



Another Conference for the Books!

More than 500 participants attended the 2015 “Fly the Big Sky” Aviation Conference in Missoula. Kickoff luncheon speaker Ken Dial from University of Montana entertained all with his talk on bird locomotion. In addition to the many entertaining and educational sessions held throughout the conference on Thursday afternoon an FAA listening session was held with Dave Suomi, Deputy Regional Administrator and other FAA staff. Thursday evening a jam packed Exhibit hall (with 54 exhibitors) opened with a hosted event by City Service Valcon/Phillips 66 Aviation. We thank Ed, Breezy, Eddie and Steve for their awesome support.

On Friday awards luncheon speaker Rich Stowell talked about how he got his start in aviation and how lucky he was to make a career in doing what he loves most. The FAA was on hand to give out many prestigious awards. MDT Aeronautics recognized Twin Bridges as the Airport of the Year and recognized all the scholarship recipients and their generous donors. Visit our website <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml> to read a little about each of the amazing people that were selected for scholarships this year!

An Aviation Education day was held on Friday with 20+ 7th graders from Missoula attending the Aviation Education program where students rotated between several aviation education stations. Most of the students commented that this was one of their best field trips by far!

This year’s keynote banquet speaker was Ron Hooper, CEO of Neptune Aviation. He concluded the conference at the

Saturday evening banquet giving a talk on the history of Neptune Aviation.

We wish to thank our Sponsors, Exhibitors, and Speakers for their support of the conference. Without them this event would not be possible and we appreciate all of you more than words can say!

See page 4 and 5 of this month’s newsletter for more photos on this fun event. Next year’s conference will be held in Helena at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel March 3-5, 2016, make sure and “Save the Date”!



The crew at City Service Valcon/Phillips 66 Aviation hosted the Thursday evening Exhibit hall kickoff and cocktail hour. Pictured is Steve Bajema, Phillips 66 Aviation, Eddie Anderson, City Service Valcon; Debbie Alke, MDT Aeronautics; Ed Croymans, City Service Valcon and Patty Kautz, MDT Aeronautics. We thank them for their continued generosity. Not pictured is Breezy Burlison, City Service Valcon.



Two of our greatest supporters have been there for 31 years! We thank Rich Broberg (l) of Omaha Airplane Supply and Steve Vold (r) of Aerotrionics for all they do to make our conference such a success.

Administrator's Column

Powder River Military Training Complex Moves Forward: In a disappointing action and very frustrating process, the 28,000-square-mile block of airspace, the majority over Montana, will go into effect Sept. 17. The FAA has adopted the Air Force's Record of Decision establishing the complex. The airspace consists of four military operations areas (MOAs) -- Powder River 1, 2, 3, and 4 and to further complicate the areas, breakdowns of low and high and 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D are identified. They will be connected by corridors, or Gap MOAs A, B, and C. Some requirements placed on the Air Force require they establish communications coverage in new airspace areas prior to their use. This will ensure the ability to "recall" the airspace for civil IFR use. Procedures must be established so that military aircraft can be recalled from the low MOA airspace whenever necessary to allow IFR aircraft access to and from public-use airports underlying the MOAs. A procedure to allow air traffic control to vector IFR traffic through MOA sections by notifying ATC when certain segments are not needed must be developed. These actions are precedent setting as no other MOA has like procedures established. The Air Force must also conduct public outreach to all known aviation interested persons, organizations, and offices within 50 miles of the complex 60 days before the first planned scheduling and use of the airspace. All training activities in the complex will be announced via the NOTAM system. MDT Aeronautics will remain vigilant as the airspace progresses. The Record of Decision can be found at: http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/environmental_issues/media/record_of_decision_prtc.pdf and the Federal Register Notice at: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FAA-2013-0259-0789>.

