

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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September 2022

## 2022 Aviation Career Exploration Academy

The 2022 Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy was held in July, offering high school students from across Montana the opportunity to learn about careers available in aviation. The academy included tours of Montana Medical Transport air ambulance, the Helena Regional Airport, the Helena Air Traffic Control Tower, Helena College's aircraft mechanic program, and the Montana National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility. In addition, students met with members of the aviation community, including Kevin Danz of iFlyBigSky who taught the students about professional drone operations. Students also had the chance to take introductory flights, each student getting to sit in the right seat of the cockpit for a flight segment.

A field trip to the "Flight Over the Falls" airshow in Great Falls finished out ACE this year. Students were excited to see and tour numerous static displays of military aircraft. Highlights of the day were watching the world-famous Thunderbirds flight team as well as other high-octane aerobatic and pyrotechnic displays. Aeronautics puts on the ACE Academy each summer. This year, several generous donors sponsored scholarships to provide the opportunity for multiple students to attend, tuition-free.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Greyson Sperry, owner of Ridgeline Aviation, for assisting in providing flights to students and to the sponsors who donated toward tuition expenses; and to business participants and members of the public who offered their time, resources, and knowledge. Your involvement helps to shape the future of aviation in Montana. Thank you!

*Photos courtesy Montana Aeronautics Staff*



# Flight Instructor Refresher Course

Plans are in the works for a Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC) to be held in Helena February 10-11, 2023. The Aeronautics Division will again host Aviation Seminars for instruction of the 2023 FIRC.

This two-day, FAA-approved course will run from 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The FIRC meets FAA renewal requirements for certified flight instructors and includes IACRA renewal. You don't need to be a CFI to attend, it is fantastic knowledge for all pilots. Tuition is \$75 and there is a \$25 discount for current registered Montana pilots. Not an Aeronautics Division registered pilot? Register now with Aeronautics for \$10.00 per year and save on FIRC tuition! All registered pilots receive a pilot registration card, Montana Airport Directory, and monthly copy of the Montana and the Sky newsletter. Please contact the Aeronautics Division for the applicable discount promo code or to register as a Montana pilot. Additional pilot registration information can be found at: <https://www.mdt.gov/aviation/regpilot.aspx>

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Comfort Suites Hotel of Helena at the prevailing state rate. The hotel is located at 3180 N. Washington St. in Helena. To book a room, call the hotel at (406) 513-1140 and reference "MDT Flight Instructor Refresher Course". To sign up for the FIRC course, visit <https://www.aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/>. Contact Aeronautics at [mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov) or call (406) 444-2506 for more information.



## 2023 Aviation Scholarships

Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations who believe in promoting aviation by offering scholarships to qualified persons.

The scholarships are offered to help defray costs of education (e.g., flight instruction, A&P mechanic school, etc.). Scholarship sponsors are needed for 2023 scholarships. If you are interested in sponsoring a scholarship, please contact Montana Aeronautics by September 13, 2022 at [mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov) or (406) 444-2506.

Winners will be announced in January 2023 and awards will be presented at the Montana Aviation Conference in Billings.

## Aviation Conference to be Held in Billings

The Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) is pleased to announce the Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Billings, March 2-4 2023, at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. The conference brings Montana's aviation organizations and the flying public together for three days of speakers, seminars, workshops, awards ceremonies, business meetings, networking, and social events. It is an opportunity for those from many areas of the aviation community to learn from each other and to discuss issues of mutual concern. Watch for additional details and registration information in future newsletters.



Tim Conway, Administrator

**Montana and the Sky**  
Montana  
Department of Transportation

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# C-17 Touches Down at Yellowstone Airport

The 164<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from the Tennessee Air National Guard visited Yellowstone Airport on August 1<sup>st</sup> – August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The crew practiced visual approaches and high-altitude landings. Students from the West Yellowstone summer recreation program had the opportunity to come out for a special tour inside of the C-17 Globemaster III. Students were all able to ask the crew questions, sit in the cargo bay, and get an in-depth tour of the cockpit. The highlight of the day was watching this 164,900-pound airplane takeoff into the sky.



