



## History recreated: Model of first plane to cross Continental Divide on display in Helena

*By Alexander Deedy, originally published in the September 30, 2014 Helena Independent Record; reprinted with permission.*

One hundred and three years after Cromwell Dixon took off from Helena and became the first person to fly over the Continental Divide, his plane is back in town. At least a model of it is.

Bob Ohnstad loaned a one-quarter scale replica of Dixon's Curtiss Model DIII aircraft to the Helena Regional Airport Tuesday, September 30, the anniversary of the record-setting flight.

"His plane has never been modeled, that I know of," Ohnstad said.

Dixon's claim to fame occurred after the State Fair Board and Helena business leaders offered \$10,000 to the first person to fly over the Continental Divide.

On Sept. 30, 1911, 19-year-old Dixon took off from the State Fairgrounds in an attempt to meet that challenge. After a flight 34 minutes long that reached an altitude of 7,000 feet, Dixon wired officials that he had landed safely.

Though Dixon died just two days later during a flight exhibition in Spokane, Washington, Ohnstad's replica will serve as one more reminder of the aviator's feat.

"I just thought (the airport) was the natural place for it," Ohnstad said.

Ohnstad said only two models of a Curtiss Model DIII have ever been built, and one of them ended up in storage at a museum in Lincoln, Nebraska. So when the model went up for auction, Ohnstad bought it.

Then, with the help of friends and businesses, Ohnstad set out to modify the plane to make it an exact replica of Dixon's aircraft.

"I think we started working on it in April," Ohnstad said.

He said the team put in relatively few hours actually constructing the model. Most of their efforts were dedicated to research to ensure all the details are correct.

They built the piece that extends from the front of the plane, called a header, added details to the engine, added turnbuckles and bamboo parts, and even had a doll created that looks like Dixon and is wearing the same attire he sported during the flight. For now, the model sits on a table in the airport terminal where viewers can admire the detail Ohnstad and his team added.

Jeff Wadekamper, airport director, said the plan is to suspend the scaled replica from the ceiling near a mural that depicts the day of Dixon's flight.

"You look at what Bob Ohnstad and his friends built and you think about what really took place 103 years ago on this day," Wadekamper said.

When Ohnstad approached airport officials a few months ago about the prospect of displaying the plane there, Wadekamper said, they were happy to take it because the flight is such a memorable piece of aviation history and Helena history.

"It's been a big piece of aviation for Helena over the years," Wadekamper said.



*Spectators gather around a one-quarter scale replica of Cromwell Dixon's plane at the Helena Regional Airport during a dedication ceremony. At age 19, Dixon was the first person to fly over the Continental Divide and did so 103 years ago. Photo by Thom Bridge, Independent Record.*

# Administrator's Column

**Happy Veteran's Day:** Thank you to the many women and men, and their families, past and present that have served this great country. Your courage and the sacrifices you make are greatly appreciated. A special thank you to my father (WWII); brother (RET MT National Guard); brother (RET US Army); son-in-law (active duty US Air Force); and niece (active duty US Coast Guard) -- I'm proud of all of you -- home of the free because of the brave.

**Principato to Head NASAO:** The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) has hired Greg Principato as its President and CEO. Most recently, Principato served as the CEO of Airport Council International (ACI-NA) the organization that represents local, regional and state governing bodies that own and operate airports. "I am excited to be joining the NASAO team as its President and CEO. From my time working for an innovative, transportation-oriented Governor through my career in aviation, I have become convinced that the states are "where it's at" when promoting aviation as a force for building modern communities connected to the national and global economy." The MDT Aeronautics Division welcomes Greg and looks forward to working with him on issues important to our state.

**Getting closer:** The FAA announced it has selected four unleaded fuels for the first phase of testing to have a new unleaded fuel that will reduce lead emissions for general aviation by 2018. Shell, TOTAL and Swift Fuels will begin initial testing to be completed late in 2015. Close to 170,000 general aviation aircraft in the US rely on 100LL aviation gasoline. It is the only remaining transportation fuel in the United States that contains lead. Congress authorized \$6 million in 2014 to support the Piston Aviation Fuels Initiative (PAFI), an industry-government initiative created to help the general aviation industry transition to an unleaded aviation gasoline. PAFI is assisting with development of a new unleaded aviation fuel that will have the least impact on existing piston-engine aircraft. There are still many questions lurking -- will the cost of this replacement fuel be comparable to that of 100LL?