Legislative Update: As the 2015 Legislature approaches "Sine Die" with just over 21 days of session remaining, here is an update of the bills that your MDT Aeronautics Division appeared on. SR 17 and SR 42 – Confirm appointees to the board of aeronautics. Chris Edwards and Fred Lark appointments to January 1, 2019 have passed and been signed. The appointments of Rob Buckles and Dan Hargrove have passed out of committee unanimously and await adoption by the full Senate. SB 329 – Extends the recreational use statute liability limits to state lands. The bill passed the Senate and was tabled in the House Natural Resources Committee. HB 586 – Prohibits the unauthorized use of unmanned aerial vehicles near certain airports, emergency operations and aerial spraying operations. The bill was tabled in committee. HB 593 – Established the Montana Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Act, requiring MDT Aeronautics to register the vehicles and operators and bans use for photography. A substitute bill was passed by committee, amended on the House floor where it failed to pass. To review the actions or text of any of these bills, go to: <http://www.leg.mt.gov/css/Default.asp>

Proposed Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) rule: The FAA took the first steps to allow the routine use of certain small unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for commercial purposes in U.S. airspace. The proposed rule only applies to certain small non-recreational drones. While FAA airworthiness certification will not be required, the drone must weigh less than 55 pounds; be registered; maintained in a safe condition; be inspected prior to each flight; have aircraft markings; be operated in visual-line-of-sight only; flown during daylight; not operate over any persons not involved in the operation; not exceed an airspeed of 100 mph or an altitude of 500 feet AGL; not operate carelessly or recklessly; and can't drop objects. The operator must be at least 17 years old; pass an aeronautical knowledge test; and obtain an FAA UAS operator certificate. The NPRM would not apply to model aircraft - model aircraft must continue to meet criteria specified in Sec. 336 of Public Law 112-95. The proposed rule can be found here with comments due no later than April 24, 2015.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/02/23/2015-03544/operation-and-certification-of-small-unmanned-aircraft-systems>



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Department of Transportation

Steve Bullock, Governor
Mike Tooley, Director

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Aeronautics Division
Telephone - (406) 444-2506
Fax – (406) 444-2519
P.O. Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507
www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/

Debbie K. Alke, Administrator

Aeronautics Board
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Calendar of Events

April 27 – A DC-3 will be flying in to Great Falls International Airport to start the commemoration of the Lend Lease Program. The aircraft will be available for public viewing that day. See page 7 for additional information on this event. For further information contact the airport administration office at (406) 727-3404.

June 2 – Aeronautics Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., for further information contact Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 or pkautz@mt.gov.

June 6 - EAA Chapter 344 Morrison Park Burger Burn. All aviation-related folk, or would-be aviation folk are invited to come and have a burger or hot dog and socialize. All food and soft drinks will be provided. The event times are 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at Morrison Park on the south side of the Helena Airport next to the Helena College Airport Campus.

June 13 - 11th Annual Lewistown Airport Fly-In, 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. MPA Sourdough pancake feed, Young Eagles (flights for kids) and displays of Antique, Warbird, Experimental and Sport Airplanes. Held in conjunction with Central Montana Fly-wheelers Exhibition. For further information contact Jerry Moline at (406) 350-3264.

June 23-24 – Aviation Career Camp, Helena. For further information contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or email hdramstad@mt.gov.

June 27 - Big Horn County Airport (00U) at Hardin is open. They are planning a fly-in breakfast in conjunction with Little Big Horn Days 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Contact Ed Auker at (406) 665-1731 for more details.

July 4 – Townsend Festival of Flight. Deluxe pancake breakfast, EAA Young Eagles Rally 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For further information about the breakfast and fly in contact Lance Seaman (406) 442-8459.

July 4 - Air Fair (Fly-In) Hamilton Airport, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Breakfast, aircraft static displays, and car show. Iron Pilot competition, ping pong ball drop, skydivers, aircraft rides, fly-overs and a free lunch by Choice Aviation. For further information contact Troy Hunter at (406) 682-7502 or email eks@choiceaviation.com.

July 17-18 – Can Am Aerobatic competition held at the Cut Bank Airport. All types of aircraft from Yaks to Pitts all competing for points at this International Aerobatic Club sanctioned event. Free to all. Bring your lawn chair to watch the action. For further information contact Dave Ries (406) 229-0376 or Roy Nollkamper (406) 450-1078.

