



## 2013 Aviation Career Academy Held in Billings

*By David J. Hoerner, Safety & Aviation*

The ACE program this year was held in Billings with stops at the Billings Flying Service, Northern Skies Aviation, the Billings Airport, and Rocky Mountain College Aviation. The students were given the basic information on requirements for obtaining a pilot's license and becoming an airplane or helicopter charter pilot.

The ACE students were given a tour of the interior of the Sikorsky S-61 Sea King helicopter by Billings Flying Service co-owner Al Blain. "This is the same type helicopter that is used to fly the President of the United States." said Al.

Co-owner Gary Blain extended the tour into the nuts and bolts of the flying service. He first showed the students six UH1 Huey helicopter hulks sitting in a row like retired warriors. "We will use all six to get one machine rebuilt."

The Blain's flying service provides a valuable facility for fighting forest fires and rebuilding aircraft for sale to other firefighting agencies.

The next stop was Aerotronics radio shop located at the Billings Airport; Steve Vold the owner of the company presented a program on importance of radios now and in the future. He showed details on creating aircraft panels from a flat piece of aluminum to a completed installation in an aircraft. The workmanship in the finished panel was an outstanding.

The students learned that most air travel isn't possible without complete and clear radio communication. Radio shops all around the country are the heart and soul of aviation. Without these shops dedication and professionalism air travel would come to a halt real quick.

Tom Binford, the Billings airport manager, gave a presentation on airport operations. He provided a tour of the fire trucks, snow plows and bussed the students around the airport to the old ammunition holding bays.

The Billings airport is like its own community and is self-sustaining through gas sales, hangar space rentals and auto rentals. The airport provides a living for about 80 employees. Tom's operation is well managed and professional down to the smallest details.



*Fifteen year old Kylee Weidinger of Lima has dreamed about flying since she was only 6 years old. Her essay won her a flight in Northern Skies Aviation's helicopter with pilot, Nathan Englund.*



*Students were able to learn about several different job opportunities in aviation. Pictured here with Steve Vold of Aerotronics Inc. in Billings.*

# Administrator's Column

**Essential Air Service Update** – The United States Department of Transportation issued order number 2013-6-13 on June 12 terminating the Essential Air Service subsidy eligibility of Lewistown and Miles City, Montana. Silver Airways will continue to service both Lewistown and Miles City until July 15th and is responsible for notifying passengers who hold reservations with the airline. Glasgow, Glendive, Havre, Sidney and Wolf Point will continue to offer passenger air service as a part of the EAS program, and a request for proposal has been issued by the DOT seeking air carriers interested in providing subsidized or non-subsidized air service for those communities. A link to the Department of Transportation order is posted below. It is also available online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under Docket number DOT-OST-1997-2605.

**Aviation Career Academy** – This year the Division sponsored Aviation Career Academy moved to Billings/Laurel Montana with great success (see story on page 1) thanks to many volunteers who contributed their time and expertise to help ensure program success. I would like to extend a sincere thank-you to those aviation professionals who shared experiences and opportunities with these students. Thanks to: Al Blain and Gary Blain of Billings Flying Service; Kent Potter and Bob Miller of Northern Skies Aviation; Steve Vold of Aerotronics; Tom Binford, Billings Logan International Airport Director Aviation and Transit; Dan Hargrove, Rocky Mountain College Aviation Director. And thanks to the Montana Pilots Association and the Montana Chamber of Commerce for providing full-paid scholarships to four students to attend the camp.

**Small Aircraft Revitalization Act Introduced by Senate** - The Act is welcomed by the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) and other aviation associations. The bipartisan bill is the Senate companion to H.R. 1848, a bipartisan bill introduced earlier this month in the U.S. House. The bill would establish a date for implementing the FAA's Part 23 Reorganization Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) recommendations, with the goal of doubling safety and cutting certification costs in half for light general aviation (GA) airplanes. The ARC, comprised of 150 government and aviation industry representatives, spent 18 months developing the recommendations.

