



2005 Contest Winners!

Chinook High School student Trevor Nicholson is the winner of the 2005 Aviation Awareness Art Contest, Category III (ages sixteen to eighteen). The Aviation Awareness Art Contest is sponsored by the Montana Aeronautics Division and is designed to promote students awareness to the importance of aviation and aerospace industries.

Trevor's poster is a drawing of a P51 - Mustang. As the winner, Trevor will be attending the annual Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Air Academy from July 19-28, 2005 at Oshkosh, WI. The academy is held in conjunction with the 53rd Annual EAA Fly-In Convention. The tuition along with a round trip airline ticket is paid by contributions from Montana's aviation community, private donations and through the Division's scholarship fund.

Rebecca Roberts of Ulm was the winner of Category II (ages eleven to fifteen) for her drawing of Aviation Montana's New Frontier. Rebecca Brown, a third grader from Meadowlark Elementary School in Conrad was the winner in Category I with her drawing of the US Flag and a jet flying above fields with mountains in the background.

On June 13th, Aeronautics' pilots, Jeanne MacPherson and Mike Rogan and Pilot Ed Obie from Chinook flew the Contest winners, along with their parents to Helena where an awards Ceremony was held. Transportation Director, Jim Lynch presented all three winners with a trophy, ribbon and plaque. Following the ceremony, Jim Lynch gave a tour of the Capitol with many extras included. The Art Contest Awards festivities concluded with lunch and flights back to the winners' hometowns. Montana Aeronautics Division will once again publish a calendar using the aviation art posters from 2005. See the winning artwork on pages 4-5.



The proud winners received a framed picture of their amazing artwork pictured (l-r) Rebecca Roberts, Ulm; Rebecca Brown, Conrad and Trevor Nicholson, Chinook.

Pictured (l-r) Dan, Amy & Rebecca Brown, Jeanne MacPherson, Rebecca Roberts and her parents Walt & Shauna; Jim Lynch, Trevor Nicholson, Debbie Alke, Ed Obie, Dick Nicholson and Mike Rogan.



Photos by: Shirley Bird

Administrator's Column

Air service continues to expand: Big Sky Airlines will begin new direct flights between Boise and two Montana cities next month. A daily flight between Boise and Bozeman will be offered starting August 6 for a special introductory rate of \$99/one-way. On the same date, Big Sky is adding a round-trip flight between Boise and Missoula each day of the week except Saturday. Big Sky has also added a second flight between Sheridan, WY and Billings and a fourth flight between Sheridan, WY and Denver. Big Sky has also announced that it will begin service between Kalispell and Calgary on October 6. Several attempts and discussions have taken place for the past many years in an attempt to attract a carrier in providing service to the north from Montana. This is great news. The one-way EASYFARES offered by Big Sky Airlines have no restrictions associated with the fares—no round-trip purchase requirements and no minimum stay. Checkout their website at www.bigskyair.com

Passenger boardings continue to soar in Montana: Air carrier passengers in the state are up more than 11% statewide compared to the same time period for 2004. All 14 commercial service airports are experiencing a year-to-date increase. Only one airport has experienced a month(s) with fewer passenger boardings for any given month than the previous year. Impressive news for Montana – it is anticipated that Montana will exceed 3 million passengers this year.

TSA considers federalizing seven Montana airports: The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and others recently visited seven airports in eastern Montana to discuss with airport officials and community leaders the option for federalizing passenger and baggage screening at these airports. Montana's federal security director, Dan Fevold and inspector Jill Haidle visited the airports. In addition, Dan and Jill met again recently with representatives from the essential air service task force to discuss the possibility further and answer questions. The TSA was created following the events of September 11 but have never been present at the airports in Havre, Lewistown,

Glasgow, Glendive, Sidney, Miles City or Wolf Point. Passengers that board at these locations and are continuing to a destination beyond Billings are bused from the aircraft parking area to the front of the Billings airline terminal. The passenger must then collect their luggage and proceed to the airline ticket counter to check his/her bag(s) and then continue on to passenger security. At this time TSA is in the process of completing its analysis and review for a final decision. All seven airports support TSA presence at its airports. The majority of the start-up and recurring costs for the program are borne by TSA. The airport is responsible for costs associated with any terminal remodel necessary to accommodate the personnel and equipment, for the cost of training a designated airport security coordinator, writing a security manual, etc. It is expected that approximately four persons will be hired for the part-time federal jobs from within the community if materialized. Montana's congressional delegation is very interested and involved and supports the communities desire for TSA at each airport. A final decision will be issued soon by TSA and if approved it could be expected to have security at these airports by year-end.

