

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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August 2025

Students Explore Aviation Career Opportunities

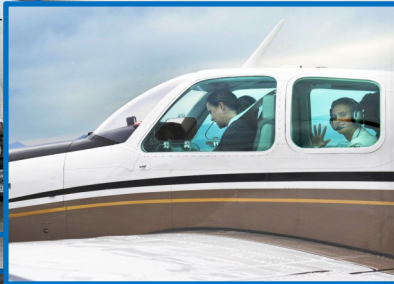
The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division proudly hosted its annual Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy from June 26 to 28, offering an immersive experience for aspiring aviators.

The first day kicked off in Helena with introductory flights. The attendees had the opportunity to visit and explore Helena College's Airframe and Powerplant mechanic program, visit the Montana Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility, an air ambulance company (Montana Medical Transport), and Pioneer Aerostructures who builds parts for the F-35. These visits provided invaluable insights into various aviation career paths.

On the second day the group traveled to Missoula where they toured Neptune Aviation and the Museum of Mountain Flying. Participants were treated to a close-up look at the iconic Miss Montana DC-3, learned about air traffic control (ATC) operations at the Missoula ATC tower, and visited the Smokejumper base, further enriching their understanding of aviation history and operations.

The final day featured a lively general aviation fly-in at the Canyon Ferry airstrip, where students had the chance to engage with pilots and hear firsthand accounts of their aviation journeys. The event showcased a wide array of aircraft and fostered meaningful conversations between students and experienced aviators.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the fly-in and the businesses that hosted us for tours! This event has undoubtedly inspired then next generation of aviation enthusiasts and professionals.



Community Engagement

The MDT Aeronautics Division is dedicated to enhancing its presence and fostering communication with the public. One effective way to achieve this is by participating in local aviation events across Montana.

This year, staff from the MDT Aeronautics Division have been actively involved in several fly-ins and airport work sessions. Many fly-in's and works sessions have seen impressive turnouts this season, featuring dozens of aircraft, hundreds of interesting cars, thousands of participants and pancakes served, and many kids going on their first flight.

Work sessions at the Spotted Bear, Meadow Creek, Del Bonita, and Schafer Meadows airstrips were also completed. Volunteers completed annual maintenance, which helps keep the airstrips in good shape.

These fly-ins typically occur on weekends throughout the summer and are highlighted in our newsletter calendar. If you're seeking a fun outing, consider inviting a friend to join you at one of these community events to show your support for aviation in Montana.

Attending an event not only offers a chance to meet fellow aviation enthusiasts but also allows you to enjoy summer flying in our beautiful state! Summer isn't over and there are still upcoming events on the calendar. ***We look forward to seeing you at one of them soon!***



Photo courtesy of Moose Peterson Photography

New Fuel System in Anaconda

Bowman Field in Anaconda recently installed a brand new 8,000-gallon 100LL Self-Serve Fuel System. The airport is excited to be able to offer fueling opportunities to the flying public.

If you are in the area, stop in and check it out!

For more information contact:
Monte Belgarde
406-563-8275



Backcountry Etiquette

An initiative led by the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF), and other industry partners, has launched to increase awareness regarding backcountry flying etiquette. With many remote, wilderness, and backcountry airstrips under scrutiny for a variety of reasons, following a few general protocols will help protect access to these hidden gems.

You will see posters pop up at many Montana airports near backcountry airports as a gentle reminder for pilots to respect and protect these valuable assets.

FLYING INTO THE BACKCOUNTRY?



Please respect and protect these special places.

- ✓ Be considerate of other backcountry users
- ✓ Safely reduce your noise signature
- ✓ Train at home — no touch-and-goes in the backcountry
- ✓ Pack it in / pack it out
- ✓ Use CTAF 122.9 — minimize chatter



Scan below for more information about RAF.

