



Fly the Big Sky – Plan to Attend the 2015 Conference!

Ken Dial a Professor at University of Montana will kick off the 2015 conference as a guest speaker at Thursday's luncheon. Evolutionary questions in animal design, transitional stages of locomotor development, allometry of behavior, life history biology and ecology are Ken's primary areas of interest. Moving beyond untestable hypotheses and unfruitful discussions of the origin and evolution of birds is one of his passions at this time. Exploring the mechanistic basis as to why small animals behave and locomote differently than larger species is another area of interest of Ken's. Apparently an animal's motor (power-to-mass), rather than the brain's neural circuitry, has a lot to do with how animals behave.

The Flight Laboratory at the UM Field Station at Fort Missoula enjoys generous space and the equipment necessary to explore how animal's move. Why are birds the size of swans (e.g., birds about 12 kg) barely able to fly while their smaller relatives enjoy excellent flight performance? What are the morphological and behavioral features during development? How did birds evolve from bipedal dinosaurs? What use is half a wing? Why is a hummingbird bold and curious and an eagle comparatively skittish and weak? How do birds change the shape of their wings and tail during flight? What biomechanical features (muscle and bone mechanics) limit the maximum size of members within a clade and why are most organisms small? These are questions that Ken is currently exploring in his Flight Lab.

Ken has been a Pilot since 1981 he is an ATP (airline transport pilot), multiengine, instrument, and commercial rated, jet pilot and flies about 250 hours per year. You won't want to miss Ken's presentation "Bird Locomotion: Conquering Land, Water and Air."

Saturday evening's banquet continues in the scheme of things with speaker Ron Hooper, Chief Executive Officer of Neptune Aviation Services. Ron spent 41 years working for the United States Forest Service (FS). His first 10 years with the FS were spent in the wildland firefighting. Ron then spent 20 years as a Contracting Officer for the FS and that included performing as the Contracting Officer on the FS large airtanker contracts. He then advanced into leadership positions with the FS including being the National Director of Contracting and finally retiring as the Associate Deputy Chief for Business Operations. Ron also spent one year on loan from the FS to work on Senator Conrad Burns' personal staff handling natural resource issues for the Senator. After retiring from the FS, and doing independent consulting for a year, Ron came to work at Neptune Aviation in February, 2012 as the company's Vice President for Business Development. Six months later Ron was promoted to the position of Chief Executive Officer for Neptune Aviation Services. Ron is a 1975 graduate of the University of Utah and completed graduate work at the University of California-Chico. Ron will entertain all with the "History of Neptune Aviation."

With the lineup of outstanding speakers, sold out exhibit hall (where you can experience a little vertigo in FAA CAMI's spatial disorientation simulator) and much more happening in historic downtown Missoula you won't want to miss this year's conference! A registration form is included on page 7 of this month's newsletter and a conference program is included on our website <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/>. See you in Missoula!



Professor Ken Dial



Ron Hooper, CEO Neptune Aviation Services

Administrator's Column

State enplanements: Airline boardings in 2015 were up almost 10% over the previous year. More than 3.3 million people got on and off passenger carryings airlines at Montana's 13 commercial service airports. After just one year of service to Montana's five essential air service (EAS) communities of Glasgow, Glendive, Havre, Sidney and Wolf Point, Cape Air of Hyannis, Massachusetts continues to see growth in the double digits at three cities and triple digits at the other two. For a complete report go to: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/aviation/external/boardings/boardings-2014.pdf>.

Study spotlights GA's state-by-state impact: "The Impact of General Aviation on State and Local Economies – State Reports," was published by the Alliance for Aviation Across America, in collaboration with the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The study breaks down the general aviation industry's economic impact throughout all 50 states in a single document. http://noplanegain.org/images/IGA-1_ExecSum.pdf.

Third Class Medical Update: The U.S. Department of Transportation planned to complete its review of proposed third class medical reforms recently which will allow the FAA's draft rule to move to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for yet another round of mandatory reviews. The proposed rule is finally scheduled to leave the DOT nearly seven months after the department received it for a mandatory review that was to take no more than 90 days. Once released the rule will move to the OMB which will have another 90 days to review and comment. Once that review is complete, the FAA will publish the notice of proposed rulemaking for public review. Many have been pressing to move this forward after being underway for three frustrating years with no action after many reviews.

