



## Art Contest Awards Ceremony Held in Helena

The annual statewide Aviation Awareness Art Contest sponsored by The Montana Department of Transportation's Aeronautics Division received 290 entries this year. The theme for the artwork was anything relating to aviation and entries could be in black and white, water colors or colored pencil. An awards ceremony for all first place winners was held in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building on Friday, June 13. Also provided for the first-place winners was an airplane flight for them and their family members to Helena. Once the awards ceremony concluded, winners and family members received a tour of the Capitol building lead by MDT's Director, Mike Tooley, followed by lunch at the Windbag Café in the historic downtown walking mall. After lunch, the winners and their families were flown back to their hometowns. Second and third place winners received trophies.

The following is a list of this year's winners:

### Category 1

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Angus Anderson - Bigfork
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Carly Garrick - Polson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Steven Wolfe - Polson

### Category 2

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Rebecca Brannon - Trego
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Hailey Helm - Polson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Ashley Anderson - Bigfork

### Category 3

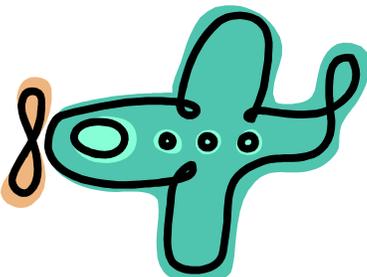
- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Garrett Gaskill - Broadus
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Malique Aimsback – Heart Butte
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Teela Young Running Crane – Heart Butte



*Pictured (l-r) Angus Anderson, Director Tooley, Rebecca Brannon and Garrett Gaskill.*



*The winners and their families attended the awards ceremony at the state Capital with words of congratulations from MDT Director Mike Tooley, Aeronautics Administrator Debbie Alke and Safety & Education Bureau Chief Dave Hoerner.*



# Administrator's Column

**First FAA Type Certificate:** The FAA has approved Billings Flying Service for a restricted type certificate on the Chinook CH 47D helicopter. These helicopters were sold through military auctions earlier this year and purchased by Billings Flying Service; one of three civilian operators and the first to obtain the restricted category type certificate so quickly. Billings Flying Service is a second-generation helicopter company that specializes in the operation of high quality, heavy lift helicopters such as the Sikorsky S61, Eurocopter 330J and a variety of Bell mediums to meet the diverse needs of its broad clientele. According to co-owners Al Blain and Gary Blain, the certificate will enable them to integrate the CH 47D into their fleet with modifications underway. The Chinook offers the heaviest lift capacity available and will considerably outperform the Sky Crane on a hot, high day making it the most productive helicopter there is. Congratulations and safe flying to Billings Flying Service.

**Drone deadline continues to slip:** A report by the Department of Transportation Inspector General says the FAA will not meet the September 30, 2015 deadline set by Congress for integrating drones into the skies with manned aircraft. It is reported that the FAA is significantly behind schedule due to unresolved technological, regulatory and privacy issues. [www.oig.dot.gov/sites/dot/files/FAA%20Oversight%20of%20Unmanned%20Aircraft%20Systems%5E6-26-14\\_0.pdf](http://www.oig.dot.gov/sites/dot/files/FAA%20Oversight%20of%20Unmanned%20Aircraft%20Systems%5E6-26-14_0.pdf).

**Third Class Medical Update:** The FAA announced at EAA AirVenture that it has sent a proposal to reform the third class medical certification process to the Department of Transportation for review. FAA Administrator Michael Huerta wouldn't disclose specifics. The Department of Transportation and the Office of Management and Budget must both assess the proposal prior to a notice for public comment to be circulated. The wait is not over but the FAA has indicated its desire to complete the process quickly.

**Flight Service Update:** The FAA is looking for ways to create a more efficient system for delivering flight services. Two current contracts will be expiring: the FAA DUAT System expires in September 2014 and the Lockheed Martin contract expires December 2015. AOPA has asked the FAA to maintain the system as it exists today until the agency works with the users to assess their needs and then conducts a competitive bid process to modernize the flight service system. In addition, AOPA wants to ensure information continues to be available at no charge.

