

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 67, No. 4

April 2016

Cow Creek Airstrip Closed Until July 1st

Cow Creek airstrip, CW0, located 48 miles southeast of Big Sandy in the Missouri Breaks National Monument has been Notamed closed until July 1st for improvements to the runway. In a textbook example of public/private cooperation to maintain Montana aviation assets, the Central Montana Hangar of the Montana Pilots Association (MPA) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have successfully completed the initial phases of the project. The problem was ruts on the runway caused by truck traffic during wet weather. The slight grade of the runway resulted in water erosion, which exacerbated the condition and made the runway hazardous for airplanes. The BLM purchased and delivered to the airstrip gate and fencing material, and volunteer labor from the MPA installed fencing on one end of the runway, which was successful in preventing vehicle traffic from driving on



Pilots Don Hartrich (left) and Allen Metzler (right) work to install jack-leg fencing last fall at the Cow Creek airstrip to prevent vehicle traffic from rutting the runway.

the runway last fall during hunting season. The ruts have been filled in and will be seeded to native grass in the coming weeks. Erosion bars on the runway and jack-leg fencing on the far end of the runway are planned work projects for the coming

season. The key to success for the project will be to keep traffic, both air and ground, off the runway until the grass is established. Central Hangar President, Pete Smith, of Lewistown, expressed his sincere appreciation to Monument manager, Mike Kania, and BLM Ranger, Brian Woolf, for the “superb” working relationship on the project.



Ground vehicle traffic on the Cow Creek airstrip caused rutting and erosion. A joint project with the MPA and the BLM is correcting the hazardous condition.

Hello
SPRING

Administrator's Column

Reauthorization Update: Before breaking for Easter, the House passed the Senate version of the FAA extension that moved the bill to the President for signature. This extension runs through July 15. In other work, the Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up and passed its reauthorization bill. Some key pieces in that bill include: an increase in the AIP program by \$400 million; third class medical reform; allow airports that had 10,000 plus enplanements in 2012 to use that data for FY 2016 and 2017 apportionments; contract towers protections; sets EAS funding at \$155 million, in addition to the \$50 million received from overflight fees; increases the Small Community Air Service Development Program from \$6 million to \$10 million/year; establish a working group on improving air service to small communities with references to pilot training and pilot supply. Some substantial amendments regarding UAS are also included; one requires operators to publically disclose the type of personal data they collect; directs USDOT to issue a final rule within two years to allow for UAS package delivery by companies such as Amazon and Google; and a federal preemption clause that states no state or local government may pass or enforce laws relating to UAS. As a member of the T&I Committee, Senator Daines' was successful in including language specific to many Montana concerns. The bill now moves to the Senate floor, with Chairman John Thune (R-SD) aiming for floor consideration in early April. If the Senate is successful with its reauthorization bill, lets' hope the House will feel compelled to act and pass final legislation by the July 15 expiration date.

Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) Solicitation:

The USDOT has issued an order requesting proposals for the SCASDP. The Department invites proposals from communities and/or consortia of communities interested in obtaining grant funds from the program to address airfare or air service issues. The Department has up to \$5 million available this year with no limits on the amount of individual awards. Awards are dependent upon the features and merits of the individual proposals add are due no later than 5:00 pm EDT on May 2, 2016. Applicants must complete the grants.gov registration process before submitting an application, and that this process usually takes two to four weeks to complete. The full order is available on www.regulations.gov at Docket number DOT-OST-2016-0037.

Student Pilot Certificate Changes: Effective April 1, the process for applying for and issuing student pilot certificates has changed. To assist with explaining the changes, the FAA has published an advisory circular that can be found at: http://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC_61-65F.pdf. It is no longer possible to receive a student pilot certificate from an aviation medical examiner. Most students will apply through a flight instructor, who must be registered to use the FAA's web-based Integrated Airman Certification and/or Rating Application (IACRA) system or a paper Form 8710-1 can be submitted to the FAA. Your certificate will arrive by mail within approximately three weeks of the application date. You can also apply at the local Flight Standards District Office, (FSDO), with designated pilot examiners (DPEs), or airman certificate representatives from a Part 141 flight school. The circular provides guidance for CFIs on how to register to use the IACRA system to process an application; how to ensure the applicant meets eligibility requirements and how to verify the eligibility together with other information for student pilots and CFIs.