*Photos courtesy of Aeronautics staff*

## Aeronautics Welcomes New Staff

The Montana Aeronautics Division is pleased to welcome two new employees.

**Page Green** joins us in the position of Aircraft Registration and Aviation Specialist. She is from Helena and was previously working in administration for the Montana Department of Transportation Maintenance Division. Page is excited to join Aeronautics and is enthusiastically embracing the opportunity to learn more about aviation through her new role. She enjoys kayaking and riding her four-wheeler throughout Montana.



**Kelly Atkins** joins us in the role of Aviation Program Coordinator. Kelly grew up in Helena and was a participant in our 1998 ACE Academy program. He was most recently working for Yellowstone National Park's bear management program. He has a diverse background encompassing conservation, outdoor and environmental education, and working in public service. Kelly has always maintained a love of aviation and is currently a student pilot. He recently purchased his first airplane – a Symphony SA-160.



*Photos courtesy Montana Aeronautics Staff*

# Schafer Meadows Work Party

The annual Schafer Meadows work party took place on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. Montana Aeronautics joined many volunteers that flew in to help spruce up the airstrip.

The windsocks and ranger station information board were replaced. The biggest job was digging to redirect water drainage from the east end of the runway. Additionally, the campground outhouses were cleaned and toilet paper restocked.

Over 20 aircraft showed up, most with multiple volunteers to give time and energy to maintain the airstrip. Some volunteers stayed to enjoy the campground through the weekend. Thank you to all attending volunteers, the Kalispell Experimental Aircraft Association chapter for providing lunch, and the Montana Pilot's Association for organizing the event.



Volunteers work at Schafer Meadows work party.

Photo courtesy Montana Aeronautics Staff

## 2022 Yellowstone Airport Fly-In



Featuring:  
Miss Montana



**Saturday  
September 17th**  
8 am - 12 pm

**Drive, Fly, or Walk  
to the WYS Airport**  
721 Airport Road  
West Yellowstone, MT

### Join us for all the fun!

- Miss Montana Aircraft - Onsite Tours of Aircraft
- FREE Pancake Breakfast (8am to 10am) - Vintage Car Show
- FREE Helicopter Kids Flights (10am to 11:30am) - Kids Bouncy House
- FREE Fixed Wing Kids Flights (9am to 10am) - Miss Montana Movie Presentation
- Airplanes! Airplanes! Airplanes! - More Information: Yellowstone Airport - WYS



This event was sponsored by West Yellowstone Businesses.

This event is weather dependent. Please follow Yellowstone Airport - WYS on Facebook or our website for updates: [yellowstoneairport.mdt.mt.gov](http://yellowstoneairport.mdt.mt.gov)

## Aeronautics Loan & Grant Application Reminder

The Loan and Grant online portal (<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml>) 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).



# 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.

Contests like this are an excellent way to engage people, especially students, who are not familiar with aviation. Offer to show them your airplane, give them an airplane ride, or a grand tour of your local airport, and challenge them to take some interesting pictures from their unique perspectives. If pilots are good at one thing, it is talking about aviation! Let's use our passion for aviation to pass along the flying bug and inspire someone curious of our way of life.

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.*

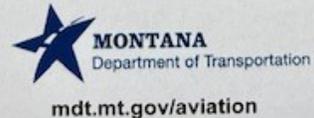
Enter your photo by  
November 1, 2022!

## 2022 Montana Airport Directory 61<sup>st</sup> Edition



For Reference Only

MDT Aeronautics Division



# Winter Survival Clinic

We are planning to conduct the Winter Survival Clinic again in January, 2023. The location and dates will be announced next month. For the second year, we are pleased to share that the cost will remain at \$75. This includes meals (except for dinner on the campout night), instruction, and lodging.

Please contact the Aeronautics Division by calling (406) 444-2506 or email [mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov) to let us know if you would like to reserve a spot in this clinic. Space is limited, and this course fills up quickly. Online registration will be available next month.