**Neptune's Engine in Disney's Movie Planes:** If you plan to watch Disney's new release, "Planes: Fire and Rescue" you will hear the sound of Neptune Aviation's P2V engines as they landed a featured role. This is the same sound that you may hear in the sky as we are in the midst of fire season. The sound of the engine is used on the character Cabbie, an ex-military transport plane and the main antagonist of the film. The character has more than the sound of its engine in common with Neptune Aviation's P2V; they share the same background. The P2V's retired as military planes in 1960's and 70's and for the last 20 years Neptune Aviation has been using them to fight wildfires.



## *Montana and the Sky*

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Mike Tooley, Director

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# Calendar of Events

**August 15-17** - Montana Fun Weekend fly-in and car show at Cut Bank International Airport. Breakfast will be available on Saturday and Sunday mornings with various events and concessions Friday night and all day Saturday. Top three airplane awards of \$100 each will be given on Saturday. Updates can be found at [www.cutbankairport.org](http://www.cutbankairport.org) or on Facebook at Cut Bank International Airport.

**August 16** – Russian Flat Work Session, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Hosted by Central Montana Hanger. For further information contact Pete Smith at (406) 366-1435 or [pete@hcr-inc.com](mailto:pete@hcr-inc.com).

**August 22-24** – Pilot Search Clinic, Lewistown, MT. For further information contact Dave Hoerner at (406) 444-9568 or [dhoerner@mt.gov](mailto:dhoerner@mt.gov).

**August 30-31** – Mountain Madness Air Show featuring the USAF Thunderbirds. Glacier Park International Airport (FCA). For further information call (406) 758-2800 or [info@kalispellchamber.com](mailto:info@kalispellchamber.com) or visit [www.montanairshow.com](http://www.montanairshow.com).

**September 6** – Columbus (Wolterman Memorial) Airport fly-in with breakfast service starting at 8 a.m. For further information contact Hardin Graham: (406) 780-0034; Alan Drain: (406) 780-0171; or Mark O'Bryant: (406) 696-6923.

**September 6** – Havre (KHVR) Air Fair fly-in breakfast, airplane rides for youth, sky bowling. For further information contact Willie Hurd 406-265-2977 or [pronghorn@mcn.net](mailto:pronghorn@mcn.net).

**September 6** – Annual Polson Airport fly-in, pancake breakfast at 8:00 a.m. View some fantastic aircraft from homebuilt, vintage, warbirds, floatplanes to general aviation aircraft, Model RC aircraft and Skydivers. Static demonstration aircraft of Lifeflight. Day activities conclude with the Soroptomists Wine Festival and Art Auction. For further information call (406) 883-4036 or [urbmt@yahoo.com](mailto:urbmt@yahoo.com).

**September 11-12** - Montana Community Airport Association Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, Great Falls. More info contact Fred Leistiko (406) 270-4242 or [www.mtcaa.org](http://www.mtcaa.org).

**September 13** – MPA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Seeley Lake 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fly-in, Seeley Lake Airport. Montana Pilots Association, Montana Department of Transportation and the Seeley Lake Aviation Foundation will be providing food and beverages from noon to 3:00 p.m. (or until food runs out). For further information call (406) 444-2506.

**September 20** – Missoula GA barbeque, noon to 4 p.m. Share a day of celebrating general aviation at the “MSO GA BBQ!” Chefs extraordinaire Cris Jensen and Brian Ellestad in their highly anticipated annual appearance. Fantastic restored cars and hotrods by the Garden City Rods and Customs car club, displays of MSO aircraft of special interest including those of the Museum of Mountain Flying. Pilots from around the State are invited to attend, park at Northstar Jet. Mark your calendar! Don't miss this one! For further information contact Gary Matson at (406) 370-6584.

**September 20** – Wokal Field (Glasgow) Open House/Fly-In. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch, car displays. For further information contact Lucas Locke at [airport@valleycountymt.gov](mailto:airport@valleycountymt.gov) or (406) 263-7010 or (406) 228-2719.



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 1,800 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$702. This includes \$483 for postage.

# Summer Work Sessions in Full Swing

Thanks to many hardworking volunteers, much has been accomplished at the back county work sessions this summer.

The annual Spotted Bear Work Session was held on May 24. The day was spent cleaning up the airport, installing new tie down ropes, cutting grass, digging a new fire pit and rolling the runway to get rid of loose gravel. The runway cones were moved south to give the grass in the old runway a year to grow.

