

Montana and the Sky



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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DC-10 Tanker Plays a Vital Role Fighting Montana Wildfires

The DC-10 10 Tanker #912 has been stationed in Helena at the Helena Air Tanker Base for more than a week to work fires across the region.

The Helena Tanker Base is the only facility in Montana equipped to handle this aircraft's weight and wingtip clearance requirements.

DC-10 Tanker crew members have been working the following fires: Lodgepole, Bruner, Sunrise, Hancock, and Rice Ridge. They have flown approximately three hours per day, burning 3,000 gallons of Jet A fuel per hour and average one drop per hour. This aircraft can split its loads into smaller doses, up to ten loads per trip.

Interesting facts about the DC-10 Tanker:

- In service since 2006
- 171 foot long fuselage
- Wing span 165 feet
- 11,600 gallons of retardant per load
- 4 times the capacity of the average tanker
- External tanks can be filled in as little as 15-20 minutes depending on base loading capabilities
- Three person crew
- One of the largest firefighting planes in the world
- Loaded cruising speed to a fire is 414 miles per hour



The DC-10 Tanker Air Carrier at Helena Regional Airport's Air Tanker Base taking on fuel and fire retardant.

- Cruising speed when empty is 530 miles per hour
- Based in NM and contracted by the U.S. Forest Service
- Only three of its kind, another should be complete this fall
- One aircraft is dispatched to Australia each year for fire-fighting.

More information about the DC10 Tanker can be found at <http://www.10tanker.com/>.

Other aircraft working fires in the region are: Neptune's BAE 146's, Neptune P2-V's, Single Engine Air Tankers, Air Tractor 802's, CL15's, and many helicopters.

Thanks to all who are working so hard to manage these fires!

Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division Seeks Public Input Regarding Airway Beacon Program

See pages 6 for details.

Administrator's Column

Airway Beacon Working Group: The working group that was appointed by MDT Director Mike Tooley following the legislative session will be sharing two options for consideration in public informational meetings being held later this month and ultimately with the Director. Please see the news release on page six of the newsletter for information on the meetings and for sending written comments. Any questions please contact me.

ATC Privatization: There have been many news reports regarding Air Traffic Control (ATC) privatization and House bill, H.R. 2997. This bill is still moving, but has yet to make it to the House floor for a vote. Sponsor, Congressman Bill Shuster, and other bill supporters are expected to continue to push to get the votes after the August recess. According to general aviation leaders who met with the House General Aviation Caucus, ATC privatization is "a solution in search of a problem." In addition, as reported last month, more than 100 general aviation organizations have united to oppose H.R. 2997. The Senate Appropriations subcommittee recently rejected the Administration's proposal to privatize air traffic control and its bill (S.1405) does NOT call for ATC privatization. With FAA funding expiring on September 30, Congress will need to act before then. It is hoped that a long-term bill will be passed providing stability to the FAA and not a short-term extension.

Eagle Mount camp offers aviation therapy for cancer survivors: The fourth annual Big Sky Kids Cancer Survivor Flight Camp was recently hosted at Belgrade by Summit Aviation and Eagle Mount, a Bozeman organization that provides therapeutic recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and young people with cancer. Four campers attended flight school with each pilot-in-training being sponsored. The flight camp was established in 2014 when Ben Walton, president of Summit Aviation, decided he wanted to do something for young cancer survivors. He had personal experiences with the disease with his mother and sister-in-law, who passed away from cancer. Walton had a discussion with Eagle Mount and told them he had planes and wanted to partner to do something for cancer survivors. Three months later, the camp was flying people around the state. Since then, the local aviation community and Yellowstone Jet Center have donated to the camp, providing participants with an all-expenses paid experience. What an awesome opportunity for these young warriors who have encountered harsh challenges. Ben, thanks for your vision, for your interest in sharing your passion for aviation and for your compassion for helping our youth. And thank you to Eagle Mount, Yellowstone Jet Center and the local aviation community.

