

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 66, No. 11

November 2015

Friday Luncheon Guest Speaker Patty Mitchell

Patty Mitchell will be the Friday guest speaker at this year's Aviation Conference Luncheon. She learned to fly in the Houston, Texas area where she later flew charters and became a flight instructor. She was the first female pilot to fly a DHC-6 Twin Otters for Metro Airlines in 1978. In 1979, Patty and her husband Robert moved to Stevensville Montana where they opened their FBO business. Patty flew for the forest service during the summer months and provided flight instructor services during the off season. She was also the first female pilot to fly smoke-jumpers out of Missoula in 1980.

Patty and her husband later moved to Bozeman where they opened the Eagle Flight School and maintenance facility. She captained a Cessna Citation based out of Bozeman while attending MSU Grad School focusing on studies of human factors in flight. Later, Patty went to work for the MDT Aeronautics Division as the Director of Safety & Education. As Director, Patty would head search and rescue procedures involving down or lost aircraft in the state.



Guest Speaker, Patty Mitchell



Guest Speaker, Patty Mitchell standing in a 747 engine nacelle.

Patty would go on to pilot for United Airlines for 15 years and retired in 2003. She was type rated in the CE500, B727, B737, DC10, B747, B747-400 and holds the following; CFI, CFII, ATP, and Advanced Ground Instructor. Patty has enjoyed flying in 10 Air Race Classic's with her crew Nora Jessen and BJ Carter. She has also been a member of the Montana Chapter 99's since 1974 where she is currently President and Director of the North West Section. Not only is she a trailblazer for female pilots, but she has also served as Master Coordinator of the Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) program to mentor women who want to be professional pilots. We look forward to seeing her at this year's luncheon!



Administrator's Column

Northwest Mountain Region Changes: Kathryn Vernon, FAA Northwest Mountain Region Regional Administrator retired last month after a long and successful career with FAA. Thanks Kathryn for your good work. **Dave Suomi** has been named the Acting Regional Administrator. Dave is a familiar face to Montana. He has conducted many congressional outreach meetings and participated in our annual aviation conference by conducting FAA listening sessions. Congratulations Dave, we look forward to continuing to work with you. **Randall Fiertz** has been hired as the Northwest Mountain Region Airports Division Manager. Randy is currently the Director, Airport Compliance and Management Analysis in FAA headquarters. Previously he served as the FAA Senior Representative for South Asia in New Delhi. Other positions include those with the Transportation Security Administration, National Civil Aviation Review Commission, Coopers & Lybrand, and American Express Bank. Congratulations Randy, we look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Northwest Mountain Region.

Neptune Aviation Awarded Contract: Neptune Aviation has been awarded a five year contract to provide maintenance services in support of up to 15 Shorts C-23B Sherpa cargo aircraft by the U.S. Forest Service. Neptune will be tasked with converting the former military aircraft to civilian standards. Once these aircraft are completely converted, they will be used for smoke jumping, moving manpower, equipment and supplies, and other specific uses. The contract award means more employment opportunities for mechanics and support staff at the Neptune facility in Missoula.

2015 World Air Games: Todd Ware, a local Bigfork CFI pilot, has been selected by the International Aviation Federation to compete in the 2015 World Air Games in Dubai in December. He will be the only pilot representing the United States in the weight-shift control aircraft category. Weight-shift control aircraft are also known as powered hang gliders. The World Air Games are held every four years and are the largest international air races - the Olympics for pilots. The games will feature an eight-pylon course over water, followed by a spot landing competition on a simulated aircraft carrier deck. Ware's nomination came from the weight-shift control aircraft champion held in Italy in 2009 and he had to be certified by the National Aeronautic Association. Todd operates Air Therapy Aviation, based in Bigfork. In addition to providing sport-pilot and introductory lessons, Ware is a volunteer with the EAA Young Eagle program and offers flight to veterans in the Flathead Valley. He also has a private massage therapy practice in Bigfork. Good luck Todd as you represent the US competing against 24 pilots from around the world.