Seven tankers return to service: Good news for Neptune aviation, seven of their Missoula based P2V tankers have been cleared to fight wildfires. Tankers are an important and relatively inexpensive piece of the national fight against wildfire as they are able to quickly drop retardant in remote areas and attacking small blazes before they can grow. Last May, citing concerns for public safety and airworthiness the US Forest Service abruptly cancelled its contract for eight of Neptune's airtankers following an investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board into deadly crashes of three slurry bombers in previous seasons. Neptune owned none of those aircraft. There was a lack of data on the operation service life of the aircraft – one of the criteria needed to help prove the tankers were airworthy. To obtain that information the USFS used a wide variety of existing data, including test results from



Montana and the Sky

Department of Transportation

Brian Schweitzer, Governor
Jim Lynch, Director

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Calendar

July 15-17, 2005 - Schafer Meadows Annual Work Session. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

July 16, 2005 – 2005 RiverFest annual festival held along the scenic Missouri River in Great Falls. Seaplane demonstrations in cooperation with Holman Aviation and Montana Seaplane Pilots Association. For further information phone (406) 771-1265, or email pgumenberg@ci.great-falls.mt.us visit the website www.ci.great-falls.mt.us.

July 30-31, 2005 – Mountain Madness 05 Airshow. Glacier International, Kalispell. Featured acts include The Blue Angels, Pietsch Brothers, Jim Franklin, Schocklee Jet Truck, Gordon Bowman Jones Announcing and some war birds.

August 4-7, 2005 – Montana Antique Airplane Association Three Forks Fly-In. Tower Frequency 119.45; Ground Frequency 121.6 will be available Friday & Saturday 7:00 am - 6:00 pm. For further information contact Steve or Cindy Kleimer (406) 586-2307 or sckliemer@aol.com.

August 5-7, 2005 – Staggerwing Fly-In, pancake breakfast sponsored by Seeley Lake Flying Club held on the 7th. For further information contact Wade Cebulski (406) 677-3219 or email slk3219@blackfoot.net.

August 9-12, 2005 - Aviation Career Academy (ACE) for High School students, for further information or an application phone Jeanne MacPherson (406) 444-2506.

August 12-14, 2005 – McCall Family Fly-In, McCall, Idaho. For further information contact Tammy Schoen (208) 334-8776 or email tammy.schoen@itd.idaho.gov.

August 19-21, 2005 – Montana Fun Weekend. Cut Bank International Airport. For further information contact Dennis Lenoir (406) 873-2221 or (406) 450-1443. On the web search Montana Fun Weekend.

August 19, 2005 – National Aviation Day.

August 20, 2005 – Seventh annual Polson fly-in at Polson (8S1). For further information contact Larry Ashcraft larjet@centurytel.net.

August 20, 2005 – Wing's & Wheel's Fly-In. Powell, Wyoming. For further information contact Orville Moore at (307) 754-5234.

September 10, 2005 – Aviation Day Dillon Airport. For further information phone Dennis or Jean Devivo at (406) 683-5242.

September 14-18, 2005 – Reno National Championship Air Races & Air Show – Reno's Stead Field (4SD). For more information go to www.airrace.org.

September 16-18, 2005 – Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Kalispell. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

October 1, 2005 – Hirsch Ranch Fly-In – 30 miles northwest of Miles City.

