

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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Above Photos Courtesy of Aeronautics Staff



39th Annual Aviation Conference a Success!



The 39th annual Aviation Organizations of Montana Aviation Conference in Butte was a huge success. The event was full of excellent presenters speaking on topics from hot air ballooning to medicine, search and rescue, safety, regulations, stories of adventure, and more.

Three keynote speakers entertained and educated audiences during luncheons and banquets. \$59,000 in scholarships were awarded to recipients.

The exhibit hall was full with over 440 people gathered for the event. The Montana Pilots Association (MPA) partnered with Robert Peccia and Associates and Butte Aviation to offer a static display and social at the Butte airport Friday afternoon. A wake was held during this event in honor of Mike Ferguson. Pictures and stories were shared in Mike's memory.

The 2025 Aviation Organizations of Montana Aviation Conference is scheduled to be held February 27 to March 1, 2025, at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls. We can't wait to see you there!

Thanks to all who spoke, volunteered, sponsored, exhibited, attended, and enjoyed this year's conference. You make the conference a success! We hope you'll join us next year in Great Falls.



Above Photos Courtesy of Jake Peterson Photography

Dell Airport

The Dell Airport runway is currently in poor condition, with large cracks and protruding weeds throughout the surface. The airport is a state-owned, non-federally funded airport with one hangar ground lease managed by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division. MDT does not have the funding to rehabilitate the runway at this time.

The MDT Aeronautics Division became aware of private entities who were interested in purchasing the airport and completing the runway rehabilitation. MDT has created an agreement for the new owner that will keep the airport open to the public, with no landing fees for aircraft less than 12,500 pounds. If the new owner fails to keep the airport open to the public, the deed will require ownership to revert to the state.

This arrangement will enhance the Dell Airport's safety and keep it open to the public, a win for the aviation community!

It is scheduled to be advertised for sale on March 25, on the MDT website and with the local newspaper in Dillon. Following the advertisements, a public auction is planned at the Beaverhead County Courthouse on April 30.



Photo Courtesy of MDT Aeronautics Staff

If you have any questions, please contact:
Karen Hallenbeck
khallenbeck@mt.gov
406-444-9581

How Are We Doing? Let Us Know!

MDT is committed to providing excellent customer service. Your feedback is critical in understanding how we might improve the quality of service.

Please take a few minutes to share your feedback with us by taking a quick online survey below.

Or if you would prefer, you can always call us at 406-444-2506 or email us at mdtad@mt.gov.



2024 Mechanics Refresher and IA Renewal

Another successful Mechanics Refresher and Inspection Authorization (IA) Renewal Seminar was completed on February 29 to March 1 at the 2024 Montana Aviation Conference.

IA's are required to receive 8 hours of recurrent classroom training between April 1 and March 31 if they do not meet the eligibility requirements of Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 14 Part 65.93. Around 80 people attended this year, several of whom are current Aircraft and Powerplant mechanic students in Montana, and others who came to learn more about aircraft maintenance.

The MDT Aeronautics Division would like to thank all the speakers and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for their time and expertise. A total of 18 hours of aircraft maintenance training was provided to the mechanics.

The MDT Aeronautics Division held the first state-sponsored IA renewal course in the nation in 1963, and have provided it annually since then. The next IA Mechanics Renewal Seminar will be next year at the 40th annual Montana Aviation Conference in Great Falls.

If you or anyone you know is interested in presenting a topic on aviation maintenance, please contact:

Derrick Olheiser
dolheiser@mt.gov
406-444-2506

We would love to hear your suggestions!

Courtesy Car Grant Application

The Airport Courtesy Car Application period is open from April 1 to May 31. There are up to four reimbursement grants available for courtesy cars with up to \$5,000 each available for a courtesy car. Municipalities and eligible third parties may apply.

New legislation has reduced the insurance limit requirements for courtesy cars. Information can be found at: <https://leg.mt.gov/> by searching for SB103. The application and more information about the program can be found at: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/courtesy-cars.shtml>, or by scanning the QR code below.

If you think your airport would benefit from a courtesy car, talk to your airport manager about applying for this grant.

Please note that the link for the online application is available beginning April 1 and closes at 5 p.m. on May 31.

For more information, contact:
MDT Aeronautics Division
Stephen Torske
406-444-9569
storske@mt.gov



Photo Courtesy of MDT Aeronautics Staff



Upcoming Airport Work Sessions

If you're looking for a reason to fly and a good way to get involved, look no further than the annual airport work sessions!

Work sessions typically involve a variety of upkeep and maintenance activities, including filling gopher holes, painting, weeding, replacing windsocks, cutting wood, repairing fences, and more.

