

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 73, No. 08

August 2022

Aviation Awareness Art Contest Winners Celebrated in Helena

This spring, winners of the Montana Aeronautics Division Aviation Awareness Art Contest received their first-place awards in Helena. Winners and two guests of their choosing were flown to Helena and were presented with awards in the capital rotunda. Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juris, Director of Transportation Mack Long, Deputy Director Julie Brown, Aeronautics Administrator Tim Conway, and Aeronautics Safety and Education Bureau Chief Matt Lindberg were on hand to present trophies and plaques to winners.

Photos courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Meadow Creek Work Session

This year's work party for Meadow Creek was just the right size to get 'er done. Rain from the previous evening caused low clouds in the morning but a window of good flying weather followed before heavy rain set in by early afternoon. Over a dozen volunteers arrived in 7 aircraft and managed to mow most of the airstrip, weed whip select areas, change the windsock, and tidy the outhouse. Thanks to a request from the Montana Pilot's Association (MPA) president Mike Vivion to bring chainsaws, there were 3 chainsaws throwing wood chips of dead trees while other volunteers cleared brush, sticks, and rocks. Some of the trees were cut to length and stacked for firewood. When lunchtime rolled around, the MPA treated the volunteers to a fabulous top sirloin steak with all the fixings. If you haven't been to Meadow Creek, you're missing out. Practice your short/soft field technique, check density attitude, and keep an eye on the weather then head to this beautiful mountain location as a reminder of why we love flying in Montana.



Photo courtesy of Karen Conway

Aviation Conference to be Held in Billings

The Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) is pleased to announce the Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Billings, March 2-4 2023, at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. 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 many areas of the aviation community to learn from each other and to discuss issues of mutual concern. Around 500 participants are expected each year. Stay tuned for more details to come!



Tim Conway, Administrator

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Official monthly publication of the
Aeronautics Division
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Angel Flight West is in Need of Pilots

Angel Flight West (AFW) delivers health and hope to those in need of donated flights to access healthcare and other compelling human needs. With a network of over 2,000 volunteers throughout twelve western states, Angel Flight West has completed over 90,000 missions since 1983. Their volunteer pilots provide time and resources to serve each mission, and Angel Flight West passengers are never and will never be charged for any service. Passengers can travel with them as many times as they need. Every day, on average, Angel Flight West oversees 10 unique flights. Each flight is piloted by a trusted volunteer, and you can become one of them!

Some basic requirements must be met by pilots who volunteer for these important missions. Volunteer pilots with Angel Flight West must have access to aircraft as an owner or renter. Minimum Pilot-in-Command (PIC) time is 250 hours. Visual Flight Rules only pilots will be accepted, limited to daytime operations only. You must have received a flight review within the last 24 months; or an insurance-approved recurrent training course at an approved facility; or a Part 121 or 135 line check, instrument proficiency check, or PIC check within the last 12 months; or successful completion of one phase of the FAA Wings program within the preceding 12 months as of the date of the orientation. Pilot applicants must hold at least medical requirements as per FAR 61.53 current medical certificate. BasicMed does qualify. At this time, it is not permissible to use experimental or non-certified aircraft for passenger missions. Experimental aircraft may, however, be used for missions transporting blood or for any non-passenger missions. You must affirm at the orientation, and annually, that you will adhere to all Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) and that you have the required certificate and rating for the aircraft to be flown when acting as PIC on an AFW mission. This affirmation also includes having insurance in force and compliance with drug and alcohol provisions of the FARs. You must supply a copy of the Certificate of Insurance, applicable to the aircraft that will be used for AFW missions, providing at least \$500,000 liability coverage with a minimum per-seat coverage of \$100,000.

Sign-up today at: www.angelflightwest.org/pilot-page/ [nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com]

For more information contact the Angel Flight West pacific northwest outreach associate, Jennifer Cooper, at JenniferC@AngleFlightWest.org or (206)235-3397.

