

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 73, No. 01

January 2022

Kerry McCauley Keynote Speaker at Aviation Conference Dinner March 4, 2022

Kerry McCauley grew up in central Minnesota. He began his career in aviation by becoming a UH-1H "Huey" helicopter crew chief and winter survival instructor in the Minnesota National Guard. He became a professional skydiving instructor and jump pilot before becoming an international ferry pilot. Kerry's career as a ferry pilot has taken him to 60 countries, over three oceans, and a dozen seas. Kerry has flown over 50 different types of aircraft, accumulated over 9,000 hours of flight time, and completed over 20,000 skydives. He also starred in two seasons of the Discovery Channel series "Dangerous Flights" and authored the best-selling aviation book, "Ferry Pilot." Kerry lives in Wisconsin with his wife, Cathy, and their children, Claire and Connor, where he and Cathy own and operate Skydive Twin Cities. He still flies and jumps almost every day.

Photo courtesy of Kerry McCauley



Aviation Conference Information and Registration

The 37th Annual Montana Aviation Conference will be held March 3-5, 2022, in Missoula, Montana, at the Holiday Inn Downtown. The annual Montana Aviation Conference brings together 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 discuss issues of mutual concern. The Montana Aviation Conference has around 500 participants each year.

Montana Aeronautics welcomes Montana's aviation community to offer suggestions for exhibitors for the upcoming conference. To submit your suggestions, or to sign up, please email mamble@mt.gov.

Lodging Information

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. Rooms are limited, so make your reservation today! Call the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown directly at (406) 721-8550 and reference the Montana Aviation Conference to receive the conference rate.

Conference Registration

Early birds will receive a discount for the conference!

Please visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml> for the link to online registration.

Registration Rates

- \$100 through January 31, 2022
- \$125 February 1, 2022, and after
- \$20 high school & college students through January 31, 2022
- \$25 high school & college students February 1st, 2022, and after

Note: If you log into your EventSquid profile and see 2020 Aviation Conference information, please delete and/or archive 2020 Aviation Conference, then re-login. Re-click the [2022 Montana Aviation Conference](#) link to register for the 2022 conference. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Amble at (406) 444-9580.

Conference registrations will be accepted at the door at full price of \$125; or a single-day pass for \$75. No discounts will be available. **Conference registration closes February 22, 2022, so be sure to register early!**

MDT Aeronautics Annual Aircraft Registration Deadline March 1, 2022

Action Required!

Montana does not have any taxes for aircraft but does assess an annual registration fee in lieu of tax for aircraft registration. The fees are set by the Legislature and are determined according to the type and age of the aircraft.

Aircraft customarily kept in Montana, as well as any aircraft with a Montana address on their FAA registration, **must** be registered with the Montana Aeronautics Division on or before March 1 every year (within 30 days of purchase date for any *new* aircraft purchase). Aircraft renewal invoices are sent the first week of December, and a reminder letter is sent before the renewal deadline of March 1. **A statutory penalty for late registrations must be assessed in the amount of five times the registration fee if payment OR signed affidavit for exemption with supporting documentation isn't received by the March 1 deadline.**

PLEASE POSTMARK OR TIMESTAMP YOUR REGISTRATION PAYMENTS OR AFFIDAVIT FOR FEE EXEMPTION WITH REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1ST FOR A RENEWAL (OR BEFORE 30 DAYS AFTER A NEW AIRCRAFT PURCHASE) TO AVOID THE PENALTY.

Please keep in mind that aircraft out of annual inspection are not considered "unairworthy" as defined by administrative rule and are subject to annual registration fees.

Online fee payment services for aircraft and pilot registration are available at: <https://app.mt.gov/aeronautics> Vendor fees apply.

For other questions, please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506 or mdtaerosafeted@mt.gov.

****ACTION IS REQUIRED BY AIRCRAFT OWNERS ON ALL AIRCRAFT REGISTRATIONS EACH YEAR***

MDT Aeronautics Pilot Registration

Montana is required to register all pilots in the state, with some exceptions. The annual fee is \$10, and with annual pilot registration you receive a Montana Airport Directory, subscription to the monthly *Montana and the Sky* newsletter, and your annual pilot registration card.

Registered pilot information is collected only to aid in the event of a search and rescue case, as it can help us locate and contact you sooner during an emergency.

