

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 69, No. 06

June 2018

## Aviation Awareness Art Contest Winners Fly to Helena

The Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division sponsors an annual aviation art contest for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. All artwork is divided into three categories: Category I (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade), Category II (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade), and Category III (9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade). The artwork is displayed, and votes are cast by employees across the agency for first, second and third place in each category. After the votes are tallied, the three first place winners are notified and flown to Helena to be honored at an awards ceremony. Congratulations to this year's winners: Thea Capp - Category I, Ava Hall - Category II, and Edna Borntrager - Category III.

The agency recognizes that our future depends upon our youth and we hope this contest will spark further interest in aviation from all participants. This year there were over 250 artists in the contest. Before the awards were given, the students were treated to a tour of the Helena airport, led by Airport Manager Jeff Wadekamper. Students learned about the terminal, firefighting equipment, snow plows and even how the luggage is sorted.

Montana Department of Transportation Director Mike Tooley and Aeronautics Division Administrator Tim Conway were on hand to congratulate our winners, awarding them a certificate, trophy and their framed artwork. After the ceremony, the winners and their families joined us for lunch before they were flown back home.

The Aeronautics Division works hard to further the awareness of how much aviation contributes to the national transportation system and the economy of Montana. Many winners of this contest have gone on to enjoy successful careers in the aviation field and we hope this year's winners join them. See all winners' art work on pages three and four.



*Pictured left to right; Edna Borntrager, Thea Capp, and Ava Hall*

## 2018 Aviation Career Exploration Academy Canceled

The 2018 Aviation Career Exploration Academy has been canceled this year due to strained resources. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. MDT Aeronautics Division values the opportunity to share aviation with the students of Montana, we'll continue working hard to expose young minds to the many great things aviation has to offer.

# Second Annual Powder River Council Meeting

The Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division (MAD) met in Rapid City, South Dakota for the second annual Powder River Council Meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The meeting was hosted by the U.S. Air Force's Ellsworth Air Force Base and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Great Lakes Regional Manager, Kyle Lewis. The meeting was a follow-up to the first council meeting held in November 2016. The meeting was attended by the Montana Pilots Association (MPA) representatives from South Dakota, North Dakota and Wyoming.

Results of a joint survey conducted by AOPA and National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) prior to the council meeting were discussed. Of the 329 responses received by pilots and aviation businesses, remarks included the costs of detouring the active areas, lack of activity status information, being dropped by Air Traffic Control (ATC), rerouting into severe weather, and a host of other issues. Some of the suggestions resulting from the meeting included real-time text messaging of activity, better communications, additional pilot outreach education programs by pilot associations and the military, and ATC improvements to radar.

The U.S. Air Force announced the Powder River 3 Low Military Operation Area (MOA) will become active this summer as they will have the communication requirements in place. On May 15 - 17, 2018, the Air Force conducted a Large Force Exercise (LFE). The LFE involved various military aircraft, high and low with supersonic travel and associated sonic booms at or above 10,000 feet above ground level (AGL). The following link is a helpful resource;  
<http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/Portals/146/documents/AFD-151103-009.pdf>.

Participants consider the council meetings valuable by providing stakeholders with a forum to discuss safety and operations within the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC). AOPA and NBAA solicited interest in having a pilot association group coordinate and conduct future council meetings, but a meeting date was not yet identified.

## ~ Attention ~

### Airport Sponsors and Engineers

As a friendly reminder, it is that time of year to provide **status or closeout form** information from past projects. Status or closeout forms need to be completed before gaining access to the Loan and Grant Applications for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1 to November 15, 2018). Complete your status or closeout form online at:

<https://app.mt.gov/loangrant/Home/AccessCode>

If you need assistance, please contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov)

### Contract Mower Needed for Whitefish Airport (58S)

If interested please contact Jan Smith at MDT Aeronautics Division  
(406) 444-9592 or email [jansmith@mt.gov](mailto:jansmith@mt.gov)



