



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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MDT Aeronautics' 37th Annual Search Pilot Clinic Successful

MDT Aeronautics conducted the 37th annual search pilot clinic at the Missoula airport on the weekend of September 11th-13th. Ground school classes in mountain flying, search technique, use of direction finding equipment for ELTs, and aviation meteorology were held in the Museum of Mountain Flying.

The ELT portion of the clinic was taught by longtime Helena pilot, Mike Korn. Participants gained hands on experience with the DF equipment in field exercises on the Missoula airport, including use of car top antennas to locate simulated ELTs.

Rod Alne and James Collins of The Peak, Inc. of Butte conducted field exercises in air crash survival at Kelly Island fishing access site on the Bitterroot River. The class included shelter, fire craft, first aid, and signaling skills. Students had to cross the river to the island in a small inflatable boat for the exercise.

The Cessna 182 aircraft for this year's clinic were provided by private owners under contract to MDT Aeronautics. Pilots flew simulated search missions based out of St. Ignatius, Superior, Rock Creek, Seeley Lake, Stevensville, and Hamilton. Each pilot received about 3 hours of dual instruction from well qualified, high time flight instructors, including Brent Vetter of Helena; Stan Monger of Lewistown; Pete Graf of Missoula; Tim Dwyer of Havre; and Trevor Throop of Victor. The important mission of air search and rescue in Montana would not be possible without our network of 14 district search coordinators and 300 volunteer search



Instructors James Collins and Rod Alne of The Peak, Inc. of Butte presented air crash survival training at Kelly Island Fishing Access Site.

pilots throughout the state. MDT Aeronautics wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the Museum of Mountain Flying, Neptune Aviation Services, Minuteman Aviation, Dottie Dwyer, and Jeff Kitsmiller of the National Weather Service for making our annual training event a success.



(LEFT) Instructor Mike Korn teaches pilot Paul Gordon how to use direction finding equipment to locate ELTs in a field exercise on the ramp at the Missoula airport.

(RIGHT) Flight instructor Tim Dwyer goes over the preflight inspection with Kalispell pilot Chris Morton, left, and Search District 1 Coordinator, Dan Lilja, right, before leaving for their simulated search missions near St. Ignatius.

Administrator's Column

Condolences: Heaven got a good one recently with the passing of R.T. Adkins. R.T. was a great supporter of aviation and loved flying his Cessna 180 in the mountains of northwest Montana. On most days, when the weather allowed, R.T. could be found working to better the backcountry airstrips of Schafer Meadows and Meadow Creek. He was a true gentleman and will be missed. In memory of R.T., his son Trevort and his wife Vicki, R.T.'s daughter Shawn and R.T.'s good friend Zack Anderson flew into Schafer Meadows recently and made the following entry in the pilot sign-in book: "RT's last flight in." Condolences to Elaine and family.

FAA Extension: Funding for the FAA will be extended through March 31, 2016. Rep. Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), who serves as the Ranking Member on the committee, have both said that this will be the only extension of FAA funding before a longer term reauthorization measure is put in place. The current FAA authorization, which expired Sept. 30, was enacted following 23 consecutive short-term extensions that stretched from September 2007 to February 2012. Let's hope Congress moves to a long term reauthorization bill by the March 31 expiration date.

Neptune Awarded Contracts: Good news, Neptune Aviation has been awarded four new contracts for firefighting services to the U.S. Forest Service. This means that all of Neptune's jets will be working next season. The U.S. Forest Service has been working to upgrade its contract assets propeller-driven fire tankers to jet-powered tankers with larger capacities. Neptune is the leader in developing the new jet tankers, retrofitting the BAe-6 jets from Europe into computer-controlled tankers capable of dropping up to 3,000 gallons of water or retardant. Next season Neptune will have six P2-V prop tankers and six jets under contract.

Small Community Air Service Development Grants Announced: The USDOT recently awarded eleven grant proposals. Ten (10) of the awards were made to communities proposing a revenue guarantee, or a revenue guarantee with marketing support, as means to attract new carriers, restore lost service or capacity, and/or provide air travelers with access to additional markets. These communities include: Tallahassee, Florida; Salmon, Idaho; Traverse City, Michigan; **Great Falls, Montana**; Fargo, North Dakota; Redmond, Oregon; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; College Station, Texas; Pasco, Washington; and Riverton, Wyoming. One (1) grant will be used by an EAS community, Presque Isle, Maine, to market existing air service. All of the selected communities are contributing financial resources to their project and most have established public-private partnerships to enhance community participation. A total of 53 grant applications were received from communities in 30 states. Great Falls will receive \$385,000 to be used for a revenue guarantee to attract new service between Great Falls and Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, targeting United Airlines. Congratulations to Airport Director John Faulkner and his team at the Great Falls International Airport.

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Administrator's Column Continued...