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Department of Transportation

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Official monthly publication of the
Aeronautics Division
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Calendar of Events

April 15, 2016 - Aviation Art Contest deadline for all submissions. For more information visit our website at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation or call our main office at (406) 444-2506.

May 21, 2016 - Southwest Montana MPA Hangar invites you to test your short field takeoff and landing skills at Twin Bridges (K7S1). For more information, please contact Ryan Flaming at ryan@rubyvalleyaviation.com. This event is geared toward pilots, but everyone is welcome! Registration starts at 10:00 a.m. and flying starts at 10:30 a.m.

May 21-22, 2016 - 6th Annual Idaho Aviation Expo, Aeromark Hangar. Aircraft manufacturers, maintenance and parts suppliers, avionics, clubs and associations, workshops, and guest speakers. For more information contact Tom Hoff at (208) 524-1202 or visit www.aeromark.com.

June 11, 2016 - Annual Lewistown Airport Fly-In, 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. MPA sourdough pancake feed, Young Eagles (flights for kids) and displays of antique, warbird, experimental and sport airplanes. Held in conjunction with Central Montana Flywheelers Exhibition. For further information contact Jerry Moline at (406) 350-3264.

June 28-29, 2016 - Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy - Program geared to high school students interested in aviation. For more information contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or hdramstad@mt.gov.

July 2, 2016 - Wings & Wheels, Freedom to Dream – Fly-In Pancake Breakfast at the Ravalli County Airport (6S5) Hamilton, MT from 7:00 a.m. till 10:00 a.m. Stay for the Classic Car Show or attend the many events happening all day for the entire family! Come early for the Friday evening 50's Sock Hop hosted by the Bitter Rodder's Car Club and then campout overnight in the available camping area! For more information call Choice Aviation at (406) 363-6471 or (406) 240-9710 and ask for Shirley.

July 4, 2016 - Townsend Festival of Flight. "We don't fool you, we feed you!" An annual, deluxe fly-in breakfast and Young Eagles Rally for all GA, experimental, classic, vintage, light sport aircraft sponsored by EAA Chapter 344. Come join us at Townsend Airport (8U8) from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for breakfast and Young Eagles flights. All proceeds support EAA programs, including scholarships for AVMT students. For further information contact Neil Salmi at (406) 980-0544 and for Young Eagles flight information call Lance Seaman at (406) 442-8459.

July 22-23, 2016 - The CanAm Aerobatics competition will be held at the Cut Bank International Airport. Planes and pilots from the Northwestern U.S. and Canada will be competing in this sanctioned event. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your lawn chair and binoculars. Contact Dave Ries at (406) 229-0376 for more information, or watch for updates on www.cutbankairport.org.

July 23, 2016 – The RAF/MPA/Vigilante Hangar BBQ will be held at Jerry Cain's hangar, Lincoln (S69). The BBQ will go from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., but attendees are welcome to arrive anytime. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, ice cream and more! Attendees may bring food to share or cook on the BBQ. Tie down area and campgrounds with tables, fire rings, and outhouses are available! In order to plan accordingly, please RSVP to Jerry at (406) 362-4743.

