

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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October 2020

2021 Aviation Scholarship Application Period Opens with Four Fewer Opportunities than Previous Years



Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations who believe in promoting aviation by offering monetary assistance to qualified persons. The Aeronautics Division assists in administering some of these scholarships and encourages participation. The scholarships are offered to help defray costs of education (e.g., flight instruction, A&P mechanic school, etc.). Winners will be announced during January of 2021.

Unfortunately, four scholarships will not be sponsored this year. Sponsors cite lack of ability to fundraise this year, some specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to see them back in the next application period. Montanans have been very giving for many years with these historic scholarships. We can see the impacts they have on the next generation of pilots and mechanics. If you or your business is interested in starting or sponsoring a scholarship, please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406)444-2506 or mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov.

Here is a list of the scholarships available this year and the generous contributors who make this program possible.

A Love for Aviation Scholarship

An anonymous donor established this scholarship of \$250 in 1997, and in 2010 two more anonymous donors contributed an additional \$250 each, creating a \$750 scholarship. The Hanson Family sponsors this \$750 scholarship to financially assist a Montana resident with aviation-related educational expenses.

AOM Flight Training Scholarship

Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) has established this \$500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate.

Bob Redding Memorial Scholarship

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 57 in Billings is offering a scholarship in memory of Bob Redding who was a lifetime advocate of general and experimental aviation. Building aircraft was as important to Bob as flying them, and given his tenure as a college math professor, so was education. Consequently, this \$250 scholarship is offered to those working towards their A&P license, first generation pilot training, or any post-secondary STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) degree.

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USFS Smokejumper Base Pavement Improvements at Yellowstone Airport



Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff

The United States Forest Service (USFS) Fire Center (Smokejumper Base) at the Yellowstone Airport has received a much-needed upgrade. The base has recently finished a large pavement improvement project on its private aircraft apron parking area.

The pavement process consisted of removing all existing pavement materials down to the subsurface, laying fresh base rock, and paving the area with new asphalt. The construction crews also leveled the apron and connecting taxi lane surfaces. The USFS has had this project in planning for over five years. The project began in June of 2020 and was finished in late July.

Aeronautics Board Loan & Grant Application Reminder

As a reminder to Montana Aeronautics airport loan and grant program applicants, the Loan and Grant online portal (<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml>) is accepting FY22 applications from July 1, 2020, through November 15, 2020.

If you cannot enter the website, you may have a previous award that needs a closeout form or a status report filed (required at project completion, or annually).

Additionally, projects must be broken down and listed as one project per line item on the application. As an example, asphalt projects should be broken down by runway, apron, and taxiway and not as one project lumped together.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Karen Speeg at (406) 444-9569 or kaspeeg@mt.gov.



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Choice Aviation Scholarship

A \$1,500 scholarship is available to the holder of at least a Private Pilot Certificate and a Second Class Medical and who is looking to further advance themselves toward a career in aviation with additional pilot training at any of Choice Aviation's training facilities located in Montana or Wyoming.

EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 517, Inc. in Missoula will provide a \$1,000 scholarship in 2021 for a post-solo student.

Edwards Jet Center Scholarship

Edwards Jet Center, a full-service Fixed Based Operator, Part 135 Charter Operator, and Part 145 Repair Station based at Logan International Airport in Billings, is offering a \$500 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction or A&P school.

Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship

The Montana Antique Aircraft Association is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, use, and knowledge of antique airplanes. MAAA's motto is: "Keep the Antiques Flying." Their \$1,000 scholarship is to help defray the cost of flight instruction or help defray the cost of A&P mechanic school.

Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship

The Montana Ninety-Nines offer this scholarship to qualified female candidates interested in and passionate about aviation. The dollar amount of this scholarship is dependent on candidate goals and must be used within 12 months of date awarded. Candidates must be residents of Montana to be considered for this scholarship. A supplemental scholarship application is required and may be obtained by visiting <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml>.

Montana Pilots Association Air Safety and Education Foundation (MPA ASEF) Flight Training Scholarship

This \$2,000 scholarship is open to an active pilot who has considerable interest in aviation and is seeking advanced flight training or pursuing a profession in aviation. Applicant must be a Montana resident.

Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship

The recipient of this \$2,000 scholarship is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship in their community, and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must be a Montana resident and previously soloed. Preference is given to younger applicants who are new pilots or pursuing a profession in aviation.

