

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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July 2019

## Aeronautics Board Member Changes



*John Maxness Photo Credit: John Maxness*

The Montana Aeronautics Board is a quasi-judicial board consisting of nine members, each appointed by the Governor for a four-year term. The Board acts in an advisory capacity to the Aeronautics Division and has statutory authority over allocation of airport development grant and loan funds. The members represent various facets of the aviation industry as well as the public at large. The Aeronautics Board is changing and we want to share those changes.

Fred Lark and Chris Edwards will be stepping down as Aeronautics Board members after serving for three appointments — a total of 12 years each. They were appointed last by Governor Bullock in 2015. Fred, of Lewistown, represented the public and Chris, of Billings, represented the fixed based operators. Fred and Chris spent many long days each award period providing grants and loans to Montana's airports to improve infrastructure. During their tenure, grant and loan funds became harder and harder to supply to Montana's airports as the spending power of the funds slowly shrunk. We appreciate the hard work and dedication they gave to the Montana Aviation community during their appointments and we want to thank Fred and Chris for their many years of service on the Board. Gentlemen, you will be missed!

Governor Bullock has appointed two new Aeronautics Board members and reappointed one existing Board member. We welcome new Board members Tom Schoenleban and John Maxness and congratulate Dan Hargrove on his reappointment. Tom is an attorney in the Bitterroot Valley and Dan is the director of aviation and a professor at Rocky Mountain College.

John is a fifth-generation Montanan growing up in Glasgow, Montana. His aviation career began in 1986 with Vic Wokal and commercially with Phil Petrik at Richland Aviation in 1989 transporting cancelled bank checks throughout Montana. John eventually moved to Helena continuing with his knowledge of aviation with Morrison Flying Service and eventually becoming a co-owner of the business in 1995. He continues to be an active pilot for Exec Air Montana as a check airman and chief pilot. John holds an ATP, CFI, CFII, MEI and LR-JET type along with a degree in business from Northern Montana College.

Congratulations to Tom, John and Dan on their appointments and we look forward to working with them as we head into a new era of increased funding for Montana airport improvement projects.

# Matt Lindberg

## New Safety & Education Bureau Chief



*Matt Lindberg*  
*Photo Credit: Matt Lindberg*

Matt Lindberg has been selected as the new Safety & Education Bureau Chief effective June 8, 2019. Matt joined MDT Aeronautics Division as an Aviation Support Officer on September 17, 2018, with a diverse safety related background. Matt's background includes working at the world's largest Asia-Pacific flight academy as the Director of Flight Safety and holding various other safety-related positions within the academy over his 10-year tenure.

Matt has been a pilot for over 15 years and is quite familiar with the educational programs offered through Aeronautics having attended several of them in his youth. Matt will focus on the future of aviation in Montana as it relates to the safety and education of the aviation community. At Aeronautics, we're excited to have Matt serving in his new capacity and congratulate him on his new position.



Tim Conway, Administrator

**Montana and the Sky**  
Department of Transportation

Steve Bullock, Governor  
Mike Tooley, Director

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### Aeronautics Board

**Tricia McKenna, Chair**  
**Robert Buckles, Member**  
**Dan Hargrove, Member**  
**William (Bill) Hunt, Jr., Member**  
**Roger Lincoln, Member**  
**John Maxness, Member**  
**Walt McNutt, Member**  
**Tom Schoenleben, Member**  
**Jeff Wadekamper, Member**

**Editor:** Patricia Trooien

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## Yellowstone Airport Welcomes a New Intern for the Summer Season

Yellowstone Airport would like to welcome Connery Ryon as the newest member of it's team. Connery is serving alongside the Airport Manager and Airport Operations Specialist to provide additional support during the busiest time of the year for Yellowstone Airport. Connery is from Warrenton, Virginia and goes to school at American University in Washington D.C. where he is studying International Affairs with a minor in International Business. Previously, Connery served as an Airport Ambassador at Dulles Airport in Virginia for over two years and last summer interned for Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) in their Air Safety Institute. Connery has a strong interest in aviation and he hopes this internship will help shape his future in aviation business and operations.

