

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 75, No. 10

October 2024

2025 Aviation Scholarships Available

Montana is fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations who support aviation by offering scholarships. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division helps to match these scholarships to qualified applicants and encourages individuals interested in aeronautics to apply for scholarships. The scholarships are offered to help defray costs of education (e.g., flight instruction, aircraft airframe and powerplant (A&P) mechanic school, etc.).

Recipients will be announced in January 2025 and awards will be presented at noon on February 28, 2025 at the Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula. Winners will be provided a complimentary aviation conference registration and a free Friday lunch for themselves and up to two guests sponsored by the Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM).

Available Scholarships

- **Aviation Organizations of Montana Flight Training Scholarship:** \$2000 for flight training and \$2,000 for A&P training
- **Briar Creek Scholarship:** \$4000
- **Edwards Jet Center Scholarship:** \$2000
- **Mike and Julie Meloche Flight and Mechanic Training Scholarship:** \$2000 (Three available)
- **Bob and Kathy Dewante Flight Training Scholarship:** \$3000
- **Montana Antique Aircraft Association Scholarship:** \$4000
- ***Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship:** \$5000
- **Montana Pilots Association Air Safety and Education Foundation Flight Training Scholarship:** \$4000
- **Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship:** \$4000
- **Montana Pilots Association Central Montana Flight Training Scholarship:** \$4000
- **Montana Pilots Association Aviation Maintenance Scholarship:** \$2000
- **Montana Pilots Association Arlin Wass Memorial Maintenance Technician Scholarship:** \$2000 (Two available)
- **Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship:** \$2000
- **Stuart Smihek Memorial Scholarship:** \$2500 (Multiple may be available)
- **Brett Thoft Memorial Foundation Scholarship:** \$2500 (Two available)
- **38 North Aviation, LLC Aviation Training Scholarship:** \$1000
 - **Ridgeline Aviation flight Training Scholarship:** \$2000
 - **Aerotrronics Maintenance Training/ Avionics Technician Scholarship:** \$2000

How To Apply

Email completed scholarship applications to mdtad@mt.gov by November 15, 2024.

Essential Reminders:

Attach multiple applications in a single email. We cannot accept or open Google doc files. Please attach emailed application as a single pdf file. The file must be named with the scholarship name followed by your first and last name.

Example:

“Briar Creek Scholarship_John Doe”

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Scholarship applications must be submitted by email on or before 11:59 p.m. MST, November 15, 2024.

- Candidates must submit a separate application for each individual scholarship name. Applicants applying for multiple scholarships should limit their submissions to a single email containing multiple PDF attachments. Tailoring each application to the specific scholarship you are applying for is highly recommended.
- *The Montana Ninety-Nines scholarships are reimbursement awards only. You must provide them your eligible receipts for up to the dollar amount you were awarded within 12 months.

Scan the QR code or visit www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.aspx for additional scholarship criteria.



Christmas in August

The Yellowstone Airport hosted Christmas in August, a tradition that began in the 1980s. Airport staff and friends of the airport gathered in the airport terminal to celebrate another successful operating season. A Christmas tree was decorated in the main terminal lobby throughout the month of August, causing some confusion among travelers passing through.

Christmas in August originated in Yellowstone National Park back in 1925 when a sudden snowfall covered the landscape on August 24. In response, park staff and visitors at Fishing Bridge decided to spontaneously celebrate with a Christmas party.

They shared a meal and exchanged gifts, creating the tradition of "Christmas in August".

Since the airport remains closed during the actual holiday season, this early celebration allows airport staff and friends to celebrate the end of the operating season. The airport's operating season typically ends around the end of October when heavy snowfall prevents the airport from remaining open.

This was the last Christmas in August celebration to be held in the old airport terminal building, as the new terminal is expected to open in the Spring!



