

# Montana and the Sky



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 69, No. 02

February 2018

## **CEO of Neptune Aviation Services, Ronald Hooper, to Speak at Aviation Conference**



*Photo Credit: Ronald E. Hooper. Neptune Aviation Services, CEO*

Ron spent 41 years working for the United States Forest Service (USFS). His first ten years with the USFS were spent in the wildland firefighting function; beginning as a ground firefighter, spending a season as a smokejumper, and finally filling a number of aerial firefighting positions. Ron then spent 20 years as a Contracting Officer for the USFS and which included performing as the Contracting Officer on the USFS large airtanker contracts at one point. He then advanced into leadership positions with the USFS including being the National Director of Contracting and finally retired as the Associate Deputy Chief for Business Operations in the USFS. Ron also spent one year on loan from the USFS to work on Senator Conrad Burns' personal staff handling natural resource issues for the Senator.

After retiring from the USFS, and doing independent consulting for a year, Ron went to work at Neptune Aviation in February 2012 as the company's Vice President for Business Development. Four months later Ron was promoted to the position of Chief Executive Officer for Neptune Aviation Services.

Ron was born in Toledo, Ohio and spent his first 16 years there. He then moved to Salt Lake City, Utah where he went to high school and college. Ron completed his undergraduate work at the University of Utah and pursued graduate studies at the University of California, Chico. During Ron's career with the USFS he lived from California to Washington, D. C and from Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Cloudcroft, New Mexico. Ron and his wife now live in Lolo, Montana but their 6 children, 17 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren live in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arizona, and California.

# Scholarship winners to be announced at the 2018 Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula on March 2nd, 2018

The 2018 scholarships recipients have been selected and award letters mailed out. While the actual scholarship winners will not be publicly announced until the 2018 Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula, we can assure you that they (and their parents) are delighted to receive this financial assistance. The scholarships will be presented at the Aviation Conference Awards Luncheon on Friday at 11:30 a.m. and many award winners have made plans to attend.

Although the recipients have already been selected for the 2018 scholarship year, MDT Aeronautics is already receiving inquiries about the 2019 award year. Scholarship information can be found at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml>.

## Aviation Awareness Art Contest

Students from across Montana are invited to participate in the 2018 MDT Aeronautics Division Aviation Awareness Art Contest. The contest is open to all students in grades K-12 in public, private, and home schools. Entries must be postmarked by April 1st, 2018.

The first-place winners in each grade category, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12, will be flown to Helena, with their parents, on May 3rd for the awards ceremony at the Helena Regional Airport. Transportation Director, Mike Tooley will present all three winners with a trophy, certificate, and their artwork matted and framed. Following the ceremony, the winners and their families will tour the airport and enjoy lunch on Helena's Last Chance Gulch.

Second and third place winners in each category will receive a trophy and certificate of achievement.

Contest requirements:

- Contest deadline is April 1st, 2018
- Contest is open to all Montana students, grades K-12.
- Size of artwork is not to exceed 11" x 14".
- Artwork must have an aviation theme and can be color or black & white.
- Please no tracing of images.
- All artwork must include the following: student's name, student's grade, school's mailing address, phone number and teacher's name.
- Mail to - Art Contest

MDT Aeronautics Division  
P.O. Box 200507  
Helena, MT 59620-0507

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aviation Awareness Art Contest is designed to broaden awareness of the importance of aviation and aerospace to the economy and to promote careers in these industries.

For more information about the contest, please contact Jake Hemphill at (406) 444-9568 or email at [jahemphill@mt.gov](mailto:jahemphill@mt.gov).

**Montana and the Sky**  
Department of Transportation

Steve Bullock, Governor  
Mike Tooley, 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/)

Tim Conway, Acting Administrator

**Aeronautics Board**  
**Tricia McKenna, Chair**  
**Robert Buckles, Member**  
**A. Christopher Edwards, Member**  
**Dan Hargrove, Member**  
**William (Bill) Hunt, Jr., Member**  
**Fred Lark, Member**  
**Roger Lincoln, Member**  
**Walt McNutt, Member**  
**Jeff Wadekamper, Member**

**Editor: Patricia Trooien**

**Follow MDT on social media!**



# Drones Are Here to Stay

A recent estimate of active UAS (unmanned aircraft systems), is over one million. Because that number is growing every day, the industry is working hard to develop rules and guidelines that will allow UAS and traditional aircraft to operate symbiotically.

