

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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## 2023 Aviation Scholarships Open for Applications

Montana is fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations who believe in promoting aviation by offering scholarships to qualified persons. The Aeronautics Division assists in administering some of these scholarships and encourages participation. 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.

Below is the list of the scholarships available this year. For more information on each scholarship, please visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.aspx>.

### **AOM Flight Training Scholarship**

Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) has established this \$1,000 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate.

### **Briar Creek Scholarship**

This \$2,000 scholarship is open to an active student or pilot who has considerable interest in aviation and is seeking advanced flight training or pursuing a profession in aviation. Applicant must be a Montana resident.

### **Choice Aviation Scholarship**

A \$1,500 scholarship is available to the holder of at least a Private Pilot Certificate and a Second-Class Medical, and who is looking to further advance themselves toward a career in aviation with additional pilot training at any of Choice Aviation's training facilities located in Montana or Wyoming.

### **EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship**

The Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 517, Inc. in Missoula will provide a \$1,000 scholarship in 2023 for a post-solo student.

### **Edwards Jet Center Scholarship**

Edwards Jet Center, a full-service Fixed Based Operator, Part 135 Charter Operator, and Part 145 Repair Station based at Logan International Airport in Billings, is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction or A&P mechanic school.

### **Mike and Julie Meloche Flight Training Scholarship**

This \$1,000 scholarship is open to an active student or pilot who has considerable interest in aviation and is seeking advanced flight training or pursuing a profession in aviation. Applicant must be a Montana resident. Multiple scholarships are available.

### **Bob and Kathy Dewante Flight Training Scholarship**

The recipient of this \$3,000 scholarship is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must be a Montana resident and previously soloed. Preference is given to younger applicants who are new pilots or pursuing a profession in aviation.



(Continued on Page 2) →

### **Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship**

The Montana Antique Aircraft Association is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, use, and knowledge of antique airplanes. MAAA's motto is: "Keep the Antiques Flying." Their \$1,000 scholarship is to help defray the cost of flight instruction or help defray the cost of aircraft mechanic school.

### **Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship**

The Montana Ninety-Nines offer this scholarship to qualified female candidates interested in and passionate about aviation. The dollar amount of this scholarship is dependent on candidate goals, not to exceed \$5,000, and must be used within 12 months of date awarded. Candidates must be residents of Montana to be considered for this scholarship. A supplemental scholarship application is required and may be obtained by visiting <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.aspx>.

### **Montana Pilots Association Air Safety and Education Foundation (MPA ASEF) Flight Training Scholarship**

This \$4,000 scholarship is open to an active pilot who has considerable interest in aviation and is seeking advanced flight training or pursuing a profession in aviation. Applicant must be a Montana resident.

### **Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship**

The recipient of this \$4,000 scholarship is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship in their community, and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must be a Montana resident and previously soloed. Preference is given to younger applicants who are new pilots or pursuing a profession in aviation.

### **Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship**

The Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship is sponsored by the Nistler family. This scholarship is to honor the memory of Theresa, who loved flying and was working toward her private pilot certificate. This \$2,000 Aviation Scholarship will be awarded to a student pilot actively working toward a private pilot certificate.

**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.**

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

Mail complete applications to:  
**Montana Aeronautics Division**  
**PO Box 200507**  
**Helena, MT 59620-0507**

**OR**

Email your application to:  
[MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov](mailto:MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov).  
Please attach applications as PDF files. Do not use Google Doc files.



Tim Conway, Administrator

**Montana and the Sky**  
Montana

Department of Transportation

Greg Gianforte, Governor  
Malcolm Long, Director

Official monthly publication of the  
Aeronautics Division  
Telephone - (406) 444-2506  
Fax - (406) 444-2519  
P.O. Box 200507  
Helena, MT 59620-0507  
[www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/)

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# FAA Expands G100UL Fuel STC

*Summarized and reprinted with permission from General Aviation News.*

After 12 years of testing, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has approved an expansion of a Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) that allows the unleaded fuel developed by General Aviation Modifications Inc. (GAMI) to be used by the entire general aviation fleet.

Known as G100UL, the fuel was initially approved in July 2021 for a limited number of engines. With the recent FAA nod, the Approved Model List now covers “every spark ignition piston engine and every airframe using a spark ignition piston engine in the FAA’s Type Certificate database.”