No user fees in budget proposal: There are no per-flight user fees for general aviation in President Obama's fiscal year 2016 budget. Previous budget documents repeatedly recommended user fees, but the administration appears to have abandoned this idea. Good news for general aviation, stay tuned for more details.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Drone Program: According to the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General, the CBP should eliminate a planned expansion of its drone program for border security because it hasn't proven effective after eight years of operation and hundreds of millions of dollars. The agency had plans to acquire 14 additional drones, to join the 10 currently in operation at a cost of about \$443 million. The IG said that \$443 million could be put to better use by investing in alternatives such as manned aircraft and ground surveillance. CBP monitors nearly 7,000 miles of U.S. land border and 2,000 miles of coastal waters. The agency began using drones in 2004 in a pilot study. Among other recommendations, the IG said CBP should conduct a study to determine the need for additional drones or whether funding should be shifted to alternatives. The agency agreed that it would develop performance measures and concurred with the other recommendations in principle.

Updates to FAA website: The FAA has updated the airman testing portion of its website to highlight improvements to its testing process. Instructors, pilots, and students can learn about the draft airman certification standards, developed by the industry to provide for a more integrated and systematic approach to pilot certification. The training and testing page's section contains information about recent changes to the Private Pilot-Airplane Airman Knowledge Test. There are also answers to frequently asked questions available. Check it out at: <http://www.faa.gov/search/?omni=MainSearch&q=draft+airmen+certification+standards>.



Montana and the Sky

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Editor: Patty Kautz

Calendar of Events

February 25-26 – Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC). Holiday Inn Downtown Missoula. Held in conjunction with the Montana Aviation Conference. To register see page 6 of this months newsletter or go to www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation or contact Stefani DeMars at (406) 444-2506 or sdemars@mt.gov.

February 26-28 – Montana Aviation Conference, Holiday Inn, Missoula. For further information contact Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 or pkautz@mt.gov.

July 18 – Air Fair (Fly-In) Ennis Big Sky Airport, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Breakfast, aircraft static displays, and car show. Iron Pilot competition, ping pong ball drop, skydivers, aircraft rides, fly-overs and a free lunch by Choice Aviation. For further information contact Troy Hunter at (406) 682-7502 or email eks@choiceaviation.com.

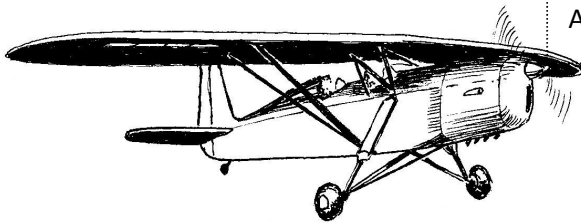
Welcome Harold!



Harold Dramstad was recently hired at the MDT Aeronautics Division as the Bureau Chief of the Safety and Education Bureau. Harold grew up in Kalispell and received degrees in Chemistry and Biology from the University of Montana. He worked as a smokejumper for the U.S. Forest Service and moved to Helena in 1988. He worked as a ticket agent for Horizon, Delta, and SkyWest airlines. His first solo was August 13th, 2003, and he has worked as a fulltime flight instructor since 2006. He holds an ATP certificate and flew as a copilot for the Governor's Office on the King Air.

Harold can be contacted at (406) 444-9568 or hdramstad@mt.gov.

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Plan to Attend the Mechanics Seminar & IA Renewal

The MDT Aeronautics Division is pleased to announce the 2015 Mechanics Seminar & IA renewal will once again be held in conjunction with this year's Montana Aviation conference in Missoula.

The Mechanics IA Renewal Seminar will be held on Friday, February 27, and continue through Saturday, February 28. Seminar hours are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday February 27, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday February 28. Registration for IA's starts at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, February 27 and 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 28. Please plan to be there early to register as an IA if you intend to use the training for renewal.

We will be offering a full eight hours of training on both Friday and Saturday. Please plan to arrive early to receive the full 8 hour credit.

Any questions please contact Michael Rogan with the MDT Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-9590 or e-mail at mrogan@mt.gov.

Tentative speakers include Joe Westby, Northwest Propeller; Loren Lemen, LY-CON Rebuilding; Brian Costello, Lycoming Engines; Roger Fuchs, Aviation Consulting; Shane Champy, Champion Aerospace; Vince Bechtel, Tempest Plus; Steve Vold, Aerotronics; Helena FSDO Inspectors; Patrick MacQuarrie, Helena FSDO Manager, Jeff Vercoe, FAASTeam Manager and Bryan Hanson, Helena FSDO.

Make plans now to attend to learn the latest in aircraft maintenance.

In Memory

Robert (Bob) Koch, 64, of Helena, passed away January 25, 2015.

Bob and his family, wife Kristina and sons Alex and Hunter operated a family landscape and excavation business. The entire family embraced aviation and the aviation community in a big way. Bob received his private pilot certificate in May 2010.

Cremation has taken place and no services are planned. A college fund for his sons has been set up at Valley Bank.

We offer our deepest sympathy to the Koch family.



