



Take Off With Aviation Education

By Kaye Ebelt

Montana teachers from Great Falls, Helena, Butte, Anaconda and Missoula and students from Helena's A & P School participated in the Take-off with Aviation Education workshop sponsored by MDT Aeronautics Division. David Hoerner and Kaye Ebelt, lead instructors, guided the teachers through a course designed to provide educators with a basic understanding of aerodynamics, navigation and airport environment in order to prepare them for an orientation flight and inspire them to use aviation education in their classroom.

Aerodynamics expert and pilot Bill Burkland challenged the teachers to think about how airplanes fly with his hands on aerodynamics 101 presentation. Teachers learned the forces of flight and how the control surfaces are used in flight.

Hank Galphin and Ray Sanders amused the crowd with their highly entertaining Travel Air adventure they call, "Barnstorming the Midwest." Hank completed the restoration of a 1928 Travel Air 6000 and has flown it all over the United States. Ray, an A & P mechanic, participated in this national tour with Hank.

Participating educators and volunteers had the unique opportunity to help inspire Butte area students by helping them explore how things work through engaging aviation activities. Students rotated around several stations which included: conducting wind tunnel tests, flying the world's record holding paper airplane, taking off with Delta balsa wood airplanes, simulating a final approach using voice activated headsets to make radio calls, learning about famous aviators and their airplanes, participating in an aviation jeopardy game, and learning the basic principles of lift. Jeff Simmons from the FAA, instructed students how to take off using a flight simulator. One of the students attending said, "I've always wondered how an airplane flies. Now I know!"

Kaye Ebelt guided teachers through the basics of navigation to prepare them for a simulated cross country flight from Missoula to Glacier International. Teachers and other participants learned how to plot their true course and do math calculations to make adjustments for wind and variation to eventually lead them to their magnetic heading.

Teachers also had the privilege of hearing from Dan Hargrove, Director and Professor at Rocky Mountain Aviation School. He shared his experiences flying Air Force One and the challenges associated with a demanding schedule. Also joining the group was Commander J.R. Hansen. Commander Hansen talked about how his aviation career began by receiving a flight scholarship. He has logged over 3500 flight hours in 33 different types of military aircraft.

David Hoerner presented, "Search & Rescue" a presentation that explains how Montana uses trained pilots around the state to assist with search and rescue. He displayed several slides showing an aerial view of crash sites. He challenged the teachers to see if they could find the location of the crash site by looking for things that didn't fit the natural pattern of the area.

The final day of the workshop was devoted to preparing teachers for their flights. David Hoerner gave a thorough briefing on the traffic pattern, radio calls, emergency locator beacons and preflight inspection. The culminating activity was the teacher flights. Teachers took to the sky and made a cross country flight from Butte to Anaconda and back again. Upon landing, teachers were given their certificate of completion for commitment to inspiring our future.

Thank you MDT Aeronautics for inspiring educators and students by providing this amazing opportunity to learn, apply and experience flight!



Commander Hansen (2nd from left) stopped by to share his success story with the teachers that attended the workshop.

Administrator's Column

HB546—A bill to require wind energy companies to mark meteorological towers is expected to pass the Senate this week and go to the Governor for signature. The bill was introduced by the Association of Aerial Applicators and received support from many private aerial applicators, the MDT Aeronautics Division, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Gaelectric (a provider of met towers), Aviation Organizations of Montana, AOPA, Aviation Trades Association, Montana Pilots Association and the Montana Airport Managers Association.

Essential Air Service Update—The US Department of Transportation issued an “Order to Show Cause Proposing Termination of Essential Air Service Eligibility” at the communities of Lewistown and Miles City due to a change in the FAA Reform Act that was signed into law last February. A new provision to the program states that to be eligible, a community must have had an average subsidy per passenger of less than \$1,000. Currently Lewistown and Miles City exceed the per passenger cap. The communities will appeal the Order and request consideration for remaining eligible for services.

Tower closure—Glacier Park International is slated for losing its air traffic control tower on June 15 (see below). In response to this action, GPI initially wrote to FAA Administration Huerta requesting a stay of FAA’s decision which was followed by GPI filing a lawsuit. It is expected that more than a dozen suits will be filed, including one by the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) and the U.S. Contract Tower Association (USCTA).

