



Good Ole' Boy Ralph Hood to Speak at Banquet

Ralph Hood a funny good ole' boy from Tennessee will be the featured speaker at the banquet on Saturday, March 2. It's Clear On Top are words that mean a lot more to a pilot, and will mean a lot to you after Ralph's speech. Ralph has humorously woven his experiences as a pilot into his motivational message that the sun is shining and the sky is blue above the clouds. We can learn to cut through smog and gloom and climb out on top just as pilots do. Ralph's ability to share his experiences, laugh at himself and deliver a message which inspires thought and hilarity makes him an ideal speaker and seminar leader. During the 80s, Ralph wrote an award winning newspaper column and taught an aviation management course at Southern Illinois University. Today, Ralph is a full time professional speaker whose travels have taken him from coast to coast and border to border. He also writes for a national aviation trade magazine. Ralph gives programs on aircraft sales and service, always laced with humor. His Ethics of Flying Safely is great for all pilots. His Learn to Fly program helps FBOs and CFIs build their student base.

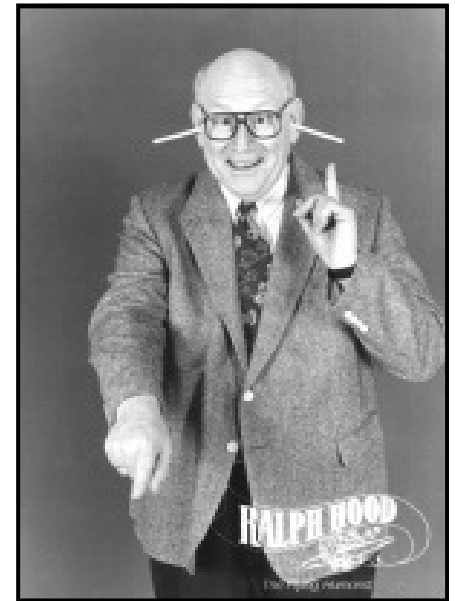
In addition to entertaining speakers like Ralph the concurrent sessions offered throughout the conference will be very entertaining with Tales of an Alaska Pilot; Flying Montana's Wildlife; Flying to the Bahamas; History of Butte, and General Aviation Safety and Montana Air Traffic Control just to name a few.

Part of this year's theme is getting the word out to our youth about the countless benefits offered in aviation and showing them how they can "Reach for It". So get the word out to a young person you may know who has an itch to do something in aviation. Attending this event would be a great opportunity to get the ball rolling. And encourage them to apply for the scholarships offered by so many generous individuals and aviation organizations in Montana (see page 6). Many success stories have resulted because of those scholarships.

The conference will take place at the Copper King Hotel & Convention Center. Reservations can be made by calling (855) 681-5020 or (406) 221-7070 reference Aviation Conference to receive your conference rate of \$86.00 plus tax. Reservations must be made prior to February 18, 2013 in order to guarantee the group discount.

A registration form is available on page 4 of the newsletter or on our website <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/>. Send in your registration and reserve your room so you don't miss this fun filled aviation event!

For further information on the conference please contact Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 or email pkautz@mt.gov.



Administrator's Column

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! With 2012 coming to a close, I extend warm wishes to each of you for a joyous holiday season. Thanks for your support of the Aeronautics Division and for your interest in Montana aviation. We are blessed with friends and partners that work to make the aviation industry productive in our great state. Wishing you the warmth of home, the love of family, and the laughter of good friends. Remember our service men and women and God Bless the USA.

Flurry of Activity Surrounding Unmanned Aviation Systems (UAS): Citing privacy concerns, FAA acting administrator Michael Huerta has written to the Congressional UAS Caucus saying that FAA is postponing the selection of 6 test sites, indefinitely. Meanwhile in a letter signed by 20 aviation leaders to Mr. Huerta the group pointed out that the industry understands that FAA's portfolio emphasis is on aviation safety not on ensuring privacy. It also states that introducing UAS into the national airspace system should not limit access of current aircraft nor should it require existing aircraft to have additional equipment beyond, "...what is currently anticipated to accommodate NextGen". Congress has directed the Office of the Inspector General to initiate an audit of FAA's oversight of UAS. The IG will assess FAA's progress in mitigating safety risks relative to the congressional mandate to integrate UAVs into the National Airspace System by 2015.