**Topic-Panel Nominations Sought:** The Transportation Research Board's Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) is seeking persons interested in serving on topic panels for projects selected under the FY2015 ACRP Synthesis program. Nominees should have expertise directly relevant to the proposed project topic and are due in by December 20, 2014. More information and a listing of the FY2015 projects is available at: <http://www.trb.org/SynthesisPrograms/ACRPSynthesisNewStudies.aspx>

**Aircraft noise on wildlife:** The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF), which promotes backcountry flying, is conducting scientific research into the stress-related effects of aircraft noise on wildlife with support from the MDT Research Program and the AOPA Foundation. The noise study is progressing with assistance from the University of Montana, under the direction of RAF Science Committee chairman Dr. Ric Hauer. Field studies were conducted this past summer with samples gathered from birds, deer, bears and other animals that will be analyzed to determine stress levels. The lab work will begin soon with laboratory analysis of samples taking another 18 months. Once complete the data analysis and final results will be submitted to science journals for response and acceptance.



## *Montana and the Sky*

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# Calendar of Events

**January 9-11, 2015** – Winter Survival Clinic, Duvall Inn, Lewistown. Registration deadline December 26, 2014; see page 7 of this months newsletter to register. For further information contact Stefani DeMars at (406) 444-2506 or email [sdemars@mt.gov](mailto:sdemars@mt.gov).

**January 21-22, 2015** – Aeronautics Board Meeting, Helena. For further information contact Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 or email [pkautz@mt.gov](mailto:pkautz@mt.gov).

**January 26-27, 2015** – Association of Montana Aerial Applicators (AMAA) Convention, Heritage Inn, Great Falls. Keynote speaker Jerry Cockrell. For further information contact Colleen Campbell at [eccampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:eccampbell@yahoo.com).

**February 26-28, 2015** – Montana Aviation Conference, Holiday Inn, Missoula. For further information contact Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 or [pkautz@mt.gov](mailto:pkautz@mt.gov).

## 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 and notified 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 Missoula on February 27. 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](mailto:tconway@mt.gov); FAX: (406) 444-2519.

### Fly the Big Sky – Plan to Attend the 2015 Conference!

The 2015 Montana Aviation Conference “Fly the Big Sky” will be held in Missoula at the Holiday Inn Downtown February 26-28. The committee is currently in the planning stages and have some exciting ideas to ensure another notable conference!

Rooms are blocked at the Holiday Inn Downtown, 200 South Pattee Street at a conference rate of \$87.00 plus tax. Rooms can be booked by calling (877) 834-3613 or (406) 721-8550 and reference rooming block **2015 Aviation Conference**. Reserve your room today; reservations must be made prior to **January 26, 2015** in order to guarantee the group discount.

Stay tuned to future newsletters for speaker updates and information will also be available on our website [www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/). Questions please call Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 or email [pkautz@mt.gov](mailto:pkautz@mt.gov).

Look forward to seeing you there!



### Charlie Taylor/Rosie the Riveter Scholarship

EAA Chapter 344 in Helena is offering a \$500 scholarship to a Helena College full-time 2<sup>nd</sup> year student in the Aviation Technology Program. An application with criteria and process are available on the Helena College website <http://umhelena.edu/>. Deadline for this scholarship is November 29, 2014.

# Tiber Dam Airport Has Much to Offer

Tiber Dam is one of fifteen state owned airports constructed and maintained by the MDT Aeronautics Division. The airport is a grass recreational and emergency airstrip 2250 feet long by 90 feet wide with a nice tie down area located on the North West end of the runway. Tiber is located adjacent to Lake Elwell near Tiber dam on the East end of the lake. Attractions for the airport are fishing in near-by Lake Elwell which is less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile away. This is a great place to catch whitefish, yellow perch, northern pike, lake trout, and walleye. The river below the dam is a good area to fly fish. There is a nice campground area with bathroom facilities a short walk away from the tie down area. If you don't feel like camping overnight it is a short twenty mile flight to Chester (LTY) which has a couple of motels and at least one bed and breakfast.



## Winter Operations for General Aviation

The November/December 2014 issue of FAA Safety Briefing [www.faa.gov/news/safety\\_briefing/](http://www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing/) focuses on winter operations. Articles cover some of the exciting opportunities that the winter flying season offers as well as provide a review of several important cold weather safety strategies.

Feature articles in this issue include:

- “Cross-Country Skiing – Aviation Style” – exploring the twists and turns of flying with skis (p. 10),
- “Chilled to the Bone” – how cold can affect both body and mind (p.14),
- “Keeping Your Cool in the Cold” – making the most of winter flying opportunities (p. 18)

Additional feature articles include “Fly, Flee, or Fold” (p. 5), and “FIKI Wiki – What You Need to Know About Icing Conditions and Systems” (p. 21).