Contract-tower saga—The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced that it will delay the closure of all 149 federal contract air traffic control towers until June 15. This will allow the agency to attempt to resolve multiple legal challenges to the closure decisions. And for further study by close to fifty stakeholders that have indicated they may join the FAA’s non-Federal Contract Tower program and fund the tower operations themselves. Even with this extension there is a lot of movement being expended to save these towers. The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on April 16 to review the FAA’s handling of the sequestration budget cuts. Senators Moran (R-KS) and Blumenthal (D-CT) leaders in the recent bipartisan effort to keep contract towers open are expected to introduce a free-standing bill soon to prohibit FAA from closing all 149 contract towers. It is expected similar legislation will be introduced in the House of Representatives.

Neptune Award—Neptune Aviation Services, Inc. of Missoula has received legacy large air tanker exclusive use-contracts to support prevention of wildfires during the upcoming fire season. According to U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, the large air tankers play an important role in wildfire suppression by helping slow the progress of wildfires, allowing firefighters on the ground to safely contain them. Missoula's six P2V's and one BAe-146 air tankers will accompany their supply, while Minden Air Corporation of Minden, Nev., also received one P2V for their 2013 season.

Elimination of 121.5 MHz ELTs: The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has a plan to prohibit the future use of emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) that use a 121.5 MHz signal. This would negatively impact aviation safety with approximately 200,000 general aviation aircraft still having an ELT using that frequency. By statute, an ELT must be installed in every U.S.-registered civil aircraft. However, on January 30, 2013, the FCC proposed to prohibit future sales of the 121.5 MHz ELTs and asked for input on whether to allow the units already installed to continue to be used. AOPA has opposed the plan and reports that the search and rescue community is seeking the ban and in doing so is attempting to force aircraft owners to discard perfectly functional units with new 406 MHz ELTs at a cost of \$1,000 to \$1,500 per airplane. This will impose a total cost of \$500 million on aircraft owners. The FCC has not provided a timeline as to when they would move forward with its ban on 121.5 MHz ELTs.



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Calendar of Events

April 20 – Stanford Airport Biggerstaff Field Airport Dedication, 11:00 a.m., lunch will be served and any pilot can participate in the flyover, weather permitting. For further information contact John Semple at (406) 443-7487.

May 7-8 – Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Program. For Montana students grades 8-12 (ages 14-18). A registration form is available on our website <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/>. For further information contact Dave Hoerner at dhoerner@mt.gov or (406) 444-9568 or Cindy Roscoe at croscoe@mt.gov or (406) 444-9566.

May 25 – Air Fair 2013 – Wokal Field, Glasgow. This will be a fun, family friendly event filled with static aircraft, cars, and inflatables for the kids. There will also be some aircraft/helicopter contests for those who are looking for a challenge or little bit of competition. A free lunch will be provided by Choice Aviation. Glide, Fly, or Drive we would love to see you at Air Fair 2013! For further information on the Glasgow event contact Steve Stanley at (406) 228-4023 or ggw@choiceavaition.com.

June 8 – 9th Annual Fly In at Lewistown Airport; 7:00 a.m. to noon. MPA sourdough pancake breakfast. Antique, Warbird, Experimental and Sport Airplanes. Held in conjunction with Central Montana Flywheelers Exhibition. For further information contact Jerry Moline (406) 350-3264.

June 8 - Havre Airport Fly In Breakfast beginning at 7:00 a.m. For further information contact Darren Huestis (406) 945-1861 or darren.huestis@nuwaveservices.com.

June 15 – Father’s Day Fly In, Twin Bridges Airport. Aerobatics, Young Eagle Rides, Pancake Breakfast, BBQ Dinner, Static Display and more. For further information contact Kendra Horn at (406) 684-5335 or email Kendra@rubyvalleyaviation.com.

July 6 - Air Fair 2013 – Ravalli County Airport, Hamilton. This will be a fun, family friendly event filled with static aircraft, cars, and inflatables for the kids. There will also be some aircraft/helicopter contests for those who are looking for a challenge or little bit of competition. A free lunch will be provided by Choice Aviation. Glide, Fly, or Drive we would love to see you at Air Fair 2013! For further information on the Hamilton event contact Leland Blatter (406) 363-6741 or 6s5@choiceavaitoin.com.