Tim Conway, Administrator

**Montana and the Sky**  
Department of Transportation

Steve Bullock, Governor  
Mike Tooley, Director

Official monthly publication of the  
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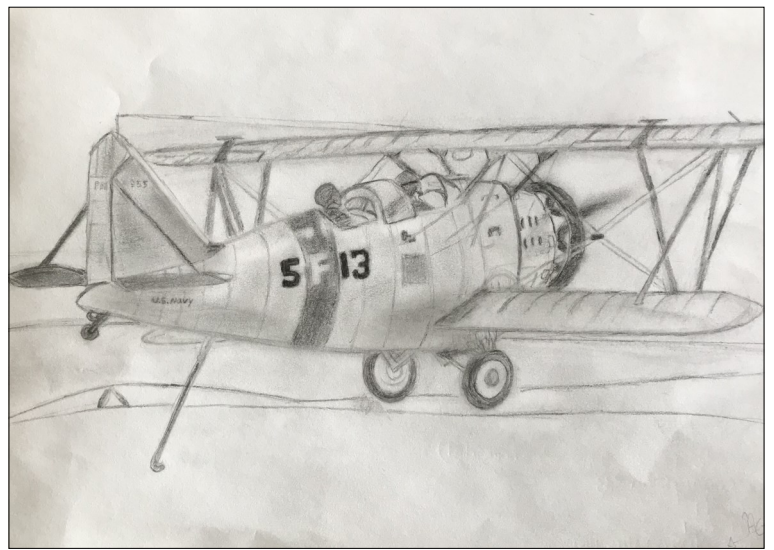
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First place winner Category III, Edna Bortrager



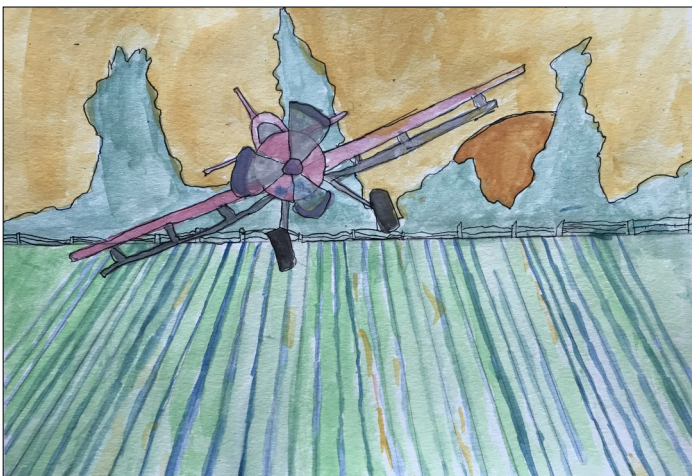
Second place winner, Category III, Amariah Hier



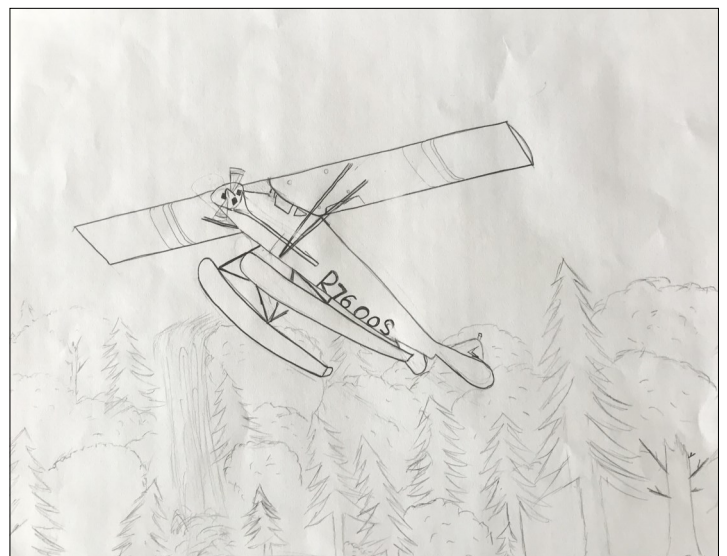
First place winner, Category II, Ava Hall