Paper Pilot/A&P Mechanic Certificates: The FAA is under a mandate to replace all paper certificates with plastic certificates. In fact, paper **pilot** certificates have expired. If you are a mechanic and do not replace your paper certificate on or before March 31, 2013, you will no longer be able to exercise your privileges. All certificated Airmen, including mechanics, repairmen, pilots, etc., are required to replace their paper copy with a plastic copy, or they will no longer be able to exercise the privileges of that certificate. The best way to get a new replacement certificate is to follow the instructions at http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/certificate_replacement/. The replacement cost is \$2.00, unless you still have your Social Security Number on your certificate and you ask to have it removed.

"Ten Most Wanted": General aviation continues on the "Ten most wanted" list issued by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The general aviation accident rate has remained relatively steady over the past 10 years at 6.8 per 100,000 flight hours. However, in the past decade, personal flying accidents have increased 20% and fatal accidents 25%. About 1,500 GA accidents are investigated each year and in 2011 GA fatalities decreased from 596 to 444; a decrease of 25.5%. All aviation organizations agree that safety is a never-ending priority and many focus training efforts to assist with the prevention of accidents. Business flying continues to rack up high safety marks with its safety record comparable to that for the airlines.

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-6331 or TTY (406) 444-7696. MDT produces 1,800 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$702. This includes \$483 for postage.



Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation

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Official monthly publication of the
Aeronautics Division
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Montana and the Sky
is published monthly
in the interest of aviation in the
State of Montana.

First Class postage paid at
Helena, Montana 59604

Editor: Patty Kautz

Calendar of Events

January 11-13, 2013 - Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic. For further information contact Dave Hoerner (406) 444-9568 or email dhoerner@mt.gov.

January 28-29, 2013 – AMAA Convention, Heritage Inn, Great Falls. For further information contact Colleen Campbell eccampbell@yahoo.com.

February 8 & 9, 2013 – Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic. For further information contact Dave Hoerner (406) 444-9568 or email dhoerner@mt.gov.

February 28-March 2, 2013 – Montana Aviation Conference. Copper King Hotel, Butte. For further information contact Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 or email pkautz@mt.gov.

March 3-5, 2013 – Upper Midwest Aviation Symposium, Fargo, ND. <http://www.ndac.aero/umas.htm>.

Mechanics Seminar & IA Renewal Held in Conjunction with Conference

The Montana Aeronautics Division is pleased to announce the 2013 Mechanics Seminar & IA renewal will be held in conjunction with this year's Montana Aviation conference in Butte.

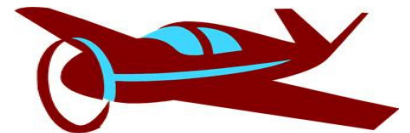
The dates for the conference are February 28 - March 2, 2013. The Mechanics Seminar will be held on Friday March 1, and continue through Saturday March 2. Seminar hours are 8:00 am to 5:30 pm Friday March 1, and 7:00 am to 5:30 pm Saturday March 2. Registration for IA's starts at 7:00 am on Friday March 1 and 6:00 am on Saturday March 2. Please plan to be there early to register as an IA if you intend to use the training for next year's renewal.

We will be offering six hours of training on Friday and a full eight hours of training on Saturday. This has worked out well in the past for those mechanics only wanting to attend on Saturday but still needing the training to update their IA for renewal. If you are planning to attend only the 8 hour seminar on Saturday registration begins at 6:00 am. Please plan to arrive early to receive the full 8 hour credit.

Any questions please contact Michael Rogan with the Montana Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-9590 or e-mail at mrogan@mt.gov.

TENTATIVE SPEAKERS: Joe Westby, Northwest Propeller; Kristi Dunks, NTSB; Joe Loggie, SLICK Mags by Champi-on; Vince Bechtel, Tempest; Shannon Geary, Lycoming; Bryan Hart, KANNAD; Kevin Briggs, Rolls Royce; Rene Bouchard, Standard Aero; Mitch Steinberg, Rocky MT Aircraft; Loren Lemen, LY-CON Rebuilding; Helena FSDO, Jeff Vercoe, FAA Steam.

Make plans now to attend, to discuss and learn the latest in aircraft maintenance.



Airport of the Year Nominations Requested

The MDT Aeronautics Division is soliciting nominations for our annual "Airport of the Year" award. To nominate an airport, send some brief background information of why you think your favorite airport is deserving of the airport of the year. Nominations will be accepted by any individual or entity and will be accepted through the end of the year. MDT Aeronautics will collect the nominations and the winner will be selected and notified in January. Public recognition along with the formal award will be presented to representatives of the winning airport during the Montana Aviation Conference awards banquet in Butte on March 1. Nominations can be sent to any of the following: **MAIL:** MDT Aeronautics Division, Attn: Debbie Alke, P.O. Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507 **EMAIL:** dalke@mt.gov **FAX:** (406) 444-2519.

