

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 71, No. 02

February 2020

Richard McSpadden to Speak at the 2020 Montana Aviation Conference February 29th



Photo Credit: Richard McSpadden

Richard McSpadden will headline this year's Montana Aviation Conference. McSpadden is a commercial pilot, CFII, MEI with SES rating and a 525S (Citation Jet Single Pilot) type rating. He's logged over 5,000 hours in 30 years of flying a variety of civilian and military aircraft. Richard closed his 20-year Air Force career as the Commander and Flight Leader of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds flight demonstration team where he led the U.S. Air Force's flagship organization. He flew over 100 flight demonstrations in the #1 aircraft.

Richard has extensive experience in aviation safety including ground, flight, and special event operations. He currently owns a 1950 Navion that has been in his family for almost 40 years. He previously owned a 1955 Piper Super Cub, which he used to instruct his daughter to her initial solo. Prior to the Super Cub, Richard owned a 1965 Piper Cherokee 140 that he used to instruct his son to successful completion of his private pilot certificate.

As Executive Director of the AOPA Air Safety Institute (ASI), Richard leads a team of CFIs and content creators to develop and distribute free aviation safety material to advance General Aviation Safety. The ASI distributes material through a dedicated YouTube channel, iTunes podcasts, Facebook, and a dynamic website. The ASI material will be accessed over 6 million times this year.

Prior to joining the Air Safety Institute, Richard had a successful career in the Information Technology industry leading large, geographically dispersed operations providing business-critical information technology services.

REGISTER NOW

Aircraft Registration Deadline March 1, 2020

Montana does not have any taxes for aircraft but does assess an annual registration fee in lieu of tax for annual aircraft registration. The fees are set by the Legislature and are determined according to the type and age of the aircraft. Aircraft customarily kept in Montana must be registered with the Montana Aeronautics Division. Aircraft renewal invoices were sent the first week of December. A penalty for late registrations must be assessed in the amount of five times the registration fee if payment or affidavit isn't received on time.

Online aircraft registration services are available at: <https://app.mt.gov/aeronautics>. Vendor fees apply.

PLEASE POSTMARK OR TIMESTAMP YOUR REGISTRATION PAYMENTS OR AFFIDAVIT ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1ST TO AVOID THE PENALTY.

For questions, please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.



Tim Conway, Administrator

MDT Aeronautics Pilot Registration

Montana is required to register all pilots in the state; the fee is \$10. Included is an annual Montana Airport Directory, subscription to *Montana and the Sky* newsletter and pilot registration card. Registered pilot information is collected only to aid in search and rescue cases as it can help us locate and contact you sooner during an emergency. Your information is not shared or distributed outside of our office for any purpose other than a Search and Rescue emergency.

No AOPA Scholarship Awards Were Issued To Montana Residents In 2019

More than \$1M is available in 2020 through AOPA flight training scholarships! AOPA members are invited to apply for primary and advanced flight training scholarships, made possible through donations to the AOPA Foundation. In 2019, 123 scholarships totaling more than \$1 million were awarded. If you are not an AOPA member yet, you can join to be eligible to apply.

The scholarship awards are broken down into four categories: AOPA High School Flight Training Scholarship, AOPA Teacher Flight Training Scholarship, AOPA Primary Flight Training Scholarship, and AOPA Advanced Rating Scholarship.

To receive priority consideration, scholarship applications must be received by **Sunday, March 1, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. (EDT)**. The final deadline for scholarship applications is **Sunday, March 15, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. (EDT)**.

Visit <https://www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/students/flight-training-scholarships> to apply or for more information. Anyone who is eligible to apply is encouraged to do so if they are in pursuit of flight training.

Cape Air to Continue Service

Cape Air was again awarded the USDOT Essential Air Service (EAS) Contract for five eastern Montana airports. These include Glasgow, Glendive, Havre, Wolf Point, and Sidney. In total Cape Air will receive \$13.3 million in Federal subsidies to provide air service to these rural communities for a period of four years. All cities fly to Billings so passengers can connect on larger national air carriers. Flights can be as low as \$49 per segment.

Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation

Steve Bullock, Governor
Mike Tooley, Director

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Editor: Patricia Trooien

Follow MDT on social media!



Can You Still Pass a Private Pilot Checkride?

You are in a Cessna 172 departing out of West Palm Beach, FL (KPBI), which is 20' MSL. The current ATIS at KPBI is:

KPBI 091853Z 26013G21 10 SM BKN030 OVC045 18/16 A2959

1) What is the pressure altitude using the current ATIS?

