

Montana and the Sky



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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November 2022

Educators Gather for Aviation Workshop in Helena

On October 7-8, eighteen teachers from across Montana gathered in Helena for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Teacher Workshop hosted by the Aeronautics Division and the Montana Learning Center. Using aviation as the gateway to STEM discovery, teachers participated in classroom instruction, performed science experiments that they can reproduce in their classrooms, and toured aviation facilities around the Helena airport. Teachers were given the opportunity to fly in Aeronautics Division aircraft, tour the Montana National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility, and fly in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Following these flights, participants toured Helena College's Airport Campus and the Boeing manufacturing facility where they gained insights into aviation training and career opportunities for students.

On the second day, teachers participated in hands-on inquiry-based lesson plans at the Montana Learning Center. Instruction was given inside and outside of the classroom, and each teacher was able to spend time learning how to fly on the Montana Learning Center's flight simulator. Teachers went home with supplies that they can use to reproduce their newly acquired aviation-themed activities with their students.

The workshop is held annually and equips Montana teachers with the knowledge of how STEM and aviation coincide, so that they are able to inspire the next generation of pilots. The Teacher Workshop is open to all Montana teachers who teach a STEM subject in formal classroom settings. Participating teachers receive 20 renewal units through the Montana Office of Public Instruction.



Montana STEM teachers with staff from the Montana Learning Center and Aeronautics Division toured the Boeing facility in Helena.



Activities for teachers included flights in Aeronautics Division aircraft, a National Guard Army Aviation Support facility tour & flight, and a tour of Helena College.
All Photos by Montana Aeronautics Staff

MDT Aeronautics Annual Aircraft Registration Deadline March 1, 2023

Montana does not tax aircraft, but does assess an annual aircraft registration fee in lieu of tax. The fees are set by the Montana 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 its FAA registration, **must** be registered with the Montana Aeronautics Division on or before March 1st every year (or within 30 days of purchase date for any aircraft purchased). Aircraft renewal invoices are sent the first week of December, and a reminder letter is sent before the renewal deadline. **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 is not received by the 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 WITHIN 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> Payment processing fees apply.

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

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



Selling Your Airplane?

The Montana Aeronautics Division requires a copy of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Bill of Sale to cancel your state aircraft registration. A copy of the FAA Bill of Sale must accompany your signed affidavit, found on the bottom portion of your annual renewal invoice (a copy of your annual invoice is mailed to you twice annually prior to the registration deadline as a courtesy). Your signed affidavit and FAA Bill of Sale must be received by the annual renewal deadline of March 1st each year. Please remember that registration fees and late fees apply for paperwork not received or incomplete paperwork, submitted by the March 1st due date, even if you no longer own the aircraft.

It is also a good idea to retain an additional copy of the FAA Bill of Sale for your own records. Failure to provide the required proof for fee exemption is the leading cause of aircraft registration delinquency in Montana.

The FAA Bill of Sale form can be found online at:

<https://www.faa.gov/forms/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentID/186163>



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Montana and the Sky
Montana
Department of Transportation

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MDT Aeronautics Annual Pilot Registration

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

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

Annual pilot registration renewal memos will be mailed in early December. **If you own an aircraft, you also automatically receive 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> Payment processing fees apply.
- To locate and print the form online for mailing to the Aeronautics Division, please visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/regpilot.aspx>
- To request a Pilot Registration form be mailed or emailed to you, please call the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506 or email mdtaerosafety@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.html

Miss Montana Featured at September Yellowstone Fly-in

Yellowstone Airport (WYS) hosted a fly-in on September 17th featuring Miss Montana, N24320, a fully restored DC-3. Miss Montana, originally designated as a Douglas C-47, was one of over 10,000 C-47s built for the U.S. Military during World War II. After her military service ended, Miss Montana took on many roles including hauling cargo, athletes, and smokejumpers.

Alongside Miss Montana was the current smokejumper aircraft based at Yellowstone Airport, N263MC, operated by Bighorn Airways. More commonly referred to as Jumper-13, the Dornier 228 features turbine engines and modern avionics. The West Yellowstone Smokejumpers were on hand to give tours of the aircraft and demonstrate what it's like to be a smokejumper.

Weather prevented several other aircraft from participating in the fly-in. However, a dozen vintage cars from the area were on display. These included a Ford Model A and an Auburn Speedster.

