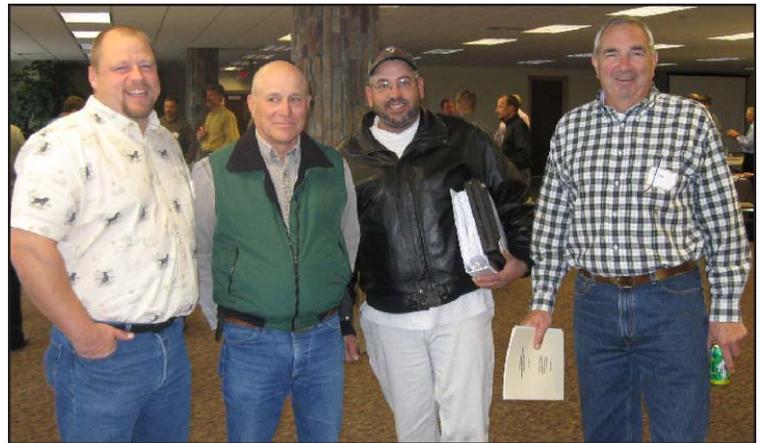




## Annual Montana FAA Airports/MAMA Meeting Held in Helena

Once a year, the Helena Airports District Office of the Federal Aviation Administration holds an airport topics meeting in Helena for all interested airport sponsors in the State of Montana. The United States FAA and its Airports Division is headquartered in Washington DC, however, the FAA, as well as its Airports Division, is broken up into regional and district offices as well. The State of Montana is part of the FAA Northwest Mountain Region headquartered in Seattle WA. The Northwest region includes the states of Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The region is further broken down into 3 districts. Washington, Idaho and Oregon combine to form one district and Wyoming, Utah and Colorado are in another district. Montana is fortunate in that our state is its own district and no other states are a part of it, which means that all matters handled within our district only deal with Montana itself. Our FAA District office is made up of the larger Flight Standards office (commonly referred to as the FSDO) and the Airports office, referred to as the ADO. The Helena FAA ADO is located on the airport in Helena and has 5 employees, the manager, Dave Stelling; airports engineers John Styba and Gary Gates; administrative assistant Maureen Dahl and student engineer Andrew Galen.

On October 16 and 17, the Helena FAA ADO once again hosted its annual FAA airports conference in Helena. Helena airport manager Ron Mercer graciously offered the use of his airport administrative facilities as a venue for the meeting. This meeting is a great opportunity for airport representatives, large and small, from around the state to hear from a wide panel of speakers on various airport related topics as well as hear directly from our FAA representatives as to the latest news from the FAA front and any new or pending FAA regulations or policies. Speakers at this years event included each of the local FAA ADO representatives, Debbie Alke our MDT Aeronautics Division administrator, Dan Fevold, head of the DHS TSA in Montana as well as his representatives, Christine Whitehead, FAA regional disadvantaged business enterprises representative, Joelle Briggs, FAA regional airports compliance representative and several others. Also held in conjunction with the ADO meeting immediately afterward was the Montana Airports Managers Association (MAMA) meeting. MAMA is the state's organization for airports, large and small. This years MAMA meeting was also well attended by various airport representatives from around the state. Several timely and pertinent airport issues were discussed by the airport sponsors as well as a good amount of trading information, stories and renewing of old friendships between longtime airport representatives. Montana has a long history of good cooperation and mutual admiration and friendships between airports in Montana, and this latest meeting was proof positive that those mutual goals and respect are alive and well in Montana. We highly encourage any interested airport sponsors, representatives or industry representatives to attend next year's event. It is usually held mid-October every year in or around Helena. See you next year!



*Pictured is (l-r) Jim Greil, MDT Aeronautics Division; Dave Hedditch a pilot from Victor; Page Gough, Airport Manager, Hamilton and Don Misevic, Airport Manager, Stevensville.*

# Administrator's Column

**Retirement:** Jim Currie, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation has announced his retirement effective December 31, 2008. Jim has over 30 years of service to the State of Montana and 17 years with the Department of Transportation. Jim has been a well-respected leader in state government and an essential supporter of Montana aviation – he will be missed.