Connery is excited to learn more about the logistics of airport operations and management along with furthering his experience in the aviation industry with the airport's team. Connery loves the outdoors and is thrilled to be able to explore Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding area during his free time.



*Connery Ryon* Picture Credit: Aeronautics Staff

# Yellowstone Airport Hosts End of the Year Field Trip for West Yellowstone Students

As the school year was winding down for the students at West Yellowstone Elementary School, a visit to the Yellowstone Airport gave the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders an end-of-the-year activity to look forward to. This interactive field trip gave these students an opportunity to see what daily life is like at the airport including commercial aviation, general aviation, air ambulance operations and airport fire fighting.

On May 28, 2019, the 1<sup>st</sup> graders from West Yellowstone Elementary school arrived at the airport's Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) station. For many of the students, this was their first trip to an airport. They were greeted by Airport Manager, Jeff Kadlec, Airport Operations Specialist, Bron Hansen, Airport Intern, Connery Ryon as well as two staff members from MDT Aeronautics Division in Helena. After introductions, the students were excited to see what the rest of the airport had to offer.

The group walked over to the terminal building where, at the SkyWest airlines ticket counter, they received a pretend boarding pass to different destinations around the world. Students then went through the security checkpoint. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers gave the students insight into what goes on behind the scenes and showed them what the officer's computer screen looks like when luggage is going through the x-ray machines. The students then went out onto the ramp where they learned basic marshaling signals from the SkyWest operations employees and played a fun game with their newly learned skills. The group returned to the Yellowstone ARFF station where they split up into groups and rotated through three different activities including a tour of the Air Methods rescue helicopter, a brief flight simulator trial and a climb through one

of the airports two firetrucks. The students really seemed to enjoy the hands-on experience and even got to try out one of the hoses on the firetrucks as well as build their own mini wooden airplanes. In the afternoon the 4<sup>th</sup> graders got a chance to do a very similar tour.

Overall, the students from West Yellowstone Elementary School had a great time at the airport and many students remarked during the tour on how they wanted to go down a career path in Aviation.



*West Yellowstone Elementary School students.  
Photo Credit:  
Aeronautic Staff*

# Whetstone International Airport Work Session

On June 14<sup>th</sup> over 40 people and 15 aircraft flew into the Del Bonita airport for the annual work session. Five aircraft were U.S. registered and the rest were from Canada. Super T Aviation showed up with five Cessna 172's from their flight school. Don Althen of Alberta Flying Farmers organized the work session and was in attendance.

Everyone worked hard and took care of gopher holes and removed grass around cones. Workers were treated to a BBQ after a long sunny morning of airfield maintenance. Thank you to all who volunteered, provided support and donated the food. It was a good time for everyone.

For those desiring to utilize the Del Bonita airport for border crossings, Canadian Customs can be reached at (403) 758-3613, and U.S. Customs can be reached at (406) 336-2130. Call Customs at least two hours before arrival.



*Volunteers eradicating rodents.  
Picture Credit: Aeronautics Staff*

## FAA Changes for Recreational Drones



*Photo Credit: General Aviation News*

The Federal Aviation Administration is implementing changes for recreational drone flyers mandated by Congress in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. While recreational flyers may continue to fly below 400 feet in uncontrolled airspace without specific certification or operating authority from the FAA, they are now required to obtain prior authorization from the FAA before flying in controlled airspace around airports. Furthermore, they must comply with all airspace restrictions and prohibitions when flying in controlled and uncontrolled airspace.

The new requirement to obtain an airspace authorization prior to flying a drone in controlled airspace replaces the old requirement to notify the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower prior to flying within *five miles* of an airport.

*Until further notice, air traffic control facilities will no longer accept requests to operate recreational drones in controlled airspace.* Instead, to enable operations under the congressionally mandated exception for limited recreational drone operations, the FAA is granting temporary airspace authorizations to fly in certain "fixed sites" in controlled airspace throughout the country. The fixed sites are listed on the FAA's website and will be routinely updated.

