

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 72, No. 07

July 2021

## Spotted Bear Work Session

Over Memorial Day weekend, Montana Aeronautics and several volunteers from the Montana Pilots Association and Recreational Aviation Foundation flew and drove in to Spotted Bear airstrip for the annual work session. Volunteers rolled the runway, painted the outhouse and Runup T, replaced the windsocks, and took care of other routine maintenance. Scott Snelson, the ranger for the Spotted Bear district, met the group and updated everyone on the improvements already made to the airport. He also shared some options for the future with money coming from federal funding sources. The most recent improvements were clearing trees on the approach ends of the runways and removing the road crossing at the approach end of Runway 32. The next scheduled Forest Service work session will be July 17 at Schafer Meadows. Thank you to all pilots and enthusiasts who came to help maintain this amazing resource. We can't wait to see you at Schafer!



Thank you to everyone who participated this year!

All photos courtesy of the Montana Pilots Association and Aeronautics staff.

# USMC Visits Yellowstone Airport

In May, helicopters from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167 visited the Yellowstone Airport for a quick stop. Under the callsign "Warriors," five AH-1W SuperCobra attack helicopters and six UH-1Y Venom utility helicopters landed to refuel and stretch their legs. Crew members got out and greeted airport personnel and took photos of the beautiful surroundings.

The squadron members were trekking their way home to Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina, from a training mission in Boise, Idaho. These chopper crews had a lengthy journey ahead of them, just 2,000 miles to go!



Photo courtesy of Yellowstone Airport staff

## Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information

If your ELT information has changed or if you are purchasing, selling, buying or disposing of an aircraft with a 406 MHz ELT, now is the time to ensure your ELT registration information is up to date and correct at:

<https://beaconregistration.noaa.gov/RGDB/>

Keeping your ELT information up to date is not only required, it could save your life and or the lives of your family and friends. When an ELT is activated, the registration data is automatically forwarded to the Rescue Coordination Centers providing critical data to aid search and rescue efforts, reducing unnecessary risk to the search and rescue response, and helping to reduce false alerts. Additionally, aircraft owners must update their information upon transfer of an ELT to another aircraft owner, or upon any other change in registration information.

Registering or updating your 406 MHz ELT is free, easy, and required.

**NOTE:** The SARSAT system no longer monitors 121.5 Mhz.

**For more information refer to:**

- ELT beacon information <https://www.sarsat.noaa.gov/>
- ELT equipage requirements, 14 CFR 91.207 *Emergency locator transmitters*
- ELT registration requirements, 47 CFR 87.199(f) *Special requirements for 406.0-406.1 MHz ELTs*

**Register or update your 406 MHz ELT information here:**

<https://beaconregistration.noaa.gov/RGDB/>



Tim Conway, Administrator

**Montana and the Sky**  
Department of Transportation

Greg Gianforte, Governor  
Malcolm Long, Director

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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/)

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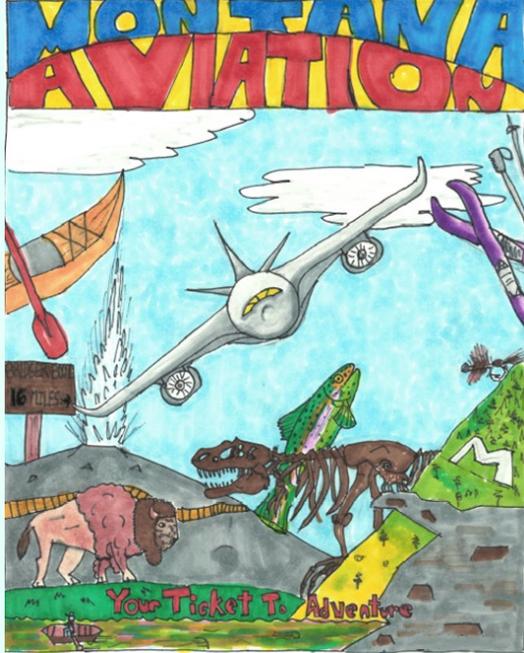


# 2021 Aviation Awareness Art Contest

**Congratulations to this year's Aviation Awareness Art Contest Winners!**

Thank you to the many public, private, and home-school students who participated in the Aviation Awareness Art Contest this year! 1<sup>st</sup> Place winners and their families will be flown to Helena to receive their certificates, trophies, and framed artwork, tour the airport, and attend a luncheon.

