



## Conference Awards & Scholarships

This year's conference scholarship/awards ceremony was held Thursday evening, March 4. Thank you to the generous groups/individuals who give so much to make our scholarship program such a success, each year we receive many more letters of application as word gets out about our awesome scholarship opportunities. This makes it that much harder for the judges to decide which of these outstanding applicants to choose. This year's recipients were: Crystal Dorne, Swan Lake – Aviation Appreciation Scholarship; Justin Hickert, Bozeman – Montana Antique Airplane Association Scholarship; Parker Hesser, Wolf Point – Aviation Organizations of Montana Scholarship; Casey Holst, Lewistown – Parrott Family Scholarship; Marc Fulton, Butte – A Love of Aviation Scholarship; Ben Hileman, West Glacier – Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship; Amanda Jakob, Missoula – A Love of Aviation Scholarship; Craig Goeden, Dillon – Montana Junior Pilot of the Year Scholarship; Eric Dewey, Billings – MPA Flight Training Scholarship; and Brandie Cummings, Winnett – 99's Flight Scholarship.

Search & Rescue Coordinator of the Year went to Hugh Wilkins of Great Falls. Hugh is more than deserving of this award for the outstanding job he does for Search & Rescue, you can call Hugh anytime day or night and he is willing to do whatever it takes to track down an ELT or coordinate an actual search. He also conducts ELT training at our annual Mountain Search Pilot Clinic and we feel very lucky to have his expertise. Thank you Hugh for an outstanding job – its volunteers like you that make Montana's Search program such a success.



*Pictured (l-r) are scholarship recipients Parker Hesser; Brandie Cummings; Justin Hickert; Amanda Jakob; Casey Holst & Craig Goeden. See more scholarship/award photos on page 3.*

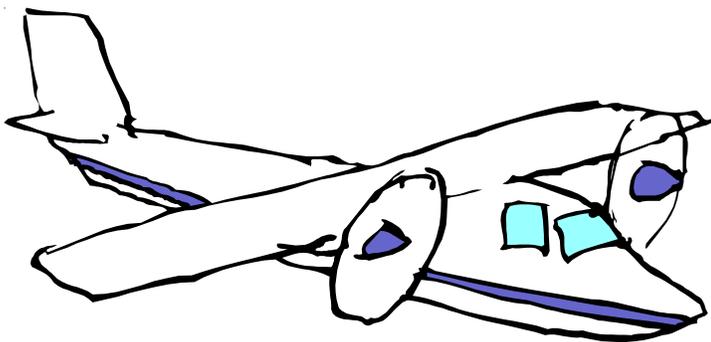
Airport of the Year went to the Winnett Airport, several locals volunteered their time and labor to get this turf runway up and running in August of last year. Because of the amazing community support and energetic airport manager Bill Troutline this airport certainly earned its title as "Airport of the Year".

Every year the FAA honors those operators in the state that provide initial and recurrent training for their technical workforces. Through the Aviation Maintenance Technician awards program, eligible employers receive a Certificate of Excellence for their participation in the awards program.

The level of the award is based on a percentage of the eligible technicians that receive training and participate in the program. This year they had 5 Diamond Certificates of Excellence to present. This is the highest award available for the employers.

FAA award winners were: Merlin Airways - Billings - Third Consecutive year they received the Diamond Award. Corporate Air - Billings - Ninth consecutive year they received the Diamond Award. Big Sky Airlines - Billings- Diamond Award and Special Recognition plaque signed by the FAA's Administrator Marion Blakey for 100% employee participation in the AMT awards program. Semitool - Kalispell - Seventh consecutive year they received the Diamond Award. Yellowstone Jet Center - Bozeman - Diamond Award.

Congratulations to all of the WINNERS!!



# Administrator's Column

**Small Community Air Service Development Program:** Applications are due to the U.S. Department of Transportation for grant consideration under the Small Community Air Service Development Program by May 14, 2004. Basic changes in the program are: 1) this is no longer a pilot program—the program has been authorized for five years at \$35 million, although only \$19.9 million will be appropriated this year; 2) a communities intent to use the funds in a timely manner will be included in prioritizing applications; and 3) communities that have previously received a grant are precluded from seeking another grant for the same project. A community that has received a grant to conduct a study and desires to apply for a grant in a future year to implement the study or portions of the study will remain eligible. If any community is interested in applying and needs additional information, please contact me.