Giving Back Grants: The AOPA Foundation provides grants up to \$10,000 to organizations that help promote aviation Education and Safety, preserves airports, increases the pilot population and facilitates charitable work being done through general aviation. This year's recipients are: **Build a Plane:** funds will be used for an aircraft-building project designed to be a gang intervention program. Participants will build and refurbish an Aeronca Champ to airworthiness condition. Upon completion of the project, participants will be given flight training in the completed Champ, which qualifies as a light sport aircraft; **Hope Flight Foundation:** provides life-saving flights for seriously ill children funds will be used to cover upcoming flights when costly ambulance rides and commercial air transport are not an option; **Sophie Gerson Healthy Youth:** a weeklong aviation and space camp at the New York City Center for Space Science Education will be held. The camp will be available 30+ low-income students from New York middle schools. Students will explore the principles of flight, train on flight simulators, build and fly model airplanes, and take part in simulated space missions. Thanks to AOPA and to these organizations – your work will touch the lives of many young people and introduce them to general aviation.

Calendar of Events

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

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

March 3-5, 2016– Montana Aviation Conference, Red Lion Colonial Hotel in Helena. For further information contact Tim Conway at (406) 444-9547 or email tconway@mt.gov.

Recent changes to pilot services provided by FAA flight service

Effective September 24th, Flight Watch, or En Route Flight Advisory Service has been consolidated into routine Flight Service Station frequencies. The dedicated frequency for Flight Watch, 122.0 MHz has been decommissioned. All of the pilot services previously provided by Flight Watch will still be available through Flight Service, i.e., Great Falls Radio. Hazardous Area Reporting Services and Remote Airport Advisory Service are also being phased out as pilots make use of modern methods of satellite search and rescue tracking devices, and take advantage of AWOS weather reporting stations. None of the affected areas or airports are located in Montana.

In Memory



Rowland Thomas "R.T." Adkins Jr., 83, of Kalispell, passed away on Sept. 9, 2015.

He was the fifth of seven children born to Rowland and Rosa Adkins on Sept. 6, 1932, in Livingston. He was born in the back of a rumble seat Model A Ford. He liked to joke that he's been cold ever since. He is survived by his loving wife, Elaine Toole Adkins, of Bigfork; daughters, Vickie Adkins of DeForest, Wisconsin, and Shawn Adkins-Smith of Kalispell; son, Trevert Adkins of Whitefish; stepdaughters, Cherie Hansen, Bonnie Boon and Carrine Toole, all of Bigfork; sister, Marge Bothman, of Denice, Florida; brother, Barry Adkins, of Payson, Arizona; 13 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

He was preceded in death by sisters, Madeline Woods and Verna Adkins; and brothers, Neil Adkins and James Adkins.

R.T. was raised on a ranch in Livingston and graduated from Park County High. He served from 1952 to 1954 in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was under a nuclear bomb test in Nevada named "Upshot Knothole." After being honorably discharged, he worked on a ranch in Thompson River. R.T. moved to Kalispell in 1955, married Jean Sager and started driving logging trucks. In 1964 he purchased his own truck and remained a logger, owned Adkins Trucking and A&A Transport before retiring in 2005. In 1994 R.T. married Elaine Toole and they made their home in Kalispell.

R.T. was a lifetime member of Knights of Columbus and served on the board of the Montana Logging Association, board of the Montana Motor Carriers and was a longtime member and director of the Log Truckers Association. He was also a member of the Montana Pilots Association, Experimental Aircraft Association, Antique Aircraft Association and National Association of Atomic Veterans. He was honored with Lumberman of the Year in 2013 by the Northwest Montana Hoo-Hoo 187.

R.T. loved being outdoors in the mountains, horseback riding, white water rafting, camping, hunting, fishing and hiking. Flying was a passion; his first plane was a Piper Super Cub, but he especially enjoyed flying his 1956 Cessna 180 in the mountains and was a certified mountain search pilot. He enjoyed giving back and helping to maintain Schafer Meadows airstrip. He also helped coach and pull chute gates for the local rodeo club. He will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor and practical jokes, love for his family, his many hours of volunteer service, strong integrity, kind heart and how his whole face would light up when he smiled.

Memorials in his name for improvements at Meadow Creek Landing Strip can be sent to the Montana Pilots Association (MPA), c/o Scott Newpower, P.O. Box 1582, Seeley Lake, MT 59868.



The FAA's National Based Aircraft Inventory Program

Your help is needed to improve the accuracy of based aircraft data maintained by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The **FAA's National Based Aircraft Inventory Program (NBAIP)** requires Nonprimary NPIAS airports to enter the aircraft that are based at their airports into the program's website so counts of based aircraft can be validated. In order to ensure your airport is classified correctly in the upcoming National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) Report to Congress, and therefore eligible to receive Nonprimary Entitlement funding in FY17 and FY18, you should have your counts validated in the NBAIP system by **November 1st**.

Based aircraft counts are one of the criteria that can be used to classify Nonprimary airports as National, Regional, Local, or Basic airports. Criteria for these classifications can be found in the FAA ASSET 2 Report (https://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/ga_study/media/2014-ASSET-2-Report.pdf).

