

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 75, No. 12

December 2024

Montana Aviation Conference

Please welcome our 2025 Keynote Speaker:

Britt Lincoln

Britt Lincoln, an accomplished competition aerobatic pilot, was born and raised in Montana and is a 4th generation pilot. Both her great-grandfather and grandfather were crop dusters. Her grandfather, Roger Lincoln, took Britt in his Cessna 180 on her first flight when she was just three weeks old. Roger is a life-long Montana pilot and FAA Wright Brothers Award recipient. He taught her to fly in their Piper Super Cub on the family's grass strip.

Britt holds a degree in both Accounting and German. She spent the first 15 years of her career in the finance world. Although she learned to fly from her grandfather in the beautiful Montana backcountry, it wasn't until 2017 that she obtained her pilot certificate. She obtained five ratings within a year of earning her private pilot certificate and "retired" from her career in finance in pursuit of her dreams in the world of aviation.

Britt has competed in over 20 aerobatic competitions, winning 15 of them since beginning aerobatic training and competition flying in 2019. In 2023, she was the first female in 30 years to win the category of U.S. Advanced National Aerobatic Champion.

Britt is a member of the 2023 and 2025 U.S. Advanced Aerobatic Team, made up of the top eight pilots in the U.S. As Team USA, they brought home a bronze medal from the 2023 World Advanced Aerobatic Championships. Britt also was the highest scoring U.S. pilot, placing 7th out of 50 of the best competing from around the world.

In addition to flying in competition, Britt demonstrates aerobatics at airshows. Her style is a high-energy performance that combines precision stops and maneuvers, a tribute to her competition background, with added artistic and gyroscopic elements for a well-rounded airshow sequence. She enjoys the crowd interaction, inspiring the younger generation, and sharing her passion and love of aerobatics.

She has flown over 50 different types of aircraft in her short pilot career. In addition to being the only female in the country rated to fly a Mitsubishi MU-2, which is one of her favorites to pilot. She currently holds commercial, multi-engine Instrument, and commercial sea plane ratings, and of course her tailwheel endorsement.

We are looking forward to having Britt join us at this year's Aeronautics Conference.

Don't miss it!



Photos Courtesy of Britt Lincoln



Trainings

Seminars

Exhibitors

Comradery

Award Ceremonies

Social Events

The Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) invites you to the
40th Montana Aviation Conference.

February 27th to March 1st
Hilton Garden Inn
Missoula, Montana

Prices increase after January 31st. Be sure to register early!

For conference details and to register for the conference, go to:
www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/conference.aspx or scan the QR Code.

Scan
Here To
Register



FAA
Approved Aircraft
Mechanic IA
Refresher Seminar
(16 hours)

Resale Program

The MDT Aeronautics Division sells airport parts at lower costs than many commercial retailers.

An inventory of parts and lamps for runway lighting systems, visual approach lighting systems, airport rotating beacons, windsocks, and frames are available to keep your airport maintained.

Our catalog is routinely updated as new items are added.

Additionally, we stock LED taxiway light assemblies, printed circuit board assemblies, columns, lenses, and blue light housings. We also have T10/P edge lamps available.

An online catalog and ordering services are available at: mdt.mt.gov/aviation/resale-program.aspx

Or scan the QR Code

For more information, contact
Derrick Olheiser at
Dolheiser@mt.gov
or 406-444-9592.

Scan
Here



Kalispell Aviation Center Sponsored by EAA

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 102 has recently completed construction of a 52' X 46' building at the Kalispell City Airport that will be available to the flying community. They plan to hold pilot ground school classes there and it will be available for a meeting space for aviation related activities.

If interested in utilizing this space, please contact Brent Battles at brentonbattles@gmail.com or 406-407-0868.



New Instrument Approaches and Class Echo Airspace in Montana

The White Sulphur Springs airport has two new GPS instrument approaches, one for each paved runway end. As part of the approaches, new class echo airspace was established around the airport to protect the airspace for arriving IFR aircraft.

The Lincoln airport, owned and managed by the MDT Aeronautics Division, is working to establish a GPS instrument approach. The approach is expected to be in use by June of 2025. Class echo airspace was recently implemented around the Lincoln airport to prepare for the new approach.

Remember that class echo airspace has different VFR visibility and cloud clearance requirements from class golf. Echo airspace requires you to maintain 500 feet below, 1,000 feet above, and 2,000 feet horizontally from clouds and three miles visibility.



Airport Lighting System Available

We are seeking interest from public-use airports for the opportunity to be granted a complete incandescent runway lighting system for your airport at no cost. This runway lighting system was purchased with MDT Aeronautics grant funds in 2009 and never installed by the awarded airport. The system was returned to the grant program for redistribution, making this a unique opportunity for an airport in need of a new runway lighting system.

The lighting equipment includes wiring, power supplies, lamps, glass globes, connectors, a receiver controller, etc., and is available to an interested public use airport in its entirety. The system is estimated to light a 4,000' runway. The grant recipient will be responsible for the pickup, transportation, installation, and all other associated costs.

Interested parties should submit a letter of interest to MDT Aeronautics by January 1, 2025. In your letter, please include which airport you are associated with, your role with the airport applying for, contact information and an outline of your anticipated timeline and plan to install the lighting.

The MDT Aeronautics Board will review all submissions and determine which airport to award the equipment to at the annual grant and loan award meeting scheduled on February 5 & 6, 2025.