Annual pilot registration renewal memos were mailed in December. **If you own an aircraft, you also automatically received a pilot registration form with your annual aircraft registration invoice.** Only one pilot form is required to be returned or completed online per pilot.

• To register as a pilot online, please visit: <https://app.mt.gov/aeronautics> Vendor fees apply.

• To locate and print the form online for mailing to the Aeronautics Division, please visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/regpilot.shtml>

• To request a Pilot Registration form be mailed or emailed to you, please call the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506 or email mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov.

Please note: Annual pilot registration with the Montana Aeronautics Division is required by state law, with some exceptions, and should *not* be confused with the Montana Pilots Association's (MPA) registration dues, should you also be a member of the MPA.

For more information, or to view the applicable statutory exceptions, please see § 67-3-211, MCA https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0670/chapter_0030/part_0020/section_0110/0670-0030-0020-0110.



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Official monthly publication of the
Aeronautics Division
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Follow MDT on social media!



IA Seminar

Online registration for the IA Seminar is now available! The IA Seminar will once again be offered in conjunction with the Montana Aviation Conference, March 4-5, 2022. **Online registration closes February 22, 2022. Walk-ins for the IA Seminar will be accepted at the door at full price on a first come, first served basis if space is available. Due to venue space restrictions, seating is limited. So, be sure to register early!**

To register, visit the link at: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/conference.aspx>

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/

For additional details regarding Montana Aviation Conference cost and registration, please see Page 1. A list of speakers is available on the registration website.

When registering, please indicate the sessions you plan to attend.

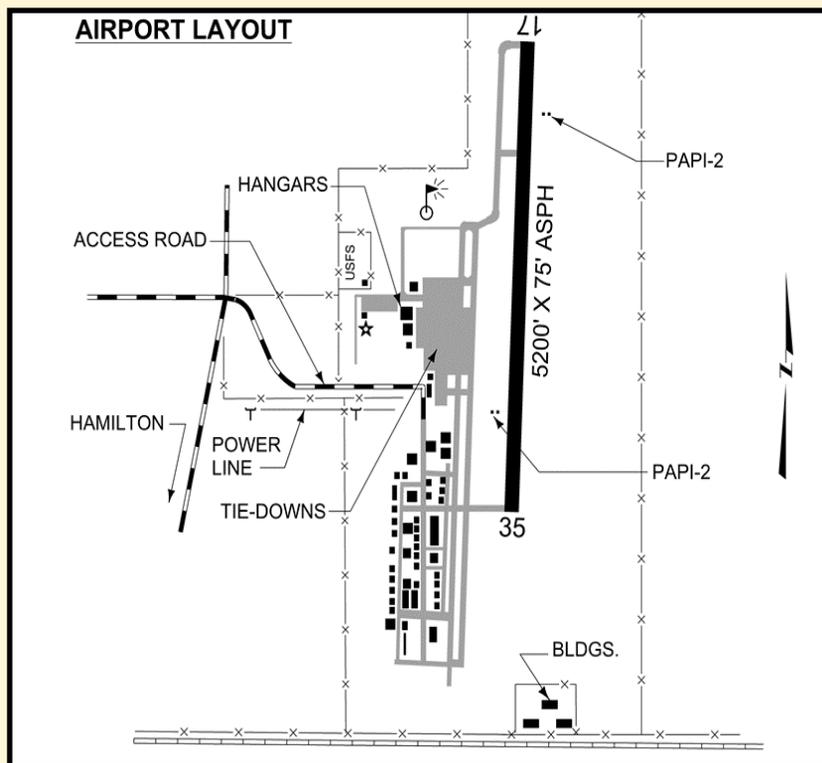
Only 8 Hours are required to meet Part 65.93, although you are invited to attend as many sessions as you would like.

Please contact dolheiser@mt.gov or (406) 444-9592 with questions or for more information.

Hamilton Airport Completes Several Improvement Projects

If you haven't travelled to the Hamilton Airport recently, you might be surprised the next time you do. In 2021, the airport underwent several significant changes and improvements. Most importantly, the runway was relocated to the Northeast of its previous location and extended one thousand feet, going from 4,200 total feet to 5,200 total feet. Several new taxiways and connectors have been added, with the old runway becoming Taxiway B. The apron was expanded, and the older sections have been rehabilitated. Additionally, obstructions were removed from both ends to meet the obstruction clearance requirements in order to establish RNAV instrument approaches for both runways. Hamilton also has a new airport manager, Tom Burge, who can be contacted at (406) 375-9149. **The airport identifier has now changed to HRF, formerly 6S5.**

The Hangar Café, located on the field, serves breakfast and lunch Wednesday-Sunday. Fun fact: If you happen to watch the hit Paramount TV show *Yellowstone*, you may have noticed scenes from the new season filmed at the Hamilton airport.