The sites are also shown as blue dots on the FAA's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Facility Maps. The maps depict the maximum altitude above ground level at which a drone may be flown safely for each location in controlled airspace.

In the future, recreational flyers will be able to obtain authorization from the FAA to fly in controlled airspace. The FAA currently has a system called the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC), which is available to non-recreational pilots who operate under the FAA's small drone rule (Part 107). The FAA is upgrading LAANC to allow recreational flyers to use the system. For now, however, recreational flyers who want to operate in controlled airspace may only do so at the fixed sites.

Another new provision in the 2018 Act requires recreational flyers to pass an aeronautical knowledge and safety test. They must maintain proof that they passed the test and make it available to the FAA or law enforcement upon request. The FAA is currently developing a training module and test in coordination with the drone community. The test will ensure that recreational flyers have the basic aeronautical knowledge needed to fly safely.

Some requirements have not changed significantly. In addition to being able to fly without FAA authorization below 400 feet in uncontrolled airspace, recreational users must still register their drones with the FAA, fly within visual line-of-sight and avoid other aircraft at all times.

Additionally, recreational flyers can continue to fly without obtaining a remote pilot certificate provided they meet the eight statutory conditions of Section 349 of the Act, which are described in a Federal Register notice.

If recreational flyers do not meet any of the conditions, they could choose to operate under Part 107 with a remote pilot certification. Drone operators who fail to comply with the appropriate operating authority may be subject to FAA enforcement action. Furthermore, flying a drone carelessly or recklessly may also result in FAA enforcement action.

The FAA will help recreational flyers learn and understand the changes by posting updates and additional guidance, including regulatory changes, on the FAA website. If you are thinking about buying a drone, the FAA can help you get started with registration and important safety information. Visit this website to get started [https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\\_started/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/)

# Latest News Update

**FAA Completes Clearance Relay Initiative** — Flight Service completed the Clearance Relay initiative on June 20 when it published the remaining phone numbers for pilots to obtain IFR clearances at public and private use airports from either the overlying Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) Flight Data Units or an approach control facility. As part of modernization efforts to streamline service delivery and increase efficiency, pilots now call directly to obtain or cancel an IFR clearance, reducing the risk of potential errors.



You can find the phone numbers for clearance delivery in the communications section of the entry for each airport in the Chart Supplement. This initiative does not affect pilots requesting clearances from Flight Service or Air Traffic over Remote Communications Outlets (RCO) or from locations in Alaska. For more information, visit <https://go.usa.gov/x5wsR>.

**Hazardous Inflight Weather Advisory Service Sunsets** — As part of the FAA's efforts to modernize and streamline service delivery, Flight Service will discontinue the Hazardous Inflight Weather Advisory Service (HIWAS) in the contiguous United States later this year. HIWAS is a continuous recording of inflight weather advisories broadcast over a limited network of VORs that provide pilots with meteorological information related to hazardous weather.

HIWAS is an inflight service not intended to provide a detailed weather briefing. It uses text-to-voice technology to record a broadcast tailored to fit the needs of a specific geographic location. Flight Service created HIWAS when there was a large demand for briefings to alleviate the workload of specialists and reduce wait times for pilots.

With the advent of the internet and other technology, the demand for information from Flight Service specialists has declined. From more than 3,000 specialists in more than 300 facilities during the early 1980s, staffing has decreased to fewer than 400 specialists in three facilities; radio contacts have dropped to less than 900 calls per day from an average of 10,000 per day.

Flight Service will discontinue the text-to-voice recordings of HIWAS with publication of a final policy notice in the Federal Register, which is expected by September 30, 2019.