The arrival of G100UL at your airport will depend on several factors. GAMI will license the fuel’s formulation to oil refineries. The license allows GAMI and FAA officials to make random inspections to ensure the fuel is made correctly.

It also has a deal with Avfuel to work through the logistics of distributing the fuel, with both companies committing to “ensure G100UL avgas is available to all legitimate distributors and vendors on an equitable basis.”

The first customers of G100UL will be airports where 100LL has been banned, such as Reid-Hillview Airport (KRHV) in East San José and San Martin Airport (E16) in Santa Clara County in California.

World politics and continuing supply chain issues will also impact the timeline for when the new fuel could get to your airport, noted George Braly, GAMI’s co-founder and head of engineering.

While the cost of the fuel is not yet known — and won’t be set by GAMI — Braly acknowledged that the initial small batch production process means the fuel will cost more than 100LL. The best estimate is that it will cost between 60 and 85 cents more per gallon than 100LL.

Other companies are also involved in the transition to an unleaded general aviation fleet, including pioneer Swift



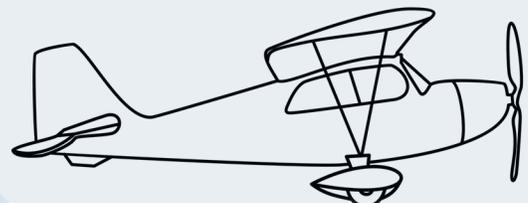
*Photo courtesy of Montana Aeronautics*

**The Approved Model List now covers “every airframe using a spark ignition piston engine in the FAA’s Type Certificate Database.”**

Fuels, which has received FAA approval for its 94-octane unleaded fuel. Swift Fuels’ 94-octane fuel meets some, but not all, of the demand of aircraft with lower-compression engines, noted Aircraft Owner and Pilot Association officials. The company is also developing a 100R unleaded fuel with more than 10% renewable content.

Two additional fuel candidates are currently in the FAA’s Piston Aviation Fuels Initiative (PAFI) testing process.

Read the full article from General Aviation News here: <https://generalaviationnews.com/2022/09/03/gami-unleaded-fuel-approved-for-all-general-aviation->



# Airport Weather Camera Program Milestone

The Montana Aeronautics Division surpassed a milestone in August of having ten locations in the airport webcam program. The additional installations in Superior, Columbus, Helena, and Havre, made a total of twelve active camera sites. Deer Lodge, Three Forks, and Townsend are next as the program expands across the state.

The weather camera program is open to any airport that is interested in purchasing and hosting equipment. Montana Aeronautics will provide technical support with getting cameras set up. The goal is to install them on mountain passes and along travel routes throughout the state to provide an additional tool to determine weather conditions and aid with decision making. For more information on sponsoring, hosting, or purchasing equipment, contact Karen Speeg at [kaspeeg@mt.gov](mailto:kaspeeg@mt.gov) or call (406) 444-2506.

You can view the FAA WeatherCam map at: <https://weathercams.faa.gov/>. Please note that there is an extensive review period before cameras go live online, so some of the new sites may not yet be viewable. Check the site regularly for updates as cameras are added to the system.



Finished airport weather camera installation.  
*Photo courtesy of Montana Aeronautics.*

## Christmas in August 2022

Continuing a tradition started in the 1980s, the Yellowstone Airport (WYS) hosted Christmas in August again this year. A potluck lunch was held with coworkers and friends of the airport to celebrate another great operating season. A Christmas tree adorned the main terminal lobby throughout the month of August causing some confusion for travelers passing through.

Christmas in August originated in Yellowstone National Park after snow blanketed the landscape the night of August 24, 1925. The following day, park staff and visitors at Fishing Bridge decided to throw an impromptu Christmas party to celebrate the snow. They enjoyed food, exchanged a few small gifts, and "Christmas in August" was born. Since the airport is closed during the actual holiday season, this early celebration gives staff and friends of the airport the opportunity to come together and celebrate as the operating season winds down. An explanation of the event can be found hung on the Christmas tree for those passing through the terminal.



