

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

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Havre City Judge, Hon. Virginia L. Seigel, to Speak at Aviation Conference in March 1-3, 2018



The Honorable Virginia Seigel will address the Friday luncheon audience at the 34th annual Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula, March 2, 2018. Born in the inauspicious year in which President Richard Nixon ordered an invasion of Cambodia and The Beatles broke up, the next 17 years passed quickly to her graduation from High School from the tiny town of Cimarron, New Mexico. After enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1990, Hon. Seigel graduated from the Defense Language Institute as a Persian-Farsi linguist, completed training on Fort Huachuca, Arizona and then became “jump qualified” through Airborne school on Fort Benning, Georgia.

After serving with the 18th Airborne Corps on Fort Bragg, North Carolina as part of a Tactical Exploitation Airborne Interrogation unit, Hon. Seigel transitioned to college life at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology (Cum Laude) and commissioned from the Army ROTC Battalion as a 2nd Lieutenant with Army Aviation. Hon. Seigel graduated as the Distinguished Graduate from flight school on Fort Rucker, Alabama, in February of 2001 (Class 01-03) and served four years in Asia as a CH-47 “Chinook” helicopter pilot with the only U.S. heavy lift unit in the Republic of Korea. In 2006, she was assigned to 12th Combat Aviation Brigade in Germany and deployed as part of the “surge” in 2007 in Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09 and was stationed on Balad Airfield for 15 months, flying night combat operations in Iraq.

She resigned from active service in 2009 to finally have regular working hours in the hopes of completing the task of raising and graduating her then teenage children. She began clerking for Hill County Justice Court (in Havre) in 2010 and began serving as the Havre City Judge in 2014 where she is now on her second term in office (2018-2020).

Debbie Alke Retires After 27 Years

On December 2, 2017 a reception was held in Debbie Alke's honor as she closes this chapter of her life and opens the next in retirement. The celebration was held late afternoon on the second floor of the Helena Regional Airport. Many family, friends and colleagues from around the state and country attended the reception.

The reception was causal in nature but the sincerity and depth of the well wishers was not. It was obvious that Debbie has touched many people during her career at MDT Aeronautics by the endless comments heard in conversation as well as shared by husband Dan and speakers: Rick Griffith, family friend and retired colleague, Tricia McKenna, Aeronautics Board Chair, Dan Fevold, TSA Federal Security Director, daughter Nicole, sister and MDT peer Lynn Zanto. A priceless flash mob performance "You Will Retire" set to Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" was performed by Debbie's mother, sisters, daughters and nieces.

Debbie has represented Montana well. She has been the "go-to" person on local, regional, and national levels for Aviation issues during her 27 year tenure. We wish Debbie the best in her retirement. She will be dearly missed.



Left, Debbie's daughters Danielle and Nicole with Debbie's mother, Kay.



Debbie Alke receives plaque from Dan Fevold, TAS Federal Security Director.

Thank you to my amazing family, friends, co-workers, staff, Aeronautics Board members and industry that showed up and made this day so special. The gifts, cards, well wishes, hugs and memories will be cherished forever. I love you all.

Debbie



Merry Christmas and

Happy New Year

From the staff at

MDT ~ Aeronautics Division

Debbie Alke, Effie Benoit, Wade Cebulski, Tim Conway,
Jeff Kadlec, Jan Smith, Patricia Trooien and Rylie Warren



Montana and the Sky
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Helena EAA Chapter Founder, Clayton Wilhelm, Earns Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award

Article by Pat Johnson



Photo Credit: Wilhelm Family, Clayton Wilhelm stands near his homebuilt Van's RV-6A Photo

Clayton D. Wilhelm, Helena, received the FAA's *Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award* on October 10, 2017, during an Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) meeting. An avid aviation supporter, Clayton started the Helena EAA Chapter 344 and kept it alive until present. It is now composed of a robust group of pilots and mechanics that sponsor many Young Eagles flights and several get-togethers each year.