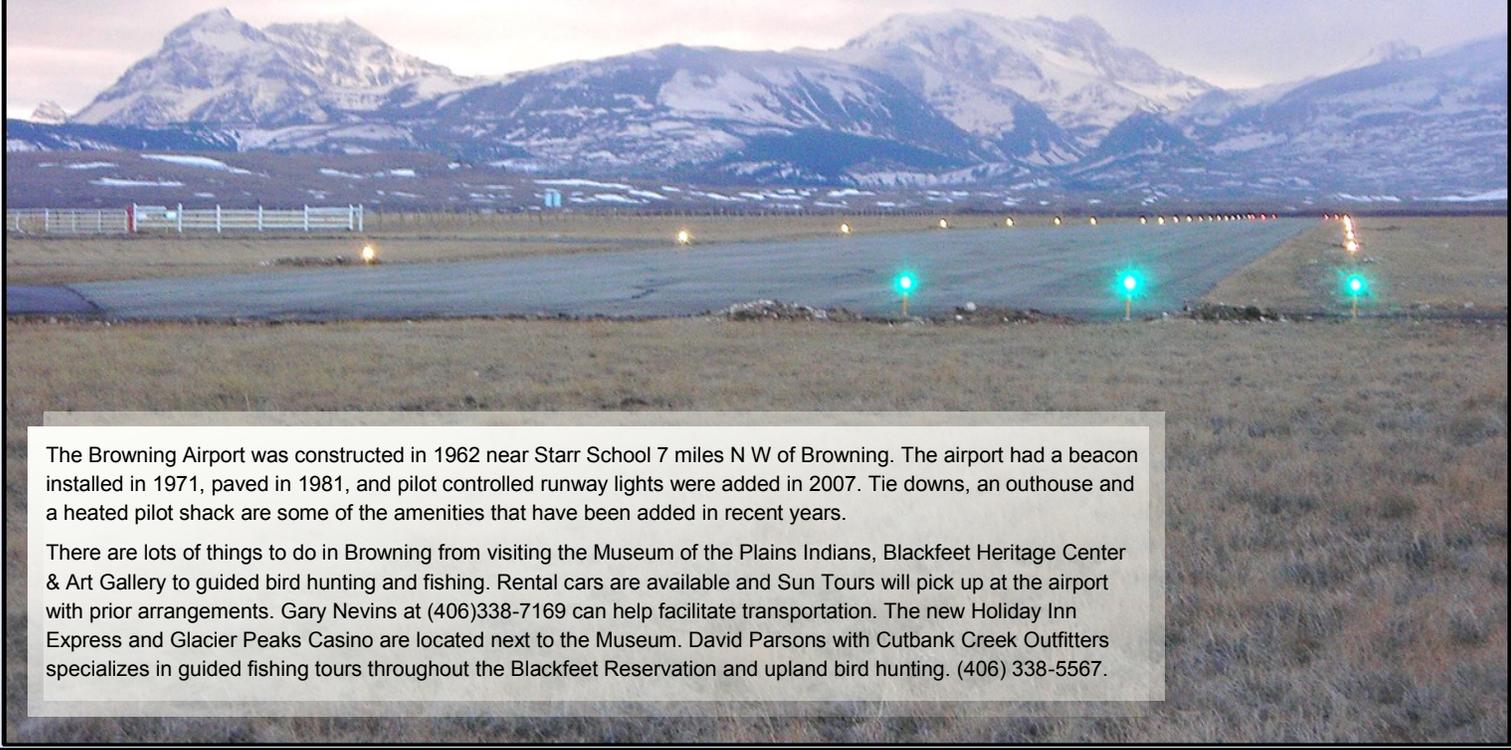
July 24, 2016 - EAA will be sponsoring a fly-in at St. Ignatius Airport with a free huckleberry pancake breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information call Mike Kuefler at (406) 544-2274.

August 19-21, 2016 - The 14th Annual Montana Fun Weekend will be held at the Cut Bank International Airport. Events include a fly-in breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings, burn-out contest, Lawn Chair Drive Inn Movie Friday night and an aircraft and car show all day Saturday. Food vendors on Saturday and prizes awarded to best airplanes, cars and motorcycles. For more information call Roy at (406) 450-1078 or check for updates at www.cutbankairport.org.