New Welcome Sign at the Whitefish Airport

Ryan Economy and the Eagle Scouts built and installed a new sign at the Whitefish Airport. They started in the Fall of 2021 by digging holes, placing pillars, and pouring the concrete for the foundation. With help from his high school welding shop teacher, Greg Roberts, his dad, and the community, he built the sign. Final installation and finishing touches to the project took place in the middle of May this year. Gravel was placed around the foundation, and a bench will be added under the sign to complete the project. Aeronautics would like to thank Ryan and the Boy Scouts for their great work on the project. It will be a great welcome to all pilots who visit the airport!

Photo courtesy of Ryan Economy



Del Bonita and East Poplar Work Sessions

On June 17th the Montana Department of Transportation's (MDT) Deputy Director, Julie Brown, joined Karen Speeg from Montana Aeronautics to attend a work session at the Del Bonita airport on the Canadian border. They met with volunteers who flew in from both Canada and the United States and brought along shovels to help fill gopher and badger holes on the field. There were over 30 volunteers who arrived in 12 aircraft, along with some who drove over in their RVs to provide lunch for all the crew. Many thanks to the volunteers who were extremely helpful in this endeavor. This airport provides the general aviation community easy access to clearing customs on the international border. This annual event organized by the Montana Pilots Association and the Alberta Flying Farmers; Montana Aeronautics provides supplies and labor.

The day before, on June 16th, Karen also visited the East Poplar Border Strip and met with Connie Wittak and Stan French from the Daniels County Weed District. Connie and Stan brought 4-wheelers to assist in filling in gopher holes on the runway. Last year, this event was able to be completed in April as an Earth Day project with about a dozen local high school students. However, this year's late snow and rain postponed the project until June and the students were no longer available. A special thank you goes out to Connie and Stan for their assistance in making the job go much faster than if it was just one person walking with a shovel.



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics Staff

Aeronautics Loan & Grant Application Reminder

The Loan and Grant online portal (<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml>) is accepting FY 2024 applications through November 15, 2022. If you cannot enter the website, you may have a previous award that needs a closeout form or an annual status report filed.

Additionally, make sure projects are broken down as required. As an example, asphalt projects should be broken down by runway, apron, and taxiway, not as one project lumped together.

Airport Sponsors and Engineers- As a friendly reminder, airport sponsors who were previously awarded a loan or grant from Montana Aeronautics are required to complete a status update or project closeout form to be eligible to apply for additional funding.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the loan and grant program, please contact Karen Speeg at 406-444-9581 or kaspeeg@mt.gov.

Aviation Photo Contest


Would you like to see your photograph on the cover of the 2023 Montana Airport Directory? Submit your photos to the Aeronautics Division by November 1, 2022, to be considered. The winning photo will be selected based on the best representation of aviation in Montana.

Contests like this are an excellent way to engage people, especially students, who are not familiar with aviation. Offer to show them your airplane, give them an airplane ride, give them the grand tour of your local airport, and challenge them to take some interesting pictures from their unique perspectives. If pilots are good at one thing, it is talking about aviation! Lets use our burning passion and give the flying bug to someone new and curious to our way of life.

Please submit your high resolution photos by email to: kaspeeg@mt.gov.

For more information, email Karen Speeg at the above address, or call us at (406) 444-2506.

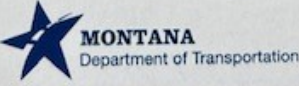
**MDT Aeronautics retains all rights to submitted photos and may use them for other promotional purposes.*



**2022 Montana
Airport Directory
61st Edition**

For Reference Only

MDT Aeronautics Division



MONTANA
Department of Transportation
mdt.mt.gov/aviation

KC-135 Visits

Yellowstone Airport

On June 8th an Air National Guard (ANG) KC-135 Stratotanker from the 151st Air Refueling Wing in Salt Lake City Utah dropped by Yellowstone Airport to do a couple of touch-and-goes. This was a “Fini Flight” (or last flight of career) for a Lieutenant Colonel who is retiring. Fly in and stay at the pilot campground at the Yellowstone Airport and you never know what you might see!