FAA creates UAS Task Force: Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx set a deadline of November 20 for the newly created UAS Registration Task Force to complete its work. The group comprised of about 30 diverse representatives from the UAS and manned aviation industries, federal government and other stakeholders, will develop recommendations for a streamlined registration process and minimum requirements for registering unmanned aircraft. The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) is represented by Virginia Aviation Director, Randy Burdette. The DOT and FAA have agreed to move expeditiously to consider the Task Force's recommendations once received. The group will advise the Department on which aircraft should be exempt from registration due to a low safety risk, including toys and certain other small UAS. They will explore options for a streamlined system that would make registration less burdensome for commercial UAS operators and may make safety recommendations.



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Department of Transportation

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Mike Tooley, Director

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Calendar of Events

November 15, 2015 – Airport Loan/Grant and Courtesy Car Applications are due. For further information, contact Tim Conway at (406) 444-9547 or email tconway@mt.gov.

January 8-10, 2016 – Winter Survival Clinic. For further information, contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or email hdramstad@mt.gov.

January 20-21, 2016 – Aeronautics Board Meeting. For further information, contact Tim Conway at (406) 444-9547 or email tconway@mt.gov.

February 12-14, 2016 – Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic (FIRC). For further information, contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or email hdramstad@mt.gov.

March 3-5, 2016 – Montana Aviation Conference, Red Lion Colonial Hotel in Helena. For further information, contact the main office at (406) 444-2506.

Loss of Control Accidents in General Aviation Make the NTSB Most Wanted List

Between 2001 and 2011, over 40 percent of general aviation fixed wing accidents occurred because of loss of control (LOC). The NTSB recommends that pilots train and maintain proficiency in the airplanes they fly, and be honest with themselves about their ability to recognize and recover from aerodynamic stalls. Pilots should seek training to ensure that they fully understand stall phenomena, including AOA concepts, and how elements such as weight, center of gravity, turbulence, maneuvering loads, and other factors affect an airplane's stall characteristics. Additionally, airplane owners should consider installing angle of attack indicators in their airplanes as an aid to situational awareness during critical or high workload phases of flight. This article may be found at www.nts.gov/mostwanted.

ATTENTION STUDENTS!

Charlie Taylor/Rosie the Riveter Scholarship

EAA Chapter 344



Helena, MT

www.344.eeachapter.org

The EAA Chapter 344 in Helena is offering a \$500 scholarship to a Helena College full-time 2nd year student in the Aviation Technology Program. Applications, including instructions, have been distributed to all potential applicants and are available on the Helena College website at: <http://unhelena.edu>

The following scholarships will be posted next month: *A Love of Aviation, AOM Flight Training, Blue Goose First Generation Flight, EAA Missoula Chapter 517, Edwards Jet Center, MAAA, MPA ASEF, MPA Junior Pilot, Parrott Family, and Theresa (Nistler) Colley.*



New AWOS-II Weather Station at Choteau Airport

Montana has added another important link to its chain of aviation weather reporting stations around the state. The Choteau Airport recently installed a brand new AWOS-II/AV aviation weather reporting station at CII. The AWOS continually broadcasts basic weather and altimeter information for CII on 130.050 MHz's Weather Information for the site. It can also be heard by dialing (406) 466-2259, or by visiting the manufacturer's website at usawosweb.com. The new AWOS, which was commissioned on October 16, was a collaborative effort and was funded by a grant from the FAA, a loan from the Montana Aeronautics Division and from Teton County.



Airport of the Year Nominations Requested

The MDT Aeronautics Division is soliciting nominations for our annual "Airport of the Year" award. To nominate an airport, send some brief background information of why you think your favorite airport is deserving of the airport of the year. Nominations will be accepted by any individual or entity and will be accepted through the end of the year. MDT Aeronautics will collect the nominations and the winner will be selected in January. Public recognition along with the formal award will be presented to representatives of the winning airport during the Montana Aviation Conference awards luncheon in Helena on March 4.

Nominations can be sent to any of the following:

MAIL:
MDT Aeronautics Division
Attn: Tim Conway
PO Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507

EMAIL: tconway@mt.gov
FAX: (406) 444 - 2519



Pictured from left to right: Lance Bowser, Robert Peccia & Assoc.; Debbie Alke, MDT Aeronautics; Beau Bradley, Ruby Valley Aviation; and Jim Hart, Chairman, Madison County Commission.

**2015 Winner
Twin Bridges
Airport**

Montana Ninety-Nines Airmark Dell Airport

By Ken Wilhelm



Montana Chapter of the 99s completed several airmarking projects this year, the most recent being completed in Dell, MT. It provided a learning experience for them, as their fearless leader, Janine Schwahn, was not able to attend. Linda Marshall led the group, and with her guidance they were able to complete the project. Sounds like they had fun and got the chance to fly, what more could they ask for?

