

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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March 2016

32nd Montana Aviation Conference a Success!

Over 500 pilots, mechanics, students, educators, and vendors gathered in Helena on March 3rd - 5th for the 32nd annual Montana Aviation Conference. Attendees were welcomed to the event on Thursday by Governor Steve Bullock, who spoke to the luncheon crowd on the tremendous value that aviation provides to our Montana communities.

The highlight of the 3-day gathering was the keynote address delivered at the Saturday banquet by Helena native, Dr. Dava Newman, Deputy Director of NASA. Dr. Newman detailed the

most current NASA projects and missions, including the long-range goal of a round trip mission to Mars by mid-century. In attendance at the Saturday banquet were students from Helena's elementary, middle and high schools, as guests of Dr. Newman.

Dr. Dava Newman, Deputy Director of NASA Photo Credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls

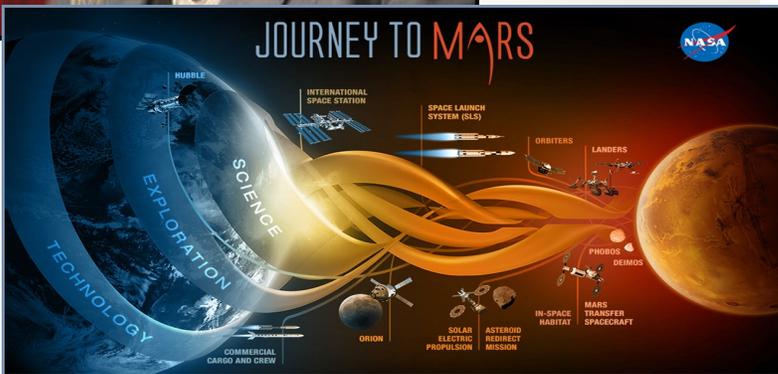


Governor Steve Bullock, top-right, welcomed conference goers at the kickoff luncheon on Thursday. Col. Bud Anderson, top-left addressed the luncheon with his personal story of air combat in a P-51 Mustang with the 8th Air Force in World War II.



This year's conference truly melded today's current unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and Mars mission technology with presentations on American aviation from 70 years ago.

Colonel Bud Anderson enthralled his audience with his personal story of service as a fighter pilot with the 8th Air Force in World War II. Justin Sands of Kalispell presented a static display of his Sandstorm, an experimental UAS used by his company to provide transition training for military fighter pilots of today who will go on to fly the Predator drone in combat overseas.



More About the Conference on Page 7...

Administrator's Column

Congratulations: To the Helena Host Committee, the MDT Aeronautics Division staff, especially Effie Benoit, for their work in ensuring the 2016 Montana Aviation Conference was enjoyed by all! I appreciate the dedication and hard work that goes into planning for such a large event. And to the exhibitors, sponsors, speakers and participants – thanks for your support of this annual conference.

Powder River Info: Correction -- at the Montana Aviation Conference, some important information regarding the Powder River Training Complex was not accurately presented regarding the Gateway Air Traffic Controlled Airspace (ATCAA). The Gateway East ATCAA is used **ONLY** during a Large Force Exercise (LFE); the Gateway West ATCAA is scheduled for **day-to-day use**. A large force exercise of military aircraft has been scheduled for March 30-31. During this period, people living under the following PRTC military operations areas can expect to see multiple types of aircraft utilizing all areas of the complex simultaneously. Please be sure to check NOTAMs and review flight plans to avoid these areas and altitudes where aircraft will be participating. This will be the second LFE for the PRTC.

New Airplane: The Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron of Montana Civil Air Patrol recently received its own airplane—a Cessna 182. The Montana Civil Air Patrol is a wing of a nationwide network of Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. Individual squadrons have three missions: aerospace education, cadet programs focused on leadership and aiding emergency services or law enforcement during natural disasters and search and rescue. Squadrons include both cadet and senior members. The Cessna arrived in Helena recently from Colorado. The local cadet program targets youth ages 12 to 18, subtitles and teaches leadership, integrity, excellence, service and respect. For information contact Spencer Gilchrist at: spencer.gilchrist@mtwg-cap.us