July 13 – Del Bonita Work Session. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

July 20 – Air Fair 2013 – Ennis Big Sky Airport, Ennis. This will be a fun, family friendly event filled with static aircraft, cars, and inflatables for the kids. There will also be some aircraft/helicopter contests for those who are looking for a challenge or little bit of competition. A free lunch will be provided by Choice Aviation. Glide, Fly, or Drive we would love to see you at Air Fair 2013! For further information on the Ennis event contact Troy Hunter at (406) 682-7502 or eks@choiceaviation.com.

August 3 – Air Fair 2013 – Yellowstone Regional Airport, Cody, WY. This will be a fun, family friendly event filled with static aircraft, cars, and inflatables for the kids. There will also be some aircraft/helicopter contests for those who are looking for a challenge or little bit of competition. A free lunch will be provided by Choice Aviation. Glide, Fly, or Drive we would love to see you at Air Fair 2013! For further information on the Cody, WY event contact Joel Simmons at (307) 587-9262 or cod@choiceaviation.com

August 11 – Lions Club Drive In, Fly In breakfast and model airplane show at Hysham Airport beginning at 7:00 a.m. For further information contact Bob Miller (406) 342-5252 or email bpmiller@rangeweb.net.

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Butte Plays Host to another Successful Conference!



Pat Wise, MDT Deputy Director welcomed aviation enthusiasts at the kickoff luncheon on Thursday. Photos by Dorienne Queer, Butte.



Pat Shea (r), Bert Mooney Airport Manager and Conference Chair presented a beautiful Copper gift to kickoff luncheon speaker Chris Fisk. Chris kept the crowd entertained with his humorous stories on the history of Butte.



Sarah Dalton, Airports Division Manager of the FAA conducted a packed FAA briefing/open forum on Thursday afternoon.



Debbie Alke, Administrator MDT Aeronautics Division presented the Airport of the Year award to Wokal Field in Glasgow, Bob Lipscomb of Glasgow accepted the award.



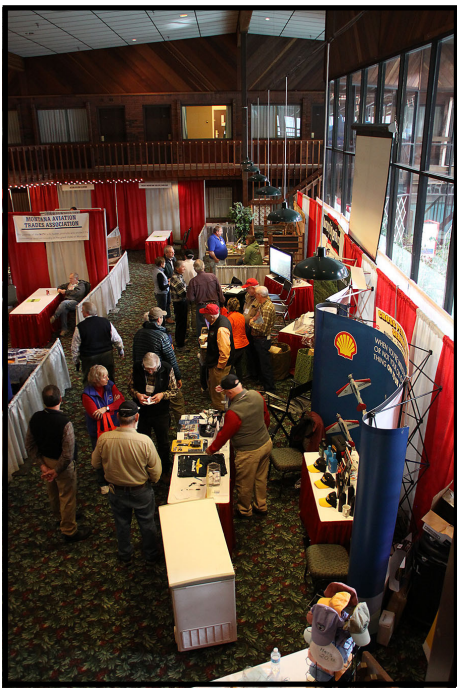
Frank Felke, Laurel (r) was presented the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award by Pat MacQuarrie, Helena FSDO.



The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award presented by Pat MacQuarrie, Helena FSDO (l) went to Mauri Morin, Ronan (c) and Glenn Timm, Polson (r). Also awarded this prestigious award but not pictured were Bob Colby, Bigfork and Richard Shaus, Kalispell.



Fifth graders from Margaret Leary School loved the aviation education day especially the flight simulator!



This conference would not be possible without the great support of our many exhibitors and sponsors we can't thank them enough!



Commander JR Hansen originally from Butte spoke at Friday's luncheon about how being selected for a scholarship in his youth opened the door to many amazing opportunities.



Ralph Hood aviation humorist and author entertained the crowd at the closing banquet.