Super Cub Next AOPA Sweepstakes: You can be on floats, skis, or tundra tires!! Roger and Darin Meggers of Baker Air Service, a talented father-son are completely restoring a Piper Super Cub that has sat for 20 years after being wrecked and partially burned. The master craftsmen will make someone a very happy pilot in 2019 when AOPA gives away the heavy-hauling Super Cub. This is the most extensive restoration undertaken by AOPA, since the sweepstake inception. Roger and Darin have restored over 40 Super Cubs, to include Super Cub number 1 that was honored with a Gold Lindy Award at EAA AirVenture in 2012 and Grand Champion at the Sentimental Journey Fly-In in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. Spending an average of 1,500 hours on each project, the duo work passionately out of a love for the airplane. What an honor to have Montana talent selected for this project! Roger and Darin, thanks for your work, I look forward to updates and following your progress. To check out more about the sweepstake including the official rules and a photo gallery go to <https://www.aopa.org/membership/sweeps>.



Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation

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Follow MDT on social media!



Firefighting Planes Diverted to Yellowstone Airport

On the afternoon of July 20, the Yellowstone Airport had the pleasure of receiving two Canadair CL-415s. These aircraft are owned and operated by Aeroflite out of Spokane, Washington for the U.S. Forest Service. The two aircraft were on their way to Cody, WY to provide backup support for the fires in that region.



This CL-415 on the ramp at Yellowstone Airport can carry 1,600 gallons of water. See view of the water tanks from the interior of the plane in picture below.

However, thunderstorms over the mountains required them to deviate to West Yellowstone for a few hours. The Canadian-made CL-415's, also known as Bombardier 415's, carry 1600 gallons of water in two tanks located inside and below the fuselage. According to the pilots, these amphibious aircraft are the only planes currently built and designed specifically for aerial fire-fighting in North America.



Yeti' Aviation's primary helicopter, Bell 206-L4.

Yellowstone Airport Welcomes New Helicopter Touring Company!

Yeti Aviation, based out of Salt Lake City, is an FAA certified helicopter tour company that will be operating out of the Yellowstone Airport for the summer season. Service began in late June and will continue until the airport closes for the year in October. If you have been in West Yellowstone recently, you have probably seen their advertising booth in the mall on Canyon Street. Yeti offers three tour packages of varying lengths and prices. Though they are unable to operate within the park, they do fly past several other popular sites in the surrounding area, such as Quake Lake and Targhee Peak. Yeti has their own retired fire-fighting helicopter, in addition to several experienced pilots, flight coordinators, and in-house aircraft mechanics. The staff says that they "are honored to be flying helicopter tours around the greater Yellowstone and Teton ecosystems" and that they have "a true passion for aviation." For more information or to book a flight, please visit www.yetiaviation.com or call (801) 809-6879.



Aerial view taken during tour of Henry's Lake Mt. Range in Idaho.



UAS Operators Must Comply with TFRs

Fire season in Montana is upon us and operators of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) are reminded they must comply with 14 CFR 107.47, the requirement that prohibits operation in certain areas designated by a notice to airmen. Every year, busy air operations conducted by U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management firefighting aircraft are brought to a halt when an unknowing UAS operator flies in the vicinity of a wildfire.

Temporary flight restrictions pop up frequently and airmen are advised to check the website <https://sua.faa.gov/sua> or speak with a flight briefer to obtain the most current information. B4UFLY is a mobile app available for free download in the App Store for iOS and Google Play Store for androids. The app allows UAS operators to know whether there are any restrictions or requirements in effect where they intend to fly.

Courtesy Car Program

The Montana legislature tasked the Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division with utilizing part of its annual budget for the awarding of courtesy cars to eligible airports.

Online Airport Courtesy Car Grant Application can be found at: <https://app.mt.gov/courtesycar>

Note: The application is available July 1 - November 15.



