

Montana and the Sky



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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Billings Hosts 33rd Annual Montana Aviation Conference

Nearly 500 aviation enthusiasts gathered in Billings on March 2-4th for the 2017 Montana Aviation Conference. Conference goers were treated to inspiring presentations, such as that by former NASA astronaut and Montana pilot, Frank Borman, Commander of the 1968 Apollo 8 mission to orbit the moon. Airline pilot Adrian Eichhorn presented the keynote speech at the Saturday night banquet, relating his round-the-world flight in a Beechcraft Bonanza. Antique aircraft conservator, Greg Herrick spoke of his decade long effort to preserve original aircraft type certificate data so that airplanes from the Golden Era of aviation might keep flying with newly manufactured propellers produced to original specifications. Dr. Brent Blue, former team doctor of the U.S. Aerobatic Team, spoke to the Thursday luncheon audience of the many pilots and airman he has known over the years, including the late Gene Cernan, the last man to walk on the moon. Dr. Blue recalled chatting with Cernan under a full moon, a remarkable memory.

More than 60 mechanics attended the FAA-approved IA refresher course and renewed their certificates for another 2 years. Technical experts from across the country, such as Tim Gauntt of Hartzell Engine Technologies and Martin Clemons, an Electrical Design Engineer from the Paradise Valley addressed the mechanics with the most current information. Willie Stene of Polson spoke about STCs, TSOs, and owner produced parts for



Keynote speaker, Adrian Eichhorn, left, is congratulated by Doug Parrott, center, as Peter Gross, right, looks on.

certificated aircraft. Kristi Dunks of Bozeman, a safety analyst with the NTSB spoke about maintenance related aircraft accidents. Staff from the Helena Flight Standards District Office processed the renewal applications on site, and provided updates on recent changes in FAA policy.

The Friday evening hospitality hour was hosted by the South Central Hangar of the Montana Pilots Association at the newly opened hangar of the Billings Flying Service. Owner Al Blain had his fleet of Chinook helicopters opened for all to tour, before they face another busy year on fire fighting contracts.

The recipients of nearly \$14,000 in scholarships for flight training and airframe and power plant mechanic students were announced at the Friday

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Administrator's Column

Another Victory! Congratulations to the Billings host committee in its efforts to ensure a successful 33rd annual Montana aviation conference. The conference was co-chaired by Kevin Ploehn of the Billings Airport and Steve Vold of Aerotronics. They were assisted by Penny Haynes, Jon Haynes, Shane Ketterling, Patty Mitchell, Bobbi Powers and Steve Tostenrud. The coordination, planning and commitment shown by this dedicated group was enjoyed by close to 500 participants that "landed" in Billings March 2-4, 2017. A full schedule included business meetings, entertaining and educational sessions, IA renewal, student aviation education session, static display, exhibit hall bustling with energy as vendors displayed the latest in aviation goods and services, keynote speakers, social functions and us lots of time spent catching up with old friends and meeting new friends! Congratulations to the many scholarship recipients and many thanks to those that make the time to join us and accept the scholarship. Thanks for your many years of service to the 2017 Wright Brothers Master Pilot recipient Ted Mathis of Belgrade and to the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic recipient Mike Ferguson – nicely done gentlemen. And many thanks to Effie Benoit and the amazing staff at the Aeronautics Division. This conference would not be possible without their support and hard work that they accomplish every day. Mark your calendar and plan to attend the conference next year in Missoula.

Domestic flight plan update: At the FAA Listening Session a question was asked about the change to the FAA flight plan form. The following information was provided by the FAA as received from DUATS: "The FAA intends do away with the FAA domestic format for filing flight plans and going strictly to the ICAO format throughout the National Airspace System (NAS). By using DUATS several things will happen to assist you in this transition. All domestic stored flight plans will be automatically transitioned to ICAO for you. DUATS leads you through the completion of ICAO format. Error checking in the form, help assist you in completing a flight plan correctly; specific help is provided for each block that needs to be completed. Our goal in DUATS is to make the transition to ICAO as simple as possible – you will not need to refer to a user guide when filling out the format in DUATS. The FAA ICAO requirement for filing of flight plans will go into effect on March 28th, 2017. As always DUATS will be here for all your flight planning, weather and flight plan filing needs and will make this transition to ICAO as simple as possible – you will not need to refer to a user guide when filling out the form in DUATS."

