

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 75, No. 9

September 2024



## Helena Aviation Day

You're invited to join the Helena Airport Authority and Boeing Helena on Saturday, September 7th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as we celebrate Helena Aviation Day! Take advantage of this opportunity to tour the Boeing facility, learn about job opportunities, enjoy a food truck lunch, and a special giveaway. The event is **FREE!**

As part of the Aviation Day event, Montana Army National Guard Aviation will be hosting a Family Day and Open House that will include helicopter and equipment displays, tours, and carnival style games.

Additional participants include Helena College, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division, and static displays of civilian aircraft and other airport related equipment. All events are located on the north side of the airport along Skyway Drive, past the terminal building. Aircraft coming to the event will be provided a parking map in advance with an assigned parking space.

### Aircraft static displays, vendors, and exhibitors are welcome and needed!

Bring your aircraft and show it off to the public and tell your story to inspire the next generation of aviators in Montana. Ramp space is available on the Montana Army National Guard ramp at Helena. There is no charge to those wishing to showcase their aircraft, businesses, or educational programs.

To RSVP, email:

Scott Sponholz

[scott.m.sponholz.mil@army.mil](mailto:scott.m.sponholz.mil@army.mil)

## 2025 Aviation Scholarship Sponsors Needed

In 2025, there will be scholarships available for individuals in Montana who are interested in aviation. These scholarships are made possible by generous individuals and organizations who believe in supporting aviation education.

These scholarships aim to help with the costs of education, such as flight instruction or attending aviation mechanic school.

The winners of the scholarships will be announced in January 2025, and they will receive their awards at the Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula.

If you are interested in sponsoring a scholarship for 2025, please contact the MDT Aeronautics Division before September 13, 2024, at [mdtad@mt.gov](mailto:mdtad@mt.gov) or 406-444-2506.

Available scholarships and application instructions may be found at:

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.aspx>

or scan the QR Code



## Aviation Conference to be Held in Missoula

The Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) is pleased to announce the Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Missoula February 28 to March 1, 2025, at the Hilton Garden Inn and you are invited!

The conference brings Montana's aviation organizations and the flying public together for three days of speakers, seminars, workshops, awards ceremonies, business meetings, comradery, and social events.

It is an opportunity for those from many areas of the aviation community to connect, learn, and exchange ideas and information. Around 500 participants are expected this year.

For more information on pricing and to register, visit:

[www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event\\_id=23928&fromdash1](http://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event_id=23928&fromdash1)

Or scan the QR Code

For more information, contact:

406-444-2506

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



# Aeronautics Loan & Grant Applications Open

As a reminder to airport loan and grant applicants, the loan and grant online portal will accept Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 applications through November 15. If you cannot enter the website, you may have a previous award that needs a closeout form, or an annual status report filed.

Projects must be broken down by type and itemized on the application. For example, asphalt projects should be broken down by runway, apron, and taxiway, not as one project lumped together.

Eligible projects may include airport pavements, safety related items, lighting, weather cameras, "Say Weather" reporting systems, fuel farms, and more.

**If you have any questions or need assistance with the loan and grant program, please contact:**

**Stephen Torske**

**406-444-9569**

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

**To access the on-line portal go to:**  
[www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml)

Or scan the QR Code 



**FY 2026 loan and grant applications accepted through Nov. 15, 2024.**

## CRJ 550 Begins Service to Yellowstone Airport

Yellowstone Airport is thrilled to announce the arrival of the SkyWest Candair Regional Jet (CRJ) 550 aircraft, now serving established routes to and from Salt Lake City.

The CRJ 550 is a converted CRJ 700 that is designed to offer a superior travel experience with features such as spacious seating with only 50 seats. The cabin is configured into three classes including first-class, economy plus, and economy. Ample storage with dedicated overhead bin space for every passenger and modern amenities like Wi-Fi, power outlets, an in-flight entertainment options are standard features.

This addition brings several benefits to the airport and community by improving connectivity with a major hub, enhancing passenger comfort, and boosting the local economy through increased passenger traffic.

The CRJ 550 service operates daily, providing flexible travel options for both business and leisure travelers



## Aviation Teacher Workshop



On October 4 and 5, MDT Aeronautics Division will host its annual Teacher Workshop. The MDT Aeronautics Division has partnered with the Montana Learning Center (MLC) at Canyon Ferry Lake to deliver the program; the curriculum is authorized to provide 20 renewal credits through the Office of Public Instruction (OPI).

Teachers will receive instruction from Dr. Walter Woolbaugh of Montana State University of Bozeman (MSU), Ryan Hannahoe, Executive Director of the Learning Center (MLC), Chris Gillette, a retired airline pilot and a member of the MLC team, and MDT Aeronautics Division staff.

The lessons will consist of aeronautics theory and principle-based demonstrations. These experiments are easy and affordable for teachers to reproduce in their classrooms. The ideas and experiments are designed to excite students about aviation while learning STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) principles that apply to everyday life. The goal of the workshop is for teachers to take their newfound passion for aviation and transfer it back to students in their classrooms.

Introductory flights will kick-off the event along with tours of the Montana Air National Guard, an air ambulance operator, Helena College aircraft mechanic school, and the Helena Air Traffic Control Tower.

On the second day, classroom activities and studies will take place at the Montana Learning Center.

**Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.**

***\*There is no cost to teachers\****

**For more information, please contact:**

**MDT Aeronautics Division**

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

**406-444-2506**



**Scan Here to Register**



# Upcoming MDT Aeronautics Events

**NEW Training!**

## First Aid/Survival Skills Course

**September 20, 2025**

The First Aid/Survival Skills Course will be at the Doubletree by Hilton in Downtown Helena.

Cost to attend is \$75.