Updated HRF diagram, courtesy of Aeronautics



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

Missoula High School Teacher Adopts AOPA STEM Curriculum

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) has a 4-year program for high school students to learn science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through an aviation-based curriculum. With support from the former and current superintendents of Missoula County Public Schools, and with Burt Caldwell driving the program locally, the program was adopted at Sentinel High School in Missoula.

Efforts have been rewarded with the selection of Joe Yakawich, a teacher at Sentinel High School. Joe teaches a 4-year curriculum in engineering beginning with the freshman year. The AOPA STEM curriculum is incorporated during the sophomore year. One of Joe's students earned his private pilot certificate and others are currently taking instruction. Joe attended AOPA's training class and a pilot class (no pun intended) in 2021. The AOPA STEM curriculum at Sentinel High is the only one of its kind in Montana. Only 300 schools currently use it nationwide, most east of the Mississippi River. It is estimated that over the next 15 years, approximately one million aviation opportunities will become available.

Work continues to make the community and student bodies aware of the program's existence and generate enthusiasm. Hopefully, this program will land in schools across Montana soon.

Article above summarized with permission from *MSO GA News*, "Missoula High School Teacher Adopts AOPA STEM Curriculum" by Burt Caldwell

Joe attended the Montana Aeronautics teacher workshop in the fall of 2021. The workshop uses aviation as the gateway to STEM discovery. Teachers participated in classroom instruction; learned science experiments to reproduce in their own classrooms; visited Helena College's Airport Campus to learn about the variety of programs offered by Helena College of the University of Montana; toured the Helena Regional Airport facility and learned about fire response, snow removal, and more of what it takes to run an airport; and were guided through the Montana National Guard's Army Aviation Support facility. In addition to participating in flights with the Aeronautics Division, the teachers had the incredible opportunity to take part in an educator lift in Army helicopters.

Teachers also learned hands-on experiments and various aviation-related STEM subject matter at the Montana Learning Center. They also logged flight time on a new flight simulator.

The AOPA STEM program was discussed with teachers during the fall workshop, and we were able to get firsthand feedback from Joe on how the program is working for him. We would like to congratulate and thank Joe for being the first teacher in Montana to take on and deliver AOPA's aviation STEM program. He is a true leader in education in Montana and will make an important impact on the students and aviation community in our state; thank you! If you are a teacher, or know a teacher who is interested in starting the AOPA aviation program in their school, please contact Montana Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506; we will be happy to facilitate your way into this program.



Sentinel High School engineering instructor Joe Yakawich (left) with Burt Caldwell (right) at Sentinel High School
Photo courtesy of *MSO GA News*



WYS Facebook Page

Want to stay up to date on happenings at Yellowstone Airport? Be sure to check out and follow the official WYS Facebook page! Scan the QR code (right) with your phone to access the page, or search "Yellowstone Airport – WYS" in Facebook. The official Facebook page for WYS contains the Yellowstone Airport logo, (left).



FIRC: Flight Instructor Refresher Course

The MDT Aeronautics Division is again hosting Aviation Seminars for the 2022 Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC), February 11-12, 2022, at the Comfort Suites Helena Airport, 3180 Washington St, Helena, Montana. This two-day, FAA-approved course will run from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday. The course meets FAA renewal requirements for certified flight instructors (CFIs) and includes Integrated Airman Certification and Rating Application (IACRA) renewal. You don't need to be a CFI to attend; it is fantastic knowledge for all pilots.

Tuition has been dropped to only \$75 this year! A \$25 discount for current registered Montana pilots is also available; please contact the Aeronautics Division for the applicable promo code. Not yet an Aeronautics Division registered pilot? Keep in mind, pilot registration is required by law in Montana, with some exceptions. Register as a pilot now with Aeronautics for \$10.00 per year and save on FIRC tuition! All registered pilots also receive a pilot registration card, Montana Airport Directory, and monthly copy of the *Montana and the Sky* newsletter.