Please email letters of interest to Karen Hallenbeck at khallenbeck@mt.gov and direct any questions to Karen at 406-444-9581.



Museum of Mountain Flying Expands to Glacier Park International Airport

Glacier Park International Airport (GPIA) announced a major expansion of services to their airport in collaboration with The Museum of Mountain Flying. The museum, headquartered in Missoula, reached an agreement with GPIA to lease space on the airport's property for a new museum extension. Visitors will be able to view and learn about historically significant aircraft and other items that highlight the region's aviation history.

In addition to its educational exhibits, the museum will provide training and other programs. A new Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) Mechanic program will be launched, providing aspiring technicians with hands-on training. The museum is exploring opportunities to partner with an accredited college to be able to offer a degree-earning program for students. With potential job placement upon completion, this program is poised to open doors for future aviation professionals. This is big news for aviation in Montana; we wish them tremendous success and a huge congratulations!

Letter to the Editor MDT Aeronautics Division's Airport Managers 101 Course

I would like to give a huge shoutout to Karen Hallenbeck and her team on launching the Airport Managers 101 course. Townsend was selected for their roll out trial presentation. She and Tim Conway traveled to us, and they will travel to any airport that requests the program.

Some of the topics that were discussed were who's who at Montana Aeronautics and who to contact with questions, NOTAMS, airport directories, the windsock and airport supply program, airport inspections, the FAA weather cameras program, how state funding, grants and loan programs work and how the Board of Aeronautics reviews these requests just to name a few. I think that the programs target audience could be expanded to include the local airport boards and county commissioners. With the recent elections there will be more local individuals with little knowledge of how our airports operate and how important their safe operations are to enhancing our Montana communities.

Please reach out and request a 101 presentation. The more the program is used the better it will become with all your input. This course will also help airport managers across the state promote aviation in their communities. Aeronautics has worked hard to put together a meaningful series. Let's help support this.

*Smooth Air,
Dwight Thompson
Airport Manager*

For more information on the program, please refer to page 2 of the November 2024 edition of *Montana and the Sky*. To book a presentation, please contact Karen Hallenbeck at khallenbeck@mt.gov or 406-444-9581.



*From the staff at the
MDT Aeronautics Division:*

Tim, Karen, Matt,

Stephen, Derrick, Page,

Bron, Jeff, Barb and Adam.

Calendar of Events

January 10 - 12, 2025 - Winter Survival Clinic. Sugarloaf Lodge, Anaconda. Cost to attend is \$75. For more information, contact Barbara Barnum at bbarnum@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

February 5 - 6, 2025 - Aeronautics Board Meeting. MDT Headquarters, Helena. For more information, contact Karen Hallenbeck at khallenbeck@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

February 7 - 8, 2025 - FIRC. Cost to attend is \$75. For more information, contact Matt Lindberg at mlindberg@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

February 27 - March 1, 2025 - 40th Montana Aviation Conference. Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula. For more information, contact mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506. To register, scan the QR Code on page 1.

June 14 - Big Timber Fly-In Breakfast and Car Show. 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be served from starting at 7 a.m.. Hosted by Yellowstone Air Service. Donations accepted for breakfast. For more information, contact Kirk Bryer 406-930-1780.

MDT Aeronautics Division

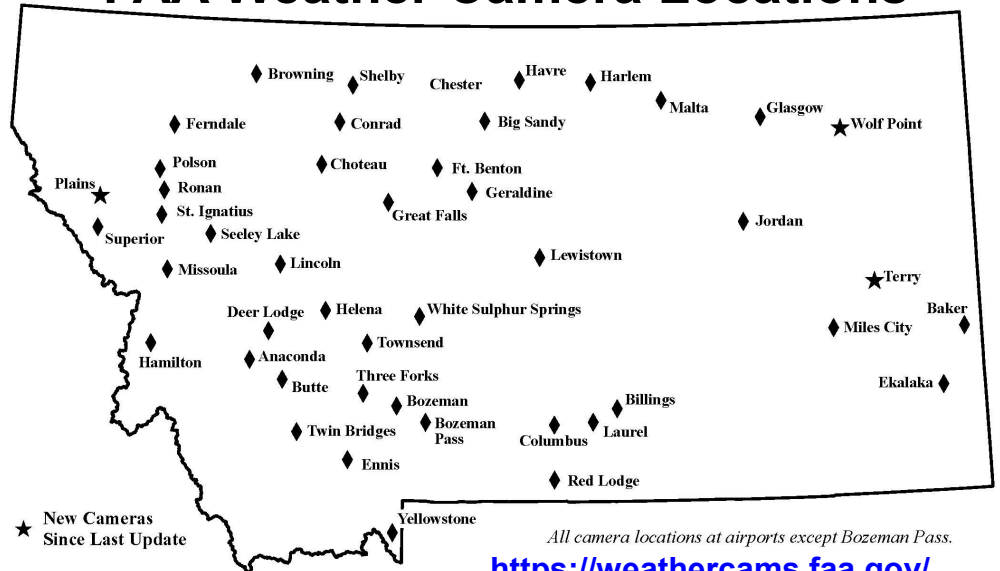
PO Box 200507

2630 Airport Road

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

To manage your *Montana and the Sky* newsletter subscription preferences or to sign-up for the e-newsletter please email mdtad@mt.gov or call 406-444-2506.

FAA Weather Camera Locations



Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Office of Civil Rights, Montana Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, Montana 59620. Telephone 406-444-5416 or Montana Relay Service at 711.

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