

# Montana and the Sky



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 71, No. 04

April 2020

## It's a Wrap! 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Montana Aviation Conference in Great Falls a Huge Success



Montana Aviation Conference exhibitors



MPA static display at Holman Aviation

**M**ore than 450 people gathered at the Heritage Inn during the annual aviation conference in Great Falls. Three keynote speakers, 45 exhibitors and vendors, 39 concurrent speakers and more than 60 students were in attendance.

The annual Montana Aviation Conference is hosted by the Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM). The AOM is organized in Montana to promote all facets of aviation in the state, as well as act as the steering committee for the annual Montana Aviation Conference. The AOM consists of 9 aviation groups in the state.

One of the new top focuses of Montana Aeronautics and the FAA is Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Aviation and Space Education (AVSED). The aim of this initiative is to prepare and inspire the next generation of skilled professionals for the aviation and aerospace industries using STEM, and to educate the public.

This year, MDT Aeronautics Division hosted the Great Falls Public Schools 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade science classes from Meadow Lark Elementary. These students participated in a variety of hands-on experiments and demonstrations to expose them to aviation and get them excited about airplanes. Students were able to fly drones, have a glider flying contest, see how a cloud forms inside a bottle and demonstrate air pressure changes with a fog machine.

We also had a group of SCOUTS work on their Aviation Merit badges. They learned about principles and forces of flight, how airplanes work and what makes them fly. The SCOUTS were able to fly a full motion flight simulator, build and fly gliders with moveable flight controls, build an airfoil section of a wing and see how it flew in a wind tunnel and practice a pre-flight inspection of an air ambulance jet. They heard about dozens of careers available in aviation and asked an airline pilot questions. Students left with huge smiles on their faces and a newfound interest in flight!

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

This year was the first year online registration was available. While there were a few bugs to work out of the system, it was a wildly popular option for attendees and vendors. Nearly everyone took advantage of online registration in advance of the conference! Also new this year was an early registration discount for Montana registered pilots with a goal of promoting the conference and encouraging more Montana pilots to attend. Many of the concurrent sessions were educational in nature qualified for FAA WINGS credits.

We would like to extend our gratitude to George Schmalz, owner of Aviation Flight School in Billings, for letting Redbird Flight Simulators bring his simulator to the Conference. It was a huge attraction, thank you!

Next year's aviation conference will be held in Billings at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center February 25-27, 2021.



(L) Jeff Verco, FAATeam Manager, presenting three Wright Brother Master Pilot awards to Roger Lincoln, Charles Inman, Robert Breum Photo Credit: Karen Conway



Tim Conway, Administrator

**Montana and the Sky**  
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Full motion flight simulator Photo Credit: Karen Conway

# Congress Introduces Legislation for a National Aviation Center Forced by Aviation Workforce Shortage

**B**ipartisan legislation introduced in the Senate in February would help ensure the aviation and aerospace industries in the United States remain competitive and prepared to address the workforce challenges facing the entire industry.

Known as the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation (NCAA), the bill has already gained overwhelming support from the AOPA and organizations representing all segments of aviation across the country.

NCAA would allow everyone in the industry to come together in support of a national industry organization. It will lead the way with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)-based aviation curriculum to reach more than 25,000 high schools across the country, assist in apprenticeships, and help military veterans and others transition to technical jobs in aviation.

The NCAA would be a private organization, not funded by general fund taxpayer dollars, and would be prohibited from involvement in any political or legislative activity.

The goals for the NCAA are diverse. Initiatives include aviation workforce development, facilitation of STEM-based aviation curriculum for high school students, aviation research, safety and economic data collection and the fostering of needed collaboration among the entire aviation industry.

Boeing predicted there is a need for 804,000 new civil aviation pilots, 769,000 new maintenance technicians, and 914,000 new cabin crew over the next 20 years.

The Aeronautical Repair Station Association predicted the maintenance technician shortage is costing the U.S. aviation maintenance industry an estimated \$118 million per month (\$1.421 billion per year) in lost opportunity. It is also predicted that the mechanic population will decrease five percent in the next 15 years. New mechanics make up just two percent of the technician workforce and 30 percent are at or near retirement age.

The center would allow the FAA to focus on safety and certification while the industry invests in the collaboration of promoting aviation through education, training, research, and awareness of the many job opportunities in the aviation industry.

Article summarized with permission from General Aviation News

## FAA Stopped PilotWeb NOTAM System February 14, 2020

In an effort to bring the FAA's legacy NOTAM system in compliance with ICAO standards, the agency "sunsetted" PilotWeb on February 14, 2020. Pilots inquiring about NOTAMs are now directed to the at <https://notams.aim.faa.gov/notamSearch/>.