In Memory

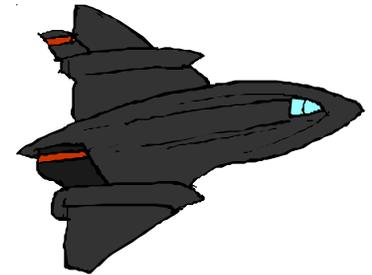
Robert "Bob" Culver, 58 died on Memorial Day, May 30, 2005, in Seattle of complications from a lung transplant for pulmonary fibrosis.

He is survived by his wife, Doreen; children, Becky, Jeff, Heidi, Scott and Kasie; grandchildren, Nicole, Lindsey, Jessica, Jake, Trace and Morgan; and sisters, Susie, Judy, Vicki and May Kay.

Second to his love for family, was his love of flying. Donations can be made in his name to the Seeley Lake Flying Club where Bob served as the aircraft maintenance officer or to Atonement Lutheran Church of Missoula.

Our deepest sympathy to the Culver family.

Twenty-nine hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,131. This includes \$200 for production, \$750 for postage and \$181 for printing.



Administrator's column continued....

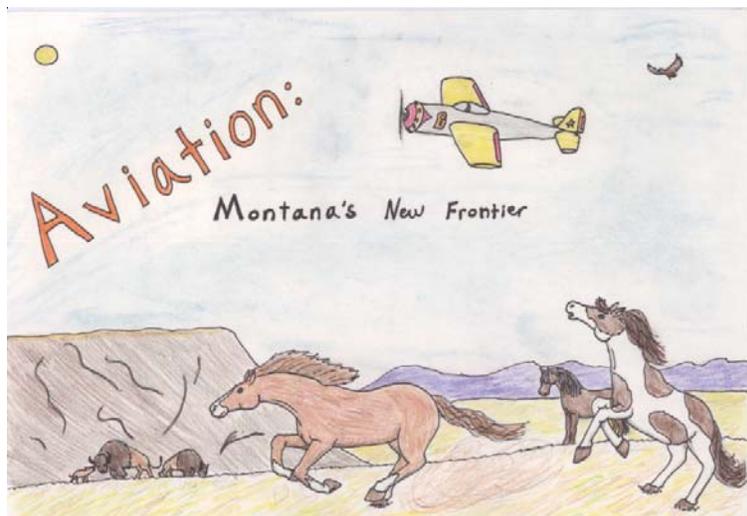
Japan in the 1960s and contracted with several companies to research and test the P2Vs, a former Navy submarine warfare plane that was in production from the late 1940s to the early 1960s. In August of last year, one of Neptune's aircraft was given the go-ahead to take part in a test program. That aircraft carried equipment that monitored the aircraft structure and stresses on the aircraft in the firefighting environment. Following those tests, the service life for a P2V was determined to be 15,000 hours. All of Neptune's aircraft are all well under the 15,000 hour mark and if use continues at a similar rate to past years, the airtankers would be good for 15 more years. Neptune and the USFS are negotiating a settlement to compensate the company for revenue lost due to the cancelled contract. Montana's congressional delegation was very engaged in discussions with the US Forest Service and is delighted that Neptune is back in the air.

Military Family Member Gate Passes: Family members who want to accompany a military service member to the boarding gate or greet them at the arrival gate may receive passes to enter the secure area of the airport. While the pass provides non-flying family members access to the gate area, they will still have to pass through the security checkpoint. Interested military family members should contact their air carrier representative at the departure/arrival airport for proper local procedures.

2005 Winning Artwork



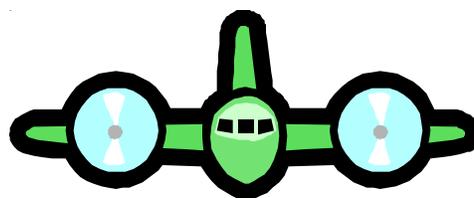
Flying First – Category III – Trevor Nicholson, Chinook



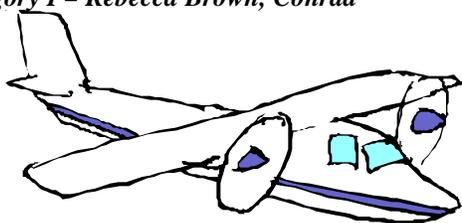
Flying First – Category II – Rebecca Roberts, Ulm



