

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 69, No. 08

August 2018

## Yellowstone Aviation FBO Owners Retire After 35 Years of Service at Yellowstone Airport



*Pictured above Yellowstone Aviation staff*

*Photo Credit: Friends and family of Yellowstone Aviation*

In September 1982, three men from Jackson, WY, a father/son, Pete and Brad Mead and their friend, RJ Moulton, were in search of a great adventure when they founded Yellowstone Aviation, the fixed-base operator (FBO) business at the Yellowstone Airport in West Yellowstone.

Yellowstone Aviation was a family-oriented business from the beginning. Brad, Pete, RJ, and eventually RJ's wife, Sandy, and their children, Adam, Ashley, Tory, and Tory's wife, Courtney, participated in everyday operations. Brad's youngest son, Tucker, did an internship. Several members of Sandy and RJ's individual families also helped conduct operations. Over the years, RJ's parents and Sandy's sisters, brothers and nieces helped, as did honorary family members Gay McBirnie and Bron Hansen.

RJ and Brad, along with their staff, were the "Welcome to Yellowstone National Park Greeters" for 35 years. They greeted large jet aircraft and thousands of small aircraft, hosted a Mooney from Europe, RVs from South America, heroes like Sulley (on the Hudson), an astronaut who did five tours to the International Space Station, two presidents, one vice-president, one Speaker of the House and General "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf.

In July of 1987 and 1988, Yellowstone Aviation hosted the first and second Tri-state Family Fly-Ins. The ramp and surrounding areas were covered with 300 to 400 aircraft, large and small. On Sunday morning, July 17, 1988, the fly-in planes took off as military planes landed to fight the worst Yellowstone Park fires in history during which over a million acres burned. RJ and his staff worked around the clock to fuel firefighting aircraft tankers and infrared aircraft that flew during the night to measure intensity of the fire. Several nights RJ, his brother-in-law, Matt, and RJ's 2 1/2-year-old son, Adam, slept on the office floor in the terminal building waiting to fuel the aircraft.

Adam had been answering the phone and taking care of business since the age of ten. During the 2001 fire season he was needed to help fuel the tankers. His response was, "No pilot wants to see a 16-year-old coming to fuel his airplane." After a few fueling operations at the tanker base, the call on the radio was "Send the Kid." During that summer, his sister, Ashley (11) and his brother, Tory (9), were important to the operations. They operated the office; Ashley monitored the tanker traffic, and Tory took care of the small aircraft pilots while Sandy and Paul pumped over 10,000 gallons of fuel to the tankers. The 2001 fire season continued through late fall and was interrupted by the 09/11 World Trade Center attacks.

*Continued on page 4*

# Missoula AOPA Fly-In



AOPA arrives in Missoula Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's (AOPA) first fly-in of 2018 was held in Missoula on June 15-16, 2018. AOPA is sponsoring four such events across the country during the summer of 2018. These fly-ins provide aviation enthusiasts with an opportunity to visit with other pilots, attend seminars, view exhibits, and just have fun.

Prior to the event, the forecast for Saturday was calling for a 90% chance of heavy rain in the area. Despite the poor forecast, Missoula received a good turnout for the fly-in. The weather on Friday was beautiful and provided a great opportunity to get up close and personal with vendors, display aircraft, and aviation enthusiasts. Activities on Friday included workshops on aircraft maintenance, pilot proficiency, backcountry flying, and other topics of interest. The day wrapped up with a Barnstormers Party presented by Jeppesen.

The agenda for Saturday more than compensated for the wet weather that ensued. Activities kicked off with a pancake breakfast then more seminars, and an ice cream social wrapped things up. Many thanks to the Missoula airport staff, sponsors, vendors, volunteers, and AOPA for orchestrating such an outstanding event.

If you couldn't attend the Missoula fly-in, you missed a good one but if you're willing to travel across the country, you have more chances. AOPA will be sponsoring fly-ins at the following dates and locations: Santa Fe, NM (September 14-15, 2018), Carbondale, IL (October 5-6, 2018), and Gulf Shores, AL (October 26-27, 2018).

## Webpage Scheduled Events & Newsletter Calendar Submissions

- ◆ Scheduled events on the Aeronautics Division webpage <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml> are updated on a regular basis. Send requests any time to [ptrooien@mt.gov](mailto:ptrooien@mt.gov).
- ◆ Please send calendar submissions for the **Montana and the Sky** newsletter to: [ptrooien@mt.gov](mailto:ptrooien@mt.gov). Deadline is the **5th of the month** for the following month's newsletter.