Pictured is Bob with his family (l-r) Kristina, Bob, Hunter and Alex.

MacDonald Pass Airway Beacon Receives State Historic Preservation Award



The award was presented by Lt. Governor McLean. Accepting the certificate are (l-r) Mike Rogan, Ken Wilhelm, MDT Aeronautics, Kate Hampton of SHPO and John Axline of MDT.

The State Historic Preservation Award was presented to the MacDonald Pass Airway Beacon at an awards ceremony on January 23 at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena.

The 1935 MacDonald Pass Airway Beacon originally functioned as one of 18 beacons stretching east to west across Montana along the Northern Transcontinental Airway. The beacons served as a critical navigational aid whose lights marked the air corridor from Minneapolis to Seattle. The MacDonald Pass Airway Beacon, maintained by the Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division, stands as one of the few that continues to function, not only in Montana, but the United States.

Cold Temperature Altitude Corrections

Cold temperature restricted airports are now specifically designated in the NAS. The list of airports, the segment of the approach requiring the altitude correction, and operating procedures may be found in the Notices to Airman, part 4 (Graphic Notices), section 1, which is online at www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/notices.

The list of affected airports include several in Montana. Instrument approach plates will display a snowflake icon to alert the user that the airport is cold temperature restricted.

Airport Grants and Loans Awarded

By Tim Conway – Airports / Airways Bureau Chief

On January 22, the MDT Aeronautics Division along with the Montana Aeronautics Board awarded a little over \$700,000 in loans and grants to various Montana airports as part of its annual loan and grant program. The program, developed 21 years ago, has become a welcome contributor to Montana airports. At any given time, there is usually over a million dollars of Aeronautics Division funds obligated to various airport projects around the State. There was \$325,000 in grants and \$381,000 in loans available for disbursement this year for aviation projects around the State. Funding for this program is provided by a \$0.02 / gallon tax on fuel sold to general aviation aircraft in Montana. Although most of the money given in grants and loans each year goes to leverage 90/10 Federal (FAA) match dollars for large airport construction projects, there is usually a significant percentage awarded for various smaller airport projects as well. Applications for the money are due into the Aeronautics Division on November 15 each year, and the money is typically awarded in January of the following year. Although the money is awarded in January, the funds are not available until the beginning of the next fiscal year - July 1. The nine members of the Montana Aeronautics Board have sole responsibility for awarding loan and grant monies. This program is open to all public-use airport entities and the money can be used for any qualified airport or aviation related project. For more information regarding the program, contact the Aeronautics Division. Here are the awards for fiscal year 2016. The large commercial service airports (Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, Missoula, Sidney) received \$5,700 each from the pavement preservation fund.

<u>AIRPORT</u>	<u>GRANT AMOUNT</u>	<u>LOAN AMOUNT</u>
Big Sandy	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800
Bridger	\$ 8,000	\$ 0
Chester	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,700
Chinook	\$ 3,575	\$ 0
Choteau	\$ 0	\$ 8,333
Forsyth	\$ 43,578	\$ 0
Fort Benton	\$ 22,275	\$ 44,550
Hamilton	\$ 5,494	\$ 0
Harlem	\$ 4,575	\$ 0
Harlowton	\$ 49,750	\$ 0
Havre	\$ 67,500	\$ 135,000
Libby	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Malta	\$ 5,110	\$ 0
Miles City	\$ 81,407	\$ 169,530
Poplar	\$ 9,150	\$ 9,150
Scobey	\$ 6,076	\$ 0
White Sulphur	\$ 6,900	\$ 6,900
TOTALS	\$ 325,890	\$ 380,963



Montana Department of Transportation
Aeronautics Division
2015 FIRC Registration Form

MDT Aeronautics Division
2630 Airport Road
P.O. Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507
Ph: 406.444.2506
Fx: 406.444.2519

Print Form

2015 Flight Instructor
Refresher Course (FIRC)
Hosted by the MDT Aeronautics Division

Clinic Name: 2015 FIRC

Clinic Dates: February 25-26, 2015

Clinic Location: The Holiday Inn Downtown, Missoula, MT - Annual Aviation Conference

Attendee Information

Name:
Name (2):
Name (3):
Name (4):
Company:
Address:
City:
State/Province:
Zip/Postal Code:
CFI Number:
Registered MT Pilot? (Yes/No):

Main Contact:
Email:
Phone:

Special Needs:

Registration Fees

- MT Registered Pilot - \$160.00
Non-registered MT Pilot - \$175.00

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows include Clinic Fee, x Number of Attendees, Subtotal, Total Due.