A flight in a Cessna 120 from a hayfield at Pryor, Montana, when he was 12 years old sparked his interest in flying and working on planes. After graduating high

school, Clayton moved to Helena to attend the School of Aeronautics, the forerunner of the current Helena College program, to learn aircraft mechanics and to learn to fly. At the time, the school had a Stinson 108-3 in which students could receive 10 hours of instruction but could not solo.

While studying at the school, Clayton joined the Army National Guard and his maintenance officer asked if he had his Mechanic's certificate. At the time, he had earned an Airframe rating and was asked to apply for a job with the Guard. Later, he earned a Private Pilot certificate followed by a Powerplant rating. He was a Guard member for 31 years, working 28 of those years as a helicopter mechanic.

Together with Bill Bradford, Bradford Machine Works, Clayton started the Helena EAA Chapter 344 in 1972. They worked to get it started until Bill's business took precedence and he dropped out while Clayton persisted. Clayton often flew to Oshkosh and was instrumental in getting the EAA's replica of the *Spirit of St. Louis* to stop in Helena during its 1978 flight to commemorate 50 years since Lindbergh's 1928 flight to Paris. When the *Spirit* had a cracked wheel rim, Clayton helped replace it after EAA sent a replacement on an airline. This is the only flying replica that carries the original designation, NX211.

Before Clayton got his first airplane in 1981, he had access to fly many aircraft including a Stinson, a Cessna 172, a Cessna 150, Aeronca Chief, and a Maule. Over his career he has flown twenty different aircraft types ranging from a Piper J3 to a Beech A36. From the time he earned his certificate, he consistently gave people airplane rides, giving over 350 first airplane rides and taking over 1,000 people total for rides years before EAA Young Eagle Flights began.

His first plane was an Ercoupe which he took to Oshkosh six times with a different passenger each year. Clayton encouraged at least six others to attend Oshkosh, including Mike Ferguson and Jeanne MacPherson. Due to his support and encouragement, at least eight people earned pilot certificates. When EAA started the Young Eagle flights in 1992, Clayton began providing flights for young people.

Clayton built two homebuilt airplanes and has done the first flights and the entire test flying for the Phase I flight tests. He is still flying his last homebuilt, a Van's RV-6A in which he now has over 370 hours.

After retiring from the Guard, Clayton worked six years for the Montana Aeronautics Division, maintaining their aircraft and the airway beacons. Once retired from work, he became an EAA Technical Counselor serving as an experienced airplane builder and mechanic volunteering to help EAA members make the right choices during construction to pass FAA inspection.

Clayton credits his wife, Donna, for much of his success in the past 50 years as she has always supported him, flown with him, and helped him with maintenance.

Students Take Flight - Career Day Raffle Winners See Yellowstone National Park From The Air

Article and pictures by Dustin Jones
news@wyellowstonestar.com

Wednesday, Sept. 27, two students got to experience Yellowstone from a different angle - more than 2,000 feet in the air. Freshman Adin Brown and sophomore Jake Mann took to the skies to explore the area by plane for over an hour - an opportunity that may come around only once.

Yellowstone Airport Manager Jeff Kadlec attended career day at the West Yellowstone School last spring, and those who attended his presentation were eligible for the flight.

Guest speaker at the career fair had different prizes and Kadlec felt he could offer something special to the students. "We thought, 'We have a couple of airplanes, it would be really cool to expose some students to aviation and get them up in the air,'" he said "Anyone that attended my presentation was able to put their name in the hat and then we had a drawing."

Coordinating the flight proved difficult over the summer, trying to match airport availability with the students. "We had our first flight that was scheduled was canceled due to weather," Kadlec said. "It took a while for us to get coordinated over the summer and have it work with the student's schedule as well."

Both students admitted they had only flown a handful of times, but never like this. The small, four-person plane took them over Yellowstone to the Grand Prismatic Spring, Quake Lake and then over to Big Sky.

Mann was able to look out the window as he flew over the school, seeing his fellow football players at practice. Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics Airports and Airways Bureau Chief, flew over the students' homes, allowing them to see town from the sky.

Kadlec hopes to give additional students the opportunity to see Yellowstone by plane at future career fairs. "I think we will try and do it again next year," he said. "We will try and participate in the career fair next year and raffle off another flight to a different batch of kids."

