

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 76, No. 2

February 2025



Montana Aviation Conference

Please welcome our 2025 Keynote Speaker:
Patrick Williams

From Super Cub backcountry roots born in Salmon, Idaho to flying F-22's in the Hawaii Air National Guard, Patrick "ManBear" Williams will join us with tales from the leading edge of air dominance, current events, and how it all leads back to the backcountry and groups like these. Patrick has flown F-15s and F-22s for nearly 20 years in the Air Force but still comes back to Idaho to fly his favorite Super Cub and values the skills and areas around Idaho and Montana that set the basis for his success.

Patrick got his first taste of flying in the backcountry with his dad, Dick Williams. He grew up learning to fly in Idaho and went to the U.S Air Force Academy from 1999-2003; spending 3 of the 4 years there flying sailplanes as a cadet instructor pilot and racing pilot. He followed the typical Air Force pilot training route to Columbus Air Force Base (AFB), Mississippi where flight training took place in the T-37 and T-38. He was then selected to fly the F-15C at Tyndall AFB, Florida, later moving to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska and eventually transitioned to flying the F-22 in 2008.

Patrick has since flown the F-22 at every Raptor base and is currently at Hickam AFB, HI as part of the Hawaii Air National Guard. He has served in the following fighter squadrons (FS): 2nd FS, 12th FS, 19th FS, 94th FS, and 199th FS. He still loves to fly around Idaho in Super Cubs and enjoys flying an old T-6 trainer giving tours around Pearl Harbor and the island of Oahu.

Patrick will speak at the Saturday closing banquet, March 1, 2025 in Missoula.

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



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

Seminars ★ *Exhibitors* ★ *Trainings*
Awards ★ *Ceremonies* ★ *Social Events*

★ *FAA Approved Aircraft Mechanic IA Refresher Seminar* ★

For conference details and to register for the conference, go to:

www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/conference.aspx
or scan the QR Code.

Lodging at the Hilton Garden Inn is sold out.

Lodging is available next door at the Marriot Courtyard.

For Hotel reservations, at the
conference rate, contact:

Marriot Courtyard at
406-549-5260

And mention the conference.

Scan
Here To
Register



Invitation to Exhibit Aircraft

Join us Friday evening, February 28th, for the
40th annual Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula!

The AOM invites aircraft owners and operators to showcase
their aircraft at a static display hosted in Neptune Aviation's
heated hangar. "Miss Montana", the iconic DC-3, will be
displayed as the feature centerpiece.

Enjoy a social hour with cocktails while connecting with
fellow aviation enthusiasts hosted by the
Montana Pilots Association (MPA) and
Robert Peccia and Associates.

To participate in the static display, please RSVP to
Mike Vivion, AOM President, at
Michael.vivion@gmail.com.



*We can't wait to see
your aircraft there!*

2025 Winter Survival Clinic: A Resounding Success!

From January 10th to 12th, the MDT Aeronautics Division held the annual Winter Survival Clinic in the Pintler Mountains, near Anaconda. This year, we welcomed 22 enthusiastic participants from across the state, all eager to acquire practical skills for navigating the challenges of remote winter landscapes following an emergency landing.

Under the guidance of expert instructor, Brett Stoffel from Emergency Response International (ERI), attendees engaged in a mix of live classroom sessions and hands-on demonstrations of essential survival techniques and systems. They explored the importance of creating a positive survival mental mindset, learned how to build effective shelters, honed their fire-starting skills, practiced first aid, and discovered various emergency signaling methods.

One of the most memorable moments of the clinic came when participants constructed their own improvised shelters later spending the night in them, and truly putting their skills to the test. The following morning, they gathered to discuss the field exercise, receiving invaluable feedback and insights from their instructors on the survival techniques they had practiced.

This immersive experience, combined with constructive critique, provided participants with essential lessons in a controlled environment that will serve them well in the future.

Congratulations to everyone who participated for embracing the challenge and enhancing their survival skills!



AOPA Rusty Pilots Seminar

AOM is hosting an Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Foundation Rusty pilots seminar at the Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula. The Rusty Pilots Seminar, presented by Yasmina Platt, will be held on Saturday, March 1st, 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn - Missoula. Cost is free for Free for AOPA members. Join AOPA for \$89 and attend for free or pay \$89 (plus 5% credit card processing fee) without joining.

Life may have gotten in the way, but the dream of flight can be yours again. Returning to the skies is not as difficult as most rusty pilots think. We are inviting you back in the cockpit and will help you get there. Come and participate in this Rusty Pilots program with fellow lapsed pilots. We will help you understand what's changed in aviation since you last took the controls and brush up on your aviation knowledge. Its easier than people think, no FAA check ride or test, you might not even need a medical. Plus, you will get two to three hours of ground instruction toward your flight review!

AOPA developed the Rusty Pilots program in partnership with local flight training providers in order to create the best environment forgetting you back in the air and a part of the general aviation community.

Event Registration can be found at:

<https://webforms.aopa.org/rustypilots03012025>

For more information, contact:
RustyPilots@AOPA.org



2025 Aviation Awareness Art Contest



The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division's Aviation Awareness Art Contest is designed to broaden knowledge and promote interest in careers within the aviation and aerospace industries. The contest is open to all students in K - 12 in public, private, and home schools.

Submissions will be accepted from
March 1st to April 11th.

