

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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July 2024

Search Pilot Clinic

For nearly 40 years, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division has held a search pilot clinic to train volunteer pilots to search for missing aircraft.

This year, the structure has changed with the search pilot clinic. Now, participating pilots and observers will receive a day and a half of ground instruction relating to electronic flight bag use, search practices, safety, terrain considerations, how the incident command system operates, and responsibilities of searchers. Dual flight instruction in the volunteer's aircraft will occur later, with an MDT Aeronautics Division-approved flight instructor and training syllabus.

This change is to allow more flexibility to volunteers to conduct their flight training at more regular intervals in their own aircraft. Additionally, volunteers will be selected based on geographic needs for search aircraft throughout the state.

This training is open to volunteer aircraft owners/pilots and observers who are committed to being available when search services are needed.

Participants will be selected based on the type of aircraft they own, their geographic location in Montana, experience, and their availability to serve in the volunteer search and rescue network after their training is completed.

The training is also open to volunteer observers who will be trained to look for signs of a crash site and gain experience in documenting positions, altitudes, and communicating to the ground.

MDT Aeronautics Division staff will select up to 25 qualified candidates to attend the course.

The course will be held August 8 to 9 in Helena at the Fairfield Inn. There will be no charge for those selected to participate in the training program. Up to two nights of lodging will be provided, if needed. Most meals will also be included.

For more information, contact:
Matt Lindberg at or 406-444-9568 or mlindberg@mt.gov.



Scan the QR Code
to submit an application
for consideration.



New First Aid/Survival Skills Course

The MDT Aeronautics Division is offering a new training course to Montana pilots. The course is one day, and will focus on basic first aid and survival skills as they relate to aviation. The classroom setting course will prepare participants to take their new skills in the field.

The Peak from Butte will provide expert instruction from military pararescuemen and other former military special forces instructors. This program was developed after the MDT Aeronautics Division received numerous requests for this type of training from aircraft owners and pilots across Montana. You asked, we listened, and we're happy to answer the call!

It is unique to find aviation specific emergency training in the civilian world. Growing training opportunities like this can make all the difference in an emergency situation.

This new program will help to develop fundamental life-saving skills which could have a major impact in achieving positive emergency outcomes.

The course will be held September 20 in Helena at the Double Tree by Hilton from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The cost to attend the course is \$75. Capacity is limited, so be sure to register now!

For more information, contact Matt Lindberg
at or 406-444-9568 or mlindberg@mt.gov



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West Yellowstone Airport Field Trip



In an adventure on May 29, students from West Yellowstone embarked on a field trip to the West Yellowstone Airport. The trip aimed to provide elementary students with a glimpse into the world of aviation by giving them an immersive experience of daily life at their local airport.

The students began their journey by visiting the airline ticket counter, where they each received a pretend boarding pass. They proceeded through the security checkpoint, where they observed the inner workings of the luggage x-ray machine and metal detector.

The students were introduced to basic marshaling signals by airline ramp agents. They learned how ground crew members direct aircraft safely on the tarmac. A local sightseeing airplane and an air ambulance helicopter were on hand for students to explore as well as airport fire trucks with water cannons, which students had a chance to operate.

The day wrapped up with a glider flying contest, local ice cream, and students trying their hand at MDT Aeronautics Division's flight simulators.

MDT Aeronautics Division and its staff take great pride in supporting students across the state and fostering passion for aviation. Field trips like these can spark curiosity and inspire young minds to consider a future career in the aviation field.



Meet Yellowstone Airport's Summer Intern

Yellowstone Airport is excited to welcome Jordan Deafenbaugh to the team for the 2024 season. Jordan will be working alongside the airport manager and operations specialists during the summer months to provide support and gain insights into the day-to-day operations of the Yellowstone Airport.

Jordan is a student at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. He is going to be a senior majoring in aviation management with a specialization in airport management and operations. Jordan is a member of Purdue's American Association of Airport Executives chapter.

After graduation, Jordan plans to pursue a career in airport operations and eventually work for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an airport certification safety inspector.

Jordan is excited to learn more about airport operations this summer and contribute to the continued success of the Yellowstone Airport and the State of Montana.



Aeronautics Loan & Grant Applications Open

As a reminder to airport loan and grant applicants, the loan and grant online portal will accept FY 2026 applications starting July 1, through November 15.

If you cannot enter the website, you may have a previous award that needs a closeout form or an annual status report filed.

Projects must be broken down by type and itemized on the application. For example, asphalt projects should be broken down by runway, apron, and taxiway, not as one project lumped together.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the loan and grant program, please contact **Stephen Torske at 406-444-9569 or storske@mt.gov**.

To access the on-line portal go to:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml>

Or scan the QR Code



Save the Dates!

2025 Flight Instructor Clinic (FIRC)

The FIRC will be held February 7 to 8, 2025 in Helena at the Double Tree Downtown hotel in Helena.

To register, scan the QR Code:



2025 Winter Survival Course (WSC)

The WSC will be January 10 to 12, 2025 at the Sugar Loaf Lodge south of Anaconda. Registration will open this Fall.

For more information contact:

Barbara Barnum
406-444-2506
bbarnum@mt.gov



Calendar of Events

July 4 - Plains-Paradise Rural Fire Department Pancake Breakfast. Plains Airport. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Ride an antique fire truck shuttle to the breakfast held at the fire station next door. For more information, contact Randy Garrison at 406-370-6179.

July 13 - MPA South-Central Hangar Wings and Wheels Fly-In & Drive-In. Laurel Airport. 8 a.m. Food trucks will be on site for the day to purchase meals. EAA Young Eagles rides. Avgas discount available. For more information, contact John Roberts at 406-855-2372.

