

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 72, No. 04

April 2021

## New Director Appointed to The Montana Department of Transportation

**M**alcolm “Mack” Long was appointed new Director of the Montana Department of Transportation in December of 2020. Born and raised in Billings, Montana, Long comes to MDT with twenty-five years of experience in professional construction operations and management.

Long traveled extensively throughout his career, living in Texas, Wyoming, and Montana to pursue endeavors in the construction, development, and oil industries, including serving as president of family-business JTL Group, Wyoming; developing the Shiloh Crossing commercial retail and entertainment center in Billings; and assuming ownership of Dale Weaver, Inc, DWI, an oil field gas plant construction, pump service, and sales company in Powell, Wyoming. Additionally, he is experienced in airport reconstruction and highways and utilities work.

Long has degrees in Business and Construction Engineering from Montana State University and a Master of Business from the University of Montana. He and wife, Karen, married in 1990 and have two children, Nathan and Amber, who are young engineering professionals in the civil/environmental engineering fields.

Aeronautics staff recently had the opportunity to meet with Director Long for a meet-and-greet and share a presentation about the Aeronautics Division. Director Long is excited to work with Aeronautics and use his airport experience to benefit Montana’s aviation.

We welcome Director Long to MDT and are very excited to have his support of our mission to keep Montana the last best place to fly.



*MDT Director Malcolm “Mack” Long Photo Credit: MDT*

# 2021 Virtual Mechanics Refresher and Inspection Authorization Renewal

MDT Aeronautics would like to thank the attendees, presenters, and the FAA who made our 1<sup>st</sup> virtual IA Renewal a success. The renewal seminar was presented in a virtual technical training format with two hours conducted by the FAA on regulatory and IA requirements. Forty-five aircraft mechanics attended and received a Certificate of Completion.

Some of the presenters were able to teach from the Aeronautics office, and others presented from locations in Montana, North Carolina, Oregon, Alabama, and even Germany! Their expertise and committed time help ensure our Montana IAs remain well trained and up to date on current trends in aviation maintenance.



To be eligible for renewal of an IA, the applicant must show evidence of having performed four annual inspections during each 365-day period prior to March 31 of each year for a total of eight annuals prior to the renewal date to be able to qualify. If IAs do not meet that requirement, they must receive eight hours of training before expiring on March 31. Regardless of how many annuals completed, MDT Aeronautics encourages participation of current IAs, A&Ps, aircraft owners, and pilots to learn about aviation maintenance and regulatory changes.

The IA renewal seminar will be offered again next year at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Aviation Conference in Missoula, Montana, on March 3-5, 2022. If you or someone you know would be willing to present a topic, such as experimental engine systems, aging aircraft, or any other aircraft maintenance related topic, please contact the Aeronautics Division at 406-444-2506.

MDT Aeronautics has been hosting mechanics for the renewal seminar since 1963. Montana held the first state sponsored course in the nation and has since been providing the course annually.

## Thank You, Mary Newpower!

Mary Newpower has retired as Secretary and Treasurer of the Montana Pilots Association (MPA).

Many thanks to Mary for keeping the Association on track for so many years and all her hard work fundraising and staffing exhibit booths at both the Montana and Idaho State Conferences! Her efforts have been very much appreciated, and we wish her and husband, Scott, (former MPA President) all the best in future!

Devie Brown has agreed to assume the duties of MPA Secretary. Thanks to Devie for being willing to take on this responsibility!

With the changing of the guard, the MPA has a new mailing address. Please send correspondence, checks, etc. to Montana Pilots Association, 2130 9th Street West #147, Columbia Falls, Montana 59912.



Tim Conway, Administrator

**Montana and the Sky**  
Department of Transportation

Greg Gianforte, Governor  
Malcolm Long, Director

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### Aeronautics Board

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**Editor:** Patricia Trooien

Follow MDT on social media!





Calling All Youth Artists!



The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aviation Awareness Art Contest is designed to broaden awareness of the importance of aviation and aerospace to the economy and to promote careers in these industries. The contest is open to all students in grades K-12 in public, private, and home schools.

## Categories

### Category 1:

Kindergarten - 5th grade

### Category 2:

6th Grade - 8th Grade

### Category 3:

9th Grade - 12th Grade

## Prizes

### FIRST PLACE in each category:

1. A round trip flight to Helena for the winner and his/her parents (legal guardians) for the awards ceremony in Helena. Date to be decided.
2. All three first place winners will be presented with a trophy, certificate, and their framed artwork during the awards ceremony by a state official.
3. Following the ceremony, the winners and their families will tour the Helena airport and enjoy lunch.

