

# Montana and the Sky



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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January 2017

## The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Montana Aviation Conference “Changing Faces of Aviation”

The Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Billings, Montana March 2-4, 2017 at the Red Lion Hotel & Convention Center (formerly the Billings Hotel & Convention Center) located at 1223 Mullaney Lane. Rooms have been blocked at a conference rate of \$91.00 plus tax. Reserve your room by calling (406) 248-7151 and reference rooming block **Montana Aviation Conference**. Reserve your room prior to February 15, 2017 to receive the reduced rate. For assistance with registration contact Effie Benoit at (406) 444-9580 or [efbenoit@mt.gov](mailto:efbenoit@mt.gov).

## MDT Aeronautics to Conduct IA Refresher at Aviation Conference

The Aircraft Mechanic Refresher Seminar and IA Refresher Course will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in conjunction with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Montana Aviation Conference at the Red Lion Hotel & Convention Center (formerly the Billings Hotel & Convention Center). To be eligible for renewal of an inspection authorization for a two year period, an applicant must present evidence to the FAA during the month of March of each odd-numbered year that he or she still meets the requirements of 14 CFR 65.93 (a). One means of meeting this requirement is to attend and successfully complete a refresher course, accepted by the FAA, of not less than eight hours. A total of 16 hours of instruction will be offered over the two days, so mechanics can meet the renewal requirements by attending either day. Registration information for the IA Refresher Course and the conference is available at the following link:  
<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml>

## Aerobatics Team Doctor to Address Aviation Conference

Dr. Brent Blue, current Safety Physician for the Oshkosh AirVenture airshow and former team doctor for the U.S. Unlimited Aerobatic Team is scheduled to address the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Montana Aviation Conference at the Thursday kickoff luncheon at the Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Blue is an FAA Senior Aviation Medical Examiner, holds an airline transport pilot certificate, and frequently lectures and writes on hypoxia and carbon monoxide poisoning.

He is the medical director of Aeromedix, the company that introduced pulse oximetry and digital carbon monoxide detection to general aviation. Dr. Blue is the founder of Oxygen to Go, which provides oxygen services and pre-board reviews for airline passengers requiring oxygen on board. He is board certified in both Emergency Medicine and Family



# Administrator's Column

**Air Service Working Group Appointed:** MDT Director, Mike Tooley, has been appointed by the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary to the new Working Group on Improving Air Service to Small Communities. The group will advise Congress on current and emerging priorities, issues and funding needs related to providing air service to small communities, and consists of 25 stakeholders involved in air transportation to small communities. The group was created under the FAA Reauthorization Bill and directs the Secretary of Transportation to issue a report to Congress by July 2017. Language passed in the bill specifically stated that state aviation officials be represented on the group. The initial meeting of the Working Group will be held later this month. Also appointed to the group is Brian Sprenger, Airport Director, Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport. Montana is fortunate to have two seats on this important group.

**Thank you Fred:** Fred Leistiko who has served as the Montana Airport Management Association representative to the Aeronautics Board since 2005 will not seek appointment to a fourth term on the board. Thanks Fred for your service and participation over the last 12 years.

**Congratulations Rob:** Rob Ratkowski has been appointed Airport Director of Glacier Park International Airport. He began work at the airport as Manager of Operations and Maintenance in 2004 and was appointed Deputy Director in 2007. He holds an aviation management degree from Metropolitan State College of Denver and worked for a year as flight coordinator for Mayo Aviation before joining the staff of Centennial Airport in the Denver-Aurora metropolitan area where he held positions that included aviation management intern, operations specialist, airport planner and manager of planning and development. He has served on the board of directors of the Montana Airport Management Association for eight years and is wrapping up a two-year term as president. He is also a certified member of the American Association of Airport Executives.

**Condolences:** Thomas "Tom" L. Killham, passed away recently in Lewistown. Tom retired as Sheriff of Fergus County in December of 2014. During his career he was instrumental in reorganizing the local Search and Rescue (SAR) organization and performed as its commander. Tom served as the MDT Aeronautics Division SAR coordinator for District 6 for many years. He was active in the Civil Air Patrol and served on SAR flight crews on searches in many parts of the state. Tom was a great asset and partner to me and the Division and I will always remember his calm demeanor and professionalism. My sympathies to Elaine and the entire Killham family. See obituary on page 3.

