

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 74, No. 1

January 2023

## Conference Keynotes: AOPA President Mark Baker to speak at 2023 Montana Aviation Conference

Mark R. Baker, President and CEO of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), will deliver the second keynote address at the upcoming 2023 Montana Aviation Conference.

Mark took up his role as President and CEO of AOPA, the world's largest civil aviation organization, in 2013.

A native Minnesotan, Baker earned his pilot certificate in his twenties and has logged more than 10,000 hours of flight time in aircraft ranging from light seaplanes to turbines and helicopters.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Baker has served on numerous corporate boards and has taken leadership roles within several nonprofit organizations.

Before his appointment at AOPA, Baker served in numerous senior executive roles with leading corporations in the hardware, home improvement and garden care industries.

In conjunction with his role as president and CEO of AOPA, Baker is chairman of AOPA's Political Action Committee; chief executive officer for the AOPA Foundation; president of the International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations, representing pilots in 81 countries; and publisher of *AOPA Pilot*, the world's largest and most influential aviation publication.



AOPA President Mark Baker will deliver the keynote address at the Evening Dinner on Friday, March 3, 2023 at the Montana Aviation Conference in Billings. Photo courtesy of Mark Baker/AOPA.

### Conference Registration is Open!

Register for the 38th Annual Montana Aviation Conference using the link below or scan the QR code. The Billings Hotel and Convention Center is offering a group rate for conference attendees. See the event website or contact Justin Zindell at 406-444-9580 for more information. Register online: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/conference.aspx>



# 2023 Montana Airport Directory Available

Each year, the Aeronautics Division produces an updated Montana airport directory . One is included with each annual pilot registration and additional copies may be purchased for \$5.

Information such as field elevation, navigation and communication frequencies, and airport diagrams are displayed for each airport. Additional information not found in the Chart Supplement, like alternate airport contact names and numbers, as well as courtesy car information.

The Aeronautics Division held a contest for the cover photo of the Montana Airport Directory again this year. The winning photograph, submitted by Bryan Prevost, shows his 1953 PA-18 Super Cub in flight over eastern Montana farmland. The photograph was taken by Moose Peterson Photography.



The winning 2023 Montana Airport Directory cover photo, submitted by Bryan Prevost.  
*Photo © Moose Peterson Photography*

To purchase a 2023 directory, please call Montana Aeronautics at 406-444-2506.

Please email Montana Aeronautics Aviation Support Officer, Stephen Torske, with any directory updates at [storske@mt.gov](mailto:storske@mt.gov).



**The Montana Aeronautics Division wishes everyone a safe and happy New Year!**



Tim Conway, Administrator

***Montana and the Sky***  
Montana  
Department of Transportation

Greg Gianforte, Governor  
Malcolm D. Long, Director

Official monthly publication of the  
Aeronautics Division  
Telephone - 406-444-2506  
Fax - 406-444-2519  
P.O. Box 200507  
Helena, MT 59620-0507  
[www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/)

All photos published herein are courtesy of Montana Aeronautics Division Staff unless otherwise noted.

## Aeronautics Board:

**Bill Lepper, Chair**  
**Robert Bergeson, Member**  
**Wade Cebulski, Member**  
**Pam Chamberlin, Member**  
**Dan Hargrove, Member**  
**Tim Robertson, Member**  
**Tom Schoenleben, Member**  
**Timothy Sheehy, Member**  
**Gregory Smith, Member**



# Seasonal Operations at Yellowstone Airport

Yellowstone Airport (WYS) has operated seasonally in the warm months of the year since its inception in 1964. The subarctic winters and incredible snow accumulations have prevented the airport from operating year-round. Rather than leave the airport dormant for its winter slumber, the airport hosts many different non-aeronautical winter activities and receives additional income through these activities.

Because the runway is not available for aviation purposes during the winter months, it makes an ideal location to conduct cold weather vehicle and equipment testing. Tires, snowblowers, snowmobiles, and automobiles have been tested at the airport in the past. WYS is the perfect location for testing items under extreme conditions due to its predictable high snow levels and frigid cold temperatures.

The additional revenue aids in the airport's pursuit of self-sustainability, as required by the FAA. While the airport may only be open to the flying public during the summer, it must be able to invest and maintain infrastructure and operations the same as a year-round facility.

The airport is currently closed for air traffic and anticipates reopening the first week in May. Check the latest NOTAMS for up-to-date airport and airfield conditions at: <https://notams.aim.faa.gov/>



Snow-covered taxiways and bison grazing in front of the terminal mark the seasonal shift in operations at the Yellowstone Airport.