### SECOND & THIRD PLACE in each category:

1. A trophy and Certificate of Achievement.

## Entry Requirements

1. Contest deadline is: Friday, May 7, 2021.
2. Contest is open to all Montana students, grades K-12.
3. Size of poster is not to exceed 11" x 14".
4. Artwork must have an aviation theme - can be color or black & white.
5. Please no tracing the images.
6. All artwork must include the following:  
Name of Student, Student's Grade, School's Mailing Address, Phone Number, and Teacher's Name
7. Previous year's first place winners are welcome to participate but are not eligible for first place prize.

## Get More Info

Artwork will be returned only to first place winners unless return is specifically requested. Winners will be contacted after the contest deadline. Arrangements will be made at that time for air travel to Helena.

All prizes and awards are subject to change, modification, or cancelation under latest COVID-19 guidance.

**Mail Artwork To:**  
MDT Aeronautics Division  
P.O. Box 200507  
Helena, MT 59620-0507

**Visit Our Website:**  
[mdt.mt.gov/aviation/](http://mdt.mt.gov/aviation/)

**Or Contact:**  
Matt Lindberg  
[mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov)  
406-444-2506



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Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Contact the Office of Civil Rights, Montana Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone (406) 444 - 9229. TTY may call 1 (800) 335 - 7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.

# Air Methods Air Ambulance Service Returns to Yellowstone Airport for 2021

Air Methods, DBA, Air Idaho Rescue, will be returning to Yellowstone Airport (WYS) to provide air ambulance services for the Town of West Yellowstone and the surrounding community. Air Methods has been operating at WYS seasonally, initially in 2014, and then year-round after the completion of their new hangar facility.

Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Air Methods had to reduce and remove its winter operations this past season. The airport and Air Methods are pleased to see the return of this vital service.



Air Methods air ambulance American Eurocopter AS350B3  
Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff



Photo credit: Chris Rose

reductions of chart-related NATAMs, which was nearing the size of a small book for some charts, because new information will be added to charts more quickly than was the case on the prior publication cycles of 168 days to two years.

The change will also render the chart bulletins contained in chart supplement volumes unnecessary.

Based on pilot surveys from the Aircraft Owner's and Pilot's Association, approximately 90 percent of pilots were primarily using electronic charts and support this change.

## Laser Strikes on the Rise

The FAA reports an uptick in laser strikes on aircraft and has expanded public education on this hazard. The risk of causing a blinding distraction aboard a distant aircraft is not obvious to everyone.

While commercial air traffic was down in 2020, the number of reported laser strikes on aircraft (6,852) increased to the highest number seen since 2016 (when flight crews reported 7,398 laser incidents), making it blindingly obvious that many people remain unaware that even a very small device can put lives at risk if misused, particularly near airports. Pilots may be temporarily or permanently blinded by the tightly focused beam of light, which can obviously lead to terrible consequences, particularly if it happens during takeoff, departure, approach, or landing.

It is a federal crime to aim a laser pointer at an aircraft, punishable by up to five years in prison and fines up to \$25,000. The FAA updated its guidance to pilots in 2020 with an advisory circular detailing how and what to report about a laser incident to facilitate a law enforcement investigation.

This hazard does not exist only at large metropolitan airports. In February, a Missoula, Montana, man was sentenced for pointing a laser beam at a landing aircraft in Great Falls.

Report laser illuminations to air traffic control and the FAA upon landing. A laser beam exposé questionnaire can be filled out on your mobile device. The report form can be found at <https://www.faa.gov/mobile/index.cfm?event=laser>.

## VFR CHARTS MOVED TO 56-DAY UPDATE CYCLE

All Sectional Aeronautical, VFR Terminal Area, VFR Flyway Planning, VFR Aeronautical, and Helicopter Route Charts will be updated and continue to be updated every 56 days to coincide with the publication dates of other en route, terminal, and supplemental chart products. This change took effect near the end of February 2021.

Changing the publication cycles required the FAA to amend the publication dates of numerous charts, making many of them obsolete before the final effective date published on the charts.

The FAA listed such amendments in a charting notice published on August 13, 2020.

In reporting on the change in April 2020, AOPA noted the FAA's expectation that the change would result in significant

# Aviation Career Exploration Academy

Provided by the Montana Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division, the Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy is a resident camp offered each summer for high school students to learn about careers in aviation and explore flight. This camp helps students from across the state learn what is available within the industry. This year, ACE Camp will be held June 25-27, 2021 in Helena and at the Montana Learning Center. Tuition of \$120 includes lodging, discovery flight, meals, snacks, supplies, drinks, and ground transportation.

On the first day, students will learn survival skills, signaling, and fire and shelter construction during a campout in the mountains. Later in the afternoon, students will have an opportunity to signal a search plane to locate them in the mountains using their newly learned rescue methods.



