

Montana and the Sky



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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Ted Mathis to Kick off Aviation Conference as Keynote Speaker

Ted Mathis will be the Montana Aviation Conference keynote speaker during the Thursday kickoff luncheon on February 28. Ted's topic is "Some Interesting Pilots I Have Known".

Ted Mathis was born and raised in White Sulphur Springs, Montana. He learned to fly off the old dirt strip there and soloed at the age of 16. He earned his private pilot certificate at age 17, and then commercial and flight instructor certificates at age 18. Ted started his aviation career as a flight instructor for K&K Aircraft Inc. of Helena. He went on to fly for Hensley Flying Service of Havre, Yellowstone Aviation of West Yellowstone, and the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division.

Ted also holds multi-engine, Instrument, and airframe and powerplant mechanic ratings. He received degrees in secondary and vocational education from Northern Montana College and is an Accredited Airport Executive.

In 1972 Ted was hired as the airport manager at Yellowstone Airport where he worked until 1980 when he became the assistant manager of Helena Airport. Ted was named airport director at Gallatin Field in Bozeman in 1981 and held the position for 28 years before retiring in 2009 .

Ted has served as President of the Montana Airport Management Association and the Northwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). He was also Chairman of the Montana Aeronautics Board where in 1984, he co-founded the Montana Aviation Conference and served as its first chairman. He currently serves as chairman of the Gallatin Airport Authority Board. Ted is currently based in Bozeman, where he owns and flies his own aircraft.

Be sure to register for the conference, this is one you won't want to miss!

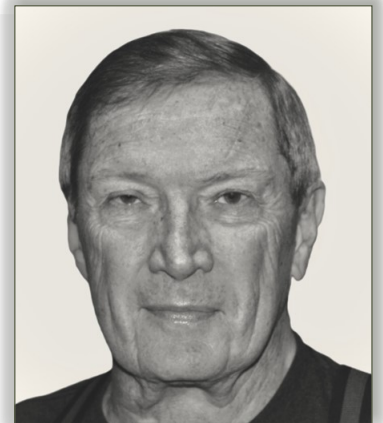


Photo Courtesy Ted Mathis

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Thank you to those who have already opted to receive the e-newsletter!

2024 Winter Survival Clinic Was a Big Hit!

From January 5th to 7th, the MDT Aeronautics Division hosted the 2024 Winter Survival Clinic in the Pintler Mountains near Anaconda. This clinic brought together 24 participants from all over the state who were eager to learn hands-on skills for surviving in remote winter terrain after a forced landing. The instructor, Brett Stoffel from Emergency Response International (ERI) provided engaging classroom presentations and practical demonstrations of essential skills. Participants learned about developing a survival mindset, constructing shelters, mastering fire-craft, administering first aid, and using emergency signaling techniques. The highlight of the clinic was when participants built improvised shelters and spent the night in them, putting their newfound knowledge to the test. Participants discussed the field exercise the next morning, and received constructive criticism from the instructors on the survival skills they had been practicing. The hands-on experience combined with helpful feedback provided valuable lessons to all participants.

Congratulations, survivors!



Photos Courtesy of MDT Aeronautics Staff

Last Chance to pre-register for the

The 39th Montana Aviation Conference in Butte

FEBRUARY 29 TO MARCH 2 AT THE COPPER KING HOTEL.

Online registration closes February 14th. Walk-in registrations will be available at the door on a first come first basis.

Scan the QR Code to Register



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

Photo Courtesy of MDT Aeronautics Staff



Aircraft Mechanic Inspector Refresher Seminar to be Held in Butte

Online registration for the Aircraft Mechanic Inspection Authorization (IA) Renewal Seminar is now available. The seminar will once again be offered in conjunction with the Montana Aviation Conference which will take place in Butte on March 1st and 2nd. Online registration closes February 23, 2024. Early registration is \$110. Walk-ins for the seminar will be accepted at the door at full price of \$130 on a first come first served basis while space is available. The IA seminar registration includes the IA seminar and access to the conference.

Seating is limited, so be sure to register early!

For additional details regarding Montana Aviation Conference cost and registration, see the above article.

A list of speakers is available on the registration website. When registering, please indicate the sessions you plan to attend. Eight hours are required to meet 14 CFR § 65.93 but you are invited to attend as many sessions as you would like.

You do not need to be a mechanic to attend this seminar and learn!

For more information, please contact Derrick Olheiser at 406-444-9592 or email at dolheiser@mt.gov.