Parrott Family Scholarship

The Parrott Family offers a \$1,000 scholarship to be used over a one-year period for pilot training programs for students enrolled in the Rocky Mountain College (RMC) aviation program. The funds may be used for tuition in the RMC aviation program and/or flight training expenses leading to a Private, Commercial, or Flight Instructor certificate and may include Instrument and Multiengine simulator training and the purchase of aviation-related materials and supplies.

Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship

The Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship is sponsored by the Nistler family and friends of Theresa. This scholarship is in honor of Theresa's memory, who loved flying and was working toward her private pilot certificate. This \$2,000 Aviation Scholarship will be awarded to a student pilot actively working toward a private pilot certificate.

How to Apply

Scholarship awards are based on candidate letters explaining reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience (if any), and outstanding achievements.

Each letter must include a **mailing address, email address, and phone number**. The same letter can be used for each scholarship, but candidates must submit one copy addressed to each individual scholarship.

Also include a **250-word biography and one self-portrait**.

Scholarship applications must be postmarked or date stamped on or before 11:59 p.m. MST, December 1, 2020.

Mail scholarship applications to MDT - Aeronautics Division PO Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507 OR send scholarship applications via email to MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov. Please call [406-444-2506](tel:406-444-2506) with questions or for more information.

Aviation Photo Contest



Do you want to see your photograph on the cover of the 2021 Montana Airport Directory? Submit your photos to the Aeronautics Division by **December 1, 2020**, to be considered. The winning photo will be selected based on the best representation of aviation in Montana.

Submit your photos to: mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov.

For more information, email us or call (406) 444-2506.

**MDT Aeronautics retains all rights to submitted photos and may use them for other promotional purposes.*

Kenneth R. Flikkema

July 22, 1950 - August 21, 2020

Ken “Flik” Flikkema--Dad, Grandpa, Son, Brother, Friend, Farmer, and Adventure Seeker Extraordinaire--went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, August 21, 2020 following a sudden health emergency.

Kenneth Ranger Flikkema was born to Albert and Audrey Flikkema on July 22, 1950 in Bozeman, Montana. He spent the majority of his childhood growing up on the family farm near Churchill, Montana before the family moved first to Gateway, then Spokane, and finally settled in Four

Corners where the family established Middle Creek Farms. Ken and his brothers were into all things mechanical from an early age, sparking Ken’s ongoing interest in anything with a motor. Ken graduated from Manhattan Christian school in 1968. He graduated from Helena Vo-tech with a degree in diesel mechanics in 1970.

Ken married Nancy Thompson Flikkema in 1974. Together they continued to run the family farm, along with brother, Dale Flikkema, and father, Albert Flikkema. The couple welcomed three children: Kristi, Lisa, and Brian. The family was active in the Shining Mountaineers 4-H Club, raising and showing cattle, and the Bozeman United Methodist church. Ken and Nancy later divorced.



Ken Flikkema
Photo Credit: Ken’s family

Ken and Dale were innovative in their farming practices, bringing canola, mint, and sunflower farming to the valley in addition to the more traditional Gallatin Valley crops. They also raised some of the first Gelbvieh cattle in the area to add to their commercial and purebred herd. In addition, Ken was a long-time board president of Rocky Mountain Supply and served as a board member on both the Montana and American Gelbvieh Associations. Ken received the Award for Merit for Outstanding Efforts in Resource Conservation from the Gallatin Conservation District in 1992, as well as an Outstanding Young Farmer Rancher from the Chamber of Commerce in 1997.

As the valley continued to grow, the decision was made to subdivide, creating the Middle Creek Parklands subdivision. The partnership was honored to donate acreage to Monforton School to allow them to build and expand. He was hard at work landscaping with his grandson right up to the end.

Ken loved all things that went fast, especially motorcycles and planes. If he wasn’t working, he was likely taking a ride. Or he was in his hanger building his Harmon Rocket kit plane. He took great joy in spending time with his flying and motorcycle buddies. Ken was a member of and served on the Board of Directors of the Montana Antique Aircraft Association. As he entered semi-retirement, he could frequently be found on airplane “hops” and riding his motorcycle around Montana with cherished friends Evert and Jamee Wierda and his new love, fiancé Robbie Brown.

Robbie and Ken established a home in Wickenburg, Arizona where they met several more special friends. They loved to ride side-by-side through the desert, searching for rocks, historical locations and other such treasures.

2020 was a very special year in Ken’s life. He learned that his family was not quite yet complete with the addition of daughter Kristine Nottle. Ken was overjoyed to celebrate his 70th birthday surrounded by all four of his children, three of his four grandchildren, several of his siblings, and his 94-year old mother, Audrey.