DUSTIN JONES/WEST YELLOWSTONE STAR
Sophomore Jake Mann does his best to contain his joy while flying over Yellowstone National Park.



DUSTIN JONES/WEST YELLOWSTONE STAR
Freshman Adin Brown does not have a pilot's license, but that did not stop him from taking control of the airplane for a few minutes.



Resale Program

ATTENTION!

Do you need windsocks, runway lamps, PAPI lamps? Orders can be placed by calling MDT Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

Yellowstone Airport's First Aircraft Hangar Facility!



Pictured left to right: Bron Hansen, Jeff Heaney, Bob Hoff, Dallas Andrus, Tyler Worton, Jerry Johnson, Shane Grube, and Jane Hoff.

Yellowstone Airport's first hangar ever is now under construction! Air Methods Corporation, dba Air Idaho Rescue (Air Ambulance Operator) has operated successfully at Yellowstone Airport for three summer seasons now. Just this past year, Air Methods opted to start year-round operations. Since Air Methods primarily operates with a helicopter, the airport was able to accommodate their request since it does not require the use of the runway surface which remains closed all winter.

Now entering their second winter, Air Methods has decided to construct a new hangar facility to keep the aircraft operating more smoothly and reliably during the colder months. The hangar will be 50' X 70' and will include crew/office quarters areas. Stop by the airport next summer for a tour!



Montana Historical Society Posts Two Aviation Digitized Films on YouTube

[Montana and the Sky](#) and [Montana and its Aircraft](#) are now available for viewing on the internet. [Montana and the Sky](#) is a program that discusses the daily use of aviation across the State of Montana, focusing on how the airplane has become an important tool in the development of a modern frontier. The film provides a brief overview of Montana history, as well as a description of the human geography of the state itself. Mail routes, business travel, recreation, medical flights, ranch use, wildlife management, and forestry and firefighting are all addressed as important facets of aviation in Montana. Produced in 1952, and sponsored by the Montana Aeronautics Commission. (collection PAC 2007-67)

[Montana and its Aircraft](#) is a program that discusses the importance of aviation in Montana, from its larger airports to its smaller rural airstrips. Medical flights, the spraying of crops, forestry and firefighting, ranching, rodeos, mail service, commerce, business commuting, and recreational activities are all portrayed as beneficiaries of improved aviation. Produced in 1969, and sponsored by the Montana Aeronautics Commission. (collection PAC 2007-67)

The Montana Historical Society is the owner of this film and makes available reproductions for research, publication and other uses. For more information on these programs, please contact Kelly Burton at (406) 444-3668 or email kelly.burton@mt.gov.

Bozeman Yellowstone International airport Opens New Runway 11-29

On Thursday, October 12, 2017, Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (KBZN) opened its new 5050' runway, but not without 45 years of foresight, planning, and dedication by many. The very first Gallatin Airport Authority Board members (John Buttleman, Gardner Waite, Howard Nelson, William Merrick and Zales Ecton with Airport Manager, Frank Wolcott) were responsible for the first Airport Master Plan for what was then called Gallatin Field. This Master Plan was completed in 1972 and included the first vision of the parallel paved runway.

In 2006, Gallatin Airport Authority Board members (John McKenna, Steve Williamson, Richard Roehm, Greg Metzger and Eric Hastings along with Airport Director Ted Mathis) commissioned a follow-up master plan that then further clarified this runway and established its ultimate location and intended use, separating smaller and slower moving aircraft from larger and faster moving aircraft during peak periods.

The new runway will allow General Aviation traffic, including student pilots practicing patterns and approaches, to remain separate from the commercial traffic, thereby increasing safety, efficiency and lower costs of flight training.

Runway facts: First new runway in Montana in over 30 years, total Cost – approximately \$7 million (runway, parallel taxiway system, connecting taxiways, lighting, Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI)), Length/width – 5,050' x 75', designed to serve small aircraft and separate these aircraft from the faster moving jet aircraft using the main runway

Congratulations to all who worked toward making this vision become a reality.



Bob Davis Accepts Wright Brother Master Pilot Award



Bob Davis with his Super Cub.