Many avenues are being explored to make the skies safe for all airborne operators. The FAA has initiated the UAS Integration Pilot Program. This is an opportunity for state, local, and tribal governments to partner with private sector entities, such as UAS operators or manufacturers, to accelerate safe UAS integration. The FAA hopes to be working with selected lead applicants by May of this year. This collaboration will allow rules to be discussed and tested between government entities, private companies and the FAA. By working together, the development and implementation of these new rules will allow drones to do more while making these operations safer.

A separate collaboration has just released a document called the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Pilots Code (UASPC). This document is designed to help UAS pilots with standard operations procedures, safety systems, and risk management. The development of UAS technology has happened much quicker than the rules can keep up with. The UASPC suggest that UAS operators identify themselves as aviators and work hard to operate as safely as any manned flight.

What we do know for sure is, as technology continues to progress, drone operations will likely continue to grow. UAS operations are here to stay and all aviators must work together to make aviation even safer in years to come.

## The Following USFS/USDA Land Management Comment Period Ends Soon

**Please Comment Prior To March 5, 2018**

### Background:

In 2012, through a collaborative effort involving Aviation Organizations, and others, the USFS/USDA published a new Planning Rule to develop, revise and amend USFS land management plans. This rule replaced the previous rule written in the 1980's and will be the planning "Bible" for the next 20-25 years. Through a collaborative process, the MPA/RAF and others were able to interject recreational aviation and the importance of recognizing airstrips as a valid part of USFS infrastructure into the 2012 Planning Rule and the Planning Directives.

The national Forests are now engaged in revising forest plans developed in the 1980's using the 2012 Planning Rule and directives.

Recently, the Custer-Gallatin National Forest released for public comment, a Proposed Action document, which will provide the design content for the new Forest Plan that will direct forest management practices for the next 20 to 25 years. The comment period commenced on January 3, 2018 for 60 days, ending on March 5, 2018.

Prior to March 5, 2018 You're encouraged to submit your comments and ideas concerning the Proposed Action via this Custer-Gallatin public comment email link:

Commenting is available by the following:

- Online at [www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin](http://www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin) and clicking Forest Plan Revision - then click on Commenting or directly at: <https://tinyurl.com/caracgnf>
- Electronically submitting via email to [cgplanrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:cgplanrevision@fs.fed.us) with subject line "Comment- draft plan- CGNF"
- By Mail to Custer Gallatin National Forest, Attn: Forest Plan Revision Team, P.O. Box 130, (10 E Babcock), Bozeman, MT 59771
- At local open houses by placing in comment box.

If you have any questions please contact the following organizations for assistance;

<http://www.montanapilots.org/>

<http://www.theraf.org/>

# 2018 Aircraft Registration Deadline March 1st, 2018



**AVOID LATE PENALTY FEES**



**Aircraft Registration:** Montana uses a simple fee structure in lieu of tax for annual aircraft registration, based on the type and age of the aircraft. Aircraft customarily kept in Montana must be registered on or before March 1st of each year. Late registrations are subject to a penalty (five times the fee), in addition to the fee itself. If your aircraft has been sold, is dismantled, or otherwise unflyable, check the appropriate box on your registration invoice, sign and return it to MDT Aeronautics Division before March 1, 2018. Second notices were mailed in February 5th. Please disregard the second notice if payment has been mailed.

**Pilot Registration:** The annual pilot registration fee of \$10 goes to support the many clinics and programs of the MDT Aeronautics Division, including the Winter Survival Clinic, Aviation Career Exploration Academy, Aviation Art Contest, Search and Rescue Clinic, Flight Instructor Refresher Course, Mechanic Refresher and I. A. Renewal Seminar, and the Aeronautics Resource Library. Registering pilots will receive a Montana pilot card, a 2018 Montana airport directory and the monthly newsletter, *Montana and the Sky*. The information collected on pilot registration forms become invaluable in the event of search and rescue operations. Pilots interested in volunteering as search pilots and spotters may indicate this on their registration form.