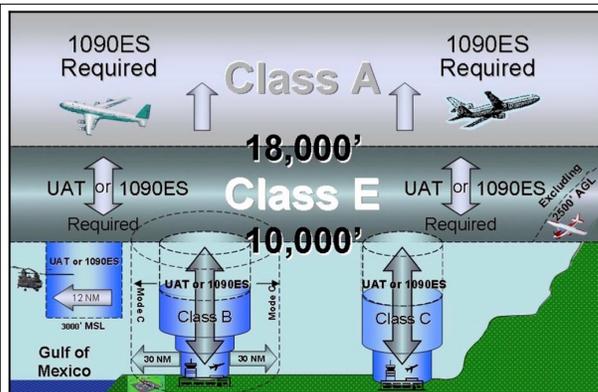


Photo Credit: General Aviation News

## Is ADS-B Actually Required for You by the 2020 Deadline?

The Jan. 1, 2020 ADS-B mandate has a lot of aircraft owners checking their wallets and seeing red, fueled by the fact that the FAA has exhausted all ADS-B rebates. For those of us at the recreational end of the aviating spectrum, spending the money it'll take to equip our aircraft to meet the mandate is not something we care to think about.

Steaming over the cost has many thinking who the ADS-B Out mandate applies to? Do you fly in airspace that requires a transponder? If not, you might not need to equip for the mandate.

But that question and answer might not cover most situations. Here's a few more questions for you to consider:

1. Do you fly at or above 10,000 feet MSL (or more than 2,500 feet AGL above 10,000 feet MSL)?
2. Do you operate your plane over the Gulf of Mexico?
3. Do you fly to or from or above Class C airspace?
4. Do you fly within 30 nautical miles around a Class B airport?

If you answered *NO* to each of those questions the mandate may not apply to you.

"ADS-B airspace" includes Class A, B or C airspace, Class E airspace at and above 10,000 ft MSL over the 48 contiguous United States and the District of Columbia, and Class E airspace over the Gulf of Mexico from the coastline of the U.S. out to 12 nm and above 3,000 feet MSL. Even if you don't fall into one of these categories, you'll still need an ADS-B Out solution if you find yourself flying from the surface up to 10,000 ft MSL within 30 miles of most primary Class B airports."

*Continued on page 6*

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If you don't operate in "Out" airspace, but plan to equip anyway, you have time on your side. Since the 2020 mandate may not apply to the way you fly, you can wait for a better installation window at your avionics shop, for lower prices or new and better (hopefully portable) equipment options. This may not be the best decision, however. The more traffic you can see, and the more traffic that can see you, the safer our National Airspace System will be.



Lt. Col Dick Cole Photo Credit: Frederick A. Johnsen

## Last Doolittle Raider Passes Away at 103

Retired Lt. Col. Richard "Dick" Cole, the final surviving member of the Doolittle Raiders, died on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. He was 103.

The memorial service was held at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph in Texas, exactly 77 years to the day after the B-25 bomber raid on mainland Japan.

According to Air Force officials, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Chief of Staff Gen. Dave Goldfein were among the dignitaries attending Cole's service. Hundreds of airmen lined the main entrance at Randolph to salute the Cole family as they entered the base. The service also included a fly-by, a missing man formation, and the display of several static aircraft.

Cole was then-Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot in the lead bomber on the April 18, 1942, mission to

strike Japan, a little more than four months after Pearl Harbor. For the daring raid, 80 U.S. Army Air Force airmen launched 16 modified B-25B Mitchell bombers from the aircraft carrier Hornet. Their raid caused only minor damage, but boosted morale on the home front considerably, and sent Japan a message that the United States was ready to fight back. Cole was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

## Spotted Bear Work Session Held May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019



The first work session of the back-country recreation airstrips in western Montana started with Spotted Bear on Memorial Day weekend. Of course, this is often associated with a wet weekend. This year was no different with scattered rain showers and cool temperatures.

The Zack Anderson and Perry Brown families, friends and relatives showed up in full force to get the work accomplished. Also in attendance were the Colbys, the Cebulskis, and a few other folks. The runway was rolled, windsocks changed, new fire pit constructed on the north end, buildings cleaned and general overall maintenance was completed. The work was very beneficial, and everyone had a great time.

Thanks to all who participated.

## 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 2021 applications starting July 1, 2019, through November 15, 2019. 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 and 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).

