



Aviation Maintenance Technician Day Held in May

On May 20, 2005, Montana's Governor Brian Schweitzer signed and issued a Governor's Citation which designated every May 24th as Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Day. AMT Day celebrates the birth date of Charles E. Taylor, the world's first Aviation Mechanic of powered flight and the machinist for Orville and Wilbur Wright.

Charles was born on May 24, 1868, on a farm in Cerro Gordo, Illinois. After moving to Dayton, Ohio, and working at several jobs, he went to work at the Wright Cycle Company on June 15, 1901, for \$18 a week. He started doing routine repairs on bicycles, which freed up the brothers to pursue their experiments with gliders.

He built the Wrights' first wind tunnel and machined a lot of the parts used on their glider. During the winter of 1902, using crudely sketched drawings, he began building an engine, which by the Wrights' calculations needed to produce 8 to 9 horsepower and weigh no more than 180 pounds. He finished the 4-cylinder engine in six weeks. In February of 1903, the engine was placed on a test stand. It produced 12 horsepower at full throttle. The aviation maintenance business began, and Charles Taylor became the first aircraft mechanic.

Charles was one of those many people who worked quietly in the background, but made an enormous impact on aviation. His craftsmanship, enthusiasm, and quiet genius earned him a place in aviation history when the Wright brothers successfully flew their airplane, the Flyer, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1903. Without Charles Taylor, Orville and Wilbur Wright would not have made that historic flight 110 years ago.

With the designation of May 24th as AMT day, we have the opportunity to recognize the contributions of Montana's Aviation Maintenance Technicians -- those individual aircraft mechanics who work in the background, yet make an enormous contribution to Montana and aviation safety. Montana has produced some of the brightest and most talented aviation mechanics in the world.

The Federal Aviation Administration has issued certificates to Montana aviation mechanics for 1450 Airframe and Powerplant ratings, and of those, 220 additionally hold Inspection Authorizations. There are also 189 holders of Repairman certificates working in Montana's Repair Stations and on Amateur-Built Aircraft. In Montana, we are fortunate to have a diversified workforce with 35 women holding Mechanic Certificates with Airframe and Powerplant ratings and 2 Repairmen Certificates. These professionals maintain a variety of aircraft for cargo and passenger-carrying airlines, fire-fighting, air ambulance, and general aviation users. Also, in Helena, there is an excellent Aviation Maintenance school at the Helena College, which is training the next generation of Aircraft Maintenance Technicians.

Montana's aviation maintenance technicians play an important role in the success of many aviation-related businesses, such as the 21 External-Load operators certificated under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations part 133, the 48 Air Carriers under part 135, the 68 Agricultural Aircraft operators under part 137, 8 Pilot Schools under part 141, and 22 part 145 Repair Stations.

The Wright brothers depended on the talents of Charles Taylor and Montana aviators depend on the talents of our state's hard-working and conscientious aircraft maintenance technicians. Take the time to recognize each and every one of the dedicated individuals that help make the United States aviation system the safest in the world.

We here at MDT Aeronautics give a big THANKS to our outstanding Aviation Maintenance Technicians, Mike Rogan and Ken Wilhem!



Charles Edward Taylor

Administrator's Column

Big Sky Honor Flight: In October of 2011, I wrote about the first Big Sky Honor flight that departed Billings to transport close to 100 World War II veterans to Washington DC to visit "their" World War II Memorial. The Montana statewide chapter was started in 2011 with a mission to recognize American Veterans for their sacrifices and achievements. Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner and former Montana Department of Transportation Highway Commissioner was instrumental in starting the Chapter and continues today as vice-president of the Big Sky Honor Flight Committee. I had the honor of discussing this venture with Bill in its early stages. The ninth and final tour will take off this month at a cost of \$155,000 per flight at zero cost to the veteran. Montana will have flown close to 700 World War II veterans whose average age is 88 years old. Thanks Bill and Big Sky Honor Flight for your work.

On April 27-28, my father, Dan Antonietti was one of those proud WWII vets that made the trip to Washington DC. Dad was accompanied by his escort, my brother Don Antonietti, also a veteran, retired Montana Army National Guard. Here is his story:

On the morning I was leaving for Billings to join the WWII Honor Flight, I read from two plaques that are hanging in my home office. The first was a letter from 1946 to me from President Harry S. Truman thanking me for my service and in particular my "fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment." The second was a Governor's Citation issued by former Governor Judy Martz in September 2001 that honored Montana WWII veterans for "their sacrifice, honor and devotion." I reflected on those words during our journey from Helena to Billings.