**Transportation Secretary Nominee Moves Closer to Confirmation** - The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation has approved the nomination of Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx to become the nation's next Transportation Secretary. Voting was unanimous for Foxx, setting up the next step in the process which would require a vote from the full Senate to officially confirm him to replace existing Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. During his recent confirmation hearing, Foxx discussed his commitment to FAA's NextGen program, and urged more government-industry collaboration to keep the agency on track with its air transportation modernization project.

**FAA requests proposals for options to transition GA to unleaded fuel** - The FAA has asked fuel producers to submit proposals for options to help the general aviation industry make a transition to an unleaded fuel by July 1, 2014. The FAA is committed to the development of a new unleaded fuel by 2018, minimizing the impact of replacing 100 octane low-lead fuel for most of the general aviation fleet. The FAA will assess the viability of candidate fuels in terms of their impact on the existing fleet, their production and distribution infrastructure and other factors. Proposals are due July 1, 2013 and by Sept. 1, 2014, 10 suppliers will be selected to participate in phase one laboratory testing. The FAA will select as many as two fuels from phase one for phase two engine and aircraft testing. This request is in response to a report issued in July 2012 by the Unleaded Avgas Transition Aviation Rulemaking Committee to the FAA, which noted that a "drop-in" unleaded replacement fuel is unavailable and may not be technically feasible.



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# Calendar of Events

**July 4** – Townsend 4<sup>th</sup> of July “we feed you” breakfast and fly in. There will be a Pinewood Derby Race held in conjunction with the fly in. The race is sponsored by Aircrafters, Inc. with racing to begin at 10:00 a.m. People of all ages are encouraged to build a car and enter the races, prizes will be awarded. For more details on the race and obtaining a car contact Russ Voorhees at [aircrafters@mt.net](mailto:aircrafters@mt.net). For further information about the breakfast and fly in contact Tracy Salmi at (620) 786-1571 or Neil Salmi at (406) 980-0544 or [neilsalmi@yahoo.com](mailto:neilsalmi@yahoo.com).

**July 4** – Gene Soucey & Teresa Stokes will be performing in Baker with the “ShowCat”. Gene will perform a solo act and a night “Pyro” act, as well as the pair doing the famous wing walking act in the afternoon. There is a lot of family festivities planned, as this is the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Fallon County. Stop in and check out the refurbished airport! For further information contact Roger Meggers at [bakerair@midrivers.com](mailto:bakerair@midrivers.com) or (406) 778-3508.

**July 6** - Air Fair 2013 – Ravalli County Airport, Hamilton. Heritage day fly in breakfast 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This will be a fun, family friendly event filled with static aircraft, cars (Bitter Rodders Car Display), and inflatables for the kids. There will also be some aircraft/helicopter contests for those who are looking for a challenge or little bit of competition. Glide, Fly, or Drive we would love to see you at Air Fair 2013! For further information on the Hamilton event contact Leland Blatter (406) 363-6741 or [6s5@choiceaviation.com](mailto:6s5@choiceaviation.com).

**July 13** – Del Bonita Work Session. For further information call (406) 444-2506.

**July 13** – Planet Bronze Fine Art Gallery Show & Sale, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., 905 N 5<sup>th</sup>, Bozeman. Own a piece of history aviation memorabilia (Amelia Earhart, Orville Wright, Charles Lindberg, Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, Chuck Yeager, Jacqueline Cochran, Burt Rutan and more!) For further information contact Dennis Harrington at (406) 585-0050 or email [gal-tery@planetbronze.com](mailto:gal-tery@planetbronze.com)

**July 20** - Air Fair 2013 – Ennis Big Sky Airport, Ennis. This will be a fun, family friendly event filled with static aircraft, cars, and inflatables for the kids. There will also be some aircraft/helicopter contests for those who are looking for a challenge or little bit of competition. A free lunch will be provided by Choice Aviation. Glide, Fly, or Drive we would love to see you at Air Fair 2013! For further information on the Ennis event contact Troy Hunter at (406) 682-7502 or [eks@choiceaviation.com](mailto:eks@choiceaviation.com).

**July 20** – Jim Bridger fly in and celebration days. Pancake breakfast 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. the fly in is held in conjunction with Jim Bridger days that will be going on in the town of Bridger. For further information contact Merrill Pfeifer at (406) 662-3319.