2019 ACE Camp—Canyon Ferry Fly-In Photo credit: Aeronautics Staff

On the second day, the theme focuses on exposing students to as many areas and careers in aviation as possible. Students will tour local aviation facilities and hear from industry experts. Students will receive introductory flights in Division aircraft and tour the Montana Air National Guard helicopter base, Department of Natural Resources helicopter wildland fire suppression unit, a fixed based operator, charter operator, an air ambulance company, a crop duster business, the Helena Air Traffic Control tower, the Helena Airport, a local fire department crash rescue facility, an aircraft restoration hobbyist, an aircraft mechanic school, the Boeing manufacturing plant, and tour the cockpits of two retired airliners. Additionally, they have the opportunity to hear from an airline pilot, airport engineer, aircraft mechanic, flight nurse and paramedic, various local aviation business owners, and other aviation professionals.

On the final day, students attend a fly-in at the Canyon Ferry airstrip and have a picnic while socializing with volunteer aircraft owners and pilots who bring their aircraft to support the event.

During each evening, students will learn about space and astronomy and have access to the most powerful space observatory telescope in Montana located on the north end of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. They will fly drones, learn about the forces and principles of flight, build gliders for a flying contest, and fish, swim, and build relationships around the campfire after long days of aviation activities.

Scholarships may be available for students to pay their tuition. In order for a student to receive a scholarship from the donation fund, students must submit an essay explaining their interest in aviation and financial need for the award. Applicants will be selected by the Aeronautics Division prior to ACE Camp.

In previous years, the majority of students were sponsored by generous individuals and businesses in Montana. Thank you! For 2021, we have 15 slots available. Direct donations are accepted, and sponsors are welcome to attend and participate in ACE Camp. Volunteers are always welcome!

You can impact a student's future with your life-changing donation of \$120 to the scholarship fund and send a student to ACE! Some of Montana's youth live in areas without access to aviation exposure. For many, this will be their first time flying or even being around someone in aviation.

ACE Camp is open to high school students and to those who just graduated. An online registration form is not yet available but will be posted at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml> later in April.

Contact Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506 or email [mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov) to set up your sponsorship or register your student!

*\*This camp will be subject to change, cancelation or modification per latest COVID-19 guidance.*

# Latest Drone Rules Take Effect in April

The final rules requiring Remote Identification (Remote ID) of drones and allowing some flights over people and moving vehicles and at night under certain conditions go into effect April 21, 2021.

Remote ID requires identification of drones in flight, as well as the location of their control stations or takeoff point. For those of us who do not fly drones, this is similar technology to ADS-B out.

Awareness of where and how drones are operating reduces the risk of drone interference with other aircraft, people, and property on the ground while increasing security and interface with law enforcement.

Prior to flying under the new provisions, a remote pilot must pass the updated initial knowledge test or complete the appropriate updated online training course on [FAAsafety.gov](https://www.faa.gov/remote-identification), which will be available on April 6, 2021.

Part 107 currently prohibits drone operations over people and moving vehicles and at night unless the operator obtains a waiver from the FAA. The new FAA regulations provide increased flexibility to conduct certain small drone operations of these kinds, including flight at night, without obtaining a waiver depending on the level of risk.

The Operations Over People rule requires that remote pilots have their remote pilot certificate and identification in their physical possession when flying. It also expands the class of authorities who may request these documents from a remote pilot.

The final rule replaces the 24-calendar month requirement to complete a recurrent aeronautical knowledge test with the requirement to complete updated online recurrent training that includes the rule's new provisions.

Drone manufacturers will have 18 months to begin producing drones with Remote ID, with operators having an additional year to start using drones with Remote ID.

These rules come at a time when drones represent the fastest-growing segment in the entire transportation sector. There are more than 1.7 million drone registrations and 203,000 FAA-certificated part 107 remote pilots as of late 2020.

Someday soon, we will see drones delivering packages in many large cities as an everyday standard; this rule is provisioning the future for such kinds of operations!

To see the whole executive summary from the FAA on the new drone laws, please visit: [https://www.faa.gov/news/media/attachments/OOP\\_Executive\\_Summary.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/news/media/attachments/OOP_Executive_Summary.pdf). If you operate drones, you will be required to know the latest changes.

## Aviation Quiz



1) With warmer days coming, the air will be rough in the afternoons. The speed at which you will stall before you cause structural damage to the aircraft if you fully deflect a single flight control in one direction in smooth air is?

- A: Vmo
- B: Vno
- C: Va
- D: Vlo

2) The FAA allows certificated pilots to perform certain preventative maintenance tasks. What would not be an example of preventative maintenance?