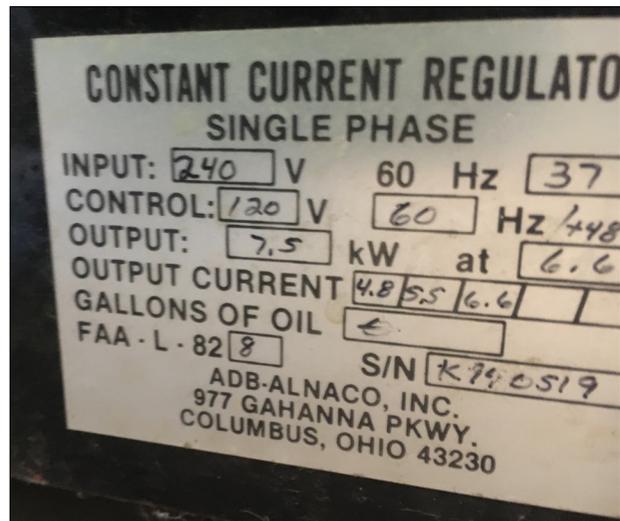
Online aircraft and pilots registration is available at <https://app.mt.gov/aeronautics/registration/Contact/Lookup>

Have you mailed your pilot and aircraft registration to the Aeronautics office and not yet received your pilot card and airport directory or aircraft decal in the mail? Aeronautics staff have been hard at work processing pilot and aircraft registrations.

**We thank you for your patience during this busy time.** For more information or questions, please contact the MDT Aeronautics Division's main office at (406) 444-2506.

## AIRPORT SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

LM Clayton Airport in Wolf Point, MT has a power supply for sale.  
Please contact Edward Bach at [edbach17@gmail.com](mailto:edbach17@gmail.com) for information.



MDT – Aeronautics can advertise available surplus equipment for airports in Montana. Please provide information and pictures to Jan Smith at (406) 444-9592, or [jansmith@mt.gov](mailto:jansmith@mt.gov) for placement in the MDT *Montana and the Sky* newsletter (as space allows).

# FAA Safety Team Provides Automatic Dependent Surveillance - Broadcast Answers

Article adapted from FAA Safety Team Notice , February 7, 2018

Your Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) Questions Answered:

*Question: Is Air Traffic Control (ATC) actually using ADS-B? I asked a controller to verify that my equipment was operating properly and she told me she did not have that information. How else can I verify that my equipment is operating properly?*

*Answer:* The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) provides a free, easy way to check your Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) performance. The ADS-B Performance Monitor (APM) captures all the broadcast ADS-B information in U.S. airspace. The APM captures your aircraft's ADS-B broadcast automatically, every time you fly. To verify the performance of your system, request a Public ADS-B Performance Report (PAPR) after any flight. Make your request by going to: <https://adsbperformance.faa.gov/PAPRRequest.aspx>.

You may do this anytime, at no cost. The PAPR will identify any erroneous information your equipment broadcasts. You can take the report to your avionics installer who can help rectify any issues. We encourage operators to check the performance of your ADS-B equipment after installation and annually thereafter.

ATC first began using ADS-B at selected sites in the United States in 2010, and the FAA has steadily expanded integration and use throughout the NAS. There are still some Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACONS) in the National Air space System (NAS) that require modernization to be able to utilize ADS-B, but the FAA is on track to enable ADS-B use at these remaining facilities before the 2020 mandate.

The FAA's ADS-B network collects your broadcasted ADS-B information and passes it to the ATC automation system. ADS-B data is then combined with other surveillance data (where available), to create a single track of your aircraft for the controller's display.

ADS-B messages contain many different information elements that are combined and simplified for presentation to ATC in a way that supports their primary mission of maintaining safe separation of aircraft. This simplified presentation tells a controller whether an aircraft is equipped with ADS-B and whether ADS-B is contributing to the presentation. It does not give the controller any insight into how well the ADS-B is performing or if all information elements comply with the requirements of the ADS-B mandate. Therefore, we discourage pilots from asking controllers for ADS-B performance details since this can add to workload and frequency congestion.