Airports that do not meet the criteria to be included in one of those four classifications are considered Unclassified and are ineligible to receive Nonprimary entitlements.

The NBAIP can be accessed through the program's website at: <https://basedaircraft.com/>. The site requires the user to register and set up a username and password.

- Only NPIAS airports with service levels of Commercial Service, Reliever, or General Aviation are required to participate. (Non-NPIAS and the Primary airports should report their based aircraft counts directly to their inspectors.)
- For these Nonprimary NPIAS airports, based aircraft counts for single-engine, multi-engine, jets, and helicopters for the FAA's Airport Master Record Form 5010-1 (Items 90-93) must come from the data on this site and this site is now a component of their annual inspections.
- Frequently Asked Questions about the National Based Aircraft Inventory Program, including a definition of 'based aircraft', can be found at: <https://basedaircraft.com/public/FrequentlyAskedQuestions.aspx>

The site is to be used by airport managers, sponsors, and their authorized personnel to review and maintain their lists of based aircraft. State aviation offices and specific FAA personnel are also authorized to use the site for the support of the airports in this purpose.

Please contact your ADO Project Manager if you have any questions, or send your questions to basedaircraftsupport@basedaircraft.com.

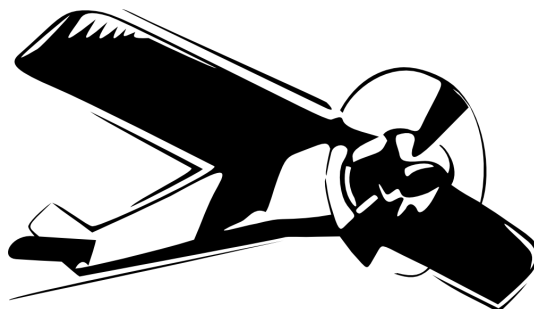


Learn Winter Survival Skills!



Picture taken at the 2015 Winter Survival Clinic at the Duvall Inn in Lewistown, MT

Be prepared for winter flying by learning and practicing winter survival skills at the MDT Aeronautics Winter Survival Clinic scheduled for January 8th-10th, 2016. Ground school will be taught Friday evening at the Helena airport by Rod Alne and his instructors from The Peak, Inc. of Butte. Topics to be covered will include proper selection of clothing, how to prevent and treat cold injuries, nutrition, and construction of improvised winter shelters. The instructors will conduct an equipment check on Saturday morning for those participating in the field portion of the clinic. The field exercise is planned for the Lincoln airport where participants will build and camp overnight in improvised winter shelters—snow caves. The clinic will conclude Sunday morning with a demonstration of signaling devices and techniques. Registration information, fees, required equipment list may be found at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/.



Yellowstone Airport

Every year unique aircraft seem to find their way to Yellowstone Airport! This year, it was a privilege to observe three particular aircraft; Sikorsky Skycrane, Beechcraft Starship, and the Convair 580. The Skycrane is a twin engine heavy-lift helicopter, which was designed by Sikorsky for the United States Army. The military version is the CH-54 Tarhe, while the civilian version is the S-64 Skycrane. This heavy-lift helicopter is often used for firefighting operations, due to its payload and ability to accept water-dropping equipment. This particular Sky Crane that visited the Yellowstone Airport was in route to Billings.



The Beechcraft Starship is a twin turboprop business aircraft that was designed as a successor to the King Air line, as it was designed to travel faster and carry more passengers. This aircraft is particularly unique because of its canard (small forewing placed ahead of the main wing) design, and the “pusher” engine/propeller configuration. The canard improves stall characteristics and the rear mounted engines that push rather than pull the aircraft, provide a quieter ride. According to the pilot of the Starship that visited Yellowstone, this is one of only a few starships that are still in operation.



The Convair 580 commonly operated as an airliner in its early years, but is now frequently used in firefighting efforts. It can carry approximately 2,100 gallons of slurry (fire retardant), making it a viable air tanker. Convair 580's were stationed at the Yellowstone Tanker Base for a couple weeks, to assist in local wildland firefighting efforts.

Yellowstone Airport is happy to accommodate these unique aircraft, as well as all others, and is looking forward to many more aviation visitors in years to come.



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The Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC) is set for February in Helena

MDT Aeronautics will conduct its annual Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC) in Helena on February 12th-14th, 2016. This an opportunity for CFIs to renew their unexpired instructor certificate per 14 CFR 61.197(2)(iii). The 16-hour FAA-approved course will begin at 5 pm on Friday, run all day on Saturday, and conclude at noon on Sunday. Flight instructors will receive the most up-to-date information on FAA policies and regulations, TSA requirements for flight schools and foreign flight students, and the best practices for effective teaching. During the course, you'll sit next to some of the most experienced GA pilots and flight instructors in Montana. The course is targeted towards flight instructors, but is open to anyone with an interest in general aviation. First time instructor attendees at this MDT Aeronautics FIRC will be awarded the coveted flight instructor wings designed by Frank Wiley, the first Director of the Montana Aeronautics Commission. Registration and fee information may be found at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/.