**Moving On:** Dennis Roberts, Northwest Mountain Region Administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has accepted the position of Director of Flight Services for the ATO System Operations organization at FAA headquarters in Washington DC. Dennis has served as Regional Administrator for the past two years and will depart for his new assignment around the first of the year. Dennis has been an enthusiastic champion of aviation in this region. We appreciate his work and wish him well with his new endeavor.

**Air Service workshop:** The President and CEO of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), Henry Ogrodzinski and I were recently invited by the Transportation Research Board to participate in a workshop on air service for small communities. The study was requested of the General Accountability Office (GAO) by House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee ranking member John Mica (R-FL). A panel of industry professionals discussed the benefits, detriments and potential alternatives to the Essential Air Service program including challenges of air service to small communities; the role of the federal government in supporting small communities; the methodology used for identifying communities in need of assistance; and options for supporting small community transportation. The round-table format generated many questions and good discussion, including: is a life-long subsidy good; a smaller seat requirement to allow a mix of aircraft is needed; what is the best blended multi-modal mix for the program – should it be “essential transportation” not “essential air”; EAS carriers need access to major hubs with system-wide connectivity; program has regional not national focus or consensus; should local participation be mandated; the contract term be for a longer period of time; the USDOT office and the EAS program are underfunded. Congressional staffers were in attendance and listened attentively to the discussion; any change to the program will take legislative action. The GAO will be preparing a report for Congress based on the workshop discussion that will be an interesting read when completed.

**Airline Prediction:** Despite the deep capacity cuts already announced for this fall, U.S. airlines may have to trim still more flights in the face of falling demand, said aviation consultant Michael Boyd. High oil prices forced a game changer for the industry. Airlines are pulling back capacity faster than demand is dropping. Boyd predicts capacity will fall 9.5% in 2009, following an 8% drop this year but from the private/corporate perspective, suppliers at the National Business Aircraft Association (NBAA) annual convention recently professed good times and order books seem to justify the optimism. Gulfstream Aerospace in September delivered the 200th unit of its popular mid-range G200 business jet. Bombardier reported a year-over-year revenue increase of 22% during its second quarter. But general aviation concerns remain. The FAA reported recently that activity at general aviation airports has declined dramatically.



## *Montana and the Sky*

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Jim Lynch, Director

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[www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/)

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## Calendar

**January 16-18, 2009** – Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic, Helena, for further information contact Jeanne MacPherson (406) 444-9568 or email [jemacpherson@mt.gov](mailto:jemacpherson@mt.gov).

**February 13 & 14, 2009** - Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Wingate Hotel, Helena, for further information contact Jeanne MacPherson (406) 444-9568 or email [jemacpherson@mt.gov](mailto:jemacpherson@mt.gov).

**March 5-7, 2009** – Montana Aviation Conference, Holiday Inn Grand Montana, Billings. For further information contact Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 or email [pkautz@mt.gov](mailto:pkautz@mt.gov).

**May 30-31, 2009** – Rocky Mountain West Aviation Expo, Boise, Idaho. For further information or to participate contact Lee Hudson at (208) 323-4464 or [league@idahobusinessleague.com](mailto:league@idahobusinessleague.com).

**June 20-21, 2009** – Fathers Day Fly In Sourdough Pancake Breakfast. Fort Peck Airport, Steak Fry Saturday evening and Pancakes Sunday morning. Canoe trips down Missouri for those that call and schedule in advance. For further information or to schedule canoe trip call Lanny Hanson (406) 526-3535 or (406) 263-1154.

## FAA Adds More Colleges to ATC Training Role

With the FAA's plans to hire up to 17,000 new air traffic controllers over the next 10 years, there are now eight more colleges for future controllers to choose from. The FAA recently announced it has approved the eight for its Collegiate Training Initiative (CTI) program. With the newly approved colleges, there are now a total of 31 such educational programs nationwide. Added to the FAA program are: Aims Community College in Colorado; Broward College in Florida; Eastern New Mexico University in Roswell; Embry-Riddle in Prescott, Arizona; Jacksonville University in Florida; LeTourneau University in Texas; St. Cloud State University in Minnesota; and Tulsa Community College in Oklahoma. All schools are accredited and offer non-engineering aviation degrees for the CTI programs. The FAA has hired 5,000 new controllers in the last three years. Two thousand more are to be added in fiscal 2009.