**NASAO National Legislative Agenda:** In a meeting last month of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) members adopted a national legislative agenda including five items. 1) Thank you for Vision 100: this legislation provides FAA and America's entire aviation transportation system with important guidance and adequate funding for the near future. 2) Essential Air Service must be fully funded in 2005: the administration's proposed 2005 budget slashes EAS to only \$50 million, down from \$113 million this year. 3) Avoid unfunded general aviation security mandates: Congress should be wary of any efforts to impose unfunded security mandates on the GA community. 4) FAA facility and equipment must be fully funded in 2005: the administration budget cuts this account by \$393 million. This funding must keep pace with current traffic growth and AIP infrastructure funding. 5) Provide adequate funding for the joint planning and development office: this office allows our nation the opportunity to develop a comprehensive plan and cohesive policy for the aviation and aerospace segment of our economy.

**Air Tour Proposal Being Battled:** Warning that the FAA's proposed safety rules for air tour and sightseeing flights would severely cripple the market, six industry groups have sent a letter asking member of Congress to intervene. The proposed standards will seriously impact the close to 2,000 existing commercial air tour operations in the US and effect over 400,000 general aviation pilots who participate in charitable sightseeing events. The FAA has no accident or exposure date to support this contention that commercial sightseeing flight operating under Part 135 of 91 require additional regulation. And there is no date expressing safety concerns exist on charitable flights. The associations urged legislators to ask FAA to drop the proposal entirely.

**Airport grants:** Senator Conrad Burns recently announced two DOT grants for Montana airports. Gallatin Field at Bozeman will receive \$3.2 million to construct a service road, acquire aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicle and expand its aircraft and rescue fire fighting building. Helena Regional Airport will receive \$3.5 million for the second phase of the terminal building modification program to improve efficiency of handling airlines passengers. Senator Burns said, "with a lot of dirt between light bulbs in our state, funding to keep our airports up to par is essential." Thanks for your hard work Senator.

**In Memoriam:** The world of aviation lost one of its most passionate supporters on January 6, 2004 when H.G. (Greg) Isbill lost his battle with cancer. Greg assisted many airports in this region and throughout the United States through his planning and engineering expertise. Many within the aeronautical community enjoyed his sense of humor and astuteness together with his engineering knowledge. All who knew him will miss him. Deepest sympathy is extended to the entire Isbill family.



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# Calendar

**April 17, 2004** – Rocky Mountain College “The Economic Impact of Aviation in Montana” Conference, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. For more information, go to Rocky’s web site at [www.rocky.edu](http://www.rocky.edu) or call (406) 657-1149.

**April 24, 2004** – “Hangar Flying” session, 9:00 a.m., Edwards Jet Center Flight School. For further information contact Jim Foley at (406) 252-2959 or email [Flightschool@edwardsjetcenter.com](mailto:Flightschool@edwardsjetcenter.com).

**May 1, 2004** – Fly-in Breakfast. EAA chapter 57 in Billings serves breakfast at 8:00 a.m. the first Saturday of the month at the EAA’s hangar on the west end of the Billings airport. Contact Larry Mayer for more information at [larry.mayer@lee.net](mailto:larry.mayer@lee.net). See their website at [www.eaabilings.com](http://www.eaabilings.com).

**May 10-14, 2004** – Laurel Aviation & Technology Week. For further information contact Druann Kerns (406) 628-3357.

**May 29-31, 2004** – Fly-in and Work Session Benchmark Airstrip.

**May 29-30, 2004** – Fly-in and Work Session Spotted Bear Airstrip.

**June 3-4, 2004** – Montana Aeronautics Board Meeting. Days Inn of West Yellowstone. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

**June 5, 2004** – Young Eagles Fly-in, EAA Chapter 57, west end of the Billings Airport. Contact Larry Mayer for more information at [larry.mayer@lee.net](mailto:larry.mayer@lee.net). See their website at [www.eaabilings.com](http://www.eaabilings.com).

**June 12, 2004** – North Central Fly-In breakfast & Toy-Show, Havre Airport.

**June 12-13, 2004** – Fly-in and Work Session Meadow Creek Airstrip.

**June 19-20, 2004** – Fly-in Twin Bridges Airport, four bombing, pancake breakfast, airplane rides, pig roast. For further information contact Ruby Valley Aviation (406) 684-5335.

**June 20, 2004** – Frank Bass Father’s Day Fly-In Pancake Breakfast will be held at Fort Peck Airport. Camping on field; boating; fishing. For further information phone Lanny Hanson at (406) 228-2433.