29th Annual Montana Aviation Conference
February 28-March 2, 2013 – Copper King Hotel & Convention Center, Butte

Mail Registration Form & Payment to:
 MDT Aeronautics Division - Attn: Patty Kautz
 PO Box 200507 - Helena, MT 59620-0507
 Phone (406) 444-9580 – Fax (406) 444-2519
 Email: pkautz@mt.gov

Names of Participant(s) (for badges): _____

Aviation Organization Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Register Early and SAVE! Pre-registration will be open until February 22, 2013. After that date conference fees increase and participants must register at the conference site (see reverse for further information regarding on-site registration).

PRE-REGISTRATION: BY FEBRUARY 22, 2013

Takeoff to Landing Package (includes registration & all meals)	_____ @\$140/PERSON _____ @\$270/PERSON/SPOUSE	\$ _____ \$ _____
-OR- Registration Fee (includes registration & free meals – see note below)	_____ @\$85/PERSON _____ @\$160/FAMILY	\$ _____ \$ _____
Thursday Luncheon	_____ @\$15/EACH	\$ _____
Friday Luncheon	_____ @\$15/EACH	\$ _____
**Friday Dinner/Entertainment	_____ @FREE W/ PAID REGS (SEE NOTE BELOW)	\$ _____
**Saturday Luncheon	_____ @FREE W/ PAID REGS (SEE NOTE BELOW)	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	_____ @\$30	\$ _____
-OR- Registration Fee (No Meals)	_____ @45/PERSON _____ @75/PERSON/SPOUSE	\$ _____ \$ _____

GENERAL REGISTRATION: AFTER FEBRUARY 22, 2013

Takeoff to Landing Package (includes registration & all meals)	_____ @\$150/PERSON _____ @\$290/PERSON/SPOUSE	\$ _____ \$ _____
-OR- Registration Fee (includes registration & free meals – see note below)	_____ @\$95/PERSON _____ @\$180/FAMILY	\$ _____ \$ _____
Thursday Luncheon	_____ @\$15/EACH	\$ _____
Friday Luncheon	_____ @\$15/EACH	\$ _____
**Friday Dinner/Entertainment	_____ @FREE W/ PAID REGS (SEE NOTE BELOW)	\$ _____
**Saturday Luncheon	_____ @FREE W/ PAID REGS (SEE NOTE BELOW)	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	_____ @\$30	\$ _____
-OR- Registration Fee (No Meals)	_____ @55/PERSON _____ @95/PERSON/SPOUSE	\$ _____ \$ _____

****PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WILL ATTEND THE FRIDAY DINNER AND SATURDAY LUNCHEON WITH NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED. PERSON REGISTRATION INCLUDES 1 FRIDAY DINNER AND 1 SATURDAY LUNCH TICKET; PERSON/SPOUSE AND FAMILY REGISTRATIONS INCLUDE 2 FRIDAY DINNER AND 2 SATURDAY LUNCH TICKETS – ADDITIONAL TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED - \$30.00 FRIDAY DINNER AND \$15.00 SATURDAY LUNCHEON. TO ASSURE ADEQUATE MEAL COUNT IF NO INDICATION IS MADE AS TO NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED NO TICKETS WILL BE RESERVED.**

Payment Method:

Enclosed is my check payable to Montana Aeronautics Division - Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Upon receipt of this form, please charge my: American Express MasterCard Visa Discover

Cardholder Name _____

Account Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Balance Due \$ _____ Signature _____



Solace in the Sky: Flying Helps Combat Veterans Free Themselves

By Vince Devlin, Missoulian, full article originally appeared in the Missoulian, October 14, 2012, portions reprinted with permission

Brandon Bryant has done most of his flying from the inside of trailers.

The U.S. Air Force veteran piloted drones over Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya during his seven years on active duty. He steered the unmanned combat air vehicles with his feet firmly planted on a floor and his eyes not on the skies so much as on banks of computer screens.

So this was a little different, last weekend, when Bryant slipped on a helmet and took off from the Polson Airport on the back of what amounts to an open-air two-seat tricycle with a wing attached, and a motor capable of propelling it all through the sky at speeds up to 90 mph.

Pilot Todd Ware of Bigfork took the special light-sport aircraft soaring more than 1,000 feet above Flathead Lake, then turned the controls over to Bryant, who rode above and behind him.

Latching onto two bars underneath the wing and within reach of the backseat passenger, Bryant could push to his left and send the trike banking to the right, or force the bars to the right and bank to the left.

Bryant flew himself over the lake, over islands, over the river, over town, over fields, with Ware – a certified trainer – ever ready to grab hold of the single bar in front of him to correct any mistake.