Second place winner, Category II, Natalie Seburn

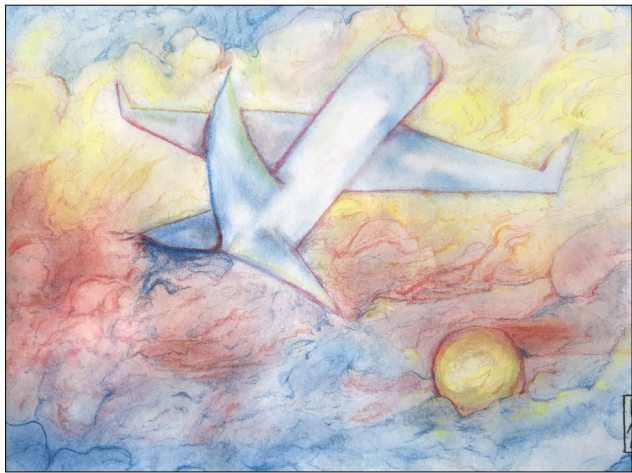


First place winner, Category I, Thea Capp

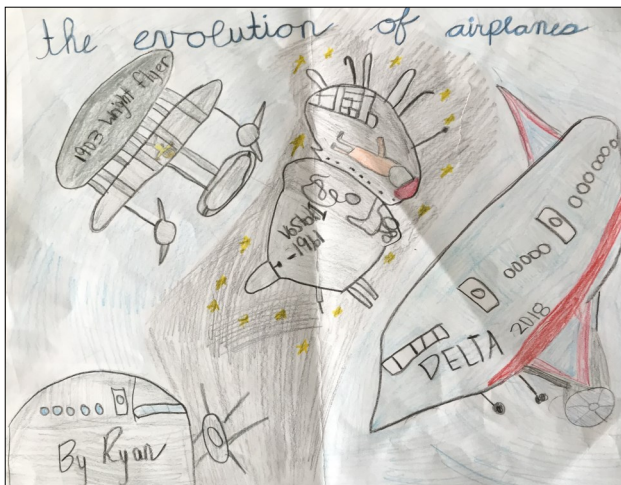


Second place winner, Category I, Rilyn Richardson

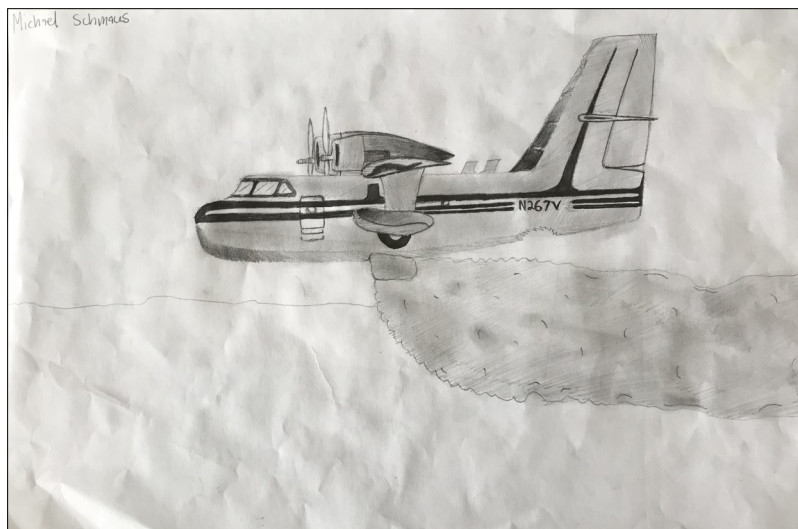
Art contest winners continued on page 4.



Third place winner, Category III, Lena Gantner



Third place winner, Category I, Ryan Schlesinger



Third place winner, Category II, Michael Schmaus

## New Flying Club in Missoula

There is a new flying club in western Montana, based in Missoula. The **Let's Fly Montana Flying Club** was formed by several Missoula area pilots with the purpose of making cost-effective aircraft available for its members to fly. The members have decided the first airplane to be acquired will be a Light Sport Aircraft (LSA). Initially, the cost to fly the airplane will be \$25.00 per hour dry. How many hours would you fly with a price like that?

The club members expect to have the first airplane by early summer this year. A lot of interest has been expressed; so much so there may be a need for two aircraft right from the beginning. The club is targeting a member-to-aircraft ratio of 10 members for each airplane. This will help minimize scheduling conflicts.

Although a specific airplane has not yet been identified for the first purchase, it is expected there will be a wide variety of aircraft available as the club grows, not just LSAs. The members, at the time of a new purchase, will choose the next type of aircraft to be purchased.

Initially, some club members will loan the club funds to buy the airplane. This will help keep membership fees as low as possible. Payback to the members that provide the financing is expected to be completed in five years or less.