There's only 23 months remaining before the January 1, 2020 ADS-B Out equipage deadline.

For more information, please visit the Equip ADS-B website [www.faa.gov/nextgen/equipadsb/](http://www.faa.gov/nextgen/equipadsb/).

Questions about equipping? Please contact us at [adsb@faa.gov](mailto:adsb@faa.gov).

This article can be found at: <https://www.faa.gov/SPANS/noticeView.aspx?nid=7602>

## **“Check-Out” the Video/DVD Library at MDT Aeronautics!**

**2630 Airport Road, Helena, MT 59620-0507**

The MDT Aeronautics Division Video/DVD Library is driven by the needs of the piloting community. Whether you are researching aviation history, flight test preparation or in need of specific training resources the Aeronautics Division Library has the resources to meet your needs and those of the whole community. Video suggestions can be made by calling (406) 444-2506.

The Aeronautics Division Library is located at: [http://mtsc.sdp.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/MT-DOT/](http://mtsc.sdp.sirsi.net/client/en_US/MT-DOT/) and click on the **Aeronautics** on the left.



# Montana Aircraft Mechanic Refresher & I.A. Renewal Seminar

**Holiday Inn Downtown**  
200 S Pattee Street  
Missoula, Montana

*(Reference rooming block  
**Montana Aviation Conference  
2018** to receive the prevailing  
state rate.)*

The Montana Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division will once again be offering an I. A. renewal seminar in association with the 2018 Montana Aviation Conference. Aviation industry representatives and the FAA will offer many interesting educational programs.

Mechanics and Authorized Inspectors attending the seminar must register for the Aviation Conference, which allows you to attend any of the conference events. Please use the enclosed registration form to register for the conference.

For more information, contact Jan Smith at [jansmith@mt.gov](mailto:jansmith@mt.gov) or (406) 444-9592.



## NEW THIS YEAR: NO WALK-INS ALLOWED

Due to limited seating, IA Mechanic Seminar pre-registrations will be accepted until sessions are full.

Late registrations will be accepted at conference registration desk, based on availability.

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/)

**When pre-registering, please indicate sessions that you plan to attend.  
Only 2 sessions are required to meet FAR Part 65.93.**

### Friday, March 2, 2018

#### Session 1

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Randy Bibb, ASL CamGuard  
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Darrold Hutchinson, Hutchinson Aviation  
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – Break  
10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – John Nielson & Larry Schlasinger, Flight Resources  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Lunch Break  
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Zach Lincolnhol, Champion Aerospace  
*Total training hours for Friday, March 2 Session 1 = 4.25 hours*

#### Session 2

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. – Kristi Dunks, NTSB  
3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. – Rex Anderson  
5:15 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. – Jeff Vercoe, FAA  
*Total training hours for Friday, March 2 Session 2 = 4 hours*

### Saturday, March 3, 2018

#### Session 3

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. – Martin Clemons, Electrical Engineer  
8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. – Break  
8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. – Alan Jesmer, Precision Airmotive  
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – Brian Cox, Tempest Plus  
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – Break  
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Roger Fuchs, FAA DER  
*Total training hours for Saturday, March 3 Session 3 = 4 hours*

#### Session 4

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Mike and Jessie Ellis, PinnaCal  
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Rex Anderson  
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. – Break  
3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. – Greg Cross, Cross Petroleum Services  
4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. – Jeff Vercoe, FAA  
*Total training hours for Saturday, March 3 Session 4 = 4 hours*

**Please Note:** Date and time for speakers at Aircraft Mechanics Refresher Seminar & IA Renewal are subject to change without notice.

# Calendar of Events

**March 1, 2018 - Aircraft Registration Renewal Deadline -**

**March 1-3, 2018 - The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Montana Aviation Conference** - Will be held in Missoula, Montana at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown located at 200 South Pattee, Missoula, Montana. Rooms have been blocked at prevailing government rate plus tax. Reserve your room by calling (406) 721-8550 and reference rooming block **Montana Aviation Conference 2018**. Reserve your room prior to January 29, 2018 to receive the reduced rate. For more information, contact Effie Benoit at (406) 444-9580 or [efbenoit@mt.gov](mailto:efbenoit@mt.gov).