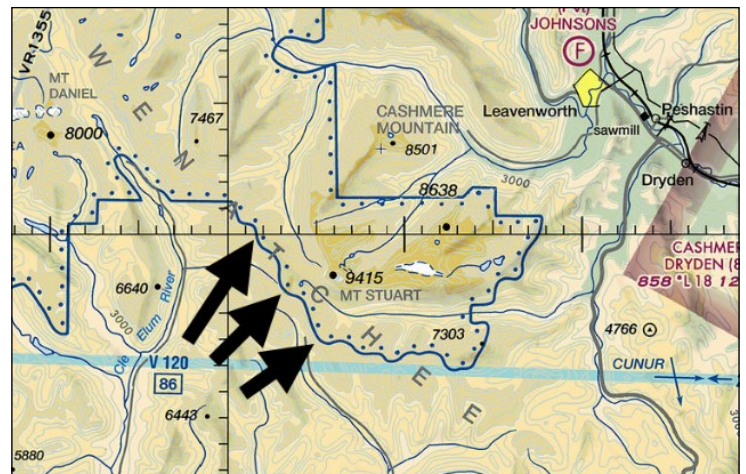
- A: Adding hydraulic fluid to the hydraulic reservoir
- B: Adding engine oil
- C: Repairing a cracked prop
- D: Adding air to the tires

3) How many backcountry strips does Montana have in the Wilderness?

- A: 3
- B: 1
- C: 0
- D: 6

4) You are flying a southeastern heading as you pass Mt. Stuart. What is the blue dotted line surrounding the peak?

- A: National Security Area
- B: Change in class E airspace
- C: Wilderness area
- D: 145,000



# Oshkosh 2021 is a Go!

Jack Pelton, EAA CEO and Chairman, announced EAA will be hosting AirVenture July 26-Aug. 1, 2021. There will be areas that will look different and areas where technology will be incorporated to limit touchpoints by working with local and state health officials to establish and maintain the best possible standards for public events. "Some areas may look different at Oshkosh this year, but the feeling will be the same as we gather to celebrate the world of flight," said Pelton.

An initial decisions made for this year's event, which may evolve and change as the event nears, is masks will be strongly recommended if you are unable to social distance. Proof of COVID vaccine will not be required to attend. International visitation is dependent on current international travel regulations and mandates in the U.S. and individual countries of residence. Increased physical distancing will be encouraged in all areas. EAA is adding significant numbers of sanitizing facilities and working with industry-leading companies for continual disinfection throughout the grounds. Theater in the Woods, forums pavilions, and other outdoor venues will operate with reduced seating capacity, with social distancing opportunities on the open grounds at that location. In addition, look for more details on new programs for low-contact procedures for admissions, camping registration, points of entry, and other high-volume areas.



To stay up to date with Oshkosh announcements, changes, and procedures visit: <https://www.eaa.org/airventure>



## Calendar of Events



**May 07, 2021 — Aviation Art Contest Deadline.** See Page 3 for more information.

**May 15, 2021 — Aviation Organization of Montana (AOM).** Spring board meeting 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. For more information, contact Marc McKee at [mmckee@mt.gov](mailto:mmckee@mt.gov) or (406) 444-9581.

**May 29, 2021 — Spotted Bear Work Session. TENTATIVE**

**June 10, 2021 — Aeronautics Board Meeting.** For more information, please contact MDT Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506.

**June 12, 2021 — Choteau Fly-In Breakfast.** Hosted by the Teton County Airport Commission. Enjoy a free breakfast, Avgas discount, Young Eagles flights, and flour bombing and spot landing contests. Donations accepted. For more information, contact Scott Gasvoda at (406) 590-2836.

**June 19, 2021 — Meadow Creek Work Session. TENTATIVE**

**June 25-27, 2021 — ACE Academy.** See Page 5

**June 26, 2021 — Canyon Ferry Fly-In.** Support of ACE Academy, see Page 5

**July 16-18, 2021 — Straight Tail 182 Fly-In Smiley Creek, ID.** A Fly-In of straight tail Cessna 182 aircraft at the Smiley Creek Airport, Idaho. Recommended you contact the organizer at [phil4id@gmail.com](mailto:phil4id@gmail.com)

**July 17, 2021 — Schafer Meadows Work Session. TENTATIVE**

**August 6-7, 2021 — 44th Annual MAAA Three Forks Fly-In.** Fly or drive to Three Forks on Friday and spend a relaxing day catching up with friends. Dinner for MAAA members and their guests will be served at 6:00 p.m. The flour bombing, spot landing events, and ping pong ball drop will take place on Saturday afternoon as well as airplane judging. The awards meeting at 5:00 p.m. will be followed by dinner. For more information contact Pat Green at (406) 539-1880.

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



## Quiz Answer Key: 1:A 2:C 3:B 4:C

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**VISION ZERO**

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

**April 2021**

5403

Aeronautics Division  
2630 Airport Road  
PO Box 200507  
Helena, Montana 59620-0507



## **Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone**

In 2020, there were 209 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 209 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 Malcolm Long, MDT*

Visit [www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero) for more information.

**VISION ZERO** ★  
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION**

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