Over 800 visitors braved the chilly weather until Miss Montana departed to fly over Yellowstone National Park in the early afternoon. A big shout out to all the sponsors and volunteers who made this event possible. We hope to see Miss Montana in Yellowstone again!



The restored DC-3 known as *Miss Montana* (top) was featured along with other aircraft and a vintage car display (bottom) at the September 17th fly-in at West Yellowstone (WYS). Photos by Montana Aeronautics Staff.

2023 Aviation Scholarships Open for Applications

The Montana Aviation Scholarship program is open for applications. The scholarships are offered to help defray costs of education (e.g., flight instruction, aircraft airframe and powerplant (A&P) mechanic school, etc.). Winners will be announced in January 2023 and awards will be presented in March at the Montana Aviation Conference in Billings.

An abbreviated list of scholarships follows. For complete information on the criteria for each scholarship please visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.aspx>.

AOM Flight Training Scholarship—\$1000

Briar Creek Scholarship—\$2000

Choice Aviation Scholarship—\$1500

EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship—\$1000

Edwards Jet Center Scholarship—\$1000

Mike and Julie Meloche Flight Training Scholarship—\$1000

Bob and Kathy Dewante Flight Training Scholarship—\$3000

Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship—\$1000

Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship—Up to \$5000

Montana Pilots Association Air Safety and Education Foundation (MPA ASEF) Flight Training Scholarship—\$4000

Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship—\$4000

Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship—\$2000



Additional opportunities might become available. Please check our website for the most up-to-date list of scholarships.

How to Apply:

Complete applications must include: **1) Letter of application; 2) Biography; 3) Self-portrait photo.** Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application letters should explain reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience (if any), and outstanding achievements.

Each letter must include a **mailing address, email address, and phone number**. The same letter can be used for multiple scholarships but candidates must submit a separate copy addressed to each individual scholarship.

Also include a **biography** (not to exceed 250 words) and one self-portrait photo.

Scholarship applications must be postmarked, or date stamped, on or before 11:59 p.m. MST, November 18, 2022.

Mail complete applications to:

Montana Aeronautics Division

PO Box 200507

Helena, MT 59620-0507

OR

Email your application to:

MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov

Please attach applications as PDF files. **Do**

not use Google Doc files.

Call (406) 444-2506 with questions or for more information.

Where Are They Now?

A note from 2022 scholarship winner, Oceana Meadow.

Dear MDT-Aeronautics Division,

Thank you for all your support and helping me to get my wings. You granted me the Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship last year. I wanted to give you an update on how flight training is going. I take lessons about one to two times a week at Choice Aviation. When I get there my instructor reviews our course for the day from the 141 program, and then I go and preflight. I have got the preflight down pretty well, so that I can do it thoroughly in about 10 minutes. We have practiced stalls, slow flight, takeoffs, ground reference maneuvers, and now landings. My instructor's estimate of when I will have my private pilot's license is in December if the weather, time, and finance permits. I am enjoying every step of the way in this learning process. Thank you so much again for all your support in my journey, it means so much to me.

Your friend,

Oceana



Student Reflections: 2022 ACE Academy

Written by Noah Sullivan, Billings Senior and 2022 Aviation Career Exploration Academy attendee.

It was an early summer morning, and the sun had barely risen when we arrived. I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but I knew it was going to be fun, because we were at the Aviation Career Exploration Academy (ACE).

On July 21, 2022, My friend and I attended the ACE Academy in Helena, Montana. It was a very exciting camp, as we were flying in an airplane within half an hour of arriving. My impression of the camp was that everything we did was to immerse us in different areas of aviation in hopes that we would find something that interested us so we might see, experience, and learn more about what we like and how to turn it into a career.

We started the camp off with flights in general aviation aircraft such as a Cessna 172. All who attended were given a chance to actually take the controls of the plane. We spent the next part of the day flying miniature drones, visiting the Helena College's many mechanics and machine work classrooms, the airport control tower, and Army National guard helicopter base. The base was definitely one of my favorite parts of the day. We were able to see both Alpha/Lima variant Blackhawk helicopters, as well as Mike variants and the new Lakota. Our guide also let us go inside a CH-47 Chinook; a large, two-bladed cargo aircraft. Towards the end of the day, we spent most of our time driving around different parts of the airport by an airport executive. He took us to the airport firefighter training center, and the snow removal vehicle bay. During all of this driving, we were able to see a B/A 26 Invader, a Korean war attack plane. Our last visit of the night was to a medical and charter aircraft center. We were given a chance to enter one of the air ambulances, and one kid even got strapped into the stretcher! After that, we were driven to our hotel and went swimming after dinner. We got paired up in two's, with my friend and I sharing a room. Not a bad way to end the day.

