

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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May 2024



2024 Aviation Career Exploration Academy

The 2024 Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy for high school students will be held in Helena, from June 20 to 22.

The camp will show students many career opportunities that are available in aviation. The Academy will kick off with flights in general aviation airplanes. Other day one activities will include tours of Boeing's manufacturing facility, the Army National Guard Aviation Support

Facility, the cab of an air traffic control tower, the aviation maintenance technician program at Helena College, maintenance facilities, an air ambulance operation, and more.

On day two, students will be driven to Missoula to tour the Museum of Mountain Flying, the smokejumper base, and an aerial firefighting operation. On the final day, the Academy will attend a general aviation fly in at the Canyon Ferry airstrip. The cost of the academy is \$50 and includes all meals, flights, activities, and double occupancy lodging.

If you know of a high school student who may be interested in the benefits, challenges, rewards, and culture of working in the aviation industry, please share this with them!

Register online for the ACE Academy at: <https://www.eventsquid.com/event/23976> or scan the QR code.



Scan Here

For more information, contact:

Barbara Barnum

406-444-2506

bbarnum@mt.gov



You are Invited to the Canyon Ferry Fly-In on June 22.

Please fly your aircraft into Canyon Ferry to support the annual ACE Academy! This is a great opportunity to show off your aircraft and talk to high school students interested in aviation. Students love to hear how you got started in aviation and about your careers in the field. We want you to spend some time with us and talk about the world of aviation.

Please RSVP to mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506 if you plan on attending.

Scholarship Winner Trains Without Delay!

Scholarship winner, Patrick Economy, was this year's winner of the Mike Ferguson Memorial Flight Training Scholarship provided by the Montana Pilots Association (MPA). Patrick used the \$4,000 award to earn his multi-engine commercial certificate only 15 days after the award was made at the Montana Aviation Conference in Butte.

The same weekend of passing his check ride, he was offered an opportunity to fly right seat on a Citation Jet trip. This opportunity, made possible by scholarship funds, reignited Patrick's desire to pursue a professional pilot career.

Congratulations Patrick!



Designated pilot examiner Greg Mecklenburg (left) and Patrick Economy (right)
Photo credit: Scott Economy (Dad)

Courtesy Car Grant Application

The Airport Courtesy Car Application period is open from April 1 to May 31. There are four reimbursement grants available for courtesy cars with up to \$5,000 each available for a courtesy car. Municipalities and eligible third parties may apply.

New legislation has reduced the insurance limit requirements for courtesy cars. Information can be found at: <https://leg.mt.gov/> by searching for SB103. The application and more information about the program can be found at: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/courtesy-cars.shtml>, or by scanning the QR code below.

If you think your airport would benefit from a courtesy car, talk to your airport manager about applying for this grant.



SCAN HERE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION

For more information, contact:
MDT Aeronautics Division
Stephen Torske
406-444-9569
storske@mt.gov

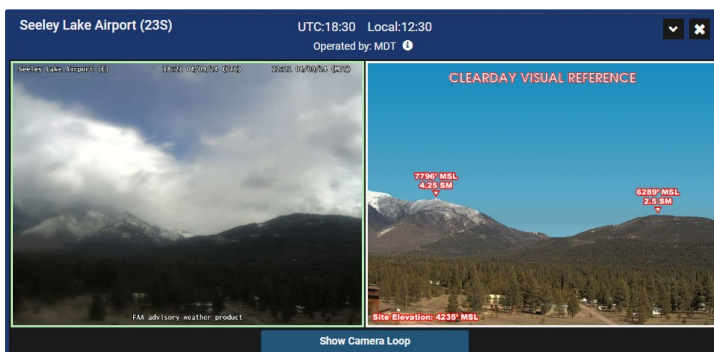


Don't Forget to Use the Weather Cameras!

The summer flying season is here, which means thunderstorms are here, too. Montana is one of few states leading the charge to install FAA approved weather cameras around the state. These cameras aid in preflight planning and enroute decision making.

It can be very helpful to get a real-time view of what conditions actually are along your route of flight. There are 27 cameras already installed in Montana, with dozens more scheduled to go live in 2024!

For current camera locations, see page 4.



Weather Camera - Seeley Lake Airport.