This year's program was well attended with most participants camping out for Saturday evening. The Flathead Chapter of the Montana Pilots Association provided salad and steaks for dinner.

The Meadow Creek work session was held on June 21. Eleven workers were in attendance (two of them from Australia who happened to be camping pitched in to help). Volunteers cut up downed trees for fire wood, used the paint striper to freshen up the white concrete center circle on the runway and installed a "No Shooting" sign. Chuck Manning and the Kalispell EAA Chapter provided a steak lunch for all the hard workers.

The Del Bonita Work Session was held July 12. About 10 planes, four motor homes and three dozen people showed up to offer their assistance. MDT Deputy Director Pat Wise and Ken Wilhelm from MDT's Aeronautics Division flew in from Helena. Pat cleared weeds and Ken filled gopher holes. Pat Wise thanked the volunteers and gave an update on MDT activities during lunch and Rosella Bjornson, the first female Canadian airline pilot, spoke on the upcoming release of her image on the Canadian Stamp.

The ever popular Schafer Meadows Work Session was held July 19 & 20. This year there was a smaller turnout due to high winds and smoke from Canada. Seven airplanes and around 30 plus volunteers (including Forest Service personnel) replaced a picnic table, cleaned out-houses, fixed benches, cleaned the campground, moved runway cones, changed water filters and painted.

Loren Smith of Great Falls hauled in a delicious feast for all the workers of barbecued pork, corn on the cob, fruit salad, pasta salad, rolls, homemade ice cream with fruit, ice tea and lemonade: a perfect end to a long day!

We would like to thank all who attended these work sessions and to take the time to make the airstrips safe and looking new again.



*Perry Brown of Columbia Falls installing a new fire pit at Spotted Bear.*



*Homemade ice cream and the beautiful Great Bear Wilderness – it doesn't get any better than this!*



*Pat Wise, MDT's Deputy Director cleaning up the area round the cones at Del Bonita Airstrip.*



*Mike Rogan, MDT Aeronautics freshens up the concrete circle on the Meadow Creek runway.*



*Volunteers replaced one of the picnic tables at Schafer Meadows camp ground.*

# Two Receive Master Accreditations

Master Instructors LLC and the International Aerobatic Club (IAC) take great pride in announcing a significant aviation accomplishment on the part of Jeanne E. MacPherson, an aerobatic flight instructor and resident of Helena, Montana. Recently, Jeanne's accreditation as a Master CFI-Aerobatic (Certificated Flight Instructor-Aerobatic) was renewed by Master Instructors LLC, the international accrediting authority for the Master Instructor designation as well as the FAA-approved "Master Instructor Program." She first earned this national professional accreditation in 2006, has held it continuously since then, and is one of only 24 worldwide to earn the credential five (5) times.

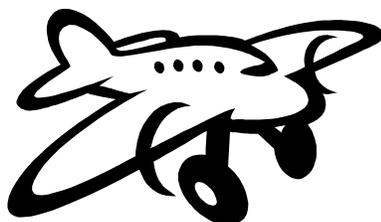
Jeanne owns and operates Mountain Airdance ([www.MountainAirdanceLLC.com/](http://www.MountainAirdanceLLC.com/)) at Helena Regional Airport (HLN). She is a Helena-area aerobatic flight instructor who also serves as a FAASTeam representative in the FAA's Helena FSDO area.

Master Instructors LLC also takes great pride in announcing a significant aviation accomplishment on the part of Michael T. Vivion, the 1998 National Aviation Safety Counselor of the Year and a resident of Bozeman, Montana. Recently, Mike was granted the title of Master Instructor Emeritus (MIE / MCFI-E) by Master Instructors LLC, the international accrediting authority for the Master Instructor designation as well as the FAA-approved "Master Instructor Program." He first earned this national professional accreditation in 2002, has held it continuously since then, and is one of only 18 worldwide to earn the credential seven (7) times.

Mike recently retired from his position as a check airman and teaching specialist in the University of Minnesota, Crookston's (CKN) aviation program. The 1998 National Aviation Safety Counselor of the Year, he has since relocated to Bozeman, Montana.

In the words of former FAA Administrator Marion Blakey, "The Master Instructor accreditation singles out the best that the right seat has to offer."

