

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 76, No. 7

July 2025



Yellowstone Airport Field Trip



At the end of May, four classes of students from West Yellowstone and Big Sky schools went on a field trip to Yellowstone Airport.

The experience provided elementary students with a glimpse into the world of aviation and operations at their local airport.

Students began their journey by visiting the airline ticket counter, where they each received a pretend boarding pass. They went through the security checkpoint screening process and learned about the luggage x-ray machine and metal detectors.

The students were introduced to basic marshaling signals by airline ramp agents where they learned how ground crews direct aircraft to and from the terminal. Students each got the chance to sit in a Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division airplane cockpit and check out an air ambulance helicopter. The helicopter's staff consisted of a former Blackhawk pilot, flight nurse, and flight paramedic that showed students what it's like to save lives with a helicopter. Students also toured airport fire trucks and got to try their hand with the water cannons and sirens.

The day wrapped up with flying hand copters, the chance to fly MDT Aeronautics Division's flight simulators, and local ice cream.



Stevensville Land Leases Available

Stevensville Airport, located less than 30 minutes south of Missoula, is currently offering hangar ground lease opportunities with nearly 20 lots available for development. The airport features a 3,800-foot paved runway and offers convenient access to some of Montana's most scenic backcountry flying areas, including the nearby Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. With on-site services such as flight training, aircraft maintenance, and structural repair, Stevensville provides a well-rounded base for both recreational pilots and aviation professionals.



In addition to its location and amenities, the airport is home to a welcoming and active aviation community. A new self-serve Avgas fuel tank is expected to be operational later this year, enhancing convenience for both based and transient aircraft. Whether you're looking to build a private hangar or establish an aviation-related operation, Stevensville offers a practical and accessible option in the Bitterroot Valley.



For more information, contact Airport Manager Brian Germane at (406) 880-3361.





Yellowstone Airport Summer Intern



We're excited to welcome Catalina Muchnick to Yellowstone Airport as our Summer 2025 intern!

Catalina is a recent graduate of Rocky Mountain College (RMC) with a degree in Aviation Management. During her time at RMC, she became the founding President for Montana's only American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) Student Chapter. She is an involved member of AAAE and has spoken at the Montana Airport Management Association's (MAMA) annual conference. Catalina has served as President of the RMC Academy of Model Aeronautics Club, outreach coordinator for the RMC Women in Aviation Chapter, and was an involved member of the Environmental Club. At RMC, she volunteered as an aviation ambassador, serving as a representative of the college's aviation program to help promote the values, mission, and opportunities within the aviation industry. Catalina is the 2025 recipient of the RMC outstanding student in aviation management award and a recipient of the RMC student leadership recognition certificate.

This summer she is looking forward to learning more about airport operations at this dynamic rural airport. In her free time, she plans to explore the mountain roads and hike as many trails as she can before the end of the season.

The Yellowstone Airport offers this paid internship, available by competitive application, to assist the airport by providing additional help during the busy summer operating season. In return, the opportunity supports the furtherance of education and development of airport management to the intern recipients. It is critical to have well-rounded professionals in the airport industry to effectively manage, grow, and protect our airports. This experience is one way the airport can assist with securing the future of the industry. The airport was awarded a grant from the MAMA to assist in funding the summer intern position.



Basic Aviation Survival/ First Aid Skills Course

The MDT Aeronautics Division is offering this training course to Montana pilots for the second year. The course is a one-day academic course and will focus on basic survival and first aid skills as they relate to aviation. The training will help participants learn new skills to take to the field and is a great first step for pilots and passengers with limited experience. Additionally, this is a great place to start for those wishing to attend the annual MDT Aeronautics Division's winter survival course in January.

This program was developed after the MDT Aeronautics Division received numerous requests for this type of training from aircraft owners and pilots across Montana. Last year we offered the course for the first time, and it was full. We are pleased to offer the training again this year!

