

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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2022 Montana Aviation Conference is a GO!

The Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) is pleased to announce the Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Missoula, March 3-5, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Downtown. Due to constraints stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, the AOM Board voted to cancel the Annual Montana Aviation Conference scheduled to be held in Billings, Montana, February 25 – February 27, 2021. We are very excited to be back in action!

In June, the AOM Conference Planning Committee kicked off the first of many planning meetings for the 2022 conference. Please be on the lookout for more information in the coming months!

The annual Montana Aviation Conference brings together all of Montana's aviation organizations and the flying public for three days of speakers, seminars, workshops, business meetings, and social events. It is an opportunity for those from all facets of the aviation community to learn from each other and to discuss issues of mutual concern. The Montana Aviation Conference has around 500 participants each year.

For your convenience, rooms have been blocked at conference rates at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown. Reservations must be made **prior to January 31, 2022**, to be eligible for the conference rate. Call the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown directly at [\(406\) 721-8550](tel:4067218550) and **reference the Montana Aviation Conference** to receive the conference rate.



2020 Montana Aviation Conference in Great Falls

Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

Takeoff with Aviation Education Workshop

On October 1 and 2, Montana Aeronautics will host its annual Teacher Workshop. The Division has partnered with the Montana Learning Center (MLC) at Canyon Ferry Lake to deliver the program, and the curriculum is authorized to provide 20 renewal credits through the Office of Public Instruction.

Teachers will receive instruction from Dr. Walter Woolbaugh of MSU, Ryan Hannahoe, Executive Director of the Learning Center, Chris Gillette, retired airline pilot and member of the MLC team, and Montana Aeronautics staff. The lessons will consist of aeronautics theory and principle-based demonstrations and experiments they can easily and affordably reproduce in the classroom for students. These ideas and experiments are designed to excite students about aviation while learning STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) principles that apply to everyday life. The goal of the workshop is for teachers to take their newfound passion for aviation and transfer it back to their students in their classrooms.

The first day of the workshop will kick off with some exciting activities for the teachers to get the aviation bug; introductory flights will begin in the morning along with tours of the Montana Air National Guard, Montana Medical Transport (an air ambulance operator), a Boeing 727 flight deck, and the Helena Air Traffic Control Tower.

For more information and how to register, please visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml> or call Aeronautics at (406) 444-9568.



2019 Teacher Workshop flights
Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

Where's the Gas?

Our state is experiencing one of the worst wildland fire seasons in recent years, which is causing a strain on the availability of aviation fuel. As of August 18, there were 70 active fires burning in Montana with over 818,000 acres burned. Executive Order 12-2021 issued by Governor Gianforte on July 14, 2021, declared a statewide wildland fire emergency and helped ensure additional resources were available to assist with fire suppression efforts. In addition to mobilizing the Montana National Guard to provide support for fire suppression, the executive order also provided some latitude for fuel truck drivers. The order broadly suspended federally imposed hours of service regulations for motor carriers and persons operating commercial vehicles while providing emergency relief. The Governor's intent was further clarified on August 2, 2021, with a memorandum that made clear the Governor's order included the suspension of federally imposed hours of service regulations during this emergency for general fuel truckers. This means fuel truck drivers delivering avgas and/or jet fuel were included in the order, which should help alleviate some of the aviation fuel delivery issues Montana has been facing.



A very large DC-10 Air Tanker taking on fuel at the Helena Air Tanker Base

Photo courtesy of Thomas Reguin



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Montana and the Sky
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Follow MDT on social media!



Yogi Visits Yellowstone Airport

The Yellowstone Airport had an unusual visitor late in June. A young black bear managed to navigate the wildlife fence surrounding the airport and find her way onto the airfield. The bear managed to avoid being noticed for a while, before being spotted along the fence line. The bear was reluctant to leave on her own and evaded the Airport Operations team's attempts to corral her out of the gate. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was called and came to extract the bear. Utilizing a tranquilizer agent to put the bear to sleep, wildlife professionals were able to safely transport her away from the airport for re-release. The game warden said the bear would be monitored to ensure proper vital signs and then be released back into the wild near a river or source of water.

Since placing the perimeter fence, it is not too often the airport sees large mammals on the airfield. Seeing this bear brought back memories of times past for the Yellowstone team when all types of wildlife, from bears to bison, frequently roamed the runway.



