

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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November 2024

Photo courtesy of Ryan Hannahoe

Aviation Educators' Workshop Proves Successful!

In early October, educators from throughout the state were invited to participate in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Aviation Educators Workshop, organized by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division in collaboration with the Montana Learning Center (MLC). This workshop aimed to integrate aviation with STEM disciplines. Participating teachers engaged in classroom instruction, performed science experiments, and toured aviation facilities at the Helena Airport. They also had the chance to take an introductory flight in an aircraft provided by the MDT Aeronautics Division. The goal was to provide teachers with new insight into aviation training and potential career pathways for their students.

The second day of the workshop centered around hands-on, inquiry-based lesson plans at the MLC. Educators received indoor and outdoor training and as well as flying the MLC's flight simulator. The workshop provided teachers with the knowledge and materials to do aviation-themed projects with their students. This annual event empowers Montana educators by highlighting the connections between STEM and aviation, fostering inspiration in the upcoming generation of pilots. The workshop is open to Montana teachers involved in STEM education, and participants can earn 20 renewal units from the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) upon completion.



Don't forget to register for these upcoming events!

2025 Winter Survival Course (WSC)

January 10 - 12, 2025

The WSC will be at the Sugar Loaf Lodge south of Anaconda.

Scan
Here To
Register



\$75

2025 Flight Instructor Clinic (FIRC)

February 7 - 8, 2025

The FIRC will be held in Helena at the Double Tree by Hilton.

Scan
Here To
Register



\$75

The 40th Annual Montana Aviation Conference

February 27 - March 1, 2025

The conference will be held in Missoula at the Hilton Garden Inn.

*See registration page for pricing.

Scan
Here To
Register





Attention Airport Managers - New and Experienced!



New Airport Management 101 Training

The MDT Aeronautics Division Airports Bureau has developed a new training for airport managers. This training is focused on small commercial or general aviation airports. Content consists of Notice to Air Missions (NOTAM) management, airport maintenance, required airport inspections, federal and state funding, federal grant assurances, and much more.

Whether you are an experienced airport manager or have boldly accepted this brand new responsibility and are interested in learning more about the duties involved, contact

Karen Hallenbeck at khallenbeck@mt.gov or **406-444-958**, to schedule an in-person presentation at your location.

Many New FAA Weather Web Cams On-line



This year, the MDT Aeronautics Division installed 19 new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) - approved cameras across the state, expanding the aviation weather camera program to a total of 46 camera sites in Montana!

These weather cameras enhance safety by increasing pilot awareness of weather conditions along their flight paths and aid pre-flight decision making. More cameras are scheduled for installation at additional airport locations, plus some remote mountain sites!

See page 4 to for the updated web cam map of Montana or go to weathercams.faa.gov and click on a camera to view current conditions.



5010 Airport Inspections Completed

The 2024 season for Airport Master Record (5010) Evaluations has finished. This year, a total of 39 airports in western Montana under went inspection. You may have noticed the MDT Aviation Support Officer conducting inspections while using a range finder, survey wheel, and clipboard.

The 5010 Master Record Airport evaluations are a requirement set forth by the FAA to ensure safety and maintain an information system for every public-use airport in the United States. In Montana, these evaluations are carried out by the MDT Aeronautics Division for public-use, non-commercial airports. Other materials, such as aeronautical charts and instrument approach procedure plates, also utilize information gathered from these inspections.

During the evaluations, inspectors gather information regarding obstructions, airport operation counts, visual landing aids, pavement conditions, lighting details, and other safety and general data elements. The evaluations also assess or confirm the runway approach slope obstruction gradients, which are crucial in determining if runways meet the standards for precision and non-precision approaches.

For more information about 5010 evaluations, please reach out to **Stephen Torske** at 406-444-9569 or via email at storske@mt.gov.

Changes Are Here For CFI Certificates

The FAA has announced that it will eliminate the expiration date for Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) certificates, effective December 1. Instructors will still need to renew their certificates every 24 months through options such as completing a FIRC, obtaining an additional instructor certificate, or engaging in other approved instructional activities.

These activities include at least 15 flight activities recognized under the FAA pilot proficiency program during which the CFI evaluated at least five pilots during recognized flight sessions and endorsing them in their logbooks. Or, the CFI may satisfy renewal requirements by endorsing at least 5 applicants for a practical test in 24 months and have an 80 percent first-time pass rate.

The change aligns CFI certificates with private and commercial certificates, which also do not include expiration dates. It also aims to reduce costs caused by reissuing plastic certificates.

The new rule also introduces a 3 month grace period for instructors whose certificates have lapsed, allowing them to complete a FIRC instead of undergoing a check ride.

Additionally, it modifies how instructors log client endorsements per FAR 61.51. Instead of writing the CFI certificate expiration date, CFI's will now note recency of experience. The final rule also introduces two new methods for qualifying to train initial applicants while providing assistance to military and civilian personnel renewing their certificates from abroad.