July 20 - Schafer Meadows Work Party. Work starts at 9 a.m. Dinner provided Saturday night, so come help out and camp for the weekend. For more information contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.

July 20 - 21 - Saint Ignatius Fly-In. Saturday, July 20, free BBQ, helicopter rides 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday, July 21, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., free huckleberry pancake breakfast, 100 gallon avgas giveaway, many door prizes, helicopter rides. For more information, contact Michael Kuefler 406-544-2274.

July 25 - 28 - Big Sky Balloon Rally. Amend Park, Billings. 6 a.m. balloon launches. July 25 to 28. Field opens to the public on July 27 at 6 p.m., live music starts at 6:15 p.m. Balloon glow at dusk (weather permitting)! For more information, go to bigskyballoonrally.com.

July 27 - Lincoln Fly-In. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. BBQ and Potluck at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Jerry Cain at 406-461-5631 or jeromecain@gmail.com.

August 3 - Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Fly-In. Three Forks. Hot breakfast available for purchase from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., free lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ping pong ball drop, young eagles discovery flights, flying events with awards, static display with peoples choice award. Dinner food available for pilots camping both Friday and Saturday nights. For more information, visit www.mt-aaa.com [mt-aaa.com] or contact Nick Hunt at 503-209-1041.

August 8 - 9 - Search pilot Training. Helena. Fairfield Inn. For more information, contact Matt Lindberg at mlindberg@mt.gov or 406-444-2506. To register, go to https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event_id=24895&fromdash.

August 11 - Hysham Fly-In Breakfast and Airport Dedication. Hosted by Hysham Chamber. Fly-In Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. and airport dedication at 8 a.m. by Treasure County Commissioners. For information, contact Ruth Baue, Treasure County Commissioner, at 406-670-5472.

August 16 - 18 - Montana Fun Weekend. Cut Bank. Friday, August 16, 12 p.m. until Sunday, August 18, 12 p.m. For more information, contact Rick Geiger at 406-873-5709 or 406-949-5709.

August 24 - Anaconda Fly-In and Car Show. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Food and drinks available to purchase, games for the kids, airplane rides, and lots of other exciting activities. Please call Greg Bahr at 406-490-7281 with any questions.

September 1 - Red Lodge Wings-n-Wheels Fly-In/Drive-In. Free breakfast 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donations go toward improvement of the airport. For more information, contact Bo Ewald at b.ewald@att.net.

September 7 - North Central Hanger Fly-In. Havre. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, contact William Hurd at 406-945-3646.

September 14 - Harlowton Kiwanis Fly-In and Car Show. Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Lunch 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Jason Loose at fence2build@yahoo.com.

September 20 - Basic Survival and First Aid. Helena. Doubletree by Hilton. For more information contact Matt Lindberg at mlindberg@mt.gov or 406-444-2506. To register, go to https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event_id=24948.

September 21 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at candg406@gmail.com.

January 10 - 12, 2025 - Winter Survival Clinic. Sugarloaf Lodge Anaconda. Registration will open this fall. For more information, contact Barbara Barnum at bbarnum@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

February 7 - 8, 2025 - FIRC. Helena. Doubletree by Hilton. For more information, contact Matt Lindberg at mlindberg@mt.gov or 406-444-2506. To register, go to https://www.aviationseminars.com/registration-form/?type=firc&course_id=2025106.

February 27 - March 1, 2025 - Aviation Conference. Missoula. Hilton Garden Inn. For more information, contact Lindsay Meeks at lmeekss@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

MDT Aeronautics Division

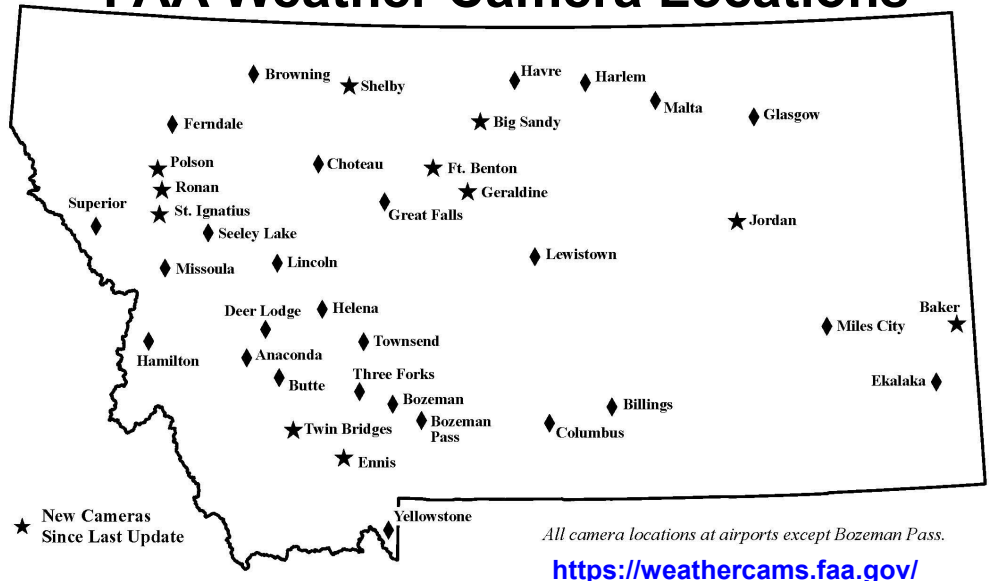
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the Sky.*
Fly Safe!**

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FAA Weather Camera Locations



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