

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 72, No. 10

October 2021

## 2022 Aviation Scholarship Application Period Opens with Fewer Opportunities than Previous Years

Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations who believe in promoting aviation by offering monetary assistance in the form of scholarships to qualified persons. The Aeronautics Division assists in administering some of these scholarships and encourages participation. The scholarships are offered to help defray costs of education (e.g., flight instruction, A&P mechanic school, etc.). Winners will be announced during January 2022 and awards will later be presented at the Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula.



Unfortunately, several scholarships will not be sponsored again this year. Sponsors cite lack of ability to fundraise, some specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to see them back in the next application period. Several sponsors did, however, increase the amount of their existing scholarships. Montanans have been very giving for many years with these historic scholarships, and we can see the impacts they have on the next generation of pilots and mechanics. If you or your business is interested in starting or sponsoring a scholarship, please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506 or [mdtaerosafety@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafety@mt.gov).

Here is a list of the scholarships available this year, funded by generous contributors who make this program possible.

### **AOM Flight Training Scholarship**

Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) has established this \$500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate.

### **Briar Creek Scholarship**

This \$2,000 scholarship is open to an active student or pilot who has considerable interest in aviation and is seeking advanced flight training or pursuing a profession in aviation. Applicant must be a Montana resident.

### **Choice Aviation Scholarship**

A \$1,500 scholarship is available to the holder of at least a Private Pilot Certificate and a Second Class Medical, and who is looking to further advance themselves toward a career in aviation with additional pilot training at any of Choice Aviation's training facilities located in Montana or Wyoming.

### **EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship**

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 517, Inc. in Missoula will provide a \$1,000 scholarship in 2022 for a post-solo student.

### **Edwards Jet Center Scholarship**

Edwards Jet Center, a full-service Fixed Based Operator, Part 135 Charter Operator, and Part 145 Repair Station based at Logan International Airport in Billings, is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction or A&P school.

### **Mike and Julie Meloche Flight Training Scholarship**

This \$1,000 scholarship is open to an active student or pilot who has considerable interest in aviation and is seeking advanced flight training or pursuing a profession in aviation. Applicant must be a Montana resident.

*Continued on page 2*

Continued from Page 1

### **Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship**

The Montana Antique Aircraft Association is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, use, and knowledge of antique airplanes. MAAA's motto is: "Keep the Antiques Flying." Their \$1,000 scholarship is to help defray the cost of flight instruction or help defray the cost of A&P mechanic school.

### **Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship**

The Montana Ninety-Nines offer this scholarship to qualified female candidates interested in and passionate about aviation. The dollar amount of this scholarship is dependent on candidate goals, not to exceed \$5,000, and must be used within 12 months of date awarded. Candidates must be residents of Montana to be considered for this scholarship. A supplemental scholarship application is required and may be obtained by visiting <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml>.

### **Montana Pilots Association Air Safety and Education Foundation (MPA ASEF) Flight Training Scholarship**

This \$3,000 scholarship is open to an active pilot who has considerable interest in aviation and is seeking advanced flight training or pursuing a profession in aviation. Applicant must be a Montana resident.

### **Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship**

The recipient of this \$3,000 scholarship is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship in their community, and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must be a Montana resident and previously soloed. Preference is given to younger applicants who are new pilots or pursuing a profession in aviation.

### **Parrott Family Scholarship**

The Parrott Family offers a \$1,000 scholarship to be used over a one-year period for pilot training programs for students enrolled in the Rocky Mountain College (RMC) aviation program. The funds may be used for tuition in the RMC aviation program and/or flight training expenses leading to a Private, Commercial, or Flight Instructor certificate and may include Instrument and Multiengine simulator training and the purchase of aviation-related materials and supplies.

### **Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship**

The Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship is sponsored by the Nistler family. This scholarship is in honor of Theresa's memory, who loved flying and was working toward her private pilot certificate. This \$2,000 Aviation Scholarship will be awarded to a student pilot actively working toward a private pilot certificate.

## **How to Apply:**

Scholarship awards are based on candidate letters explaining reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience (if any), and outstanding achievements.