However, the Aeronautical Integrated Data Access Portal



(AIDAP), which allows pilots to retrieve textual (non-digital) NOTAM and weather data, will remain active until June 2020.

This change is part of FAA's National Airspace System-wide transition to the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen).

Article summarized with permission from General Aviation News.

## ADS-B Penalties a Hot Topic

A major concern among general aviation pilots is ADS-B privacy and FAA enforcement. What happens if you choose to shut off your transponder in flight now that we are beyond the mandated equipage deadline?

While we know such questions are not new about transponder privacy, it is a little different now with ADS-B. For years people have attempted to turn off transponders to avoid detection. But what about now with the ADS-B mandate?

The Federal Aviation Regulations now say: "Single Acts of Misconduct Generally Warranting Revocation. Some acts of misconduct are, by their very nature, so egregious or significant as to demonstrate that the certificate holder does not possess the care, judgment, or responsibility to hold a certificate. These acts include, but are not limited to, those listed in Figure 9-5 on page 9-14 (#30) lists "Operating an aircraft without activated transponder or ADS-B Out transmission (except as provided in 14 C.F.R. § 91.225(f)) for purposes of evading detection."

So, if you are going to be flying in ADS-B required airspace, equip. If you are already equipped, leave your transponder and ADS-B turned on all the time to avoid triggering suspicions or accidentally flying in ADS-B required airspace while it is turned off.

FAA inspectors do monitor suspicious N-number's flying activity as part of their investigation into pilots/aircraft that have popped up on their enforcement radars for various reasons. Various general aviation advocacy groups have reached out to the FAA for comment on this concern. The FAA has yet to respond to the inquiries.

We have yet to see how enforcements will be applied, and how ADS-B will be used in general aviation. The concerns among the industry are rising. Many are anxiously awaiting further FAA clarification on the subject of privacy and how this data could be used against you.

# High School Students Interested in Aviation Should Apply Early



## 2020 AVIATION CAREER EXPLORATION ACADEMY

- Discovery Flights
- Survival skills training
- Airport tour
- Air Traffic Control tour
- Air National Guard
- Space telescope
- More than a dozen aviation business tours
- General Aviation fly in
- Tour Boeing
- Aircraft mechanic college tour
- Talk to professional pilots, mechanics and engineers
- Fishing and swimming in Canyon Ferry Lake during the evenings where we will spend 2 nights in cabins

### ACE Camp

Explore what you can do in aviation!

# JUNE 15-17

## Helena Airport

\$120

Open to high school student who will be Freshman-Seniors (or who just graduated)



*Includes 2-night stay at the Montana Learning Center, meals, flights, ground transportation during the camp, materials and all tours*

Visit [www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml) to register or call (406)444-2506

### Scholarships are Available!

Visit our website to learn more:  
<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml>

## Registrations are due by June 11

Registrations are limited to 15 students.

Register early to secure your spot!

This camp is offered by the Montana Aeronautics Division. It is designed to expose students to many career possibilities in aviation. Parent/guardian must sign liability and photo release required for participation.

# Sponsor a Montana Student—Get Them Involved in Aviation



2019 ACE Camp—Canyon Ferry Fly-In

Are you interested in getting Montana high school students involved and interested in aviation? The Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy is a resident camp offered each summer for high school students to learn about careers in

aviation and explore flight. This fantastic camp is put on by the Montana Aeronautics Division. You can impact a student's future with your life-changing donation of \$120 to the scholarship fund and send a student to ACE!

Some of Montana's youth are disadvantaged or may live in areas without access to aviation exposure. For many, this will be their first time flying, or even being around someone who flies. This three-day resident camp helps students from across the state explore what is available within the industry. This year, ACE Camp will be held in Helena and at the Montana Learning Center. Tuition includes lodging, discovery flight, meals, snacks, supplies, drinks and ground transportation during the camp.

On the first day, students learn survival skills, signaling, and fire and shelter construction during a campout in the mountains. Later in the afternoon, students will have an opportunity to signal a search plane to locate them in the mountains through their newly learned rescue methods.

