

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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September 2023

Photo courtesy of Keely Zimmermann



Field Trip to the Yellowstone International Airshow

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division organized a field trip to the Yellowstone International Airshow for a group of high school students.

The purpose of the trip was to provide an educational and interactive experience for the students, exposing them to various aspects of aviation and inspiring their interest in the field.

The students had the opportunity to witness thrilling aerobatic displays and performances by skilled pilots, including the Blue Angels! They were able to observe different types of aircraft in action, including fighter jets, vintage planes, and high-performance aerobatic piston aircraft. The students also explored static displays of various aircraft on the ground. They were able to get up close and personal with different types of planes and helicopters, learning about their features and functions. MDT Aeronautics Division's Safety and Education Bureau Chief, Matt Lindberg, was present to provide explanations and answer any questions the students had. As part of the field trip, the students had the opportunity to interact with pilots and aviation professionals. They were able to ask questions, learn about career opportunities in aviation, and gain insights into the life of a pilot.



Photos courtesy of Aeronautics Staff

For some, this field trip may be a stepping stone toward potential future careers and further exploration in the exciting world of aviation. In addition to the student field trip, MDT Aeronautics Division staff exhibited at the airshow through the weekend. The exhibit showcased MDT Aeronautics Division programs, services, and opportunities to the public and promoted awareness of aviation services offered by the state of Montana.



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Photos courtesy of Aeronautics Staff

Helena Aviation Day Coming Up

Helena Aviation Day is taking place on September 9, 2023, offering visitors the chance to tour the Boeing facility, learn about aviation careers, enjoy a food truck lunch, and an exclusive giveaway. The Montana Army National Guard will also be hosting a family day with helicopter displays, tours, and carnival games. MDT Aeronautics Division and civilian aircraft will also be on display. Aircraft owners and vendors are welcome to join and showcase their aircraft and businesses for free.

To RSVP, contact Major Drew Roland at matthew.d.rowland6.mil@army.mil.



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

Aviation Teacher Workshop October 2023

The MDT Aeronautics Division is hosting an annual Aviation Teacher Workshop on October 13th and 14th at Canyon Ferry Lake.

This immersive program, in collaboration with the Montana Learning Center (MLC), offers twenty renewal credits through the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). Led by experienced instructors, the workshop will cover a range of aeronautics subjects and provide hands-on experiments for the classroom. Participants will also have the opportunity to fly, visit aviation facilities, and engage in interactive classroom activities.

Interested teachers should apply early, as spots are limited. There is a registration fee of \$75, which will be refunded upon successful completion of the program.

For more information, contact the MDT Aeronautics Division at 406-444-2506 or mdtad@mt.gov.

To register for the Aviation Teacher Workshop, please scan the QR code:



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

Stevensville Airport Foundation Formed

The Stevensville Airport Foundation (SAF) is a newly formed organization that represents the interests of pilots and hangar owners at the Stevensville Airport.

They aim to promote aviation in the Bitterroot region and have obtained non-profit status. SAF is working on projects such as bringing general aviation to a wider audience, supporting youth aviation education, improving the airport's facilities, and procuring a new airport courtesy car. They also have plans for an airport open house in 2024.



Photo courtesy of Michael Schwartz

The SAF Board of Directors includes Michael Schwartz, Jerry Hover, Richard Tardiff, and Marc Roy.

2024 Aviation Scholarships Available

In 2024, there will be scholarships available for individuals in Montana who are interested in aviation. These scholarships are made possible by generous individuals and organizations who believe in supporting aviation education. The scholarships aim to help with the costs of education, such as flight instruction or attending aviation mechanic school.

If you are interested in sponsoring a scholarship for 2024, please get in touch with MDT Aeronautics Division before September 13, 2023, at mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

Available scholarships and application instructions may be found at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.aspx>.

Attention Airport Sponsors

As a friendly reminder, airport sponsors who were previously awarded a loan or grant from the MDT Aeronautics Division are required to complete a status update or project closeout form. To be eligible to apply for additional funding this year, the closeout form must be completed first. The loan and grant application period opened on July 1 and will close on November 15.

For assistance or questions, please contact Stephen Torske at 406-444-9581 or storske@mt.gov.

**FY 2025
loan and
grant
applications
accepted
through
Nov. 15, 2023.**

Aviation Photo Contest

Would you like to see your photograph on the cover of the 2024 Montana Airport Directory? Submit your photos to the MDT Aeronautics Division by October 1, 2023, to be considered. The winning photo will be selected based on the best representation of aviation in Montana.

Contests like this are an excellent way to share your memorable aviation moments. Photographers are encouraged to capture stunning and inspirational images to share with the aviation community.

We are unable to accept photos submitted on behalf of someone else, submissions must be your original photo.

Please submit your high-resolution photos with a brief description and your name to: storske@mt.gov.

For more information, email Stephen Torske at the above address, or call us at 406-444-2506.

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MDT Aeronautics Division



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

2024 Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic

There will be a Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC) happening in Helena on February 3rd and 4th, 2024. The MDT Aeronautics Division is organizing Aviation Seminars to provide the two-day course approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). It will take place from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. This course fulfills the renewal requirements for certified flight instructors and includes FAA renewal.

Even if you are not a certified flight instructor, you can still attend and learn valuable information as a pilot. The cost of tuition is \$75, but if you are a registered pilot in Montana, you can get a \$25 discount. If you are not currently registered with the MDT Aeronautics Division, you can register for \$10 per year and save on the FIRC tuition.

Additional information about pilot registration at: <https://www.mdt.gov/aviation/regpilot.aspx> [mdt.gov]

To sign up visit: <https://aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/> or scan the QR code.



Aviation Conference to be Held in Butte

The Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) is pleased to announce the Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Butte February 29 to March 2, 2024, at the Copper King Hotel. The conference brings Montana's aviation organizations and the flying public together for three days of speakers, seminars, workshops, awards ceremonies, business meetings, comradery, and social events. It is an opportunity for those from many areas of the aviation community to connect, learn, and exchange ideas and information. Around 500 participants are expected this year.

Stay tuned for more details to come!

For more information, contact Justin Zindell at 406-444-9569 or email jzindell@mt.gov.



Photo courtesy of Copper King Hotel

Calendar of Events

September 3 — Red Lodge Wings-n-Wheels Fly-in / Drive-In. Red Lodge, MT. Red Lodge Wings-n-Wheels Fly-in / Drive-In. Pancake breakfast. Contact Barbara Krizek for information 406honeybee@gmail.com.

September 9 — Helena Aviation Day. Helena, MT. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aircraft static displays, Boeing facility tours, armory and aviation facility open house, events and games for kids. 5K Fun Run starts at 5 p.m. For more information, contact matthew.d.rowland6.mil@army.mil.

September 9 — North Central Hangar Air Fair, Fly-In. Havre, MT. 7a.m. to 10 p.m. Havre City County Airport. Breakfast 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. For More information, contact pronghorn@mcn.net.

September 16 — Lincoln Airport Fly-in Breakfast. Lincoln, MT. The Lincoln Airport Foundation will host fly-in breakfasts from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donations will be accepted to support the airport courtesy car. For more information, Contact Doug Vulcan at vulcandg406@gmail.com.

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**Thank you for
reading
*Montana and
the Sky.*
Fly Safe!**

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FAA Weather Camera Locations



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