## Watch For Your 2009 Pilot Registration

We will be sending out the 2009 pilot registration cards in early December, please fill out the pilot registration card and send it with the \$10.00 registration fee to MDT Aeronautics Division. If you are interested in volunteering for the Montana air search and rescue program, please fill out the backside of the pilot registration card.

Montana pilot registration is not only a state law (Montana Code 67, Chapter 3) but also provides the Division with valuable information used for air search and rescue. MDT Aeronautics Division is pleased to be able to offer pilots various safety and education programs throughout the calendar year, for a complete description of MDT Aeronautics Divisions functions, please visit our web site at: [www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/).

The \$10.00 pilot registration fee includes a subscription to our newsletter "*Montana and the Sky*". If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically please indicate so by checking the required box on the pilot registration card and providing us with your current email address this will help the department save money in printing and postage costs.

## Time for Annual Registration of Montana Based Aircraft

Montana based aircraft owners, please be watching your mail boxes for your 2009 aircraft registration invoices. The Division is mandated by Montana law to account for Montana aircraft no later than March 1 of each calendar year. It is most important to note that according to statute, aircraft that are not registered by the March 1 deadline must pay a penalty of five times the fee, plus the fee. A newly purchased aircraft must be registered within 30 days of entering the state, or it is also subject to the penalty fee.

Please note that unflyable aircraft must also be accounted for. There is no fee charged for an unflyable aircraft, sold aircraft, or dealer "inventory only" aircraft. You must, however, indicate the status of each aircraft on the invoice you receive and certify that the aircraft information is correct by signing and sending it back to us.

Thank you for your considerations and have a great flying year.

# Small Airports Group Holds Fall Conference

By: Bailey Egan, MonTAP

Lewistown was the location of the first annual Small Airports fall conference. It consisted of airport owners, airport managers, consultants and interested individuals, along with those interested in the promotion and management of their local airport. Guests attending were from Washington State, North Dakota, Oregon, Wyoming and a number of airports from Montana. The planning of this project was part of MonTAP. The "Montana Technical Assistance Program" is a group of volunteers that has come together with a common interest in providing educational training for the smaller airports that have been left behind. There are many reasons for this gap in technical assistance. The lack of funding, owners that do not see the potential value of their local airport and often just a lack of education of how to handle certain airport issues.

The conference had a rather interesting agenda with early registration followed by a full day of speakers that directed their presentations to issues that are of interest to the small airports. Pavement and asphalt has to be considered always because of the huge part it plays in the budget of all airports. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks had a presentation on Game management for small airports. This issue is a big concern of many small airports that do not have game fencing. Another discussion took place on self fueling installations that are often necessary on un-attended airports, again an issue that the presenter discussed a minimal sized unit with realistic installation costs and would still comply with all the legal requirements.

Airport insurance and liability was a subject that held the interest of everyone. Airports can be a real source of liability to their owners especially if allowed to sit without proper maintenance and attention. Small airports are very guilty of this as some owners think if you do nothing it costs nothing. Not so as this presenter explained and also airport insurance is much different than other coverage's that airport owners have. The generic blanket policies often do not provide the coverage that you thought you had.

Ralph Rogers made a wonderful and informative presentation on what they have done with their airport at Winifred. Winifred is a tremendous example of what can be done if you have a leader in a community behind the development of your airport.

David Ketchum traveled to Montana from Washington State to explain their Community Airport Association and gave us numerous suggestions on the planning of our Montana project. David has been helping us navigate our planning over the past two years. He has saved us considerable work by not reinventing the wheel. Washington's association has been in existence for over ten years.