Each letter must include a **mailing address, email address, and phone number**. The same letter can be used for each scholarship, but candidates must submit one copy addressed to each individual scholarship.

Also include a **250-word biography and one self-portrait**.

**Scholarship applications must be postmarked or date stamped on or before 11:59 p.m. MST, December 1, 2021.**

Mail scholarship applications to:  
MDT - Aeronautics Division  
PO Box 200507  
Helena, MT 59620-0507

OR send scholarship applications via email to [MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov](mailto:MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov).

Please call (406) 444-2506 with questions, or for more information.



Tim Conway, Administrator

**Montana and the Sky**  
Department of Transportation

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Official monthly publication of the  
Aeronautics Division  
Telephone - (406) 444-2506  
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## Bozeman Pass Gets Webcam



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

Bozeman Pass was recently the third location in Montana to receive a webcam as part of Montana's emerging weather camera program. A survey with the Montana Pilots Association had previously identified this location as the most popular location pilots wanted to see live weather conditions. The camera system at Bozeman Pass is now live on the FAA weather camera website and has camera views in four directions. The Bozeman Pass webcam joins cameras already installed at the Lincoln and Seeley Lake Airports. More locations are coming soon and will include the Missoula, Yellowstone, and Lewistown airports. You can view the images from Bozeman Pass here: <https://weathercams.faa.gov/map/-112.12236,44.80841,-106.84892,46.51282/cameraSite/549/details/camera/11999>.

Aeronautics is also working with the FAA to get cameras installed at Lookout Pass and Monida Pass this fall. These cameras will be connected to satellite-based internet connection for testing and possible expansion in remote areas later in 2022.

## Schafer Meadows Gets Horse-Drawn Mower, At Last!

A nice weekend in early September allowed for a last-minute work session and the final flights of mower parts to Schafer Meadows airstrip, attended by Aeronautics, the Montana Pilots Association, the Recreational Aviation Foundation, and other volunteers.

Pete Smith, past Montana Pilots Association president, donated a horse-drawn McCormick-Deering mower for the airstrip. Pete restored the mower, and it is now ready for the challenge of keeping the runway and parking areas at Schafer Meadows trimmed. The mower was supposed to be flown into Schafer prior to the July 17 work session, but it was canceled due to a nearby forest fire that created thick smoke in the area. Pete, Montana Aeronautics, and another volunteer flew the mower to Schafer disassembled and loaded in three separate aircraft.

During the work session, the mower was reassembled and is now ready for use! General airstrip and campground upkeep was performed, and a new gate was built on the west end to accompany the fence that was repaired during the 2020 work session.

Thanks again to Pete for the mower, to those who helped in moving it, and to everyone who helped with the work session! Schafer is in good shape for us to enjoy next season.



Photos courtesy of Scott Newpower



# Christmas in August at Yellowstone Airport



Photo courtesy of Yellowstone Airport staff

After a hiatus in 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns, the Yellowstone Airport is excited to continue a tradition that has been celebrated for over 20 years. On August 25, 2021, the celebration with the airport team returned to WYS. A potluck of various delicious foods and treats was shared amongst friends and families, with generous donations by the local airport users. Great conversations and the expressions of appreciation for another great season were exchanged.

This event stems from the original "Christmas in August" event inside Yellowstone National Park. On August 24, 1925, at Fishing Bridge in Yellowstone, snow began to cover the landscape, potentially affecting transportation. The visitors and park staff decided to have an impromptu Christmas Celebration the next day, August 25. They enjoyed food and exchanged a few small gifts, and "Christmas in August" was born!

The celebration for the airport is very fitting, as the airport is closed during the winter months and unable to observe the holiday season. In addition to the airport team and local community members joining in the annual tradition, the airport was pleased to have MDT Director Malcom Long and Deputy Director Julie Brown make the trip to WYS for this event.