National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) Scholarship: The NASAO Henry Ogrodzinski Scholarship program awards a scholarship for academic achievement in aviation or aerospace. The scholarship is offered to juniors or seniors at a college or university continuing their education in the aviation or aerospace industry. Henry Ogrodzinski, spent more than seventeen years leading NASAO as its President and CEO and devoted his lifetime to the general aviation industry. Henry O, as he was referred to by the industry, passed away in January of 2014 after a long battle with cancer. Henry had been an advocate for aviation his entire professional life. Henry led the aviation industry with incredible passion towards and sincere concern for all friends, and aviation industry stakeholders. Application materials must be received no later than April 30, 2017. For an application form and eligibility criteria go to: <http://www.nasao.org/about/scholarships/>

Ins and Outs of ADS-B: Everything you always wanted to know about ADS-B can be found in the March/April 2017 issue of FAA Safety Briefing (https://www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing/2017/media/marapr2017.pdf). The articles focus on Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) technology, a foundational component of FAA's NextGen system for improving the safety and efficiency of the NAS. Articles cover the myriad of safety and technology benefits ADS-B offers, as well as providing important details on the purchase, installation, and operation of ADS-B equipment. The deadline to equip with ADS-B Out is January 1, 2020. Check it out here: https://www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing/



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luncheon, as well as FAA master pilot and mechanic awards to Mike Ferguson of Townsend and Ted Mathis of Bozeman.

Students from Gallatin College and Rocky Mountain College aviation programs were in attendance, as were aviation maintenance technician students from the Helena College. Third grade students and their teachers from Washington Elementary School in Billings experimented with table top wind tunnels and tissue paper hot air balloons on Friday morning, as high school students from the Career Center of the Billings Public Schools Aeronautics Class attended lectures in the concurrent sessions.

Aviation organizations such as the Montana Pilots Association and others took the opportunity to hold their annual membership meetings on Saturday. Plans are already underway for the 2018 Aviation Conference to be held in Missoula.

Breezy Burleson, of City Service Valcon addresses the mechanics on the subject of aviation fuel during the IA refresher course. City Service Valcon is a longtime sponsor and host of the Thursday evening hospitality hour in the exhibition hall.



Billings High School Student, Jake Davis (right) test flies an airfoil made of aluminum foil in the table top wind tunnel. Tom Westall, (upper right) checks in with FAA maintenance inspector Bryan Hanson at the IA refresher. West Yellowstone Airport Manager, Jeff Kadlec served as moderator of the FAA-approved 16-hour course.



Students Wade Williamson, left, Austin Grubb, center, and Brody Severson, right, from the Helena College Aviation Maintenance Technician program traveled to Billings for the IA Refresher, and received credits for the hours they attended the lectures.



Third grade students from Washington Elementary School built tissue paper hot air balloons in the Take Off With Aviation Program on Friday morning at the Conference.

Airmen Receive FAA Master Award Recognition

Montana airmen, Mike Ferguson of Townsend, left, and Ted Mathis of Bozeman, right, were recognized with the FAA Charles Taylor Award and the Wright Brothers Award, respectively during the Friday awards luncheon. The master mechanic award is named after the Wright Brother's mechanic, Charles Taylor, and is open to A&P mechanics who have worked in the field for 50 years. Pilots who have flown for 50 years are eligible for the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.



South Central Hangar of MPA Hosts Hospitality Hour at Billings Flying Service



The traditional Friday evening hospitality hour was hosted by the South Central Hangar of the Montana Pilots Association, its President, Bobbi Powers, and Al Blain at the

newly opened facility of the Billings Flying Service. Attendees were welcome to walk through the Chinook helicopters that will soon go on firefighting contracts.

Apollo 8 Commander, Montana Pilot Frank Borman

Nearly 400 attendees packed the ballroom on Saturday morning to hear retired Air Force Colonel Frank Borman speak of his flying career, including his historic lunar orbital flight in Apollo 8 on Christmas Eve, 1968. He spoke of airmen and astronauts he has known and flown with in his career, such as General Curtis LeMay, Charles Lindberg, Jimmy Doolittle, Chuck Yeager, and Deke Slayton. He related how new applicants to the test pilot school were evaluated for their ability to handle a simultaneous spin and flameout in an F-104 fighter over the dry lake bed at Edwards AFB.



Scholarships Awarded at Friday Luncheon

Scholarship winners Sam Hoffman, left; Trevor Stene, center; and Wyatt Ducharme, right, attended the awards luncheon on



Scholarship Recipient Passes Check Ride

Trevor Stene, left, a CFI at Northstar Jet in Missoula holds his brand new multiengine flight instructor certificate with designated pilot examiner, Bob Van Meter, right, after his check ride recently at Vetter Aviation in Helena. Trevor is the 2017 recipient of the **EAA Chapter 517** Aviation Career Training Scholarship. Thanks to the generous support of the general aviation community and organizations such as the Experimental Aircraft Association local chapters and the Montana Pilots Association, pilots like Trevor can advance their flight training and help build a strong future for Montana aviation. Congratulations Trevor!