- A: 400' MSL
- B: 350' MSL
- C: -310' MSL
- D: 330' MSL

2) Your examiner points to a random Class D airport on a sectional chart and asks you what speed restrictions apply to this airport, you say...

- A: Within 4 NM, at or below 2,500' MSL, you can't exceed 200 knots
- B: Within 5 NM, at or below 4,000' AGL, you can't exceed 250 knots
- C: Within 4 NM, at or below 2,500' AGL, you can't exceed 200 knots
- D: You have to be at or below 250 knots below 10,000' MSL

3) The FAA allows certificated pilots to perform certain preventative maintenance tasks. What would not be an example of preventative maintenance?

- A: Adding air to landing gear tires
- B: Adding oil to the engine
- C: Repairing a crack in a propeller
- D: Adding hydraulic fluid to the hydraulic reservoir

4) Your examiner describes a scenario where you fly friends around downtown Chicago. During the flight, you must remain _____ and _____ from the highest obstacle.

- A: 500' above; 500' horizontal
- B: 1,000' above, 500' horizontal
- C: 2,000' above; 1,000' horizontal
- D: 1,000' above; 2,000' horizontal

5) What happens after a cold front passes?

- A: Changes in air pressure
- B: Shifting winds
- C: Increasing pressure
- D: All of the above

6) What would you tell your examiner if they asked you what the purpose of flaps are?

- A: Increases lift, decreases drag, shallows out the approach angle
- B: Increases lift, increases drag, reduces stalling speed and allows for a steeper approach
- C: Increases lift, increases drag, increases stall speed
- D: Increases performance and increases landing ground roll

See answer key on Page 7

Experimental Amateur/Built Registrations on the Rise

There were nearly 1,200 new experimental amateur/built (EAB) aircraft registered in the United States during 2019. This is the largest growth Experimental Amateur/Built aircraft has seen in a decade.

2019 was up from 888 EAB registrations from the previous year even though last year 916 EAB aircraft were removed or de-registered, totaling a net gain of 270 EAB registrations.

The most popular EAB's registered were Van's Aircraft (249 newly registered in 2019), followed by Zenith Aircraft (65), CarbonCub (62), RANS (45), Kitfox (40), Sonex (31), Glasair Aviation Sportsman/older GlaStar (26), and Lancair (23).

Van's Aircraft remain the most popular EAB overall. There are 1,742 registered Van's RV-6/A's, 1,285 RV-7/A's, and 1,252 RV-8/A's on the registry.

The number of registered EAB's is lower today than in 2010, when there were almost 33,000 on the list. This is largely because the FAA began a mandatory registration renewal process in 2010. Before this, many non-flying aircraft were still shown as registered. 2013 was the first year this policy change affected the registration count, around 5,000 EAB's were removed from the FAA's registration database.

Year	EAB	Net Change	EAB Deregistered	New EAB Registered
2010	32682	768	309	1077
2011	33038	356	666	1022
2012	32041	-997	1951	954
2013	27946	-4095	5013	918
2014	27909	-37	1084	1047
2015	28078	169	781	950
2016	28830	752	225	977
2017	28451	-379	1296	917
2018	26572	-1879	2767	888
2019	26842	270	916	1186

Data courtesy of Ron Wanttaja. Data does not include aircraft registered as Light Sport

36th Annual Montana Aviation Conference

Early Registration Discount for MT Aviation Conference!

Please visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/conference.shtml> to register online. If you have difficulty with online registration please call (406) 444-2506.

Registration Rates

- \$100 February 1, 2020, and after
- \$10 high school & college students (discounts do not apply)

Pilots currently registered with the Montana Aeronautics Division

- 25% discount (a savings of \$25) on conference registration fee from February 1 through February 23, 2020.

Conference registrations will be accepted at the door at full price of \$100; no discounts will be available. Online registration closes on February 23, 2020.

Discounted registration for MT registered pilots is made possible through increased funding from House Bill 661.

New Montana Flying Club

A new flying club has formed in Miles City with a strong following. Pat Lifto of Miles City saw the need and desire for access to an airplane in the area for an affordable way for people to learn to fly. Pat purchased a Cessna 150 and is leasing it to the newly formed flying club.

When discussions of a new flying club started, there were six to eight folks interested in learning to fly. When the club had its first meeting, more than a dozen interested individuals attended. Now the list has over 30 interested people wanting to learn to fly!

