

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 70, No. 11

November 2019

## 2020 MDT Aeronautics Winter Survival Clinic

*MDT Aeronautics Division invites you to attend the 2020 MDT Aeronautics Winter Survival Clinic held at the Seeley Lake Airport  
January 24 - 26, 2020*



The Winter Survival Clinic is geared toward all aviation pilots in the event an emergency landing takes place and survival is necessary until help arrives; however, these skills can be used by anyone who finds themselves in a survival situation. Also included is emergency medical training. Meals are provided except on Saturday evening. Rooms have been reserved for Friday evening at the Motor Lodge Inn in Seeley Lake and are optional. Classroom instruction will start at 5:00 p.m. Friday evening at the Quick Response Unit building (QRU) adjacent to the Seeley Lake Airport campground. Participants will meet Saturday morning for breakfast and a brief equipment check and then head to Seeley Lake Airport where participants will learn techniques on winter survival and later spend the night in their own survival shelters after making and eating bring-your-own dinner.

Clinic cost is \$150.00 with hotel or \$60.00 without hotel (both options include 4 meals). A 50% deposit is required to reserve your space. The clinic starts at 5:00 p.m. on January 24 and ends at 11:00 a.m. on January 26. For registration form and clothing/equipment list, visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml>, call MDT Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506 or email [MDTSafetyEd@mt.gov](mailto:MDTSafetyEd@mt.gov).

Rod Alne, creator and owner of The Peak Inc., will be providing the survival training for the clinic. Rod is a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant. His company provides training to military special operations, law enforcement, wilderness professionals, and outdoor enthusiasts. We are glad to have Rod and The Peak. Inc. back for this year's Winter Survival training!

Come join us at the 2020 Winter Survival Clinic to build confidence in survival techniques in the great outdoors of Montana! But be sure to sign up early—we have limited space available and it fills up fast. Registration forms and payment must be submitted no later than **January 03, 2020**. We hope to see you there!

# New Aeronautics Administrative Rules

The Board of Aeronautics has amended the aeronautical loan and grant and pavement preservation administrative rules. The proposed amendments were available for written public comment until August 2, 2019. No comments were received.

The 2019 Legislature enacted House Bill 661, generally revising Aeronautics funding laws. Among other changes, the bill allows a grant for the entire local match for a federally funded project and repeals Montana Code Annotated, which previously provided for a percentage of aviation fuel tax collected from scheduled passenger air carriers to be deposited in a separate account to be used only for pavement preservation grants to airports served by those carriers. The bill went into effect July 1, 2019.

- Grants may now be awarded to airports for up to and including 100% of an applicant's share of total project cost regardless of assistance from federal sources.
- Projects at commercial service airports will now be given equal priority when evaluating applications and awards for aeronautically related projects.

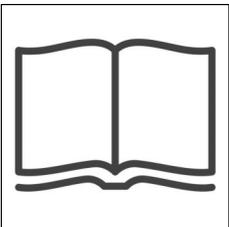
The amendment repealed the lower priority evaluations previously given by the Aeronautics board to primary commercial service airport loan or grant applications. The lower priority was given to the primary commercial service airports because they previously received pavement preservation funds under a separate administrative grant program, which is no longer in existence.

## Got Medical Questions?

Do you have questions about your medical certificate or general questions about FAA's medical certification process? If so, you're in luck. You may send your questions to the FAA Safety Briefing staff to have them anonymously answered by the Manager of FAA's Aerospace Medical Certification Division in Oklahoma City. FAA staff collect your questions and remove any identifying information before passing them along to Dr. Scott. Please send any questions to [SafetyBriefing@faa.gov](mailto:SafetyBriefing@faa.gov).

## Aeronautics Resale Program

The Montana Aeronautics Division resale program consists of replacement parts and supplies that are available for Montana private- and public-use airports to purchase.



Aeronautics Resale Program Catalog

The Aeronautics Division keeps an inventory of parts and lamps for runway lighting systems, PAPI and VASI approach lighting systems, airport rotating beacons, windsocks and frames. We also assist airports in locating hard to find parts for old lighting systems and other parts that may be difficult to locate. See the Resale Program Catalog at [https://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/aero/Resale\\_Catalog.pdf](https://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/aero/Resale_Catalog.pdf)

Orders can be placed online at <https://app.mt.gov/aeronautics> or contact Derrick Olheiser at [dolheiser@mt.gov](mailto:dolheiser@mt.gov), or call 406-444-9592 or the MDT Aeronautics office at 406-444-2506.



Tim Conway, Administrator

**Montana and the Sky**  
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# New Program Helps Veterans Transition to Civilian Aviation Maintenance Careers



*A contribution from General Aviation News*

As an MV-22 Osprey crew chief and mechanic in the U.S. Marines, Chris Porter was able to do two things he had always loved: work with his hands and solve mechanical problems.