FAA Reauthorization: The current FAA authority expires at the end of March so it looks like at least one extension is looming with the House introducing a bill to extend through July 15, 2016. It is expected that both chambers will pass this extension before the end of the month. The Senate just introduced its bill. Unlike the House bill that was “shelved” the proposal does not include ATC privatization. The bill would only be in effect until the end of FY2017, shorter than the typical three-years and much shorter than the six-year length of the House bill. Some other provisions of the Senate bill include: protection for contract towers; tower-marking requirements; third-class medical reform; increased funding for the AIP and Small Community Air Service programs; sustained funding for EAS; creation of a working group to look at improving air service at small communities; and several UAS provisions directed towards safety and accountability and some healthy federal preemption language that would prevent state and local government from regulating UAS. The hope is to have full Senate consideration in April and perhaps a bill come July. Stay tuned.

Condolences: Montana lost two very special people last month with the passing of former Supreme Court Justice Bill Hunt of Helen and longtime aviator Ray Sanders of Kalispell. My sympathy to the Hunt and Sanders families.



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Department of Transportation

Steve Bullock, Governor
Mike Tooley, Director

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Yellowstone Airport's 2016 Snowmobile Snow Shoot

As a seasonal airport, Yellowstone closes to aviation every winter. In order to seek alternative revenues, the airport hosts a myriad non-aeronautical events during this time. One of the largest of them is the annual "Snow Shoot" which occurs every March. The four major snowmobile manufacturers descend upon Yellowstone Airport to present their latest products to various snowmobile magazines and media outlets from all over the world. They all agree that the local services, easy access, and privacy offered at the airport are ideal and plan to continue using the airport for this big event!

The Yellowstone Airport is pleased to entertain these events and is continually looking for creative ways to utilize the property and facilities during the off season.

Calendar of Events

March 26, 2016 - EAA Chapter 57 Poker Run - Come one, come all to the early season Flying Poker Run at the new EAA Chapter 57 hangar on the west-end of KBIL. Sign-in and fly-out between 8:00 am and 9:30 am, then return for lunch sponsored by Troop-9 BSA and prizes at 11:30 am. For more information call Steve Inman at (406) 861-8483.

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! Signup starts at 10:00 am and flying starts at 10:30 am.

June 11 - 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 toward 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 am till 10:00 am. 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.

Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy set for June 28-29 in Helena



High school students are invited to apply to attend the 2016 MDT Aeronautics Division's Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy to be held in Helena on June 28 and 29, 2016. Students will meet and talk with general aviation pilots, aircraft mechanics, machinists, air traffic controllers, flight instructors, experimental aircraft builders and Army helicopter pilots in this 2-day camp. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness in high school students about

possible career paths in aviation. Planned tours include static displays of a Lockheed Constellation, a Boeing 727, and Canadair Regional Jet, as well as the workshops of aircraft builders and aerospace manufacturing facilities on the Helena airport. The camp will conclude on June 29 with a picnic-style dinner at the Helena Brewers ballpark hosted by the Sleeping Giant Flying Club.

Registration information can be found on our webpage at: www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml or by calling Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568.



Now Online!



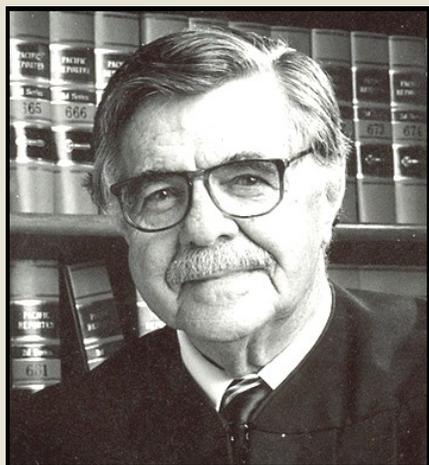
Resale Program

The MDT Aeronautics Division's Resale Program has reached another milestone:

it has gone online!

You can now purchase windsocks, runway lamps, PAPI lamps and much more! Visit our website at: <http://app.mt.gov/aeronautics/resale> and start ordering today. Orders can also be made by calling (406) 444-9592.

In Loving Memory



Former Montana Supreme Court Justice William Edward Hunt Sr. died Tuesday, February 16th, in Helena. He was 92. Hunt was born Feb. 28, 1923, in Tacoma, Wash., the son of William C. Hunt and Ann Nolan Hunt. He was the second eldest of eight children.

