



IFF Convention Held in Helena

The International Flying Farmers (IFF) Convention was held in downtown Helena at the Great Northern Hotel. The convention kicked off on Saturday, July 18 and concluded on Wednesday, July 22 with participants enjoying the beauty of Montana along with business meetings, luncheons and banquets.

Aeronautics Administrator Debbie Alke welcomed all participants on behalf of the Montana Department of Transportation and the Civil Air Patrol Lewis & Clark Cadet Squadron presented the colors at the opening business meeting on Monday morning. MDT Deputy Director Pat Wise took time to meet and greet the group at the State Capitol Tour on Tuesday afternoon.

The International Flying Farmers are a group of pilots, farmers, and non-pilots who love flying, and love to talk about flying and farming. We are honored that they selected Montana as the site for their 2015 convention. Wayne and Terry Wilderman of Alberta, Canada (who are regulars at the Montana Aviation Conference) organized this fun filled event and did an outstanding job.



Debbie Alke welcomed all at the opening meeting.

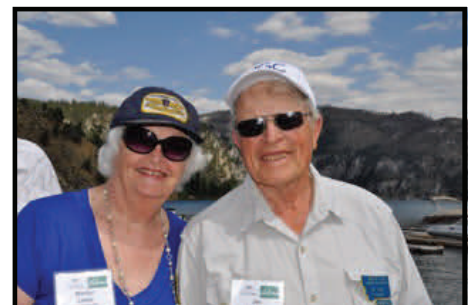


Pat Wise welcomed the group at the State Capitol.

Pictured from top left to right, Bill Gallea and Jeanne MacPherson of Helena gave a presentation on their recent adventure in Africa; Harold Dramstad, MDT Aeronautics Bureau Chief talked about his previous career as a smoke jumper, (bottom left) Kate Hampton of the Historical Society conducted a session on Montana's Historic Airway Beacon System.



Pictured left, IFF members and convention organizers Wayne and Terry Wilderman of Alberta, Canada and right, Montana IFF members, Marilyn and Jim Lewis of Helena/Lewistown.



Administrator's Column

Powder River to go live: After a long and intense struggle, the **expanded Powder River Training Complex**, a collection of special-use airspace covering approximately 28,000 square miles over Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota, will become active Sept. 17. The activation date coincides with the release of the new Billings Sectional Aeronautical Chart, which covers the complex. As a reminder, the Powder River Training Complex consists of four primary military operations areas connected by Gap MOAs. Some agreed to mitigations include: communication and NOTAM requirements; reduction in B1 flight hours, chaff and flare restrictions and restriction in PR3 Low. These will help limit the impact of the MOAs on general aviation users. AOPA, the FAA and Air Force are working to implement a Special-Use Airspace Information System that would provide real-time information regarding military flight operations to general aviation pilots 24 hours a day via telephone or radio. AOPA is also working with the Air Force to ensure charted times of use more accurately reflect actual usage of the airspace and to ensure that arrivals and departures from Montana's Baker Municipal Airport aren't negatively impacted. We will keep our pulse on activities, continue to share information with general aviation operators and advocate for access and safety. To view sectional charts that show the expanded Powder River Training Complex go to: http://download.aopa.org/advocacy/150826_Powder_River_map.pdf?_ga=1.158657978.1000472484.1441910874

Customs Update: After completing a thorough review of general aviation enforcement practices, Customs and Border Protection's (CBP's) has made changes that are resulting in a friendlier relationship with general aviation (GA). Since the agency began implementing the findings, the number of GA aircraft stops is down, with the percentage of those involved in illegal activity seeing a significant increase. The complaints of unnecessary searches and callous treatment to general aviation pilots seem to have come to a halt. In a recent meeting with CBP Commissioner Kerlikowske, AOPA President Mark Baker asked about opportunities to improve the cross-border experience for GA pilots traveling internationally. Baker noted that outdated regulations and procedures are discouraging cross-border GA traffic. He asked for consistent procedures at all ports of entry and for improvements to the Electronic Advance Passenger Information System (eAPIS). Good news on both accounts. Montana pilots should no longer be harassed by CBP for no reason and any support to help improve crossing our border to and from Canada is welcome.