There are still first round memberships available. The cost to join the club will be \$500 until the first aircraft is purchased. Monthly dues will be less than \$100 per month. This compares favorably with even just the cost of a hangar rent at the Missoula airport (\$300 per month, or more).

For more information and complete details on the **Let's Fly Montana Flying Club** e-mail: [letsflymontana@aol.com](mailto:letsflymontana@aol.com)

# Lincoln Airport, an Aviation Camper's Dream

Originally constructed in 1964, the Lincoln Airport (S69, elevation 4,603') underwent a major reconstruction in 2006. Improvements included realigning Runway 04/22 and lengthening it to 4,240 feet, constructing a larger ramp area with a partial length taxiway, and installing pilot-controlled lighting with a precision approach path indicator (PAPI).



On the Southwest end of runway 04, there is a small campground for pilot and guest use. The campground has an outhouse and campsites offer fire rings, and tables. Aircraft can be tied down in a grass parking area south of the runway, (tie downs are not supplied). There are bicycles provided for general use that are stored in a shed northeast of the paved tiedown area (the combination for the shed lock is the aviation emergency frequency). A recently added picnic table shelter and fire ring are located near the bicycle shed and a second vault toilet.

The town of Lincoln, near the headwaters of the Blackfoot River, is approximately 1 mile southwest of the airport on MT Highway 200, with

food and lodging available (<http://lincolnmontana.com/>). The Lincoln area offers excellent biking, bird watching, cross-country skiing, blue ribbon trout fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, snowmobiling, and wildlife viewing (<http://southwestmt.com/communities/lincoln.htm>). The USFS Lincoln Ranger Station (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/hlcnf/about-forest/offices/?cid=stelprdb5337673>) is located along the north side of the airport. Those using the pilot campground can shortcut through the ranger station to get to town. In the Ranger Station lobby is a taxidermy display of one of the largest grizzly bears ever seen in the area; an 830 pound male that would have stood about 8 feet tall. **Don't forget to sign the Pilot's Register!**

## STUDENTS FROM CLANCY ENJOY A DAY IN AVIATION

On Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 35 middle school students from Clancy, Montana, were in Helena to immerse themselves in aviation. Middle School Science Teacher Mr. Hannahoe has a passion for all things science and has been working with the MDT Aeronautics Division for years to provide his students access to aviation for a day.

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), Helena Chapter 344 was on hand to provide discovery flights for the students. Six EAA members coordinated 11 flights of three students each in two aircraft on what turned out to be a beautiful morning. It is hard not to smile when you see the students' faces as they return from their first flight in a small airplane. Students received first flight certificates and log books.

The Helena airport was kind enough to allow students access to the retired Boeing 727 parked at the fire training facility. The B727 tours were guided by a local retired airline pilot, Chris Gillette. He was able to share decades' worth of knowledge with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

The middle schoolers were then treated to a tour of Paul Gordon's hangar. Paul is a local aviator and owner of Gordon Aircraft, LLC. Paul retired after 30 years working as a builder, fabricator, and restorer of antique and vintage airplanes and now works solely on his own projects. Paul explained a few of the many steps required in building his Pietenpol Air Camper aircraft from plans!



*Paul Gordon explains how this wing center section will be installed on his Pietenpol Air Camper.*

The students were also given a presentation about the various careers in aviation. The day would not be possible if not for the many aviators who volunteered their time and knowledge. **Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the days events!**

# Yellowstone Airport Open for 2018 Season!

The Yellowstone Airport in West Yellowstone, MT is now open for the 2018 season! The runway and airfield opened for General Aviation (GA) traffic on May 8<sup>th</sup>. This was the latest annual opening date the airport has seen in several years. Due to the heavy snowfall this winter, the deep snowpack hung on a little longer than usual.

SkyWest Airlines, operating as Delta Connection, will resume regular scheduled air carrier service for the season on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Reservations can be made at [Delta.com](http://Delta.com).

The airport anticipates another high-volume year of both commercial airline passengers and GA customers. Last year over 4 million visitors visited Yellowstone National Park (YNP) with 1.7 million of those tourists entering exclusively through the West Entrance Gate.

