



Browning Airport Appreciation Day Scheduled

By: *Jim Greil, Chief, Airports / Airways Bureau*

The annual MDT Aeronautics Division airport appreciation day will be held Monday, June 30 at 1:00 p.m. at the Browning Airport. The event is open to one and all and will be held right at the Browning Airport located approximately 7 miles northwest of the town of Browning and immediately North of the Star School. In addition to several members of our Division staff, Jim Lynch, the Director of the Montana Department of Transportation will also be in attendance. There will be a tent set up with displays and lots of tables and chairs for the meet and greet social. In addition, we will be firing up a BBQ and will be serving lots of hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks and all the accompaniments free of charge. This was the same event that we tried to host at Browning last year, however, bad timing and all the fires conspired against us, so we had to reschedule for this year. The MDT Aeronautics Division hosts an annual airport appreciation day, and this year, we'd like to say thank you to the Browning area community and the Blackfeet Tribe for their support of our Browning Airport. The Browning Airport is one of 15 MDT Aeronautics Division owned/operated airports. It serves the community of Browning, Star School and the surrounding area. The airport has been improved steadily over time and is an important air transportation link for the region, especially for general aviation pilots as well as hospital medical transport aircraft.

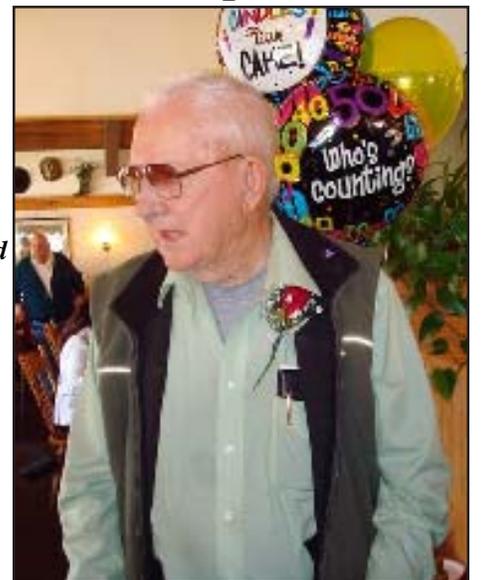
For those of you that might want to fly into Browning Airport, the airport is a paved facility over 4000' long and 75' wide with a beacon and pilot controlled lighting. The wind is almost always stiff and almost always out of the west, making landing on runway 24 the usual procedure. The closest weather and altimeter can usually be found by listening to the Cut Bank ASOS on 119.025 or by telephone at (406) 873-2939. Browning Airport has a paved parking area with tiedowns, however, no services are available on site. Browning uses the unmonitored common traffic advisory frequency of 122.9 for air to air communications. There is also a phone available on field. For further information, you can contact the Division at (406) 444-2506, or contact our on site representative, Mr. Gary Nevins at (406) 338-7169.



Browning Airport offers pilot controlled lighting.

Happy Birthday Tuck!!

On June 4th Tuck Barrett thought he was going to a local Great Falls Restaurant to talk about airplanes. Instead he was delivered to a surprise 90th birthday party and a packed house! It was a very well kept secret and he was totally surprised. Happy Birthday Tuck!



Administrator's Column

Condolences: The vibrant life of Kelly Lynch came to an end doing what he loved most, flying an airplane. Kelly was killed while flying a Beechcraft 1900 about three miles northeast of Billings Logan Airport. He will be remembered always as a very special father, son, brother, uncle and friend. Kelly was chief pilot for Alpine Air in Billings where he worked for 12 years. When not in the air, Kelly spent time singing with the Big Sky Barber Shop Chorus and two other quartets. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Lynch family.

Horizon Air to cancel Butte service: The airline will stop its two daily flights to Seattle effective Aug. 24 after serving Butte for 19 years. Horizon air said record-high fuel prices are to blame. This leaves Butte with just two daily flights on SkyWest Airlines to Salt Lake City. The cut is part of a large change in service by Horizon. In Montana, the airline is also discontinuing its once-daily nonstop service between Billings and Portland and adding a once-daily nonstop flight from Billings to Helena. The airline is ending flights on weaker routes and will adjust its flight frequencies and capacity to better match demand.