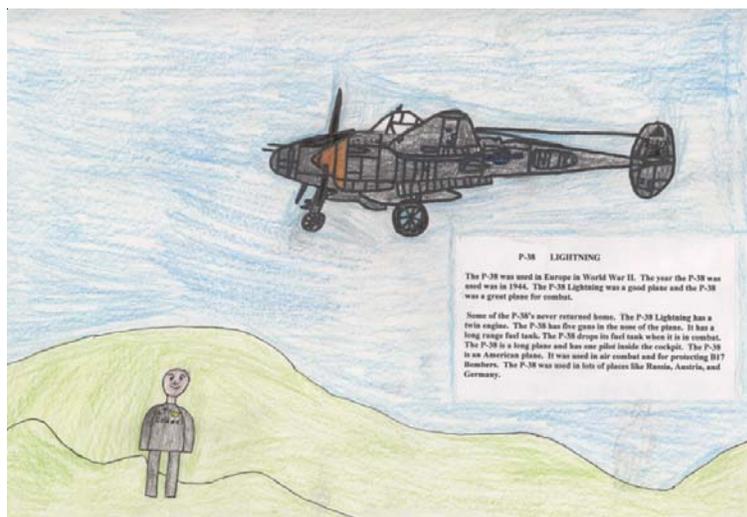
Flying First – Category I – Rebecca Brown, Conrad



Flying Second – Category III – Samantha Dorne, Swan Lake



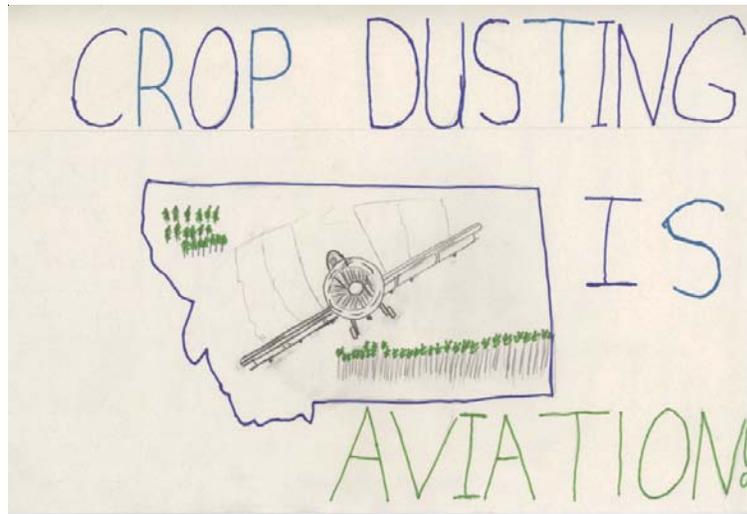
Flying Second – Category II – Christina Mogan, Hinsdale



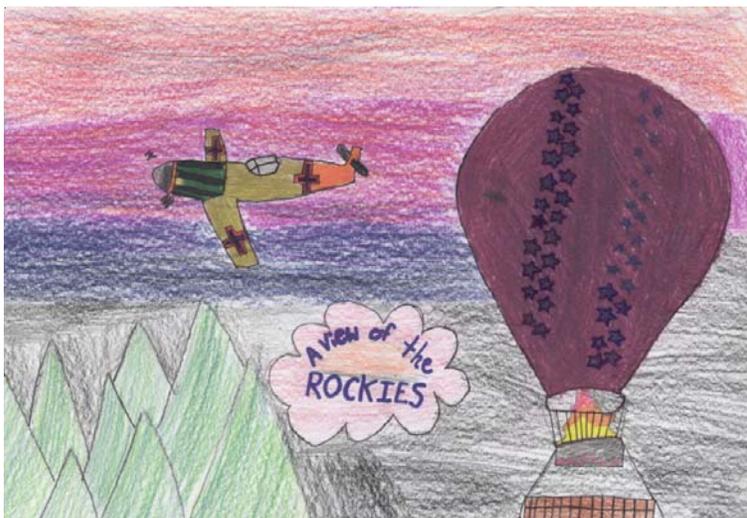
Flying Second – Category I – Nolan Coldwell, Jordan