**June 26, 2004** – Fly-In & Antique Air Show, Museum of Mountain Flying, Missoula Airport. For further information contact Stan Cohen, (406) 549-8488 or [phpc@montana.com](mailto:phpc@montana.com).

**July 3, 2004** – EAA chapter 57 breakfast 8:00 a.m. at the EAA’s hangar on the west end of the Billings airport. Contact Larry Mayer for more information at [larry.mayer@lee.net](mailto:larry.mayer@lee.net) or see their website at [www.eaabilings.com](http://www.eaabilings.com).

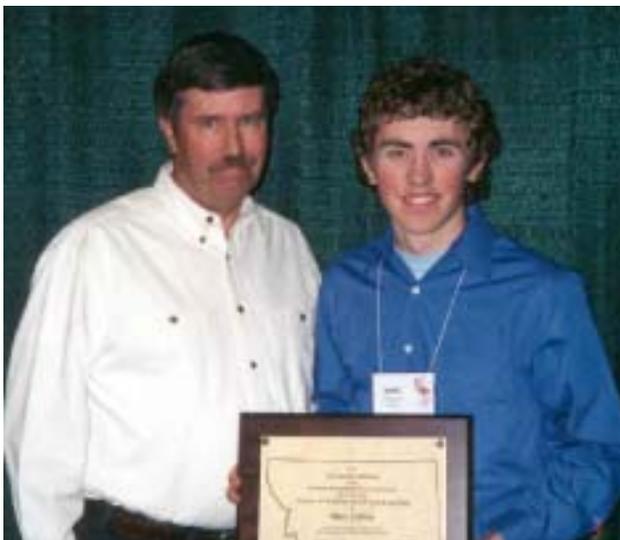
**July 16-18, 2004** – Fly-in and work session Schafer Meadows Airstrip.

**August 5-7, 2004** – Montana Antique Airplane Association Fly-In, Three Forks Airport. Young Eagle Rides, flour bombing, spot landing competition. Antique aircraft on display. Breakfast/lunch/dinner and dance. Saturday fly-in or drive-in breakfast at the Wilsall Airport at 7:30 a.m. For further information phone Cindy Kleimer (406) 586-2307 or (406) 580-2315 or email [sckleimer@aol.com](mailto:sckleimer@aol.com).

**August 13-15, 2004** – McCall Family Fly-In.

**August 20-22, 2004** – Third Annual Montana Fun Weekend. Cut Bank International Airport. For further information contact [Montana\\_fun\\_weekend@yahoo.com](http://Montana_fun_weekend@yahoo.com).

**September 11, 2004** – Sidney Air Show. Call Sharon Rau (406) 443-1916 for further information.



*A Love of Aviation Scholarship winner Marc Fulton of Butte and his father attended the Thursday evening festivities..*



*Bill Hayden, Merlin Airways and Mike Mahon, Big Sky Airlines receive their FAA Awards.*

# More Conference Fun!!



*Tom Wrobel, Cascade & Ray Sanders, Kalispell visit with Saturday evening banquet speaker Brian Udell. Brian's amazing story of survival kept the audience spellbound.*



*The conference is a great time for friends, old & new to enjoy some time together. Pictured are Jeanie & Mike Ferguson and Debbie Alke.*



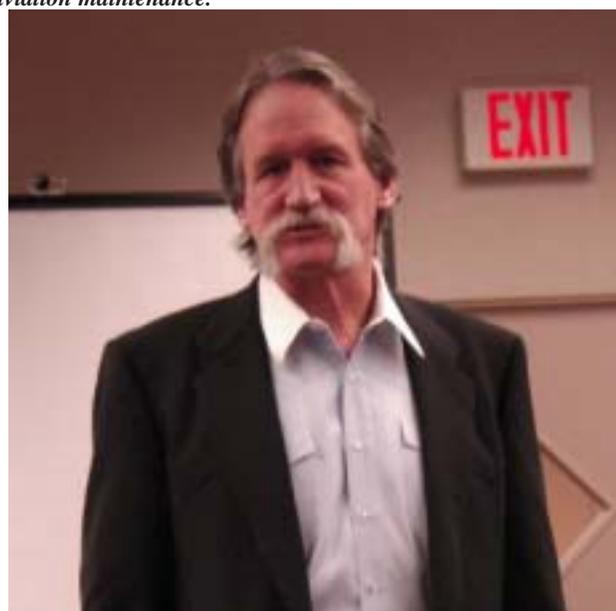
*The exhibit hall always had a steady stream of traffic with 600+ conference attendees!!*