Fuel cost devastation: Around the world in this volatile industry the biggest airlines are reducing services, increasing fares, levying surcharges and abandoning destinations as the cost of fuel continues to rise. According to a forecast by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the international aviation industry seems to be heading in for some inclement weather with industry wide losses forecast at \$2.3 billion in 2008. For every dollar that the oil price increases - add \$1.6 billion to costs. If we see the price at \$135 for the rest of the year, losses could be \$6.1 billion. Based on oil at \$106.5 per barrel IATA says the aviation industry's total fuel bill in 2008 is expected to be \$176 billion, accounting for 34% of operating costs. This is \$40 billion more than the 2006 bill which was \$136 billion (29% of operating costs). In 2002, the bill was \$40 billion, or 13% of costs. Twenty-four airlines have collapsed into bankruptcy in the last six months.

FAA criticized: The National Air Transportation Association's (NATA) President James Coyne criticized the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) following its latest emergency suspension order — grounding a Part 135 operator based in Florida. The FAA's use of emergency suspensions calls into question fairness in regulatory oversight of the Part 135 community compared to their Part 121 counterparts and raises concerns about the true authority given to local FAA inspectors. Coyne told the FAA that “despite repeated assertions from the FAA that the agency would ensure fairness in the evaluation of operational control, it has become clear that the FAA favors certain classes of air carriers over others...while Part 135 air carriers have received the ultimate penalty for operational infractions, their Part 121 counterparts are simply fined and permitted to operate.” Too often inspection teams from FAA headquarters/regional offices descend upon an operator and determine that even though processes were approved locally they are now deemed deficient and noncompliant. Often, these actions occur without the agency bringing the local inspectors into the process. Coyne asked FAA Acting Administrator Bobby Sturgell to intervene and ensure that the enforcement arm of the agency is fair in fulfilling its mission.”

FAA Notam system hiccups: The system that issues preflight notices to pilots about runway, equipment and security issues was down for more than 12 hours recently but passenger safety has not been compromised, per the FAA. The system has failed before but service is usually restored more quickly. The reason for the failure was unknown and a backup server worked so slowly that the agency opted to take the whole thing down. The FAA owns the server that failed but has support contracts with private companies. This one cannot be blamed on Lockheed Martin, the private company that has taken over flight service services from the FAA.



Montana and the Sky

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Calendar

June 13 – 14 – Missouri Breaks Winifred (9S7) Fly In – June 13 - camp and cookout at Cow Creek Airstrip; June 14 - flying the Breaks and returning to Winifred for hamburgers and hangar talk; June 15 – Depart for home – fuel available. For more information phone Ralph Rogers at (406) 462-5487

June 14 – Lewistown Airport Fly In breakfast, 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Young Eagle Rides and other activities and displays, 7:00 a.m. - noon. Held in conjunction with Pioneer Power Days. For further information phone Jerry Moline at (406) 350-3264.

June 14 – Poker Run – Great Falls to Lewistown.

June 14-15 – Father’s Day Fly In – Twin Bridges (7S1) – potluck pig roast Saturday night – pancake breakfast Sunday morning with pilot games that afternoon – for more information call Kendra Horn (406) 684-5335 or email kendra@rubyvalleyaviation.com.

June 14-15 – Father’s Day Fly In – Fort Peck (37S) – On Saturday MAAA Air Tour ends at 37S, canoe trips on Missouri, boat rides on Fort Peck Lake, Flatland Cruisers Car Club Show, Pitch Fork Fondue steak fry, “Suessical” at the Fort Peck Summer Theatre and lodging in Fort Peck, Glasgow or camping under your wing, transportation available. For further information contact Lanny Hanson at (406) 263-1154.

June 21 – Plains Airport Fly In breakfast. 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For further information phone Randy Garrison at (406) 826-3605 or email printery@plainsmt.net.

June 21 – North Central Hangar Fly In breakfast and Big Boys Toy Show, Big Sandy Airport. Breakfast served from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and flour bombing and spot landing contests. For further information contact Darren Huestis at darren.huestis@nuwaveservices.com.

