

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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January 2024

## Dominique Prinnet to Speak at Montana Aviation Conference

In the 1960s, Dominique Prinnet was a commercial bush pilot in the Canadian Arctic, flying on floats in the summer and skis in the winter. Dominique's book, "Flying to Extremes", describes some of his adventures. He holds an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) license.

Dominique has an engineering degree from University of British Columbia and an Masters in Business Administration from McGill University. Dominique worked as vice president for the airline Nordair in Montreal, while also teaching economics at McGill University. Dominique later became vice president of marketing at Canadian Pacific Airlines in Vancouver, British Columbia. He then went to Tanzania to manage the country's national airline, Air Tanzania, for five years.

Dominique is an expert sextant navigator, airplane and helicopter pilot, and has flown and trekked to many corners of the world. Dominique will be the Montana Aviation Conference keynote speaker during the closing banquet dinner on March 2.

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



Photo Courtesy of Dominique Prinnet

## Montana Aviation Conference Registration Open

The Aviation Organization of Montana (AOM) is pleased to announce the Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Butte February 29 to March 2, 2024. 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 the aviation community to connect, learn, and exchange ideas and information. Around 500 participants are expected this year.

**If you are interested in saving money on your registration fees, check out the "take off to landing" package on the registration website and register by February 1, 2024!**

Lodging is available at a special rate by calling the Copper King Hotel in Butte at 406-533-6960. Mention the Montana Aviation Conference for discounted room rates.

Reservations must be made before January 1, 2024, to get the event rate of \$109 + tax for single room, \$109 + tax for double room, or \$169 + tax for family suite.

For more information, contact the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division at 406-444-2506 or email [mdtad@mt.gov](mailto:mdtad@mt.gov).

**Vendor, attendee,  
and guest conference  
registration is open and  
may be completed by  
scanning the QR code:**





*Happy New Year!*  
 From the staff at MDT Aeronautics  
 Tim, Karen, Matt, Derrick, Stephen, Page, Madeleine, Barb, Jeff, Adam, Bron, and Lindsay.

## 63rd Annual Montana Airport Directory Released

The MDT Aeronautics Division is proud to present you with the 63rd annual Montana Airport Directory. The aviation community of Montana has again provided the cover photo for this year's directory by way of a photo contest. We asked our Montana and the Sky newsletter readers for cover photo submissions, and posted the photos received on MDT's Facebook page where followers voted for their favorite image.

This year, the winning photo was submitted by Daniel O'Loughlin. Daniel grew up in Billings and earned his private pilot's license in 2020. Taken from his recently completed kit-built Quad City Challenger II, the photo shows the Yellowstone River westbound from the Laurel Airport (6S8).

Many streams and rivers of Montana are excellent navigation aids such as the Yellowstone, Missouri, Clark Fork, Bitterroot, and Flathead, among others. Near the Laurentian and Continental Divides, our waterways separate at Triple Divide Peak in Glacier National Park, eventually flowing into the Gulf of Mexico, Pacific Ocean, or Hudson Bay. As shown in Daniel's photo, these waterways are still giving us a path to follow, even from the air. Whether you are following a river as Daniel followed the Yellowstone, steering by mountain peak, following an airway, or using the great magenta line of the GPS, Montana's skies never fail to offer an extraordinary flying experience. We enjoyed reviewing all the photo submissions and our thanks goes out to everyone who submitted. It is always enjoyable for us to see and hear of your aviation experiences in Montana, and we encourage you to reach out with stories and pictures.



Photo Courtesy of Daniel O'Loughlin

Montana Airport directories are included with annual the Montana pilot registrations, or they may be purchased by calling MDT Aeronautics at 406-444-2506.

From all of us at MDT Aeronautics Division, we wish you safe flying and clear skies.

## Aeronautics Division Welcomes New Staff Member

The MDT Aeronautics Division recently hired Lindsay Meeks.

Lindsay is the new Aviation Program Manager and transferred from another division within MDT.

Lindsay brings years of experience in program management and planning, and is excited to learn more about aviation.

Lindsay's primary duties include planning the annual Montana Aviation Conference, collecting delinquent aircraft registration fees, researching, developing new programs and services, and providing general program management and support to the Aeronautics Division.

Lindsay replaced Justin Zindell, who accepted a new position in the private sector. Please join us in welcoming Lindsay to the MDT Aeronautics team!



