

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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August 2021

Del Bonita Work Session



On Wednesday, June 16, Montana Department of Transportation Director Malcolm Long and acting Deputy Director Mike Bousliman joined Karen Speeg and Derrick Olheiser from Aeronautics to attend a work session at the Del Bonita (Whetstone International) airport on the Canadian border. Volunteers performed several maintenance projects, including replacing the windsock and filling gopher/badger holes along the 4,400 ft strip. This annual event brings together volunteers from both sides of the border and is organized by the Montana Pilots Association and the Alberta Flying Farmers. After being cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers were excited to be back at Del Bonita and continue this cross-border partnership. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in the work session!

Already in the vicinity, the MDT crew hopped over to another border strip, Ross International in Sweet Grass, to check the conditions and complete an inspection. The windsock was replaced and some holes were filled there as well. On the way back to Helena, the crew flew a low approach over the Tiber Dam airport and toured three other MDT-owned airports.



All photos courtesy of MDT staff

Density Altitude, The Old “Gotcha”

Density Altitude (DA) can be a very sneaky contributor to many accidents in the Mountain West. This year, we have seen multiple accidents that appear to be related to DA.

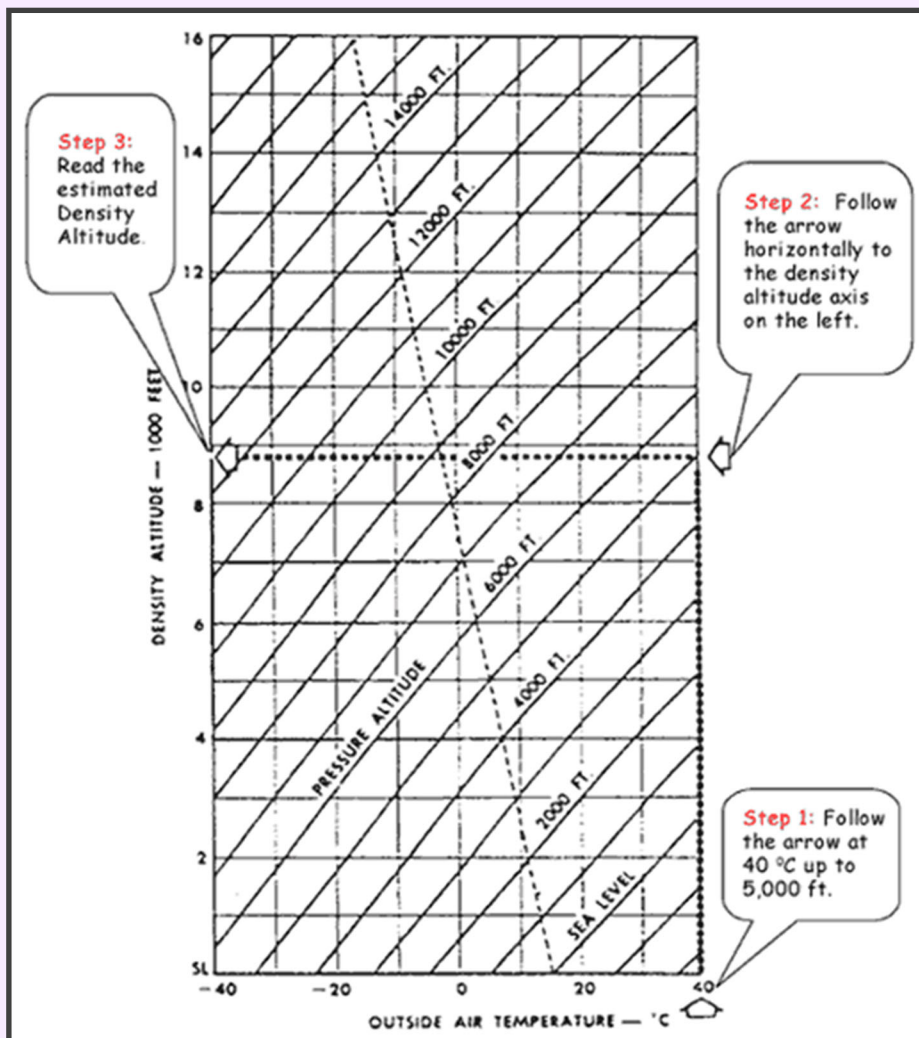
It is essential during these warm days of summer to calculate and then carefully consider and plan for the effects of DA. In the mountains, DA can be the most critical contributing factor to aviation accidents.

Even if your airplane is certificated with four seats, you may not be able to operate at the certificated maximum gross weight when density altitudes are very high, as they have been lately. As I write this in Bozeman, before noon and during early July, the DA is almost 7,000 feet (temperature = +/- 27°C and airport elevation = 4473’).