Flight Plan/Flight Watch Changes: The October 1 implementation date for changes to flight plan requirements planned by the FAA has been postponed for at least six months. The proposed change would require all flights to use the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) flight plan form (**Form 7233-4**), rather than the FAA's accustomed domestic flight plan form (Form 7233-1). The FAA will discontinue the use of the dedicated Flight Watch radio frequency 122.0 MHz on Sept.24. Services provided by En Route Flight Advisory Service (EFAS) will continue to be offered over published Flight Service frequencies and on 122.2 MHz, the universal frequency. After discontinuing, 122.0 MHz will be monitored for six months to direct pilots to other appropriate frequencies. This change is expected to eliminate redundancies and reduce underutilized services and frequency congestion on 122.0 MHz.

Concrete arrows and beacons: Many of you remember and may still practice trusting a compass and your own bearings to navigate long distances. Over 100 years ago, air travel was almost impossible at night or during bad weather due to poor visibility. An early attempt by the US Post Office to light bonfires and mark routes to various destinations proved impractical. The government then constructed large and illuminated concrete arrows along popular routes, directing pilots to cities in America. This became known as the Transcontinental Airway System, resulting in the construction of 1,500 concrete arrows across the country, outlining 18,000 miles of delivery routes. The arrows were 70 feet long and painted bright yellow to ensure maximum visibility and in the middle stood a 50-foot tower that lit up. These were about 10 miles apart and each arrow pointed to the location of the next along the course. Construction lasted about 10 years, starting in 1923. By the 1940s, the arrows were becoming obsolete due to the radio and radar navigation and eventually the beacons were removed and most towers dismantled. A preservation program called Passport in Time saved three beacons, the metal structures and generator huts. Although the arrows were not removed, even after all these years remnants are stumbled upon and sought out by enthusiasts determined to locate the remains.



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Calendar of Events

September 18-19, 2015 – Bridger Cup, a multi-day competition and public exposition bringing together Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) manufacturers, professionals, and hobbyists, to showcase the state of UAS technology and the benefits they can bring to the public. Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Bozeman. For further information go to www.bridgercup.com/.

September 19, 2015 – Glasgow Fly-In. Car and motorcycle show during fly in. Lunch sponsored by Cape Air. For further information phone (406) 228-2719.

September 20, 2015 - The traditional “GA BBQ” at Missoula International Airport from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. This annual event features burgers grilled with peerless talent by Missoula Airport’s Cris Jensen and Brian Ellestad. Classic cars add a rich flavor to the event, thanks to participation of the Garden City Rods and Customs car club. Displays are expected from the Museum of Mountain Flying and from others with aircraft of special interest. A competitive aviation event (for example, a spot landing contest) is also in the works. All Montana pilots and their guests are invited. The location is the “Runway 25 Hangars” just east of Northstar Jet. For information contact Gary Matson gjmatson@montana.com.

January 8-10, 2015 – Winter Survival Clinic. For further information contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or hdramstad@mt.gov.

January 20-21, 2016 – Aeronautics Board Meeting. For further information contact call (406) 444-2506.

February 12-14, 2016 – Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic. For further information contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or hdramstad@mt.gov.

March 3-5, 2016 – Montana Aviation Conference, Red Lion Colonial Hotel in Helena. For further information call (406) 444-2506.



Lincoln Airport, a Camper’s Delight



Constructed in 1964, the Lincoln Airport received a major renovation in 2006. Improvements included realigning the runway, lengthening it to 4,240 feet, a larger ramp area, partial taxi ways, pilot controlled lighting, and lighted night time precision approach-path indicator (PAPI). On the Southwest end of runway 4 is a campground for pilots and guests to use. Several camp sites have fire rings and tables. Aircraft can tie down in a parking area between the runway and game fence. Bicycles are provided in the shed Northeast of the ramp. The combination for the shed is the aviation emergency frequency. Lincoln is approximately 1 mile southwest of the airport on MT Highway 200, with lodging and food available.