Cameras can be viewed at: <https://weathercams.faa.gov/>



or scan the
QR code

Aviation Maintenance Technician Day

Aviation Maintenance Technician Day is a National day of recognition, observed on May 24, that recognizes the efforts of aviation maintenance professionals as well as the achievements of Charles Edward Taylor. Taylor was a self-taught mechanic, who built the engine used to power the airplane of the Wright Brothers.

On May 24, 2007, Taylor's birthday, The U.S. House of Representatives introduced a resolution to create a National Aviation Maintenance Technician Day is currently observed by 45 states

Thank you, aviation maintenance professionals, for all you do to support safe air travel!

**Thank you for
your hard work!**



MDT Aeronautics Division's Aircraft Technician, Derrick Olheiser.

Scouts Earn Aviation Merit Badges

On April 23rd, a group of Scouts with the Boy Scouts of America earned their Aviation Merit Badges at the Helena Airport. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division supported the event by providing a facility, aircraft for practicing pre-flight inspections, and flight simulators. Volunteers Andy Ruthand Bryan Hansen of Helena worked with the scouts to help them earn their badges.

The Scouts learned a variety of topics including aviation careers, fundamental aerodynamics, principles of time over distance navigation, and flight preparation. They also had the exciting opportunity to operate MDT's new flight simulators.

Thank you to volunteers Andy and Bryan for their contributions to the next generation of aspiring pilots!



Calendar of Events

- May 18 - Lincoln Fly-In.** Pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Contact Doug Vulcan at vulcandg406@gmail.com for more information.
- May 25 - Spotted Bear Work Party.** Work starts at 9 a.m. Lunch provided by the Flathead Montana Pilots Association hangar. For more information, contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.
- June 8 - Big Timber Fly-In Breakfast.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hosted by Yellowstone Air Service. Donations accepted for breakfast. Short takeoff and landing (STOL) competition and car show. For more information, contact Gabriel Chandler at 701-339-5843.
- June 8 - Butte Wings and Wheels Fly-In or Drive-In.** 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Walt McIntosh 406-670-1846.
- June 15 - Choteau Fly-In.** 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Free breakfast, donations welcome. Young Eagles airplane rides available. For more information, contact Scott Gasvoda at 406-590-2836.
- June 15 - Meadow Creek Airstrip Work Party.** Work starts at 9 a.m. If you're handy with a chainsaw, bring one along as there are a lot of downed trees to cut and stack for firewood. Lunch will be provided. For more information contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.
- June 15 - Geraldine Fly-In.** 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. In conjunction with Geraldine Fun Day. Lots of activities downtown and breakfast at the fire station. For more Fly-In information, contact Butch Hankins at 406-737-4244. For information on Geraldine Fun Day go to <https://www.geraldineeac.com>.
- June 18 - Del Bonita Work Party.** Starting at 9 a.m. Contact Stephen Torske for more information at 406-444-9569 or storske@mt.gov.
- June 20 - 22 - Aviation Exploration (ACE) Academy.** Helena. For more information, contact Barbara Barnum at 406-444-2506 or bbarnum@mt.gov.
- June 22 - Canyon Ferry Fly-In.** 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. See page 1 for details. For more information, contact Matt Lindberg at 406-444-2506 or mlindberg@mt.gov.
- June 22 - MPA Fly-In and Pancake Breakfast.** Lewistown. 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Hosted by the MPA Central Montana Hangar. Once again, we will be serving our world famous, Jeff and Stacy Martinez, cinnamon chip pancakes! For more information contact Pete Smith at 406-366-1435 or pete180@gmail.com.
- July 4 - Plains-Paradise Rural Fire Department Pancake Breakfast.** Plains Airport. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Ride an antique fire truck shuttle to the breakfast held at the fire station next door. Contact Randy Garrison at 406-370-6179.
- July 13 - MPA South-Central hangar wings and wheels fly in & Drive in-** Laurel Airport. 8a.m. Food trucks will be on site for the day to purchase meals. EAA Young Eagles rides. Avgas discount available. For more information, contact John Roberts at 406-855-2372.
- July 20 - Schafer Meadows Work Party.** Work starts at 9 a.m. Dinner provided Saturday night, so come help out and camp for the weekend. For more information contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.
- July 20 - 21 - St. Ignatius Fly-In.** Saturday July 20, free BBQ, helicopter rides 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday, July 21, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., free huckleberry pancake breakfast, 100 gallon avgas giveaway, many door prizes, helicopter rides. Contact Michael Kuefler 406-544-2274 for more information.
- July 25 - 28 - Big Sky Balloon Rally.** Amend Park, Billings. 6 a.m. balloon launches. July 25 through 28. Field opens to the public on July 27 at 6 p.m., live music starts at 6:15. Balloon glow at dusk (weather permitting)! For information, go to <https://www.bigskyballoonrally.com>.
- July 27 - Lincoln Fly-In.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. BBQ and Potluck at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Jerry Cain at 406-461-5631 or jeromecain@gmail.com for more information.
- August 3 - Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Fly-In.** Three Forks. Hot breakfast available for purchase from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., free lunch from 11a.m. to 1 p.m.. Ping pong ball drop, young eagles discovery flights, flying events with awards, static display with peoples choice award. Dinner available for pilots camping both Friday and Saturday nights. For more information, visit www.montanaantiqueaircraftassociation.com or contact Nick Hunt at 503-209-1041.
- August 24 - Anaconda Fly-in and Car show.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Food and drinks available to purchase, games for the kids, airplane rides and lots of other exciting activities. Please call Greg Bahr at 406-490-7281 with any questions.
- September 1 - Red Lodge Wings-n-Wheels Fly-In/Drive-In.** 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. with free breakfast, donations go toward improvement of the airport. For more information contact Bo Ewald at b.ewald@att.net.
- September 7 - North Central Hanger Fly-In.** Havre. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Contact William Hurd at 406-945-3646 for more information.
- September 21 - Lincoln Fly-In.** Pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Contact Doug Vulcan at vulcandg406@gmail.com for more information.