DA is invisible and therefore easy to overlook, making it easy to discount or forget its effect on the performance of our airplanes. Take an experienced instructor and practice hot and high operations at an airport located in relatively flat terrain before hitting the backcountry. This kind of experience can be very helpful when it comes to flying in “real world situations” where it truly counts and there is no room for error.

Below is a density altitude calculator chart. Please consider printing and putting a copy in your airplane.

Excerpt from Mike Vivion, Montana Pilots Association President



Density Altitude Chart courtesy of Mike Vivion



Tim Conway, Administrator

Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation

Greg Gianforte, Governor
Malcolm Long, Director

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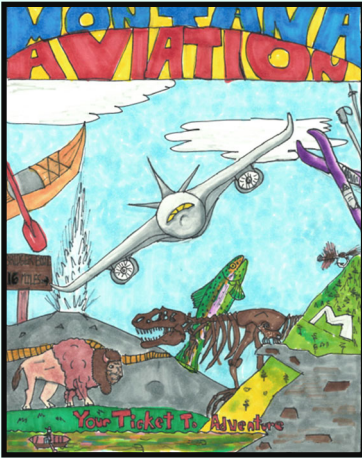


Aviation Awareness Art Contest

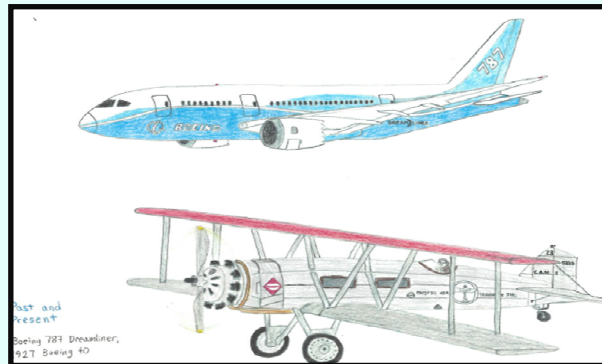
1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winners!

Congratulations!