Celebrating Christmas in August at the Yellowstone Airport.  
*Photo courtesy of Montana Aeronautics.*

## Hunting and Aviation

With hunting season upon us, Montana aviators may be wondering about the use of aircraft in support of their hunting activities. It is important to be aware of regulations regarding the use of aircraft for hunting in order to keep the sport safe and equitable for people and wildlife.

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) highlighted the following rules pertaining to aviation and hunting:

- It is illegal to locate any game animal for the purpose of hunting that animal during the same day you are airborne.
- It is illegal to use aircraft for the purpose of concentrating, pursuing, driving, rallying or stirring any game bird, migratory bird, game animal or fur-bearing animal.
- A person may not spot or locate any game animal or fur bearing animal and communicate the location of the animal to any person on the ground by means of air-to-ground communication, signal or other device as an aid to hunting or pursuing wildlife.
- It is illegal to kill, take or shoot at any game bird, game animal or fur-bearing animal from an aircraft.
- Within national forest boundaries, aircraft may only be used for hunting purposes to load or unload persons or cargo at Federal Aviation Administration approved airports, landing fields, or heliports.

See Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 87-6-208 for more detail.

If you have questions regarding these, or any other hunting regulations, contact your local Fish, Wildlife & Parks office, or your local game warden.

# Yellowstone Airport Campground

The Yellowstone Airport (WYS) has a convenient campground located next to the general aviation parking ramp. There are four campsites, which include individual fire pits, picnic tables, a communal gazebo, and a vault toilet. This is a perfect place to spend a few days while touring Yellowstone National Park.

After landing, contact the fixed base operator on frequency 123.00 MHz and request to park in the last row, directly in front of the campground entrance.



Tent, campground sign, and aircraft at the WYS Campground. *Photos courtesy of Montana Aeronautics.*

# Welcome New Aeronautics Staff

The Aeronautics Division is happy to welcome two new members to our team.



**Justin Zindell** joins us in the role of Aviation Program Manager. Justin has a degree in Aviation Business from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. His background includes 10 years as a flight operations specialist in the US Army, followed by six years as a contractor for the US Army and US Marine Corps. He also holds an FAA dispatcher license. Justin grew up in Townsend, Montana, and is happy to be back in the state. He is currently completing coursework towards a Masters degree in Project Management at Embry-Riddle University.



**Stephen Torske** joins the Aeronautics Division in the role of Aviation Support Officer. He grew up in Big Horn County on a farm and ranch operation surrounded by pilots and agricultural aircraft. He has spent the last 16 years traveling the lower 48 states and Alaska as a firefighter, entering into aviation as a helicopter and single engine air tanker manager. Most recently, Stephen served as the Assistant Large Air Tanker Base Manager for the Bureau of Land Management in Billings. He earned his private pilot certificate in 2001 and is the owner of a Cessna 177RG. Stephen is pleased to be supporting aviation in Montana.



# Lincoln Airport Foundation Work Party

The Lincoln Airport Foundation (LAF) held a volunteer work party on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to paint and freshen up the segmented circle around the main windsock at the Lincoln Airport (S69). Volunteers also painted the picnic tables at the campground, which is located just outside of the fence on the Southwest corner of the airport. This campground is in a great location along the Blackfoot River making it a perfect destination to fly in and camp.

A tote is now available to help transport your gear between your aircraft and the campsite. The tote can be found in the campground restroom. Many thanks to our volunteers for keeping things spruced up and looking nice for folks to enjoy when they visit the Lincoln Airport.



Volunteers fix up tables and the segmented circle at the Lincoln airport (S69). *Photos courtesy of Jerome Cain, LAF president.*

## Aeronautics Loan & Grant Application Reminder

The online Loan and Grant portal ([www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.aspx](http://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.

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.

**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 Speeg at 406-444-9581 or [kaspeeg@mt.gov](mailto:kaspeeg@mt.gov).

**FY 2024  
Loan and grant  
applications accepted  
through  
Nov. 15, 2022.**

## 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 opening the call for speakers and vendors for 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](mailto:jzindell@mt.gov), or call (406) 444-2506.

## 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.



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.**

**February 10-11, 2023  
Helena, MT**

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](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov)



# Aviation Photo Contest

Would you like to see your photograph on the cover of the 2023 Montana Airport Directory?