FAA Issues Notice of Proposed Rule Making for Part 23 Revision

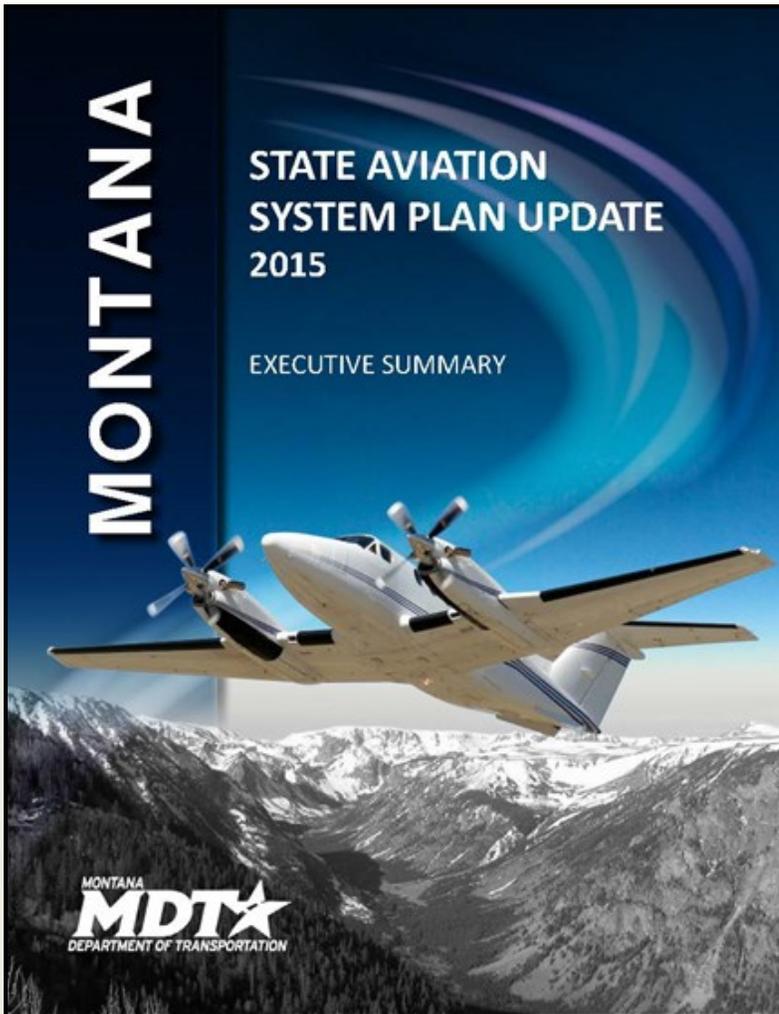
The FAA announced on March 9, 2016 its proposal to amend the airworthiness standards for normal, utility, acrobatic, and commuter category airplanes by removing the current prescriptive design requirements and replacing them with performance-based airworthiness standards. Part 23 airworthiness standards apply to airplanes with less than 19 seats and under 19,000 lbs. The rules were originally written in 1964. The FAA has adopted a Safety Continuum Philosophy, and has come to realize that the regulatory requirements may actually be a roadblock to improving aviation safety. It is hoped that by applying performance based standards, the industry will be free to innovate and address the leading cause of GA fatalities, loss of control accidents. The proposed rule would eliminate the commuter, utility, and acrobatic categories, and retain only the normal category for all new Part 23 certifications. The public may comment on the NPRM for a period of 60 days following its publication in the Federal Register, which is expected shortly.

Browning Airport



The Browning Airport was constructed in 1962 near Starr School 7 miles N W of Browning. The airport had a beacon installed in 1971, paved in 1981, and pilot controlled runway lights were added in 2007. Tie downs, an outhouse and a heated pilot shack are some of the amenities that have been added in recent years.

There are lots of things to do in Browning from visiting the Museum of the Plains Indians, Blackfeet Heritage Center & Art Gallery to guided bird hunting and fishing. Rental cars are available and Sun Tours will pick up at the airport with prior arrangements. Gary Nevins at (406)338-7169 can help facilitate transportation. The new Holiday Inn Express and Glacier Peaks Casino are located next to the Museum. David Parsons with Cutbank Creek Outfitters specializes in guided fishing tours throughout the Blackfeet Reservation and upland bird hunting. (406) 338-5567.