In this issue's Jumpseat department (p. 1), Flight Standards Service Director John Duncan reviews some winter weather wisdom, while Checklist (p. 27) explains how to reduce the risk of carburetor fires. Also, Nuts, Bolts, and Electrons (p 28) provides you with a few stocking stuffer ideas for both you and your airplane.

FAA Safety Briefing is the safety policy voice for the non-commercial general aviation community. The magazine's objective is to improve safety by:

- making the community aware of FAA resources
- helping readers understand safety and regulatory issues, and
- encouraging continued training



## 2015 MDT Aeronautics Division and NASAO Art Contest

Calling all Montana students!!! The MDT Aeronautics is inviting all Montana students to participate in the 2015 Aviation Awareness Art Contest. MDT Aeronautics feels it is important to educate students of all ages in the many career opportunities in the field of aviation and aerospace. This contest gives students the chance to really explore this country's history surrounding aviation and how it has affected our economy today. By broadening their knowledge of this field, it is our hope that students will gain a new found interest in aviation/aerospace and it's increasingly evolving career opportunities.

Winners of the State Aviation Awareness Art Contest will go on to compete in a National Aviation Art Contest hosted by the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) if desired. ALL entries must be postmarked by **Friday, January 2, 2015**

For further information and complete contest rules contact Stefani DeMars at (406) 444-2506 or [sdemars@mt.gov](mailto:sdemars@mt.gov).

# Takeoff with Aviation Education Workshop

MDT Aeronautics is proud to host, “Takeoff with Aviation Education Educator’s Workshop,” February 26-28, 2015. This workshop is designed to introduce educators to general aviation. This workshop is an exciting way to promote STEM (Science, technology, Engineering, Mathematics) in the classroom. During the first two days educators will be exposed to STEM inquiry based aviation activities designed for grades 5-12 and all facets of aviation as presented from experts in the field of aviation. Free flights for participants will take place on Saturday at the Missoula Airport. Desktop simulators, a static aircraft display, and aviation activities will be available for everyone to enjoy. (Participants may earn 1 university credit or 15 renewal units.) For further information or to register for the workshop contact Stefani DeMars at (406) 444-2506 or email [sdemars@mt.gov](mailto:sdemars@mt.gov).



## Angel Flight West launches Indiegogo Fundraising Campaign



Angel Flight West (AFW) has launched its first crowdfunding campaign “Have You Helped An Angel Today” on Indiegogo.com.

The non-profit, located in Santa Monica, California, works with pilots who volunteer their time and donate their planes to fly sick patients to treatment, who, through lack of funds, or geographical challenges, would be unable to get there any other way.

AFW is looking to raise \$50,000 through the campaign, which will enable it to service 200 additional flights for children needing air travel to medical treatment in 2015.

One of the elements of the campaign is the “I Fly” For Angel Flight West challenge.

“Fundraising is vital to our existence, and like many non-profits, we need to raise funding, awareness and expand our reach further into the communities we serve. By harnessing the power of the internet through Indiegogo, we hope to reach a different level of philanthropist, and have a lot of fun while doing it,” said Angel Flight West’s Executive Director Josh Olson.

“We are a grassroots organization and we run on the generous volunteer work of our awesome pilots and staff, so we can genuinely say that no amount is too small to donate to this campaign,” said Chairman of the Board Stephen Danz.

## New Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Building at Yellowstone Airport!

Yellowstone Airport (WYS) may be closed for the winter season, but that doesn’t mean all is quiet! The airport is already preparing for next year. It has started construction on the new Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) Building which is planned to be completed and operational for the 2015 season.

The new structure is the first building to be constructed since the original development of WYS in 1964. This project is funded 90 percent from the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) with 10 percent local match from WYS. The new building will feature 3 bays and an administrative area.

Make sure to plan a trip to WYS next season and ask for a tour of the new facility from the airport staff [yellowstoneairport@mt.gov](mailto:yellowstoneairport@mt.gov) or call (406) 646-7631.