We woke up early the next day to make the hour and a half journey to Great Falls, Montana where an airshow was being held at the airport. Among the attractions at the show were several static displays, aerobatic performances, flybys, and the Thunderbirds Air Force demonstration team. Most of the static displays were military aircraft, and cool ones at that. Some of

my favorites were the F-15 Eagle jet fighter, A-10 "Warthog", and KC-46 Pegasus tanker, which I didn't even know existed until then. The stunts and acrobatic showmanship were equally amazing. We watched planes fly through rings of smoke, next to walls of fire, planes intentionally losing bits and pieces of its airframe, the split-S maneuver, and more. The final event of the airshow was the Thunderbirds. Flying six F-16 Fighting Falcon jet fighters, the maneuvers, combined with earth-shaking noise, make the team a must-see.

After the Thunderbirds had finished their performance, we packed up, and headed for the vans. From there, my friend and I said our goodbyes, and parted ways with the group.

Besides seeing and learning about aircraft in general, I really enjoyed getting to hang out with other people who enjoy aviation as much, if not more, than I do. Not just the other students, but the pilots who flew us and our guides and instructors. Overall, if you are looking for a future in aviation, I would definitely recommend the ACE Academy!



The author poses with Aeronautics staff in front of a C-130 at the Great Falls Airshow during the July 2022 ACE Academy.

Photos this page courtesy Noah Sullivan



ACE Academy July 2022





Reminders

Aeronautics Loan & Grant Application Reminder

The online Loan and Grant portal (www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.aspx) is accepting FY 2024 applications through **November 15, 2022**. If you are having difficulties accessing the website, you may have a previous award needing a closeout form, or an annual status report needing to be filed.

When you submit your application, please ensure 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.

Airport Sponsors and Engineers- As a friendly reminder, airport sponsors who were previously awarded a loan or grant from Montana Aeronautics are required to complete a status update or project closeout form to be eligible to apply for additional funding.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the loan and grant program, please contact Karen Hallenbeck at 406-444-9581 or khallenbeck@mt.gov.

2023 Flight Instructor Refresher Course

The Montana Aeronautics Division is pleased to announce registration is open for the 2023 Flight Instructor Refresher Course!

- ◆ This two-day course meets FAA renewal requirements for Certified Flight Instructors (CFIs).
- ◆ Training provided by experienced instructors from Aviation Seminars.
- ◆ You do not need to be a CFI to attend. The course includes useful material for all aviators.
- ◆ A room block is offered at the Comfort Suites of Helena. Call (406) 513-1141 and reference the "MDT Flight Instructor Refresher Course" to receive the state rate.

February 10-11, 2023
Helena, MT



Photo: MDT Aeronautics

Tuition is \$75

Pilots currently registered with the Aeronautics Division can save an additional \$25!

Montana pilot registration is \$10 /year. Call MDT Aeronautics Division to register as a pilot and/or ask for the promo code to receive your discount.

To sign up: <https://aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/> or scan the code below.

For more information:

Montana Aeronautics Division
(406) 444-2506
mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov



Sign up
Online!

Call for Speakers and Vendors for Aviation Conference

Have an interesting story to tell, or know someone who does? Have an aviation business you would like to exhibit?

We are still looking for speakers and vendors to participate in the 38th Annual Montana Aviation Conference in Billings, March 2-4, 2023. Montana Aeronautics welcomes Montana's aviation community to offer suggestions of speakers, vendors, and topics for the upcoming conference. To submit your suggestions, or to sign up, please email Justin Zindell at jzindell@mt.gov, or call (406) 444-2506.

Conference Registration is Open!

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/conference.aspx>



Reminders



Resale Program Spotlight



Montana Aeronautics Division resells airport parts at lower costs than many commercial retailers. An online catalog and ordering service is available at:

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/resale-program.aspx>

Aeronautics has an inventory of parts and lamps for runway lighting systems, visual approach lighting systems, airport rotating beacons, windsocks, and frames to keep your airport safe.