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

Aviation Teacher Workshop

On October 7 and 8, Montana Aeronautics will host its annual Teacher Workshop. The Division has partnered with the Montana Learning Center (MLC) at Canyon Ferry Lake to deliver the program, and the curriculum is authorized to provide 20 renewal credits through the Office of Public Instruction.

Teachers will receive instruction from Dr. Walter Woolbaugh of MSU, Ryan Hannahoe, Executive Director of the Learning Center, Chris Gillette, retired airline pilot and member of the MLC team, and Montana Aeronautics staff. The lessons will consist of aeronautics theory and principle-based demonstrations and experiments they can easily and affordably reproduce in the classroom for students. These ideas and experiments are designed to excite students about aviation while learning STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) principles that apply to everyday life. The goal of the workshop is for teachers to take their newfound passion for aviation and transfer it back to their students in their classrooms.

Introductory flights will kick-off the event along with tours of the Montana Air National Guard, an air ambulance operator, Helena College aircraft mechanic school, and the Helena Air Traffic Control Tower. On the second day, classroom activities and studies will take place at the Montana Learning Center. Oh, there is no cost to teachers!

To register visit: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQC3WqGCCHWKDcQEE76dXtmpKJPMIK9JRdAkZ8eEXSByFWyQ/closedform>



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

100LL Fuel to be Replaced

Earlier this year, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) started an initiative to eliminate lead-based aviation fuels by 2030. One priority they have made clear is that this initiative should not adversely affect the existing piston-engine fleet. Support from several major aviation organizations involved in general aviation has been shown in favor of the project. The initiative includes participation by the FAA, Environmental Protection Agency, fuel suppliers and distributors, airports, engine and aircraft manufacturers, research institutions, associations, environmental experts, and other key stakeholders.

The FAA is working to increase infrastructure, testing of engines, approving new fuel sources, and adapting new regulations to reach this goal.

Are Your Cows Calibrated?

Windssocks are calibrated to indicate wind velocity at various degrees of extension. Dust and ripples across the grass or water can also help us see wind direction, but those are not as helpful with velocity. Did you know that cows tend to turn and face downwind when the wind hits approximately 10 knots? We all know there is no shortage of wind in Montana, but sometimes there isn't a windssock to reference. Pictured below are some escapees, with most of their heads pointed to the left, which was downwind in a stiff spring "breeze" along the rocky mountain front. Who knew?