**The Greatest Time to Fly:** This book, written by Doug Parrott of Roundup, has recently been published. The book is not a history of aviation or an autobiography of Captain Parrott. Rather, it is a firsthand account of this amazing time in aviation as told by one of its most passionate participants. So great is his love of aviation that Doug likes to say that "I was employed by Northwest Airlines for 32 years but never worked a day." Readers will be entertained by an enthusiastic description of each marvelous advancement in aircraft performance, navigation, weather forecasting, and route pioneering. You will meet some of the men who helped build the airline industry and many of those who are important to the advancement of general aviation. Order your copy at: (<https://www.amazon.com/Greatest-Time-Capt-Douglas-Parrott/dp/1539654451>).

**Third Class Medical Rule Released:** The rule is expected to be published soon but it will not take effect until May 1. The program will be called BasicMed. Provisions mirror those contained in the original bill. Highlights include: day or night, VFR or IFR; up to five passengers; six seats up to 6,000 pounds; up to 18,000' MSL; 250 knots indicated airspeed; cannot operate for hire; pilots must take a free online course every two years and visit their doctor every four years. A 10-year lookback provision applies with pilots that have had a medical certificate revoked, suspended or denied needing



**Montana and the Sky**  
Department of Transportation

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# In Memoriam

## Montana Lawman

### Tom Killham Passes Away



Former Fergus County Sheriff, Tom Killham, passed away on January 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lewistown. He was 67. Tom served the Montana aviation community as the District 6 Search Coordinator for Fergus, Petroleum, and Judith Basin counties. He was active with the Montana Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, logging over 200 flight hours as a master observer.

Photo Credit: Tom Killham www.billings gazette.com, January 17, 2017 9:08 a.m. Sized to fit

#### Tom's law

enforcement career began as a military policeman with the U.S. Army in 1968 when he was stationed in Saigon. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant in November 1970. He graduated from the Montana Law Enforcement Academy and began his 20-year career with the Lewistown Police Department in January, 1971. He served as Patrolman, Sergeant, Captain, and Deputy Chief for his last eight years, retiring from the Department in 1991.

He was appointed Under Sheriff of Fergus County in 1991, and served there for eight years. He was instrumental in reorganizing the Fergus County Search and Rescue team. In 2003 he was appointed Fergus County Sheriff, and was reelected to the office in 2004, 2006, and 2010. As Sheriff he provided leadership in developing an outstanding rural fire mutual aid system that became the model for counties in eastern Montana. He retired from a 41-year career in public service at the end of 2014.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Elaine (Nyback) Killham; children, Leslie (David) Southworth, Joseph Killham, Kelly Killham, and Jess Killham; grandchildren, Madison Lewis, Isabella Lewis, Carson Lewis, and Finlay Lewis. He was preceded in death by his parents, Taft and Leone Killham. Interment with full military honors took place at the Lewistown City Cemetery on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Memorial donations may be made to the Veteran's Memorial Park, P.O. Box 852, Lewistown, MT 59457, or Tough Enough to Wear Pink (TETWP), P.O. Box 488, Lewistown, MT, 59457.

# Billings Students

## Build Airplanes

A group of 15 middle and high school students are actively building a 1929 Northrup Primary Glider under the guidance of Billings science teacher and Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) member Patrick Kenney. EAA Chapter 57 recently purchased the hangar of Montana pilot and former NASA Astronaut, Frank Borman, located at Billings Logan International Airport to use for building and learning space.

The students come in for a few hours after school each week to work on the project from plans published in 1930. Work on the current project began in June 2016, and is the fifth plane built by students and EAA Chapter 57 since 2002. Other projects include a Chanute biplane, a Wright Flyer, and a Pietenpol Air Camper. Aviation and science education has been a primary focus of the Chapter since they opened their doors to students, and over 1,000 have taken part in the aircraft constructions. Former student builders have gone on to careers in engineering, science education, and military flying with the service academies.



Photo Credit: 15 Students with instructor Patrick Kenney and Astronaut Col. Frank Borman Building Glider at EAA Chapter 57 in Billings, MT. www.eaa.org, January 18, 2017 16:07. Sized to fit document.

Apollo 8 Astronaut, Frank Borman addressed the student builders and their parents on an evening last fall at the Billings hangar. He stressed that the success of the Apollo moon project was based on integrity, moral courage, the sense of mission, and the ability to delegate. On Christmas Eve, 1968, Apollo 8 made the first ever manned lunar orbit, traveling farther from the Earth than anyone had gone before. Completion of the Northrup Glider is expected in April of this year.