Flying Third – Category III – Matt Remmich, Hinsdale



Flying Third – Category II – Luke Potter, Havre



Flying Third – Category I – Cody Tone, Bozeman

Attention Aircrews

Glacier Park International Airport will be hosting the Navy Blue Angels Jet Demonstration Team during an airshow on July 30 and 31, 2005. Pilots can expect runway and taxiway closures at Glacier International on July 28, 29, 30 & 31. Also expect temporary flight restrictions around Glacier International on these dates. Use caution for increased military and civilian traffic in the Flathead Valley due to this airshow.

General aviation pilots are encouraged to utilize Kalispell City Airport on July 30 and 31 as traffic will be restricted to military and commercial airlines only. Check for NOTAMS and Temporary Flight Restrictions on these dates. Thank you for your cooperation.

Emergency Response Drill

A large-scale emergency response drill was conducted at the Helena airport on June 21-23. The three-day drill included dozens of local agencies ranging from local health departments across Montana to the Federal Bureau of Investigation providing them an opportunity to test their abilities to handle everything from a chemical release to a plane crash. By the end of the exercise more than 500 emergency personnel and volunteers participated. The cost of putting on this multi-agency training event was funded by a federal grant.



Pictured (l-r) Ron Mercer, Helena Regional Airport Director; Terry Harris, Chairman Air Service Task Force and Dan Ellison, Airport Commissioner.

Firefighters attack the burning fuselage of a 'crashed' airplane at the Helena Regional Airport training exercise.

Meadow Creek Work Session

The Meadow Creek Airstrip work session that was held June 17, 18 & 19th went well with 15 volunteers pitching in to help. Chuck Jarecki who is passionate about backcountry airstrips and their preservation spearheaded this year's work session.

Perry Brown of Columbia Falls and his son Zane put in over 50 volunteer hours and they had stamina left to cook steaks for all volunteers that were in Meadow Creek on Saturday evening.

The volunteer crews worked on the north end of the airstrip cutting down trees that were encroaching on the flight path. The second growth trees at the southwest corner of the airstrip were cut down. Fallen timber behind the tie down area was collected and piled up to provide a clear location for airplane campers. Out houses were cleaned and painted and windsocks replaced. The airport ID circle was weed whacked and painted. A raised metal BBQ was installed in the cooking area. A bear proof food box constructed by Chuck Jarecki and flown in by Chuck and Bob Snyder (Mission Mountain Flying Service) is now an important addition to the airstrip. The runway extension was also rotor-tilled and rolled.

An important note: the runway extension is closed for the purpose of re-vegetation except for an emergency for the time being. Thank you!

Thank you to all the Meadow Creek Airstrip volunteers from Victor, Missoula, Big Fork, Columbia Falls, Bozeman, Polson, Kalispell, Whitefish and Helena!



Pictured are Chuck Jarecki, Polson & Perry Brown, Columbia Falls who are always first in line to volunteer – without exceptional people like them these work sessions would not be possible.



Pictured (l-r) more of the work crew, R. T. Adkins, Kalispell; Jeanne MacPherson, Aeronautics Division & Gary Weyermann, Missoula.



Carmin Mobray fit perfectly in the bear box constructed by Chuck Jarecki, a very important safety additon to the campground.



Workers secure the new barbeque. The bear box & barbeque were flown in a few weeks before the actual work session – thanks to Chuck Jarecki, Carmine Mobray & Bob Snyder for taking on this task.