June 24 – 27 – Air Race Classic, starts in Bozeman, MT finishes in Mansfield, MA. On **June 21** a barbeque will be held in Bozeman and on **June 22** a banquet, both the barbeque and banquet are open to the public to make reservations or find out more about the Air Race Classic contact Linda Marshall at (406) 388-7668 or email linda99s@msn.com. For complete race information visit www.airraceclassic.org.

June 25-26 – A B-25, B-17, B-24 and a P-51C will be on display at Glacier Park International. The Collings Foundation Aircraft will be at the Semi Tool Hangar (Gate 7). The planes will be open for tours from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on the 25th and 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on the 26th. For more information call John Gisselbrecht at (406) 755-2238.

June 28 – Seeley Lake Flying Club Fly In and BBQ – Seeley Lake Airport (23S) – camping at new pilot camping area. For further information contact Kal Kovatch (406) 677-2932 or email kkovatch@blackfoot.net.

June 28 – Hardin Fly In breakfast, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Held in conjunction with Little Big Horn Days (www.custerslaststand.org) a parade will be held at 10:00 a.m. and a host of other activities throughout the day. For those that want to attend the Custer’s Last Stand reenactment transportation will be provided to the site. Will recognize the best antique/classic, experimental, and contemporary airplane. For further information phone Bob Crane at (406) 665-1006.

June 28-29 – Meadow Creek Work Session. For further information contact Perry Brown (406) 892-3996.

June 30 – Browning Airport open house. Sponsored by MDT Aeronautics Division, begins @ 1:00 p.m. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

July 4 – Townsend Fiesta Fly-In breakfast 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., for further information phone Neil or Karen Salmi at (406) 266-5400 or email neilsalmi@yahoo.com.

July 12 – Del Bonita Work Session. For further information phone Jim Greil at (406) 444-2506 or email jgreil@mt.gov.

July 18-20 – Schafer Meadows Work Session. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

Calendar continued page 4

Calendar, continued

July 20 – St. Ignatius (52S) Good Ole Days Fly In, 7:00 a.m. to noon. Pancake breakfast, Young Eagle flights, door prizes including 10X's 10 gallons of Avgas.

July 23-24 – Federal Aviation Administration Northwest Mountain Regional Runway Safety Summit - SeaTac, Washington. Theme of summit is "Working Together to Reduce Risks". Professional pilots, airline personnel, airport operators and Air Traffic Control professionals are encouraged to participate. For further information or to register contact Mike Meigs (425) 227-2354.

August 3 – Lions Club Pancake Breakfast Fly In, Hysham Airport – 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – For further information phone Bob Miller at (406) 342-5252.

August 14-15 – 2008 Aviation Career Academy. Share the excitement of the aerospace industry! Students in 7th, 8th & 9th grade (for the school year 2007/2008). Academy is \$125 with a one page essay on your aviation interests (without essay \$175), includes cost for hotel for the night of August 14. For an application visit www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/ or call (406) 444-2506.

August 15-17 - Yellowstone Airport Fly-in. A fun time fly-in to just enjoy the area, free camping for pilots flying in, as well as a BBQ hosted by the Montana Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division. Come out and enjoy music in the park with local bands performing bluegrass and folk music on the 16th. For further information phone Tony Bean at (406) 646-7631 or email abean@mt.gov.

August 15 – 17 – Montana Fun Weekend – Cut Bank (CTB). For further information go to www.cutbankairport.org.

August 16 – Polson Fly In – Polson (8S1) pancake breakfast, lunch and Soroptomist's Wine Festival.

Rededication and Open House Held in Helena



On May 23 the Helena Regional Airport Authority held a rededication and open house for the Rocky Mountain Emergency Services Training Center (RMESTC). Over the years the expansion of the center has included an upgrade of computers and related controls for all fire simulation systems, rehabilitation of existing fire simulators, installation of additional fire simulators – three dimensional flowing fuel fire, port side cabin fire, flashover fire in cabin, enhanced cargo fire, construction of a new building that includes an additional classroom and space to store two new aircraft rescue and fire fighting (ARFF) trucks the center will acquire in the coming years, and replacement of fire suits, air breathing packs, and radio and video equipment. The RMESTC was developed to provide specialized training in ARFF techniques for class A, B and C airports.



