

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 76, No. 1

January 2025

Montana Aviation Conference

Please welcome our 2025 Keynote Speaker:

Tom Haines

Tom Haines is an award-winning aviation journalist who spent nearly 30 years as the Editor-in-Chief and Senior Vice President of Media at the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the world's largest aviation organization.

A native of Pennsylvania, Haines earned his pilot certificate in his late teens and has logged more than 4,000 hours. He holds a commercial pilot certificate with multiengine, instrument, and seaplane ratings, and holds type ratings in the Eclipse 500 and Cessna CJ business jets and has a second-in-command type rating in the North American B-25 Mitchell. He owns a Beechcraft A36 Bonanza.

Haines holds a Master degree in Business Administration from Mount St. Mary's University and a bachelor's degree in Journalism with a Communications Media minor from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

As part of his role at AOPA, Haines oversaw the publication of *AOPA Pilot* magazine, the world's largest aviation magazine; *Flight Training* magazine, a magazine specifically for student pilots and flight instructors; the weekly AOPA ePilot electronic newsletter; the Flight Training edition of ePilot, AOPA Online; and the association's video-on-demand channel, AOPA Live. His reporting and personal travel has taken him to all 50 states and all seven continents.

Under his leadership, the media properties have won many industry-leading awards. His writing has earned him awards from the Associated Press and American Society of Business Publication Editors. In 2010, the Bahamian government named Haines as its Travel Writer of the Year. In 2023 he was inducted into the Living Legends of Aviation, an elite group of aviation and aerospace influencers. Also in 2023, he was awarded the NBAA Ewald Platinum Wing Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism.

Although he retired from AOPA in 2022 after 34 years, he is still actively involved in many aviation and public servant pursuits for AOPA, Redbird Flight Simulations, Pilot Workshops, and the South African nonprofit group Elephants, Rhinos & People.



Tom will speak at the Friday dinner, February 28, 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 Hotel reservations, at the conference rate, contact:

Hilton Garden Inn at
406-532-5300

And mention the conference.

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



Lincoln Airport Gets Upgrade

The Lincoln airport, owned by the MDT Aeronautics Division, is building a snow removal equipment building. The building is funded 90% by FAA grant money and will include a general aviation terminal (pilot rest area). The terminal section of the building will have a bathroom, shower, sink, and seating area. The project is underway and is estimated to be finished in September of 2025.

The building will house existing snow removal equipment for the airport and a new airport snowplow (also primarily funded with FAA grant money) scheduled to arrive in the fall of 2025.



Balloons and Airliners at Glacier International Airport

This year's cover photo for the 2025 Montana Airport Directory, selected by the MDT Aeronautics staff, was photographed by Casey Heupel while piloting his balloon near Glacier Park International Airport. Casey captured his friend Kevin Flanagan lifting off in another balloon while a scheduled airliner prepared to depart from Runway 2.

A balloon pilot residing in Flathead Valley, Casey grew up in North Dakota and had his first balloon ride in 1988. After relocating to Whitefish, MT, he met others involved with ballooning and became a balloon crew chief in the summer while working at the Big Mountain ski hill outside of Whitefish in the winter. Eventually acquiring his own balloon, and currently working on his commercial license, Casey flies primarily in the flathead valley, but makes it a point to attend the annual Big Sky Balloon Rally in Billings among other events around the country.

The photograph and Casey's story demonstrate some of the many uses of Montana airspace and airports for all to use and enjoy.

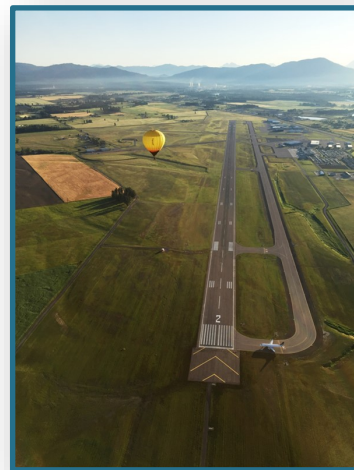


Photo courtesy of Casey Heupel

Montana Aircraft and Pilot Registration Renewals Due March 1st

ACTION IS REQUIRED BY AIRCRAFT OWNERS ON ALL AIRCRAFT REGISTRATIONS EACH YEAR, SO PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR MAIL

Aircraft customarily kept in Montana, as well as any aircraft with a Montana address on its FAA registration, must be registered with the MDT on or before March 1st every year (or within 30 days of purchase date for any aircraft purchased). 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 POSTMARK OR TIMESTAMP YOUR REGISTRATION PAYMENTS OR AFFIDAVIT FOR FEE EXEMPTION WITH REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1.

Fee exemptions:

- Aircraft out of annual inspection are not considered "unairworthy" as defined by administrative rule and are subject to annual registration fees.
- If the aircraft is owned by a dealer, a copy of your valid FAA dealer certificate must be received by the due date along with the affidavit.
- If you sold your aircraft, you must submit a copy of the FAA Bill of Sale by the due date along with the affidavit.
- If the aircraft is based out of state, MT registration fees are due unless the aircraft is registered in another state. A copy of the out-of-state registration must be submitted by the due date along with the affidavit. If the state the aircraft is based in does not require registration, MT registration fees are due.
- If the aircraft is operated by an airline company with regularly scheduled service, a copy of the 121 air carrier certificate must be submitted by the due date along with the affidavit.