The flight departed the Billings Logan International Airport at 7:30 a.m. Many volunteers arrived at the airport before 5:00 a.m. to prepare for our departure. Coffee, rolls and doughnuts greeted our arrival. Veterans were provided with a ball cap, shirt and jacket and the escorts received a tee-shirt. A very organized registration/sign-in process had seventy-four World War II veterans, one Korean War Veteran, escorts and a medical team boarded on a chartered jet and ready for take-off.

We arrived at Dulles International Airport at 1:15 EDT and were greeted by over 200 spectators wearing yellow. They formed a line to say "thank-you," shake our hands and "high-five" us. One of the highlights of my trip was when a little 3-year old girl broke from her mother and ran over to give me a big hug. I hugged her back with tearful eyes.

We loaded onto buses to visit the Lincoln, Vietnam and Korean Memorials. While at the Vietnam Memorial I was asked by a US Parks employee to find the name of Daniel Janhunen from Butte who lost his life in Vietnam. In tradition, the employee traced the name off the wall and handed it to me.

Once at the hotel, a reception was held before being treated to a wonderful banquet honoring all World War II Veterans. The colors were presented by the Armed Forces Color Guard from the military district of Washington. A delicious dinner was served and Senator John Walsh who was accompanied by his wife Janet gave a keynote address. During our visit we were also welcomed by Senator Jon Tester and Congressman Steve Daines.



Montana and the Sky

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Calendar of Events

May 24 – Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Day.

May 24 – Spotted Bear Work Session. All volunteers must sign volunteer sheets prior to any work. Volunteer sheets should be available in the airstrip sign-in boxes. Sign in sheet is good for one year and for all three locations, Spotted Bear, Meadow Creek and Schafer Meadows. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

June 7 - Miles City Airport Fly-In. Hosted by Miles City Hangar at the MLS airport. Lunch will be served starting at 11 AM. For more information contact Pat Lifo (406) 989-1142 or email: liftopjl@yahoo.com.

June 7 – Stevensville Airport open house, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The EAA will be having a pancake breakfast as an independent feature starting at 8:00 a.m. For further information contact Ron McCann at (406) 363-8250.

June 11 – Aeronautics Board Teleconference Meeting for loan/grant extensions, 9:00 a.m. For further information contact Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 or pkautz@mt.gov. An agenda can be found at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/aeronautics_board/default.shtml.

June 13-15 – 8th Annual Winifred-Breaks Fly In; June 13 - Arrival, camp in the breaks and barbeque provided by The CubWorks (location TBA); June 14 – Fly out up Judith River to join Lewistown Fly in for breakfast; Poker Run, hangar burgers by the plate at the Winifred Hangar (9S7); June 15 - Departure for Johnson Creek and other backcountry strips. For further information contact Ralph Rogers (406) 462-5487.

June 14 - 10th Annual Fly In at Lewistown Airport; 7:00 a.m. to noon. MPA sourdough pancake breakfast. Antique, Warbird, Experimental and Sport Airplanes. Held in conjunction with Central Montana Flywheelers Exhibition. For further information contact Jerry Moline (406) 350-3264.

June 21 – Meadow Creek Work Session. All volunteers must sign volunteer sheets prior to any work. Volunteer sheets should be available in the airstrip sign-in boxes. Sign in sheet is good for one year and for all three locations, Spotted Bear, Meadow Creek and Schafer Meadows. For further information phone (406) 444-2506

June 21 – Plains Airport Fly In breakfast 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For further information contact Randy Garrison (406) 370-6179.

June 21 – Spring Burger Burn at Morrison Park in Helena, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., sponsored by EAA Chapter 344, free hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks. For further information contact Don Whitson (406) 443-8853 or Al Hathy (406) 449-2865.

June 23-26 - Commemorative Air Force Mitchell B-25 "Maid in the Shade" will be at the Cut Bank International Airport. Tours and rides will be available. For more information and to book a flight, call the airport at (406) 873-8683. Updates can be found at www.cutbankairport.org or on Facebook at Cut Bank International Airport.

July 4 – Townsend Festival of Flight. Deluxe pancake breakfast, EAA Young Eagles Rally 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For further information about the breakfast and fly in contact Lance Seaman (406) 442-8459 or Neil Salmi at (406) 980-0544 or neilsalmi@yahoo.com.