Fuel Service in Montana

Do you know how many airports offer aviation fuel services in Montana or how many airports exist in Montana with jet capable runways in excess of 5,000 ft. in length? In late 2013, the Aeronautics Division secured a grant from the FAA to produce an update to the State Aviation System Plan. The study is comprehensive in nature and focuses on the inventory and forecasting of aviation in Montana. This information will be utilized by federal, state, and local entities to help justify funding for necessary airport improvements throughout the state. The plan also helps the Aeronautics Division to determine how the Montana airport system should be developed to respond to future challenges and to meet changes in demand. Did you know, over the next 20 years, approximately \$58 million is required (above and beyond anticipated capital improvements and annual maintenance costs) to meet the aviation infrastructure needs of the state? This information and more can be found in the Executive Summary which may be accessed on the MDT Internet site at this location (<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/avsystem-plans.shtml>). In addition, a short video presentation is available for viewing at the same site or by searching "Montana SASP" on [YouTube](#).

In Memory



James Frederick Barfknecht, 95, of Helena, MT, retired Army Colonel and decorated WWII Veteran, passed away peacefully at St. Peter's Hospital, March 24, 2016 surrounded by his family. Jim was born in Melstone, MT on August 21, 1920 to Otto F. Barfknecht and Millie (Hinds) Barfknecht. After graduation from Gallatin County High School in 1938, he worked for two years to afford college during the Great Depression. He attended Montana State College, Bozeman (MSC/MSU), for two years when he was selected to enter the Navy's V-5 program.

Barfknecht entered the U.S. Navy as an Aviation Cadet June 4, 1942. He qualified as a Naval Aviator June 30, 1943, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, TX, where he was awarded his Gold Wings and commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. After advanced pilot training in Jacksonville,

FL, he completed Aircraft Carrier Qualifications on the USS Wolverine, Lake Michigan. He was then assigned to fleet duty aboard the USS Yorktown Aircraft Carrier, (CV10), also known as the "Fighting Lady" in the Pacific Theater. As a WWII Naval Aviator, Ensign Barfknecht flew the Naval Torpedo Bomber TBF-1 Avenger, with 70 successful sorties, launching/landing off the USS Yorktown. He was involved in intense combat of launched air strikes and raids and participated in several naval battles including the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the landing on Iwo Jima and the first aerial flight of carrier based torpedo bombers over the Tokyo area in early 1945. Jim served with distinction and became a decorated Aviator, receiving the Air Medal with Gold Star Asiatic for an attack on a Japanese freighter in the Philippines. He also received the Distinguished Flying Cross with Gold Star, Pacific and Philippine Liberation Ribbons and a Presidential Unit Citation.

Jim returned to Bozeman on leave from the Pacific Theater on April 1, 1945 and married his high school sweetheart, Virginia Howell, on April 4, 1945 in Bozeman. After a month of leave, he returned to the Navy while Virginia stayed in Bozeman to graduate from MSC. Once released from Naval Active Duty, Jim returned to MSC to complete his Mechanical Engineering degree in 1949, while remaining in the Naval Reserves. In April, 1947, Jim "traded services," resigning from the Naval Reserves and joining the Montana Army National Guard.

In July 1953, they moved to Helena where he was appointed Army Aviation Operations & Maintenance Officer for observation aircraft and helicopters of the Montana Army National Guard. He was the first aviator in the Montana Army National Guard and had the honor of flying the first helicopter in the state. In 1965, he became the first Montana Guardsman to receive the Master Army Aviator Award. Barfknecht organized the Montana Army National Guard Aviation Program, known today as the 189th Aviation Battalion. He also commanded both Headquarters Company 163rd INF Regiment and the Aviation Company of the 163rd Armored Cavalry. Col. Barfknecht, nicknamed by colleagues - "The Father of the Montana Army National Guard Aviation" served his "last drill" and retired in 1977 after 35 years of combined military service.

Jim's interest and devotion to aviation extended beyond the boundaries of Montana to Washington D.C. where he spent Active Duty time assisting other states in the organization and operation of their aviation programs.