It is unique to find aviation specific emergency training in the civilian world. Growing training opportunities like this can make all the difference in an emergency. This course teaches fundamentals which could have a major impact in achieving positive emergency outcomes.

The course will be held **September 19** in Helena at the Double Tree by Hilton from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

The cost to attend the course is \$50. Lodging is available at the state rate of \$132, plus taxes.

Capacity is limited, so be sure to register now!

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

To register, go to:

eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event_id=28896&fromdash or scan the QR Code below







Aeronautics Loan & Grant Applications Open

As a reminder to airport loan and grant applicants, the loan and grant online portal will accept FY 2027 applications starting July 1, 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.



If you have any questions or need assistance with the loan and grant program, please contact Stephen Torske at 406-444-9569 or storske@mt.gov.

2026 Montana Aviation Conference - Volunteers Needed

The 2026 Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Billings at the end of February next year, and the Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) needs volunteers who are willing and able to help plan and execute the conference. The annual Montana Aviation Conference is hosted by the AOM and acts as the steering and planning committee.

If this sounds like something you are interested in helping with, especially if you are a Billings local, please reach out to:

AOM president Mike Vivion at michael.vivion@gmail.com.

Conference planning begins now, and the planning committee meets monthly.



The AOM member organizations are:

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) • Montana 99s • Montana Airport Managers Association (MAMA)
Montana Antique Airplane Association (MAAA) • Montana Aviation Trades Association (MATA)
Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) • Association of Montana Aerial Applicators (AMAA)
Montana Seaplane Pilots Association (MTSPA) • Montana Pilots Association (MPA)



Happy 4th July!

Calendar of Events



July 12 - Vintage Sea Plane Fly-In. At the Lodge and Resort Lake Mary Ronan. Event starts at 10:30 a.m. Lunch is available for purchase. For more information, or to participate, please contact Addison Pemberton at 509-995-6240 or apemberton@scanivalve.com.

July 12 - 13 - Saint Ignatius Fly-In. Saturday, July 12, 4 to 8 p.m., free BBQ with all the fixin's. Sunday, July 13, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., free huckleberry pancake breakfast, 100 gallon avgas giveaway, many door prizes. \$50 per seat helicopter rides both days. For more information, contact Michael Kuefler 406-544-2274.

July 19 - Lincoln Fly-In. Open house, pancake breakfast and potluck lunch. Pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at 406-362-4473 or vulcandg406@gmail.com.

July 19 - Schafer Meadows Work Party. Work starts at 9 a.m. Dinner provided Saturday night, so come help out and camp for the weekend. For more information, contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.

July 24 - 27 - Big Sky Balloon Rally. Amend Park, Billings. 6 a.m. balloon launches. Field opens to the public on July 26 at 6 p.m., live music starts at 6:15 p.m. Balloon glow at dusk (weather permitting)! For information, go to bigskyballoonrally.com.

August 2 - Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Fly-In. Three Forks. Hot breakfast available for purchase from 7 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 <u>montanaantiqueaircraftassociation.com</u> or contact Nick Hunt at 503-209-1041.

August 16 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 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 wulcandg406@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 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 to 11 a.m. Breakfast will be served 7 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 20 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at vulcandq406@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.



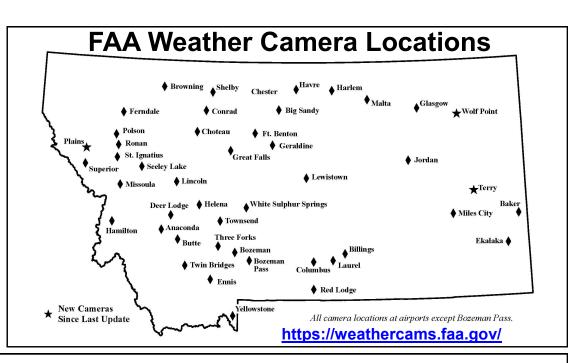
July 2025

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 <u>mdtad@mt.gov</u> or call 406-444-2506.



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.

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