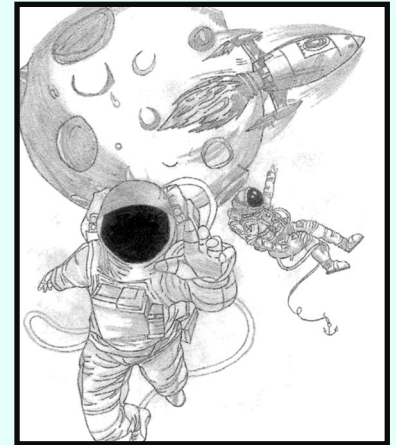
1st Place Winners



Grade K-5: Charlie M.,
Bozeman

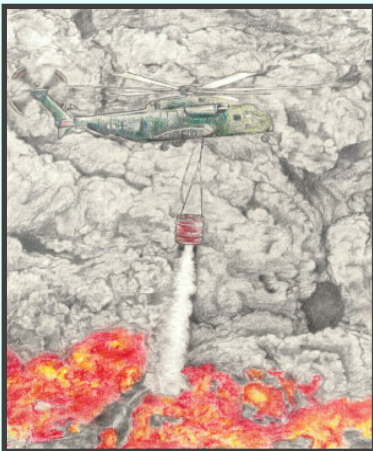


Grade 9-12: Diego M., Billings



Grade 6-8: Emma B., Trego

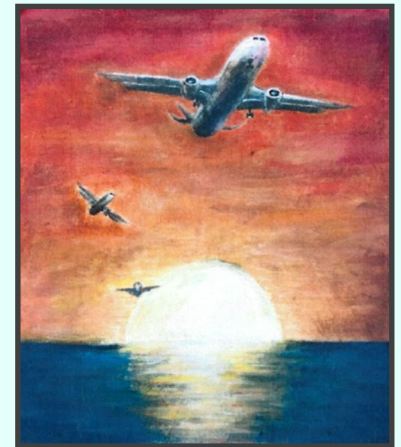
2nd Place Winners



Grade 6-8: Rachel T., Missoula



Grade K-5: Sophia A., Bozeman

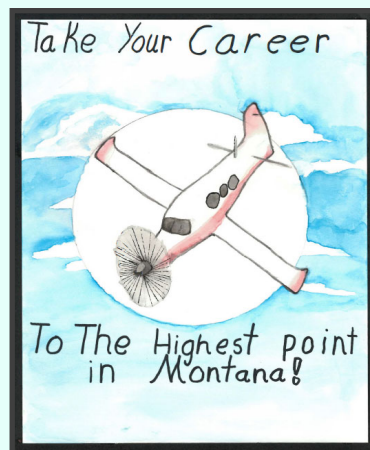


Grade 9-12: Montana Foreign
Exchange Student, Hot
Springs

3rd Place Winners



Grade K-5: Rose C., Bozeman



Grade 6-8: Natalie K., Fromberg



Grade 9-12: Job H., Lambert

Civil Air Patrol Cadet Earns Her Wings

Cadet 2nd Lt. Peyton Haddock of Hamilton, Montana, earned her private pilot certificate through Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) new Cadet Wings Program on April 15, 2021, at age 17. Earning the private pilot certificate is recognized by the aviation industry as the first milestone for those who have a serious desire to pursue a career in aviation. CAP's Cadet Wings Program is part of a concerted effort to help address the looming professional pilot shortage in the United States by helping American youth, such as Cadet Haddock, achieve their aviation dreams. Cadet Wings scholarships are awarded on a highly competitive basis.

Cadet Haddock first joined the CAP Cadet Program at the Missoula Composite Squadron in Missoula, Montana, in January 2019. Always eager to participate in squadron activities, Cadet Haddock fell in love with aviation when she took her first flight onboard a CAP aircraft (e.g., Cessna 182) while participating in CAP's Cadet Orientation Flight program at her local squadron in Missoula. Cadet Haddock then attended her first CAP Summer Encampment at Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls in 2019. CAP offers both military-oriented and aerospace education-oriented summer camps for CAP cadets. Advanced cadets can also participate in actual aviation internships within the aviation industry during summer months.

Cadet Haddock was promoted to the rank of cadet second lieutenant on April 4 after earning CAP's General William "Billy" Mitchell Award. Earning the Mitchell Award is a milestone achievement within the CAP Cadet Program. Earning the Mitchell Award means that Cadet Haddock has now earned Air Force Junior ROTC credit, because the Mitchell Award is officially recognized by the United States Air Force. The Mitchell Award makes Cadet Haddock eligible for college scholarships and a CAP nomination to the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School in Colorado Springs.



Cadet 2nd Lt. Haddock posing beside her Piper Warrior II
Photo courtesy Major Steven Heffel

Cadet Haddock has just completed her junior year at Hamilton High School with a GPA of 3.87 and plans to apply to either the United States Air Force Academy or the United States Naval Academy during her senior year. She is the current cadet executive officer at Missoula Composite Squadron, which is the third highest cadet program position at the squadron level after cadet commander and cadet deputy commander.

The CAP Cadet Program is the after-school equivalent of high school Air Force Junior ROTC. To become a CAP cadet, you must be at least 12, but not yet 19, years old; a student in good standing; and a United States citizen. Please, visit the CAP website at <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/cadets> for more information or to locate any one of the eight local CAP squadrons across Montana. Financial assistance is available to participate in summer activities.

Excerpt from Major Steven Heffel

Six Airports Awarded Surplus Courtesy Cars/Courtesy Car Grants

Aeronautics awarded two surplus vehicles and four \$5,000 grants for the Courtesy Car program in June. The 2019 Montana Legislature's biennial budget included a one-time award of four surplus State Motor Pool vehicles - two in 2020, and two in 2021. The application for those vehicles, and up to four reimbursable grants of up to \$5,000, was available on the MDT website from April 1 - May 31, 2021, and received 12 total applications. The airports receiving an award are as follows:

Surplus Courtesy Cars

Baker
Colstrip

Courtesy Car Grants

Deer Lodge
Laurel
Lincoln
Livingston

The next application period for a courtesy car grant will be open April 1 - May 31, 2022, for those airports interested in applying. Please note this timeframe no longer coincides with the airport Loan and Grant Application period. For more information, contact Karen Speeg at (406) 444-9569.

Meadow Creek Work Party

The annual work party for Meadow Creek took place on Saturday, June 19. Several volunteers flew in from all over to help spruce up the airstrip. The turf was mowed, the cones and picnic areas trimmed, and the windssocks replaced. Many downed trees were cleaned up and firewood stacked. About a dozen aircraft and over 20 people came to volunteer their time and energy to keeping the airstrip maintained. Thank you to all who attended, the Kalispell EAA chapter for providing lunch, and the Montana Pilot's Association for organizing the event!



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

Three Montanans Earn Master Pilot Awards

On Saturday, June 19, 2021, Havre pilots, Jack Norman, Everett Tyrrel, and Tim Dwyer received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for obtaining over 50 years of safe flying experience. The North Central Hanger of the Montana Pilot's Association sponsored a brunch at the Havre Airport in which over 100 friends, family, and fellow pilots came to congratulate the three gentlemen on their accomplishment. Jeff Vercoe from the FAA in Helena presented the three with their awards.

Norman, who is 93, began flying when he was 19. He soloed a J-3 Cub at eight hours. Norman has flown numerous aircraft over the years, but states his best experience was flying an open cockpit Boeing Stearman bi-plane.