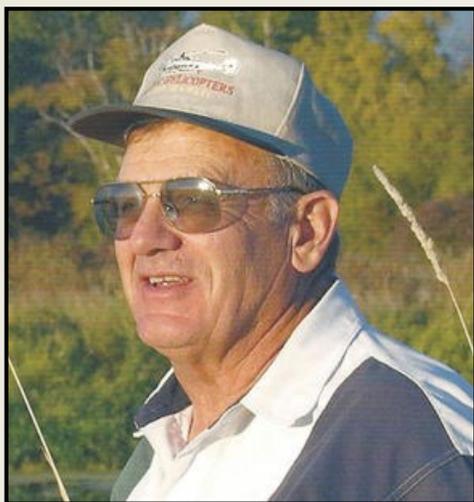
At age 16, Hunt dropped out of school when he enlisted in the Iowa National Guard April 1939 with his younger brother, Bob. As a soldier, he participated in the Allied invasion of Normandy on D-Day and the landings in Sicily and Algeria. He was among first wave of soldiers to storm Utah Beach. Those were the defining years of his adult life, Hunt said in a newspaper interview in late 2000 as he was preparing to leave the Montana Supreme Court after 16 years. "If it taught me anything, it taught me how lucky I was," Hunt said. "The war taught me we're all the same. We all do our best, and we can't worry about our differences."

At the University of Montana, Hunt completed his undergraduate pre-law classes and graduated from the School of Law in 1955. On August 25, 1952, Hunt married Mary V. Fassler, a registered nurse who had just graduated St. Patrick School of Nursing in

Missoula. The couple later moved to Walla Walla, Wash., Havre and Chester. In Chester, Hunt practiced law, served as Liberty County attorney for nine years and was the town's mayor. In 1970, the Hunts moved to Helena when he was appointed director of Montana Legal Services. Gov. Forrest H. Anderson later appointed him as director of the state Aeronautics Board, and like his father, Williams's son Bill Hunt serves on the board today. In 1975, Gov. Thomas L. Judge selected Hunt as the state's first workers' compensation judge. After his term ended in 1981, Hunt opened a private practice in Helena.

He was elected to a vacant seat on the Montana Supreme Court in 1984 and in 1992 ran unopposed for a second term. As a liberal justice on the Montana Supreme Court, Hunt was often in the minority. "I'm a liberal and you guys call me a liberal," he said in the newspaper interview in 2000. "I think a liberal is a person who has had a lot of experience and is not bound by what happens in the past, but understands the past." In 2000, Hunt received the Montana Trial Lawyers Association's Public Service and Career Achievement awards and the Citizens Award in 2007. Hunt received the 2009 Jeannette Rankin public service award from the ACLU of Montana. In 2003, he was inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Honor at Fort Benning, Ga.

His wife, Mary, died in 2009, and their son, Joe, died in 1998. His parents and siblings, Eileen, Bob, Don, Mary Jane, Larry and Janet, are all deceased. Survivors include their other children: Jim Hunt (wife Barbara Howe, children Hannah and Isabelle Hunt) of Helena; Kate Hunt (husband Todd Johnson, children Arlo and Jane Johnson) of Creston; Pat Hunt (husband Chuck Johnson) of Helena, and son Bill Jr. (wife Shelly Hunt, daughter Vivienne) of Shelby. Bill is also survived by his brother, Dick Hunt, of Arizona' sister-in-law Sue Hunt of Nevada; sister-in-law, Helen Coleman (husband Verle), of Washington state' and brother-in-law, Bill Byrne of Missoula. Numerous nephews and nieces also survive.



Raymond G. Sanders, 76, of Kalispell, passed away Feb. 25, 2016, surrounded by his family. He was born April 29, 1939 to William and Iva Sanders in Helena. At the age of 3 his family moved to a farm in the Lower Flathead Valley which he later purchased from his parents and expanded with his wife, Darlene. Ray graduated from Flathead High School in 1957 and married his high school sweetheart in 1963.

Ray enjoyed life to the fullest, but his two passions were family and flying. After 50 years of farming, he realized this piece of his life took up too much of his playtime, so he retired making flying and restoring aircraft his career. He later discovered his talent and love for wood carving.