Submit your photos to the Aeronautics Division by November 1, 2022, to be considered. The winning photo will be selected based on the best representation of aviation in Montana.

Please submit your high resolution photos by email to: [kaspeeg@mt.gov](mailto:kaspeeg@mt.gov).

For more information, email Karen Speeg 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.*

Enter your photo by  
November 1, 2022!

*Background photo courtesy Montana Aeronautics*

# September Aviation Events

September saw several aviation events take place around Montana. Events were held in Glasgow, Glendive, Lincoln, Helena, Polson, and West Yellowstone. Other regional gatherings such as the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Hangout in Spokane, Washington, brought the summer fly-in season to a close. We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer of flying.



Helena Aviation Day included games, booths, and static displays by the Army National Guard, flight schools, and local organizations. *Photos Courtesy Montana Aeronautics Staff*

# Calendar of Events

**October 7-8, 2022 — STEM Teacher Workshop.** Grade 6-12 math and science teachers will gather at the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake for an aeronautics STEM workshop sponsored by the MDT Aeronautics Division. For more information, contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

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

**February 10-11, 2023 — Flight Instructor Refresher Course.** 8:00am– 5:30pm in Helena. To sign up visit: [www.aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/](http://www.aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/). Contact Aeronautics at [mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto: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.

**March 2-4, 2023 — Montana Aviation Conference.** Billings Hotel and Convention Center. Mark your calendar! More information will follow in future newsletters. For 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 from aviation events in Montana to let us know about planned aviation activities. Please let us know what events you have planned, and we will put them on our calendar of events to share with the flying community.

This year's activities are abundant; we hope to see you at some of them soon!

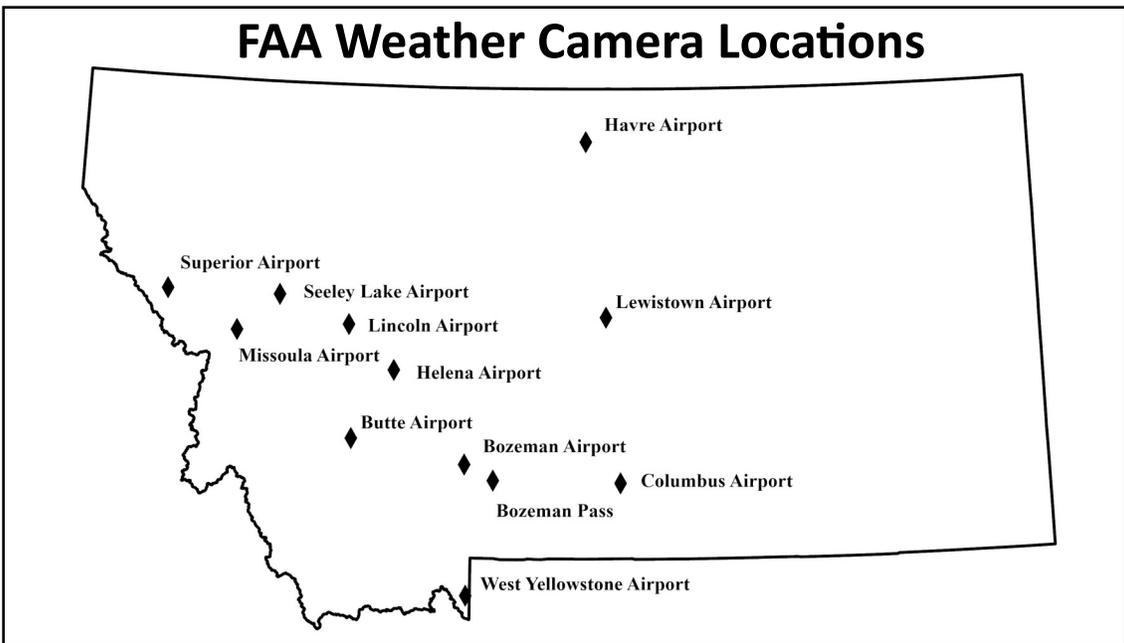
You can email your events to [mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov).

**Aeronautics Division**  
2630 Airport Road  
PO Box 200507  
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**Thank you for reading**  
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**Fly Safe!**

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