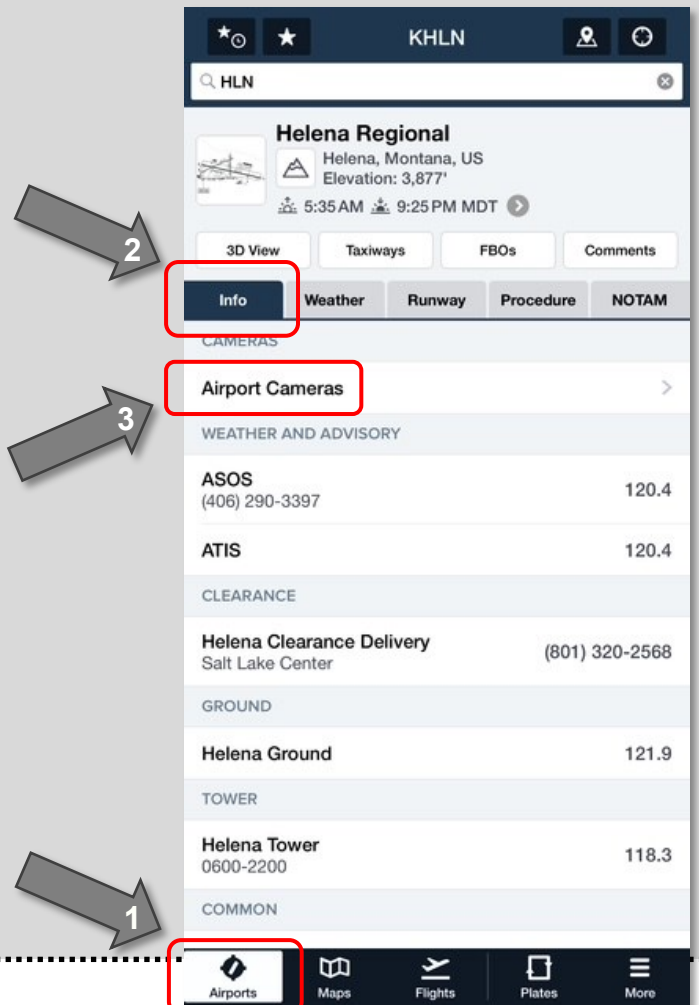


FAA Weather Cameras Added to ForeFlight

ForeFlight is the most widely used electronic flight bag product in general aviation, so it's no surprise they have added a button to go directly to an airport's FAA weather cameras! Since Montana has a very large, and growing, weather camera network, this feature is very welcomed and already widely utilized.

The ForeFlight integration of FAA weather cameras requires an Essential (formerly Pro Plus) or higher subscription level. It's not included in the Starter (formerly Basic Plus) subscription.

You will find direct camera access under "Airports"-"Info", right at the top.



Aviation Teacher Workshop Registration Open

The MDT Aeronautics Division is pleased to announce the upcoming Aviation Teacher Workshop, taking place **October 3rd and 4th** in Helena. In partnership with the Montana Learning Center (MLC), this annual event promises to deliver an engaging educational experience, offering participants the opportunity to earn 20 renewal credits from the Office of Public Instruction (OPI).

This 2-day workshop features a variety of aviation-themed lessons, demonstrations, and hands-on activities designed to be both affordable and easily replicable in the classroom. The primary goal is to ignite students' enthusiasm for aviation while reinforcing essential STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) concepts that are relevant to their everyday lives.

- **Day 1** participants will have the unique opportunity to tour key facilities, including the Montana Air National Guard, an air ambulance operator, Helena College's Aircraft Mechanic School. Additionally, attendees will enjoy introductory flights, providing firsthand experience of aviation.
- **Day 2** the focus will turn to interactive classroom activities at the MLC, enhancing the educational experience.

Given the significant interest in this program, teachers are encouraged to submit their applications promptly to secure their spot. Preference will be given to those teaching STEM subjects to high school students.

Best of all, there is no cost for teachers to attend this enriching workshop!

To register, scan the QR Code.

For additional information or inquiries,
please contact us at
406-444-2506 or mdtad@mt.gov.



Basic Aviation Survival and First Aid Skills Course

Helena - September 19, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This training will teach participants new skills for the field and is a great first step for pilots and passengers with limited survival and basic first aid skills. This course teaches survival and first aid fundamentals which could have a major impact in achieving positive outcomes in an emergency.

Cost to attend is \$50. Lunch will be provided.

Lodging is available at the Double Tree for the state rate of \$132, plus taxes. The Double Tree is located at 22 N Last Chance Gulch, Helena. To make reservations call 406-443-2200 and mention the course and "MDT Aero" for the state rate.

Capacity is limited, so be sure to register now!

Scan the QR Code to register



For more information, contact:
Matt Lindberg
406-444-9568
mlindberg@mt.gov

Courtesy Car Grants Awarded

The MDT Aeronautics Division awarded three grants for the Courtesy Car Program in June to the Laurel, Fort Benton, and Polson Airports.

Four reimbursable grants of up to \$5,000 were available to help local airports purchase courtesy cars, three eligible parties applied this year. These grants are available annually, and the application period will open again next spring.

Calendar of Events

August 2 - Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Fly-In. Three Forks. Hot breakfast available for purchase from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ping pong ball drop, young eagles discovery flights, flying events with awards, static display with peoples choice award. Dinner available for pilots camping both Friday and Saturday nights. For more information, visit montanaantiqueaircraftassociation.com or contact Nick Hunt at 503-209-1041.