# Aviation Teacher Workshop

On October 7 and 8, 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; 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, a retired airline pilot and a member of the MLC team, and Montana Aeronautics staff.

The lessons will consist of aeronautics theory and principle-based demonstrations. These experiments are easy and affordable for teachers to reproduce in their classrooms. The 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 students in their classrooms.

Introductory flights will kick-off the event along with tours of the Montana Air National Guard, an air ambulance operator, Helena College aircraft mechanic school, and the Helena Air Traffic Control Tower. On the second day, classroom activities and studies will take place at the Montana Learning Center. Best of all, there is no cost to teachers. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

To register visit: <https://forms.gle/GoN2UJxQcZhGSDxW8>



*Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff*

**Registration is  
Open!**

## Montana Educators Invited to Join CAP's Aerospace Education Member Program

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is well known for their cadet program, recognized by the USAF. However, most people do not know about their Aerospace Education Member (AEM) Program, which consists of almost 5,000 professional educators, informal educators, and homeschoolers enrolled, nationwide. The AEM Program is part of CAP's *external* aerospace education program, which is directed at the general public.

CAP has been promoting aerospace education in public and private K-12 schools nationwide since 1953 and created the AEM Program in 1969. The AEM Program is a special category of CAP membership originally created exclusively for professional educators, but later opened to informal educators (e.g., museum docents, youth program leaders, etc.) and homeschoolers. There are numerous AEM Programs currently offered. These include the Aerospace Education Excellence (AEX) I and II programs for grades K-12; a grade-specific ACE Program for grades K-6; free Aerospace Education STEM Kits; a new Adopt-A-Classroom Program for grades 5-8; teacher workshops (many of which qualify for continuing education credit), and Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) Flights. There are currently only 23 AEMs teaching aerospace education subjects in the State of Montana.

Any classroom, after-school youth program, or homeschool in Montana can be enrolled in CAP's ACE or AEX Programs, provided that the teacher or youth program leader is enrolled in CAP's AEM Program. ACE and AEX Program curriculums cover the subjects of aviation, astronautics, and astronomy, while cyber-technology is being added into the curriculum this year. There is a one-time registration fee of \$35 to join CAP's AEM Program and annual renewals are **FREE**. To find out more about CAP's AEM Program e-mail Susan Mallett at [ae@capnhq.gov](mailto:ae@capnhq.gov); or visit <https://www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com/ae>.

*Article contributed by Major Steven Heffel, CAP*

# Helena Aviation Day

You're invited to join the Helena Airport Authority and Boeing Helena on Saturday September 10 from 10am – 4pm as we celebrate Helena Aviation Day! Take advantage of this opportunity to tour the Boeing facility, learn about job opportunities, enjoy a food truck lunch, and a special giveaway. The event is FREE!

As part of the Aviation Day event, Montana Army National Guard Aviation will be hosting a Family Day and Open House that will include helicopter and equipment displays, tours, and carnival style games. Additionally, the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) will be hosting a Fun Run at 5pm. Participation in the run requires registration and a \$30 registration fee. Registration is available online at [www.406tix.com](http://www.406tix.com) through September 9, or at the AAAA tent during the Aviation Day event.

Additional participants include Helena College, Montana Aeronautics Division, and static displays of civilian aircraft and other airport related equipment. All events are located on the north side of the airport along Skyway Drive, past the terminal building.

**Aircraft static displays, vendors, and exhibitors are welcome and needed!** Bring your aircraft and show it off to the public and tell your story to inspire the next generation of aviators in Montana. Ramp space is available on the Montana Army National Guard ramp at Helena. There is no charge to those wishing to showcase their aircraft, businesses, or educational programs. To RSVP, please contact major Drew Roland at your earliest convenience at [matthew.d.rowland6.mil@army.mil](mailto:matthew.d.rowland6.mil@army.mil).

## Calendar of Events

**September 10, 2022 — Glasgow Open House and Car Show.** 10am-2pm. Lunch sponsored by Cape Air. For more information, contact Lucas Locke at (406) 228-2719.