Bob & Argie Davis at Award Ceremony

Helena resident Bob Davis received the FAA's Wright Brother Master Pilot Award on November 14, 2017 during a party at Vetter's aviation. Bob has been flying planes for decades. His love for aviation started when his mother purchased a flight for himself and his brother as a bribe because they were to have their tonsils removed. Bobs first flight was in a J3 Club in 1941 as a 5-year-old boy. Born and raised in Arkansas, Bob graduated high school in 1954 in Wichita, KS and moved to Montana in 1956. Bob worked as a heavy equipment operator in coal mines for 13 years as well at Minuteman Missile Complex in Lewiston. Bob took flying lessons in 1963 in Cheyenne, WY and a year after received a Private Pilot Certificate in Butte. Later Bob obtained a Commercial Pilot Certificate in 1968, an Instrument Rating in 1979 and a Float Plane Rating in 2011. In the late

Continued on page 7

1960's he built his first aircraft, a 1946 Aeronca Champ while out of work for the winter. Bob was a member of the International Bird Dog Association, EAA and the Recreational Aircraft Foundation. In the 1970's Bob was in the Civil Air Patrol in Montana and was responsible for piloting L-19 Bird Dogs for search and rescue operations. It's the greatest mountain airplane that he has ever flown and will never forget what made him fall in love with the Bird Dogs, in fact, he loved them so much he eventually got one of his own and was recently on display at the Three Forks Fly-In. To this day Bob still takes the plane out regularly and keeps an Aeronca Champ in Arkansas and several aircraft in Montana. His love for flying has carried over the generations in his family with three of his four sons, his grandson and granddaughter all receiving pilot certificates.

Calendar of Events

December 15, 2017 – Aviation Scholarship Application Deadline - Letters must be postmarked on or before December 15, 2017. Visit this site for detailed information www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml.

January 17-18, 2018 - Montana Aeronautics Board Meeting - The Aeronautics Board Meeting will be held at MDT Auditorium East/West 2701 Prospect Ave, Helena MT 59620 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on January 17th and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on January 18th, 2018. For more information call Tim Conway at (406) 444-9547 or email tconway@mt.gov.

January 22-24 - Association of Montana Aerial Applicators (AMAA) Convention - Heritage Inn, Great Falls, MT. For further information, contact Colleen Campbell at (406) 781-6461 or email eccampbell@yahoo.com.

February 9 & 10, 2018 - Flight Instructor Renewal Course (FIRC) - The MDT Aeronautics Division will conduct the 2018 FIRC February 9th and 10th at the Wingate Hotel, located at 2007 N. Oaks Street, Helena, Montana. The two-day, FAA approved course will run from noon on Friday until 9 p.m., and from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. This course meets the FAA's renewal requirements for certified flight instructors (CFI & Chief CFI). This course is open to anyone with an interest in aviation, and specifically geared toward the professional flight instructor to promote a culture of safety in general aviation. For more information call Patricia Trooien at (406) 444-2506 or email ptrooien@mt.gov.

March 1-3, 2018 - The 34th Annual Montana Aviation Conference - Will be held in Missoula, Montana at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown located at 200 South Pattee, Missoula, Montana. Rooms have been blocked at prevailing government rate plus tax. Reserve your room by calling (406) 721-8550 and reference rooming block **Montana Aviation Conference 2018**. Reserve your room prior to January 29, 2018 to receive the reduced rate. For more information, contact Effie Benoit at (406) 444-9580 or efbenoit@mt.gov.

March 2-3, 2018 – Montana Aircraft Mechanic Refresher & I.A. Renewal Seminar, Holiday Inn Downtown, Missoula. For further information, contact Jan Smith at (406) 444-9592 or email jansmith@mt.gov.

“Check-Out” the Video/DVD Library at MDT Aeronautics!

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 calling (406) 444-2506.

To see what is available go to: http://mtsc.sdp.sirsi.net/client/en_US/MT-DOT/ and click on the **Aeronautics** Collection on the left.



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Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

In 2016, there were 190 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 190 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 2016 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.

VISION ZERO
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

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