An auction was held at the banquet to raise money for the Lindbergh/Gates hangar that will house the Dick Johnson Pilots lounge at the Bert Mooney Airport. We were honored to have Dick and Dave's widows attend the dinner. Pictured (l-r) is Marcia Johnson and Lorrie Gates.



Kevin Danz sessions "I Fly With an IPAD" were always packed and offered great information for pilots.



Pictured (r) is Joe Kuberka of Blue Goose Aviation in Polson. Joe and his wife Kathy administer the Blue Goose Scholarship, pictured with Joe is Kaye Ebelt of Missoula who was the recipient of that scholarship years ago and thrilled to finally meet and thank Joe for offering her the opportunity to expand her aviation opportunities.



Debbie Alke (r) presented the \$500 EAA Helena Chapter 344 Scholarship to Alex Koch (l) of Helena.



Rick Griffith, retired Bert Mooney Airport Manager served as MC at Saturday's banquet.

2013 Aircraft Mechanics Refresher and IA Renewal Seminar

By: Michael S. Rogan, Aviation Support Officer, A&P / IA

The annual Mechanics Refresher and IA Renewal Seminar was another success this year. There were 13 hours of training conducted by technical instructors representing many areas of aircraft maintenance and 3 additional hours of regulatory training conducted by the FAA. Sessions were well attended with 60 A&P Mechanics with Inspection Authorization (IA) from Montana, and two from Wyoming, receiving a Certificate of Training which may be used to meet the requirements of CFR 14 part 65.93(a) (4), for eligibility for renewal of their inspection authorization.

For an A&P Mechanic, with an IA, to be eligible for renewal of their IA they must show that they are actively engaged in aircraft maintenance and also show completion of one of the five activities described in §65.93 (a) (1) through (5) below by March 31 of the first year of the 2-year inspection authorization period. This also applies during the second year of the 2-year period.

An A&P Mechanic with an IA must complete at least one of the following stated in §65.93: Performed at least one annual inspection for each 90 days that the applicant held the current authority; or performed at least two major repairs or major alterations for each 90 days that the applicant held the current authority; or performed or supervised and approved at least one progressive inspection in accordance with standards prescribed by the Administrator; or attended and successfully completed a refresher course, acceptable to the Administrator, of not less than 8 hours of instruction; or passed an oral test by the FAA inspector to determine that the applicant's knowledge of applicable regulations and standards is current.

This FAA accepted course meets the requirements of §65.93(a)(4) and helps those IA mechanics renew their certificates each year who may fall one annual short or have not completed enough major repairs or majors alterations or who did not performed a progressive inspection.

This is a valuable course that the MDT Aeronautics Division provides for IA mechanics each year at the Montana Aviation Conference and for many years prior to the Aviation Conference's existence in 1985. We plan to continue providing this service and wish to thank all of the mechanics in the state and those from surrounding states for attending.



Loren Lemen of Lycon Rebuilding was one of the many speakers that offered their expertise for the Mechanics refresher seminar.



Winter at Yellowstone Airport



Every year the Yellowstone Airport closes during the winter season. That doesn't mean that it is just all peace and quiet at the airport. Actually the opposite! The Yellowstone Airport livens up several times throughout the winter for alternative use activities. NATC is a Nevada-based engineering and testing firm specializing in tire tread and wear testing. NATC tests snow and cold conditions on a wide range of other products as well.

Also this year the Big Four snowmobile companies unveiled their latest models for the Press Snow Shoot. Artic Cat, Polaris, Ski-Doo, and Yamaha all presented their snowmobiles at the Yellowstone Airport. They all agree that the local services, easy access, and privacy offered at the airport are fantastic and are planning on using the airport every year for this big event!

The Yellowstone Airport is pleased to entertain these groups and events. The airport is always looking for creative ways to utilize the property and facilities during the off season.

Helena Tower Hours of Operation Cancellation

On April 21, 2013 the Helena Air Traffic Control Tower and Approach Control will reduce its hours of operation from 0600-2400L Monday through Friday to 0600-2200L. Saturday and Sunday operational hours of 0600-2200L will remain unchanged. During periods when the ATCT is closed, the Class D airspace will revert to Class E airspace. The CTAF frequency, 118.3, will be available when the tower is closed. IFR clearances and cancellations may be obtained through Great Falls Radio, 122.55 or 255.4. Please see the Airport/Facility Directory for airport information. Salt Lake Center has limited radio coverage in the area below 11,000 feet MSL. When Helena Approach Control is closed expect periodic delays due to limited radio coverage.