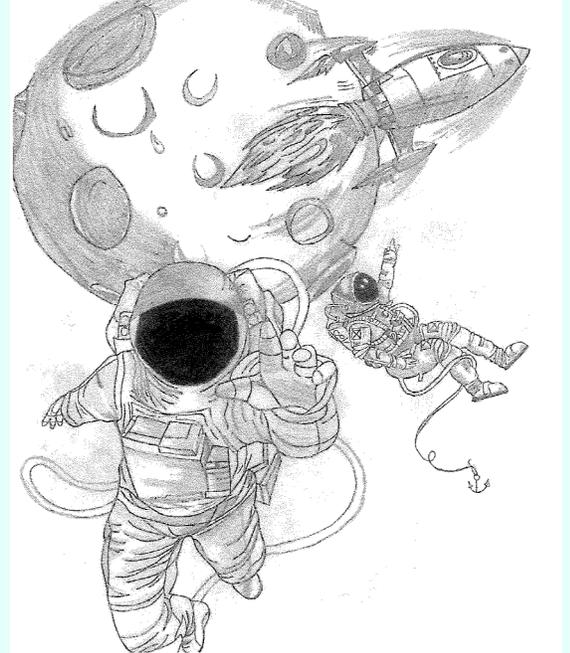
MDT Aeronautics Division programs like the art contest bring aviation and youth together so youth can visualize and experience



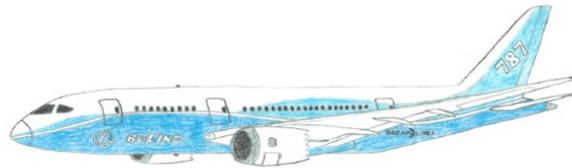
Grade K-5: Charlie M.,  
Bozeman

the impact aviation has on careers, transportation, and the economy. Thank you school administrators, teachers, and parents who support their students' creativity and involvement in this program! Please look out for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winners in the next issue of *Montana and the Sky*.

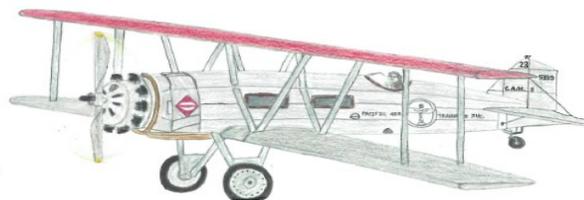
**1st Place Winners:**



Grade 6-8: Emma B., Trego



Post and Present  
Boeing 787 Dreamliner,  
1927 Boeing 40



Grade 9-12:  
Diego M., Billings

## 2021 Yellowstone Airport Summer Intern

The Yellowstone Airport is excited to welcome 2021's summer intern, Cargill Faris, to the Airport Operations team! Cargill is working alongside the Airport Manager and Operations Specialists this season to provide additional support during a very busy summer.

Cargill is currently a junior at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN, in the Aviation Management program. He is pursuing a career in Airport Operations and a minor in Business Economics. After graduating, Cargill plans to continue in a graduate program in Aerospace and Aviation Management. He has been working at the Purdue University Airport for the past two years in a variety of capacities.

Cargill is excited to learn more about airport management and operations and continue his education in the aviation industry. He loves hiking and is a wildlife enthusiast, which makes enjoying his spare time in Montana's amazing parks and forests a blast.



Photo courtesy of Yellowstone airport staff

# A Big Thanks to Pete Smith

Pete Smith, past Montana Pilots Association president, donated a horse-drawn McCormick-Deering mower for the Schafer Meadows airstrip. Pete restored the mower, and it is now ready for the challenge of keeping the runway and parking areas at Schafer Meadows trimmed. Mechanical means are not allowed in the wilderness area where the airstrip resides, making this kind of mower a true treasure. The mower will hopefully be flown into Schafer prior to the July 17 work session.