## Learning Winter Survival Skills

Certified Flight Instructor, Leah Hiebert from North Star Jet in Missoula, and Rocky Mountain College aviation students, Adam Hanson and Andrew Sennett, confer with survival instructor, James "Cowboy" Collins of The Peak, Inc. of Butte (pictured below). These students were among the 9 participants in the 2017 MDT Aeronautics Winter Survival Clinic conducted at Stemple Pass, northwest of Helena on January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the clinic is to teach skills to pilots that would enable them to survive off-airport landings in the winter in Montana. Students spent the night in improvised shelters using minimal equipment in temperatures of 10° F. Skills included signaling, fire craft, and emergency first aid.



Pictured below: Andrew Sennett, left, and Adam Hanson, right, of Rocky Mountain College practice the use of an emergency signal mirror at Stemple Pass northwest of Helena.



## Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC) Scheduled For Helena on February 10 & 11, 2017

The MDT Aeronautics Division will conduct the 2017 FIRC in Helena on February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Wingate Hotel. The two-day, FAA approved course will run from noon on Friday until 9 p.m., and from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. The 16-hour course is one means by which an FAA-certified flight instructor may comply with the renewal requirement of 14 CFR 61.197, and for a ground instructor to meet the recent experience requirements of 14 CFR 61.217. A block of rooms has been set up at the Wingate Hotel, 2007 North Oakes, phone 406-449-3000, at the rate of \$95 per night plus tax. Mention the group name **MDT FIRC** when confirming your room reservation. The registration fee for the refresher course is \$160 for pilots registered in Montana and \$175 for non-registered pilots. First time attendees will be awarded the coveted Montana flight instructor wings designed by Montana aviation pioneer and Aeronautics Commissioner, Frank W. Wiley. The course is open to anyone with an interest in aviation, and specifically geared toward the professional flight instructor to promote a culture of safety in general aviation. Attendees will be eligible for credits under the FAA Wings Program. See course registration form on page 5.

## Airport Directories Available

You may have received your 2017 Montana Airport Directory in the mail already if you have mailed in this year's pilot registration card or registered online at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/regpilot.shtml>. Information such as field elevation, runways, and navigation and communications frequencies for all public use airports in Montana are included. Directories are provided free to registered pilots. Additional copies of the directory are available for \$5 each. Please contact Wade Cebulski at Aeronautics if you notice errors in the directory: 406-444-9581, or [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

Please note the correct AWOS frequency at Twin Bridges (7S1) is 122.9. Thanks to Scott Payne for that correction!



Montana Department of Transportation  
Aeronautics Division  
2017 FIRC Registration Form

MDT Aeronautics Division  
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PO Box 200507  
Helena, MT 59620-0507  
Ph: 406.444.2506  
Fx: 406.444.2519

# 2017 Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC)

Hosted by the MDT Aeronautics Division

Clinic Name: 2017 FIRC

Clinic Dates: February 10-11, 2017

Clinic Location: Wingate Hotel, Helena, MT

### Attendee Information

Name:

Name (2):

Name (3):

Name (4):

Company:

Address:

City:

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code:

Registered MT Pilot? (Yes/No):

CFI Number:

Main Contact:

Email:

Phone:

### Special Needs:

### Registration

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

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Clinic Fee            | <input type="text"/> |
| x Number of Attendees | <input type="text"/> |
| Total Due:            | <input type="text"/> |

### Payment

- Check payable to: Montana Aeronautics
- Cash

# Attention Private Airstrip Owners

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has hired GCR Inc. (GCR) to assist them in the collection and verification of private-use airport data. GCR is tasked with ensuring the information on record with the FAA for the state of Montana private-use facilities are up-to-date. Part of that effort is to contact the private-use airport owners directly.

Starting in the next few weeks private-use airport owners in the state of Montana will be contacted by mail. Private-use airport owners will receive an airport facility "Airport Master Record (Form 5010-2)" listing the conditions of that facility currently on record at the FAA. GCR will request that private-use airport owners indicate directly on Form 5010-2 any changes that they have; indicate no changes; or indicate a request for abandonment. Private-use airport owners are asked to return the completed Form 2010-2 to MDT Aero-

navics office using the postage paid self-addressed envelope provided.

Your help in providing the correct information is important to the success of this effort. This is the private-use airport owner's chance to make sure their facility is represented accurately in aviation websites and publications using the most current data from the FAA.

If you have any questions please contact GCR by email (preferably) at: [PrivateArptSupport@gcrincorporated.com](mailto:PrivateArptSupport@gcrincorporated.com) or call (504) 304-0681.

Your support of the FAA's Airport Master Record program is very much appreciated.

As a side note, if you are a private airstrip owner that is not in the FAA or the state of Montana system and would like to be registered/chartered, please contact Wade Cebulski at MDT/ Aeronautics. Call (406) 444.9581 or email [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov) for assistance.

