPA recognized by the public through our pilots landing in numbers at airports in our jurisdiction; the State of Missouri. Each Chapter should contact all forms of the media in their Chapter areas to help publicize the programs. And the programs provide an opportunity for our pilots and others to win a little fuel money. The Poker Run will be conducted October 8 and if necessary to accommodate all pilots October 15, 2016, (remember the airports have to be manned by validators so if the run can be held on one day it will help). The Chapter Poker Run Coordinators must contact the State Poker Run Committee prior to September 24 to provide the date(s) for the chapter.

The Chapter can choose the order of airports to be visited. Most Poker Runs allow pilots to land at airports in any order they choose. The Chapter must select several people to man the airports to be included in their Poker Run as validators and card distributors. The South Central Chapter limits the airports to only those in the area covered by the chapter; however that is nine airports. Some Chapters may have to include other airports to get a sufficient number of airports to make the programs work. Remember the more airports, the more validators and card distributors. For those chapters with limited airports, pilots can include other chapter airports participating in the activities to obtain additional cards.

The Chapter President will be required to select a Poker Run Coordinator to assign validators and card distributors for each airport, assure a complete deck of pokers cards and verification cards are at each airport, run the programs and the elimination rounds. The State President will be required to select a Poker Run Committee to handle the State elimination rounds. The validators and card distributors to be included in the programs should be allowed to enter the programs during the elimination rounds. The people manning the other activities, such as the pancake breakfast and poker-hangar party and any personnel required to stay on the ground and make these programs work should be included with the validators and card distributors.

The MPA Poker Run will consist of two poker programs; Five Card Draw- Best Hand and Blackjack. The Las Vegas regular poker rules will apply, except because wild cards are involved, five of a kind will trump a straight flush. Each program will include a winner's jackpot containing all funds collected for the program. The distribution of the funds contained in the winner's jackpot will be 50% to the Chapter, 25% to the Chapter winner and 25% to the State winner of each program. The MPA Poker Run will be open to pilots and non-pilots, and participants do not have to be MPA members. However, to participate, entrants must visit local airports to obtain verifications and cards; unless they are required to stay on the ground to make the program work. The cost for participation in either of the Programs will be $10.00 per entry. Participants can enter as many times as they choose and can participate in both programs. However, the Five Card Draw - Best Hand will require participants obtaining five cards and the Blackjack program will require participants obtaining two cards, or more. Therefore, to participate in the Five Card Draw - Best Hand five airports must be visited and for the Blackjack at least two airports must be visited. There is no limit on the number of cards to be used in either program.

These programs should provide an opportunity for each chapter to sponsor a fun day and we suggest that each chapter conclude the fly-out with a poker-hangar party to determine winners. The chapters that have sponsored these poker programs in the past have found this a great opportunity to have a hangar cookout where the chapter or a sponsor provides the main dish and everyone provides their favorite dish to share.

Each chapter and the State President will choose Poker Run Coordinators and Committee to run the programs during the poker-hangar party and the State finalist session. The Poker Run Coordinators and Committee will govern over both programs to determine winners.

CHAPTER COMPETITION

BLACKJACK

Blackjack will consist of at least two cards obtained through visits at two airports and the objective is to reach 21 points without going over 21 points. Aces will count as 1 or 11 points determined as the best count for the participant. All face cards will equal 10 points as well as the numbered 10 cards. The numbered 9 cards will count as 9 points and the numbered 8 cards as 8 points and so on to the numbered 2 cards. For this program the participant will obtain a verification card at the first airport visited, and at which time the validator at that airport will initial the verification card to prove the airport was visited. The participant is responsible to see the validator initials the card. No initials; no cards at the elimination rounds. No cards will be drawn at the visited airport for the Blackjack program. The participant must visit at least two airports and obtain verifications to receive sufficient verifications to draw cards at the poker-hangar party. The number of airports visited for this program will determine the total number of cards the participant will be allowed to use during the elimination rounds; held during the poker-hangar party.

Under the direction of the Poker Run Coordinator, for the first elimination round, each participant, including all validators and card distributors and other identified assist personnel, will draw from the open card deck the first two cards and determine their total. At this point if the participant visited more than two airports, they can draw an additional card, if they choose, to get to 21 points. They can continue drawing additional cards up to the number of airports visited, until they choose to stop or they exceed 21 points, (validators and card distributors and other identified assist personnel can draw cards up to the number of the most cards eligible to a participant). Once a participant exceeds 21 points they are eliminated from further competition. Those who remain tied at the conclusion of the first elimination round will continue to the second elimination round, (a blackjack, one ace and a black jack trumps 21 points). The elimination rounds continue until a winner is determined. The winner of the final elimination round will win 25% of the Blackjack winner's jackpot. The determination of the order of participants in each round will be determined by each participant drawing a card from the open deck and the order will be from low card to highest card. Tie cards during the order determination round will require an additional draw of cards to the determine order.