Now transitioning into civilian life, Porter has an opportunity to transform his experience and skill into a civilian career thanks to a program offered by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

“My true passion for working on aircraft was discovered while serving,” said Porter, “and it is something that I wish to continue doing as a veteran.”

The Aviation Maintenance SkillBridge course is an intensive nine-week program that trains transitioning military, veterans, and eligible military spouses in aviation maintenance and connects them to aerospace industry partners who can offer them jobs, university officials explain.

The program launched August 5, 2019, at the Embry-Riddle Worldwide campus at the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River near Camp LeJeune in Jacksonville, NC.

“This inaugural cohort of SkillBridge participants is the first of many planned at locations throughout the country,” said Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Worldwide Chancellor Dr. John R. Watret. “We look forward to establishing a secure path for former service members to career success in a booming industry.”

University officials have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Defense and are looking to expand the program to five to seven additional sites.

The participants in the first group are guaranteed an interview with industry partners Pratt & Whitney, an aerospace manufacturer with customers in 180 countries, or AAR Corp., an aerospace and defense company with more than 6,000 employees in over 20 countries. Participants will also get career coaching and help with writing resumes, as well as experience activities designed to help prepare them for new

careers in the aviation industry, university officials said.

Chris Curtin, Pratt & Whitney executive director of talent, inclusion & engagement, said his company has a long history of hiring veterans and their family members.

“The SkillBridge program gives us another great opportunity to continue hiring talented service members into our organization,” he said.

“The unparalleled experience and knowledge base veterans gain in the military lay a strong foundation in pursuing aviation certification,” said Brian Sartain, AAR senior vice president of repair and engineering services. “Veterans are equipped with the technical skills and focus we look for in candidates, and that is why AAR is a top military-friendly employer. AAR will be looking to hire the veterans who graduate from the SkillBridge Program.”

Participants in the program are not required to have an aviation background. Program organizers said diesel and truck mechanics, heavy equipment operators, gas turbine operators, and others with demonstrated mechanical aptitude can qualify.

“Even if they’ve never touched an airplane, we can take them from zero to having that foundational knowledge to be successful when they enter the industry,” said Dr. Kenneth Witcher, dean of the Embry-Riddle Worldwide College of Aeronautics. “The industry needs this program, Embry-Riddle is happy to provide the knowledge, and the transitioning service members really benefit.”

The program includes six courses, providing broad knowledge of general aeronautics, airframe systems and power plant systems. All of the courses can be counted toward an Embry-Riddle associate or bachelor’s degree in aviation maintenance or aeronautics.

## Bozeman Deputy Airport Director Receives Excellence Award

The Aviation Excellence Award was presented to Scott Humphrey, AAE, Deputy Airport Director for the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport. The award was presented by the Northwest Chapter of American Association of Airport Executives. It is intended to recognize airport management professionals who have gone out of their way and given substantial extra effort to ensure the promotion, operations, maintenance or development of aviation and/or the airport.

Mr. Humphrey was recognized for achieving a perfect FAA Part 139 airport inspection, a perfect TSA security audit and a perfect financial audit all while managing a significant increase in passengers and several construction projects.

Congratulations, Scott!

# Rare Weather Event at Yellowstone Airport (WYS)



Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff

The average snowfall in September for West Yellowstone is approximately 1.1". However, there was a heavy snow-fall that occurred across Montana beginning Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> and ending on Monday September 30<sup>th</sup> that far exceeded the monthly average in only four days. Although a rare weather event for this time of year, it did not interrupt Delta Connection dba SkyWest airlines from completing scheduled air service between Yellowstone Airport (WYS) and Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC).

Yellowstone Airport commenced snow removal operations Sunday morning starting with the highest priority areas. Priority one areas consist of the full length of runway 1/19 (100' wide), a direct taxi route to the commercial apron, and Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF)/mutual aid access areas. Priority two areas consist of the remaining portions of runway 1/19 and secondary taxiways. Priority three areas consist of the remaining portions of the aprons.

All three priority areas were clear of snow prior to the arrival of SkyWest flight 4302. This is the first known snow removal operation event during the seasonal air carrier service at Yellowstone Airport. More snow removal may be required this year, as airline service has been extended nearly two weeks beyond its historic September 30<sup>th</sup> end date. The last day for air carrier service at Yellowstone Airport for the 2019 season October 13<sup>th</sup>.



## Aviation Organization of Montana Presents

### An artwork competition for the 2020 Montana Aviation Conference in Great Falls, Montana

*Insert your artwork here*

The 2020 Aviation Conference theme is

### Aviation Legends, Past & Future

relating to how Aviation legends from the past pave the way for future legends.

To enter the competition, please submit a draft rendition of what the theme means to you.