Payments must be received by: January 23, 2015

Payment

- Check payable to: Montana Aeronautics
Cash

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This Clinic is being held in conjunction with the Annual Montana Aviation Conference at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Missoula.

The fee's above include Wednesday's dinner and Thursday's lunch. If you wish to attend the Aviation Conference additional registration fees apply.

The nearest airport is Missoula International Airport (MSO). Rooms have been blocked at the Holiday Inn Downtown, 200 South Pattee Street, Missoula, MT 59802 at a conference rate of \$87.00 plus tax. Rooms can be booked by calling 1-877-834-3613 or 406-721-8550 and reference rooming block 2015 AVIATION CONFERENCE. Reserve your room today; reservations must be made prior to January 26, 2015 in order to guarantee the group discount. For further information regarding the Aviation Conference please visit the link below:

http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml
or Contact Patty Kautz at 406-444-9580 or pkautz@mt.gov



31st Annual Montana Aviation Conference

“Fly the Big Sky”

February 26-28, 2015 – Holiday Inn Downtown, Missoula

Mail Registration Form & Payment to:

MDT Aeronautics Division - Attn: Patty Kautz

PO Box 200507 - Helena, MT 59620-0507

Phone (406) 444-9580 – Fax (406) 444-2519

Email: pkautz@mt.gov

Names of Participant(s) (for badges): _____

Aviation Organization Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Register Early and SAVE! Pre-registration will be open until February 20, 2015. After that date conference fees increase and participants must register at the conference site (see reverse for further information regarding on-site registration).

PRE-REGISTRATION: BY FEBRUARY 20, 2015		
Takeoff to Landing Package (includes registration & all meals)	___ @\$150/PERSON ___ @\$290/PERSON/GUEST	\$ _____ \$ _____
-OR- Registration Fee (includes registration & free meals – see note below)	___ @\$95/PERSON (**SEE NOTE BELOW) ___ @\$180/FAMILY (**SEE NOTE BELOW)	\$ _____ \$ _____
Thursday Luncheon	___ @\$15/EACH	\$ _____
Friday Luncheon	___ @\$15/EACH	\$ _____
Friday Dinner/Entertainment	___ @FREE W/ PAID REGS (**SEE NOTE BELOW)	\$ _____
Saturday Luncheon	___ @FREE W/ PAID REGS (**SEE NOTE BELOW)	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	___ @\$35	\$ _____
-OR- Registration Fee (No Meals)	___ @45/PERSON ___ @75/PERSON/GUEST	\$ _____ \$ _____

GENERAL REGISTRATION: AFTER FEBRUARY 20, 2015		
Takeoff to Landing Package (includes registration & all meals)	___ @\$160/PERSON ___ @\$310/PERSON/GUEST	\$ _____ \$ _____
-OR- Registration Fee (includes registration & free meals – see note below)	___ @\$105/PERSON (**SEE NOTE BELOW) ___ @\$200/FAMILY (**SEE NOTE BELOW)	\$ _____ \$ _____
Thursday Luncheon	___ @\$15/EACH	\$ _____
Friday Luncheon	___ @\$15/EACH	\$ _____
Friday Dinner/Entertainment	___ @FREE W/ PAID REGS (**SEE NOTE BELOW)	\$ _____
Saturday Luncheon	___ @FREE W/ PAID REGS (**SEE NOTE BELOW)	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	___ @\$35	\$ _____
-OR- Registration Fee (No Meals)	___ @55/PERSON ___ @95/PERSON/GUEST	\$ _____ \$ _____

****PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WILL ATTEND THE FRIDAY DINNER AND SATURDAY LUNCHEON WITH NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED. PERSON REGISTRATION INCLUDES 1 FRIDAY DINNER AND 1 SATURDAY LUNCH TICKET; FAMILY REGISTRATION INCLUDES 2 FRIDAY DINNER AND 2 SATURDAY LUNCH TICKETS – ADDITIONAL TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED - \$30.00 FRIDAY DINNER AND \$20.00 SATURDAY LUNCHEON. TO ASSURE ADEQUATE MEAL COUNT IF NO INDICATION IS MADE AS TO NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED NO TICKETS WILL BE RESERVED.**

Payment Method:

Enclosed is my check payable to Montana Aeronautics Division - Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Upon receipt of this form, please charge my: American Express MasterCard Visa Discover

Cardholder Name _____

Account Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Balance Due \$ _____ Signature _____



Indonesia to Montana for ATP Check Ride!



Omar Malik, of Oslo, Norway, shakes hands with his instructor Brent Vetter of Helena after passing his multi-engine ATP check ride on January 30. Omar traveled to Helena from Pangandaran, Indonesia where he works at the training manager of Susi Air, the world's second largest operator of Cessna Caravans.