## Welcome to New Aeronautics Staff



**Madeleine Roberg** joins us in the role of Aeronautics Financial Contact.

She most recently worked for Montana State Treasury at the Department of Administration and has a diverse background encompassing archaeology, entrepreneurship, and education.

She married into a family of general aviation enthusiasts and loves a good airshow. Madeleine is a reverse snowbird; she grew up in Florida, but keeps moving north. She has lived in Helena for eight years.

## Restricted Airspace Proposed Near Townsend

The US Air Force has put forth a proposal to establish an aerial gunnery range and restricted airspace near Townsend, MT. The Air Force allotted a very short comment period on its 358-page proposal and did not consult with the broader aviation community in Montana during the study and creation of the proposal.

This proposal will create restricted airspace for a live-fire helicopter gunnery range in an area just west of Townsend, which is heavily utilized by general aviation pilots. The proposal adds hundreds of additional low-level sorties to be flown to and from the area per year. Through requests from Montana Aeronautics, the Montana Pilots Association, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and concerned Montana aviators, the comment period has been extended until January 13, 2023.

The Environmental Assessment and Technical Studies are available for review via the "Environmental Assessments" tab found online at:

<https://www.malmstrom.af.mil/About-Us/Environmental-Resources/>

and may be reviewed at the following libraries:

- Broadwater School & Community Library, 201 N. Spruce St., Townsend, MT
- Lewis and Clark Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT
- Great Falls Public Library, 301 2nd Avenue North, Great Falls, MT

**Written comments can be submitted until January 13, 2023 to:**

Ms. Katie Rediske

Email: [341CES.CEIE.NEPAWorkFlow@us.af.mil](mailto:341CES.CEIE.NEPAWorkFlow@us.af.mil)

or by mail to: 341 CES/CENP  
Attn: Katie Rediske  
39 78th Street N,  
Malmstrom AFB, MT 59402

# Backlog Prompts FAA Registry Changes

To address the six-month backlog in processing registration applications, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is extending the duration of federal aircraft registration certificates from three years to seven years.

Before the three-year validity period, registration certificates were good as long as you owned the aircraft. Questions arose about how many aircraft were actually in the United States, prompting the historic change to three-year validity. The renewal forced thousands of aircraft off the registry as many aircraft had been destroyed, exported, or simply rotted away.

Staffing challenges and a wild aircraft sales market have created the longest registration backlog the agency has ever seen. However, this has resulted in more accurate registry database records..

The goal of lengthening the registration certificates from three to seven years is to reduce the number of applicants awaiting FAA approval. This will help to expedite the approval of renewals and ownership transfers.

The rule also expands authority for aircraft owners to operate beyond the registration renewal date from 90 days following expiration to 12 months, a timeframe that should cover any renewal delays stemming from agency backlogs. The rule will take effect January 23, 2023.

Additionally, in December, the FAA Registry rolled out limited online registration services for individual aircraft owners under their new Civil Aviation Registry Electronic Services (CARES) website. Individuals can now complete self-guided aircraft registration applications, upload legal and supplemental documents, receive auto-generated notifications, request aircraft registration N-Numbers, use modernized online payment options, receive instant notification of payment, and digitally sign Aircraft Registration Applications. These online services will be continuously expanded and improved upon to include corporations, LLCs, partnerships, and non-citizen trusts, in addition to other FAA Registry services.

The new CARES system is accessible at: <https://cares.faa.gov/>

## 2023 AOPA Aviation Scholarships

Significant money is available to qualified applicants for aviation education through the AOPA scholarship program. When I say significant money, I mean MILLIONS of dollars! Wouldn't it be awesome if a Montanan won a meaningful scholarship from AOPA? While their website advertises dozens of scholarship opportunities, the offerings from AOPA are by far the largest, and the deadline is coming soon. Applications must be received by **February 10, 2023**.

Awards from \$2,500 to \$14,000 are available for high school students, teachers, student pilots, rated pilots, and beyond. These applications take some effort to complete, and require others to write recommendations, so don't wait until the last minute to apply.

Many of us have been reading this newsletter for decades and enjoy helping others join aviation. Whether we take someone flying for the first time, mentor them, provide advice and training, or even offer up an aircraft to use, we are positively enabling the future of general aviation in our state. Right now, there is an unprecedented demand for pilots and maintenance technicians; it is a great time to be entering the field! So, spread the word about scholarship opportunities to those you know who are entering aviation professions and need a boost to "get 'er done."