Helicopter Rides Offered Over Flathead Valley

On May 17 the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) offered rides on UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopters to the employers of Montana National Guard members and members of the U.S. Army Reserve. The appreciation flights known as Operation Boss Lift was held at the new Armed Forces Center in Kalispell. The 30 Minute Blackhawk rides took place over the Flathead Valley. Photo by John Gisselbrecht.



Helena Teen Invents Hang Glider Simulator

By: *Liz Gunderson, ExplorationWorks*

Sam Thompson, a 10th grade student at Helena High School, recently invented a Hang Glider Simulator with construction help from his dad, Bill Thompson. It started 2 years ago, when Sam was in 8th grade, as a simple idea, in response to a request from ExplorationWorks Executive Director Suzanne Wilcox for “an exhibit related to flight”. Sam was already involved in taking flying lessons in addition to years of experience with Flight Simulator programs, so he thought about how to create a “virtual flight experience”. The first prototype used duct tape, a joystick, a sling, and a support tripod, all set up in front of a computer running flight simulator software for a hang glider. Much to their surprise, the idea worked very well right from the start – it was simply a lot of fun for everyone who tried it!

Over the past 2 years Sam and his dad have worked steadily to make their idea fun to use, easy to set up, and safe for a wide variety of ages and sizes. They added a real hang glider harness in place of the sling. Sam was in contact with people at several on-line flight simulator forums, who helped him find a realistic hang glide flight over the Glen Canyon Dam and into the Colorado River gorge. Sam learned to use a graphics program to add a landing strip at the bottom of the canyon, and to put the ExplorationWorks logo onto the hang glider. They added a fan to give the sensation of wind.

When several nationally known exhibit consultants came to ExWorks for a week in February 2007 to help with exhibit planning, they were impressed with the progress on the Hang Glider project, and suggested that Sam bring it to the San Mateo Maker Faire in April. As soon as Sam, Bill, and little brother Nicky set up the exhibit, they were the hit of the event. Hundreds of people lined up to “fly”, from 4-month-old infants to 300-pound adults. Several representatives from established science centers asked how they could buy one for their museums. They also got several ideas for improvements from fellow inventors, like adding an air speed indicator and somehow connecting it to the fan for variable air flow. That sounded like a fun idea, but neither Sam nor his dad knew how to do it.

Fortunately, the Thompson family sat next to Jim Bailey, an inventor from East Helena, on the flight back from California. Jim’s knowledge of electronics led to the investigation of several ideas. What finally worked was the discovery of a programmable air speed indicator made by a company in the Netherlands. They could link this to both the Flight Simulator program and a dimmer switch attached to the fan, and with some tweaking, were able to create a fan that blows harder as the glider flies faster.

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Bill Thompson feels strongly that Sam’s invention is the result of taking a simple idea and sticking with it to create something interesting. As they ran into problems along the way, help was available from both the local community and the on-line community. Sam’s life-long fascination with flight was definitely the driving force behind the years of work to bring the project to completion. When asked what he’ll do next, Sam says he’ll be getting his pilot’s license when he is 17, and he’ll continue to make things. In fact, he is currently working on an idea to build a “Reduced-Gravity-Environment Simulator”, which will let people bounce up and down to experience the degree of gravity on different moons and planets.

Sam’s dad remembers that Sam was always playing with toy airplanes. When he was 5 years old, at an airport, they got him a pilot’s hat. He happened to have a little black suitcase for his toys with him. When he saw the pilots standing together getting ready to board, with their black cases in hand, he went over and stood with them. He looked like a little boy who really wanted to be a pilot.

They both feel that “anyone could do this – all it takes is an idea and persistence”. See pictures and links to Sam’s project at: <http://rotomotos.com/default.aspx>.



Sam Thompson on the hang glider simulator he built with his dad.

New Restaurant Opens at Yellowstone Airport

Aspen Grove Restaurant has recently been awarded the contract to provide restaurant services at the Yellowstone Airport. New owners, Gary and Lorene Lowe will open the doors on June 7. Aspen Grove will be serving traditional American cuisine featuring a full Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner menu, with hours of 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., with breakfast being served until 3:00 p.m., 7 days a week during the summer.