**July 20-21** – Schafer Meadows work session. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

**July 21** – St. Ignatius Fly In – 8:00 a.m. to noon. Free huckleberry pancake breakfast, Young Eagle rides, Av gas giveaway and door prizes. For further information contact Mike Kuefler (406) 544-2274.

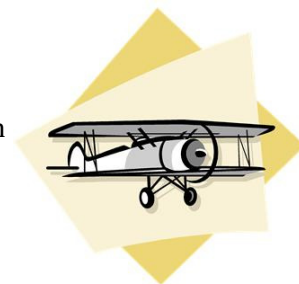
**August 1-3** – Montana Antique Aircraft Association Annual Fly In at Three Forks Airport (Pogreba Field). Flour bombing, spot landing contests. Free camping on airport. For further information contact Pat Green at [greenrrg@aol.com](mailto:greenrrg@aol.com); Ken Flikkema at (406) 580-6207; Bob Green at (406) 539-7830 or Tim Linn at (406) 451-5897.

**August 3** - Air Fair 2013 – Yellowstone Regional Airport, Cody, WY. This will be a fun, family friendly event filled with static aircraft, cars, and inflatables for the kids. There will also be some aircraft/helicopter contests for those who are looking for a challenge or little bit of competition. A free lunch will be provided by Choice Aviation. Glide, Fly, or Drive we would love to see you at Air Fair 2013! For further information on the Cody, WY event contact Joel Simmons at (307) 587-9262 or [cod@choiceaviation.com](mailto:cod@choiceaviation.com)

**August 11** – Lions Club Drive In, Fly In breakfast and model airplane show at Hysham Airport beginning at 7:00 a.m. For further information contact Bob Miller (406) 342-5252 or email [bpmiller@rangeweb.net](mailto:bpmiller@rangeweb.net).

**September 6-8** – Search Clinic, Columbus Airport. For further information visit our web site at [www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/) or call Dave Hoerner (406) 444-9568 or email [dhoerner@mt.gov](mailto:dhoerner@mt.gov).

**September 26-27** - Montana Community Airport Association 2013 Fall Conference. Hilton Garden Inn Kalispell. For conference schedule go to MDT Aeronautics Division’s website [www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/calendar.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/calendar.shtml).



# Aviation Career Academy, continued

The next morning started at the Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program. Dan Hargove, Director of Aviation, gave insight into operations of the college and procedures for getting a degree in an aviation field.

Dan relayed stories of flying for the President and high ranking dignitaries around the world. Students learned that if they arrive at Rocky with a pilot's license, they can be awarded college credits for their license.

Rocky's Director of Operations, Josh Mlnarik gave the students a detailed tour of Rockies nine aircraft followed by a discussion on aerodynamics.

Billings Tower manager Kirk Swanson split the participants into two groups. Half the students spent time in the dark approach control room and helped to identify approaching and departing aircraft.

The other half of the group spent time in the tower cab with Ground Control and Tower personnel. The importance of the job of the Tower can't be overstated. Students learned the people operating the tower are everyday people that have an eye on safety and the future of aviation.

Each year the EAA gives young Eagle Flights to students around the country. Walt McIntosh and Dennis Charbino of the Billing's EAA chapter donated their time and airplanes. Each student received a 15 minute flight around Billings. This national renowned volunteer flight program has been the start of many young aviators' careers.

The program came to close with a career talk on aviation related fields. Being a pilot is only one of many career opportunities and students came away realizing that aviation is a very important part of this nation transportation system.

Each year's participants are picked to attend the program by written essays explaining their reason for wanting to attend the academy. The top ten best written essays are selected to attend the two day program.

The Montana Chamber of Commerce and the Montana Pilots Association awarded the top four tuition paid scholarships. This year's essay winners were Robert Gehring, Lincoln; Sam Congdon, Lima; Kate Indreland, Big Timber; and Kylee Weidinger, Lima. Kylee also won best written essay and received a free helicopter ride donated by Northern Skies Aviation.

Other students attending the academy were Dee Mayer, Lima; Sam Brady, Lincoln; and William Ewing, Lima.