For criteria and to apply, visit:

<https://www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/learn-to-fly/aviation-scholarships>.



## FAA Changes Medical Requirements

The FAA recently made changes to airmen medical certification requirements and their limitations.

More than 60,000 pilots fly under Basic Med certification in the United States. Under the original rule, holders were not permitted to operate as a required flight crew member who was not pilot in command. This meant that nobody who held Basic Med certification could act as a safety pilot. Good news has finally arrived, as this rule changed in December 2022.

Now, pilots who operate under Basic Med can act as a safety pilot and as a required flight crew member who is not pilot in command. This was a win for the industry and has expanded training and safety opportunities to those who previously had to utilize other, sometimes expensive, options.

In the same rule signing, the FAA enacted a rule requiring commercial balloon pilots to hold a second class medical certificate to fly commercially, or while providing balloon flight instruction. This affected a very small number of pilots in the United States and brings a higher standard of safety to members of the public who purchase balloon rides or receive balloon flying instruction.

# Montana Aircraft Mechanic Refresher & Inspection Authorization (IA) Renewal Seminar

The Montana Aeronautics Division will be offering a Mechanic Refresher and IA Renewal Seminar concurrently with the 2023 Montana Aviation Conference. Mechanics and Authorized Inspectors attending the seminar must register for the Aviation Conference; this also allows you to attend other conference events.

**Online Registration is now open.**

<https://www.eventsquid.com/event/17918>



**Register now to ensure your seat!**

### **Registration Fees:**

\$130 Individual Registration

\$10 Student Registration

(High School, College, and AP Mechanic Students, and Student Pilots)

## March 3-4, 2023

**Billings Hotel and Convention Center**

1223 Mallowney Lane

Billings, Montana

*Reference rooming block*

**Montana Aviation Conference 2023**

*to book a room at the state rate.*

For more information, contact Derrick Olheiser:  
dolheiser@mt.gov or 406-444-9592.

**When registering, please indicate the sessions you plan to attend.  
Only 8 hours are required to meet FAR Part 65.93**

### **Sessions:**

#### **Friday, March 3rd, 2023**

7:00-7:10 am - Welcome and Introduction

#### **Session 1**

7:10-8:10 am - Jeff Vercoe - FAA

8:10-9:10 am - Heath Johnson & Andrew Aunan - Lycoming Engines  
Maintenance Tips/Resources/ Tool Rental

9:10-9:20 am - BREAK

9:20-10:20 am - Kirsti Dunks - Aviation Safety

10:20-11:20 am - Mike & Jessie Ellis - PinnaCal Tool Calibration

11:20 am - 1:45 pm LUNCH - FAA AMT Video option 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

#### **Session 2**

1:45 - 2:45 pm - Wayne McGhee - Garmin

2:45 - 3:45 pm - Craig Stebbins - Cross Petroleum Service Oil/Greases

3:45 - 3:55 pm - BREAK

3:55 - 4:55 pm - Dick Jacobs - Northwest Propeller

4:55 - 5:55 pm Tim Gauntt - The Challenges of a Repair Station and What we  
Have Learned from 20 years of Experience.

#### **Saturday, March 4th, 2023**

7:00-7:10 am - Welcome and Introduction

#### **Session 3**

7:10-8:10 am - Jeff Vercoe - FAA

8:10-9:10 am - Wayne McGhee - Garmin

9:10-9:20 am - BREAK

9:20-10:20 am - Vince Bechtel - Tempest Aero Group Spark Plug Design  
and Maintenance

10:20-11:20 am - Charlie Field - Aerospace Welding Minneapolis, Inc.

Inspection & Maintenance of Aircraft Exhaust and Engine Mounts

11:20 am - 1:45 pm LUNCH - FAA AMT Video option 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

#### **Session 4**

1:45 - 2:45 pm - John Nielsen - McFarlane Aviation Products: The care and  
feeding of the MT Composite Propeller

2:45 - 3:45 pm - Bryan Hansen - FAA HLN FSDO

3:45 - 3:55 pm - BREAK

3:55 - 4:55 pm - Tim Gauntt - Who Needs A&Ps when you have YouTube?

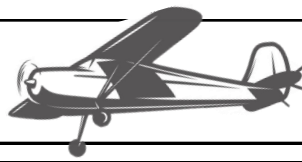
4:55 - 5:55 pm Greg Cross - Cross Petroleum Service - Piston Engine Oils

**For more information regarding Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Inspection Authorization renewal requirements and forms, visit: [https://www.faa.gov/about/office\\_org/field\\_offices/fsdo/hln/](https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/hln/)**

**Note: The FAA's preferred method for submitting IA renewals is via the IACRA website.**

**To register for an account go to: <https://iacra.faa.gov>**





## Reminders

### 2023 Flight Instructor Refresher Course

The Montana Aeronautics Division is pleased to announce registration is open for the 2023 Flight Instructor Refresher Course!