Airports across Montana rely on volunteers to keep their facilities in good condition, so aviators across the state can continue to enjoy them. These work sessions are also a great way to connect with other aviation-minded folks!

For location information, see the Calendar of Events. Any additional work sessions will be included in future newsletters once they are scheduled!

The following work sessions are currently scheduled for this summer:

May 25 - Spotted Bear Work Session

June 15 - Meadow Creek Work Session

(Bring a chainsaw to Meadow Creek if you have one)

June 18 - Del Bonita Work Session

July 20 - Schafer Meadows Work Session



For more information,
see the calendar of events
below
or contact:
MDT Aeronautics
mdtaero@mt.gov
406-444-2506

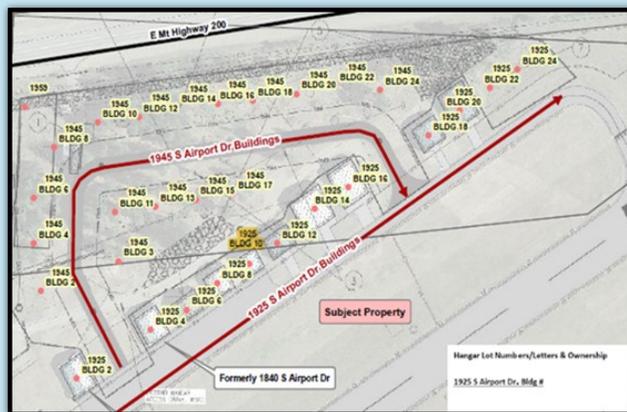
Photo Courtesy of MDT Aeronautics Staff

Lincoln Airport Hangar Building Opportunity

We are excited to announce hangar building opportunities at Lincoln Airport. This airport is federally funded and is owned and managed by the State of Montana.

The airport has a 4,200-foot-long lighted runway that sits next to the Blackfoot River. Additional features include a wildlife perimeter fence, electric access gate, vaulted toilet, campground, courtesy car, FAA weather cameras, snow removal, and fiber optic cable.

If you want to build a hangar at this mountain valley airport, please contact Stephen Torske at 406-444-9569 or storske@mt.gov for more information.



Calendar of Events

May 18 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Contact Doug Vulcan at vulcandg406@gmail.com for more information.

May 25 - Spotted Bear Work Party. Work starts at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided by the Flathead Montana Pilots Association hangar. For more information contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.

May 31 - June 2 - The Cub Doctor Seminar. Roundup. Clyde Smith, Jr., aka "The Cub Doctor," will present his standard seminar on aircraft restoration. Contact Clint Worman at 406-209-1802, or visit www.cubdoctor.com for information and registration. Seating is limited.

June 8 - Big Timber Fly-In Breakfast. Hosted by Yellowstone Air Service. Donations accepted for breakfast. Short takeoff and landing (STOL) competition and car show. For more information, contact Gabriel Chandler at 701-339-5843.

June 8 - Butte Wings and Wheels Fly-in or drive-in. 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Walt McIntosh 406-670-1846.

June 15 - Choteau Fly-In. 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Free breakfast, donations welcome. Young Eagles airplane rides available. For more information, contact Scott Gasvoda at 406-590-2836.

June 15 - Meadow Creek Work Party. Work starts at 9 a.m. If you're handy with a chainsaw, bring one along as there are a lot of downed trees to cut and stack for firewood. Lunch will be provided. For more information contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.

June 18 - Del Bonita Work Party. Starting at 9 a.m. Contact Stephen Torske for details at: 406-444-9569 or storske@mt.gov.

July 20 - Schafer Meadows Work Party. Work starts at 9 a.m. Dinner will be provided Saturday night, so come help out and camp for the weekend. For more information contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.

July 20 - 21 - St. Ignatius Fly-In. Saturday July 20, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., free BBQ, helicopter rides, Sunday, July 21, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., free huckleberry pancake breakfast, 100 gallons of avgas giveaway, many door prizes, helicopter rides. Contact Michael Kuefler at 406-544-2274 for more information.

July 27 - Lincoln Fly-In. Potluck will start at 11 a.m.. Contact Doug Vulcan at vulcandg406@gmail.com for more information.

August 24 - Anaconda Fly-In and Car show. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Planned activities include games for kids, airplane rides, and more! Please call Greg Bahr at 406-490-7281 with any questions.

September 7 - North Central Hangar Fly-In. Havre. Contact William Hurd at 406-945-3646 for more information.

September 21 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Contact Doug Vulcan at vulcandg406@gmail.com for more information.

MDT Aeronautics Division

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**Thank you for
reading
*Montana and
the Sky.*
Fly Safe!**

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FAA Weather Camera Locations



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