In Memory

Originally appeared in the Billings Gazette on August 23, 2015



Johnny Ray Gluhm went to be with his Lord and Savior Aug. 19, 2015. Born Mar 7, 1956, in Pierre, S.D., to Wilbur and Lunetta Gluhm.

He joined the Navy at 18 and married Evelyn Eckstein, Sept. 25, 1976. During his 20 year Naval career, he was granted many awards; most notably the Surface Warfare Specialist Badge. He finished with the rank E7 Chief Petty Officer.

He was ordained on June 4, 2006, became pastor to Mountianview Community Baptist Church in White Sulphur Springs, Mont. He under took many challenges over the course of nine years. Organizing numerous major building renovations and earned the respect of the community through his willingness to show GOD's unconditional love, no questions asked.

A life's goal was finally achieved when he obtained his pilot's license. A big thrill was to fly every opportunity, for any reason, anywhere!

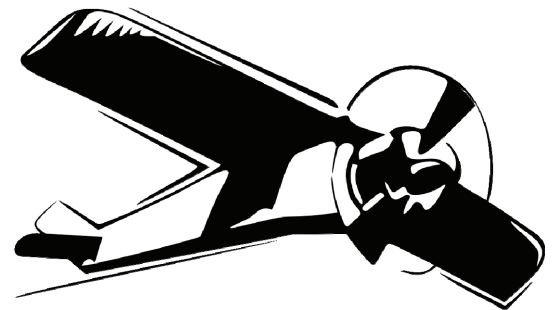
Survived by Evelyn his wife of 39 years; sons Josh, (Shanessa): Chad, (Kelsey); five grandkids; and three sisters: Johnna, Candie, Cherie. Proceeded in death by (parents) Wilbur and Lunetta; (sister) Cindy.

Our thoughts are with the Gluhm family during this difficult time.

Lewistown MPA Barbeque



On Wednesday, August 12, Margaret and Pete Smith hosted the annual summer barbeque for the Central Hangar of the Montana Pilots' Association at their farm north of Lewistown. Turnout was excellent, including members of the local VW Bug club. Jeff Patnode of Lewistown took advantage of Pete's well maintained airstrip and flew in his C-185, N1759R. Earlier in the afternoon, Aeronautics conducted refresher training on ELT direction finding equipment at Skyline Aviation on the Lewistown airport. Thanks to Greg Smith, owner of Skyline Aviation for hosting the training at his FBO.



Drone Competition, Exhibition & Celebration to be held in Bozeman

We are proud to announce the first annual Bridger Cup, a drone competition, exhibition and celebration to be held September 18th and 19th in beautiful Bozeman, Montana.

Ascent Vision Technologies and the City of Bozeman are proud to host an event that will captivate and entertain anyone who is interested in or curious about “drones”, the technological marvels that are in the news and in the skies throughout the world !

The inaugural Bridger Cup is an event which will showcase the latest in Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or “drones”, with a unique series of competitions, demonstrations and exhibitions of numerous types of drones performing various tasks in a fun and educational setting. Drone manufacturers and retailers will be present to discuss, display, and provide an opportunity to fly and even purchase these remarkable new aircraft. Pilots, future pilots and spectators will all enjoy the wonderful forum of drone excitement that will be The Bridger Cup.

The primary goal of The Bridger Cup event is to raise awareness of the beneficial and productive applications of drone technology as promising tools to be embraced and welcomed by all members of the public. The ability to safely and precisely operate in the skies overhead while acquiring vital high definition visual imagery and other digital information, opens up countless valuable and innovative ways to improve productivity, safety, the economy and the quality of life for society at large. Experts will be on hand to discuss the many wonderful ways in which drones seem destined to shape our future.