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

2021 ACE Academy



Students and staff up-close with DC-10



Students learn about fabric-covered aircraft at the fly-in

The 2021 Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy was held in July, offering six students from across Montana the opportunity to tour several aviation-related facilities in Helena and learn about aviation career opportunities. The academy included Exec Air FBO and Montana Medical Transport air ambulance, the Helena Regional Airport, the Helena Air Traffic Control Tower, Montana Department of Transportation's hangar, and the Montana National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility. In addition, students met with members of the aviation community, including Paul Gordon and his aircraft, a 1943 Interstate Army L-6 and home-built Pietenpol, as well as Kevin Danz of iFlyBigSky who taught the students about drones and showed off his Long-EZ aircraft. The students also got the opportunity to learn about several educational resources, including Helena College of the University of Montana, the aviation program through Gallatin College-Montana State University, and Summit Aviation of Belgrade. Aeronautics also had the chance to take each student on flights with Aeronautics' pilots, each student getting cockpit time. ACE students and MDT staff alike also enjoyed the rare treat of getting to see the 10 Tanker DC-10 Air Tanker which has recently been in Helena, as well as get a chance to speak with and ask questions of one of the 10 Tanker's captains. Students were excited to see numerous planes up close during a fly-in at Canyon Ferry, where fifteen planes and even more pilots came to speak with students, show off their aircraft, and talk about their careers and hobbies in aviation. ACE students enjoyed up-close takeoffs and landings and interacting with the pilots (and canine co-pilots) at Canyon Ferry. Another fantastic treat was a surprise visit from Richard McSpadden, former Executive Director of the Aircraft Owners and Pilot's Association Air Safety Institute, and now Vice President, at the Canyon Ferry fly-in. Richard spoke with the students and attending pilots sharing his personal career in aviation and some exciting stories about leading the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds flight demonstration team.

ACE Academy is a great way for high school students interested in aviation to gain exposure to all kinds of careers and opportunities with the aviation industry. Aeronautics puts on the ACE Academy for up to fifteen students every summer, typically in June. This year, several generous sponsors donated sponsorships and were able to cover the cost of tuition for every student. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the sponsors who donated tuition expenses; business participants who offered their time, resources, and knowledge; and all the pilots; Mr. McSpadden; and Montana Pilots Association members who attended the fly-in. Your involvement helps to shape the future of aviation in Montana. Thank you!



Kevin Danz/iFlyBigSky



Summit Aviation visit



MDT King Air



Mr. McSpadden and students



Snowplow at HLN



Canyon Ferry fly-in



Inside a Chinook



Aeronautics flights



Canyon Ferry fly-in

All photos courtesy of Aeronautics staff

WYS Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Emergency Response Training

As a 14 CFR Part 139 commercial service airport, the Yellowstone Airport is required to have Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) crews and apparatus during all air carrier operations. Additionally, the airport must conduct a full-scale training exercise every three years in order to meet all Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements and regulations. The Yellowstone Airport conducted its full-scale emergency response training earlier this summer. This training event focused on the response times of the airport's ARFF staff and other local mutual-aid agencies.

As part of the training exercise, a real fire was lit using pallets and an accelerant, which the Yellowstone ARFF crew doused in under three minutes. The ARFF crew then proceeded to assist other mutual-aid crews during a simulated airline crash, working to triage, treat, and transport volunteers who acted as injured survivors of the mock crash. All participants received training in communications, including contacting all outside agencies that would be required contacts in a real accident scenario, as well as scene control and proper incident command structure.



All photos courtesy of Aeronautics staff

New MSO Airport Director

Missoula International Airport has a new Airport Director. Brian Ellestad, A.A.E., was recently selected as the new Airport Director, after serving as the Deputy Director previously. Brian replaces Cris Jensen, A.A.E., who is now with the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. Congratulations, Brian!

HLN's Restaurant Reopens

After being closed during the Covid-19 pandemic, Helena Airport's Smokejumper Restaurant & Bar has reopened for public-side service in the lobby of the Helena Regional Airport Terminal Building. The restaurant serves a variety of drinks and is currently offering a food menu of salads and sandwiches with food offerings set to expand in the near future. Smokejumper also currently offers carryout orders and is scheduling meetings and catered events both on and off-site. Smokejumper Landing, inside the gate seating area, continues to operate during regularly scheduled outbound flights.

Aviation Photo Contest

Would you like to see your photograph on the cover of the 2022 Montana Airport Directory? Submit your photos to the Aeronautics Division by December 1, 2021, to be considered. The winning photo will be selected based on the best representation of aviation in Montana. Submit your photos to: mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov.

For more information, email Aeronautics at the above address, or call us at (406) 444-2506.