Yellowstone Airport is the closest airport with direct access to YNP. The airport is three-quarters of a mile from the park boundary and 34 miles from the most famed and popular park attraction, Old Faithful Geysers.



*Jeff Heaney, Yellowstone Airport Operations Chief, moving snow from in front of the airline operations area at the Terminal Building*

## AOPA 2018 Missoula Fly-In



Photo Credit: Vo von Sehlen

On Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16, one of four 2018 Aircraft Owners and Aircraft Association (AOPA) Fly-Ins will be held at the Missoula International Airport (MSO, elevation 3,206'). The beautiful city of Missoula is located on the Clark Fork River near the confluence with the Bitterroot and Blackfoot rivers. It has a population of approximately 73,000 people, making it the second largest city in Montana. Average high and low temperatures for June are 75°F and 47°F, respectively.

MDT – Aeronautics will be present both days with flyers and Airport Directories available. On Friday, numerous exhibitors will open and all-day workshops will be available with topics ranging from mountain flying to weather issues. The Barnstormers Party will be held Friday night. Saturday morning will begin with a pancake breakfast, aircraft displays, free seminars, meetings and a Short Take Off and Landing (STOL) demonstration. AOPA President Mark Baker will cap the event with a Pilot Town Hall meeting and ice cream social. Participants can preregister for meals, workshops, and camping at the following link: <https://www.aopa.org/community/events/aopa-fly-ins/2018-aopa-fly-ins/missoula>.

While in the Missoula area, don't forget you can take in the beauty of Glacier National Park, which is approximately 84 NM north, and Yellowstone National Park, 182 NM, southeast. Other nearby beautiful sights include Flathead Lake, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex (Chinese Wall), and Seeley Lake (23S). If you like fly-fishing, the Blackfoot River, which runs from the Continental Divide near Lincoln, MT (S69) to the Clark Fork river near Missoula, is one of the finest fly-fishing rivers in the world. If you need to stretch your legs while in Missoula, the scenic hike up Mount Sentinel near the University of Montana campus is quite rewarding. Nicknamed "M" mountain, the "M" trail includes switchbacks starting at a convenient parking area, rising about 620' to the "M", and another 1,338' to the top of Mount Sentinel. "M"ark your calendar!

# Calendar of Events

**May 26 - 27, 2018 – West Yellowstone (WYS) Air Markings** - Join the Ninety-Nines in their painting efforts. For further information, contact Janine Schwahn at 406-388-8359 or email [nunes@flysummit.net](mailto:nunes@flysummit.net).

**June 2, 2018 - MSU Flying Bobcats Reunion** - at Bozeman Airport Pilot's Shelter. Enjoy lunch and refreshments. For more information contact and/or RSVP to Rich Owen at [rowen@itstriangle.com](mailto:rowen@itstriangle.com), (406) 737-4375 or (406) 868-1763.

**June 8 - 9, 2018 – A B-17 Weekend** - at Lewistown airport, featuring B-17 "Sentimental Journey", tours and guest flights available. Fly-In breakfast 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. For more information visit [www.B17lewisstown.com](http://www.B17lewisstown.com) or contact (406) 366-5086 or email [donaldhartrich@gmail.com](mailto:donaldhartrich@gmail.com). For flight information and airport conditions call Jerry Moline at (406) 350-3264.

**June 9, 2018 – EAA's Helena Chapter 344 Annual Morrison Park "Burger Burn"**- All aviation aficionados, including members of EAA, MPA and the general public are invited to participate in this spring warm-up to the 2018 flying season from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.. Partake of a free hamburger or hot dog, and soft drink while enjoying the friendly camaraderie of like-minded individuals. Morrison Park is located just east of the Helena College airport campus off Airport Road. Those who fly in may park in the southwest corner of the general aviation ramp, in the vicinity of Exec. Air's hangars. For information contact Woody Hopley at 406-433-3122 or [jal747@me.com](mailto:jal747@me.com).

**June 12, 2018 – Aeronautics Board Teleconference Meeting** - 9:00 a.m. Fiscal Year 2018 Aeronautics Board Loan and Grant Award Extension Meeting. Public comment will be held at 9:15 a.m. For dial-in information, please contact Effie Benoit at (406) 444-9580 or email at [efbenoit@mt.gov](mailto:efbenoit@mt.gov).