*The Aircraft Mechanic Seminar & IA renewal always attracts a large audience with nothing but the latest and greatest of speakers who offer their expertise in aviation maintenance.*



*Friday evening's entertainment Ringling 5 was enjoyed by all! Bill Woodhouse was lucky enough to appear on stage for one of their humorous songs – nice legs Bill!! The evening concluded with the entire crowd singing "God Bless America"!*



*Mac Bledsoe, President and Founder of Parenting With Dignity conducted two general sessions. Mac's motivational presentation was a big hit with everyone. For further information on his program go to [www.parentingwithdignity.com](http://www.parentingwithdignity.com).*



*Cynthia Schultz thanks Friday luncheon speaker Mike Lavelle who entertained conference goers with an amazing presentation on the history of aviation.*



*Dan & Margie Prill pose in front of their Cessna 185 which was part of the static display. Thank you to all of the static display participants it was a splendid addition to the conference.*



*Marilyn & Jim Lewis enjoy the Friday evening dinner/dance in the Great Falls airports beautiful new facility.*



*Steve Jones, Safety Program Manager in the Helena Flight Standards District Office arranges for the renewal of inspection authorizations for the aircraft mechanic refresher seminar and IA renewal.*



*Search & Rescue Coordinator of the Year and all around nice guy Hugh Wilkins was proud to accept his award from Jeanne MacPherson. Congratulations Hugh!!*



*Wayne & Jan Turner of Big Sandy Airport were the lucky winners of the airport courtesy car that Robert Peccia & Associates gave away. THANK YOU Robert Peccia & Associates for your generous donation!*

# Challenge Education with Aviation

*By: Jeanne MacPherson, Safety & Education*

A teacher's workshop and students aviation career panel coordinated by Jeanne MacPherson, Bureau Chief of Safety and Education, Montana Aeronautics Division, was included in the Montana Aviation Conference held this year in Great Falls.

The Aviation career panel was comprised of nine aviation professionals that clearly have a passion for their chosen jobs. Len Wheeler of the Helena Flight Standards Office, served as MC. The panel consisted of Mike Buck, of both the Air National Guard and an airline pilot for United Airlines, Laurie Puckett, a master flight instructor from Northern Skies Aviation in Laurel, Dan Hargrove, the Director of the Aviation Department, Rocky Mountain College, Joe Knox, a helicopter pilot from Life Flight, Captain Scott Smith and Major Shane Sanders of the 120<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard, both are fighter pilots, TSG Duane Dasher, a recruiter from the Montana National Guard, Bonnie McDonald, an air traffic controller from the Helena Tower and Rena Smith of Helena College of Technology, an airframe and air plane instructor. The career session ended with some fun and interesting questions generated by the 60 young students that listened attentively to the stories of the aviation panel.

The sixteen teachers attending this year's teacher's workshop are clearly motivators; encouraging their students to follow great passions and to work to achieve their dreams.

Richard Klein, presenter extraordinaire from Illinois, once again, gave the teachers concepts relating to aviation and applied each concept to a classroom lesson covering the subjects of math, science, history, social studies and language arts. Teachers were reading airport directories and using aeronautical charts, finding latitude and longitude using the game of tic-tack-toe. They were using triangulation and weather information to solve problems.

The teachers spent an afternoon at the Air National Guard and many were able to fly the F-16 simulator. The teachers all enjoyed attending the session put on by Mac Bledsoe. Mr. Bledsoe shared the message of respect and dignity and gave some examples on how to instill those values into the youth of today. Holman Aviation hosted the teachers on Saturday, Bill Gallea and Steve Kleimer went through a complete preflight and aerodynamics session with the teachers. Unfortunately, it was too windy in Great Falls on Saturday morning to give the teachers their orientation flights; hopefully we can arrange their flights at a later date.

Thank you, to all of you that helped, participated and enjoyed this year's "Challenge Education with Aviation" events.



*Teachers used the Montana aeronautical chart to plot a course for a purposed flight plan. Pictured are (l-r) Margie Prill and Peggy Perry of Sand Coulee, Joyce Byrne of Great Falls and Susan Sutherland of Box Elder.*



*Students were eager to learn more about Captain Scott Smith and Major Shane Sanders careers as fighter pilots for the 120<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard.*



*More than 60 students from Great Falls and the surrounding area participated in the aviation career panel.*



*Dan Brown a teacher from Conrad tries out the night vision goggles, an important and expensive piece of equipment used by the 120<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard.*

# Aerial Predator Hunting

Our office has received inquiries on Montana law in regards to aerial predator hunting. We contacted Mike Korn at Fish Wildlife & Parks to help us better understand this issue. He explained that a person hunting predators on his own land does not need a permit but must report any taking of predators to Livestock annually as well as provide a description of his land that he is hunting or shooting over. Someone hunting on (that is, over) another's land must have a permit from Livestock. Montana law as of 1999 requires landowner permission for any kind of hunting activity on private land regardless of whether it is licensed game hunting or non-game (predator) hunting. Therefore, a person must get permission in advance from a landowner before doing any aerial predator hunting on private property not their own.