**Tuition is \$75**

Pilots currently registered with the Aeronautics Division can save \$25!

Montana pilot registration is \$10 /year. Call MDT Aeronautics Division to register as a pilot and/or ask for the promo code to receive your discount.

- ◆ This two-day course meets FAA renewal requirements for Certified Flight Instructors (CFIs).
- ◆ Training will be provided by experienced instructors from Aviation Seminars.
- ◆ You do not need to be a CFI to attend. The course includes useful material for all aviators.
- ◆ A room block is offered at the Comfort Suites of Helena. Call 406-444-2506 and reference the "MDT Flight Instructor Refresher Course" to receive the state rate.

**February 10-11, 2023  
Helena, MT**

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



**Sign up  
Online!**

For more information:  
Montana Aeronautics Division  
406-444-2506  
[mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov)

### Winter Survival Clinic

The annual Winter Survival Clinic will be held January 6-8, 2023, near Anaconda, Montana.

The course cost is \$75. This price includes meals (except for dinner on the campout night), instruction, and lodging.

**This clinic is FULL!**

Join the waitlist online at:

<https://www.eventsquid.com/event/18492>

For more information, please contact the Aeronautics Division by calling 406-444-2506 or email [mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov).



### MDT Aeronautics Annual Pilot Registration

Montana is required to register all pilots in the state, with some exceptions. The annual fee is \$10 and includes a Montana Airport Directory, subscription to the monthly *Montana and the Sky* newsletter, and your annual pilot registration card.

Registered pilot information is collected to aid in the event of a search and rescue case, as it can help us locate and contact you more quickly during an emergency.

Annual pilot registration renewal memos will be mailed in early December. **If you own an aircraft, you also automatically receive a pilot registration form with your annual aircraft registration invoice.** Only one pilot form is required to be returned or completed online per pilot.

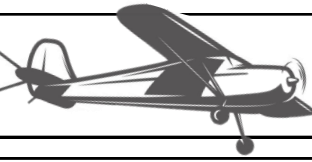
- To register as a pilot online, please visit: <https://app.mt.gov/aeronautics>. Payment processing fees apply.
- To locate and print the form online for mailing to the Aeronautics Division, please visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/regpilot.aspx>
- To request a Pilot Registration form be mailed or emailed to you, please call the Aeronautics Division at 406-444-2506 or email [mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov).

Please note: Annual pilot registration with the Montana Aeronautics Division is required by state law, with some exceptions, and should *not* be confused with Montana Pilots Association's (MPA) registration dues, if you are also a member of the MPA.

For more information, or to view the applicable statutory exceptions, please see § 67-3-211, MCA:

[https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title\\_0670/chapter\\_0030/part\\_0020/section\\_0110/0670-0030-0020-0110.html](https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0670/chapter_0030/part_0020/section_0110/0670-0030-0020-0110.html)

## Reminders



# MDT Aeronautics Annual Aircraft Registration Deadline March 1, 2023

Montana does not tax aircraft, but does assess an annual aircraft registration fee in lieu of tax. The fees are set by the Montana Legislature and are determined according to the type and age of the aircraft.

Aircraft customarily kept in Montana, as well as any aircraft with a Montana address on its FAA registration, **must** be registered with the Montana Aeronautics Division on or before March 1 every year (or within 30 days of purchase date for any aircraft purchased). Aircraft renewal invoices are sent the first week of December, and a reminder letter is sent before the renewal deadline. **A statutory penalty for late registrations must be assessed in the amount of five times the registration fee if payment OR signed affidavit for exemption with supporting documentation is not received by the deadline.**

***PLEASE POSTMARK OR TIMESTAMP YOUR REGISTRATION PAYMENTS OR AFFIDAVIT FOR FEE EXEMPTION WITH REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1 FOR A RENEWAL (OR WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER A NEW AIRCRAFT PURCHASE) TO AVOID THE PENALTY.***

Please note that aircraft out of annual inspection are not considered “unairworthy” as defined by administrative rule and **are** subject to annual registration fees.

Online fee payment services for aircraft and pilot registration are available at:

<https://app.mt.gov/aeronautics>. Payment processing fees apply.

For questions, please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506 or [mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov).