He and Virginia traveled extensively in their retirement, including attending his Yorktown VT-3 Torpedo Bomber Squadron reunions annually for 25 years.

- Leah R. Gilman, Helena Independent Record



AERONAUTICS DIVISION COURTESY CAR PROGRAM

The Montana legislature has tasked the Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division with utilizing part of its annual budget for the awarding of courtesy cars to eligible airports.

"We want to thank the Aeronautics Division and the Courtesy Car Program for making this feature possible."

*-Jim Novak,
Anaconda Airport Manager*

New & Improved Video/DVD Library!

2630 Airport Road, Helena, MT 59620-0507



The MDT Aeronautics Division Video/DVD Library is driven by the needs of the piloting community. Whether you are researching aviation history, flight test preparation, or in need of specific training resources – the Aeronautics Division Library has the resources to meet your needs and those of the whole community. Video suggestions can be made by emailing hdramstad@mt.gov. Stop by our office or go online and reserve your video today!

Go to: http://mtsc.sdp.sirsi.net/client/en_US/MT-DOT/ and click on the **Aeronautics** Collection on the left.

The 32nd Montana Aviation Conference



(Left-Right) Eddie Anderson, Ed Croymans, Kelly Mower, Rich Broberg and Steven Vold. Rich of *Omaha Airplane Supply* and Steve of *Aerotronics, Inc.* have each been an exhibitor at every Montana conference since its inception – 32 years! Thanks Rich and Steve for being loyal supporters. Special thanks to Eddie, Ed and Kelly of *City Service Valcon/Phillips 66 Aviation* for sponsoring the Thursday evening cocktail hour that honors all exhibitors that have been attending for ten or more years.



"Sweet Mary Lou", a P-51 Mustang piloted by Gene Mallette of Helena was on display at the EXEC Air Montana static display on Friday evening.



Friday Awards Luncheon



Zachary Graves (left) of *Air Traffic Control* won the WWII P-51 'Old Crow' print donated by Larry (middle) and Owana Chambers (right) of *Aviation Art Forms*.



Speaker Charles "Speck" Helmbrecht, is a pioneer spray pilot in Montana and a survivor of a mid-air collision in the Helena Valley in 1956.



Jeff Wadekamper (right) and Ross Marty (left) of the Helena Regional Airport attend the Saturday night Banquet.

2016 Montana Airport Management Association (MAMA) – Internship Assistance Program

For the first time the Montana Airport Management Association (MAMA) is pleased to announce the Airport Internship Assistance Program! This program is intended to promote internships at airports across Montana. Airports that struggle to hire interns or airports that may have never had an intern now have the opportunity to apply for assistance through this new program. MAMA would like to see the next generation of our airport management be grown right here in Montana! The application is due Friday, May 13, 2016 and can be found on our website at:

www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml.

If you have any questions about the program please contact:

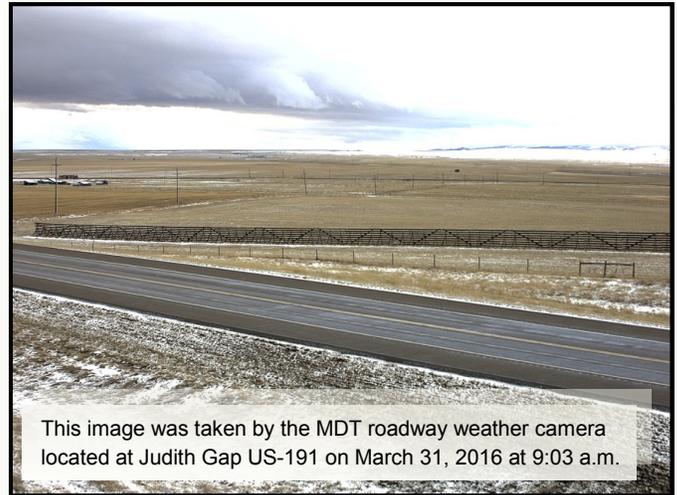
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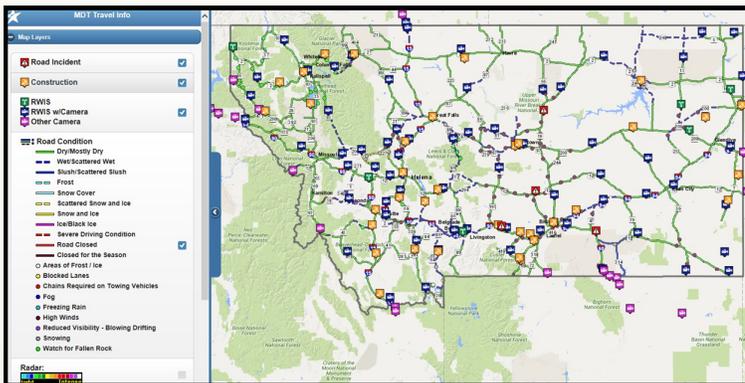
MDT Roadway Weather Cameras Valuable Aviation Resource