Photo courtesy of Pete Smith

## ACE Academy and Canyon Ferry Fly-In Postponed

ACE camp is postponed until later in July this summer due to constraints from COVID-19 and difficulties scheduling tours of our participating businesses. The Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy is a resident camp offered each summer for high school students to learn about careers in aviation and explore flight. This fantastic camp is put on by the Montana Aeronautics Division and is made possible by many local businesses and individuals who open their doors to Montana's youth to share their aviation backgrounds, career progressions, and stories. The camp is currently full, but a waiting list is available. THANK YOU to the individuals who donated funds to sponsor students this year!

The Canyon Ferry Fly-In will be hosted on the last day of ACE. Please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506 for exact dates and times and to RSVP.

## Fly-In Season

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, people are excited to resume annual summer fly-in activities. In June, Aeronautics attended the Choteau Fly-In and spoke with many visitors about our services and mission. There were so many attendees, they ran out of eggs! It was great to see such a large turnout. Many kids were given Young Eagle rides by volunteers. We look forward to seeing you out and about this summer doing what we all love most, flying!



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

# United Airlines Lands at Yellowstone!

During the first week of June, the Yellowstone Airport (WYS) welcomed a second airline! United Express is operating three flights daily to WYS from Denver throughout its introductory summer schedule. The airport was previously served only by Delta Connection to Salt Lake City. The addition of the Denver flights added connection possibilities all over the United States and beyond.

United Express is operated by SkyWest Airlines using 50-seat Canadair Regional Jets, which increased the number of available passenger seats by 150% this season. The addition of the United flights brings the total number of commercial flights into WYS to five. This summer is projected to be the busiest summer the Yellowstone Airport has ever seen. The new airline access for the community and visitors is very exciting.

The West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce welcomed the first group of United passengers with Montana-shaped cookies and West Yellowstone baggage tags. Balloons and banners were provided by the airline in celebration of the new route. A water arch provided by the Airport Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting crew gave a grand welcome to the arriving flight to commemorate the start of the new air service.



Photo courtesy of Yellowstone airport staff

## New Aeronautics Staff

For years, the friendly voice of Patricia Trooien greeted those who called the Aeronautics office or stopped in to say hello. It is bittersweet to announce Patricia accepted a new position with another state agency to advance her career. We will certainly miss her expertise assisting with the pilot and aircraft registration program and coordinating clinics and camps. Congratulations, Patricia!

We are excited to welcome Shannon Buswell and Stacey Gabrio to Aeronautics. Shannon is the new Aviation Program Coordinator, and Stacey is our new Administrative Assistant.

Both ladies bring a diverse background in customer service, planning, and coordination and are very enthusiastic to learn about aviation. Please join us in welcoming Shannon and Stacey to the Aeronautics team! Our doors are open and we have ramp space for you to swing by and say hello!



L to R: Stacey Gabrio, Shannon Buswell

Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

## Aeronautics Loan & Grant Application Reminder

As a reminder to airport loan and grant applicants, the Loan and Grant online portal (<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml>) will accept FY 2023 applications starting July 1, 2021, through November 15, 2021. If you cannot enter the website, you may have a previous award that needs a closeout form or an annual 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 the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

## Aviation Quiz

(Answer Key found on Page 7)



### 1) Updrafts in a thunderstorm can exceed:

- A: 1,000 feet per minute
- B: 2,000 feet per minute
- C: 5,000 feet per minute
- D: 6,000 feet per minute

### 2) What is an example of mechanical turbulence?

- A: Wind blowing around a hangar located near the approach end of a runway, creating eddies
- B: The buffeting felt when full flaps are used
- C: Thermals from a parking lot or lake, creating low-level turbulence
- D: Turbulence created from large, heavy aircraft

### 3) In 1987, American Airlines saved \$\_\_\_ by removing one olive from each salad served in first class?

- A: \$2,400,000
- B: \$40,000
- C: \$6,000
- D: \$66,000

### 4) What makes an airplane fly?

- A: Pilots
- B: Drag
- C: Money
- D: Lift

### 5) You fly underneath virga (no, it is not recommended and not a free airplane wash). What is most likely going to happen next?