Our catalog is updated several times per year as new items are added. We recently added Taxiway LED (light emitting diode) light assemblies, PCB (printed circuit board) assemblies, columns, lenses, and light housings in blue. We also have a good supply of T10/P edge lamps available. As demand increases, we will be able to increase our available stock, so we encourage all airports in Montana to make use of this resource.

Scroll through our selection of items to confirm the part you need is available.

Order online or call (406) 444-9592.

Winter Survival Clinic

The annual Winter Survival Clinic will be held January 6-8, 2023, near Anaconda, Montana.

The course cost is \$75. This price includes meals (except for dinner on the campout night), instruction, and lodging. Space is limited and this course fills up quickly.

Reserve and pay for your spot online at:

<https://www.eventsquid.com/event/18492>

For more information, please contact the Aeronautics Division by calling (406) 444-2506 or email mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov.



Winter Survival Clinic. Photo by Montana Aeronautics

Calendar of Events

November 15, 2022 — Aeronautics Loan and Grant Application Deadline. Fiscal Year 2024 applications due. For details, visit www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.aspx or contact Karen Hallenbeck at (406) 444-9581 or khallenbeck@mt.gov.

November 18, 2022 — Aviation Scholarship Application Deadline. See the article in this edition or visit www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.aspx for more information.

January 6-8, 2023 — Winter Survival Clinic. Come learn essential winter survival skills with experienced instructors from Emergency Response International. Registration is now open online: <https://www.eventsquid.com/event/18492>. For more information contact Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506.

January 17-18, 2023 — Aeronautics Loan and Grant Board Meeting. For more information contact Stephen Torske at (406) 444-9569 or storske@mt.gov

February 10-11, 2023 — Flight Instructor Refresher Course. 8:00am – 5:30pm in Helena. To sign up visit: www.aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/. Contact Aeronautics at mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov or call (406) 444-2506 for more information. To book a room, call Comfort Suites at (406) 513-1140 and reference "MDT Flight Instructor Refresher Course."

March 1, 2023 — 2023 Aircraft Registration Deadline. Renewal notices will be mailed at the end of the year. Remember to get your Montana aircraft registered no later than March 1, 2023 to avoid penalty fees. For more information, contact Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506.

Do You Know of an Aviation Event in Montana?

Montana Aeronautics relies on input from sponsors, planners, hosts, and volunteers for aviation events to inform us about planned activities. Please let us know what events you have planned, and we will add them to our calendar of events to share with the flying community.

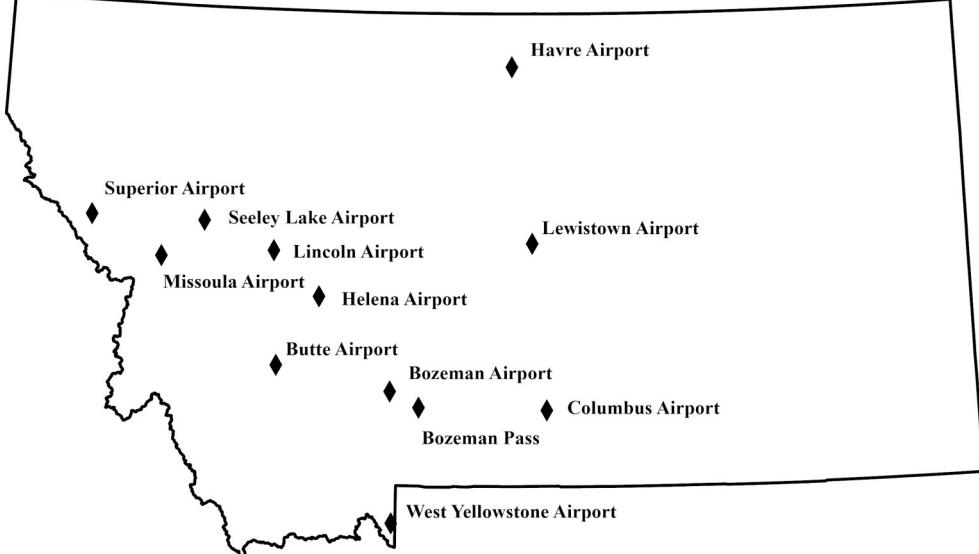
You can email your events to mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov.

Aeronautics Division
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**Thank you for
reading
*Montana and
the Sky.*
Fly Safe!**

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FAA Weather Camera Locations



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