To register, scan the QR code :



2024 Montana Aviation Scholarships Awarded

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Montana aviation community including organizations, businesses, families, and individuals, a remarkable total of 17 scholarships were awarded to 32 individuals during the 2024 Montana Aviation Scholarships cycle. This annual program aims to provide support for Montanans pursuing their aviation education and career aspirations. These well-deserved scholarships, amounting to a grand total of \$62,500, have been awarded to deserving students who have shown exceptional dedication and potential in the field of aviation. The scholarship sponsors and committees faced the challenging task of selecting the winners from a significantly increased number of scholarship applications this year, further highlighting the immense interest and need for financial assistance. The community is very fortunate to have returning and new sponsors for stepping up to contribute to this program, resulting in the largest amount of funding ever contributed!

Congratulations to the following:

Arlin C. Wass Aviation Maintenance Scholarship	Aiden Fouhy	\$2,000
Aviation Organizations of Montana Flight Training Scholarship	Mattison Underhill	\$1,000
Bob and Kathy Dewante Flight Training Scholarship	Collin Holmberg	\$3,000
Brett Thoft Memorial Foundation scholarship	Gracie Johnson Reef Hogan	\$2,500 Each
Briar Creek Scholarship	Thomas Blatner	\$4,000
EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship	Norma Brooks	\$1,000
Edwards Jet Center	Gracie Johnson	\$2,000
Mike and Julie Meloche Flight Training Scholarship	Reef Hogan Joshua Warp Lief Simonson Daria Allred Collin Holmberg	\$1,000 Each
Montana Antique Aircraft Association Scholarship	Nicholas Daugherty Aaron Trueblood Norma Brooks	\$1,000 Each
Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship	Daria Allred Elora Amsler Emma Bitz Jetta Briggs Megan Favre	\$2,000 \$1,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$500
Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship	Benjamin Contreraz	\$4,000
MPA Mike Ferguson Flight Training Scholarship (Formerly MPA Air Safety and Education Foundation Flight Training Scholarship)	Patrick Economy	\$4,000
MPA Arlin Wass Memorial Maintenance Technician Scholarship	Samuel Zook	\$2,000
MPA Aviation Maintenance Scholarship	Mason Roush Kenny Taylor	\$2,000 Each
MPA Central Montana Flight Training Scholarship	Daria Allred	\$4,000
Stuart Smishek Memorial Scholarship	Kelli Weed Joshua Warp Gracie Johnson Trevor Green Collin Holmberg	\$2,500 Each
Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship	Gracie Simmons	\$2,000

Calendar of Events

February 2-3, 2024— Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC). Double Tree Hotel, Helena.

February 29 - March 2, 2024 — Montana's 39th Annual Aviation Conference . Copper King Hotel, Butte.

March 2-3, 2024 — Aircraft Mechanic Inspector Refresher Seminar. Copper King Hotel, Butte. *See page 2 for more details.*

March 1, 2024 - Montana Aircraft and Pilot Registration renewal due date.

MDT Aeronautics Division

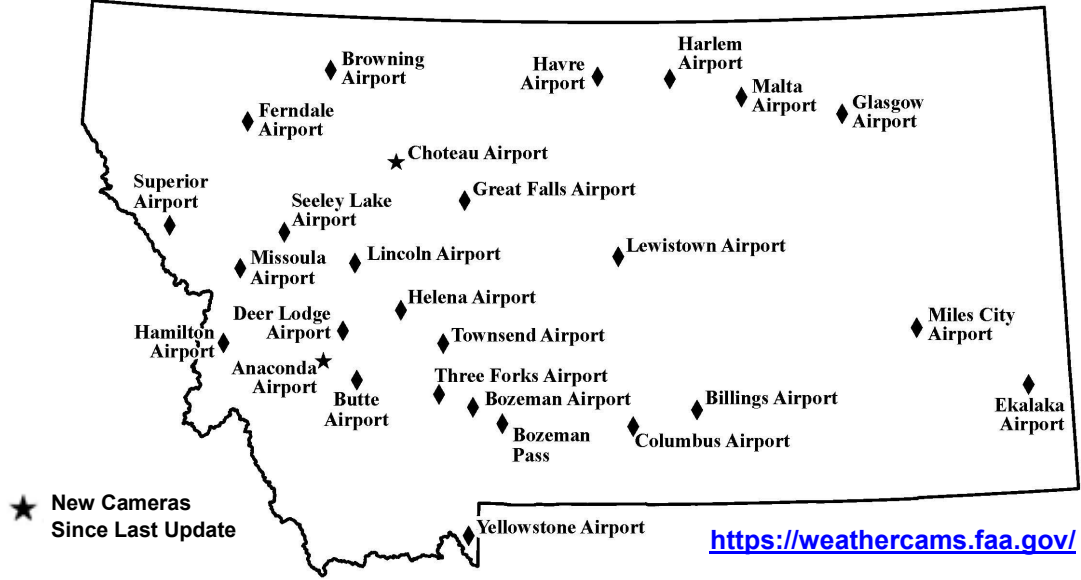
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FAA Weather Camera Locations



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