**June 15-16, 2018 - AOPA Regional Fly-In, Missoula International Airport** - Enjoy exhibits, seminars, and aviation events. For more information visit <https://www.aopa.org/community/events/aopa-fly-ins/2018-aopa-fly-ins>.

**June 16-17, 2018 - Recreational Aviation Foundation Potato Bake** at the Seeley Lake airport. Social hour starts at 5:00 p.m. Potato bake and steak sandwich at 7:00 p.m. -\$20.00. Fly-in or drive-in after the AOPA Missoula Fly-In. Camping on field or stay at a local motel. June 17 Pancake breakfast 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. - \$10. Please sign up for one or both either through the AOPA website: [https://ww2.eventrebels.com/er/Registration/StepRegInfo.jsp?ActivityID=24893&StepNumber=1&NoReset=1&\\_ga=2.162456828.1564854677.1520913463-457031192.1519260531](https://ww2.eventrebels.com/er/Registration/StepRegInfo.jsp?ActivityID=24893&StepNumber=1&NoReset=1&_ga=2.162456828.1564854677.1520913463-457031192.1519260531) or contact Scott Newpower at (406) 670-6169, by email at [scnewps@gmail.com](mailto:scnewps@gmail.com).

**June 23, 2018 - Sanders County Pilot Assn. 2nd Annual Wings & Wheels Car Show and Fly-In** - Thompson Falls, MT Airport. 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Free admission. For more information call (406) 529-4059.

**June 23, 2018 - Wings and Wheels Car Show and Fly-In, Hamilton Airport (6S5)** - Join Ravalli County Pilots Association in conjunction with Bitter Rodders Car Club for a pancake breakfast from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For details call Choice Aviation at (406) 363-6471.

**June 23, 2018 - Fly-In Pancake Breakfast, Roundup Airport (RPX)** - in Roundup, MT. 8:00 AM until 12:00 PM. For further information, call Ron MacAdon at (406) 323-2139 or email him at [backforty@midrivers.com](mailto:backforty@midrivers.com).

**July 4, 2018 – Townsend Festival of Flight (8U8)** - fly-in breakfast and Young Eagles Rally for all GA, Experimental, Classic, Vintage and Light Sport aircraft, sponsored by EAA Chapter 344. Breakfast served 8:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.. Young Eagles® flights 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.. Contacts: Neil Salmi (406) 980-0544, Young Eagles: Lance Seaman (406) 442-8459.

**July 22, 2018 - Annual St. Ignatius (52S) Huckleberry Pancake Fly-In Breakfast** - From 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This free event is sponsored by the EAA Chapter 1122. For more information, contact Michael Kuefler at (406) 544-2274.

**Jul 28, 2018 – Airport Open House and BBQ Potluck**, Lincoln Airport, (S69). Contact Jerry Cain at (406) 461-5631 for more information.

**August 3 - 4, 2018 - Three Forks Fly-In** – For more information about this two-day event, contact Pat Green at [enrg@aol.com](mailto:enrg@aol.com) or call (406) 285-6949.

**August 10-11, 2018 - CanAm Aerobatic Competition** – hosted by Cut Bank International Airport. Everyone is invited whether you compete, or just want to check out the high-performance aircraft. Practice will be held on August 10, competition on August 11. For more information, contact Dave Ries at 406-229-0376 or by email at: [cbaa\\_mt@yahoo.com](mailto:cbaa_mt@yahoo.com).

**August 25, 2018 - Bowman Field Anaconda (3U3) Second Annual Fly-In and Car Show** - Starts at 10:00 a.m. Join us for food, games, prizes and flour sack drop. Awards for best of show aircraft, car and longest distance flown. For more contact Greg at (406) 593-1702.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Civil Rights Bureau, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone (406) 444-9229. Those using a TTY may call (800) 335-7592 or go through the Montana Relay Service at 711.



**VISION ZERO**

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

**June 2018**

5403

Aeronautics Division  
2630 Airport Road  
PO Box 200507  
Helena, Montana 59620-0507



## **Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone**

In 2017, there were 187 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 187 parents, children, grandparents, friends, siblings, spouses, and other loved ones had lives that were cut short. It also means countless tears and shattered lives for 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 2017 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.

**VISION ZERO** ★  
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
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