Photo Courtesy of Lindsay Meeks

# 2024 Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic

There will be a Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC) happening in Helena on February 2nd and 3rd, 2024. The MDT Aeronautics Division is organizing Aviation Seminars to provide the two-day course approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The seminar will take place from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. **You do not have to be a flight instructor to attend.**

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



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



Photo Courtesy of  
MDT Aeronautics Staff

## Aircraft Mechanic Inspector Refresher Seminar to be Held in Butte

Online registration for the Aircraft Mechanic Inspection Authorization Renewal (IA) Seminar is now available! The seminar will once again be offered in conjunction with the Montana Aviation Conference, March 1st and 2nd, 2024 in Butte. 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, please see page 1. 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](mailto:dolheiser@mt.gov).



To register, scan the QR code :

For more information regarding (FAA) Inspection Authorization Renewal requirements and forms, scan the QR code.



## Stevensville Locals Create New Scholarship

The Stevensville Airport Foundation (SAF) will be funding and awarding an aviation scholarship to a graduate of Stevensville High School in 2024.

The scholarship funds can be used for training/educational purposes in pursuit of a career as a pilot, aircraft mechanic, aeronautical engineer, air traffic controller, or a related aviation field. The scholarship will be formally known as the SAF/Paul O'Bagy Memorial Scholarship.

The SAF will be working closely with the school staff to identify and select potential candidates, and then make a final decision in early 2024.

The total value of the scholarship award is \$10,000. Two Stevensville donors have generously pledged to match contributions of the Two Stevensville donors also generously contributed to the scholarship pool. Any additional funds over the scholarship value will be utilized for a 2025 award.

Donations to the scholarship fund will allow the SAF to continue offering this generous aviation scholarship for years to come. If you are interested in supporting this cause with a tax deductible donation, contact the SAF at:

[michael.schwartz2023@outlook.com](mailto:michael.schwartz2023@outlook.com).

## Calendar of Events

**January 5-7, 2024— Winter Survival Clinic.** Sugar Loaf Lodge, Anaconda.

**January 17-18, 2024— Aeronautics Board Meeting - Loan and Grant Awards.** MDT Headquarters, Helena.

**February 2-3, 2024— Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC).** Double Tree Hotel, Helena. *See above for more details.*

**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 above for more details.*

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

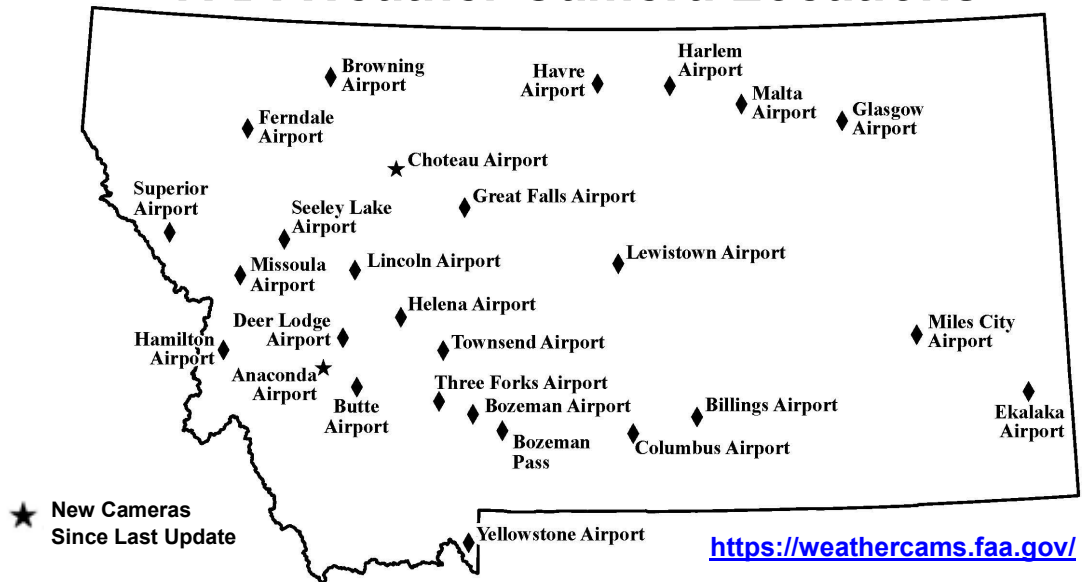
**MDT Aeronautics Division**

**PO Box 200507**

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

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## FAA Weather Camera Locations



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