A block of rooms at the Comfort Suites Helena Airport has been reserved at the prevailing government rate, plus tax. Please call the hotel directly at (406) 495-0505 and reference the "FIRC" block to book your room if you would like to stay at the FIRC venue. The last day to book with the hotel at this rate is January 21, 2022.

To register for FIRC course instruction, visit <https://www.aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/>.

Contact Aeronautics at mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov or call (406) 444-2506 with any questions.



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

Congratulations, Malcolm Soare



Photo courtesy of Malcolm Soare

During May 2021, Malcolm Soare was awarded with the FAA's Master Pilot and Master Mechanics award at Aerotronics in Billings. Jeff Vercoe from the Helena Flight Standards District Office presented him with the awards, joined by Malcolm's family and friends. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, eligibility for receiving the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, named in honor of Orville and Wilbur Wright, includes holding an FAA or CAA pilot certificate, being a U.S. citizen, having no airman certificates revoked, and having 50 or more years of civil and military piloting experience, or 50 or more years of combined piloting and aircraft operations experience.

For nearly fifty-one years, Malcolm has worked as a crop duster, corporate and chief pilot, director of maintenance, flight instructor, A&P/IA, and mentor. Getting his start in Glendive, MT in 1964, Malcolm began his aviation career as a mechanic apprentice for four years at Glendive Flying Service under A&P Robert Tomalino. In fact, most of Malcolm's career has been spent in Montana and Wyoming. He has held many roles throughout his career, from serving as a captain and lead mechanic on a Beechjet 400 to Chief Pilot of Big Sky Airlines. He has managed maintenance shops, sprayed fields, and flown fires. He has also maintained aircraft of all kinds, such as amphibious Beavers, Caravans, and Lakes, to various jets and turboprops.

Malcolm keeps his IA current with regular training and completing annual inspections. His son has a Waco YKS-7, 1957 Beechcraft H35 Bonanza, Lake LA-4, and he is restoring a 1946 Funk.



Photo courtesy of Malcolm Soare

The Insurance Woes of Older Pilots

A new survey finds there's a disconnect between the proficiency of older pilots and aircraft owners and their insurance coverage. The survey, sent to more than 30,000 pilots and aircraft owners by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, found that older pilots who are just as safe, current, and proficient as any others continue to find their insurance policies unceremoniously dropped or canceled or much more expensive — just for being a day older than 70.

Some findings of the survey:

Pilots older than 70 have flown an average of nearly 70 hours in the past year (compared to a recent survey of AOPA members that found more than half of pilots were flying less than 50 hours).

Respondents who are 70 or older were no more likely to have been involved in an accident in the past five years than younger pilots.

More than 75% of the surveyed pilots over 70 have an instrument rating, compared to 66% under 70.

More than 50% of the surveyed pilots over 70 have an airline transport pilot or commercial certificate, compared to 40% under 70.

Older pilots are engaged and actively working to stay proficient: Those age 55 and older comprise more than 40% of the total viewership of AOPA Air Safety Institute YouTube safety videos.

"While insurance premiums have continued to rise and older pilots are finding it more challenging to stay covered or get a policy, the general aviation industry just experienced its safest year ever, marking a 29% year-over-year improvement in the accident rate," AOPA officials noted. "Medical incapacitation continues to be among the rarest of accident causes," they add. "We have looked at this issue from many sides, including a review of accident and incident data, and for some reason, carriers are not renewing policies or are quoting exorbitant premiums, even for pilots with impeccable safety and health records," said AOPA President Mark Baker. "These decisions are being made solely based on some arbitrary age, which doesn't make sense." Baker and other AOPA leaders continue to remind carriers that age has little to do with proficiency and safety. "I understand insurance companies need to run a business and the industry is trying to recover recent losses, but we need to get this market in the right place," said Baker. In the last year, AOPA's insurance partner, AssuredPartners Aerospace, has teamed with an aviation insurer to explore options for pilots up to age 79. "While this has helped some older pilots navigate the current insurance market, more work remains," said AssuredPartners Aerospace CEO Bill Behan. "We are actively working with the industry to bring additional solutions that foster a stable market and anticipate being able to promote new insurance carriers and options in the near future."