Ken’s favorite saying which he kept posted in his home was: “Life’s journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting ‘Holy Cow! What a ride!’” He embraced this philosophy every day in the ways he worked and played.

Ken is survived by his four children, Kristine (Brett) Nolte, Kristi (Eric) Gaines, Lisa Flikkema and Brian Flikkema; fiancé, Robbie Brown and her son, Denny (Shyla); grandchildren, Gavin and Hunter Nolte, Keelan and Kenna Gaines and Mckaul and Gretchen Brown; mother, Audrey Flikkema; siblings, Matt (Carol) Flikkema, Allen (Paulette) Flikkema, Ev (Keith) VanDyke, Helen (Wes) Kamerman, and Dale (Nancy) Flikkema. He also had numerous cherished nieces and nephews, many of whom joined him as employees on the farm.

He was preceded in death by father, Albert Flikkema; brother, William Flikkema, and sister-in-law, Althea Flikkema.

Aviation Quiz

- 1) **Assuming your aircraft's weight doesn't change, as you climb and the density altitude increases, the indicated airspeed that you stall:**
 - A: Decreases
 - B: Increases
 - C: Stays the same
 - D: None of these

- 2) **Montana law requires all Montana pilots to register with the state each year:**
 - A: True
 - B: False
 - C: Only if you feel like it

- 3) **You're using the heater in your aircraft. You and your passenger both start feeling sick (upset stomach). What should you do?**
 - A: Descend to a lower altitude
 - B: Look outside the cockpit, focusing on the horizon
 - C: Leave the heater on and open the fresh air vents
 - D: Turn the heater off and open the fresh air vents

- 4) **It is illegal to install, repair, or manufacture 121.5 ELTs in/for an aircraft:**
 - A: True
 - B: False

- 5) **You're in the mountains at 12,500 feet MSL, and you're 1,050 feet AGL in Class G airspace. What is your minimum required visibility during the day?**
 - A: 3 SM
 - B: 5 SM
 - C: 1 SM
 - D: 10 SM

- 6) **Montana registers about how many aircraft each year?**
 - A: 0, it isn't required
 - B: 5,000
 - C: 11,000
 - D: 1,800

FAA Commits \$5 Million to Support Aviation Maintenance Workforce

The FAA has unveiled the Aviation Maintenance Technical Workforce Development Grant Program to recruit students for careers in aviation maintenance.

"The goal is to provide grants to academia and the aviation community to help prepare a more inclusive talent pool of aviation maintenance technicians to inspire and recruit the next generation of aviation professionals," FAA officials said.

Congress appropriated \$5 million in Fiscal Year 2020 to fund projects to address the projected shortages of aviation maintenance technical workers in the aviation industry.

The types of projects supported under the new grant program include:

- Establish new educational programs that teach technical skills used in aviation maintenance, including purchasing equipment, or to improve existing programs
- Enhance aviation maintenance technical education or aviation maintenance industry workforce
- To establish scholarships or apprenticeships for individuals pursuing employment in the aviation maintenance industry
- Support outreach about careers in the aviation maintenance industry to primary, secondary, and post-secondary school students and communities under-represented in the industry
- Support transition to careers in aviation maintenance, including members of the Armed Forces Support educational opportunities related to aviation maintenance in economically disadvantaged geographic areas.

Eligible groups can apply for grants from \$25,000 to \$500,000 for any one grant in a fiscal year.

Potential applicants can visit the FAA at https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ang/grants/awd/technical/ for more information.



Article summarized with permission from General Aviation News

Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Training Base to Receive Upgrades



Photo Credit: Helena Regional Airport

The Rocky Mountain Emergency Services Training Center located at the Helena Regional Airport is a world-class training facility that provides a variety of unique training features for various emergency responders. One of the primary training functions is aircraft rescue firefighting (ARFF). Since 1996 the facility has trained airport firefighters from all over the United States and Canada.

The Center's two large aircraft fire simulators have been in continuous operation since 1996, and the mechanical and electrical equipment has reached the end of its useful life and is in need of replacement. The FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) is funding the \$4.9 Million rehabilitation project since the facility provides training for airport firefighters at FAA-certificated airports. The facility is unique in that it is one of just a few in the world that is environmentally friendly. Instead of using hydrocarbon fuels, it used propane to create the fires. The system is technologically advanced to allow students to use water instead of firefighting foam to simulate the proper fire suppression techniques. The two large aircraft trainers simulate both exterior and interior fires in a multitude of sizes and configurations based on the scenario being simulated. The site will be updated with all new burn fixtures, an updated water supply system, replaced propane system, and all new computer-aided controls. The building will also receive some rehabilitation and technology upgrades to allow a more efficient training scenario for students.