Horse-Drawn Equipment Delivery to Schafer Meadows

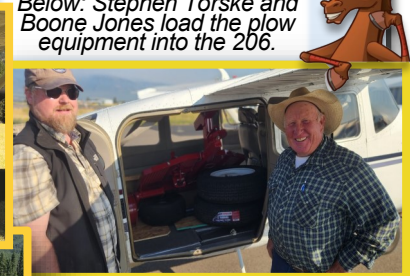
Schafer Meadows, located in the Great Bear Wilderness, is a unique airport in the Montana Aviation System; located in the Great Bear Wilderness, it is the only airstrip in Montana located within the designated wilderness boundaries. Because of this, no motorized equipment is permitted.

Horse-drawn implements are used to maintain the surface of the airstrip, providing access to this remote and beautiful location by aircraft. On August 26th, The MDT Aeronautics Division, in coordination with the Recreational Aviation Foundation, US Forest Service (USFS), MPA, and a long-time backcountry teamster Boone Jones (who will operate the equipment) worked together to deliver more than 400 pounds of plow equipment to ensure the runway will continue to be safe and maintained for all users to enjoy.

This equipment will be kept at Schafer Meadows and utilized as needed to smooth out the rough surface of the runway while widening the usable surface, allowing the runway to be shifted north and south to provide additional recovery time.

Below: Scott Newpower, Stephen Torske, and Emily Stadveck with the MDT Aeronautics 206.

Below: Stephen Torske and Boone Jones load the plow equipment into the 206.



Above: Station Guard Emily Stadveck and staff survey the new plow equipment.

Above: Boone Jones helps load the plow.

Hunting Season is in Full Swing

Hunting season is happening in Montana. Aviators who hunt are advised to familiarize themselves with regulations concerning the use of aircraft for hunting. These regulations aim to ensure the safety and fairness of the sport for both humans and wildlife.

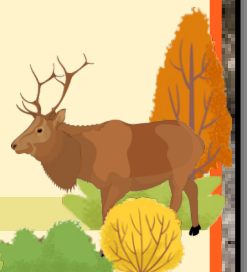
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) have outlined several rules that are relevant to aviation and hunting in [Montana Code Annotated \(MCA\) 87-6-208](#):

- It is prohibited to locate game animals for hunting purposes on the same day that you are airborne.
- The use of aircraft to concentrate, pursue, drive, rally, or disturb any game bird, migratory bird, game animal, or fur-bearing animal is strictly prohibited.
- Spotting or locating game animals or fur-bearing animals from the air and communicating their location to individuals on the ground via air-to-ground communication, signals, or other devices for the purpose of hunting or pursuing wildlife is illegal.
- It is unlawful 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 utilized for hunting activities when loading or unloading individuals or cargo at federally approved airports, landing fields, or heliports.

For questions about these regulations or any other hunting guidelines, please reach out to your local FWP office, or game warden.



Scan the QR Code to learn more about [Montana Code Annotated \(MCA\) 87-6-208](#).





Call for Montana Aviation Conference Speakers, Vendors, and Attendees



The AOM is pleased to announce the 40th Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Missoula.



Speakers and vendors are wanted for the 40th Annual Montana Aviation Conference. The Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) wants your suggestions for speakers, vendors, and topics for the upcoming conference. Please reach out to AOM president Mike Vivion at michael.vivion@gmail.com to secure a speaking slot.



The Montana Aviation Conference will be at the Hilton Garden Inn held in Missoula, February 27 to March 1, 2025. The conference brings Montana's aviation organizations and the flying public together for three days of speakers, seminars, workshops, awards ceremonies, business meetings, comradery, and social events. It is an opportunity for those from the aviation community to connect, learn, and exchange ideas and information. Around 500 participants are expected this year.

Speaker, vendor, attendee, and guest conference registration IS OPEN NOW!



Register by January 31, 2024, to save on registration fees!

Scan here to register.

Register by scanning the QR code or visiting: www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event_id=23928&fromdash.



Lodging is available at a special event rate! Call the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula at 406-533-6960 and mention the Montana Aviation Conference for discounted room rates. Reservations must be made before January 31, 2025, to get the event rate of \$130 + tax.