July 19 - Jim Bridger fly in and celebration days. 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 19-20 - Schafer Meadows Work Session. All volunteers must sign volunteer sheets prior to any work. Volunteer sheets should be available in the airstrip sign-in boxes. Sign in sheet is good for one year and for all three locations, Spotted Bear, Meadow Creek and Schafer Meadows. For further information phone (406) 444-2506

July 20 - St. Ignatius Fly In – 8:00 a.m. to noon. Free huckleberry pancake breakfast. Sponsored by EAA, Young Eagle rides, Av gas giveaway and door prizes. For further information contact Mike Kuefler (406) 544-2274.

July 24-26 - Fourth annual CanAm Aerobatics competition will be held at the Cut Bank International airport. Participants from the U.S. and Canada will be flying "in the box" and all participants and spectators are welcome. Updates can be found at www.cutbankairport.org or on Facebook at Cut Bank International Airport.

August 7-9 - Montana Antique Aircraft Association's 37th Annual Fly In at Three Forks. Begins Thursday at 12:00 p.m. Fly In Theme: Stearman / WWII Trainers. Flour Bombing & Spot Landing contests, aircraft on display, lunch and dinner available Friday and Saturday, free camping on the airport. For further information contact Pat Green at greenrrg@aol.com; Ken Flikkema at (406) 580-6207; Bob Green at (406) 539-7830 or Tim Linn at (406) 451-5897.

August 8-10 - Splash In 2014 sponsored by the Glacier Pilots EAA Chapter 102, Kalispell Montana. Seaplanes, music, a magic weekend. For visiting aircraft, water or land, contact Ry Keller, EAA Director at forestkeller@montanasky.us. Camping, food, and other activities. Musicians and music fans contact Bill Montgomery at bill@stillwaterlanding.com.

August 10 – Lions Club Drive In, Fly In breakfast and model airplane show at Hysham Airport 7:00 a.m. to noon. For further information contact Bob Miller (406) 342-5252 or email bpmiller@rangeweb.net.

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 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.

August 22-24 – Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Lewistown, MT. For further information contact Dave Hoerner at (406) 444-9568 or 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 or visit www.montanairshow.com.

Administrator's Column, continued



On day two we arrived at the World War II Memorial where many tourists were visiting including high school students and those of Japanese descent they shook our hands and offering their thanks. A group photograph was taken and we headed to the Arlington National Cemetery for a tour and viewing of the sophisticated Changing of the Guard ceremony. From there visits to the Iwo Jima and FDR Memorials followed; the water falls and bread line at the FDR memorial were stunning.

A police escort guiding us back to Dulles International Airport during rush hour traffic was an experience.

We arrived back to Billings where over 300 waited for our return. Representatives from the Marine Corps Honor Guard, Air Corp Cadets, Army, Navy, bagpipers, Central high school band were there as we ended this splendid journey.

I would like to thank the many volunteers and donors of Big Sky Honor Flight who made this extraordinary trip happen. And many thanks to my escort, my son Don, who took great care of me on this adventure.

Thank you to all of the current and past service men and women and God Bless America!

At the World War II Memorial brother Pat Antonietti (retired US Army) was able to join Dad and Don.



Dad walking down the stairs to the homecoming in Billings.



Watching the Changing of the Guard ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery



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.

RAF Holds Red Rock Roundup



Tricia McKenna (l) pictured here with Margie Prill, was presented the first ever “Wind Beneath Our Wings” award by Margie and Dan Prill to recognize her tireless efforts on behalf of the RAF. The award was started by the Prill’s accompanied by a \$500 annual donation to the RAF in the name of the recipient.

The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) held its Red Rock Roundup recently in St. George, Utah. Close to 100 people attended the event arriving from all corners of the country to enjoy two and one-half days of action packed meetings. It is evident that a lot has been accomplished over the first ten years of the organization as reflected on by many.

The gathering allowed discussion on a broad range of topics, presented by many national aviation association presidents; RAF board members, liaisons and members, government officials, and other industry professionals.

Congratulations to the RAF on a very successful event and thanks to all of you for “*Keeping the legacy of recreational aviation strong by preserving, maintaining and creating public use recreational and backcountry airstrips nationwide.*”



Pictured (l-r) Scott Newpower, President, Montana Pilots Association, Debbie Alke, Administrator, MDT Aeronautics, Dave Ulane, Northwest Mountain Regional Manager, AOPA and Pat Morley, Director, Utah Aeronautics took part in a discussion about state and private organization working together. Dave moderated the session which offered some good tips and tricks for working collaboratively at all state levels.