The centerpiece of The Bridger Cup is the drone competition and demonstration that is scheduled to occur between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds, located at 311 W. West Main, Bozeman, Montana USA at the Baseball Field and Stadium facility. There will be competitions involving speed, maneuverability, lifting capacity, and more, which will test the skills of the pilots and the capabilities of their aircraft. Also scheduled are interesting demonstrations of new drones, and applications of drones for specific tasks such as cinematography, search and rescue, fire-fighting, agricultural productivity and resource conservation, among others. A drone-flying area is also on tap, which will allow attendees to test their hand at actually test-flying drones and learning about drones from experienced pilots and trainers who will be there to explain and assist.

The Bridger Cup Drone Film Festival is another exciting phase of the event. Many of us have thrilled to the incomparable views and unique perspectives provided by drone photographers and film makers, who capture footage from the air in breathtaking ways. The organizers of the Bridger Cup are supporters of these creative artists, and have therefore established a short film competition held by the Audience Awards and sponsored by the Montana Film Office and Kalispell-based film maker Birds Eye of Big Sky. The competition will feature two-minute films from around the world, and will show case the abilities of movie makers to use drones in their craft. Generous prizes including cash and a new quadcopter drone will be awarded to the winning entries. All are invited to enter this contest, with details to be discovered at www.theaudienceawards.com

The Bridger Cup is designed to appeal to a wide range of drone enthusiasts and spectators. Manufacturers, retailers and other commercial enterprises will be showing off their products, holding demonstrations and discussing their products and innovations. Drone experts and trainers will be on hand to teach basic skills and share their knowledge. Pilots and racers will compete, excite and impress attendees with their skills and their aircraft’s capabilities through a fun slate of events including obstacle courses, lifting ability and accuracy, first-person-view racing, and other events. Top competitors will be awarded various prizes, including cash and merchandise. Informational workshops and speeches of importance will occur during the two day event. Other sponsors will also be present to represent themselves, their products and their services, which may also be of great interest to attendees.

The festivities will conclude late Saturday afternoon with the presentation of the first annual Bridger Cup to the overall winner, a handsome trophy that will be accompanied by a \$500 check and recognition as the first winner of the Bridger Cup.

Please join us at the Bridger Cup in beautiful, business-friendly Bozeman, Montana, for an exciting, fun, and educational introduction to the world of drones!

For further information visit their website at www.bridgercup.com.



“In Life you Are Either A Passenger or
A Pilot It’s Your Choice.”

- Unknown

Cromwell Dixon Lands Helena in Aviation History

Originally appeared August 24, 2015 at www.ktvh.com, by: Mikenzie Frost, KTVH-TV Reporter/Producer, reprinted with permission

When it comes to Montana history, Cromwell Dixon made his mark in the early 1900S when he took off from Helena and crossed the Continental Divide.

Flying across the Continental Divide does not seem out of the ordinary for most of us who are accustomed to cross-country aviation.

But go back to the early 1900s and such a feat was unheard of.

Young inventor and pilot, Cromwell Dixon, took it upon himself to do the unthinkable.

"Many people said it couldn't be done. It's like breaking the sound barrier. Ya know, the air's too thin, the planes won't fly...Cromwell was a young man, very brave individual, very creative individual so he said, 'I'm going to go ahead and do it,'" said Tom Cook, Public Information Officer for Montana Historical Society.

Dixon arrived in Helena at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds and on September 30, 1911, he took off to embark on his historic flight.

Fifteen miles from Helena, Dixon landed his plane in the small town of Blossburg, just north of MacDonald Pass.

Completing the flight, Dixon received a ten thousand dollar reward offered by local businesses.

"It was an incredible feat for anyone to imagine; flying over, flying period, but to fly over the Continental Divide," added Cook.

Two days after the flight, Dixon was killed in Spokane after his plane caught an updraft and crashed.

The Helena Regional Airport has a mural depicting the first flight and a model of the plane that Dixon used.



Vacancy Announcement at Helena College UofM

The Helena College University of Montana, a comprehensive two-year College focused on student success, seeks qualified applicants for the position of Aviation Maintenance Instructor. The position is a probationary non-tenure track academic year contact beginning October 15, 2015.