- A: Updraft
- B: Downdraft
- C: Nothing, calm air

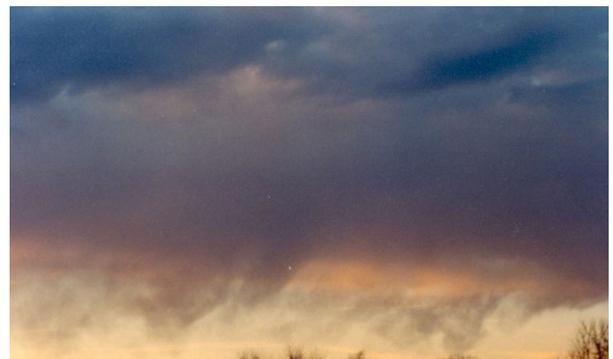


Photo of virga, courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



# Calendar of Events



**July 16-18, 2021 — Straight Tail 182 Fly-In, Smiley Creek, ID.** A Fly-In of straight tail Cessna 182 aircraft at the Smiley Creek Airport, Idaho. Recommended you contact the organizer at [phil4id@gmail.com](mailto:phil4id@gmail.com).

**July 17, 2021 — Schafer Meadows Work Session.** For more information, contact Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

**July 17-18, 2021 — St. Ignatius EAA Fly-In.** Held in conjunction with the town's annual Good Ol' Days celebration. Hosted by EAA BBQ from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the 17th. Free huckleberry pancake breakfast at 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the 18th. Helicopter rides for \$50 per seat both days. For more information, contact Michael Kuefler at (406) 544-2274.

**July 19-23 Powder River Training Complex MOA combat exercise.** Check NOTAMs, or for more information about Ellsworth AFB, please contact the 28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs office at (605) 385-5056, or by emailing [28bw.public.affairs@us.af.mil](mailto:28bw.public.affairs@us.af.mil).

**July 23-25, 2021 — Big Sky International Balloon Festival, Billings.** Free family event where hot air balloons gather for morning flights and evening glows. For more info, email [bigskyballoon@gmail.com](mailto:bigskyballoon@gmail.com).

**July 24, 2021 — Lincoln Airport Community Open House with Fly-In BBQ Potluck.** Burgers and all the fixings will be provided 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 Jerome Cain at (406) 461-5631 or email [sgr@linctel.net](mailto:sgr@linctel.net).

**July 26 - August 2, 2021 — B-17 Bomber Sentimental Journey.** Static tours and rides will be available for a fee in Belgrade at Yellowstone Jet Center. For more information, visit <https://www.azcaf.org/location/bozeman-mt-tour-stop/>.

**August 6-7, 2021 — 44<sup>th</sup> Annual MAAA Three Forks Fly-In.** Fly or drive to Three Forks on Friday and spend a relaxing day catching up with friends. Dinner for MAAA members and their guests will be served at 6:00 p.m. The flour bombing, spot landing events, and ping pong ball drop will take place on Saturday afternoon, as well as airplane judging. The awards meeting at 5:00 p.m. will be followed by dinner. For more information, contact Pat Green at (406) 539-1880.

**August 15, 2021 — Hysham Fly-In/Drive-In.** Breakfast served 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. by the Hysham Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact Bob Miller (406) 342-5252.

**August 20-22 — Cut Bank Fly-In and Fun Weekend and Car Show.** Starting at noon Friday, ending Sunday afternoon. Breakfast at 7 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, fee required. Visit <https://cutbankairport.org/events/> for more information.

**August 28, 2021 — Polson EAA Fly-In.** Pancake breakfast and community booths. Details to be announced.

**Aviation Quiz Answer Key: 1:D 2:A 3:B 4:C 5:B**

## WANTED: Your Montana Aviation News

Do you have exciting aviation news from Montana to share? Did you know you can send it to the Aeronautics Division to be considered for publishing 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 [mdtaerosafety@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafety@mt.gov) before the first Friday of each month for the next month's issue.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-5416 or Montana Relay Service at 711.



**VISION ZERO**

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

**July 2021**

5403

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



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

In 2020, there were 209 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 209 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 2019 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 Malcolm Long, 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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OF TRANSPORTATION**

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