July 18 – Air Fair (Fly-In) Ennis Big Sky Airport, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Breakfast, aircraft static displays, and car show. Iron Pilot competition, ping pong ball drop, skydivers, aircraft rides, fly-overs and a free lunch by Choice Aviation. For further information contact Troy Hunter at (406) 682-7502 or email eks@choiceaviation.com.

July 18 - Open House Great Falls International Airport. Bravo 369 group will fly in with several Lend Lease Airplanes see page 7 for additional information on this event. For further information contact the airport administration office at (406) 727-3404.

July 19 – St. Ignatius Airport Fly-In, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Huckleberry Pancake Breakfast, EAA Young Eagle Flights. For further information contact Mike Kuefler (406) 544-2274.

August 15-16 – Montana Fun Weekend Fly-In, car and airplane show. Cash awards for top five cars and top three aircraft. Breakfast served Saturday and Sunday mornings. Food vendors all day Saturday. Lawn Chair drive in movie Friday night after burn out competition. Don't miss it! For further information contact Dave Ries (406) 229-0376 or Roy Nollkamper (406) 450-1078.

September 6 – Fly-In pancake breakfast, Young Eagles flights from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Car show downtown Bigfork. For further information contact Ry Keller (406) 837-1379 or (406) 837-6679.

September 11-13 – Search Pilot Clinic, Missoula. For further information contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or email hdramstad@mt.gov.

September 12 - Columbus Airport 3rd Annual Fly-In. Pancake breakfast starts at 8:00 a.m. They hope to see you there! For further information contact Mark O'Bryant (406) 696-6923 or kippkeeper@me.com.

More Conference Fun!



The Exhibit area was packed and busy during the event. We thank all of our exhibitors who have been with us for years and welcome all of the new exhibitors joining us this year! Your support allows us to make this a successful event.



Brody Severson of Stevensville and Sierra Juliano of Circle were two of the recipients of the \$1,000 EAA Chapter 517 Scholarship. Brody attends Stevensville High School and Sierra is enrolled in the Aviation Maintenance Technology program in Helena. Pictured with Brody (l) and Sierra (r) is Steve Rossiter of the Missoula EAA Chapter. This EAA chapter awarded three \$1,000 scholarships this year!



Richard Wissenbach of Pinesdale received the \$1,000 scholarship offered by the Montana Air Safety and Education Foundation (MPA ASEF). Richard currently works for Aircraft Structural Repair in Stevensville.

Pictured is (l-r) Scott Newpower, Montana Pilots Association, Richard and Geanette Cebulski, Montana Pilots Association.



Nathan Luibrand of Helena was awarded the \$500 Edwards Jet Center Scholarship. Nathan attends the Helena College and is enrolled in the Aviation Maintenance Technology program. Nathan is pictured here with Debbie Alke, MDT Aeronautics.



Jeff Vercoe FAAST Team Program Manager presented awards for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Pictured (l-r) are Mike Schwahn, Belgrade (GA CFI Award); Larry Ashcraft, Polson (Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award); Arlin Wass, Belgrade (GA AMT Award); Janine Nunes, Belgrade (FAAST Team Representative Award) and Jeff Vercoe, FAA.



Airport of the Year went to Twin Bridges Airport. We congratulate them for all they do to keep Montana airports safe and reliable. Pictured is Lance Bowser, Robert Peccia & Associates, Debbie Alke, MDT Aeronautics, Beau Bradley, Ruby Valley Aviation and Jim Hart, Chairman, Madison County Commission.



Stefani Demars, MDT Aeronautics (l) and Kaye Ebel, Aviation Education Instructor (r) made sure the Take off With Aviation Education Program had a lot to offer the participants so the teachers can take these valuable teaching tools back to their classroom.



These lucky students were able to attend the aviation education portion of the conference and participate in hands on activities while learning about aviation and all it has to offer!



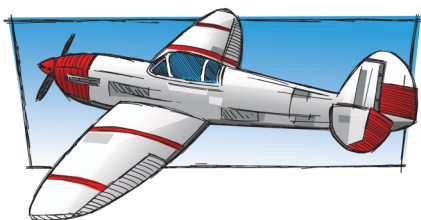
Rich Stowell an aerobatic instructor specializing in emergency maneuver training and spin recovery served as Friday's luncheon speaker and also presented a concurrent session. Rich took time to stop by the other sessions and visit with the other presenters pictured here with Kaye Ebel who conducted the aviation education program.