Search Pilot Clinic to Be Held in August

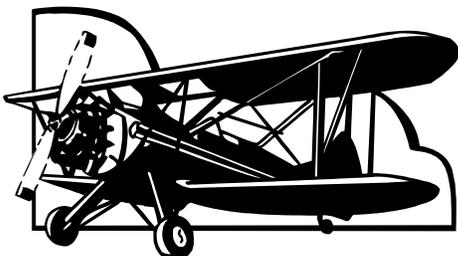
A big concern to all pilots is having an emergency while in flight and maintaining control of the aircraft while assessing what caused the emergency. Being able to fight off the sudden fright of lack of noise and forward thrust can cause an adrenalin rush that can take pilots breath away.

With the summer season close at hand pilots will be getting prepared for flights into the back country airstrips or maybe planning a short flight to a neighboring town for a dinner.

It’s also time to start thinking about attending the annual Search Pilot Clinic. This year’s program will be held August 22 - 24, 2014 at the Lewistown Airport.

The small mountain ranges surround the town should provide good training for route and grid searching. Also included in the program is emergency medical and survival training along with direction finding for Emergency Locator Transmitters.

For more information about this clinic contact David Hoerner, (406) 444-9568 or dhoerner@mt.gov.



WI Recreational Use Statute Amended



RAF Wisconsin Liaison Chuck Aldrian (in RAF orange) stands behind Governor Scott Walker as he signs the bill into law on April

It took two years, but thanks to the leadership of the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) and the efforts of several supporters, Wisconsin's Recreational Use Statute (RUS) was amended to include noncommercial aviation. RAF Wisconsin State Liaison Chuck Aldrian reports that there are 177 private airports in the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics database and many more that have not been registered with the FAA and said, "the new language in the law protects owners of these private airstrips." The RAF wishes to thank Aircraft Owners and Pilots Assoc. (AOPA) and a number of the private airstrip owners, especially Don Kiel for working hard contacting many Wisconsin State representatives. Also helpful was Jonathon Harger, Political Affairs Director of EAA in Oshkosh who testified at hearings for both legislative houses.

The bill was sponsored by Senator Joe Leibham (R) in the Senate and Representative Paul Tittl (R) in the Assembly, and garnered bi-partisan support. Governor Scott Walker signed the bill April 17th in the Capital Office.

The Recreational Aviation Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization headquartered at 1711 W. College, Bozeman, MT 59715; 406-582-1723; www.theraf.org.

Early Morning Visitors



While Yellowstone Airport manager Jeff Kadlec prepared the airport for its annual opening he was visited by some park regulars wondering when the doors would be opening up for the 2014 season! The airport provides the most convenient gateway to Yellowstone National Park and the area's unique attractions. The airport is now open for general aviation aircraft and SkyWest Airlines will begin service on June 1. For further information contact Jeff at (406) 646-7631 or jkadlec@mt.gov or visit the website <http://www.yellowstoneairport.org/>.

Vigilante Parade Float Portrays Airway Beacon

Capital High students Sidney Wilhelm, Jacquie Kelly, Amanda Knorr & Bailey Whitehead won Grand Champion in the 2014 Helena Vigilante Parade with their portrayal of the McDonald Pass Airway Beacon.



Northern Skies Aviation goes up-up-and-away to provide flight needs

By Kathleen Gilluly, Outlook Staff, originally appeared in the April 30 issue of the Laurel Outlook, reprinted with permission



Two of Northern Skies Aviation's mechanics work on a two-engine plane. In the hangar shown are the main office, the repair shop and flight school. Offices are upstairs. Northern Skies Aviation has three large buildings at the Laurel field.

"We've been here for 20 years," said Stephanie Potter, president of Northern Skies Aviation, who founded the thriving business with her husband, pilot and Director of Operations Kent Potter. "People should know us; we are part of Laurel and committed to the community."

In fact, if the Fixed Base of Operations (FBO) business hadn't set up shop at the Laurel Airport, it probably wouldn't have grown into the busy field it is today.

As it has several times in its history, the Laurel Municipal Airport is poised for even more growth. As one of the busiest general aviation airports in Montana there are over 23,000 individual take offs and landings every year. With traffic at the airport expected to increase over the next 15 years, the airport could become an even more dynamic asset. As such, the airport board has been making plans to expand. Those plans will add a crosswind runway that initially will be 3,000 feet long with the capacity to grow. The current crosswind runway provides a second runway for small aircraft to use during times of high wind, but it doesn't meet FFA requirements, according to Craig Canfield, one of the engineers with KLJ Engineering working on the project. The proposed expansion will be good for business at the airport and Northern Skies Aviation, he said.