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



2024 Anaconda Fly-In

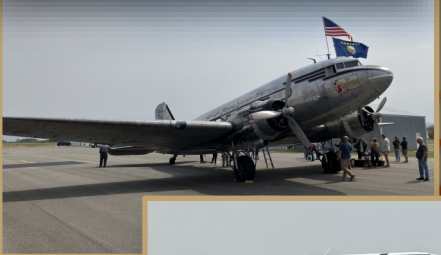
The MDT Aeronautics Division attended the recent fly-in at Bowman Field in Anaconda on August 24th. The event was well attended and well organized. A special appearance was made by the Douglas DC-3 "Miss Montana", which is always a crowd pleaser and an important part of Montana aviation history.

Many other individuals with their aircraft were also in attendance, including two Super Cubs which were used to provide rides to the public. The Super Cubs stayed busy doing laps around the airport as people gathered to wait for their turn for a flight.

The fly-in also included a classic car show, along with search and rescue and emergency services in attendance.

This was a memorable day for all, including more than a few young people having perhaps their first experience with aviation.

Thanks to all who attended and shared their passion for aviation!



Carolyn Torske lends a hand for the day.



Calendar of Events

October 5 - Sky Ranch Fly-In. Kalispell. This isn't just a fly in, it's an event for the whole family! Food is free, dessert by donation, many raffles, STOL demonstrations, and a chili competition between the neighbors! Come hungry! Starts at 2 p.m. There will be a movie at 5:30 p.m. Tent camping space is available if you decide to stay and hang by the campfire! For more info call or text Brandy at 406-212-4896.

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. Helena. MDT Headquarters. For more information contact Karen Hallenbeck at khallenbeck@mt.gov.

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. Missoula. Hilton Garden Inn. For more information, contact mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506. To register, scan the QR Code above.

MDT Aeronautics Division

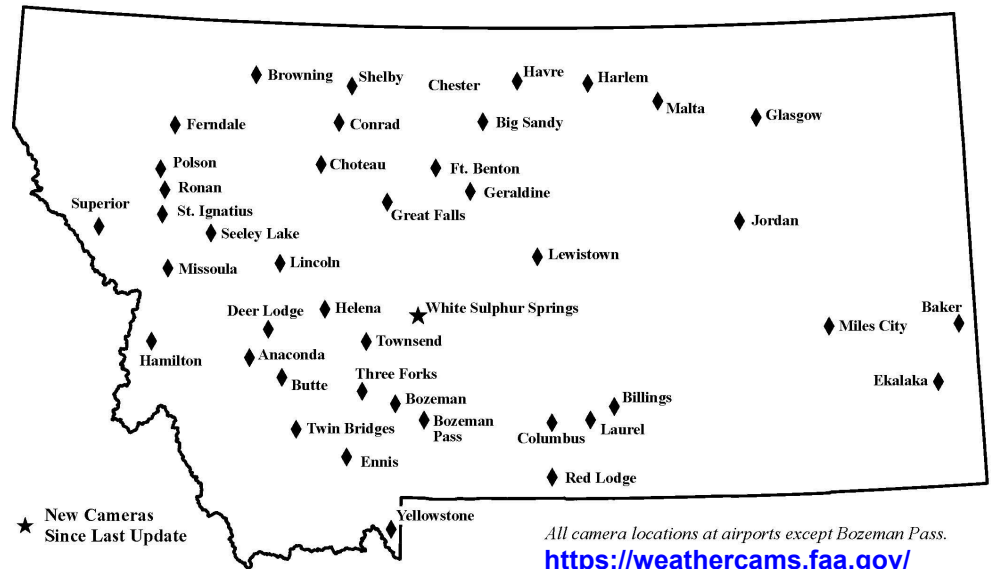
PO Box 200507

2630 Airport Road

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reading
*Montana and
the Sky.*
Fly Safe!**

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FAA Weather Camera Locations



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