A special thanks to all the people that gave their time and equipment to help students learn about aviation careers. The people in Billings stepped up and can be proud of the job and information they provided.

## 2013 Montana Aeronautical Chart

As many of you have probably noticed the 2013 Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Chart has a new look and feel compared to previous charts. In our quest to provide pilots with the best available product on the market, many hours of research was invested to reach this goal.

First we looked at charts provided from a variety of different states to see what they had to offer. In this search we noticed some charts that were durable and water proof, but made of minerals (rocks) not a paper product. This is the reason the chart is heavier than previous charts. The environmentally friendly material produces a film quality finish that is capable of a high resolution image without washing out the colors or detail of the chart. In addition we lightened up the colors so the chart is not so dark, easier to read and uses less ink per copy.

The standard in the past has been to contract with a company that copies and pastes information from the many different Federal Aviation Administration information sites to produce a chart with the latest available information, then printed on some form of paper product. At this point, we had determined to use the synthetic chart option. Our next phase of the project was to research and select a company to provide the cartography. Our search revealed one company that produced a superior product in both quality and finish. Many of you probably recognize Galen Hanselman of Q.E.I. Publishing (Hailey, Idaho) from other charts, books, and publications such as Fly Idaho, Fly Utah, and of course Fly Montana. In talking with Galen many times and a string of emails to glean as much information as possible, it was time to go through the bid process. Luckily for the State of Montana, Galen had a strong desire to produce our chart and had a very competitive bid.

Now comes the hard part, we had 90 days to work with Galen to produce the finest chart Montana pilots have ever seen. Unlike other companies that copy and paste then update the data, Galen starts from scratch creating a chart that is a 100% digital process. This process also gives us the ability to customize the chart as we deem necessary. The chart is produced by manually digitizing all chart data with a computer mouse. That means, Galen traced every contour, every river, every road, every lake, every stream, and all aeronautical information by hand with a mouse! The finished image ends up having about 50 different layers of digital data. Our staff made a couple of visits to Galen's office to fine tune the chart front and back. The beauty of the digital cartography process is, it should be relatively easy to update in the future. Also the data is in place to start creating an application in the future for tablets, smart phones and the like, with no pixilation issues.

In closing we hope you enjoy the 2013 chart and if you should have any comments, we would welcome them to help make our chart even better at the next publication.

# Yellowstone Airport Welcomes Summer Intern

The Yellowstone Airport staff is pleased to welcome Bron Hansen as the newest employee to their team. He is filling the internship position at the Yellowstone Airport this summer. Bron commenced aviation training in 2007 and has worked in a variety of positions within the aviation industry over the last six years. Bron is pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aviation Administration through Utah Valley University. He is also a Certified Flight Instructor and has flown commercially in both Part 91 and 135 operations. Bron is excited to be back in West Yellowstone where he grew up as he enjoys the outdoor activities that the area has to offer. Bron is very excited to join the MDT team and is enthusiastic about furthering his knowledge, experience, and career in airport management while serving the aviation and local community.



## FAA Aircraft Registration - Have you completed yours?

*By David J. Hoerner, Safety & Education*

Aircraft Owners, have you recently received a notice from the FAA that read, NOTICE: EXPIRATION OF AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION?

It seems that not many years back I received the same message and paid my \$5.00. Although the recent notice seemed more pointed and extreme and the last paragraph under the heading reads: Expired Aircraft: When aircraft registration is allowed to expire, the assigned N-number is no longer authorized for use and will be scheduled for cancellation. Before cancellation, the aircraft owner may reserve the N-number in his name by sending a request and the \$10.00 reservation fee. If no request is made, the N-number will be canceled and become unavailable for five years.

The reason for the re-registration is explained in the following FAA statement: About one-third of today's 357,000 registered aircraft have inaccurate records. At least 100,000 of these are not expected to re-register. Prompt reporting of a change in aircraft ownership, mailing address, or destruction has long been required by registration regulations. Without these reports from the owners the aircraft records could not be updated. The Registry has revoked registrations due to unreported changes; however, this process is slow and expensive. In many cases registration would be revoked, but owners whose notices were undeliverable would be unaware and continue to operate their now unregistered aircraft.