Ken Dial from University of Montana gave an excellent talk at the kick-off luncheon; Ken is pictured here with (l-r) Jenna Frankino, Kaye Ebel and Kirstan Roush. Jenna and Kirstan are both Montana teachers that took part in the Aviation Education program.



Conference attendees were able to get an up close look at the hangar and aircraft during the Neptune Aviation Tour on Friday afternoon. On Saturday evening Ron Hooper, CEO of Neptune Aviation entertained all on the history of Neptune Aviation.



Aviation Career Exploration Academy Open to High School Students

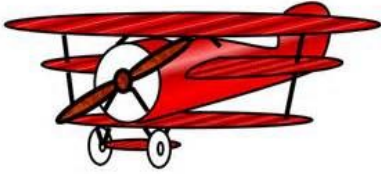
The Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy will be held in Helena June 23-24, 2015. ACE is designed to introduce high school students to aviation and aerospace-related careers.

Participants will venture on field trips to fun and interesting aviation activities, visit the shop floor of a state-of-the-art aerospace manufacturing plant, fly with Helena pilots in the Young Eagle program, and much more.

The \$130 tuition includes meals, lodging, and all activities. Enrollment is limited to 12 students, so please apply early. A limited number of scholarships are available, to be awarded on the basis of a personal essay describing your passion for aviation and career goals. We'll notify you by mail if you are selected.

For further information and to register visit www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml or call Stefani DeMars at (406) 444-2506 or sdemars@mt.gov.

Applications must be postmarked no later than **June 5, 2015**.

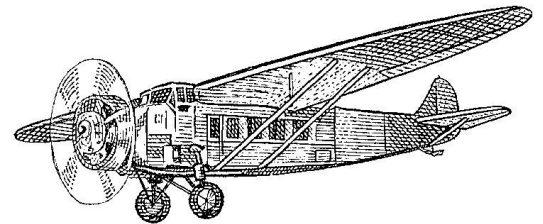


Credits Offered for EAA Air Academy!

EAA Chapter 344 in Helena has \$485 in credits that can be used to send a young person to an Air Academy camp in Oshkosh, WI in July, there are three camps, Basic for ages 14, 15; Advanced for ages 16, 17, 18; and Advanced Air Academy Camp for ages 16, 17, 18, 19; the cost for the camps is \$1,100 to \$1,300; anyone interested can contact Lance Seaman at lseaman344@gmail.com or (406) 442-8459.

Aeronautics Film Library

Montana pilots are encouraged to take advantage of the MDT Aeronautics video library collection, which contains nearly 400 titles on aeronautical subjects ranging from private and instrument knowledge tests, to the microwave landing system and flying an ADF approach. Flight instructors may find this a valuable resource for their students, and the best part is that it's free. We are working with the MDT library to integrate our collection so that patrons can search our titles online. If you would like to browse our video collection and borrow an item, please stop in at 2630 Airport Road in Helena, or give Stefani DeMars a call at (406) 444-2506 or email at sdemars@mt.gov.



Flight Tracking Devices Available

Commercial satellite-based flight tracking devices are now available, including SPOT, Spider Tracks, and DeLorme, that enable subscribers to set up a public page allowing anyone with the tracking URL to view the user's recent GPS locations. A URL, or universal resource locator, is a web location where information can be found. Lockheed-Martin Flight Service routinely accepts these tracking URLs when pilots file flight plans. At least two vendors currently partner with Flight Service to automatically share aircraft position reports in what is being called surveillance enhanced search and rescue, or SE-SAR. Flight service personnel are notified when an aircraft stops sending position reports, its position stops moving, or a pilot sends an SOS.

Montana-registered pilots who would like to share their tracking URL with the MDT Aeronautics Division for search and rescue purposes may contact Harold Dramstad, Safety and Education Bureau Chief, at (406) 444-9568 or by email at hdramstad@mt.gov.