Airport Appreciation Day Big Success

On June 14, an airport appreciation day was held at the Yellowstone Airport in West Yellowstone to celebrate 40 years of service. Skywest Airlines serves the airport and officials were on hand to say a few words and also offered a round-trip ticket to a lucky winner. Linda Marshall of Belgrade and Warren Liebers of Whitehall were kind enough to fly in and offer Young Eagle rides along with Aeronautics pilot Jim Greil, this was certainly the highlight of the day for many of the kids, thanks Linda, Warren & Jim! A superb lunch was served by Trisha Boule, owner and operator of the airport restaurant “TJ’s Bettola”, for those of you that haven’t had the chance to try this restaurant its certainly worth the trip, she is open for lunch & dinner. A big thank you to the local businesses that offered door prizes, to R.J. & Sandy Moulten of Yellowstone Aviation, Steve Hart & Christine Cervantes & staff of Skywest Airlines, Doug & Doris Barton of Avis Car Rental, Trisha Boule of TJ’s Bettola, Jeff Heaney, Airport Manager & Mike LeMaster, Airport Maintenance for the awesome hospitality, we look forward to another successful 40 years!!



Participating in the activities were Patty Kautz, Aeronautics Division; Mike LeMaster, Airport Maintenance; Bob Antonick, Department of Transportation; Debbie Alke, Aeronautics Division and Jeff Heaney, Airport Manager.



Jim Greil gave Young Eagle Rides in the Bonanza; pictured are Jim with some of the children he flew, Tyler Johnson, Alsatia Durfey & Caitlyn Johnson. Tyler proclaimed that Jim was “the best pilot in the world”!!



Pilots Warren Liebers & Linda Marshall grabbed a quick bite to eat before heading out to fly Young Eagles.

Helena Area Pilots Receive Awards

The Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Helena Flight Standards District Office honored Helena pilot’s Ernest Tavegia and Floran “Cliff” Higgins with the Wright Brothers’ “Master Pilot” award. The “Master Pilot” award is presented to pilots who exhibit professionalism, skill, aviation expertise, and have maintained safe flight operations for 50 years or more.

Ernest Tavegia began his flying in 1942 and completed his first solo flight in a Fairchild PT-19. He served as First Lieutenant in the Army Air Corp from September 8, 1944 to January 18, 1947. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service to his country. He holds an Airline Transport Rating and is type rated in the DC-3, DC-4, DC-6, DC-7, DC-8, DC-10, C-46, and the Boeing 747. Mr. Tavegia remains active in aviation today.

Mr. Tavegia received a certificate (plaque) and lapel pin. His name, city, and state will be entered in the “Roll of Honor” book at the FAA’s Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C. The Helena resident is recognized for his contribution to aviation safety and his role in making the United States aviation system the envy of the world.

Floran “Cliff” Higgins began his flying in 1953 and completed his first solo flight in a Piper PA-11 in Havre, Montana. He entered the United States Air Force and received his commission in October of 1954. He was active in the Montana Air National Guard from 1955 to 1964, flying a variety of aircraft from C-47’s to the F-89 Scorpion. He began his career with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in October of 1957 as a warden-pilot. In April of 1961, he was promoted to Chief Pilot. After 30 years with the State of Montana, he retired in 1987 and remains active in aviation today. He is a member of the local Experimental Aircraft Association chapter and flies his Kit Fox as much as possible.

Mr. Higgins received a certificate (plaque) and lapel pin. His name, city, and state will be entered in the “Roll of Honor” book at the FAA’s Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C. The Helena resident is recognized for his contribution to aviation safety and his role in making the United States aviation system the envy of the world.

We congratulate Ernest & Cliff and thank the FAA for recognizing these prestigious pilots.



Mike Rogan (pictured) and Debbie Alke installed a sign up at Meadow Creek reminding pilots that the new runway extension is closed for the purpose of re-vegetation except for an emergency – this will be a nice addition to this landing strip when complete.



ATTENTION PILOTS: During the Montana Antique Airplane Association Fly-In in Three Forks the Tower Frequency will be 119.45 and the Ground Frequency 121.6 – these will be in operation on Friday & Saturday from 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM. See calendar of events for dates and contact information.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: On August 9-12, 2005 an Aviation Career Academy (ACE) will be offered for high school students entering the 10th, 11th & 12th grades, enrollment size is limited – for an application or further information phone Jeanne MacPherson (406) 444-2506.

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.



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