2017 Search Pilot Clinic

WHEN: September 8-10, 2017

WHERE: Fort Peck, MT

COST: \$140 for whole clinic

\$70 for ground school ONLY

Accommodations available at

The Fort Peck Hotel

175 S. Missouri Street, Fort Peck, MT
Call Linda at (406) 526-3266 to reserve.
For questions call: (406) 444.2506

**Register for MDT's
Aeronautics Division annual
Search Pilot Clinic or find
more information online!
[www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/
events.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml)**

Schafer Work Session Draws Pilots

Fifteen aircraft brought 25 pilots and friends to the U.S. Forest Service airstrip at Schafer on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River in the Bob Marshall Wilderness on July 15th for the annual work session. The all-volunteer effort, a collaboration between the Montana Pilots Association, the Forest Service, and MDT Aeronautics, is meant to give the well-loved back country airstrip a bit of tender care, such as replacing windsocks, repairing gates, and filling in low spots near the runway. Many pilots plan their vacation to include the work session and enjoy the beauty of the wilderness and the comradery of fellow pilots. Supper on Saturday evening was once again provided by Loren Smith who flew in from his home in Great Falls with a delicious steak dinner for all in attendance. The wilderness airstrip was constructed in 1965 by the Montana Aeronautics Commission and provides recreational access for hunters, fishermen, and floaters from spring through fall.



The U.S. Forest Service pack string hauled in feed sacks filled with river gravel to fill-in mule wallows near the airstrip and tie down area. Since Schafer is in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, no wheel vehicles are permitted, so the pack mules are put to good use for maintaining the airstrip.



Lynn Kleen, of Stevensville, and Jim Brown, right, of Billings make repairs to the gate on the east end of the field.



Robyn Holdman of Sisters, OR flew into for the Schafer work session with her husband. They attended the work session last year by coincidence, and enjoyed it so much they planned a trip back to Schafer this year.

Lincoln Airport (S69) Open House and BBQ

Lincoln pilot and resident, Jerry Cain, hosted the 14th annual fly-in BBQ/potluck at his Lincoln Airport hangar on July 22nd. Montana pilots, out-of-state pilots, and other Lincoln residents enjoyed good weather, good food and comradery. The Aeronautics Division helped host the event and several airport tenants opened their hangars and displayed their aircraft. The airport was also quite active with U.S. Forest Service flights for firefighting efforts.

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Helena member and pilot, Lance Seaman, was on hand with his Cessna 172 to give Young Eagle flights to interested young people and their parents. Local resident and pilot, Tiana Valler, registered and coordinated nine flights.

Jerry, along with some talented help, served up some tasty burgers and hot dogs to compliment a smorgasbord of potluck dishes that rounded out a fantastic meal. The friendly Reach Air Medical Services personnel brought their Helena based Pilatus PC-12 and helped raise awareness of emergency medical transport.

Many thanks to the public, businesses, and public service agencies that support the Lincoln Airport and surrounding community. A special **THANK YOU** to Jerry, his wife Liz, the local pilots and hangar owners for helping prepare for and conduct the event including opening their hangars and displaying their airplanes.



Many pilots and local residents enjoying the Lincoln Airport open house and barbeque on July 22nd, 2017.

Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division Seeks Public Input Regarding Airway Beacon Program

HELENA — The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) would like to notify the public and seek comments on a proposal to decommission airway beacons.

The 84 airway beacons in Montana were installed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the 1930s as part of a national airway corridor network to assist pilots with night navigation. As safer navigational resources became available in the 1960s the FAA began decommissioning the airway beacons until withdrawing all support by the early 1970s.

At that point the State adopted and continued operation of 17 of the beacons in southwest Montana where radio navigational aids did not provide night pilots complete coverage in this area. As navigational technology has advanced, however, the beacons have become less viable as a navigational aid to night pilots.

This spring, MDT Director Mike Tooley executed a charter that established a working group to assist him with his decision regarding the future of the remaining airway beacons in Montana. With the objective of providing information, advice, and recommendations for Director Tooley, the working group met to consider multiple issues regarding the beacons, including:

- Whether a network of beacons can and should be maintained, and the anticipated level of human and financial resources necessary to do so, which may include a public-private partnership
- Long-term funding sources for any maintained beacons long term
- How beacons can be regularly monitored to determine they are working properly
- Which beacons have significant maintenance and other issues and whether they should be maintained or removed from the system
- Issues surrounding decommission such as expense, liability, or environmental concerns
- Other currently unanticipated issues that emerge from the group's investigation and deliberations

The working group met to discuss these issues and concluded that only the nine beacons MDT identifies as operational plus the University Mountain site should be considered for some sort of future use by MDT. The working group went on to recommend the following two options for these 10 beacons:

- 1) MDT disposes of all the beacons, but offers any public/private partnerships the opportunity to assume ownership before they are decommissioned, and
- 2) MDT continues to maintain the 10 beacons identified, understanding that MDT has limited funding to put toward this maintenance and that alternative funding for the remainder might need to be found through private entities or foundations.