“I didn’t have to take the wing from him once,” Ware announced when the two landed after more than a half hour in the skies. “We were getting kicked around quite a bit up there, but he had amazing control for a first-time flier.”

“I’ll be telling my grandkids about this,” Bryant said. “It’s a different experience. When you’re flying drones, you can see the horizon and you’re in control, but you don’t feel the turbulence. This was awesome – this was freedom.”

It was also the perfect choice of words. Many military veterans who fought for your freedom now fight for their own – a freedom from symptoms of the post-traumatic stress disorder that threatens to take over their lives and relationships.

Indeed, this perfect October afternoon – when half a dozen veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan flew with Ware – was born of suicide.

The exhilarating flights are part of the activities offered by XSports4Vets, the Missoula-based organization of current-conflict vets whose goal is to help all combat veterans succeed in civilian life.

Co-founder Janna Kuntz created it to honor her stepbrother, Chris Dana of Helena, who survived Iraq, only to come home and, in the throes of PTSD, kill himself at the age of 23.

Ware – owner of Air Therapy Aviation of Bigfork – got involved with XSports4Vets in part because the veteran-brother of a good friend also committed suicide.

Sadly, suicide is not an uncommon escape for those with PTSD. Jesse Roods, director and chairman of XSports4Vets – as well as a wildland firefighter who served as a Marine in Iraq – says an average of 17 veterans commit suicide every day in America.

His group seeks ways to help veterans “take the edge out of civilian life.”

The “X” in the title stands for “extreme,” and while not everything they do falls into that category – there’s yoga, for instance – most of it does.

They challenge whitewater rapids in rafts and on river boards. Climb rocks. Skydive.

And soar a thousand feet above Flathead Lake on the back of a trike.

To learn more, visit xsports4vets.org. XSports4Vets is always ready to welcome more veterans into its circle. It’s a non-profit and operates on donations. And it’s always on the lookout for new activities to incorporate into its program. You can make contact through the website for any of those purposes.



Ware and Jesse Scollin fly over the Flathead River last weekend. “When you’re flying,” says Scollin, “you can detach yourself from everything holding you down here on the ground. For a few minutes, it’s all gone, and you try to make that resonate as long as you can.” Photographed by Kurt Wilson of the Missoulian.

Scholarship Opportunities

Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations that believe in promoting aviation by offering monetary assistance to qualified persons. The Aeronautics Division assists in administering some of these scholarships and encourages participation. The scholarships are offered to Montanans to help defray costs of education (i.e., flight instruction, A&P, etc.) and will be presented during the 2013 Montana Aviation Conference in Butte. Awarding of the scholarships will be based on a letter explaining the reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience, if any, and any outstanding achievements. **The same letter can be submitted but applicant must submit one copy addressed to each individual scholarship they are applying for.** Letters of application **must** include a **mailing address and daytime phone number.** If you are selected to receive one of the scholarships your photo will appear in the 2013 Montana Aviation Conference Program, **please include a photo with your applications for this purpose (only one photo necessary).** Letters should be mailed to: Montana Aeronautics Division, PO Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507 or call (406) 444-2506 for further information. **Letters must be post-marked on or before January 7, 2013.**

A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship – An anonymous donor established this scholarship of \$250 in 1997 in 2010 two more anonymous donors contributed an additional \$250 each creating a \$750 scholarship.

AOM Flight Training Scholarship – AOM has established this \$500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate.

Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship – This \$250 scholarship is awarded to a first generation pilot to assist with flight training. This scholarship is designed to assist a person who has a love of aviation, yet had limited exposure to aviation, someone from a non-aviation background/family.

EAA Helena Chapter 344 Scholarship – The EAA Helena chapter is offering a \$500 scholarship to help defray the cost of school for a 2nd year A&P student.

Harold Hamm Scholarship – Harold and Zola Hamm were the anonymous donors that established the first \$250 A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship in 1993. With the passing of Harold on September 1, 2006, Zola decided to rename the scholarship the “Harold Hamm Scholarship” in honor of her husband of 19 years. Zola offers this \$250 scholarship in memory of Harold’s strong passion for aviation.

Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarships – MAAA is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to help defray the costs of flight instruction.

Montana Pilots Association Air Safety & Education Foundation Flight Training Award - This scholarship is open to a person who has a considerable interest in aviation. The \$750 scholarship is to be used for flight training.

Montana Pilots Association Junior Pilot Award – This recipient is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship within their community and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must have soloed and be actively involved in flight training. This is a \$750 scholarship.