Ray served on the board of the Agricultural Soil Conservation Service (ASCS) and was the area Air Search Coordinator for the MDT Aeronautics Division. Montana pilots will remember Ray for his long service to the search pilot community. He and colleague Hugh Wilkins instructed search pilots in the use of ELT direction finding equipment for several years at the search pilot clinic. He served as president of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), the Montana Pilots Association (MPA), the Montana Antique Airplane Association (MAAA), was a member of Village Greens Wood Carvers, and was the current Chairman of Flathead County Weed and Parks Department.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers Robert "Bob" Sanders and Horace Sanders and one sister Alice Funk. He is survived by his wife Darlene; daughter Lori Moran and her husband Billy Moran; two granddaughters Kodee Wagner and Bella Moran; one grandson Dustin Moran; brother William "Bill" Sanders; numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews and great-great nieces. Memorial services were held on Tuesday, March 1st at the Flathead County Fairgrounds Expo building.



Calling All Youth Artists!



MDT Aeronautics Division is now accepting entries for the 2016 Montana Aviation Art Contest. The contest is open to all students grades K-12 in public, private, and home school classrooms. The purpose of the contest is to raise awareness of the contribution aviation makes to the Montana way of life, and to encourage students to consider a future in the field of aviation.

Trophies will be awarded in three grade categories: K through 5th, 6th through 8th, and 9th through 12th grade. The first place winners in each category will have their artwork framed and receive a flight from their hometown to Helena with their parents. Following an awards ceremony in the capitol supreme court chamber with MDT Director Mike Tooley, the winners will tour the state capitol building and enjoy a complimentary lunch in downtown Helena.

Entries must include the student's name, grade, school address, and teacher's contact information. Every effort will be made to return the artwork to the student's school. Entries must be postmarked by April 15, 2016 to be considered.

Contest entries may be mailed to:

MDT Aeronautics Division
2630 Airport Road
P.O. Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507



2015 Category 2 Winner, *Tristan Oliszczak, Billings*

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.

...32nd Annual Aviation Conference Continued



Michael Cichon, left, of Bozeman was among the scholarship winners at this year's conference. He received the \$1,000 MPA Junior Pilot Award from MPA President, Scott Newpower, right.



Friday luncheon guest speaker Patty Mitchell, top-left, spoke of the obstacles she encountered while pursuing her dream of becoming a pilot and how her determination would lead to a commendable career.

The many and varied speakers who present at the concurrent sessions are the key to a successful and interesting conference. This year we were fortunate to hear pioneer spray pilot Charles "Speck" Helmbrecht speak to a packed audience of his experience flying in Montana, including surviving a mid-air collision over the Helena Valley in 1956. National Business Aviation Assoc. representatives Bob Lamond and Kristi Ivey and AOPA NW Mountain Regional Manager Warren Henderson briefed attendees on the most current

topics of interest, including the Pilot's Bill of Rights 2, FAA Reauthorization, and the status of UAS in the national airspace. Journalist and free-lance writer, Tom Harpole, addressed pilots on his knowledge of the Soviet space program, detailing his parachute training with Russian cosmonauts in the 1980's.

More than 90 aircraft mechanics attended the 16 hour FAA-approved IA refresher course presented by the MDT Aeronautics Division. Sixteen subject matter experts lectured the mechanics on subjects ranging from aviation fuels and torque wrenches to the FAA's new compliance philosophy. Due to the generosity of the Montana aviation community, more than \$16,000 in scholarships for mechanic and pilot training were awarded to students at the Friday luncheon. More than 20 pilots participated in the AOPA sponsored Rusty Pilot seminar conducted by the Aeronautics Division on Saturday morning.

The organizing committee wishes to thank all of the exhibitors and sponsors whose support makes this conference possible. No other event equals the Aviation Conference for bringing together all facets of the Montana flying community. Plans are already underway for the 33rd annual aviation conference to be held in Billings on March 2-4, 2017.

Christina Weibert, left, of Bozeman pictured with Missoula EAA's Steve Rossiter, middle, and Garrett Point, right, of Helena were the recipients of two EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarships this year. Garret was also the recipient of the Blue Goose 1st Generation Flight Scholarship and the Montana Antique Aircraft Association Scholarship.



Participants were invited to tour the Helena Airport followed by a static display that included Bob Hamm's 1946 J-3 Cub and Beau Bradley's 1976 turbine Marchetti at Exec Air Montana, Inc. Thank you to all the owners who participated in the hospitality event on Friday evening.



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zero deaths

zero serious injuries

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.