This aviation related project is unfunded and supported by donations and volunteers. We are learning and have made a few errors along the way. Progress has been slow but still has been well accepted by the aviation community. The word MonTAP has confused many but we are in the process of

changing that as that looks to be just part of what we hope to do. We believe education and communication has a great value!

Two years ago we sent out a survey to all airports in Montana with a request of what was needed in the way of technical assistance and have tried to follow the results of that survey as much as possible. Cost associated with attending meetings, holding them at central locations, presenting issues pertinent to small airports, convenient time of year for meetings, method of presenting educational material are some of the highest priority issues of concern that were returned on the survey. We have attempted to meet those goals with a website page on the MDT Aeronautics Divisions website. Developing and presenting this material has been a bit of a problem but we are working on correcting it. The site contains numerous example documents, a list of 26 volunteer "experts" that are willing to answer question and offer guidance in airport management issues, a quarterly news letter called "Unicom" sent via E-mail only because of cost, we have sponsored three one hour informational sessions at each Montana Aviation Conference in the past two years. We held the First GA Fall Conference at Lewistown where the airport manager Jerry Moline did a tremendous amount of leg work and helped with the conference planning. Help from numerous companies and individuals have been over whelming. I need to mention just a few of those. Century Construction in Lewistown provided a steak fry banquet and open bar at the end of the very successful conference, KLJ Consultants has been providing conference phone facilities, printing and publishing help on the "Unicom," Jerry Moline and the Lewistown Airport provided a perfect location for the conference including rolls, juice and coffee during registration. Fred Lark and his radio station KXLO/KLCM gave us media coverage and support. Super-8 in Lewistown helped with blocking accommodations. Montana Airport Managers Association (MAMA) helped get this project started with funding the initial survey start-up. We continue to receive offers especially now that everyone is starting to see what the "heck we are trying to do".

Plans for the coming year are to continue the training sessions at the Montana Aviation Conference in Billings; we are planning on having a booth so people can stop by and visit about this project with us.

# “We Do This So Others May Live”

MDT Aeronautics Division hosted a state air search and rescue meeting for the volunteer air search coordinators on October 10 in Helena. Ron Mercer, airport manager and the Helena Regional Airport facilitated this important meeting by hosting the event at the Helena Regional Airport.

The Division averages 80 air search and rescue missions a year. Emergency locator transmitters (ELT) are the majority of the missions that we become involved with. An ELT mission often takes many hours to resolve involving several agencies and volunteers.

MDT Aeronautics system is comprised of on call staff, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 14 volunteer coordinators and 14 assisting volunteer coordinators, 325 Montana volunteer pilots and 200 Montana volunteer aircraft. Many government agencies also assist in the air search and rescue missions.

Dan Conley, the SAR Program Manager from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center provided a briefing on the Air Force SAR mission, agreements and operations and the February 2009 “121.5 phase out” and what it means for search and rescue operations.

Ray Sanders and Hugh Wilkins, district coordinators offered an ELT direction finding exercise. Thank you to all the volunteers that were able to attend this important meeting and thank you for all you do for Montana aviation.

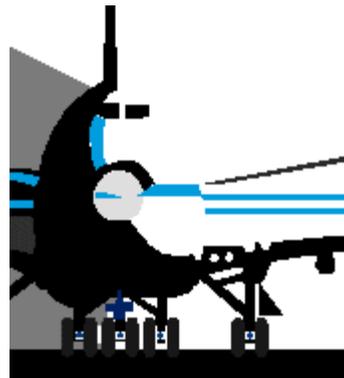


*Dan Conley (l) the Search & Rescue Program Manger from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center was invited by Debbie Alke, Administrator (r) to give the presentation.*



*Ray Sanders, Kalispell Search & Rescue Coordinator (l) and Hugh Wilkins Search & Rescue Coordinator from Great falls (r) went over the new direction finding equipment with participants.*

*Charles Fligel, Butte Search & Rescue Coordinator (l) wears his new Helena Regional Airport jacket donated by Ron Mercer, Airport Director (r). The Helena Regional Airport helped sponsor this year’s meeting.*



## Autofuel Alcohol Tester Available through EAA

Anyone that is buying Auto Fuel for their aircraft should be testing at the pump especially, since the retailers are not putting the proper labeling on the pumps.