Montana Airport Management Association Meeting in Helena

The Helena Regional Airport and the Montana Airport Management Association (MAMA) hosted the FAA Airports District Office (ADO) conference on October 29th and 30th in Helena. The Helena ADO oversees and manages airports across Montana and Idaho. Airport representatives and airport managers from both states attended.

Attendees learned about and discussed regulations pertaining to design and construction of airports, planning and environmental considerations, Airport Improvement Programs, and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) updates.

Aircraft and Pilot Registration Renewals Begin Next Month



Aircraft customarily kept in Montana, as well as any aircraft with a Montana address on its FAA registration, **must** be registered with the MDT Aeronautics Division on or before March 1st every year (or within 30 days of purchase date for any aircraft purchased).

Montana does not tax aircraft, but instead issues an annual aircraft registration fee in lieu of tax. The fees are set by the Montana Legislature and are determined according to the type of aircraft and its age. Annual renewal invoices will be mailed the first week of December, so please be sure to check your mail.

* **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 keep in mind that aircraft out of annual inspection are not considered "unairworthy" by administrative rule and will be subject to annual registration fees.**

Online fee payment services for aircraft and pilot registration are available online at:
app.mt.gov/aeronautics.
(Payment processing fees apply.)

**ACTION IS REQUIRED
ON ALL AIRCRAFT
REGISTRATIONS EACH YEAR.**

For more information, please contact the MDT Aeronautics Division at:
406-444-2506
mdtad@mt.gov.

Please postmark or timestamp your registration payments, or affidavits and supporting documents for fee exemption, on or before March 1st (Or within 30 days of a new purchase) to avoid the penalty fee.

Did You Sell Your Airplane?

In order to cancel your state aircraft registration, the MDT Aeronautics Division **requires** a copy of the FAA Bill of Sale, per administrative rule 18.12.315(d), must accompany your signed exemption affidavit, found on the bottom portion of your annual renewal invoice.

The MDT Aeronautics Division must receive these documents by the annual renewal deadline of March 1st.

Aircraft owners who fail to provide all necessary paperwork before the deadline will be issued late fees and/or registration penalties, **even if you no longer own the aircraft**. Failure to provide the required proof for fee exemption is the leading cause of aircraft registration delinquency in Montana.



MDT Aeronautics Division recommends retaining a copy of the FAA Bill of Sale for your own records!

Happy Thanksgiving!

From the staff of the MDT Aeronautics Division.

Tim, Karen, Matt, Stephen, Derrick, Page, Madeleine, Jeff, Bron, Adam, and Barb.



Calendar of Events

November 15 - Aviation Scholarship deadline.

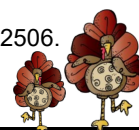
November 15 - Aeronautics Loan and Grant deadline.

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.



MDT Aeronautics Division

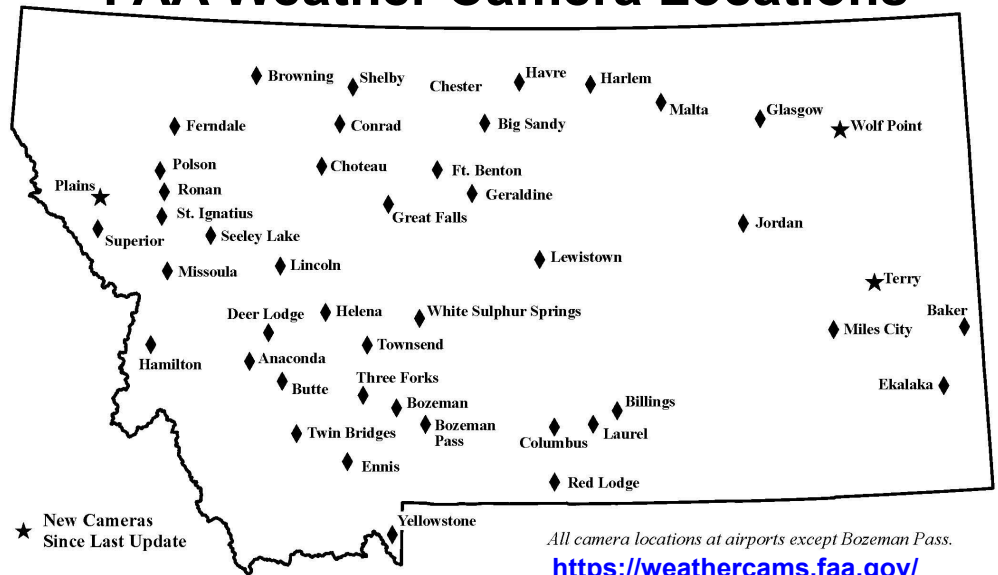
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FAA Weather Camera Locations



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