Re-registration of eligible aircraft takes place between October 1, 2010, and December 31, 2013, updating the U.S. Civil Aircraft Register with current data derived from recent contact with aircraft owners. Renewal of registration every third year, with other new tools, enables the Aircraft Registration Branch (Registry) to keep aircraft registration information current.

"These improvements will give us better knowledge about the state of the aviation industry, especially general aviation," said FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt.

Re-registration, renewal and expiration will clear inactive aircraft from the database. The availability of on-line processing too many owners, and periodic FAA reminders to renew the certificate, should maintain the gains in accuracy and currency. This is essential to safety, regulatory enforcement, and all levels of law enforcement.

Approximately six months before an aircraft's registration expires, the Registry will mail a notice with instructions to the owner using the mailing address of record. The notice will identify the expiration date, and the three month window during which application must be made to ensure receipt of the new certificate before the old certificate expires. The FAA website is: <http://registry.faa.gov/renewregistration>.

I recently renewed my expiration online and it took about ten minutes. The notice offers registration or renewal instructions and is straight forward, although the online process takes a credit card to pay the \$5.00. There are also instructions for filing through the mail.

There is no connection between MDT Aeronautics aircraft registration fee and the FAA Aircraft Registration office. We don't communicate directly between the Federal Aviation Agency and Montana Aeronautics.

If you get an Expiration of Aircraft Notice from The FAA, don't drag your feet and not complete the form. The seriousness of not registering is explained above. Losing your N-number would be a disaster.

# Much Accomplished at Benchmark Work Session

By Ken Wilhelm



*Pictured from left to right, Brent Vetter, Rachel Habel, Fred Habel, Woody Hoptler, Tony Dolphay, Willie Hurd, Jeanne MacPherson, and Kevin Danz. Not pictured Ken Wilhelm.*

The Benchmark Work Session was held Saturday June 1. Despite the great weather, attendance was on the low side with four aircraft and nine persons attending. However this small group of volunteers accomplished a lot. All three windsock standards were repainted and their windsocks were changed. The yellow panels on the segmented circle were touched up. The trim was stained on the new outhouse. The gate near the outhouse was repaired and stained. Weeds in both tie down areas and runway were sprayed and new tie down ropes were provided.

El Presidente, Kevin Danz, with the Helena Vigilantly Hanger of the Montana Pilots Association cooked up some great burgers and brats. Brent Vetter provided the entertainment with his "...and there I was" stories. Then it was time to pack up and head home for the year.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make this work session such a success! Until next year fly safe.

# Blue Skies for Spotted Bear Work Session!

By David J. Hoerner, Safety & Education

For the first time in years the Spotted Bear work session had blue skies and no wind. The good weather gave time to complete delayed projects.

The wind sock was lowered and Perry Brown, Zack Anderson and Wade Cebulski installed a new wind sock, then painted the pole a bright yellow and reshaped broken runway cones.

Geanette Cebulski and Nancy Manning spent the day trimming brush around the edges of the airport while Chuck Manning and Scott Harrison used weed eaters and shovels to trim the over grown plant life off the rock that identify the runway.

Devie Brown, Lexie Bartkoski and Tessa Cowan painted the inside of the outhouse and then repainted the rocks. With the new white paint on the rocks that spell out **Spotted Bear** it is now easy to read from higher altitudes.

Mikael Baiar and Zane Brown rolled and packed the runway with the giant cement roller that is stationed on site. Lunch was furnished by the Flathead Chapter of the MPA.

It was a great day with a lot accomplished. Thanks everyone for the fine work.