For more information, contact:

Matt Lindberg  
406-444-9568

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



## 2025 Flight Instructor Clinic (FIRC)

**February 7 - 8, 2025**

The FIRC will be held in Helena at the Double Tree by Hilton in downtown in Helena.

Cost to attend is \$75.

For more information, contact:

Matt Lindberg  
406-444-9568

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



## 2025 Winter Survival Course (WSC)

**January 10 - 12, 2025**

The WSC will be at the Sugar Loaf Lodge South of Anaconda.

Cost to attend is \$75.

For more information, contact:

Barbara Barnum  
406-444-9568

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



## 2025 Montana Aviation Conference

**February 27 - March 1, 2025**

The 40th Annual Montana Aviation Conference will be in Missoula at the Hilton Garden Inn

See registration page for pricing.

For more information, contact:

406-444-9568

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



## Calendar of Events

**September 1 - Red Lodge Wings-n-Wheels Fly-In/Drive-In.** Free breakfast 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donations go toward improvement of the airport. For more information, contact Bo Ewald at [b.ewald@att.net](mailto:b.ewald@att.net).

**September 7 - North Central Hanger Fly-In.** Havre. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, contact William Hurd at 406-945-3646.

**September 7 - Helena Aviation Day.** Helena. Montana National Guard Facility. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aircraft static displays, Boeing facility tours, armory and aviation facility open house, events and games for kids. 5K Fun Run starts at 5 p.m. Please RSVP to Scott Sponholz at [scott.m.sponholz.mil@army.mil](mailto:scott.m.sponholz.mil@army.mil).

**September 14 - Harlowtown Kiwanis Fly-In and Car Show.** Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and lunch 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Jason Loose at [fence2build@yahoo.com](mailto:fence2build@yahoo.com).

**September 20 - Basic Survival and First Aid.** Helena. Doubletree by Hilton. Cost to attend is \$75. For more information contact Matt Lindberg at [mlindberg@mt.gov](mailto:mlindberg@mt.gov) or 406-444-2506. To register, scan the QR Code above.

**September 21 - Lincoln Fly-In.** Pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at [andq406@gmail.com](mailto:andq406@gmail.com).

**October 5 - Sky Ranch Fly-In.** Kalispell. This isn't just a fly in, it's an event to come to! Food is free, desert by donation, many raffles, STOL demonstrations, and a chili competition between the neighbors! Come hungry! Starts at 2 p.m. There will be a movie at 5:30 p.m. Tent camping shall you decide to stay and hang by the campfire! For more info call or text Brandy at 406-212-4896.

**January 10 - 12, 2025 - Winter Survival Clinic.** Sugarloaf Lodge Anaconda. Cost to attend is \$75. For more information, contact Barbara Barnum at [bbarnum@mt.gov](mailto:bbarnum@mt.gov) or 406-444-2506. To register, scan the QR Code above.

**February 5 - 6, 2025 - Aeronautics Board Meeting.** Helena. MDT Headquarters. For more information contact Karen Hallenbeck at [khallenbeck@mt.gov](mailto:khallenbeck@mt.gov).

**February 7 - 8, 2025 - FIRC.** Cost to attend is \$75. For more information, contact Matt Lindberg at [mlindberg@mt.gov](mailto:mlindberg@mt.gov) or 406-444-2506. To register, scan the QR Code above.

**February 27 - March 1, 2025 - 40th Montana Aviation Conference.** Missoula. Hilton Garden Inn. For more information, contact [mdtad@mt.gov](mailto:mdtad@mt.gov) or 406-444-2506. To register, scan the QR Code above.

**MDT Aeronautics Division**

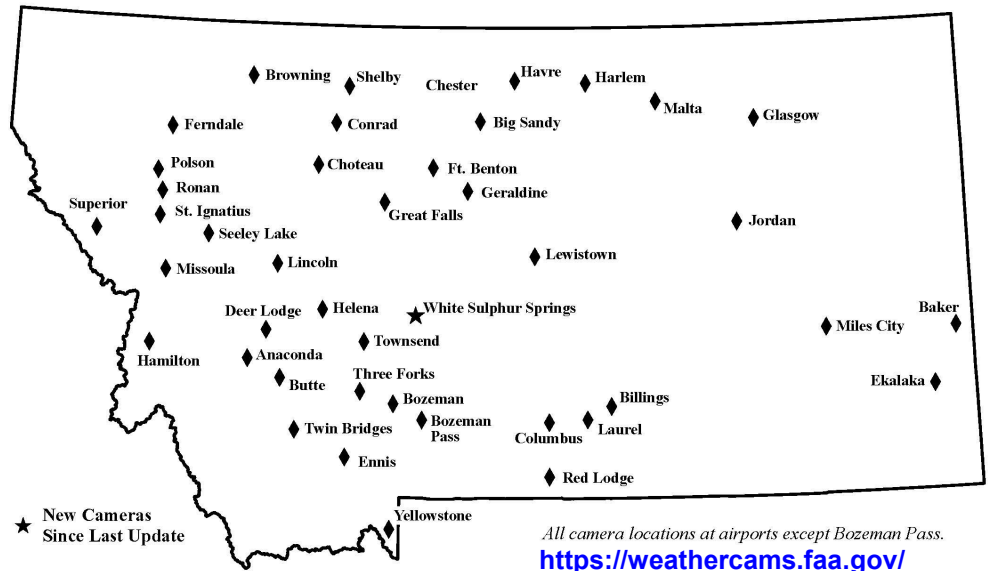
**PO Box 200507**

**2630 Airport Road**

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

To manage your *Montana and the Sky* newsletter subscription preferences or to sign-up for the e-newsletter please email [mdtad@mt.gov](mailto:mdtad@mt.gov) or call 406-444-2506.

## FAA Weather Camera Locations



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

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