EAA does sell an Autofuel Alcohol Tester. All you have to do is email your mailing address and charge card number with expiration date to Debi Walker at [dwalker@eaa.org](mailto:dwalker@eaa.org) OR call her at (920) 426-4843 OR make a check payable to EAA for \$15 per tester (includes Priority Mail shipping) and mail it to: EAA Flight Center, Tester, 1145 W 20th Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54902.

In addition if an EAA chapter wishes to buy at least 25 testers there is a discount when they are all shipped to one location.

# Scholarship Opportunities

Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations that believe in promoting aviation by offering monetary assistance to qualified persons. The Aeronautics Division assists in administering some of these scholarships and encourages participation. The scholarships are offered to a Montanan to help defray costs of education (i.e., flight instruction, A&P, ect.) and will be presented during the 2009 Montana Aviation Conference in Billings. Awarding of the scholarships will be based on a letter explaining the reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience, if any, and any outstanding achievements. **The same letter can be submitted but applicant must submit one copy addressed to each individual scholarship they are applying for.** Letters of application **must** include a **mailing address, daytime phone number and photograph**. If you are selected to receive one of the scholarships your photo will appear in the 2009 Montana Aviation Conference Program. Letters should be mailed to: Montana Aeronautics Division, PO Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507 or call (406) 444-2506 for further information. **Letters must be postmarked on or before January 9, 2009.**

**A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship** – An anonymous donor established this scholarship of \$250 in 1997.

**AOM Flight Training Scholarship** – AOM has established this \$500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate.

**Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship** – This \$250 scholarship is awarded to a first generation pilot to assist with flight training. This scholarship is designed to assist a person who has a love of aviation, yet had limited exposure to aviation, someone from a non-aviation background/family.

**Harold Hamm Scholarship** – Harold and Zola Hamm were the anonymous donors that established the first \$250 A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship in 1993. With the passing of Harold on September 1, 2006, Zola decided to rename the scholarship the “Harold Hamm Scholarship” in honor of her husband of 19 years. Harold had an extremely strong passion for aviation. Together he and Zola completed two airplane projects: the restoration of a J-3 Piper Cub, and an experimental RV-6 aircraft. In 2008 Zola graciously increased the amount of the Harold Hamm Scholarship to \$500.

**Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship** – MAAA offers this \$500 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction.

**Montana Pilots Association Flight Training Award** - This scholarship is open to a person who has a considerable interest in aviation. The \$750 scholarship is to be used for flight training.

**Montana Pilots Association Junior Pilot Award** – This recipient is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship within their community and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must have soloed and be actively involved in flight training. This is a \$750 scholarship.

**Morrison Aviation Appreciation Scholarship** – Jeff Morrison, retired former owner of Morrison Flying Service in Helena has established the \$500 scholarship as a token of appreciation to the aviation community.

**Mountain Air Dance Flight Training Scholarship One:** Jeanne MacPherson and Bill Gallea offer this \$750 scholarship to a person with a huge interest in aviation; this scholarship would be used for flight training of any type.

**Mountain Air Dance Flight Training Scholarship Two:** Jeanne MacPherson and Bill Gallea offer this \$750 scholarship to an active pilot who desires to pursue advanced training, such as tailwheel endorsement, mountain flying, aerobatics, or a higher rating.

**Parrott Family Scholarship** – The Parrott Family offers this \$1,000 scholarship to be used over a one-year period for pilot training programs for students enrolled in the Rocky Mountain College (RMC) aviation program. The funds may be used for tuition in the RMC aviation program, and/or flight training expenses leading to a Private, Commercial, or Flight Instructor Certificate, and may include Instrument and Multiengine simulator training, and the purchase of aviation related materials and related supplies.