**September 10, 2022 — Glendive Terminal Open House.** Grand opening of the new passenger and general aviation terminal. Lunch sponsored by Cape Air at noon. For more information, contact Craig Hostetler, at (406) 939-4505.

**September 10, 2022 — Helena Aviation Day.** 10am-4pm Aircraft static displays, Boeing facility tours, armory and aviation facility open house, events and games for kids. 5K Fun Run at 5pm: Register for the run online through Sept 9, 2022 at [www.406tix.com](http://www.406tix.com). For more information, contact [matthew.d.rowland6.mil@army.mil](mailto:matthew.d.rowland6.mil@army.mil)

**September 10, 2022 — Lincoln Airport Pancake Breakfast.** 8am—11am. Free pancake breakfast at Hangar 8. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at [vulcandg406@gmail.com](mailto:vulcandg406@gmail.com)

**September 17, 2022 — Yellowstone Airport Fly In.** 8am-12pm. Free pancake breakfast (8am-10am). Free fixed wing flights for kids (sign-ups 9am-10am). Free helicopter flights for kids (10am-11:30am). Miss Montana Aircraft tours and more! For more information, contact Yellowstone Airport (406) 646-7631.

**September 17, 2022 — Polson Fly In.** 8am-11am. \$5 pancake breakfast. Miss Montana presentation (DC-3 aircraft not available), air ambulance, Dog is My Copilot, and retardant bomber scheduled.

**October 7-8, 2022 — 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) 444-2506.

**February 10-11, 2023 — Flight Instructor Refresher Course.** 8:00am– 5:30pm in Helena. To sign up visit: <https://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."

## 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.

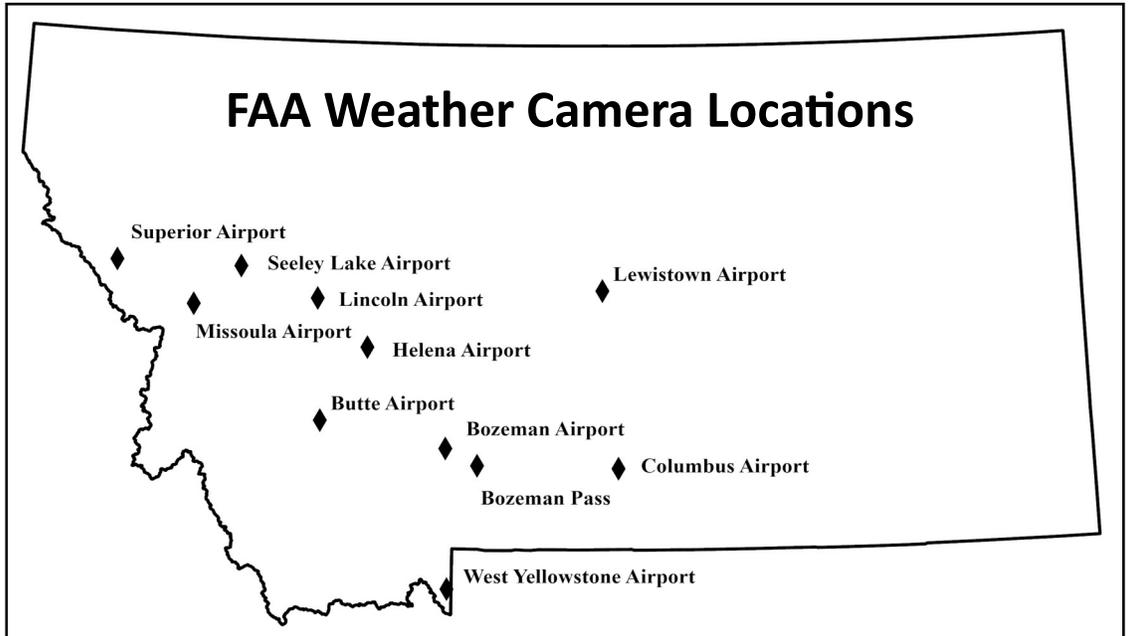
This year's activities are abundant; we hope to see you at some of them soon!

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

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