- Anyone can submit pieces of artwork
- Winner will be chosen in December 2019
- Winner receives a 2020 conference package including conference registration, conference meals, and up to three hotel nights (\$550 value)
- The winner's artwork will be used as the program artwork and logo for the 2020 conference in Great Falls and becomes the property of the Aviation Organizations of Montana

**Submissions must be RECEIVED by November 30, 2019**

**Send draft rendition to Effie Benoit at Montana Aeronautics Division**

[efbenoit@mt.gov](mailto:efbenoit@mt.gov)

Or

**P.O. Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507**

# MORE PILOTS GOING ONLINE FOR WEATHER BRIEFINGS



Photo Credit: Aircraft Owner and Pilots Association (AOPA)

Pilots reaffirmed that they place a high value on receiving pilot reports (PIREPs), but at the same time the number of unsolicited PIREPs they provide have continued declining.

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) conducted a survey during March and April 2019 from 2,056 pilots in the continental United States, 160 people in Alaska, and 29 in Hawaii. The survey noted the ways two initiatives AOPA supports—the FAA’s Weather Information Modernization and Transition program, and the National Weather Service’s Hazard Simplification Project—can contribute to updating how aviation weather data is processed and delivered.

The 37 percent of pilots in the continental U.S. who reported using Flight Service for initial preflight planning was down from 40 percent in 2018 and 54 percent in 2017. The declining use of Flight Service for initial briefings was most pronounced in Alaska, where 45 percent of respondents said they considered Flight Service their primary briefing source, down from 49 percent in 2018 and 64 percent in 2017.

On the other hand, “Pilots value the service and consistently indicate it is an important safety resource when a question comes up regarding weather for a given flight. Flight Service specialists should remain available and accessible, during preflight and inflight, for general aviation pilots as they are a primary resource when it comes to weather understanding,” the report said. It acknowledged the need to review the services Alaska Flight Service should provide as activity trends change going forward.

Pilots depended more heavily on Flight Service for weather information immediately before flights, and the service held its position as the second most relied on information source behind aviation apps from 2017 to 2019. In Alaska, the use of weather cameras—not as available in the other states—is becoming more of a factor in the immediately-before-flight briefing category.

As more pilots embrace cockpit technology including Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) ahead of the

January 1, 2020, ADS-B Out mandate, the survey identified a “larger number of pilots using EFBs, like iPads, and the use of free weather and aeronautical information in the cockpit” via the Flight Information Service-Broadcast (FIS-B) component of ADS-B. Its use increased in the continental U.S. from 62 percent in 2018 to 66 percent in 2019.

The tech trend raises the question of which “legacy” products should be retired and has placed the familiar Wind and Temperature Aloft Forecasts, Weather Depiction Chart, and textual AIRMETs, under a spotlight for possible elimination.

“About 60 percent of pilots do use the Wind and Temperature Aloft Forecast product at least sometimes, which indicates a need to further scrutinize this product before retiring it. On the other hand, the Weather Depiction Chart is not a popular product and most pilots indicated its removal would not have a negative impact on their flying. Likewise, the textual AIRMET is not used by most pilots and the G-AIRMET (graphical AIRMET) was preferred,” the report said, noting that Alaska and Hawaii’s products are excluded from the result.

AOPA issued five recommendations based on the survey: three encouraging progress on weather-infrastructure development to meet the unique needs of pilots in Alaska; one to identify reasons why pilots don’t submit more PIREPs; and one to bring aviation’s perspective into the National Weather Service’s Hazard Simplification Project. The project is an effort to create a “weather-ready nation” by increasing public awareness and preparation for weather-related and water-related hazards.

## \$10,000 Wings Challenge

The **\$10,000 Paul and Fran Burger WINGS Sweepstakes** promotes awareness of and participation in the **FAA Team WINGS PILOT PROFICIENCY PROGRAM**

The **WINGS** program has courses based on real world accident and incident causes, so flight instructors, pilots and student pilots get training that can truly make a difference.

Studies indicate that pilots who complete **WINGS** phases are safer aviators. Join the **WINGS** program and save lives.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IN THE 2019 SWEEPSTAKES IS DECEMBER 31, 2019**

Go to this website to enter:

<https://www.mywingsinitiative.org>



# Solicitation of Nominations for Appointment to the Women in Aviation Advisory Board

Section 612 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, Supporting Women's Involvement in the Aviation Field, requires the FAA Administrator to establish and facilitate a Women in Aviation Advisory Board to encourage women to enter the field of aviation with the objective of promoting organizations and programs that provide education, training, mentorship, outreach, and recruitment of women into the aviation industry.

In October, the FAA solicited nominations for qualified candidates to serve on the Women in Aviation Advisory Board. The objective of the Board is to provide independent advice and recommendations to the FAA.