*Rock painting crew!*



*Wade and Geanette Cebulski flew in from Seeley Lake.*



## BILLINGS LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SUMMER 2013 RUNWAY 10L/28R CLOSURE NOTICE

During the Summer of 2013, the Billings Logan International Airport will be rehabilitating Runway 10L/28R, which is the 10,518-foot main runway used by commercial service airlines to transport passengers and freight. For six consecutive weekends, the closures will be from Friday morning beginning at 9:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. Sunday evening, at which point the Airport will reopen until the next Friday morning. The six consecutive weekends impacted with runway closures will be July 12–14, July 19–21, July 26–28, August 2–4, August 9–11, and August 16–18. The 5,501-foot crosswind Runway 7/25 will remain open to General Aviation aircraft until the main runway work progresses into the area where it intersects with Runway 7/25, which is tentatively scheduled to be the weekend of July 26 continuing through August 4. The 3,801-foot parallel Runway 10R/28L, will remain open for smaller aircraft during the entire construction period.

This construction option was selected to allow some air service to be sustained during the workweek and heavier travel days, as opposed to an extended 2 or 3 week continual closure. The last time this runway was rehabilitated was in 1998. If additional information is needed, please contact Kevin Ploehn, Assistant Director of Aviation and Transit, at [ploehnk@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:ploehnk@ci.billings.mt.us) or 406-657-8484.



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## Aviation Community Plans Utah Backcountry Pilot Shelter



*Mark Austin, local Escalante contractor, has offered to donate all of his time and many materials. He is joined on the site by Linda Bowmar, Wayne Loeber and Gordon Rock.*

Support is growing for the construction of a backcountry pilot shelter at Escalante to be dedicated to Paul Bowmar. Bowmar and a passenger were killed when his Cessna 140 struck a power line between Escalante and Boulder in January. The Salt Lake Tribune reported that he was known as “the heart and soul of Escalante’s local airstrip and worked to improve its conditions for other pilots.” The City of Escalante has approved construction of the shelter, to honor Mr. Bowmar.

Taking the lead on the project are Recreational Aviation Foundation Utah liaisons Wayne Loeber and Steve Durtschi; with support from Shep-Rock Foundation, Utah Back Country Pilots and the Recreational Aviation Foundation. The 13’ X 25’ structure includes running water and electricity. A fire pit will be installed nearby.

“What started in Paul’s local community as a dream has turned into a construction plan and a winning bid. With just that so far, donations are coming in,” said John McKenna, RAF president, adding, “We’d like to see plenty of individuals supporting this, and are suggesting \$10 to \$20 donations – a ten-spot for a tent-spot, you could say.”

The three organizations have pledged to match up to \$6,000 in individual donations for completion of the project. “This matching concept should truly give everyone a reason to be part of the project,” McKenna added.

The location is the ideal jumping-off point to Utah backcountry flying and offers year-round recreation. The team is aiming for a June 15<sup>th</sup> dedication, which coincides with a memorial service for Paul Bowmar.

To donate to this project, please go to [www.theraf.org](http://www.theraf.org) and select the “Escalante Pilot Shelter” link or mail a check to the RAF, 1711 W. College, Bozeman, MT 59715 marked “Escalante Shelter.”

The Recreational Aviation Foundation is a public 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based at 1711 W. College, Bozeman, MT 59715 [www.theraf.org](http://www.theraf.org).



## Visit West Yellowstone!



*First Brasila EMB – 120 landing for Summer 2013 at WYS.*

Yellowstone Airport's (WYS) scheduled air carrier service has returned once again for the 2013 summer season! There are 2 daily scheduled flights Monday-Friday and 3 daily scheduled flights on Saturday and Sunday from Salt Lake City (SLC) to Yellowstone Airport (WYS). Travelers can take advantage of this convenient service through Delta Airlines operated by SkyWest by calling Delta reservations at 800.221.1212 or by visiting [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com).

The general aviation traffic is increasing every day as well! From corporate Jets, small single engine aircraft, to the Army National Guard from Georgia who stopped by the other day as well with 6 Blackhawk helicopters. So whether you're a pilot, aviation enthusiast, or a passenger come and visit Yellowstone Airport there is always something cool here!

To the pilots and their family and friends flying in you are welcome to enjoy our complimentary aviation campground, a very unique way to camp and experience Yellowstone. With Old Faithful only a 30 minute drive away and rental car service available, the Yellowstone Aviation FBO, and a restaurant available in the main terminal, Yellowstone Airport can truly satisfy all your vacation needs for the full Yellowstone experience!