Register your 406 ELT!

There was a time in America when emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) were not a part of general aviation. In 1965, 27 aircraft and 34 pilots and passengers disappeared without a trace in aircraft accidents in the United States. The same year, NASA used the 121.5 ELT in the ocean recovery of the Gemini space capsule. If it was good enough for the space program, it's good enough for general aviation.

In October, 1972, Congressmen Hale Boggs and Mark Begich disappeared on a flight in a Cessna 310 from Anchorage to Juneau, AK. The search was called off after 39 days, and as a result, the FAA mandated all U.S. registered, powered aircraft be equipped with an ELT, per 14 CFR 91.207. The ELT is designed to transmit a signal for 48 hours at minus 4 degrees F, but may continue for 4 or 5 days at moderate temperatures. It operates on the international distress frequency of 121.5 MHz, which was monitored by satellite until 2009. Satellites currently listen for only the 406 MHz ELTs.

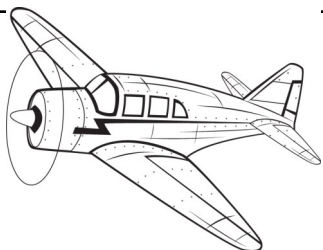
When activated, the 406 ELT transmits a data burst, containing aircraft id and if equipped, a GPS fix, to the NOAA satellites once every 52 seconds. The NOAA satellites pass overhead every 30 minutes, and pass the signal through ground stations onto the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. A low power 121.5 transmitter in the 406 ELT allows search and rescue crews to home to it.

If you own a 406 ELT, be certain that your device is registered with NOAA via their website:

www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov .

Attention Butte Area Pilots

Butte pilots are trying to get enough people together to start a Flying Club in the Butte area. They are looking to purchase a Cirrus SR-20 to start with. If you are interested or have questions please contact Trevor at (406) 491-7500 or tacky15@yahoo.com.



Commemorative Flight Arriving in Great Falls

A DC3 plane will be arriving in Great Falls, Montana on April 27 where it will begin a commemorative flight honoring the Lend Lease Program developed by President Roosevelt. This Program was unlike any the US had proffered before and was an undertaking of vast proportion. President Roosevelt commissioned the production of fighter planes - Aerocobras and Kingcobras - that were to be ferried from the US, through Canada, Alaska, and into the Soviet Union (present day Russia). It would require the construction of multiple airports and hangars throughout Canada as well as the development of a road system (ALCAN) that are still in use today. Because of this endeavor, the Soviet Union was able to push back Nazi Germany and resist its oncoming invasion.

This is the 70th Anniversary of the US/Russia declaration of victory over Nazi Germany during WWII. As part of the 70th anniversary, Russians have asked Dwayne King to honor and remember this time with a flight retracing the route the fighter planes took as they were being ferried across the two continents. Mr. King and his organization, Kingdom Air Corps, have since found and purchased a DC3 as the plane to be used for this commemoration. They plan to begin this triumphant trek in Great Falls and hope to have anyone interested in seeing and learning more to come join them as they embark on an adventure to remake history!

In addition to the April flight July 18 has been set for the Bravo 369 group to fly in to Great Falls with several Lend Lease Airplanes that will be flown from there to Fairbanks where they will be met by a Russian group that will fly back to the Russian airfields as part of a documentary. Stay tuned to the Montana and the Sky for more information on this exciting event!



1,850 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$721.50, which includes \$238.50 for printing and \$483 for distribution.

Plan to Visit Lavina Airport



The Lavina airport (80S) is one of fifteen state run airports constructed and maintained by the MDT Aeronautics Division. The airport is a grass recreational and emergency airstrip 3460 feet long by 100 feet wide located 1 mile North of Lavina along US Highway 12. There is a large tie down area located on the north side of the runway with plenty of room to tie down and pitch a tent if you intend to camp. No ground transportation is available at the airport. Watch out for possible gopher holes and maybe an antelope or two on the runway. Attractions near the airport are the Cozy Corner Bar within walking distance to the east, also in Lavina there are a number of buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, the Adams Hotel, Lavina State Bank, and Slayton Mercantile.

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