Congratulations to Jeanne and Mike, well deserved.



## In Memory

Robert ("Bob") Arlendo Redding died on Jan. 29, 2014, in Laurel, Montana, of complications from multiple myeloma. He was 87.

Bob was born April 23, 1926, in Seattle, Washington. He was the second of four sons born to Ferdinand Redding and Mabel Prevost Redding, originally of Randolph County, N.C.

Bob graduated from Queen Anne High School in Seattle in 1944, received his AA degree from La Junta Jr. College in La Junta, Colo., and his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Colorado State College of Education (now the University of Northern Colorado) in Greeley, Colo. He was on active duty in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1944-1946 and in the U.S. Air Force from 1950-1951. He continued his military service in the National Guard and Army Reserves, retiring in 1974 with the rank of Major; and most recently serving as Commander, 125th Ordnance Battalion, in Billings.

Bob was an Associate Professor at Eastern Montana College (now MSU Billings) for 20 years, retiring in 1977. He taught mathematics, astronomy and other sciences. Prior to teaching at Eastern, he taught math at Palmer High School in Colorado Springs, Colo. He enjoyed teaching and was gratified to hear from former students, many of whom also became teachers.

In the mid-1960s Bob obtained his private pilot's license and began a passionate 50-year second career and hobby building and repairing small aircraft. He was an active member of the Experimental Aircraft Association and enjoyed attending "fly-ins" and taking cross-country road trips to purchase aircraft.

Bob married Lois May Plews in 1946, and he is survived by their son, Gregory Robert Redding (Emily Roller) of Fairfax, Va., and grandchildren, Katherine (Kara), Brian and Olivia Redding, all of the Washington, D.C., area. Bob is survived by his wife of 20 years, Mary Hopwood Redding of Laurel, and her family. Bob is also survived by his brother Harry of Washington State. Bob was predeceased by his parents and by brothers Ferdinand Jr. (Jack) and John.

# Flying by Night: The MacDonald Pass Airway Beacon

For eighty years, airplane pilots have relied on a chain of lighted airway beacons to steer their way across western Montana at night. Montana's beacons are the remnants of a once transcontinental system that guided commercial and private pilots across the United States that began in 1934. Although the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had largely abandoned the beacon system by 1972 as modern navigational aids made them obsolete, the Montana Aeronautics Division still operates and maintains seventeen beacons, making Montana the last state that still uses the beacons to guide pilots. One of those beacons still lights the way over MacDonald Pass, towering above a Forest Service campground named for the first person to fly a plane over the continental divide, Cromwell Dixon. The MacDonald Pass beacon was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its contribution and significance to the aviation history of Montana.

The US Army and the Post Office Department were the first federal agencies to experiment with lighted airway beacons in the early 1920s. In 1926, the US Department of Commerce's newly created Bureau of Air Commerce began designating airway corridors for transcontinental air mail and commercial pilots. Between 1926 and 1938, the bureau created 18,000 miles of national airway corridors and installed 1,550 lighted beacons to mark the corridor for night flying. The bureau designated the Northern Transcontinental Airway corridor between Minneapolis and Seattle in 1934 and began construction of beacons along its length shortly afterwards. In Montana, the corridor consisted of 84 beacons and intermediate landing fields every fifty miles; along with airports at Miles City, Billings, Bozeman, Helena, and Missoula. Beacons eventually stretched across Montana from Miles City to Lookout Pass on the Northern Transcontinental route and from Monida Pass to Great Falls on the National Parks Airway.

The last beacon to be switched on in the Northern Transcontinental Airway was at MacDonald Pass on November 10, 1935. The completion of the beacon system across Montana was cause for celebration in Helena. As the beacon flashed in the distance on the Continental Divide, an estimated 4,000 people braved frigid weather and attended an event at Helena Municipal Airport to celebrate. The *Helena Independent* called the celebration the "Hanging of the Golden Lantern marking the inauguration of the night flight of the Northwest Airlines following completion of the beacon system from the Twin Cities to the coast." For over eight decades, the beacon has faithfully stood sentinel at the crest of the Continental divide, safely directing private and commercial pilots over the mountains in all kinds of weather.