Laurie Brown at Department of Livestock (PO Box 202001, Helena, 59620, 444-5205) issues the permits for the entire state. She needs to be contacted for an application form. Among other things required on or with the application are proof of current airman certificate, proof that the aircraft that will be used is registered with Montana Aeronautics and a proof of landowner permission for the land you will be hunting. There is a \$50.00 charge for the permit and it is good for three years. The permit must be renewed annually but there is no fee for renewal during the three-year period. Laurie also receives the annual report from landowners for predator taking on their land. Below are the applicable statutes regarding coyote or other predator hunting from an aircraft.

**81-7-101. Definition.** For the purpose of this part, the term “predatory animal” includes coyote, red fox, and any other individual animal causing depredations upon livestock.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 3417.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 27, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 67, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 235, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 46-1902; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 2001.

**81-7-501. Aerial hunting prohibited — exceptions.** (1) Except as provided in 81-7-505 no person except an employee of the state, its subdivisions, or the federal government, acting within the scope of his employment, may engage in the aerial hunting of predatory animals, as defined in 81-7-101 without first obtaining a permit from the department of livestock. The permit must specify the species of predatory animals to be hunted and the geographic areas over which aerial hunting may take place. (2) A person issued a permit as required by this section may not engage in aerial hunting of predatory animals in violation of the terms of his permit, the rules promulgated by the board of livestock, or the terms of this part.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 704, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 244, L. 1995.

**81-7-505. Resident landowners authorized to aerially hunt over their own lands without permit — conditions.** Any landowner having residence and domicile in Montana may engage in the aerial hunting of predatory animals, as defined in 81-7-101 over that person's own land without a permit, provided the landowner annually notifies the department in writing that the landowner will be engaged in aerial hunting and gives an adequate description of the location of the land over which the landowner will aerially hunt. Aerial hunting must be in accordance with all rules of the department of livestock.

**History:** En. Sec. 5, Ch. 704, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 333, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 244, L. 1995.

**87-3-304. Landowner's permission required for hunting — penalty.** (1) Every resident and nonresident must have obtained permission of the landowner, the lessee, or their agents before taking or attempting to take nongame wildlife or predatory animals or hunting on private property.

(2) Except for hunting big game animals on private property, a person who violates this section shall, upon conviction for a first offense, be fined an amount not to exceed \$25.

**History:** En. Sec. 3, Ch. 229, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 26-303.3; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1999.

## FAA Withdraws Sport Pilot Rule

Administrator Blakey last week withdrew the sport pilot aircraft rule from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Peggy Gilligan says that by bringing the proposal back; FAA and the Department of Transportation can expeditiously address OMB's questions and return it for final approval. Since March 24 was the end of OMB's 90-day review period, by retracting the rule OMB could not reject it, which would have delayed issuance of a final rule. The Experimental Aircraft Association, a big supporter of the proposed rule, praised this action and said it was “the best way for the agency to address OMB's questions and secure a final rule as quickly as possible.”

# Aviation Safety Program

National Safety Program Manager, Kevin Clover, along with other FAA safety folks has launched a new web site: [www.faasafety.gov](http://www.faasafety.gov) where pilots can sign up and receive information tailored to where they live, e.g., notices on safety seminars near them. Clover says more developments are coming, including an online educational library. "My vision is to have the site have enough information about individual pilots so it can direct airmen to the training they need. For instance, low-time pilots would be directed to training in aeronautical decision making and pilots with experience flying into towered airports would benefit from training about flying into non-towered airports."

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## Because I Fly

*by Anonymous*

Because I fly  
I laugh more than other men  
I look up and see more than they,  
I know how the clouds feel,  
What its like to have the blue in my lap,  
to look down on birds  
To feel freedom in a thing called the stick...  
Who but I can slice between God's Billowed legs,  
and feel the laugh and crash of his step  
Who else has seen the unclimbed peaks?  
The rainbows secret?  
The real reason birds sing?  
Because I fly,  
I envy no man on earth.

April, 2004



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