**March 2-3, 2018 – Montana Aircraft Mechanic Refresher & I.A. Renewal Seminar**, Holiday Inn Downtown, Missoula. For further information, contact Jan Smith at (406) 444-9592 or email [jansmith@mt.gov](mailto:jansmith@mt.gov).

**March 5-11, 2018 - Women of Aviation Worldwide Week** - Fly It Forward flights for girls of any age, in celebration of the first pilot certificate issued to a woman, French pilot Raymode de Loroche, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1910. For details, <https://www.womenofaviationweek.org/>

**April 1, 2018 - Aviation Art Contest** - Students from across Montana are invited to participate in the 2018 MDT Aeronautics Division Aviation Awareness Art Contest. The first-place winners in each grade category, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12, will be flown to Helena, with their parents, on May 3rd for the awards ceremony at the Helena Regional Airport with Transportation Director, Mike Tooley, followed by a tour of the airport and lunch on Helena's Last Chance Gulch. The winning artwork will be matted and framed.

The contest is open to all students in grades K-12 in public, private, and home schools. The aviation-themed original artwork should be labeled with the student's name, grade, school, and teacher's name and phone contact. Entries must be post marked by April 01st, and may be mailed to Art Contest, Aeronautics Division, P.O. Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507.

For more information call our main office at 406-444-2506. **Deadline for all submissions is April 1, 2018.**

**June 15-16, 2018 – AOPA Regional Fly-In, Missoula International Airport** - Enjoy exhibits, seminars, and aviation events. For more information visit <https://www.aopa.org/community/events/aopa-fly-ins/2018-aopa-fly-ins>.

**June 23, 2018 – Sanders County Pilot Assn. 2nd Annual Wings & Wheels Car Show and Fly-in** - Thompson Falls, MT Airport. 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Free admission. For more information call (406) 529-4059.

**June 23, 2018 - Wings and Wheels Car Show and Fly-In, Hamilton Airport (6S5)** - Join Ravalli County Pilots Association in conjunction Bitter Rodders Car Club for a pancake breakfast from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. For details call Choice Aviation at 406.363.6471 or visit: [www.wingsandwheelsairshow.com](http://www.wingsandwheelsairshow.com).

**Jul 28, 2018 – Airport Open House and BBQ Potluck**, Lincoln Airport, (S69).

**August 3-4, 2018 - Three Forks Fly-In** – For more information about this two-day event, contact Pat Green at [greenrg@aol.com](mailto:greenrg@aol.com) or call (406) 285-6949.

**ATTENTION!**

## Resale Program

**ATTENTION!**

The Montana Aeronautics Division resale program consists of replacement parts and supplies that are available for Montana private and public use airports to purchase. The Aeronautics Division keeps an inventory of parts and lamps for runway lighting systems, PAPI and VASI approach lighting systems, airport rotating beacons, windsocks and frames. We also assist airports in locating hard to find parts for old lighting systems and other parts that may be difficult to locate.

For technical assistance and pricing, please contact Jan Smith at [jansmith@mt.gov](mailto:jansmith@mt.gov), call [406-444-9592](tel:406-444-9592) or the MDT Aeronautics Office at [406-444-2506](tel:406-444-2506).

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Civil Rights Bureau, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone (406) 444-9229. Those using a TTY may call (800) 335-7592 or go through the Montana Relay Service at 711.

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



## **Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone**

In 2017, there were 187 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 187 parents, children, grandparents, friends, siblings, spouses, and other loved ones had lives that were cut short. It also means countless tears and shattered lives of those left with the aftermath of unsafe driving behaviors. Which loved one are you prepared to lose? If your answer is none, then Vision Zero is also YOUR goal.

It will take every one of us to work towards the day that Vision Zero is met, and the fatality total reads "ZERO." Two of the highest contributing factors to traffic fatalities in 2016 were alcohol and no seat belt.

These are behaviors that can be changed! Start by always wearing your seatbelt and planning for sober transportation. Remind your loved ones and those around you to do the same.

*-Director Mike Tooley, MDT*

Visit [www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero) for more information.

**VISION ZERO**  
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION**

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