On the second day, the theme focuses on exposing students to as many areas and careers in aviation as possible. Students will tour local aviation facilities and enjoy the opportunities to hear from industry experts. Students will receive introductory flights and tour the Montana Air National Guard helicopter base, Department of Natural Resources helicopter wildland fire suppression unit, a fixed based operator, charter operator, an air ambulance company, a crop duster business, the Helena Air Traffic Control tower, the Helena Airport, a local fire department crash rescue facility, an aircraft restoration hobbyist, an aircraft mechanic school, the Boeing manufacturing plant, and the tour the cockpits of two retired airliners. Later, they have the opportunity to hear from an airline pilot, airport engineer, aircraft mechanic, flight nurse and paramedic, various local aviation business owners and other aviation professionals.

On the final day, students attend a fly-in at the Canyon Ferry airstrip and have a picnic while socializing with volunteer owners who bring their aircraft to support the event. During each evening, students will learn about space and astronomy and have access to the most powerful space observatory telescope in Montana located on the north end of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. They will fly drones, learn about the forces and

principles of flight, build gliders for a flying contest, and fish, swim and build relationships around the campfire after long days of aviation activities.

In order for a student to receive a

scholarship from the donation fund, students must submit an essay explaining their interest in aviation and financial need for the award. Applicants will be selected by the Aeronautics Division prior to ACE Camp. In 2019, 12 students were sponsored by generous individuals and businesses in Montana. Thank you! For 2020, we have 15 slots available. Direct donations are accepted, or a tax-deductible donation can be made through a non-profit foundation. Sponsors are welcome to attend and participate in ACE Camp, and volunteers are always welcome! ACE Camp will be conducted June 15-17, 2020 in Helena.

Contact Aeronautics to set up your sponsorship!

Call (406) 444-2506 or email [mdtaerosafety@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafety@mt.gov).



2017 ACE Camp—Canyon Ferry Fly-In

## Eighty-Two Mechanics Renew IAs at Conference

The Aeronautics Division completed another successful Mechanics Refresher and Inspection Authorization (IA) Renewal Seminar. Fourteen hours of technical training by aviation experts and four hours of regulatory training conducted by the FAA staff were provided on Friday, February 28 and Saturday, February 29.

Classes were well attended by 82 mechanics receiving a certificate of completion. Among those receiving certificates were individuals from Texas, Wyoming, and Washington, and a majority from Montana. Included in the 18 credit hours this year were training video sessions during the lunch break which counted as one hour towards the eight-hour renewal requirement. This provided a little flexibility allowing participants the option to attend other concurrent sessions outside the refresher seminar. IAs are required to receive eight hours of recurrent classroom training between April 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> if they do not meet the eligibility requirements of CFR 14 part 65.93. Aeronautics has been providing mechanics with the renewal seminar since 1963. This was the first state sponsored course in the nation and has been offered ever since. The IA mechanics renewal seminar will be offered again next year at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Montana Aviation Conference in Billings, MT, on February 25-27th, 2021.

If you or someone you know would be willing to present a topic, such as experimental engine systems, human factors, aircraft wheels and brakes, or any other aircraft maintenance related topic, please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-9592.

# Aviation Awareness Art Contest Deadline Extended to May 1, 2020



Calling All Youth Artists!



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. The contest is open to all students in grades K-12 in public, private, and home schools.

## Categories

### Category 1:

Kindergarten - 5th grade

### Category 2:

6th Grade - 8th Grade

### Category 3:

9th Grade - 12th Grade

## Prizes

### FIRST PLACE in each category:

1. A round trip flight to Helena for the winner and his/her parents (legal guardians) in May 2020 for the awards ceremony in Helena. Day to be decided.
2. Transportation Director, Mike Tooley will present all three winners with a trophy, certificate, and their artwork matted and framed.
3. Following the ceremony, the winners and their families will tour the airport and enjoy lunch.

### SECOND & THIRD PLACE in each category:

1. A trophy and Certificate of Achievement.

## Entry Requirements

1. Contest deadline is: Friday, May 1, 2020.
2. Contest is open to all Montana students, grades K-12.
3. Size of poster is not to exceed 11" x 14".
4. Artwork must have an aviation theme - can be color or black & white.
5. Please no tracing the images.
6. All artwork must include the following:  
Name of Student, Student's Grade, School's Mailing Address, Phone Number, and Teacher's Name

Get More Info

Artwork will be returned to all that participate.

Winners will be contacted after the contest deadline. Arrangements can be made at that time for air travel to Helena.

### Mail Artwork To:

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

### Visit Our Website:

[mdt.mt.gov/aviation/](http://mdt.mt.gov/aviation/)

### Or Contact:

Matt Lindberg  
[mlindberg@mt.gov](mailto:mlindberg@mt.gov)  
406-444-2506



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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.



