

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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How the CARES Act Affects Montana Airports

The CARES Act signed on March 27, 2020, provided the FAA with \$10 billion in funding to issue grants to airports for prevention, preparation, and response to the impacts of COVID-19. Montana will split \$73,821,822 between 71 federal-aid airports with distributions ranging from \$1,000 to nearly \$17.9 million. The funding will support continuing operations and replace lost revenue resulting from the sharp decline in passenger traffic and other airport business due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funds are available for airport capital expenditures, airport operating expenses (including payroll and utilities), and airport debt payments. In addition, the CARES Act will provide funding that eliminates the need for local match of federal fiscal year 2020 (FFY20) airport projects. This provision of the CARES Act effectively funds 100% of FFY20 federal-aid airport improvement projects.

In addition to the direct benefits of the CARES Act, Montana's airports (both federal-aid and non-federal-aid) will benefit from a "domino effect" that will boost the state-funded Airport Grant Account for state fiscal year 2022 (SFY22). Montana's Administrative Rule states, "Grants may be awarded for up to and including 100% of an applicant's share of total project cost regardless of assistance from federal sources." This means, Montana airports that receive 100% funding for an airport project will not be eligible to receive any SFY21 Airport Grant Account funds since the projects will now be entirely funded by the federal government. This will eliminate the distribution of an estimated \$2.3 million of previously awarded Airport Grant Account funding and instead, retain those funds in the Airport Grant Account for distribution next year. Although aviation fuel tax revenues are anticipated to significantly decline and negatively impact the Airport Grant Account, the "domino effect" will provide an unexpected boost to the Airport Grant Account and allow airports to maximize the leveraging of federal funding in FFY21.

Wade Cebulski Retires

by Tim Conway

It's with mixed emotions that I share with you Wade's decision to retire. Wade has been with the division since early 2011 when he was hired as an Aviation Support Officer and went on to become the Airports & Airways Bureau Chief.

Wade has been a tremendous asset to the aviation industry as well as our mission at Aeronautics, but more than that, he's been a good friend. Wade's worked hard for many years and he deserves to enjoy the fruits of his labor. So with that, please join me in wishing him all the best in his retirement. We're now stepping through the hiring process and will hopefully have someone in place by mid-to-late June.

So, when you see Wade out and about, you'll understand why he's wearing shorts, drinking a martini, and has a big smile on his face. Wait, that's what he did while he was still working for Aeronautics!



Left — Wade and Jeanette Cebulski at a work party 2013.

Right — Wade's last day in the office May 8, 2020.

*Photo Credit:
Aeronautics Staff*



Yellowstone Airport Welcomes Luke Borowicz!

Yellowstone Airport would like to welcome Luke Borowicz as the newest member of its team. Luke is serving as the new Airport Operations and Maintenance Specialist.

Luke is from Minneapolis, Minnesota, and graduated from the University of North Dakota in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Air Traffic Management and a minor in Computer Science. During his time at UND, Luke got his private pilot certificate and spent two years working for Delta Global Services servicing regional Delta flights. Luke has worked in maintenance, aviation and software over his time in and out of college and is enthusiastic about this opportunity to learn and grow his knowledge and career at West Yellowstone.



*Luke Borowicz first day in the office
Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff*

Luke is excited to be working and living in the West Yellowstone area where he plans to spend his time outdoors hiking and camping in Yellowstone National Park and hopefully get in some flying.

Minuteman Aviation in Missoula Ramps Up for 2020 Fire Season

Aeronautics recently spoke with Mike Mamuzich of Minuteman Aviation in Missoula and learned the group is working hard to get ready for the 2020 fire season testing equipment and finalizing maintenance and training requirements. Minuteman works on fire suppression contracts mainly with the Department of Interior and the Forest Service to fight wildland fires and can deploy on short notice and work in the lower 48 states as well as Alaska.

Minuteman's typical fire season runs as early as February and as late as November.

Minuteman operates 15 helicopters, eight airplanes and employs 12 full time pilots currently based out of Missoula.



Photos Credit: Minuteman Aviation



Tim Conway, Administrator

Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation

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New Special Federal Aviation Regulations

The FAA issued a special federal aviation regulation (SFAR) that extends the validity of expired or soon-to-expire medical certificates, flight reviews, currency requirements for instrument pilots, and flight instructor certificates.



The rule provides relief from the near-total shutdown of flight training and testing caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Some of the rule's impacts on general aviation include:

Medical certificates: The FAA extended the validity periods of medical certificates that expire between March 31 and May 31 through June 30. However, the prohibition on operations during medical deficiency remains in effect.