406 ELT Beacon Registration

Most U.S. registered civil aircraft require the installation of an emergency locator transmitter (ELT), per 14 CFR 91.207. Since 1995, all new aircraft are required to be equipped with the digital 406 MHz ELT which offers many advantages over the analog 121.5 ELT. Satellite monitoring of the 121.5 distress beacon frequency was discontinued in 2009, in part due to the high false alarm rate. As a reminder, all 406 ELTs must be registered with the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The digital signal emitted by the ELT to NOAA satellites includes ownership and contact information which is invaluable in a search and rescue situation. If you've recently purchased an airplane with a 406 ELT, or if you fly with a personal locator beacon (PLB), make sure you update the registration at: <https://beaconregistration.noaa.gov/RGDB/index>.



Townsend Pilot Returns from South Pole

Matt Nelson, right, of Townsend, and colleague Kyle Garst keep a tight grip on the Montana flag as they prepare to depart the Amundson-Scott station recently after spending the summer season working as satellite communications engineers. Matt stopped over in New Zealand on his return trip and flew with a local aviator around Mount Cook in a Cessna.

Benchmark Airport (3U7)

The Benchmark Airport is located 60 NM west of the Great Falls (GTF) VOR on the 256 degree radial and 20 NM west of Augusta, Montana. The airport was built during the Johnson Administration and offers tie downs, campsites, fire rings, water, and vaulted toilets. The USFS managed, and volunteer maintained public use airport has a 6,000' paved runway that can provide aviators with access to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex just to the west, just over 1.5 million acres of roadless wilderness. The Benchmark Wilderness Ranch is within a short hiking distance (<.5 NM) of the airport, and offers full service outfitting, including big game hunting, fishing, pack trips, wilderness adventure trips, and family vacation packages.

Correction to Airport Directory

The radio frequency for Big Sky Approach Control was incorrectly listed in the 2017 Montana Airport Directory at Bozeman. The correct frequency is 118.975. We regret the inconvenience.



Calling All Youth Artists!



Do you like to draw? Do you have an interest in aviation/aerospace?
This contest is for you!

Categories Prizes Entry Requirements

Category 1:

Kindergarten - 5th grade

Category 2:

6th Grade - 8th Grade

Category 3:

9th Grade - 12th Grade

FIRST PLACE in each category:

1. The school will be notified and an MDT Representative will mail a 1st Place Congratulatory Letter to the student.
2. A round trip flight from the winner's hometown to Helena for the winner and his/her parents (legal guardians).
3. Lunch and a tour of the Montana Capitol Building.
4. A trophy and Certificate of Achievement presented by an MDT representative.
5. Artwork will be matted and framed, and returned to you at the Capitol Building.

SECOND & THIRD PLACE in each category:

1. A trophy and Certificate of Achievement.

1. Contest deadline is: Friday, April 15, 2017.
2. Contest is open to all Montana students, grades K-12.
3. Size of poster is not to exceed 11" x 14".
4. Artwork must have an aviation theme - can be color or black & white.
5. Please no tracing the images.
6. All artwork must include the following:
Name of Student, Student's Grade, School's Mailing Address, Phone Number, and Teacher's Name

Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy

The 2017 Aviation Career Exploration Academy for high school students will be conducted in Helena on June 19th and 20th. The two-day resident camp will immerse students in wide ranging aspects of aeronautics that will include flights in general aviation airplanes; a tour of a state-of-the-art aerospace manufacturing facility; a visit to a hangar that is restoring an all-wood airplane from the 1930's; visits to a static Boeing 727 flight deck, the Army Aviation Helicopter squadron, the cab of an air traffic control tower, and the aviation maintenance technician program at the



Helena College. There will be an aerobatic demonstration flight, and demo flights by hang glider and paraglider pilots. Students will have the opportunity to speak with general aviation pilots of float planes, amphibians, and tail draggers at a fly-in at Canyon Ferry airport. The aerodynamics of hot air balloons will be presented in a ground school session and students will serve as ground crew for a tethered balloon inflation. Cost of the academy is \$120 and includes all meals and lodging at the Wingate Inn. Contact Harold Dramstad, Safety and Education Bureau Chief for questions at [406-444-9568](tel:406-444-9568) or hdramstad@mt.gov.