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

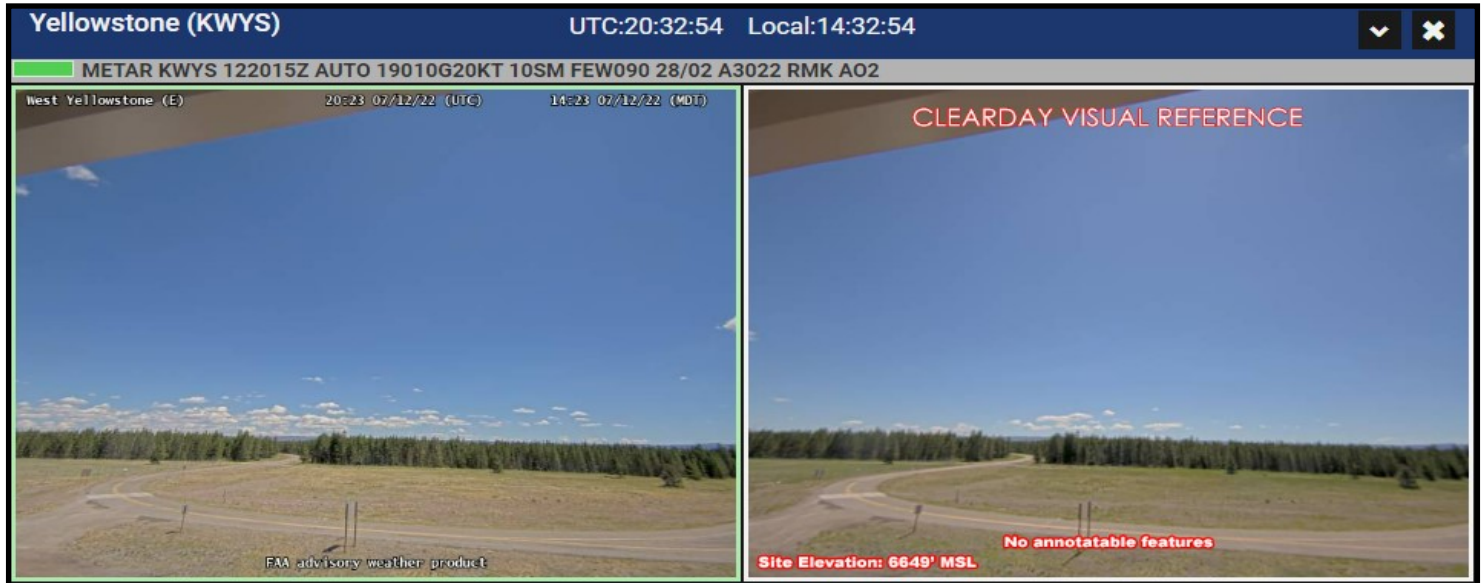
Yellowstone Airport Gets Web Cameras

The Yellowstone airport was the latest airport to receive aviation web cameras. Montana Aeronautics launched this new program in 2021 and it has been wildly accepted and utilized by pilots flying in our state.

These kinds of tools are critical components of a pilots pre and enroute planning arsenal. In Alaska, where there is a robust weather camera system for pilots, they have seen an 80% reduction in weather related aviation accidents. Montana is pleased to be one of the few states offering a web camera network and more installations will continue throughout 2022.

To view the weather cameras, hosted by the Federal Aviation Administration, please visit:

<https://weathercams.faa.gov/map/-116.39093,41.11676,-95.29718,48.05252/airport/WYS/details/camera>



Calendar of Events

August 6, 2022 — Three Forks Fly-in The Montana Antique Aircraft Association will host the 44th annual Three Forks Fly In on August 6th at 7:30am. Friday the 5th will be the kick off pot luck dinner for members and friends. Saturday morning fly or drive into Three Forks Airport for a hot breakfast starting at 7:30. The Shriners will provide lunch. At 1:30 there will be a ping pong ball drop for kids 7-12. Flour bombing and spot landing contests will follow. Awards will be given to the top 3 winners. A prize will be given for the people's choice airplane as well. No Saturday night dinner this year. For more information, contact Bob Green at (406) 539-7830.

August 14, 2022 — Hysham Fly-In and Drive In Come to Hysham for breakfast hosted by the Hysham Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact Bob Miller at (406) 342-5252

August 4-6, 2022 — Search Pilot Clinic, Helena

September 10, 2022 — Glasgow Open House and Car Show 10am-2pm. Lunch sponsored by Cape Air. For more information, contact Lucas Locke at (406)228-2719

October 7-8, 2022 — STEM Teacher Workshop. Be sure to tell all the teachers you know in Montana! Middle and high school math and science teachers will gather at the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake for a teachers' aeronautics STEM workshop sponsored by the MDT Aeronautics Division. For more information, contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-9568.

Do You Know of an Aviation Event in Montana?

Montana Aeronautics relies on input from sponsors, planners, hosts, and volunteers from aviation events in Montana to let us know about planned aviation activities. Please let us know what events you have planned, and we will put them on our calendar of events to share with the flying community.

This year's activities are abundant; we hope to see you at some of them soon!

You can email your events to mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov.

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Thank you for reading this month's edition of
Montana and the Sky, fly safe!

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This document printed at state expense. Information on the cost of publication may be obtained by contacting the Department of Administration.