Flight reviews: The FAA is offering a three-calendar-month "grace period" for those whose flight review may expire between March 1 and June 30. A condition of eligibility for the extension is that the pilot must have logged at least 10 hours of pilot in command time within the 12 calendar months preceding the month the flight review was due in an aircraft for which that pilot is rated. Also, eligible pilots must complete FAA Safety Team online courses totaling at least three WINGs credits. The courses must have been completed in January 2020 or later to meet this requirement.

Recent flight experience, pilot in command: The FAA only provided relief for instrument recency. It extended by three extra months the requirement to be current under FAR 61.57(c) by having performed and logged, within the six calendar months preceding the month of the flight, six instrument approaches, holding procedures and tasks, and intercepting and tracking courses through the use of navigational electronic systems. An additional eligibility requirement is that the pilot must have logged, in the preceding six calendar months, three instrument approaches in actual weather conditions or under simulated conditions using a view-limiting device. Eligible pilots may exercise the relief in this SFAR through June 30. Pilots unable to meet the instrument experience requirements before June 30 may still reestablish recency in accordance with FAR 61.57(d), but the number of months available to attain the instrument experience before having to take an instrument proficiency check "will depend on when the person last established instrument recency" in accordance with the regulation.

Knowledge tests: Applicants whose knowledge tests expire between March and June will have their knowledge tests' validity extended by three months, making the applicants eligible for a practical test for a certificate or rating issued under Part 61 for those additional three calendar months.

Flight instructors: Flight instructor certificates, unlike pilot certificates, expire every two years. The SFAR will extend the validity of flight instructor certificates that expired between

March 31 and May 31 until June 30.

Inspection authorization: The SFAR grants an additional three months (April to June) to airframe and powerplant mechanics with inspection authorization who were not able to meet the first year (even-numbered year) renewal requirements by March to complete one of the required activities to meet the first-year renewal requirements.

Article summarized with permission from General Aviation News

In Memory of Galen Hanselman



Photo Credit: RAF

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Galen Hanselman of Hailey, Idaho. Galen was known for authoring the popular flying guidebooks: *Fly Idaho*, *Fly the Big Sky*, *Fly Baja* and *Fly Utah*. He was a longtime member of the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) and created the Relative Hazard Index, later adopted by the RAF in the Airfield Guide. Galen was instrumental in bringing the Montana Aeronautical Chart into the digital age by designing and producing the digital chart beginning in 2014. Memorial details will be announced by the RAF at a later date.

"His books are his legacy." – Bill McGlynn, RAF President

Honorary Plaque Installed at Ryan Field

Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) Director Emeritus Chuck Jarecki of Montana had a plaque made to honor the late Ben Ryan. The plaque was recently installed on Ryan Field property. Thank you, Chuck!



Chuck Jarecki Photo Credit RAF

Special Delivery



Local pilot Brandon Morris, right, delivers samples of COVID-19 tests from Central Montana to Helena Monday morning, where he placed them in the hands of Emergency Room Dr. Bill Gallea, left. Photo courtesy of Pete Smith

Reprinted by permission of the Lewistown News-Argus

On Sunday afternoon, Brandon Morris got a text asking if he'd be interested in doing the honors of flying COVID-19 test samples from the Central Montana Medical Center to the state lab in Helena.

"They needed the samples by 11 a.m. Monday," he said. "I had that day off, so I was able to do it." Morris, who works as a registered nurse at CMMC, has been flying for the past five years, and he loves every minute of it. Any time an opportunity arises, he doesn't want to pass it up. The text went out to all local pilots who have volunteered to assist during the crisis, and it was no surprise Morris was the first to respond.

"As a pilot, I'm always looking for an excuse to fly," he said, "and this was a good one."

Morris said he's grateful he had the opportunity to take the samples to Helena. It was an honor, he said, and a duty he took seriously. He arrived with plenty of time to spare.

"I left Lewistown at approximately 8:05 a.m. and got to Helena by 9:45 a.m.," he said. "That's one of the things I love about travel. I cut the trip to Helena in half."

There is much Morris loves about flying. "I guess you could say it's my golf of sorts," he said. "It's my weekend hobby, and a wonderful one. I love the freedom involved with it." Morris said he'd always had a desire to fly. It's always been a dream. At some point it was more on the backburner, but the ambition was reignited by a conversation he had with a friend. "We both wanted to be pilots," Morris said, "and we both made it happen. It just worked out."

Now he's using this ability to help the state get the information needed to keep Montanans safe, a role that exists thanks to ER doctor William Gallea, MD, of St. Peter's Hospital in Helena.

As for transporting the samples for COVID-19 testing, Morris said he was as careful as possible and followed his orders diligently.