FIVE CARD DRAW - BEST HAND

Five Card Draw - Best Hand will consist of at least five cards obtained at five separate airports and the objective is to obtain the best poker hand determined as follows:

Low hand   – high card based on 2-to-ace cards
Highest Pair   - two 2's lowest pair to a pair of aces
Two Pair   - based on above for the highest pair
Three of a kind   - three 2's lowest three of a kind to three aces
Straight   - all cards are in order and not of the same suit
Flush   - all cards are from the same suit but not in order
Full House   - Three cards of the same number and the other two cards the same but another number
Four of a kind   - four of the five cards are the same number
Straight Flush   **- all cards are in order and in the same suit**
Five of a kind   **- all five cards are the same number**

For this program the participant will obtain a verification card at the first airport visited. The participant will then draw a card from the open deck at that airport and the validator will mark the card drawn on the verification card next to the airport identifier by card number and suit, and initial the verification card. The participant must visit at least five airports, select a card from the open deck at each airport visited, and the validator at each airport mark the verification card with the card number and suit, and initial the verification card. The participant is responsible to see the validator initials the card. No initials; the card will not be included in the elimination rounds.

Elimination Rounds

The validators and card distributors, and other identified assist personnel, will be allowed to draw the number of cards determined by the most cards held by any participant. The participant will mark his or her individual verification cards as to the best poker hand they obtained during the fly-out. At the poker-hangar party the Chapter Poker Run Coordinator will review the verification cards, validate the best hand chosen, and determine the winner. In case of tied highest hands, the coordinator will have the participants draw an additional hand based on the number of verified airports visited and determine the best hand. This process will continue until a highest hand is determined. The winner will receive 25% of the program jackpot.

STATE COMPETITION

BLACKJACK

All chapter winners will participate in the State competition. The Chapter Poker Run Coordinator and the chapter winner will contact the State Poker Run Committee. The chapter winner will then draw cards in the presents of the Chapter Poker Run Coordinator, as done during the chapter competition from the open deck based on the number of airports visited. The State Poker Run Committee after all Chapter coordinators have reported will determine the State winner. In the State elimination rounds, if participants tie, the Committee will contact the Chapter Poker Run Coordinators for another round. The State elimination rounds should be completed as soon as possible after the Poker Run and winners should be determined in time to allow the chapter winners to stay in contact with the Chapter Coordinator. The winner receives 25% of all chapter jackpots.

FIVE CARD DRAW - BEST HAND

All chapter winners will participate in the State competition. The Chapter Poker Run Coordinator and the chapter winner will contact the State Poker Run Committee. The chapter winner will then draw cards, in the presents of the Chapter Poker Run Coordinator, as done during the chapter competition from the open deck based on the number of airports visited. The State Poker Run Committee after all Chapter coordinators have reported will determine the State winner. In the State elimination rounds, if participants tie, the Committee will contact the Chapter Poker Run Coordinators for another round. The State elimination rounds should be completed as soon as possible after the Poker Run and winners should be determined in time to allow the chapter winners to stay in contact with the Chapter Coordinator. The winner receives 25% of all chapter jackpots.

SUGGESTIONS TO CHAPTERS

Select your Poker Run Coordinator and a Poker Run Committee early in the process. At the South Central Chapter the committee contacts sponsors that provided prizes, such as aviation fuel, aviation oil, meal tickets, and this year we are going to include Springfield Cardinals baseball tickets. Make the whole day a Poker Run day with various activities, such as a pancake breakfast at one airport hangar and of course conclude the day with a Chapter Meeting in a member's hangar to present the prizes. The entry fees are set at $10.00 per entry; however, if the chapter choses, that amount can be increased for chapter only prized, such as the lowest hand in the Five Card Draw - Best Hand program. Talk the programs up at work and let everyone know. The programs provide a golden opportunity for people of the community to come and watch airplanes take off and land. It is a great day for the kids.

To make these programs more interesting and to finish out a great day of flying we suggest these programs be completed in one day if possible.