*MDT Aeronautics retains all rights to submitted photos and may use them for other promotional purposes.

2021 Airport Directory Cover

2021 Montana
Airport Directory
60th Edition



For Reference Only

MDT Aeronautics Division



Lincoln Airport Foundation Hosts Fly-In

The Lincoln Airport Foundation (LAF) sponsored the annual Lincoln Airport Community Open House and Fly-In BBQ/Potluck in late July. The LAF would like to thank all who attended and helped make it a success. Mercy Flight from Great Falls, Civil Air Patrol from Helena, Young Eagle Flights from Helena, the new Lincoln District Ranger, Montana Aeronautics, many community members, and folks from out of town attended. About 100 people and 12 aircraft flew in for the event and numerous kids enjoyed Young Eagles flights. Jeff Vercoe from the FAA in Helena, also a Lincoln Airport hangar and aircraft owner and pilot, gave a very informative presentation on the value of the Lincoln Airport to the Lincoln community. The event was free to all, and very generous anonymous donations covered the out-of-pocket cost of the event, and then some. The LAF will use the excess donations, along with numerous hours of volunteer effort, to continue the maintenance, repair, and improvement of the Lincoln Airport to keep it open year-round for recreational, pleasure, business, government, and emergency services flying in to support the Lincoln community and surrounding area. Montana Aeronautics would like to thank the LAF/Lincoln Airport volunteers for their help and support of S69 year-round. Be sure to mark Saturday July 23, 2022, on your calendar for next year's Lincoln Fly-In!



Excerpt from Jerry Cain Photos courtesy of Aeronautics staff

WYS Survey

Do you fly in or out of the Yellowstone Airport? If so, we would love your feedback! Please either scan the QR code found in the flyer below, or follow the link below, to be taken to a short survey regarding winter operations at WYS. <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/wys-user-survey.shtml>.

The Montana Department of Transportation will be utilizing feedback generated by this survey in evaluating the potential benefits, requirements, and costs of extending Yellowstone Airport's operating season to include the winter months.

Yellowstone Airport Winter Operations Survey



The Yellowstone Airport (WYS) has historically operated May thru mid-October due to harsh winter weather conditions and associated lower aviation traffic demand during the November thru April period.

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is soliciting user feedback on interest in extending the existing operating season and the potential to open to year-round operations. If you desire to provide feedback for consideration, please complete the associated survey by scanning the QR code below for General Aviation personnel.



Thank you for your response!



Aeronautics Loan & Grant Application Reminder

As a reminder to airport loan and grant applicants, the Loan and Grant online portal (<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml>) will accept FY 2023 applications starting July 1, 2021, through November 15, 2021. If you cannot enter the website, you may have a previous award that needs a closeout form or an annual status report filed.

Additionally, make sure projects are broken down as required. As an example, asphalt projects should be broken down by runway, apron, and taxiway, not as one project lumped together. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

ELT Accidental Activation Prevention Initiative

A false alert is a non-distress activation of a 406 MHz emergency beacon. The most common devices in use are emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) installed in aircraft or a personal locator beacon (PLB) that is portable. It can be caused by accidental activation during testing, mishandling, improper installation, or unfamiliarity with beacon operation. Just over 9,000 false alerts were generated by ELTs in the U.S. in 2019.

When an ELT is activated, Search and Rescue (SAR) personnel begin responding immediately to every activation of a 406 MHz ELT beacon. That response will only stop when it has been proven that the activation was a false alert. Every false alert has the potential to put rescuers in harm's way and waste valuable resources. The Montana Aeronautics Division is responsible for all aviation-related search and rescue services in Montana.

Pilots, aircraft owners, mechanics, avionics shops, and line personnel can help prevent false alerts. Always ensure you are conducting self-tests and annual tests according to the manufacturer's instructions for your ELT. Each year the majority of 406 MHz ELT false alerts occur during testing and maintenance.

ELT registration information DOES NOT transfer when you sell or buy an aircraft. The FAA does not process this paperwork with the bill of sale registering the aircraft to a new name. In many cases, beacons remain in the previous owner's name, or even many owners ago. If you are going to rely on this device to save your life, it is critical all that information associated with it is up to date.

Register your ELT/PLB at www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov.