MDT Aeronautics Division

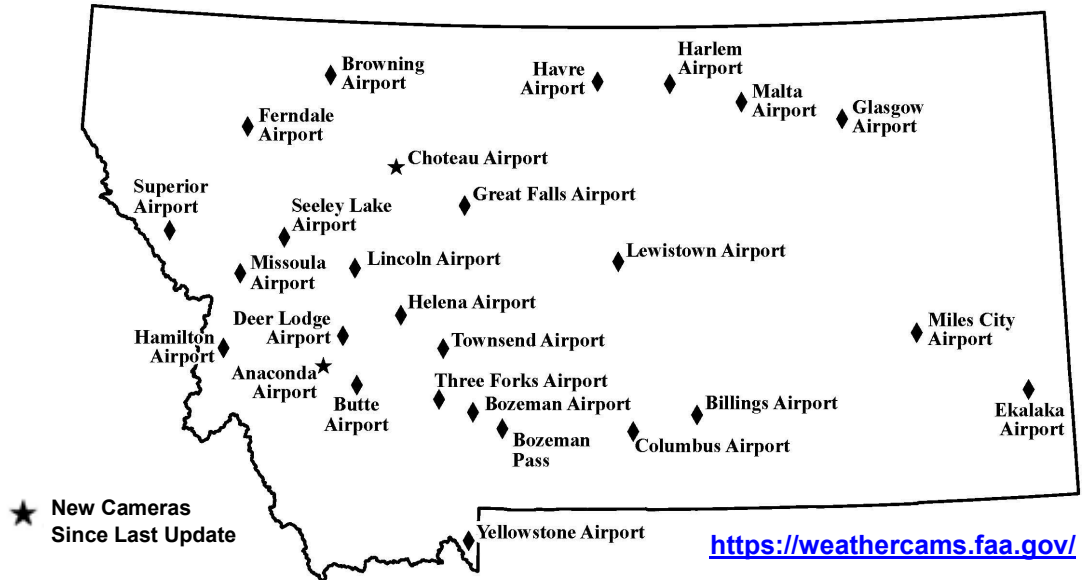
PO Box 200507

2630 Airport Road

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

To manage your *Montana and the Sky* newsletter subscription preferences or to sign-up for the e-newsletter please email mdtad@mt.gov or call 406-444-2506.

FAA Weather Camera Locations



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

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