Photo credit: General Aviation Manufacturers Association

## GAMA Scholarship Open

The General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) is now accepting applications for its 2020 Edward W. Stimpson Aviation Excellence Award Scholarship. GAMA awards a high school senior pursuing studies in aviation with a \$2,000 scholarship annually.

Applications are due by April 15, 2020.

For more information go to [www.GAMA.aero](http://www.GAMA.aero)

## New Bill Recognizes Time is Money

A bill to ensure that Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds can be used by airports to encourage early completion of critical runway and airport projects has been introduced in the House of Representatives. It is called the Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act of 2020 (H.R. 5912) and will allow incentive payments for early completion of projects and eligible costs under the AIP. The AIP program provides grants for the planning, development, and execution of infrastructure projects at public-use airports, such as runways and taxiways.

This would be an important measure to help prevent project delays for airports and their surrounding communities that rely on airport facilities for both personal use and business travel.

Completing projects ahead of schedule can save money, which in turn can have the same economic impact as increasing investment without any additional federal resources or costly and impactful delays.

This bill optimizes local airports' ability to leverage the AIP so they can get airport improvements finished up and running for air travelers and airport users faster and more affordably.

Under current law, airports cannot use AIP funds to incentivize early completion of airport projects, right now, even if the early completion would result in significant capacity, greater savings on the project overall or efficiency gains for the airport.

The Act would allow airports, including those with short construction seasons like in Montana or disruptive airfield projects, to use up to \$1 million in AIP money to incentivize a contractor to complete the project early. Use of incentive payments would be left to the discretion of the airport operator. Similar incentives are common in the construction of road projects.

Article summarized with permission from General Aviation News.

## 2019 General Aviation Survey Now Open

The FAA's 42nd Annual General Aviation (GA) and Part 135 Activity Survey is open until July 10, 2020. This voluntary survey is distributed by US Mail to a representative sample of GA and on-demand Part 135 aircraft owners and operators. It may be completed online or by mail. The survey estimates the size, primary use, and flight hours of the 2019 general aviation fleet. This information allows the FAA to track the success of safety initiatives and better serve the GA community by evaluating pilot's access to the equipment and services they rely on to navigate and fly safely. The four-page survey takes under half an hour to complete. Individual responses are kept confidential to the extent permitted by law; the FAA only receives and publishes data that is deidentified. An independent research firm is conducting the survey on the FAA's behalf. The firm will mail out the surveys, process responses and analyze the results. Survey results will be posted on the FAA's website by January 2021.

Article summarized with permission from General Aviation news.

## Calendar of Events

**May 1, 2020 — Aviation Awareness Art Contest.** May 1st is the deadline for art work submission. See Page Six for details.

**May 16, 2020 — AOPA Rusty Pilots Seminar.** Hosted by Blue Goose Aviation in Polson, MT from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Polson Airport in Hangar #35. Lunch and a pilot discussion will follow the seminar. For questions please contact Joe at (719) 393-5550. If you have not flown in a while, come out and meet other pilots and let us help you get back into the air. This seminar is free for AOPA members and \$79.00 for non-members.

**June 06, 2020 — EAA's Helena Chapter 344 Morrison Park "Burger Burn."** All aviation aficionados, including members of EAA, MPA and the general public, are invited to participate in this spring warm-up to the 2020 flying season from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Free hamburger or hot dog and soft drink available. Morrison Park is located just east of the Helena College airport campus off Airport Road. Those who fly in may park in the southwest corner of the general aviation ramp in the vicinity of Exec Air's hangars. For information contact Ron Rasmussen (406) 461-1093

**June 15-17, 2020 — Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Camp.** Program geared toward high school students interested in aviation. For more information see Page Four, call (406) 444-2506 or email [mlindberg@mt.gov](mailto:mlindberg@mt.gov).

**June 19-20, 2020 — AOPA Fly-In Casper, WY.** Register online at <https://aopa.org/Community/Events/AOPA-Fly-Ins/2020-AOPA-Fly-Ins/Casper/>.

**July 31- August 01, 2020 — Three Forks Fly-In.** 43<sup>rd</sup> annual fly-in hosted by the Montana Antique Aircraft Association. Friday and Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner are available. Saturday flour bombing/spot landing and ping pong ball drop. Free and open to the public. Showers and camping on site. For more information contact Pat Green (406) 539-1880.



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## Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

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

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION**

In 2019, there were 184 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 184 parents, children, grandparents, friends, siblings, spouses, and other loved ones had lives that were cut short. It also means countless tears and shattered lives for 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 2019 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.

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