Florida Panhandle Fly-In Fulfills RAF Mission

Two years ago, Drew Hatch and Gary Brooks planned a flight into a state-owned airstrip in the Florida Panhandle. Imagine their disappointment when they were denied permission to land and use the airstrip to access the nearby campground.

And when Drew then turned to the Montana-headquartered Recreational Aviation Foundation, it had never heard of the Blackwater Airfield (8FD3) located within the 210,000 acre Blackwater State Forest.

The RAF is a national organization whose mission is to preserve, maintain and create recreational airstrips nationwide. Prior to the Blackwater project, most of the foundation's work had been accomplished with federal land managers including US Forest Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Drew and Gary finally got their wish this March as the RAF hosted a weekend gathering at 8FD3 – in hopes of permanent aviation access to the Blackwater Forest.

"This is our first time working with a state forest," explained RAF director and Central Florida resident Tim Clifford, "and while it has taken some time, the Florida Forest Service has maintained a 'let's find a way' attitude throughout the process.

The 4,000-foot grass strip was originally constructed for firefighting, forestry and law enforcement use. It's ideally situated for recreational use, located within 100 yards of the Krul Lake Recreational Area with a campground, swimming lake and shower and restroom facilities. Surrounding the area are numerous recreational opportunities including fishing, hiking, canoeing and horseback riding.

"I think it's safe to say that no more than a handful of recreational airstrips in the country offer the amenities of the Blackwater," Clifford said. "If you were to define the ideal recreational aviation destination this would be it. Every kind of activity imaginable is either here or a short hop away, including some of the world's most beautiful beaches and, of course, the National Naval Aviation Museum."

The RAF weekend saw more than 60 guests arriving in aircraft, ranging from a Champ to a Swift, Cessnas, RVs, Stinsons, Maules and a Piper Cherokee. A well-organized volunteer work party performed maintenance, including painting runway markers and wind indicators, filling potholes and knocking down ant hills. Friday arrivals were treated to Drew's "not" world-famous chili, and Saturday featured cook-your-own steaks and a wide selection of guests' potluck favorites. Each evening, folks gathered around a robust campfire to share the day's events and flying adventures.

Sounding a bit like a proud parent, Gary Brooks observed, "we're sure glad we found the RAF. This is going to be a great place for folks to visit for years to come!"

RAF member Pat Lee summed up the success of the weekend in his thank you email, "I hope we (RAF) have blazed a trail for others. I am proud to be a member."

The RAF is in final discussions with the Florida Forest Service to secure ongoing aviation access to the Blackwater and hopes to announce that the airfield is open to the public within the next few months.

The RAF is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization headquartered at 1711 W. College in Bozeman, MT 59715. www.theraf.org.



Morning coffee at Blackwater RAF fly-in



Yellowstone Airport Opening for 2013 Season

With the warm weather in West Yellowstone the taxiway and ramp areas are starting to expose some pavement. This means that it won't be long and Yellowstone Airport will be open for general aviation business. The airport will have commercial airline service again this year beginning June 1st. Delta Connection operated by SkyWest Airlines will operate 2 flights daily and 3 flights on the weekends to and from Salt Lake City. The airport and the community are really excited and ready for the summer visitors.

The Yellowstone airport also has a new Airport Manager! Jeff Kadlec has been named Airport Manager for the Yellowstone Airport operated by the MDT Aeronautics Division. Jeff will oversee the day to day operations and FAA compliance as well as airport planning and development. Previously Jeff was with Airside Operations at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Jeff received his Bachelor of Science degree from Arizona State University in Aeronautical Management. He is also a Certified Flight Instructor and holds numerous other Pilot Certificates, Ratings, and Endorsements. Jeff has a strong passion for aviation and is very excited to join the MDT team.

Jeff can be reached at (406) 646-7631 or jkadlec@mt.gov or visit the airports website at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/airports/yellowstone/about.shtml.