"I was told I needed to call the lab at CMMC. I talked with them, they asked me if I would be there to pick up the tests, and I said I would," he said. "I do not know where the samples came from. The lab packaged them. There was nothing special required from me for packaging. There was no special handling required, either. I loaded them into the plane and handed them to Dr. Gallea when I arrived in Helena, and then I flew home."

"Dr. Gallea's the one who pioneered this idea for local pilots to help out," said Morris. "A pilot himself, he brought this forward, and other pilots like myself, Pete Smith and others got involved."

When a request comes in, Morris said he will respond if he has the chance, but as a nurse during a global pandemic, he knows he won't always be available. That being the case, he said he feels fortunate to know there are many other local pilots from the MPA Central Hangar eager for the opportunity. "Aviation is an unbelievably supportive community," Morris said. "The group is always willing to help each other out."

Have Questions About Flying During the Covid-19 Pandemic?

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) posted a webinar featuring the AOPA's Government Affairs team discussing "practical considerations" for pilots flying during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The team discusses special FAA regulations concerning class medicals, knowledge tests for pilot certificates and ratings, CFI certificate validity and renewals, flight reviews, recent instrument proficiency and small unmanned aircraft systems.

The 25-minute video is available at www.aopa.org.

ACE Camp June 15-17

Are you interested in getting Montana high school students involved in aviation? The Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy is a resident camp offered each summer for high school students to learn about careers in aviation and explore flight. This fantastic camp is put on by the Montana Aeronautics Division.

You can impact a student's future with your life-changing donation of \$120 to the scholarship fund and send a student to ACE!

To learn more about ACE camp and to register online, please visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml>.

Contact Aeronautics if you would like to donate.

Call (406) 444-2506 or email mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov

Meadow Creek Gets Much Needed Spring Cleaning

The outhouse at Meadow Creek once again fell victim to winter packrats. Thank you, Clay Colby of Ferndale, for your pilot report. Scott and Mary Newpower of Seeley Lake flew into Meadow Creek on May 9th to clean up the outhouse as well as fill in the holes through which the rats entered. The Newpowers did an excellent job. Thank you, Scott and Mary!

Additionally, many dead trees fell around the outhouse area over the winter, so be careful as you make your way out to the point. If you can make the June 20th work party and help clean up the downed trees, bring a chainsaw. Hope to see you there!



(L-R) Before and after pictures of outhouse and fallen trees at Meadow Creek Photo Credit: Scott Newpower

Bozeman Flight School Participates in Aircraft Fire Rescue Drill

Summit Aviation had the opportunity to both educate and learn from the Bozeman Yellowstone Airport Aircraft Rescue (ARFF) and Fire Fighting team in May. ARFF personnel came to Summit Aviation's ramp where a DA20, DA40, DA42 and Phenom 300 had been staged to learn how pilots would egress and secure aircraft in case of emergency. Pilots learned what steps and tools ARFF would use to remove pilots from the aircraft in case of incapacitation.

Business and training aircraft present significantly different sizes, systems, egress, and hazards that ARFF personnel rarely get the chance to see up close. It was a great chance to ask questions and conduct a "show and tell" from both sides. The training was part of both Bozeman Yellowstone Airport's ARFF and Summit Aviation's safety training programs.



Participants examine the Diamond DA42



Participants examine the Diamond DA40



Participants examine the Embraer Phenom 300

Photo Credits: Summit Aviation

Oshkosh 2020 Cancelled

The 68th annual Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) fly-in convention scheduled for July 20-26, 2020, has been cancelled.

EAA CEO and Chairman of the Board Jack Pelton said “the current status in Wisconsin is that it is still under a stay at home order until May 26, which completely eliminates our ability to start grounds preparation May 1. The reopening of the state also has no specific dates, creating uncertainty about mass gatherings in July. Ultimately, preserving the health and safety of all who would attend — and all the varying guidelines between states and countries from where our participants arrive — along with the massive commitments needed now for an event to meet EAA’s high standards, made cancellation the only option for this year.”

If you purchased AirVenture 2020 admissions and camping reservations, they can be rolled over to the 2021 event or you can be refunded.

Article summarized with permission from General Aviation News.



Photo courtesy of the EAA

New Tech Allows for Updated Flight Service Briefings

Flight Service specialists can now look at a pilot’s original standard briefing and provide an update and changes from the time an original standard weather briefing was obtained using 1800wxbrief.com. Updates are received from a briefer on the phone or a commercial provider. Now you can get an updated briefing without having to repeat much of your pilot information by providing your primary phone number and other related pilot information during your

standard brief.