Tim Conway, Administrator

**Montana and the Sky**  
Department of Transportation

Steve Bullock, Governor  
Mike Tooley, Director

Official monthly publication of the  
Aeronautics Division  
Telephone - (406) 444-2506  
Fax - (406) 444-2519  
P.O. Box 200507  
Helena, MT 59620-0507  
[www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/)

### Aeronautics Board

**Tricia McKenna, Chair**  
**Robert Buckles, Member**  
**A. Christopher Edwards, Member**  
**Dan Hargrove, Member**  
**William (Bill) Hunt, Jr., Member**  
**Fred Lark, Member**  
**Roger Lincoln, Member**  
**Walt McNutt, Member**  
**Jeff Wadekamper, Member**

Editor: Patricia Trooien

Follow MDT on social media!



# 2018 *Helping - Hands Across the Border* Work Session at Whetstone International Airport (H28)

On Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, the 2018 Hands Across the Border Work Session was held at Whetstone International Airport (H28, elevation 4,336' MSL, sometimes referred to as Del Bonita). H28 is one of the 16 public use airports maintained by the Montana Department of Transportation – Aeronautics Division. Grass Runway 07/25 is 4,400' long and 65' wide and is in generally good condition with some controlled gopher activity.

The airport, which lies directly on top of and parallel to the US/Canadian border in the “International Boundary,” was planned in 1982 and opened in 1984. The Alberta Flying Farmers’ Don Althen was in attendance and continues to help organize the annual work session. American and Canadian flags and a combination Canadian/American flag were flown to symbolize the cooperative effort. In total, approximately 35 volunteers worked together to weed-whip, perform “gopher control,” apply weed sterilant, replace runway cones, and change the windsock. The airport had been mowed by MDT a week earlier.

When the work was done, participants enjoyed a terrific meal put on by the volunteers, while taking in how nice the airport looked as a result of their hard work. For those desiring to utilize H28 to clear Customs, Canadian Customs can be reached at (403) 758-3613, and US Customs can be reached at (406) 336-2130. Call Customs at least two hours before arrival. Photographs provided by Aeronautics staff.

**Don't forget to sign the Pilot Register!**



*Volunteers gather while organizers share their stories*



*Four Canadian registered aircraft and one US registered aircraft were present at the work session*



*Pictured left to right; Robert Shropshire, Geanette Cebulski, Wade Cebulski and Scott Newpower*

## Meadow Creek (0S1) Work Session Rained-Out (Almost)

On June 22, 2018, three aircraft flew into Meadow Creek for the annual work session scheduled for June 23rd. The rain began around 9:00 p.m. Friday evening and continued through late Saturday night. With low clouds and soggy conditions only the four individuals pictured on the left attended. These hardy souls changed the wind socks and kept the fire burning while trying to stay dry. They also got in some pretty good naps and ate like kings. It was after noon on Sunday before anyone was able to depart due to low ceilings. A good time was had by all regardless of the wet conditions. Photographs provided by Aeronautics staff.

*Continued from page 1*

August 15, 2009, marked one of their most memorable adventures while at Yellowstone when Air Force One spent the day at the Yellowstone Airport. Ashley provided airport advisories to the Presidential Pilot on arrival to and departure from the field. Adam was the fuel truck operator, and Tory provided the photo documentation from the ramp. By the end of the day, Yellowstone Aviation staff had fueled Air Force One, Marine One, CH-53 helicopters, C-17s and C-5A cargo ships that supported the Presidential detail.

After 35 years of dedication, the two families sold the FBO operations at the Yellowstone Airport in early 2018. Yellowstone Aviation was more than a business, it was a way of life that included meeting travelers from across the world. Sandy Moulton, who managed the business for the last 25 years, said "What I loved most about being part of the Yellowstone Aviation team is that the world came to visit us!"

The FBO services are now provided by Choice Aviation out of Cody, WY. The Mead and Moulton families wish Choice Aviation fair winds and happy landings.

## **Montana Ninety-Nines Chapter Members**

### **Race the Storms to Complete Air-Marking in Glasgow**

Over the last two weekends the Montana 99s have completed air-markings at four airports across the state, from the Hi-Line in Glasgow (Wokal Field), west to Lincoln and south to Anaconda (Bowman Field) and Philipsburg (Riddick Field).

Weather provided a challenge in completing the air-marking in Glasgow at Wokal Field the last weekend of June. But with long hours and persistence, the two-member crew (Janine Schwahn and Charity Fechter) painted a compass rose, field name, and elevation on the tarmac. They will return to the Hi-Line again this summer to air-mark Wolf Point and Poplar airports.

The weekend of July 7-8 offered better painting weather and a crew of four (Janine Schwahn, Charity Fechter, Miranda Edwards, and Missy Harlow) managed to complete air-markings at Lincoln, Philipsburg and Anaconda. They plan to return to Ennis to air-mark the weekend of July 14- 15. The 99s appreciate fellow aviators who sent pictures from above the field and airport managers for providing cold drinks, bug spray and a pop-up canopy for shade.