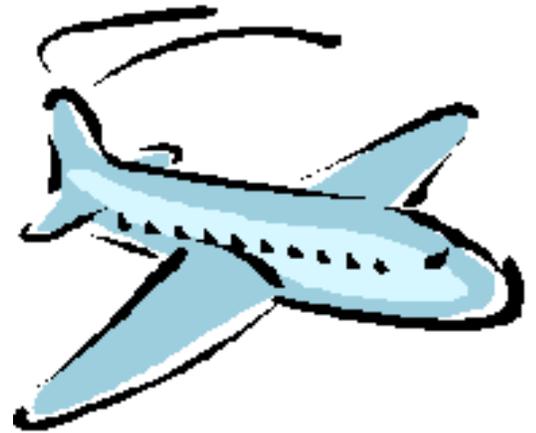
# Surratt Winter Survival Clinic to be held in Helena

The MDT Aeronautics Division invites you to attend the Surratt Winter Survival Clinic. The ground school portion of the clinic will be held at the Helena Regional Airport and the outdoor overnight session will be held at the Lincoln Airport. The course sponsored by MDT Aeronautics will be instructed by acclaimed survival expert, Skip Stoffel, President of "Emergency Response International" from Cashmere, Washington. Registration will begin at 3:30 P.M. on January 16, and the Clinic will kick off at 4:00 P.M. at the Helena Regional Airport in the Reception room, upstairs, just follow the signs. Classroom teaching will resume on Saturday morning at 8:00 A.M. with an equipment check and then to the field session. The outdoor survival training exercise will begin at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday afternoon and continue until Sunday at noon. The classroom training sessions are open to anyone interested, however, due to limited group size requirements, a maximum of 30 applicants will be selected to participate in the outdoor overnight session. Applicants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis, however, preference will be given to those that have not attended in the last 2 years. **Limited slots are available for students that are accompanied by parents with prior approval, and a registration form must be filled out for the student, please include students age.** The clinic is sponsored by the MDT Aeronautics Division, and partially funded by the Surratt family. There will be a \$50.00 registration fee for all participants attending the entire clinic. For those attending only the classroom session there will be a \$20.00 registration fee. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Wingate Inn, 2007 N. Oakes, Helena, MT, (406) 449-3000 or (800) 228-1000 at state rate for Friday night, reference MDT Aeronautics Division when making reservations. **The block of rooms close on December 31, 2008. Check in is 3pm. There is a 24 hr cancellation policy.** Please mail your application today and be sure to indicate if you want to attend both the classroom and outdoor sessions. If you are selected for the outdoor training, we will furnish you with a medical form and equipment list. An application is available on our website at [www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/) or phone our office (406) 444-2506.

## It's the Great Pumpkin!



*Connie James a science teacher at the Glasgow High School uses aviation science concepts in her classroom with the students designing their own hot air balloons. Connie attended the MDT Aeronautics Division's aviation teacher workshop that is held annually at the Montana Aviation Conference.*



## Yellowstone Airport Closes for the Season

The Yellowstone Airport has closed for the 2008 season. Thanks to all who supported the various fly-ins and other events here this year. We hope to provide an even better experience next year and are welcoming any event ideas that the pilots out there may have. On a positive note the airport has received an actual piece of snow removal equipment from Missoula. We are going to be open in April. Thanks to the folks at Missoula it will now be possible to start extending the season for the early fly fishermen and those that would like to see the park without the huge crowds. Thanks for a banner year and we hope to be able to provide you with better services in the near future.

# Mark your Calendar for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Aviation Conference!

Next year we'll be celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Montana Aviation Conference! It is scheduled for March 5-7, 2009 in Billings at the newly remodeled Holiday Inn Grand. The committee is working hard confirming speakers to ensure the 25<sup>th</sup> will be something to remember. Phone the Holiday Inn at (877) 554-7263 or (406) 248-7701 to make reservations and reference Montana Aviation Conference. And be sure to stay tuned to next month's newsletter for further information as plans progress. Hope to see you there!!

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.

# Billings Airport Personnel Receive S&R Training



*The Billings Airport Operations now has direction finding equipment and they have agreed to help locate ELT's on the Billings airport.*

Aeronautics Division  
Montana Department of Transportation

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