Morrison Aviation Appreciation Scholarship – Jeff Morrison, retired former owner of Morrison Flying Service in Helena has established the \$500 scholarship as a token of appreciation to the aviation community.

Mountain AirDance Flight Training Scholarship: Jeanne MacPherson and Bill Gallea offer this \$750 scholarship to an active pilot who desires to pursue advanced training, such as tailwheel endorsement, mountain flying, aerobatics, or a higher rating.

NW Montana Youth Aviation Scholarship: The Flathead Hangar is offering a \$750 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot with the cost of flight instruction. Student pilots 16 to 21 years of age from NW Montana* are eligible to apply.
* includes Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, and Missoula counties.

Parrott Family Scholarship – The Parrott Family offers this \$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 related supplies.

Theresa (Nistler) Colley Scholarship – Mountain AirDance Flight Training (Jeanne MacPherson and Bill Gallea) and Vetter Aviation (Brent and Rosie Vetter) offer this \$500 scholarship in memory of Theresa (Nistler) Colley who passed away from Leukemia (AML) in February, 2012. Theresa loved flying and was working toward her private pilot certificate. This scholarship will be awarded to a student pilot who is working on getting their private pilot rating.

Hoerner's Corner - What Makes an Airplane Fly?

Your engine has a 300 RPM drop on one mag. The right brake is mushy as you make a landing. You accidentally applied too much left brake on a crosswind landing and scrapped a flat spot on the tire.

Your tailwheel is low on air. Your ELT batteries have timed out. Your landing light doesn't function. Your propeller has a nick out of one of the blades. Your aircraft is due for an annual inspection.

If you are an aircraft owner, the preceding problems are part of aircraft ownership. You complain about the mechanical issues and how much it's going to cost to fix. But with one phone call you've made arrangements to fix the problem.

The next day you deliver the aircraft to the maintenance shop and advise your mechanic you need the aircraft back in a couple of days. You leave the mechanic with your headache and drive away knowing you'll be flying soon.

Pilots tend to take mechanics for granted. But a mechanic has a lot more invested in fixing your aircraft than just the hours it took to correct the issue. Their livelihood is on the line every time they work on and certify in the logs that they fixed the problem.

Mechanics work parallels the work a doctor performs. Both professionals ask questions about the problem and use that information for a starting point to fix the issues.

If the information you provide is sketchy, then the process of elimination starts until the issue is found and fixed. A low mag drop could be fixed as easily as adjusting the timing or as serious as pulling the cylinder and grinding the valves.

Just remember that your life and staying airborne rest squarely on your mechanics shoulders. Heaven forbid there be an accident, but if that happens one of the first things to be scrutinized is your aircraft logbooks and maintenance performed.

If any mechanical issues were missed during maintenance or the logbook not signed correctly, then your mechanics license could be on the chopping block. Once the FAA is done with their investigation, then insurance companies hover in with possible law suits.

A mechanics liability doesn't stop when the aircraft leaves his shop. The signed logbook is a legal document that could come back and haunt him for years.

You pay for the extra cost of pulling the cylinder and grinding the valves, but you're upset with the final price being double the estimate.

A day later you're on a scenic flight in Glacier National Park. There are absolutely no emergency landing locations. With trepidations you continue north into the rugged and dangerous mountains so your friends can enjoy the sights.

When was the last time you thanked your mechanic or better yet, buy them a meal for keeping you and yours safe? What makes an airplane fly? Your mechanic!



Ken Wilhelm, MDT Aeronautics Mechanic keeps division aircraft in tip-top shape!

New Airport/Airways Bureau Chief Hired



Tim Conway has been named the Airports/Airways Bureau Chief for the MDT Aeronautics Division. Tim will oversee the airports/airways sections and the Yellowstone Airport. He has been with MDT for over 21 years, serving as the Bureau Chief of the Consultant Design Bureau for the last four years. Previously Tim served as a civil engineer in the bridge and hydraulics bureaus; as a consultant design project manager and consultant plans engineer. Tim is a Montana licensed professional engineer, he received his Bachelor of Science degree from Montana State University. He is an avid aviation enthusiast and instrument rated pilot. Tim will be a valuable addition to our team. Tim began in his new position with the division on December 10.

Tim can be reached at (406) 444-9547 or by email tconway@mt.gov.

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

December, 2012

5403



**May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you today & throughout the New Year –
*Debbie Alke, Dave Hoerner, Tim Conway, Ken Wilhelm, Mike Rogan, Wade Cebulski,
Patty Kautz, Cindy Roscoe, Jeff Heaney and Tom Chernoniak.***