The Montana Chapter of Ninety-Nines members would like to say "a great big THANK YOU to Montana Aeronautics who has been just wonderful to work with and all the airport managers thus far that have allowed us to air-mark. We truly appreciate your willingness to allow us to continue our efforts to promote the airports in Montana." This service is provided free of charge with the ambitious goal of air-marking all the airports in Montana. Please contact Janine Schwahn at (785) 342-9471 or email [nunes@flysummit.net](mailto:nunes@flysummit.net) to have your airport air-marked.



*Photo Credit: Local aviator flying over field.*

# Jeff Morrison Receives FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award



Jeff Morrison holding his FAA's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award plaque Photo Credit: Scott Newpower

Jeff Morrison, Helena, received the FAA's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award on June 16, 2018, during the Seeley Lake Fly-In.

Jeff was born in Helena, Montana to Helena aviation pioneers, R. E. "Red" and Elizabeth "Bitty" Morrison. "Red" came to Helena in 1931 to start Morrison Flying Service. He also was the first airport manager at the Helena airport. He was killed in WW II in the crash of a Martin B-26. "Bitty" then ran the business until Jeff joined her in 1961. While in high school, Jeff worked at the business fueling, cleaning and whatever was needed. He earned his Private Pilot license at age 17. He attended the Helena Aeronautics School, now Helena College, in the aviation mechanic course.

Drafted into the US Army, Jeff worked as a fixed-wing aircraft mechanic and tower operator. After discharge, he received a degree in accounting at Montana State University. He then worked for Hensley Flying Service in Havre as a crop sprayer, charter pilot and flight instructor. In 1960, he was hired as Assistant Aeronautics Director for the State of Idaho. Returning to Helena in 1961, Jeff joined his mother in the operation of the FBO. During his management, the company was engaged in air taxi, crop spraying, powerline, pipeline, backcountry and Forest Service flying, flight instruction, freight and check delivery, aircraft sales, service and fueling. He sold the company to Exec Air in 1995.

Jeff has served as President of the Montana Aviation Trades Association, Member and Chairman of the Helena School Board, Member and Chairman of the Montana University System Board of Regents, and, Member and Chairman of the Montana Student Loan Corporation. In his 67 flying years, he has 18,000+ flight hours. He holds an Airline Transport Pilot Certificate with Gold Seal Flight Instructor, Ground Instructor, Seaplane, Glider and Hot Air Balloon ratings. He was an FAA Pilot Examiner and Accident Prevention Counselor for over 30 years. He also holds a New Zealand pilot certificate. In 2000, he was named Montana "Pilot of the Year." He remains an active pilot, mostly flying the backcountry of Montana and Idaho.

Jeff and his wife, Jeannie, have three children and four grandchildren. His son, Jack, worked for Boeing in Engineering Flight Test and now works for UTC Aerospace in Malaysia.

## Aeronautics Board Loan & Grant Application Reminder

As a reminder to loan and grant applicants, the Loan and Grant online portal (<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml>) will accept FY 2020 applications starting July 1, 2018, through November 15, 2018. If you cannot enter the website, you may have a previous award that needs a closeout form or a status report filed.

Additionally, make sure projects are broken down as required. As an example, asphalt projects should be broken down by runway, apron and taxiway, not as one project lumped together. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).



Would you like your copy of the **Montana and the Sky** newsletter in your email inbox rather than your mailbox? Provide the Aeronautics Division with your email address and receive your newsletter early.

Please email your request to [ptrooien@mt.gov](mailto:ptrooien@mt.gov).

## Yellowstone Airport Rolls Out the “Red Carpet” for the Round Engine Round-Up

On Saturday, June 30, the Round Engine Round-Up group dropped in at the Yellowstone Airport in West Yellowstone for a breakfast organized and served by volunteers from the Recreation Aviation Foundation (RAF). The Round Engine Round-Up is held annually from Thursday to Sunday at multiple airports and is the largest gathering of round engine aircraft in the country. Owners of antique round engine aircraft from the surrounding area flew from Idaho Falls to Yellowstone Airport, where they were greeted with a delicious breakfast in the woods. The pilots and their guests spent the morning visiting with one another and looking at many vintage aircraft.

Beechcraft Model 17 Staggerwing owner Bob Hoff had some very positive things to say about the event. “Once a year we have been getting together, and this is the first time we’ve been at Yellowstone Airport. Everyone was really pleased with the ambiance here and Jeff Kadlec (Airport Manager) and his crew. Now that people have seen this, they’re going to want to come back!” Photographs below provided by Yellowstone airport aeronautics staff.