August 10 - Hysham Fly-In. Breakfast provided by the Hysham Chamber of Commerce for a nominal fee. 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. For more information, contact Ruth Baue at 406-670-5472.

August 15 to 17 - Montana Fun Weekend Fly-In and Car Show. Cutbank. Breakfast served Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. for \$15.00. For more information, contact Rick Geiger at 406-949-5709.

August 16 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. every third Saturday each month starting May 17 ending September 20. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at 406-362-4473 or vulcandg406@gmail.com.

August 23 - Anaconda Bowman Field 9th Annual Fly-In and Car Show. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free to the public. Flour sack drop, games for the kids, and possible airplane rides (weather permitting). For more information, contact Laura at 406-560-8622.

August 31 - Red Lodge Wings and Wheels. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Join us for the 3rd annual Wings and Wheels fly-in in conjunction with the Burn the Point car show in Billings and the town of Red Lodge's labor day celebrations. For more information about the fly-in, contact Bo Ewald at b.ewald@att.net.

September 6 - Helena Aviation Day. Helena. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aircraft static displays, Boeing facility tours, armory and aviation facility open house, events and games for kids. Please RSVP to Scott Sponholz at scott.m.sponholz.mil@army.mil.

September 6 - MPA North Central Hanger Fly-In. Havre. 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Breakfast will be served 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. All activities will be completed by 11 a.m. For more information, contact Chad Olsen at 406-945-1577.

September 13 - MPA South Central Fly-In. Laurel. For more information, contact John Roberts at 406-855-2372.

September 19 - Basic Aviation Survival and First Aid Skills Course. Helena. For more information, contact Matt Lindberg at 406-444-2506 or mlindberg@mt.gov.

September 20 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at vulcandg406@gmail.com.

September 20 - Sky Ranch Fly-In (MT95) Kalispell. Breakfast served 9 a.m. Spot landing competition. Family-friendly fundraiser for the new Museum of Mountain Flying at Glacier Park International (GPI). More info: FlatheadLakeSkyRanch.com.

September 20 - Harlowton Fly-In and Car Show. Breakfast by Harlowton Kiwanis Club 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. For more information contact Ron Fischer at 406-366-5598.

October 3 - 4 - Aviation Teachers Workshop. Helena and Canyon Ferry. For more information, contact MDT Aeronautics at 406-444-2506 or mdtad@mt.gov.

MDT Aeronautics Division

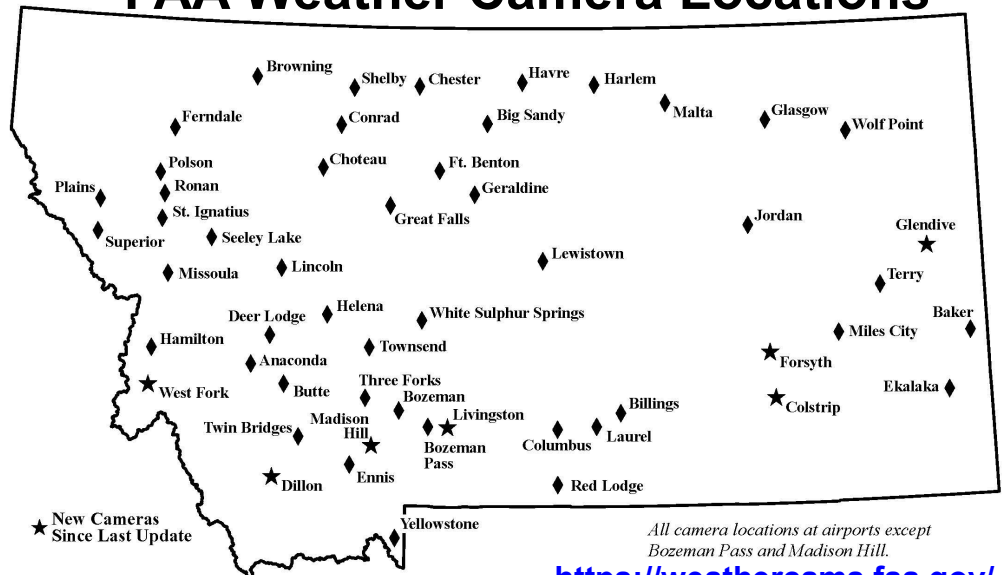
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please email mdtad@mt.gov
or call 406-444-2506.

FAA Weather Camera Locations



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