Instructors teach 30-32 credit hours of Aviation Maintenance and related courses. Required duties include course instruction and assessment, curriculum development, student advising and evaluation, governance participation and service to the college, as well as professional development. Instructors may be scheduled to teach classes during days, evenings, and/or online. Upon completion of 1900 hours of course work, students will be prepared to take three written exams and sit with a Designated Maintenance Examiner qualified by the FAA to be given three Oral and Practical Exams. Upon completion of the required FAA tests, a student will be certificated by the FAA as a mechanic with either or both an airframe and powerplant rating. With additional general coursework through Helena College University of Montana students will also be awarded an Associate of Applied Sciences degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology.

Qualifications include an Associate's Degree or Five (5) years' full-time experience in the occupation to be taught or an equivalent number of years of postsecondary education in the career/technical discipline, combined with work experience in the career/technical discipline. A&P License is required. Preferred qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in a related field and college-level teaching experience and A&P License with inspection authorization (IA).

For further information and to apply go to www.umhelena.edu.

Christmas in August 2015!



Every year at Yellowstone Airport a celebration known as “Christmas in August” is held. This event stems from the original “Christmas in August” event inside Yellowstone National Park. On August 24, 1925 at Fishing Bridge in Yellowstone National Park, it snowed on the tourists! The tourists and park staff decided to have an impromptu Christmas Celebration the next day on August 25th. They enjoyed food and exchanged a few small gifts, so “Christmas in August” was born!

Yellowstone Airport continues this tradition and has done so for more than 20 years! The celebration for the airport is very fitting being that the airport is closed during the winter months and unable to observe the holiday season.

This particular year something was missing, it wasn't the same. Our recently retired SkyWest Station Manager,

Christine Wong-Cervantes retired earlier in the year and was deeply missed. Christine loved Christmas and had kept Christmas in August at the airport alive for more than 2 decades! In keeping with the merry and jolly times of the past the airport will continue this great celebration for many years to come!

Fly-In – Drive-In Breakfast a Success

The annual Hysham Lions Fly-in, Drive-in breakfast was a huge success. Twenty-five airplanes flew in from Billings, Big Horn, Colstrip, Columbus, Forsyth, Fort Smith, Hardin, Hysham, Park City, Ingomar and Sarpy Creek. One hundred and thirty people enjoyed scrambled eggs, ham, pancakes, coffee and juice. Former Astronaut Frank Borman with his single turbine engine L019 was the first to arrive! The Lions would like to thank everyone who came; especially the CB&R 4-H group who set up tables and helped serve from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A great time was had by all. Put the second Sunday of August on your calendar for next year as this is an event you won't want to miss!

99's Keeping MT Airstrips in Top Notch Condition



The Montana Chapter of the Ninety-Nines have been busy air-marking airstrips this summer. They recently finished marking the Dillon Airport. Thanks to the Ninety-Nines for taking on this task and keeping our Montana airstrips in top notch condition!

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Civil Rights Bureau, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone (406) 444-9229. Those using a TTY may call 1 (800) 335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.

Aeronautics Division
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PO Box 200507
Helena, Montana 59620-0507

TV show looking for pilots

All3 Media is looking for private and commercial licensed pilots to answer the call of the wild and train to be bush pilots in Alaska.

The production company behind Undercover Boss is casting a new show for a major cable network, following qualified job-seekers from the lower 48 looking to take their career to new extremes in the wilds of Alaska.

“This is your chance to drop everything, reinvent yourself, break out of the grind, and see if the rugged life is your true calling,” the producers say.

One pilot will get one week to train as a bush pilot with one of the top flight schools in Alaska, obtaining a tailwheel endorsement and float and ski ratings. If this pilot aces flight school, he or she will have the chance to work as a bush pilot, delivering goods and supplies to remote parts of Alaska.

Email your name, photo, a brief bio, current occupation, and why you’re perfect for this job to jobinalaska@gmail.com.

Find out more at the production’s Facebook page “Escape to Alaska”.