There are few facilities of this nature in the United States, and Helena's facility is one of the few in the western half of the country. The facility can accommodate ARFF training for all sizes of airports from Index A – E. While the AIP funding provides the infrastructure used for training, the ongoing operational costs are covered by course fees charged to those training at the facility. For more information on classes and services provided, please visit the training center's website at www.rmestc.com.

Hysham Hosts Fly-In Breakfast

Late this summer, approximately 20 airplanes flew to Hysham for some fun. Over 100 breakfasts were served by the 4H club, which was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Friends and longtime connections enjoyed gathering outside and showing airplanes to as many kids as possible!



(L) Participants view aircraft, (R) Bob Miller and Morris Spannagel enjoy breakfast Photo Credit: Glen White

Winter Survival Clinic

We are planning to conduct the winter survival clinic again in January 2021 based on popular demand! This clinic will be socially distanced with additional sanitization and planning to meet the latest COVID-19 safety guidance.

The dates and location have not yet been selected, so stay tuned for the next announcement.

Please contact the Aeronautics Division by calling (406) 444-2506 or email mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov to let us know if you would like to reserve a spot in this clinic. Last year we filled up in less than a week!

**This clinic is subject to alteration or cancellation due to latest COVID-19 restrictions and guidance.*



Columbus Fly-In Breakfast

Columbus welcomed around 30 airplanes and nearly 100 people on September 12 for a fly-in breakfast. The ramp was full, using overflow parking in the grass! Many spectators enjoyed watching airplanes and catching up with aviation friends.



Photo Credit: South Central Montana Pilots Community

Quiz Answer Key: 1:C 2:A 3:D 4:A 5:C 6:B

Calendar of Events

November 15, 2020 — Airport Loan and Grant Application Period Deadline. More information can be found at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml> or contact Karen Speeg at (406) 444-9569 or kaspeeg@mt.gov.

October 1, 2020 — 2021 Montana Aviation Scholarship application period opens. More information can be found at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml> or contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

December 1, 2020 — Photo contest deadline. See Page 4 for details.

January 24-26, 2021— Association of Montana Aerial Applicators (AMAA) 2021 Convention and Trade Show
Attend the AMAA trade show at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, Montana. Have fun while learning, networking with peers and exhibitors. See the latest technology, specialty items and be eligible to win door prizes. For more information, contact Colleen at [406-781-6461](tel:406-781-6461) or eccampbell@yahoo.com.

***All events are subject to modification or cancellation per the latest COVID-19 guidance**

Color Newsletter?

The Aeronautics Division has printed its monthly newsletter in black and white for many years. Prior to that it was mailed in color.

While many of you receive the newsletter by email in color, many still receive a black and white printed copy by mail. We are exploring the possibility of again printing in color!

We would like you to decide how you want this newsletter delivered. The black and white version costs \$0.46 cents per copy, and the new color copies cost \$1.06 each. Do you like the color photos that bring life to the stories they accompany and think it is worth it?

Please let us know soon if you love it, or if you want it to stay black and white. Email us your thoughts at mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov or call us at (406) 444-2506.

Comments will be accepted through October 30, 2020.

To date, we have received feedback from nine individuals, *Thank you!*

A stylized logo for 'NEWS LETTER' where each letter is a different color and they are arranged in a staggered, overlapping fashion.



VISION ZERO

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

October 2020

5403

Aeronautics Division
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Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

In 2019, there were 184 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 184 parents, children, grandparents, friends, siblings, spouses, and other loved ones had lives that were cut short. It also means countless tears and shattered lives for those left with the aftermath of unsafe driving behaviors. Which loved one are you prepared to lose? If your answer is none, then Vision Zero is also YOUR goal.

It will take every one of us to work towards the day that Vision Zero is met, and the fatality total reads "ZERO." Two of the highest contributing factors to traffic fatalities in 2019 were alcohol and no seat belt.

These are behaviors that can be changed! Start by always wearing your seatbelt and planning for sober transportation. Remind your loved ones and those around you to do the same.

-Director Mike Tooley, MDT

Visit www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero for more information.

VISION ZERO ★
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

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OF TRANSPORTATION**

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