**\*ACTION IS REQUIRED BY AIRCRAFT OWNERS ON ALL AIRCRAFT REGISTRATIONS EACH YEAR**

## Calendar of Events

**January 6-8, 2023 — Winter Survival Clinic.** Come learn essential winter survival skills with experienced instructors from Emergency Response International. **The 2023 clinic is full.** Join the waitlist at: <https://www.eventsquid.com/event/18492>. For more information contact Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506.

**January 13, 2023 — Public Comment Period Deadline for Proposed Limestone Hills Restricted Airspace.** See article on Page 3 of this issue for more details and comment submission addresses.

**January 17-18, 2023 — Aeronautics Loan and Grant Board Meeting.** For more information contact Stephen Torske at (406) 444-9569 or [storske@mt.gov](mailto:storske@mt.gov).

**January 22-24, 2023 — Assoc. of Montana Aerial Applicators Annual Conference.** See <https://montanaaerialapplicators.org/> for contact information.

**February 10-11, 2023 — Flight Instructor Refresher Course.** To sign up visit: [www.aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/](http://www.aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/). Contact Aeronautics at [mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov) or call (406) 444-2506 for more information. To book a room, call Comfort Suites at (406) 513-1140 and reference “MDT Flight Instructor Refresher Course.”

**March 1, 2023 — 2023 Aircraft Registration Deadline.** Renewal notices will be mailed at the end of the year. Remember to get your Montana aircraft registered no later than March 1, 2023 to avoid penalty fees. For more information, contact Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506.

**March 2-4, 2023 — Montana Aviation Conference.** Billings Hotel and Convention Center, Billings, Montana. For more information, or to register visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/conference.aspx> or call Justin Zindell at (406) 444-9580.

## Do You Know of an Aviation Event in Montana?

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

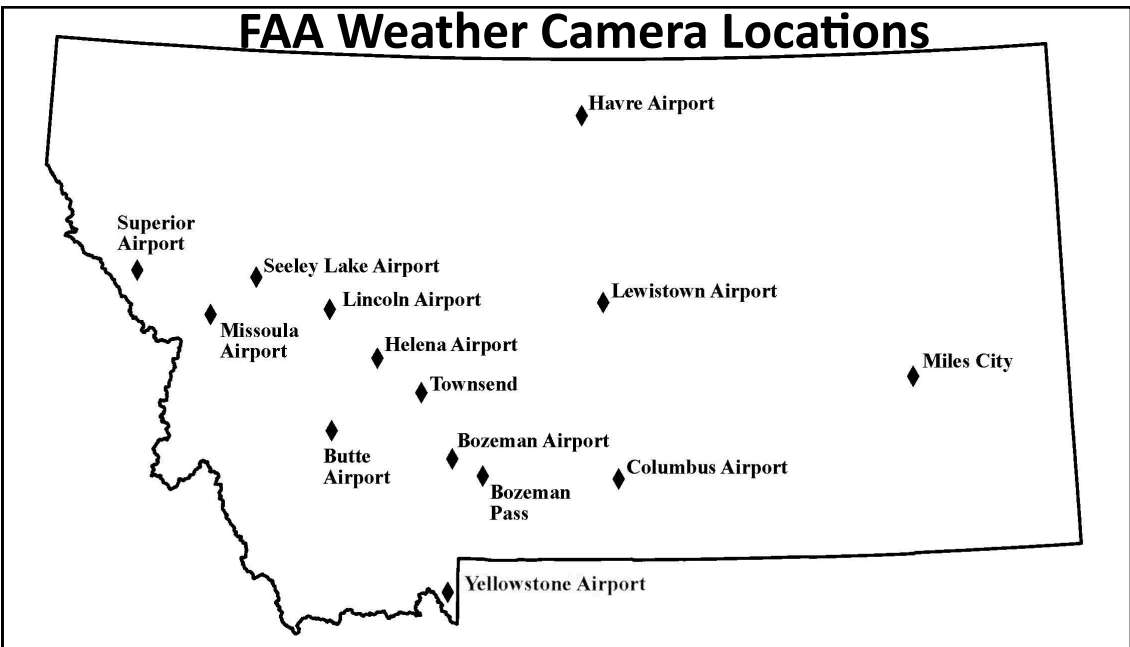
You can email your events to [mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov).

**Aeronautics Division**  
2630 Airport Road  
PO Box 200507  
Helena, Montana 59620-0507



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

To manage your *Montana and the Sky* newsletter subscription preferences, please email [mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov) or call (406) 444-2506.



Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-5416 or Montana Relay Service at 711.

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