To inform the public and encourage public comment on the proposal, MDT will be conducting public informational meetings in the form of an open house, as follows:

- August 24, 2017, Billings Airport, 1901 Terminal Circle (the meeting will be held at the Airport Operations Center located on Overlook Drive off Highway 3), 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- August 28, 2017, Missoula Airport, 5225 Highway 10 West (the meeting will be held next to the restaurant/bar on the main floor of the terminal building), 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- August 31, 2017, Helena Airport, 2801-2873 Skyway Drive (the meeting will be held on the second floor of the terminal building next to the administration office), 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For more information please contact the Aeronautics Division Administrator Debbie Alke at (406) 444-9569. Members of the public may submit written comments to the Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division office at P.O. Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620, or online at: www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml

Please note that your comments are for the "Airway Beacons Proposal" and submit by September 30, 2017, to ensure your comments are adequately reviewed and considered. Comments will not receive a response.

Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request by contacting the Office of Civil Rights, P.O. Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620; (406) 444-9229; fax (406) 444-7243, or e-mail to aflesch@mt.gov. Those using a TTY may call (800) 335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.

Calendar of Events

August 13, 2017- Hysham Airport Fly-In & Drive-In (6U7) -

From 7 a.m. to noon. The breakfast is a fundraiser for the Hysham Lions Club. Cost is \$8 and will include pancakes, ham, eggs, coffee, and juice. Contact airport manager, Bob Miller, with questions at (406) 342-5252.

August 18-20, 2017 - The 15th Annual Montana Fun Weekend Fly-In and Car Show will be held at the Cut Bank Airport. Breakfast available Saturday and Sunday. Burn-out contest and movie Friday night. Car, motorcycle, and airplane show and shine Saturday. Concessions onsite Saturday. Call Roy at (406) 450-1078 for more information.

September 8-10, 2017 - Search Pilot Clinic, the 2017 MDT Aeronautics Search Pilot Clinic will be conducted at the Fort Peck Airport, 37S. For more information contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568.

September 9, 2017 - Polson Fly In Breakfast - From 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Courtesy of EAA, Chapter 1122. For more information, contact Joe Kuberka at (719) 393-5550.

September 9, 2017 - Annual Missoula General Aviation BBQ - From 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This free event is sponsored by the Missoula airport at the *brand new* EAA Chapter 517 hangar. Contact Gary Matson at (406) 370-6584 for more information.



CANCELED



To have your event listed in the "Calendar of Events" please email details to: Patricia at ptrooien@mt.gov or call (406) 444-2506.

99's Air Marking Continues

Janine Schwahn has provided the Air Marking pictures on the right. Top to bottom; Plains Airport, Polson Airport, St. Ignatius Airport. The last picture features painters Kelley McCallister, Miranda Edwards, Janine Schwahn, Charity Fechter and Deb Schwahn (behind the camera lens) at Ronan Airport. Airports next on the schedule are Choteau, Fairfield, and Dutton.

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VISION ZERO
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

In 2016, there were 190 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 190 parents, children, grandparents, friends, siblings, spouses, and other loved ones had lives that were cut short. It also means countless tears and shattered lives of those left with the aftermath of unsafe driving behaviors. Which loved one are you prepared to lose? If your answer is none, then Vision Zero is also YOUR goal.

It will take every one of us to work towards the day that Vision Zero is met, and the fatality total reads "ZERO." Two of the highest contributing factors to traffic fatalities in 2016 were alcohol and no seat belt.

These are behaviors that can be changed! Start by always wearing your seatbelt and planning for sober transportation. Remind your loved ones and those around you to do the same.

-Director Mike Tooley, MDT

Visit www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero for more information.