## EAA, AMA Creating Hands-On "Build-and-Fly" R/C Model Building, Flying Opportunities for Kids



Photo Credit: Experimental Aircraft Association

Bringing hands-on aviation activities to young people is the goal as the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) unveil the new "Young Eagles Build and Fly" program to engage youth in hands-on building and flying of radio-controlled aircraft.

The initiative provides EAA chapters the opportunity to purchase a specially designed SIG LT-40 eKadet kit, all building materials, electronics, and accessories that are needed to complete and fly the radio-controlled model. Thanks to the generous support of the Burgher Fund and discounts provided by SIG Manufacturing and Horizon Hobby, the complete project is available to EAA Chapters for just \$500, approximately one-third the usual retail price.

"The Build and Fly program meets the challenges of providing hands-on engagement for youth who have an interest in flight," said Rick Larsen, EAA's vice president of publications, programs, and marketing. "Fundamental building skills, aircraft design, theory of flight, and flight training are all involved in a fun project that supplies a true sense of accomplishment when completed. It is also another "next step" possibility for Young Eagles who are flown by EAA chapters throughout the country."

EAA chapters will partner with their local AMA Club to create a "build project" and a learn-to-fly program for interested youth. Participants will discover how to both build and fly this popular radio-controlled trainer in hopes they will continue their pursuit of aviation. The easy-to-fly LT-40 eKadet is an American-designed and manufactured kit that, when completed, has a nearly six-foot wingspan that can be flown at AMA club flying fields to continue the engagement with youth.

"The path from RC modeling to full-scale aviation is a long-established and successful one," said Chad Budreau, AMA executive director. "AMA clubs nationwide have the facilities and enthusiasm to welcome and engage a new generation of fliers. We eagerly join with EAA and our partners to make this program a widespread success."



Photo Credit: Experimental Aircraft Association

## ~ Final Reminder ~

### Aeronautics Board Loan & Grant Application

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 from July 1 through **November 15, 2019**. If you cannot access 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 questions or need assistance, please contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

# Calendar of Events

**November 15, 2019 — Aeronautics Board Loan & Grant Application deadline.** For more information visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml>

**November 15, 2019 — Courtesy Cars Program Grant Application deadline.** For more information visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/courtesy-cars.shtml>

**November 30, 2019 — Aviation Conference Logo Contest.** The Montana Aviation Conference is hosting a logo contest. The winner's artwork will serve as the program artwork and logo for the 2020 Aviation Conference in Great Falls. Please see page 4 of the newsletter for more information or contact Effie Benoit at [efbenoit@mt.gov](mailto:efbenoit@mt.gov) (406) 444-9580.

**December 01, 2019 — Aviation Scholarship Application Deadline.** Scholarship applications must be postmarked or date stamped on or before 11:59 p.m., December 1, 2019. Visit this site for details <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml>.

**January 15–16, 2020 — Aeronautics Board Meeting.** For further information contact (406) 444-2506.

**January 19–21, 2020 — Association of Montana Aerial Applicators (AMAA) 2020 Convention and Trade Show.** Attend the AMAA trade show at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, Montana, for educational opportunities, networking with peers, visit with new vendors and suppliers, and have FUN! Preregister by email at [eccampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:eccampbell@yahoo.com). For more information contact Colleen Campbell at (406) 781-6461.

**January 24–26, 2020 — Winter Survival Clinic at the Seeley Lake Airport.** Learn winter survival skills. For further information, contact Matt Lindberg at (406) 444-9568 or [mlindberg@mt.gov](mailto:mlindberg@mt.gov).

**February 7–8, 2020 — Flight Instructor Renewal Course (FIRC).** The MDT Aeronautics Division will hold the two-day, FAA-approved course that meets the FAA's renewal requirements for Certified Flight Instructors (CFI). The 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 contact Matt Lindberg at (406) 444-9568 or email [mlindberg@mt.gov](mailto:mlindberg@mt.gov).

**February 27–29, 2020 — The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Montana Aviation Conference.** Held at the Heritage Inn located at 1700 Fox Farm Road Great Falls, Montana. Rooms have been blocked at prevailing government rate plus tax. Reserve your room by calling (406) 761-0136 and reference rooming block **Montana Aviation Conference 2020**. For more information, contact Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506 or [MDTAvConf@mt.gov](mailto:MDTAvConf@mt.gov).

**February 28–29, 2020 — Aircraft Mechanic Refresher and Inspection Authorization Seminar.** Held in conjunction with the Montana Aviation Conference at the Heritage Inn located at 1700 Fox Farm Road, Great Falls, Montana. Rooms have been blocked at prevailing government rate plus tax. Reserve your room by calling (406) 761-0136 and reference rooming block **Montana Aviation Conference 2020**. For more information, contact Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506 or [MDTAvConf@mt.gov](mailto:MDTAvConf@mt.gov).

Visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml> for a current listing of events



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**VISION ZERO**

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

# November 2019

5403

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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

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