[ACE Academy Registration Form](#)

MDT Aeronautics Search Pilot Clinic

September 8-10th, Fort Peck

The 2017 MDT Aeronautics Search Pilot Clinic will be conducted at the Fort Peck airport, 37S, the weekend of September 8-10th. The purpose of the course is to provide volunteer search pilots and observers the skills necessary to be successful in the Montana Air Search and Rescue system. Ground school will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and cover Air Search and Rescue Organization, How to Fly Search Patterns, and Use of Mobile Devices in Air Search. Each student will receive about 3 hours of dual instruction from well-qualified, high-time CFIs in Cessna 182 and 206 airplanes in flights on Saturday and Sunday. Field exercises in the use of direction finding equipment and survival skills will be conducted when students are not taking flight instruction. Cost of the course is \$140, or \$70 for the ground portion only. For questions, please contact Harold Dramstad, Bureau Chief, Safety and Education, at 406-444-9568, or hdramstad@mt.gov.

Airport Work Session Schedule Announced

The dates have been set for this season's airport work sessions at Spotted Bear, Schaefer, and Meadow Creek airstrips. MDT Aeronautics Division provides the tools and materials, such as paint, pruning saws, and weed trimmers, while volunteers provide the elbow grease. It's an opportunity for pilots to get together and help maintain these remarkable airstrips in the back country. Contact Wade Cebulski at MDT Aeronautics for more information, 406-444-9581.

Calendar of Events

April 9, 2017—Montana Space Grant Consortium Astronomy and Aerospace Day; Museum of the Rockies, MSU Campus , 1-4 pm, free. <http://eu.montana.edu/AstronomyDay/>

April 15, 2017 - 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 27, 2017 – Spotted Bear work session will begin at 9:00 AM. For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or email wcebulski@mt.gov.

June 10, 2017—Lewistown Airport Fly-in Breakfast 13th annual pancake breakfast served from 7 a.m. to noon for \$6. There will be Young Eagle rides courtesy of EAA Chapter 344 from Helena. A large turn out of Cubs from back East is expected. Vintage tractors and a working black smith shop will be in operation at the airport.

June 19-20, 2017 - 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.

June 24, 2017 - Wings and Wheels Airshow, Hamilton Airport- Join us for a pancake breakfast, car show, static display aircraft, and airshow . This year's airshow will feature Legacy Air Museum and Power Addiction Air Show. For more details visit: www.wingsandwheelsairshow.com, call Choice Aviation at (406) 363-6471.

July 15, 2017 – Schafer Meadows work session will begin at 9:00 AM. For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or email wcebulski@mt.gov

June 17, 2017 – Meadow Creek work session will begin at 9:00 AM. For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or email wcebulski@mt.gov.

July 21-22, 2017 - Can-Am Aerobatic Competition - Cutbank Airport. This is the only sanctioned competition in Montana drawing pilots and airplanes from Montana and northwestern U.S. and Canada. Everyone is welcome with transportation to town available during the event. Call Dave Ries for more information 406.229.0376

July 22, 2017 – Jerry Cain's annual BBQ and community open house at the Lincoln, MT airport (S69). The BBQ will go from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, but attendees are welcome to arrive anytime. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, cake, 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 outhouse are available! Contact Jerry at jcain@theraf.org for more information.

July 23, 2017 - Annual St. Ignatius (52S) Huckleberry Pancake Fly-in Breakfast - From 8 a.m. until noon. This free event is sponsored the EAA Chapter 1122. For more information contact Michael Kuefler, (406) 544-2274.

August 13, 2017- Hysham (6U7) Fly-In The Hysham airport fly-in and drive-in will be on Sunday, August 13th from 7 a.m. to noon. The breakfast is a fundraiser for the Hysham Lions Club. Cost is \$8 and will include pancakes, ham, eggs, coffee, and juice. Contact airport manager Bob Miller with questions, at 406-342-5252.

August 18-20, 2017 The fifteenth annual Montana Fun Weekend fly-in and car show will be held at the Cut Bank Airport. Breakfast available Saturday and Sunday. Burn-out contest and movie Friday night. Car, motorcycle and airplane show and shine Saturday. Concessions on site Saturday. Call Roy at 406.450.1078 for more information.

September 8-10, 2017 - Search Pilot Clinic (SPC) - Conducted at the Fort Peck airport, this clinic will provide volunteer search pilots and observers the necessary skills to be successful in the Montana Air Search and Rescue system. For more information contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or hdramstad@mt.gov.



Remember to File a Flight Plan

Montana law requires pilots to file a flight plan with the FAA for all passenger carrying flights of 250 miles or more departing a public use airport in Montana. (MCA 67-3-212) Filing a flight plan is easy, and it's cheap insurance. If you are overdue on a flight plan, assets of the search and rescue system will begin looking for you 30 minutes after your ETA at your destination.



zero deaths

zero serious injuries

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.