The Montana Department of Transportation currently has more than 70 road weather information systems (RWIS) across Montana that may be accessed online from the MDT website: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/weather/rwis.shtml>.

Many of the RWIS sites also provide camera images that provide near real time information on sky conditions that pilots may find useful for flight planning. The FAA's Alaska weather camera program became fully operational in June 2015, providing pilots with timely, accurate weather information from airports across Alaska. The Alaska weather cameras may be viewed at Avcams.faa.gov.



This image was taken by the MDT roadway weather camera located at Judith Gap US-191 on March 31, 2016 at 9:03 a.m.



Installation of remote weather cameras was among the safety enhancements recommended in 2014 by the General Aviation Joint Steering Committee, as a measure to help reduce loss of control accidents.

MDT's Travel Information Map can be located at <http://roadreport.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/mobile/>
Or download the mobile app – *MDT Travel Info*.

Evolving Times for Helena Airport Business

John Maxness and Dan Norhton, owners of Exec Air Montana, Inc. in Helena, Montana, are pleased to announce the appointment of Adam Weitz to the new position of General Manager. Weitz has previously worked at Exec Air in the line department and for Big Sky Airlines as an aircraft dispatcher, and Pinnacle Airlines as the flight operations center manager. A Helena native, Weitz earned a bachelor's degree in Aviation Management at Rocky Mountain College and a MBA from the University of North Dakota. In his new position, Weitz will be responsible for operations, regulatory compliance, personnel, and safety programs at Exec Air.

Recently, Exec Air modernized their fleet and increased service options with the addition of a LearJet 31 which can be configured for both medical and executive transport. This addition, along with other increases in medical transport capability, will allow Exec Air and Montana Medical Transport to expand their contribution to the community, both now and in years to come.

Exec Air is a full-service fixed base operator (FBO) at the Helena Regional Airport. It offers fuel, maintenance, charter services, including medical transport and ground services to general aviation and commercial aircraft. Since purchasing Morrison Air Service in 1995, the business has grown to include eight aircraft and 40 full-time employees. Exec Air, in cooperation with Montana Medical Transport, is able to provide high-quality and comparatively low cost medical transport to patients in the local community.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Civil Rights Bureau, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone (406) 444-9229. Those using a TTY may call (800) 335-7592 or go through the Montana Relay Service at 711.



Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

In 2015, there were 224 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 224 parents, children, grandparents, friends, siblings, spouses, and other loved ones had lives that were cut short. It also means countless tears and shattered lives of those left with the aftermath of unsafe driving behaviors. Which loved one are you prepared to lose? If your answer is none, then Vision Zero is also YOUR goal.

It will take every one of us to work towards the day that Vision Zero is met, and the fatality total reads "ZERO." Two of the highest contributing factors to traffic fatalities in 2015 were alcohol and no seat belt.

These are behaviors that can be changed! Start by always wearing your seatbelt and planning for sober transportation. Remind your loved ones and those around you to do the same.

-Director Mike Tooley, MDT

Visit www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero for more information.