# Calendar of Events

**July 13 -14, 2019 — Seeley Lake Fly-In (23S).** Make it a weekend at Seeley Lake. Fly in Saturday afternoon and camp on the field. Steak sandwiches and beer available from 5:00 p.m. with a food truck at the field or go into town at your discretion. Hangar flying at Trolls Tavern. Sunday morning pancake breakfast 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For more information contact Scott Newpower at [406-670-3169](tel:406-670-3169).

**July 20, 2019 — Schafer Meadows Work Session.** For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or email [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

**July 20 - 21, 2019 — Annual St. Ignatius (52S) BBQ & Huckleberry Pancake Fly-In Breakfast.** BBQ on Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This free event is sponsored by the EAA Chapter 1122. For more information contact Michael Kuefler at (406) 544-2274.

**July 20, 2019 — Yellowstone Airport Air fair sponsored by Choice Aviation.** 9am youth airplane rides, 10:30am ping pong ball drop, 11am smoke jumper practice jump, 11:35 airshow, BBQ lunch to follow. There is no cost for attending or participating on a first come, first served basis.

**July 20, 2019 — Jim Bridger Fly-In & Celebration Days.** Breakfast 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Fly-In is held in conjunction with Jim Bridger days that will take place in the town of Bridger. For information contact Merrill Pfeifer at (406) 425-4218 or (406) 662-3319.

**July 27, 2019 — S69 Lincoln Airport Community Open House and Fly-In BBQ Potluck.** Airport Community Open House from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with Fly-In BBQ Potluck from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the aircraft and emergency vehicles on display. For more information contact Jerry Cain at [sgr@linctel.net](mailto:sgr@linctel.net) or (406) 461-5631.

**July 27, 2019 — Meadow Creek Work Session.** For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or email [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

**August 1, 2019 — Young Eagles® Rally at Three Forks Airport (9S5).** Sponsored by Helena EAA Chapter 344 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The EAA Young Eagles® program strives to motivate youngsters aged 8 thru 17 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 (406) 442-8459.

**August 2-3, 2019 — Three Forks Fly-In.** The Montana Antique Aircraft Association is hosting this FREE 42nd annual two-day event. Fly or drive in and enjoy flying events, great food, free camping and the camaraderie of friends old and new. For more information contact Pat Green at 406-539-1880 or [greenrrg@aol.com](mailto:greenrrg@aol.com).

**Aug 8-10, 2019 — CAN-AM Aerobatic Competition.** This event is hosted by Cut Bank International Airport. For more information contact Dave Ries at (406) 229-0376 or by email at [cbaa\\_mt@yahoo.com](mailto:cbaa_mt@yahoo.com)

**Aug 16-18, 2019 — Montana Fun Weekend.** Cut Bank Montana's "Montana Fun Weekend" is an annual event hosted at the airport that includes an aircraft fly-in, car show, bike show, 1/8 mile drag races, food vendors, and fun for the whole family. This year we will host the first annual "Trails and Ales" Brewfest in the historic hangar from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday. Join us for some of the best brews from Montana breweries and live music. For more information contact Roy Nollkamper (406) 873-2137/450-1078 or email [nollkamper47@hotmail.com](mailto:nollkamper47@hotmail.com)

**September 7, 2019 — Annual EAA Chapter 1122 Fly-In Breakfast.** This year's event at Polson Airport is themed "Thanking Our Veterans." Warbirds will be on display to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day. For information contact Joe Kuberka at (719) 393-5550.

**September 7th, 2019 — Rocky Mountain College Fly-In.** Hosted by Rocky Mountain College Flight Team at Columbus Airport (6S3). Breakfast starts at 8:00 a.m. All pilots are invited to compete in the Power-Off 180 spot landing and Flour Bombing competitions. For more information contact Coach Sam at (406) 861-1170.

## ~ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT WORK SESSIONS ~

Please consider volunteering at the following work sessions:

**July 20, 2019 — Schafer Meadows**

**July 27, 2019 — Meadow Creek (note: date changed from June 22)**

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

**July 2019**

5403

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



## **Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone**

In 2018, there were 181 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 181 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 2018 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**

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