The MacDonald Pass beacon is typical of the airway beacons constructed between 1934 and 1945. It consists of a 91-foot tower crowned by a steel platform upon which the rotating beacon sits under a Lexan dome (it replaced the original glass dome a few years ago). In 1931, the U.S. Patent Office granted John Bartow a patent for a new type of rotating beacon which emitted one candle power every  $1/10^{\text{th}}$  of a second that could easily be seen over the rugged terrain of the Rocky Mountains. The beacon itself consists of a 24-inch reflector amplified by three lenses. The design made the beacon light distinguishable from other lights over a much wider range than previous signals. The beacon also included red and green directional lights that corresponded with the air route; the red course lights flashed a Morse code signal identifying the beacon to pilots. The Bartow beacon rotated at six rpm's and included a spare light bulb in case one should burn-out. The bulb reportedly could be automatically placed in position within a few seconds of the primary bulb's failure. A shack adjacent to the tower housed a self-starting gasoline-powered generator that originally provided the electricity to the beacon. In 1942, the Montana Power Company hooked the beacon up to a newly installed power line that crossed the pass. The beacon required only minimal maintenance by a Civil Air Administration mechanic who regularly visited the site, even in subzero weather, to ensure everything worked properly.

The seventeen beacons under the Montana Aeronautics Division's administration are currently maintained by Mike Rogan and Ken Wilhelm, who, like their predecessors, are responsible for ensuring the continued operation of Montana's historic airway beacons.



# Governor Recognizes August as General Aviation Appreciation Month

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK  
GOVERNOR



Angela McLean  
LT. GOVERNOR

August 6, 2014

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to recognize August 2014 as "General Aviation Appreciation Month" in the State of Montana.

General aviation is vital to the economic growth and prosperity of our nation. It connects major airports to rural communities and efficiently moves goods and services which could otherwise take several days for transport. General Aviation allows for people to reach faraway places, fulfilling their dreams of travel and adventure. Montana's 121 public-use airports are used by more than 2,500 aircraft, 4,000 pilots, and 290,000 visitors to our State each year. General aviation plays a critical role in Montana's economy and well-being.

I encourage all Montanans to recognize August 2014 as "General Aviation Appreciation Month."

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Steve Bullock, written in a cursive style.

STEVE BULLOCK  
Governor



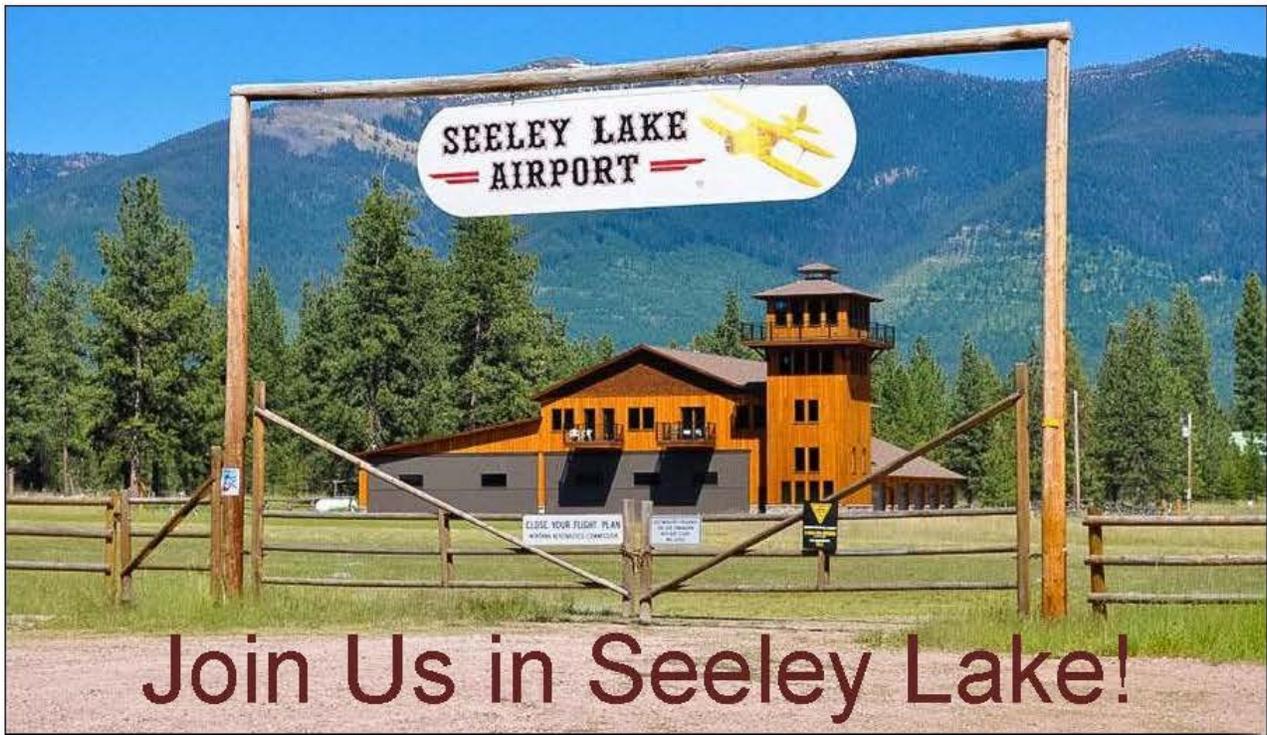
## **Rocky Mountain College Adds Airline Bridge Programs, UAS Course**