Members did their homework before the club's creation. They used guidance from the AOPA (found in the AOPA resource library online) on how to form a flying club and received a presentation from the flying club in Billings to get started.

Right now, there are three part-time flight instructors available to club members to start their training. Members started flying the new plane on New Year's day.

The club's structure is a typical one. A member pays a small sum to buy equity in the club, monthly dues and an hourly wet rate. When it is all said and done each month, most new vehicle payments cost more than this commitment opening the doors to people who couldn't otherwise buy their own aircraft.

Pat reports positive support from the airport manager and airport board. The club hopes it can add another aircraft in the coming years if it continues to generate so much interest.

We hope this exciting news will inspire other clubs to form around Montana. For additional information about starting a flying club, from structure to financing to insurance, visit <https://www.aopa.org/community/flying-clubs>.

Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC)

The MDT Aeronautics Division is hosting Aviation Seminars for the 2020 FIRC on February 7th and 8th at the Wingate Hotel in Helena. This two-day, FAA-approved course will run from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Friday and from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. This course meets FAA renewal requirements for certified flight instructors and includes IACRA renewal.

Registration can be completed online at https://www.aviationseminars.com/registration-form/?type=firc&course_id=2020177. Tuition for Montana Aeronautics Registered Pilots: \$170.00, promo-code required; Non-Montana Aeronautics Registered Pilots: \$195.00.

Discounted registration for Montana Aeronautics registered pilots has been made possible through increased funding from House Bill 661. Montana registered pilots can contact Aeronautics at mdtaerosafety@mt.gov or call (406) 444-2506 to get your promo code and save \$25.00 off the registration fee.

Not a MDT Aeronautics Division registered pilot? Register now with the Division for \$10.00 per year and save \$25.00 off the FIRC registration. You will receive a pilot registration card, Montana Airport Directory and newsletter subscription. Pilot renewal can be completed online, visit <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/regpilot.shtml>, vendor fees apply. If you don't have your access code or have never registered as a pilot with the Aeronautics Division, please call (406) 444-2506.

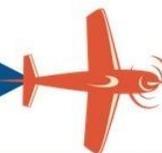
A block of rooms has been reserved at the Wingate Hotel at prevailing state rate (\$99) plus tax. Reserve your room by calling (406) 558-4490 and reference rooming block MDT-Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC). For more information contact mlindberg@mt.gov or call (406) 444-2506.

HIWAS Broadcasts Ended January 2020

The FAA announced that the Hazardous Inflight Weather Advisory Service (HIWAS), which transmits weather advisories over some VORs, was discontinued in January 2020. The retirement of this system was part of eliminating HIWAS-transmitting nav aids as the FAA scales back the national VOR network in an early phase of the NextGen modernization of the air traffic system.



Calling All Youth Artists!



The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aviation Awareness Art Contest is designed to broaden awareness of the importance of aviation and aerospace to the economy and to promote careers in these industries. The contest is open to all students in grades K-12 in public, private, and home schools.

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. A round trip flight to Helena for the winner and his/her parents (legal guardians) in May 2020 for the awards ceremony in Helena. Day to be decided.
2. Transportation Director, Mike Tooley will present all three winners with a trophy, certificate, and their artwork matted and framed.
3. Following the ceremony, the winners and their families will tour the airport and enjoy lunch.

SECOND & THIRD PLACE in each category:

1. A trophy and Certificate of Achievement.

1. Contest deadline is: Wednesday, April 1, 2020.
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

Get More Info

Artwork will be returned to all that participate. Winners will be contacted after the contest deadline. Arrangements can be made at that time for air travel to Helena.

Mail Artwork To:

MDT Aeronautics Division
P.O. Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507

Visit Our Website:

mdt.mt.gov/aviation/

Or Contact:

Matt Lindberg
mlindberg@mt.gov
406-444-2506



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

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Contact the Office of Civil Rights, Montana Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone (406) 444 - 9229. TTY may call 1 (800) 335 - 7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.

Montana Aircraft Mechanic Refresher & IA Renewal Seminar

Heritage Inn
1700 Fox Farm Road
Great Falls, Montana
(406)761-1900

*(Reference rooming block
Montana Aviation Conference to
receive the prevailing state rate.)*

Conference Registration Rates

- \$100 February 1, 2020 and after
- \$10 high school & college students (discounts do not apply)

Pilots currently registered with the Montana Aeronautics Division

- 25% discount (a savings of \$25) on conference registration fee from February 1, 2020 through February 23, 2020.