Our new proprietors have 25 years of experience in the food industry, and have provided catering in West Yellowstone for the last 2 years at events such as; the West Yellowstone Rodeo's, Snowmobile Expo, and numerous other private events. Gary and Lorene are committed to making your dining or catered experience extremely satisfying by offering excellent menus, daily specials, and full catering service to order.

The menu features a large array of items including breakfast burritos, various sandwiches, full salad bar, a complete steak selection, and daily specials for lunch and dinner. Weekly specials include a seafood buffet on Fridays, Prime Rib on Saturdays, and Quiche as a special for Sunday breakfast. The menu also provides a selection of various types of beer, wines, champagnes, and other malted beverages.

Seating is available in the terminal or you may enjoy a view of aircraft taking off and landing while dining on the lawn outside with weather permitting. Aspen Grove will provide boxed lunches to go, various party trays, and pastry items by order. Catering orders and reservations are accepted; please call (406) 646-7255 or Fax to (406) 646-7317.

We are looking forward to 2008 operating season here at the Yellowstone Airport and hope to see most of you this year. Stop in for a bite and say hi to Gary and Lorene



Enrollment Open for Summer Aviation Academy



Do you see yourself in command of this airplane? Sign up for this year's MDT Aeronautics Division's Aviation Career Academy (ACE) and take control!

Montana students have the chance to find out for themselves if an aviation career is right for them during the Aviation Career and Interest Academy (ACE). The Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division is sponsoring the two-day academy for students in 7th, 8th and 9th grade (for the school year 2007/2008).

The program will be based out of Helena and includes a wilderness survival field trip, aviation ground school, aviation tours and a flight day with preflight, flight simulator and orientation flights.

"I encourage any student with an interest in aviation to attend," said Jeanne MacPherson, MDT's aeronautics safety and education bureau chief. "Something interesting is always happening."

The program costs \$175 and \$50 scholarships are available for students who submit a one-page essay on their aviation interests along with the application. Registration includes a shared hotel room for one night. For students not needing lodging, the cost is \$135 without the essay and \$85 with the essay. Enrollment is limited. Application deadline is July 11.

Application flyers are available online at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/. For more information, please contact Jeanne MacPherson at (406) 444-2506. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592 or Montana Relay at 711.

Work Session Held Despite Rainy Weather



Perry Brown (l) Dawson Lynch preparing cement for the picnic tables.

The Spotted Bear Work Session was held on May 24-25. Tasks completed included installing three picnic tables in the southeast campground, installing a pilot sign-in box, relocating cones on the south half of the runway and rolling the runway. Thanks to all the volunteers that participated in the work session. Pictured below center is Perry Brown (l) and Ed Ethridge installing picnic tables. Pictured below right is Perry Brown installing the pilot sign-in box.



Malmstrom Holds Armed Forces Day

By: John Gisselbrecht



Canadian Snowbirds

On May 17 and 18 Malmstrom Air Force Base held their Annual Armed Forces Day Open House. The weather was warm and sunny on both days. The Canadian Snowbirds put on an outstanding performance thrilling those in attendance. Air demonstrations also included a U.S.A.F. A-10 Thunderbolt II, an A-1 Skyraider and a demo by two Hueys of the 40th Helicopter Squadron.

Tours of the Base Missile Training Facilities and the Base museum were offered. A M1A1 Abrams tank, a simulated helicopter rescue and recapture, a Tactical Response Force-on-Force Demonstration and Static displays gave the crowd many educational opportunities over the weekend.

Even the food vendors were staffed by members of the various base Squadrons with their families and base personal were on hand to answer the many questions the public had. Photos by John Gisselbrecht.



A-1 Skyraider



Airport Improvements Aplenty!



Money from the sale of the state owned land that housed the Broadus Airport has allowed the MDT Aeronautics Division to fund improvements at some other state-owned airports. The funds are being used at the Lincoln airport to create a new campground area with outhouses, a pavilion with picnic tables, an aircraft parking area together with a small building to house bikes for pilot use while at the Lincoln airport. Money was also put towards a new and improved outhouse facility at the Seeley Lake Airport (pictured).

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-6331 or TTY (406) 444-7696. MDT produces 2,400 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$936. This includes \$565 for postage.

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