## CAP's Aerospace Education Membership Program

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is well known for its cadet program, which is an aerospace, education-oriented after-school equivalent of high school Air Force Junior ROTC officially recognized by the USAF. However, most people do not know about CAP's Aerospace Education Membership (AEM) Program, which has about 4,300 professional educators, informal educators, and homeschoolers enrolled nationwide. The AEM Program is part of CAP's external aerospace education program, which is directed at the general public.

CAP has been promoting aerospace education in public and private K-12 schools nationwide since 1953 and created the AEM Program in 1969. CAP's AEM Program is a special category of CAP membership originally created exclusively for professional educators, but later allowed informal educators (e.g., museum docents, youth program leaders, etc.) and homeschoolers to join and take full advantage of the benefits of CAP's AEM Program. Those AEM Program benefits currently include CAP's ACE Program for grades K-6; AEX I Program and AEX II Program for grades 6-12, free Aerospace Education STEM Kit Program, CAP's very new Adopt-A-Classroom Program for grades 6-8, aerospace education teacher workshops (many of which qualify for continuing education credit), and the Teacher Orientation Program Flights called "TOP Flights."

Any classroom, after-school youth program, or homeschool in Montana can be enrolled in CAP's ACE Program or AEX Programs, provided the teacher or youth program leader is a member of CAP's AEM Program. ACE and AEX Program(s) curriculum cover the subjects of aviation, astronautics, astronomy, and cyber technology. There is a one-time registration fee of \$35 to join CAP's AEM Program and annual renewals are free. To find out more about CAP's AEM Program, visit <https://www.qocivilairpatrol.com/ae> or e-mail Debbie Dahl or Susan Mallett at [ae@capnhq.gov](mailto:ae@capnhq.gov) for more program information.

Excerpt from Major Steven Heffel

## WYS FBO Choice Aviation Holds Air Fair

Choice Aviation, the fixed based operator (FBO) at the Yellowstone Airport, hosted a free breakfast and Air Fair for West Yellowstone and the surrounding aviation community on July 31. Several people flew in unique and vintage airplanes. Choice Aviation offered 45-minute rides in their aircraft for a small fee and free flights to kids under 18.

The event showcased Choice Aviation's new 12,000 sq. ft. hangar built at the airport in 2020 by setting up tables, chairs, a bounce house for the kids, and distributing free t-shirts for all who came to commemorate the event. The new large hangar allows Choice to fit multiple smaller aircraft in at a single time in addition to allowing for large aircraft as well, such as the Bombardier Global Express 6000, one of the largest business jets on the market. The hangar often houses helicopters, too.

Choice is a full-service FBO offering services in fueling, emergency call-out fueling services, self-serve fueling, catering coordination, baggage and ground handling, rental car drop off/pick up, and now hangar storage. Choice has been operating out of the Yellowstone Airport since 2018.

This event was a hit with the community and an excellent opportunity to get folks out to the airport and exposed to aviation!

Photos courtesy of Yellowstone Airport staff



# Aeronautics Board Loan & Grant Application Reminder

As a reminder to Montana Aeronautics airport Loan and Grant Program applicants, the Loan and Grant online portal (<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml>) is accepting FY23 applications from July 1, 2021, through November 15, 2021.

If you cannot enter the website, you may have a previous award that needs a closeout form or a status report filed (required at project completion, or annually).

Additionally, projects must be broken down and listed as one project per line item on the application. As an example, asphalt projects should be broken down by runway, apron, and taxiway and not as one project combined together.

## Non-Federally Funded Airport Alert!

Recently, many federally-funded airports have been able to fund 100% of their upcoming infrastructure projects through the CARES Act passed by Congress due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, Montana Aeronautics anticipates a decrease in federally-funded airports applying during this Loan & Grant cycle, which could leave more funding available for the Aeronautics Board to award to non federally-funded airports. Airports are encouraged to apply at the link above.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Karen Speeg at (406) 444-9569 or [kaspeeg@mt.gov](mailto:kaspeeg@mt.gov).

## Montana Airport Updates

**Babb** - The Babb airstrip is located on and owned by the Blackfeet Reservation. The Aeronautics Division maintained and managed the airstrip for many years. Aeronautics recently relinquished accountability of the airstrip to the Blackfeet Nation who decided to no longer operate the land as an airstrip. The Blackfeet Nation is discussing possible uses for the land going forward; a campground was discussed. The airstrip is currently closed; always check NOTAMs!