*Attendees spent the morning swapping stories with other pilots*



*Round engine aircraft parked on the ramp as a Delta flight passes by*



*This North American AT-6 out of Idaho Falls was just one of many planes that flew in for the breakfast*



*Attendees spent the morning swapping stories with other pilots*

# Calendar of Events

**July 28, 2018 – Airport Open House and BBQ Potluck** – Lincoln Airport, (S69). Contact Jerry Cain at (406) 461-5631 for more information.

**Date to be decided – Lockheed P-2 (Tanker 05) Final Mission** – Dawson Community Airport (GDV) in Glendive, MT to host ceremony and fly-in commemorating Lockheed P-2 Neptune (Tanker 05's) years of service. Check for updates online at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml>. For more information call (406) 989-2054 or email [airport@midrivers.com](mailto:airport@midrivers.com).

**August 2, 2018 – Young Eagles Rally at Three Forks Fly-In (9S5)** – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sponsored by Helena EAA Chapter 344, the EAA Young Eagles program strives to motivate youngsters to consider a career in aviation by providing positive experiences in the form of free airplane rides. Kids must have the permission of a parent or guardian to fly. For additional information contact Lance Seaman at (406) 442-8459.

**August 3-4, 2018 – 41st Annual Three Forks Fly-In** – Free Admission! Two days of “Planes, Trains, & Automobiles.” Activities include: aircraft and antique car displays, ping pong ball drop for kids, followed by flour bombing and spot landing contests, interactive drone cage. Awards and prizes will be given in six categories of aircraft, oldest and youngest pilot, and farthest distance flown to the event. Young Eagles flights on Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Dinner is available Friday and Saturday as well as concessions both days. Boy Scouts will serve breakfast on Saturday beginning at 7:00 a.m. and lunch at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. Campers and RVs are welcome. Transportation to and from motels will be provided. Contact Bob Green for more information at (406) 285-6949 or Pat Green at (406) 539-1880.

**August 10-11, 2018 – CanAm Aerobatic Competition** – Hosted by Cut Bank International Airport. Everyone is invited whether you compete or just want to check out the high-performance aircraft. Practice will be held on August 10 and competition on August 11. For more information contact Dave Ries at (406) 229-0376 or by email at [cbaa\\_mt@yahoo.com](mailto:cbaa_mt@yahoo.com).

**August 12, 2018 – Hysham Lions Club Fly-In and Drive-In Breakfast (6U7)** – From 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information contact Bob Miller at (406) 342-5252.

**August 25, 2018 – Bowman Field Anaconda (3U3) Second Annual Fly-In and Car Show** – Starts at 10:00 a.m. Join us for food, games, prizes and flour sack drop. Awards for best of show aircraft, car and longest distance flown. For more information contact Greg at (406) 593-1702.

**August 25, 2018 – West Glacier Golf Fly-In** – Kalispell City Airport (S27). For more information or to RSVP your interest email [office@montanaairadventruer.com](mailto:office@montanaairadventruer.com) or phone (406) 755-2376.

**September 8, 2018 – Polson (8S1) EAA Chapter 1122 Fly-In Breakfast** – From 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For more information please contact Joe Kuberka at (719) 659-5052.

**September 8, 2018 – MPA North Central Hangar Fly-In Breakfast** – Havre City County Airport (KHVR) from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. All you can eat \$8.00 per person, pilot in command eats free. “The second-best breakfast you can get at any airport.” For more information please contact Billie at (406) 945-3646.

**September 8, 2018 – Open House Young Eagles Rally & Free Pancake Breakfast** – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Montana Aeronautics, 2630 Airport Road in Helena. Sponsored by Helena EAA Chapter 344, families are welcome to enjoy a pancake breakfast and see the aircraft on display while youngsters 8 to 17 years of age may register for free airplane rides by volunteer EAA pilots. Young Eagles must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. EAA pilots willing to volunteer to fly Young Eagles may contact Lance Seaman (406) 442-8459.

**September 15, 2018 – End of Summer Bash** - Kalispell City Airport (S27). For more information or to RSVP your interest email [office@montanaairadventruer.com](mailto:office@montanaairadventruer.com) or phone (406) 755-2376.

**October 6, 2018 – Montana Pilots Association** – Fall meeting in Lewistown at 11:00 a.m. For more information contact Mary Newpower at (406) 670-5526 or email [mpasecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:mpasecretary1@gmail.com).

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**

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

# August 2018

5403

Aeronautics Division  
2630 Airport Road  
PO Box 200507  
Helena, Montana 59620-0507



## Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

In 2017, there were 187 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 187 parents, children, grandparents, friends, siblings, spouses, and other loved ones had lives that were cut short. It also means countless tears and shattered lives for 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 2017 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](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero) for more information.

**VISION ZERO** ★  
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION**

This document printed at state expense. Information on the cost of publication may be obtained by contacting the Department of Administration.