# Scholarship Opportunities

Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations that believe in promoting aviation by offering monetary assistance to qualified persons. The Aeronautics Division assists in administering some of these scholarships and encourages participation. The scholarships are offered to Montanans to help defray costs of education (i.e., flight instruction, A&P, etc.) and will be presented during the 2015 Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula. Awarding of the scholarships will be based on a letter explaining the reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience, if any, and any outstanding achievements. **The same letter can be submitted but applicant must submit one copy addressed to each individual scholarship they are applying for.** Letters of application **must** include a **mailing address and daytime phone number.** If you are selected to receive one of the scholarships your photo will appear in the 2015 Montana Aviation Conference Program, **please include a photo with your applications for this purpose (only one photo necessary).** Letters should be mailed to: Montana Aeronautics Division, PO Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507 or call (406) 444-2506 for further information. **Letters must be postmarked on or before January 5, 2015.**

**A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship** – An anonymous donor established this scholarship of \$250 in 1997 in 2010 two more anonymous donors contributed an additional \$250 each creating a \$750 scholarship.

**AOM Flight Training Scholarship** – AOM has established this \$500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate.

**Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship** – Blue Goose Aviation is proud to give our First Generation Scholarship to a deserving person in Montana. The scholarship is for someone who does not have another pilot in the family. This year the scholarship will be a \$1,000 value to be flown at Blue Goose Aviation in Polson, MT (either 5 hours dual in our Cessna 182 or 8 hours dual in our Cessna 150). We would like all applicants to follow the application procedures set forth by the MDT Aeronautics Division plus answer these two questions.

1. What aviation certificates or ratings do you have at this time and what type of training would you like to do with this scholarship? (i.e. Work on my private license, basic aircraft control, mountain flying checkout, instrument training, etc.)
2. How would this scholarship and training help you towards your future aviation goals?

**EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship** - EAA Chapter 517 in Missoula will provide THREE \$1,000 scholarships in 2015. One will be for a post-solo student; one for a second year A&P student; and one to be used for any type of aviation career training.

**Edwards Jet Center Scholarship** – Edwards Jet Center a full-service fixed based operator and Part 135 charter operator based at Logan International Airport in Billings is offering a \$500 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction.

**Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship** – MAAA is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction.

**MPA Air Safety and Education Foundation (MPA ASEF) Flight Training Scholarship** – This \$1,000 scholarship is open to an active pilot who has considerable interest in aviation and is seeking advanced flight training or a pursuing a profession in aviation. Applicant must be a Montana resident.

**Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship** – The recipient of this \$1,000 scholarship is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship in their community and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must be a Montana resident and previously soloed. Preference is given to younger applicants who are new pilots or pursuing a profession in aviation.

**Parrott Family Scholarship** – The Parrott Family offers a \$1,000 scholarship to be used over a one-year period for pilot training programs for students enrolled in the Rocky Mountain College (RMC) aviation program. The funds may be used for tuition in the RMC aviation program, and/or flight training expenses leading to a Private, Commercial, or Flight Instructor Certificate, and may include Instrument and Multiengine simulator training, and the purchase of aviation related materials and related supplies.

**Theresa (Nistler) Colley Scholarship** – Mountain AirDance Flight Training (Jeanne MacPherson and Bill Gallea) and Vetter Aviation (Brent and Rosie Vetter) offer this \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Theresa (Nistler) Colley who passed away from Leukemia (AML) in February, 2012. Theresa loved flying and was working toward her private pilot certificate. This scholarship will be awarded to a student pilot who is working on getting their private pilot rating.



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Montana Department of Transportation  
Aeronautics Division  
Winter Survival Clinic

MDT Aeronautics Division  
2630 Airport Road  
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Helena, MT 59620-0507  
Ph: 406.444.2506  
Fx: 406.444.2519

Print Form

# 2015 Winter Survival Clinic

Hosted by the MDT Aeronautics Division

Clinic Dates: January 9 - 11, 2015

Clinic Location: The Duvall Inn, 6300 Lime Kiln Rd.,  
Lewistown, MT 59457

### 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 26, 2014

### Payment

- Check payable to: Montana Aeronautics
- Cash





## Sporty's Introduces Annual Christmas Ornament

A new tradition begins this holiday season with the debut of Sporty's Wright Bros. Christmas ornament. The 2014 ornament is a 70-mm glass ball in royal blue with a holiday scene featuring a Piper Cub and "Christmas 2014" on one side.



Sporty's Wright Bros. Christmas Ornaments are hand-crafted in Europe. "This is the first in what will become an annual tradition of aviation-themed painted ornaments from Wright Bros.," says Sporty's Vice President John Zimmerman. "This ornament makes a great gift for a pilot or aviation enthusiast. Or start a collection this year for yourself."

The Wright Bros. Christmas Ornament for 2014 includes a red ribbon for hanging and is available for \$24.99 at [www.sportys.com](http://www.sportys.com).

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