The Aviation Program at Rocky Mountain College in Billings has recently announced formal bridge programs with both SkyWest Airlines and Cape Air, which started operations in Montana this past year. “SkyWest has employed more of our graduates than anyone else,” said Director of Aviation Dan Hargrove. “We’re pleased SkyWest values the education and training our graduates have. We know SkyWest is a great place to start a career.” In the program, students still enrolled at the college are hired as flight instructors there, spend a day at SkyWest headquarters getting oriented to the company, and have a clear path to the final interview and employment after graduation. The FAA recently approved Rocky Mountain College graduates to be able to get the restricted ATP certificate and get hired at an airline with only 1000 flight hours rather than 1500 required for most pilots.

The Aviation Program also just signed an agreement with Cape Air. The program is similar to the one at SkyWest, except students are sent to a short course at company headquarters in Massachusetts, and then fly as second in command on revenue flights, logging valuable multi-engine time while also finishing college and working as a flight instructor.

Accreditation of the program was just re-affirmed by the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI). The original accreditation was awarded in 2009 and is renewed every five years. “It takes a tremendous amount of effort for our staff and faculty to develop a self-study report and host visitors from AABI for three days. They looked at everything, and confirmed our flight training, safety, curriculum and assessment meet the highest international standards for collegiate aviation,” Hargrove said. There are only 27 other colleges or universities world-wide with collegiate flight education programs accredited by AABI.

Finally, a new course in Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones) at Rocky Mountain College has drawn a lot of attention. The course is taught by Professor Scott Wilson who is an aviation attorney. Wilson pointed out, “Not every student wants a career in a cockpit. Our course will give them an edge if they pursue employment in the rapidly expanding field of UAS operations.” The college recently purchased six small unmanned aircraft for students to train with. In addition, the course includes an overview of the UAS field including regulatory and operational considerations. The college is making plans to expand the program in the near future.



**SEPTEMBER 13, 2014**

## The Montana Pilots Association 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & The Seeley Lake Airport 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



Join us September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to celebrate two outstanding aviation organizations and the many years of service they have contributed to Montana Pilots! The Montana Pilots Association (MPA) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1939 to serve the interests and needs of general aviation in Montana. The Seeley Lake Airport was established in 1964 and is frequented by recreational flyers and utilized by a number of aviation activities such as firefighting, emergency medical evacuation and search and rescue operations. The MPA, MDT and the Seeley Lake Aviation Foundation will be providing food and beverages from noon to 3pm or until the food runs out. Guest speakers will begin at 1pm and the Seeley Lake Senior Citizen Center will be offering their assistance for food preparation and service. Donations can be made to support the Seeley Lake Senior Citizen Center for their provided services at any time during the celebration. We encourage all to attend and look forward to seeing you in Seeley Lake!

For more information, call (406) 444-2506.

**THE SEELEY LAKE AVIATION FOUNDATION**  
P.O. BOX 1168 – SEELEY LAKE, MT 59868



**THE SEELEY LAKE  
SENIOR CITIZEN  
CENTER**



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