Create an account on 1800wxbrief.com and register with your mobile number. If the system has your number associated with multiple profiles, you can create a unique number for your pilot profile to access your briefing updates.

As more pilots use electronic or mobile briefing applications with less human interaction, Flight Service has continued to change the way briefings are available to pilots. This is their latest update in making the most current information easily available to pilots.



You Are Invited to Fly Into Canyon Ferry on June 17th



*ACE camp students and pilots at Canyon Ferry Fly-In 2019
Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff*

Please fly your aircraft into Canyon Ferry on June 17th at 9:00 a.m. to support the annual Aviation Career Exploration Academy. Each year on the final day of the camp we host a general aviation fly-in. This is a great opportunity to show off your aircraft and talk to aspiring and interested high school students. Students love to hear how you got started in aviation and about your careers in the field. We want you to spend some time with us and talk about your airplanes. We hope for a diverse turnout!

The parking area along the strip should be nicely mowed prior to our fly-in, and the 3,200 ft treated dirt runway is in good condition.

Please call us to RSVP by June 10th if you plan on flying in: (406) 444-2506.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-5416 or Montana Relay Service at 711.

Montana Fly-Ins Are on The Fence This Summer

At the time of writing, Montana is in phase one of Governor Bullock's reopening plan. We are to avoid gatherings in groups of more than 10 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing, and non-essential travel Montana guidelines are in effect. Phase one has no established time limit.

Phase two limits groups to 50 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing. Like phase one, phase two also has the same non-essential travel guidelines. Fly-ins may occur in phase two if the event includes less than 50 people, attendees from out of state quarantine at least 14 days prior to the event, and social distancing is practiced. For events larger than 50 people, the state will need to be in phase three. For more information, visit: <https://covid19.mt.gov/Portals/223/Documents/Reopening%20Montana%20Phased%20Approach.pdf?ver=2020-04-22-115707-770> to view the reopening plan.

Calendar of Events

*Art Contest Award Ceremony postponed due to COVID-19.
Winners will be contacted when we are able to safely host the ceremony.*

June 01- 05, 2020 — AFRCC Advanced Inland Search Planning Course. Helena POSTPONED TO 2021

June 06, 2020 — EAA's Helena Chapter 344 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 2020 flying season from 11:00 a.m. to 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 Ron Rasmuson (406) 461-1093. **CANCELED**

June 09, 2020 — Aeronautics Board Teleconference Meeting. For more information contact (406) 444-2506

June 12, 2020 — Super Cub Fly-In Winifred. For information contact Ralph Rogers (406) 350-5487

June 13, 2020 — Lewistown Fly-In. For information contact Pete Smith at (406) 366-1435. **POSTPONED**

June 15-17, 2020 — Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Camp. Program geared toward high school students interested in aviation. For more information see Page Four and Six, call (406) 444-2506 or email mlindberg@mt.gov.

June 20, 2020 — Meadow Creek Work Party. Annual work party at the Meadow Creek airstrip. Lunch will be provided by Ry Keller and the Kalispell EAA chapter. For more information contact Matt Lindberg at (406) 444-9568.

June 20, 2020 — Big Sandy Fly-In. North Central Hangar fly-in breakfast. For more information contact William Hurd at (406) 395-453 or email pronghorn@mcn.net. **CANCELED**

July 18, 2020 — Schafer Meadows Work Party. Annual Schafer Meadows work party. For more information contact Matt Lindberg at (406) 444-9568.

July 19, 2020 — St. Ignatius Fly-In. For more information contact Mike at (406) 544-2274. **POSTPONED**

July 31- August 01, 2020 — Three Forks Fly-In. 43rd Annual fly-in hosted by the Montana Antique Aircraft Association. Friday and Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner are available. Saturday flour bombing/spot landing and ping pong ball drop. Free and open to the public. Showers and camping on site. For more information contact Pat Green (406) 539-1880.

August 9, 2020 — Hysham Lions Club /Chamber Drive-In, Fly-In Breakfast. Breakfast served 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. weather and virus permitting. For more information contact Bob Miller at (406) 342-5252.

August 22, 2020 — Bowman Fly-In and Car Show. Starting at 10:00 a.m. there will be food and drinks available, kids games, airplane rides, and awards for best of show and longest distance flown. Other special surprises to be announced. For more information contact Greg at (406) 593-1702.

September 12, 2020 — Columbus Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast served 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information contact Hardin Graham (406) 780-0034.

All events are subject to modification or cancellation due to the latest COVID-19 guidance



VISION ZERO

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

June 2020

5403

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Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

In 2019, there were 184 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 184 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 2019 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.

VISION ZERO ★
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

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