Besides providing services and fuel for the 100 airplanes that call the Laurel Municipal Airport home, Northern Skies manages the

amenities available at the airport as well as directing transient pilots to Laurel accommodations and restaurants. Laurel's smaller population center provides everything visitors need without the hassles of landing in Billings, Potter said. Northern Skies even has a loaner car.

The list of jobs done by the aviation company is ever expanding, although the charter flight service is their mainstay and continues to grow. Pilots also work fires for fire managers with different government agencies, including the Forest Service and BLM and they dry cherries with the helicopters.

"Once the cherries get ripe they can't get wet," Miller explained. "If they do, they rot at the stem so we use the helicopters to blow the water away from the crops."

Those aren't the only unusual jobs tackled by the business.

"We are on-demand, so we work very hard to always be ready," Potter said. "We can be called out to fly oil industry executives, biologists surveying raptors, construction workers, auctioneers or to deliver equipment, you name it."

Flights for the hospitals are becoming more and more regular, according to General Manager Bob Miller.

"We've been picking up radioactive isotopes for the cancer clinics," he said. "We also take specimens and other medical shipments. Right now, we are on notice for two families that will need to go for a transplant." Potter said they will do all they can to get them to their destination.

"We will move heaven and earth to get those folks where they need to go," she said.

Because the airport is uncontrolled, unlike Billings' Logan Field, all flights are unscheduled. The charter service does have regular customers, but they don't have regular schedules.

"That's where Dawn comes in," Potter said. "She manages the scheduling and charters." Neither Dawn Klein or Potter are pilots, but they both thrive in the environment that supports Northern Skies' 19 employees, which includes 10 pilots. Since Potter's husband is a pilot and she has access to others, she decided to concentrate on the business rather than piloting.

"I just love the chaos," Klein said. "It's always busy at my desk and we never know what might come up next." Klein can arrange flights or set students up for pilot lessons. Northern Skies provides instruction for planes and helicopters. Most of their pilots do double duty as flight instructors.

"We have a unique set-up. We are one of the few schools where you can get a fixed-wing rating and then have those hours count towards a helicopter license," Miller said.

Besides attending to the planes and helicopters belonging to the business, mechanics on staff can do any maintenance needed by private pilots. They also do yearly inspections and major overhauls.

Although the airport isn't open 24 hours, there is always someone available who can open the gates. A pilots' lounge and a camping area provides respite for transient pilots.

Northern Skies Aviation has two Cessna 340s and a Cessna 414 in their charter service. The planes can accommodate up to five passengers.

"And, it costs the same whether there is one passenger or more," Potter said. "We charge by the flight, not the person."

For information on the flight schools, chartering a plane for business or sightseeing or other information, call Klein at 406-628-2219 or visit www.northernskies.com. For more information on the airport see www.flylaurelmt.com.



NTSB recommends FAA, National Weather Service improve weather forecasts to pilots

The National Transportation Safety Board said May 7 that the National Weather Service and the FAA should provide improved forecast services to pilots.

NTSB officials pointed to nine areas for the two agencies to provide better information. The recommendations were based on the NTSB's accident investigations involving aircraft encountering weather conditions, such as adverse surface wind, dense fog, icing, turbulence, and low-level wind shear.

"What's difficult to understand," NTSB Board Member Earl Weener said in the announcement, "is why weather advisories from the National Weather Service to the general public, at times, provide more comprehensive information about weather conditions than the advisories they provide to pilots experiencing the same conditions. Why pilots would receive less information makes no sense, and increases the risk of flying in severe weather conditions."

He added that is why this issue is on the NTSB's Most Wanted List.

The NTSB announcement added that although the National Weather Service routinely advises pilots of turbulence and weather patterns associated with mountain wave activity (MWA), which can cause unique and adverse flying conditions, there are currently no requirements for the NWS to issue advisories specific to MWA.

Other issues NTSB recommends include additional awareness and communication between the weather service units and the aviation weather centers, enhanced communication between meteorologists to ensure mutual situational awareness of critical aviation weather data, and proper coordination and communication between the various NWA components.

Weener added safety will be enhanced for pilots and their passengers when pilots are given a complete weather report, including all of the most current weather information.

For more information: www.nts.gov