Online fee payment services for aircraft and pilot registration are available at:

app.mt.gov/aeronautics.

(Payment processing fees apply.)

Please remember that registration and late fees apply for paperwork not received or incomplete paperwork, submitted by the March 1st due date, even if you no longer own the aircraft.

For more information, please contact the MDT Aeronautics Division at:

406-444-2506

mdtad@mt.gov.

New CFI Regulation Sparks FAQ

The FAA implemented new Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) renewal criteria and removed CFI certificate expiration dates, effective December 1, 2024. This new rule has prompted many flight instructors whose certificates expired before the rule change date to ask if they can now renew utilizing the criteria under the new rule.

The short answer is no. Previously expired CFI's wishing to renew their certificates must successfully complete reinstatement practical test check rides as before. For more information on the new regulation, see page 2 of the November edition of *Montana and the Sky*.

Montana Aircraft Mechanic Refresher & IA Renewal Seminar

The MDT Aeronautics Division is offering a Mechanic Refresher and Inspection Authorization (IA) Renewal Seminar concurrently with the 2025 Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula.

Those wishing to attend the seminar must register for the Aviation Conference. For registration information, see page 1 for conference details or scan the QR Code below.

Note: You do not need to be an A&P or an IA to attend and learn!



For more information regarding Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Inspection Authorization renewal requirements and forms, visit: www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/hln/

Note: The FAA's preferred method for submitting IA renewals is via the IACRA website.

To register for an account go to: www.iacra.faa.gov

2025 Flight Instructor Refresher Course

The annual Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC) will be held in Helena at the Doubletree Hotel from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on February 7 - 8, 2025. Doubletree hotel is located at 22 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena MT 59601, phone 406-443-2200.

This course fulfills the renewal requirements for certified flight instructors and includes FAA renewal. Even if you are not a certified flight instructor, you can still attend and learn valuable information as a pilot. The cost of tuition is \$75, but if you are a registered pilot in Montana, you can get a \$25 discount. If you are not currently registered with the MDT Aeronautics Division, you can register for \$10 per year and save on the FIRC tuition. **State law requires Montana pilots to be registered with MDT Aeronautics.**

***You do not have to be a flight instructor to attend*
Bring a friend, bring your students!**

Additional information about pilot registration is at: www.mdt.gov/aviation/regpilot.aspx [mdt.gov]

For more information, contact:

Matt Lindberg
406-444-2506
mlindberg@mt.gov



To sign up, visit:
www.aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/
or scan the QR Code



Calendar of Events

January 10 - 12 - 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 - 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.

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 from starting at 7 a.m.. Hosted by Yellowstone Air Service. Donations accepted for breakfast. For more information, contact Kirk Bryer 406-930-1780.

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

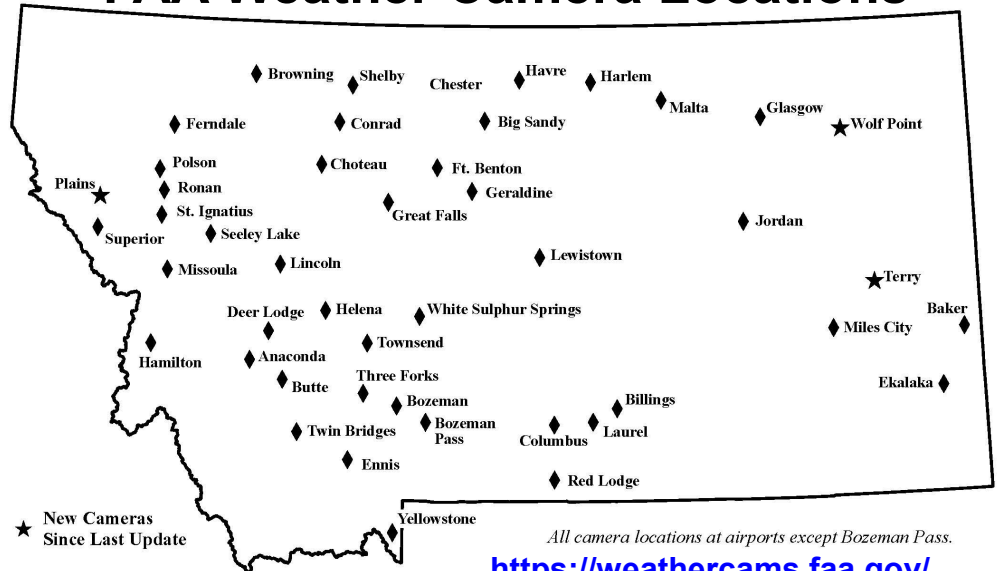
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reading
*Montana and
the Sky.*
Fly Safe!**

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FAA Weather Camera Locations



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