Artwork must have a Montana aviation theme.

To find more details and download the full flyer, go to
<https://mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.aspx>

For further information,
please contact:

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



2025 Montana Aviation Scholarships Awarded

Thanks to the extraordinary support from the Montana aviation community, which includes various organizations, businesses, families, and individuals, a total of 26 scholarships were granted during the 2025 Montana Aviation Scholarships cycle. This annual initiative is designed to assist Montanans in achieving their educational and career goals in aviation. The scholarships, collectively valued at \$60,000, have been awarded to applicants who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and promise in the aviation sector.

This year, the scholarship sponsors and committees faced the difficult challenge of selecting winners from a notably larger pool of applications, 777 applications in total, underscoring the growing interest and need for financial aid in this field. The community is truly grateful for both returning and new sponsors who have stepped forward to support this valuable program.



Congratulations, to to following winners:

38 North Aviation Training Scholarship	Mikayla Murolo	\$1,000
Aerotronics Maintenance Training-Avionics Technician	Kenny Taylor	\$2,000
AOM - Flight Training Scholarship	Sage Kalwara	\$2,000
AOM - Mechanic Scholarship	Kenny Taylor	\$2,000
Bob and Kathy Dewante Flight Training Scholarship	Daria Allred	\$3,000
Brett Thoft Memorial Foundation Scholarship	Ocean Munsey	\$2,500
	Aiden Fouhy	\$2,500
Briar Creek Scholarship	Daria Allred	\$4,000
Edwards Jet Center Scholarship	Kenny Taylor	\$2,000
MAAA Scholarship	Tessa Hilleman	\$4,000
Mike and Julie Meloche Flight Training Scholarship	Sage Kalwara	\$2,000
	Mason Klewin	\$2,000
	Stuart Shoopman	\$2,000
	Kenny Taylor	\$1,000
	Ryan Kirschman	\$500
Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship	Heather Hair	\$3,750
	Jackie Dietz	\$750
	Molly Gilman	\$500
MPA Arlin Wass Memorial Maintenance Technician Scholarship	Kenny Taylor	\$2,000
MPA Aviation Maintenance Scholarship	Aiden Fouhy	\$2,000
MPA Central Montana Flight Training Scholarship	Heather Hair	\$4,000
MPA Junior Pilot Scholarship	Garrett Thiesen	\$4,000
MPA Mike Fergusson Flight Training Scholarship	Bryson Bahnmler	\$4,000
Ridgeline Aviation Flight Training Scholarship	Samuel Hape	\$2,000
Stuart Smishek Memorial Scholarship	Jeff Shehan	\$2,500
Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship	Mikayla Murolo	\$2,000



Calendar of Events

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

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

February 27 - March 1- 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.

March 1 - Aircraft and pilot registration renewal deadline.

May 17 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. every third Saturday each month starting May 17th ending September 19. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at vulcandg408@gmail.com.

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

July 12 - 13 - Saint Ignatius Fly-In. Saturday July 12, free BBQ with all the fixin's, \$50 per seat helicopter rides 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday, July 13, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., free huckleberry pancake breakfast, 100 gallon avgas giveaway, many door prizes, \$50 per seat helicopter rides. For more information contact Michael Kuefler 406-544-2274.

July 19 - Lincoln Fly-In. Open house, pancake breakfast and potluck lunch. Pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p. m.. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at vulcandg408@gmail.com.

MDT Aeronautics Division

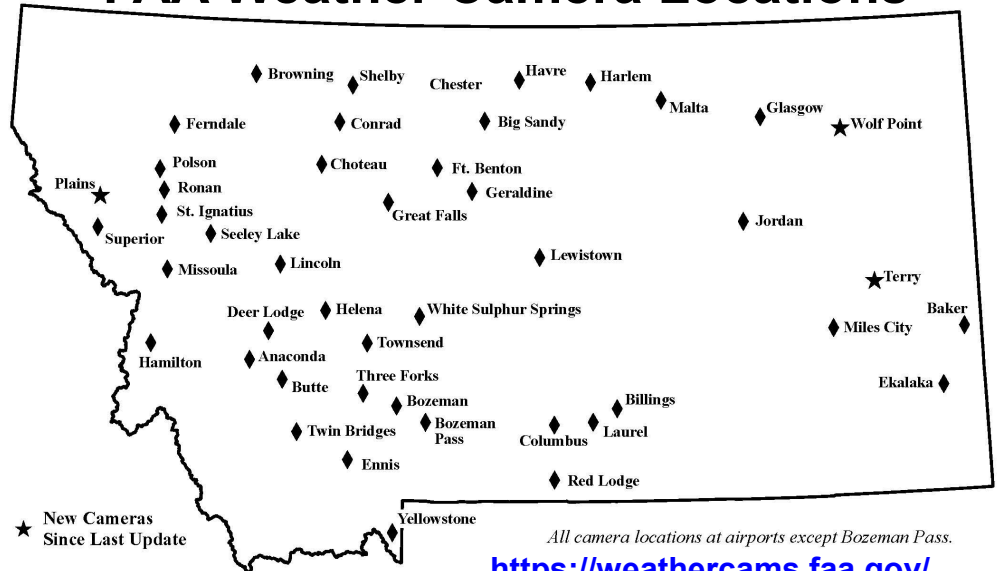
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2630 Airport Road

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

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FAA Weather Camera Locations



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