**Whitefish** - In September, the local flying community, in partnership with Aeronautics, completed a standing water mitigation project about 1/3 of the way down runway 29. In previous seasons, water tended to not drain properly on a 50-foot section of the runway, causing a potential hazard. Thanks to generous donations of equipment by Bill McKinney, labor from locals, and financial contributions from Aeronautics, the runway is now in better shape for the flying public.

## Call for Speakers and Vendors for Aviation Conference

*Have an interesting story to tell, or know someone who does? Have an aviation business you would like to exhibit?*

We are opening the call for speakers and vendors for the 37th Annual Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula. Montana Aeronautics welcomes Montana's aviation community to offer suggestions of speakers, vendors, and topics for the upcoming conference. To submit your suggestions, or to sign up, please email [mamble@mt.gov](mailto:mamble@mt.gov), or call with your ideas at (406) 444-2506.

The Aviation Organizations of Montana is pleased to announce the Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Missoula, March 3-5, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Downtown.

The annual Montana Aviation Conference brings together all of Montana's aviation organizations and the flying public for three days of speakers, seminars, workshops, business meetings, and social events. It is an opportunity for those from all facets of the aviation community to learn from each other and to discuss issues of mutual concern. The Montana Aviation Conference has around 500 participants each year.

Online registration for attendees will be available at a later date; stay tuned!

For your convenience, rooms have been blocked at conference rates at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown. Reservations must be made prior to January 31, 2022, to be eligible for the conference rate, and rooms are limited, so make your reservation today! Call the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown directly at (406) 721-8550 and reference the Montana Aviation Conference to receive the conference rate.



Yak 110 presentation at the Montana Aviation Conference at Fairmont Hot Springs  
Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



# WYS Survey

Do you fly in or out of the Yellowstone Airport? If so, we would love your feedback! Please either scan the QR code found in the flyer below, or follow the link below, to be taken to a short survey regarding winter operations at WYS. <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/wys-user-survey.shtml>.

The Montana Department of Transportation will be utilizing feedback generated by this survey in evaluating the potential benefits, requirements, and costs of extending Yellowstone Airport's operating season to include the winter months.

## Yellowstone Airport Winter Operations Survey



The Yellowstone Airport (WYS) has historically operated May thru mid-October due to harsh winter weather conditions and associated lower aviation traffic demand during the November thru April period.

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is soliciting user feedback on interest in extending the existing operating season and the potential to open to year-round operations. If you desire to provide feedback for consideration, please complete the associated survey by scanning the QR code below for General Aviation personnel.



Thank you for your response!



# Aviation Quiz

(Answer Key found on Page 7)



- 1) Esther Combes, first female commercial-rated pilot in Montana, received her certificate in what year?**  
A: 1918                      B: 1941  
C: 1963                      D: 1928
- 2) Some personal locator beacons interfere with WAAS GPSs in aircraft and should be shut off during flight.**  
A: True                      B: False  
C: Sometimes
- 3) In a normally aspirated airplane, a 10% weight increase equals approximately \_\_\_% takeoff and landing distance increase.**  
A: 64%                      B: 57%  
C: 20%                      D: 4%
- 4) At a 1-degree angle of descent, for every 1 mile you fly, you will descend approximately \_\_\_ feet.**  
A: 1,000                      B: 100  
C: 500                      D: 750

## Helpful Hint

3 degrees is a comfortable descent rate in just about any aircraft. But when you're approaching an airport, how do you know when to start down?

Divide the altitude you need to lose by 300.

For example, if you're at 11,000', and you need to get down to a pattern altitude of 2,000', you need to descend 9,000'.

$9,000/300 = 30$  miles.

If you start a 3-degree descent 30 miles out, you'll hit pattern altitude as you reach the airport. Keep in mind, you'll want to add a few miles on to your number, so you hit pattern altitude slightly before you get to the airport.