The simplest and quickest way for SAR forces to confirm a false alert and confirm that you are not in distress is to talk via phone to the person who accidentally set off the ELT. They do this using the information provided by the beacon owner in the NOAA Sarsat Beacon Registration Database system. Please register your 406 rescue device today and keep your contact information up to date once you register. If you realize you have accidentally activated your beacon, call the U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at 1-800-851-3051 or if located in Montana, the Montana Aeronautics Division during business hours at (406) 444-2506 or the Montana Highway Patrol after hours at (406) 841-7022. You can also call your nearest FAA Air Traffic Control facility with your beacon's hex ID to cancel the false alert. This helps protect Search and Rescue personnel who would otherwise be out looking for you during an actual emergency. Even if you accidentally activate the beacon just for a second, a Sarsat satellite may pick up the signal and trigger an emergency response. So, be sure to call!

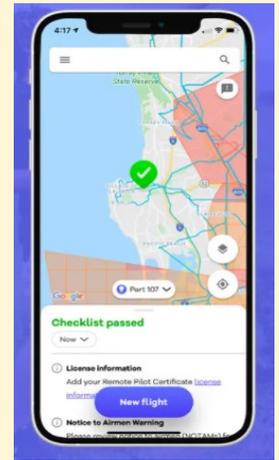
121.5 ELTs are now illegal to manufacture, install, or repair in aircraft for the last couple years and will be prohibited in just a few years altogether. That means it is more common to find them in the aircraft we operate today, making the situation of accidental activations and proper registrations even more important to be aware of. It is wise to periodically listen to 121.5 during flight to make sure you are not accidentally transmitting your ELT. Or, perhaps you may hear someone else's who actually is in need of help. It should also be standard practice to listen to 121.5 after you land to be sure the ELT was not accidentally triggered. You can also put the remote ELT switch in your instrument scan, if equipped, to watch for the activation light. ELTs can fail and begin transmitting at any time. Yes, we hunt them down inside hangars from time to time. By the way, does your passenger briefing include the location and operation of the ELT via remote switch or otherwise? Many aircraft equipped with an ELT in the tail have the access panel secured with nylon screws designed to be easily broken off to manually pull out the ELT to extend the manual backup antennae, should the fuselage become disconnected. *Partial excerpt from the Federal Aviation Administration*

Free App Available to Drone Pilots for Assistance Obeying U.S. Regulations

OpenSky is a free mobile app created by Wing (part of Google's parent company, Alphabet) which aims to assist U.S. drone pilots in operating their drones legally. The app provides color-coded maps to show open and restricted flying areas and the option to submit controlled airspace flying requests and quickly receive authorizations, as well as the ability to log and plan flights. Currently, all pilots in the U.S. must register to fly any drones weighing over 0.55 pounds, and beginning in 2023, all drones will have to broadcast their location during flight.

OpenSky is available via iOS and Android and is available to both commercial and recreational pilots.

Excerpt and photo from theverge.com article by Jon Porter, <https://www.theverge.com/2021/6/30/22557243/wing-opensky-drone-flight-app-faa-regulations-authorization-laanc>.



Calendar of Events



September 5, 2021 — Ferndale Fly-In — EVENT CANCELLED

September 11, 2021 — Columbus Fly-In Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast served 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Come participate in the flour bombing competition. For more information, contact Hardin Graham at (406) 780-0034.

September 11, 2021 — Ekalaka Fly, Ride, Drive-In. 97M Ekalaka Airport. Grilling hamburgers and hot dogs starting at 11:00 a.m.; sodas and water provided. There will be a flour drop, and you can tour the new pilot lounge, including shower and sleeping quarters. Lots of room for camping. For more information, please contact Bill Kallstrom at Wkallstrom@yahoo.com.

September 11, 2021 — Havre Air Fair Fly-In and Breakfast. KHVR Havre City County Airport. Games and activities; breakfast served 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. including pancakes, sausage, eggs, biscuits & gravy. Donations accepted. For more information, contact Willie Hurd at (406) 945-3646.

October 1-2, 2021 — STEM Teacher Workshop. Be sure to tell all the teachers you know in Montana! Middle and high school math and science teachers will gather at the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake for a teachers' aeronautics STEM workshop sponsored by the MDT Aeronautics Division. For more information, contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-9568.

WANTED: Your Montana Aviation News

Do you have exciting aviation news from Montana to share? Did you know you can send it to the Aeronautics Division to be considered for publishing in the *Montana and the Sky* newsletter? We love to hear about and share your Montana Aviation news, photos, and stories. Please send contributions to mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov before the first Friday of each month for the next month's issue.

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.



VISION ZERO

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

September 2021

5403

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Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

In 2020, there were 209 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 209 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 Malcolm Long, MDT

Visit www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero for more information.

VISION ZERO ★
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

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