## Yellowstone Airport Terminal Area Narrative Report



This year, Yellowstone Airport (WYS) received a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grant to conduct a terminal specific master plan study or "Terminal Area Narrative Report" (TANR).

The terminal building was originally constructed in 1964 and has had a number of remodels over the years. With strong growth in passenger enplanements and TSA mandated requirements, the airport is in dire need of attention in order to continue to properly serve the flying public.

WYS also struggles with an AIP funding limitation. Since the airport has fewer than 10,000 annual enplanements (8,260 in 2016), it is categorized by the FAA as a "Non-Primary Commercial Service Airport." This category of airport is eligible to

receive a maximum of \$200,000 per year in Federal Discretionary funding related to terminal building improvement projects.

The TANR will identify the present and future facility needs then prioritize those needs based on urgency and funding. The report is slated for completion during the Spring of 2018.

## Wintertime at Yellowstone Airport

Following the extended Christmas holiday weekend Jeff Kadlec, Airport Manager of Yellowstone Airport, attempts to navigate a route to the main terminal doors. Jeff works year-round on the many ongoing administrative projects that don't halt even though the airport is closed to air traffic.



# Calendar of Events

**January 23-24, 2017 — Association of Montana Aerial Applicators (AMAA)** - Will convene for their annual convention at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls. Following the Monday evening banquet, nationally known radio personality, Trent Loos, host of Rural Route Radio will be the keynote speaker. For further information contact Colleen Campbell at (406) 781-2017 or email [eccampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:eccampbell@yahoo.com).

**February 10-11, 2017 — Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC)** - This course meets the FAA's renewal requirements for certified flight instructors (CFI & Chief CFI). For further information, contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or [hdramstad@mt.gov](mailto:hdramstad@mt.gov).

**March 1, 2017 — Aircraft Registration Renewal Deadline**

**March 2-4, 2017 — 33rd Montana Aviation Conference** - Red Lion Hotel & Convention Center, Billings. For further information contact Effie Benoit at (406) 444-9580 or [efbenoit@mt.gov](mailto:efbenoit@mt.gov).

**March 3-4, 2017 — MDT Aeronautics IA Refresher Course** - Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center. For further information, contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or [hdramstad@mt.gov](mailto:hdramstad@mt.gov).

**March 6-12, 2017 — Women of Aviation Worldwide Week** - Fly It Forward flights for girls of any age, in celebration of the first pilot certificate issued to a woman, French pilot Raymode de Loroche, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1910. For details, <http://www.womenofaviationweek.org/compete/fly-it-forward-challenge/>.

**April 15, 2017 - Aviation Art Contest** - Deadline for all submissions. For more information visit our website at [www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation) or call our main office at (406) 444-2506.

**June 19-20, 2017 - Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy** - Program geared toward high school students interested in aviation. For more information contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or [hdramstad@mt.gov](mailto:hdramstad@mt.gov).

**July 23, 2017 - Annual St. Ignatius (52S) Huckleberry Pancake fly-in breakfast** from 8 a.m. until noon. This free event is sponsored the EAA Chapter 1122. For more information contact Michael Kuefler, (406) 544-2274.

## 2017 Pilot & Aircraft Registration

**Aircraft Registration:** Montana uses a simple fee structure in lieu of tax for the annual aircraft registration, based on the type and age of the aircraft. Aircraft customarily kept in Montana must be registered on or before March 1st of each year. Late registrations are subject to a penalty of five times the fee, in addition to the fee itself. If your aircraft has been sold, is dismantled, or otherwise unflyable, check the appropriate box on your registration invoice, sign and return it to MDT Aeronautics Division before March 1, 2017.

**Pilot Registration:** The annual pilot registration fee of \$10 goes to support the many clinics and programs of the MDT Aeronautics Division, including the Winter Survival Clinic, Aviation Career Exploration Academy, Aviation Art Contest, and the Aeronautics resource library. Registering pilots will receive a 2017 Montana airport directory and the monthly newsletter, *Montana and the Sky*. The information collected on pilot registration cards becomes invaluable in the event of search and rescue operations. Pilots interested in volunteering as search pilots and spotters may so indicate this on their registration card.

Aeronautics staff have been working hard to process over 3400 pilot and aircraft registrations. If you have mailed your pilot and aircraft registration to the Aeronautics office and have not received your pilot registration card & airport directory or aircraft decal in the mail, please contact our office. We thank you for your patience during this busy time.

For more information or questions, please contact the MDT Aeronautics Division's main office at (406) 444-2506.

**Aeronautics Division**  
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**zero deaths**

**zero serious injuries**

## **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](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero) for more information.