In addition, AOPA officials note the association continues to work with state officials and others to ensure consumer protection rules are followed and explore how the industry can help prevent the "seemingly continuous peaks and valleys of the market." "Coverage decisions should be based on facts such as experience, and accident and incident claims — not a subjective factor like age," they said. In the meantime, AOPA officials remind older pilots that they should not let a current policy lapse when shopping for insurance. "In fact, be very mindful when considering changing carriers, as a policy with a new insurance company could be harder to obtain," they said. "If we want to look at the best way for all of us to stay proficient and sharp, and help keep claims down, we need to simply keep flying. We're better pilots — and our aircraft stay safer — when we continue to enjoy this passion for the freedom to fly," Baker said.

Article reprinted with permission from *General Aviation News*

Aviation Quiz

(Answer Key found on Pg 7)



- 1) On average, one inch of rain is equivalent to how many inches of snow?**
A: 8 inches
B: 10 inches
C: 12 inches
D: 14 inches
- 2) How much can frost reduce your wings' maximum lift?**
A: 10%
B: 20%
C: 30%
D: Thin surface frost won't affect lift
- 3) You need to fly through visible moisture to get carburetor ice.**
A: True
B: False
- 4) Why does your airplane have better performance on a cold winter day, as opposed to a hot summer day?**
A: It does not
B: Cold air is less dense than hot air
C: Cold air is more dense than hot air
D: Suspended ice crystals
- 5) Sun dogs form by sunlight passing through what?**
A: Sublimated snowflakes
B: Snow pellets
C: Supercooled large droplets of water
D: Suspended ice crystals
- 6) Ice pellets just started falling on you during your preflight. The temperature at the airport is 28 degrees F. What is the temperature of the air above the airport?**
A: Above freezing
B: Below freezing

Clear skies and calm nights make great flying in the fall and winter, but one drawback is that these seasons are the perfect conditions for the formation of radiation fog. Warmer air holds more moisture than cold air. In the afternoon, the sun radiates heat onto the earth's surface, but when the sun sets, the air starts to cool and condense, causing dew and fog to form. Do you remember all the various cloud clearance and visibility requirements?

Aircraft Sales See Increase Over 2020 Numbers

Good news for the aviation industry! The latest report on aircraft shipments and billings from the General Aviation Manufacturers Association shows the value of airplane deliveries through the third quarter of 2021 jumped 13% compared to 2020.

Sales in all categories were up, except in piston airplanes, which saw a slight decrease in sales numbers.

Navigating pandemic-related setbacks such as supply chain and workforce challenges has been very challenging throughout 2021. Manufacturers and maintenance providers are working hard, finding creative solutions, and still delivering new aircraft. This impressive recovery shows promise for further increased growth in the year ahead.

Airplane	2020	2021	% Change
Piston	901	895	-0.7%
Turboprops	254	357	40.6%
Business Jets	378	438	15.9%
Total Airplanes	1,533	1,690	10.2%
Total Billings	\$11.9B	\$13.4B	13%
Piston Rotorcraft	105	131	24.8%
Turbine Rotorcraft	332	410	23.8%
Total Rotorcraft	437	541	23.8%
Total Rotorcraft Billings	\$1.8B	\$2.4B	37.3%

- First Nine Months of 2021 New Airplane & Rotorcraft Shipments and Billings. Source: GAMA.

GAN.aero

GENERAL AVIATION NEWS

General Aviation Manufacturers Association table, courtesy of *General Aviation News*

Article summarized with permission from *General Aviation News* "Aircraft sales grow 13% so far in 2021" by General Aviation News Staff



Calendar of Events



January 7-9, 2022 — Winter Survival Clinic.

January 11-13, 2022 — Aeronautics Board Loan and Grant application meeting. For further information, contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

January 24-25, 2022 — Association of Montana Aerial Applicators (AMAA) 2021 Convention and Trade Show. Attend the AMAA trade show at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, Montana. Have fun while learning, network with peers and exhibitors, and see the latest technology and specialty items and be eligible to win door prizes. For more information, contact Colleen at (406) 781-6461 or eccampbell@yahoo.com.

February 11-12, 2022 — FIRC Flight Instructor Refresher Course, Helena. For more information, see Page 5.

March 1, 2022 — Aircraft and Pilot Registration Renewal Deadline. See Page 2 for details.

March 3-5, 2022 — Montana Aviation Conference, Missoula. See Page 1 for more information.

Aviation Quiz Answer Key: 1:B 2:C 3:B 4:C 5:D 6:A

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**

January 2022

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please email mdtaerosafetved@mt.gov or call (406) 444-2506.

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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**

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