Helpful hint by Colin Cutler, CFI

## New Aeronautics Staff Member

In August, Matt Amble joined Aeronautics as the new Aviation Program and Project Manager and Montana Aviation Conference Planner. He will also assist with aircraft registration compliance. Matt moved to Helena, MT, in the Spring of 2019 from Washington state. Prior to starting his new role as Aviation Program Manager at MDT Aeronautics, Matt spent over eight years at Boeing, serving on the 787, 737, and P-8A programs in Change and Project Management. He also serves as a Major in the Army National Guard as an Officer and CH-47F Pilot. Matt has experience in both wartime and peacetime military aviation operations in a military career spanning over 15 years. Matt holds a B.A. in Business Management from Whitworth University and an M.S. in Project Management from Boston University.

In Matt's spare time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Rachel, and dog Edward. He also enjoys golfing, snowboarding, and travel.



Photo courtesy of Matt Amble

# Winter Survival Clinic

We are planning to conduct the Winter Survival Clinic again in January 2022, based on popular demand! The location, dates, and tuition have not yet been determined, so stay tuned for the next announcement. Wherever it will be held in western Montana, there is sure to be plenty of snow!

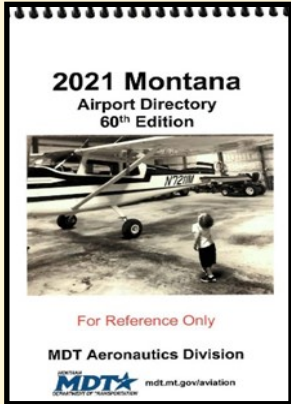
Previous years' attendees are welcome to attend again to sharpen their survival skills.

Please contact the Aeronautics Division by calling (406) 444-2506 or email [mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov) to let us know if you would like to reserve a spot in this clinic. Last time, we filled up in less than a week!

Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



## Aviation Photo Contest



2021 Airport Directory Cover

Would you like to see your photograph on the cover of the 2022 Montana Airport Directory? Submit your photos to the Aeronautics Division by December 1, 2021, to be considered. The winning photo will be selected based on the best representation of aviation in Montana. Submit your photos to: [mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov).

For more information, email Aeronautics at the above address, or call us at (406) 444-2506.

\*MDT Aeronautics retains all rights to submitted photos and may use them for other promotional purposes.



## Calendar of Events



**October 1, 2021 — 2022 Montana Aviation Scholarship application period opens.** More information can be found at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml> or contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

**October 1-2, 2021 — STEM Teacher Workshop.** Be sure to tell all the teachers you know in Montana! Middle and high school math and science teachers will gather at the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake for a teachers' aeronautics STEM workshop sponsored by the MDT Aeronautics Division. For more information, contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-9568.

**November 15, 2021 — Airport Loan and Grant application period deadline.** More information can be found at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml> or contact Karen Speeg at (406) 444-9569 or [kaspeeg@mt.gov](mailto:kaspeeg@mt.gov).

**December 1, 2021 — Aeronautics Airport Directory aviation photo contest deadline.** See above for details.

**December 1, 2021 — Montana Aviation Scholarship application deadline.** See Pages 1 and 2 for more details.

**January 24-25, 2022— Association of Montana Aerial Applicators (AMAA) 2021 Convention and Trade Show.** Attend the AMAA trade show at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, Montana. Have fun while learning, networking with peers and exhibitors, and see the latest technology, specialty items, and be eligible to win door prizes. For more information, contact Colleen at (406) 781-6461 or [eccampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:eccampbell@yahoo.com).

**January 11–13, 2022— Aeronautics Board Loan and Grant application meeting.** For further information, contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

**March 3-5, 2022— Montana Aviation Conference, Missoula.** See Page 5 for more information.

**Aviation Quiz Answer Key: 1:D 2:A 3:C 4:B**

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.



**VISION ZERO**

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

**October 2021**

5403

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



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

In 2020, there were 209 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 209 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 Malcolm Long, 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  
OF TRANSPORTATION**

This document printed at state expense. Information on the cost of publication may be obtained by contacting the Department of Administration.