Pictured from left to right: Crissy Weibert, Linda Marshall, Cindy Younkin and Miranda Edwards.

First Large Force Exercise Scheduled in the PRTC

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. – The first Large Force Exercise of military aircraft is scheduled for December 2 and 3 in the newly opened Powder River Training Complex.

During this period, people living under the Powder River 2, PR 3, and Gap B military operating areas can expect to see multiple types of aircraft utilizing these areas simultaneously. During the scheduled times for the exercise, non-military aircraft should thoroughly review the Federal Aviation Administration's Notices to Airmen, or NOTAMs, and review flight plans to avoid these areas and altitudes where aircraft will be participating.

This exercise is designed to train aircrew under realistic scenarios that support full spectrum operations against modern threats and replicate today's contingency operations. This type of training is limited to 10 days each year, with each exercise lasting no more than three days, and only occur once every three months.

The new PRTC officially opened September 17 upon its charting by the FAA, and military flying operations began September 18. This will be the first LFE for the PRTC and this news release serves as the official public notification for the event.

For more information on the PRTC, visit <http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/prtc.asp>. Those interested in PRTC scheduling information should visit <https://sua.faa.gov>.

As a reminder, aviators intending to fly in the PRTC are always encouraged to check official NOTAMs prior to flight. This can be done by calling 1-800-WXBRIEF, or visiting online at <http://www.1800wxbrief.com> and <https://pilotweb.nas.faa.gov>.



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Aeronautics Division
Winter Survival Clinic

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2016 Winter Survival Clinic

Hosted by the MDT Aeronautics Division

Clinic Dates: January 8 - 10, 2016

**Clinic Location: The MDT Aeronautics Division
Office & Lincoln Airport.**

Attendee Information

Name:	
Name (2):	
Name (3):	
Name (4):	
Company:	
Address:	
City:	
State/Province:	
Zip/Postal Code:	

Main Contact:	
Email:	
Phone:	

Special Needs:

Registration Fees

Clinic Fee:	\$120.00
x Number of Attendees:	
Subtotal:	
Total Due:	

Payments must be received by: **December 30, 2015**

Payment

- Check payable to:** MDT Aeronautics Division
- Cash**

For further information regarding the

2016 Winter Survival

CONTACT MDT AERONAUTICS DIVISION

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation>

(406) 444 - 9568

Good Luck Jerri!



Pictured from left to right: George Denton; Jerri Miller, Secretary; Kerry LaDuke, Chairman; Dennis Skattum; Ray Sundling; and Don Wilson, Vice Chair.

County and city commissioners come and go, but Jerri Miller has been a consistent presence on the Airport Board who has served Park County and the City of Livingston for 26 years. Since 1989, she has served as the Airport Board Secretary. As we all know, people in these positions carry a lot of the load month-by-month and, in particular, during airport improvement projects or when regulatory or other airport issues arise. The Airport Board serves in an advisory capacity to the City of Livingston and Park County for the airports in Livingston, Gardiner and Wilsall.

On October 27, a meeting and celebration were held at the Rib and Chop House in Livingston to mark the event. Rick Donaldson, Airport Group Manager at Robert Peccia and Associates noted that Jerri began her service when the Gardiner Airport Master Plan and EA were underway. From that point forward, and through seven FAA Airport Improvement Project grants at Livingston's Mission Field, "Jerri has been our "Go To" person for records, signatures, coordination and just plain getting things done. We really appreciate all she has done to make their projects a success!"

Good luck in your future endeavors, Jerri!

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S•T•E•M
Science Technology Engineering Math
BILLINGS

STEM BILLINGS PRESENTS FOCUS ON FLIGHT EVENT NOVEMBER 14TH

The Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools will present a Focus on Flight Event geared for students in grades two through six on Saturday, November 14, from 1 pm to 4 pm at McKinley Elementary School located at 820 North 31st Street in Billings. The Foundation has teamed up with partners in industry, the Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program, and the MDT Aeronautics Division to provide a fun and interesting afternoon of hands-on activities to help kids learn about the principles and science of flight. The event is open to the first 100 students who register, at: <http://stembillings.weebly.com>.

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