Conference registrations will be accepted at the door at full price of \$100; no discounts available.

For more information, contact Aeronautics at MDTAvConf@mt.gov or (406) 444-2506.



ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE!

To register, visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/conference.shtml>
Online registration closes February 23, 2020.

Walk-in's will be accepted at the door at full price on a first come, first-served basis if there is space available. For more information or difficulty registering, contact Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506 or email MDTAvConf@mt.gov.

For more information regarding Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Inspection Authorization Renewal requirements and forms, visit:

https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/hln/

**When registering, please indicate the sessions you plan to attend.
Only 8 Hours are required to meet Part 65.93.**

Friday, February 28th, 2020

Session 1

7:00 a.m. – 7:15 a.m. – Welcome & Introductions
7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. – Jeff Vercoe, FAA
8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. – Kristi Dunks, NTSB
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. – BREAK
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – Robert Craymer, Covington Aircraft
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Alan Jesmer, Precision Airmotive

Session 2

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - FAA AMT Video

Session 3

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Jessie & Mike Ellis, PinnaCal
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Darrold Hutchinson, Hutchinson Aircraft Upholstery
4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. – BREAK
4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. – Greg Cross, Cross Petroleum Service
5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. – Tim Gauntt, Hartzell Engine Technologies

Saturday, February 29th, 2020

Session 4

7:00 a.m. – 7:15 a.m. – Welcome & Introductions
7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. – Jeff Vercoe, FAA
8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. – Steve Vold, Aerotronics
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. – BREAK
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – Dick Jacobs, Northwest Propeller
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Johnny Portillo, FAA

Session 5

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - FAA AMT Video

Session 6

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Tim Gauntt, Hartzell Engine Technologies
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Bryan Hansen, FAA
4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. – BREAK
4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. – Tim Gauntt, Hartzell Engine Technologies
5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. – Greg Cross, Cross Petroleum Service

Please Note: Date and time for speakers at Aircraft Mechanics Refresher Seminar & IA Renewal are subject to change without notice.

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Big Horn County Airport Has AWOS!

The Big Horn County Airport (Hardin) AWOS is now in service. For a recorded voice report tune to frequency 118.325 or call 406-665-4241. You can look up some AWOS weather at <http://k00u.awosnet.com/>. Several other Montana airports have weather information available through awosnet.com; these include Culbertson, Big Timber, Choteau, Circle, Ennis, Laurel, Malta, Hamilton, Ronan, and White Sulphur Springs.

Additionally, the runway lighting intensity at the Hardin airport may now be adjusted by keying the mic 3, 5 or 7 clicks after turning on the pilot-controlled runway lights, whereas in the past pilots were stuck with the setting used when turning lights on.



Calendar of Events

February 7-8, 2020 — Flight Instructor Renewal Course (FIRC). The MDT Aeronautics Division will hold the two-day, FAA-approved course at the Wingate Hotel in Helena. This course meets the FAA's renewal requirements for Certified Flight Instructors (CFIs). For more information contact Matt Lindberg at (406) 444-2506 or email mlindberg@mt.gov.

February 27-29, 2020 — The 36th Annual Montana Aviation Conference. For conference/registration information visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/conference.shtml>. For more information or difficulty registering, contact Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506 or email MDTAvConf@mt.gov.

February 28-29, 2020 — Aircraft Mechanic Refresher and Inspection Authorization Seminar. Held in conjunction with the Montana Aviation Conference. For conference/registration information visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/conference.shtml>. For more information or difficulty registering, contact Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506 or email MDTAvConf@mt.gov.

March 1, 2020 — Aircraft Registration Deadline. Please postmark or timestamp your registration payments or affidavit on or before March 1, 2020, for renewal or before 30 days after a new aircraft purchase to avoid the penalty. For questions, please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

April 1, 2020 — Aviation Awareness Art Contest. April 1 is the deadline for art work submission. See Page 5 for details.

DID YOU PASS? Can You Still Pass a Private Pilot Checkride?

Answer key: 1. B, 2. C, 3. C, 4. D, 5. D, 6. B

WANTED: Your Montana Aviation News

Do you have exciting aviation news to share? Did you know you can send it to the Aeronautics Division to be considered for inclusion in the *Montana and the Sky* newsletter? We love to hear about and share your Montana Aviation news, photos and stories. Please send contributions to MDTSafetyEd@mt.gov.

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VISION ZERO

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

February 2020

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 for more information.

VISION ZERO ★
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

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