Tyrrel, who is 90, began flying when he was 39. Tyrrel continues to fly his Mooney and still maintains a 2nd class medical certificate by hiking/walking regularly. He continues to practice and stay current on the newest technology.

Dwyer, the youngest of the three, soloed at age 16. He received his private license while in high school. After obtaining his commercial, instrument, and flight instructor ratings, he began instructing in Havre in 1975. He provided instruction at Mountain Search Pilot Clinics for nine years and for seventeen years was the Air Search & Rescue Coordinator for the Havre area for Montana Aeronautics. Dwyer fulfilled a dream when he logged aerobatic time in a P51 Mustang.

All three pilots are truly inspirational in their accomplishments and deserving of this award. Congratulations, gentlemen!

Excerpt from Dottie Dwyer



Left to right: Tim Dwyer, Jack Norman, Everett Tyrrel Photo courtesy of Dottie Dwyer

Geraldine Airport (5U8) Closed

The Geraldine airport will be closed from July 6 through October 15, 2021, for a major pavement reconstruction project. Yellow "X"s are up on the runway ends to indicate closure.

The airport is fully reconstructing all paved surfaces, using primarily FAA funds to complete this extensive project. Be sure to fly to Geraldine and check out the new asphalt once the project is complete later this fall!

For more information, contact the airport manager, "Butch" Hankins, at (406) 737-4244.

Always check NOTAMs!



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

Aeronautics Loan & Grant Application Reminder

As a reminder to airport loan and grant applicants, the Loan and Grant online portal (<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml>) will accept FY 2023 applications starting July 1, 2021, through November 15, 2021. If you cannot enter the website, you may have a previous award that needs a closeout form or an annual status report filed.

Additionally, make sure projects are broken down as required. As an example, asphalt projects should be broken down by runway, apron, and taxiway, not as one project lumped together. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

Tests Now Required for Recreational Drone Pilots

Hobbyists with drones that weigh more than 0.55 pounds are required to take a free, online test.

The test was developed to provide recreational drone flyers with aeronautical safety knowledge and an overview of the rules for operating and safely integrating drones in the National Airspace System.

The FAA selected 16 organizations to administer the new Recreational Unmanned Aircraft Systems Safety Test. You will see the new program referred to as "TRUST."

Pilots of all aircraft, including those who operate recreational drones, must have training and knowledge needed to operate safely in the nation's airspace. The test is administered online at no cost through the approved test administrators.

After passing the test, recreational drone flyers will be issued a completion certificate they are required to show if asked by FAA or law enforcement personnel. The completion certificate does not expire. The FAA says recreational drone flyers should take the test at their earliest convenience. Links to test administrators are available at https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_fliers/knowledge_test_updates/.

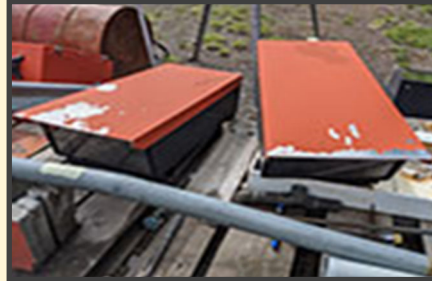
Congress required the development of the testing program in the [FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018](#). The drone community provided input into the test development.



Mavic Pro drone weighing more than 0.55 pounds
Photo courtesy of General Aviation News

Airport Surplus Page is Waiting for Your Surplus Items

Does your airport have surplus supplies, equipment, lighting, etc., looking for a new home? Aeronautics has an airport surplus webpage where items can be listed. Contact Aeronautics to list an item for surplus, and we will post the items on our webpage to sell or give away. Any interested parties can contact the seller directly to arrange payment and pick up. We would like to expand this page and provide more airport surplus items. There is no fee associated with listing items for sale. There may be an airport out there that can put your lightly used items to good use. Check out the page at: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/surplus.shtm>. Contact Aeronautics with questions at (406) 444-2506 or Derrick at (406) 444-9592.



Photos courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Calendar of Events



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. In addition, Helena EAA Chapter 344 will sponsor a Young Eagles® Rally at Three Forks airport (9S5) 9:00 to 11:00 am on Friday, August 6th. The EAA Young Eagles® program provides free airplane rides to youngsters aged 8 through 17 to encourage them to pursue a career in aviation. Kids must have the permission of a parent or guardian to fly. For additional information, contact Lance Seaman at (406) 442-8459.

August 7-8, 2021 — B-17 Bomber *Sentimental Journey*. Static tours and rides will be available for a fee in Belgrade at Yellowstone Jet Center. For more information, visit <https://www.azcaf.org/location/bozeman-mt-tour-stop>.

August 15, 2021 — Hysham Fly-In/Drive-In. Breakfast served 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. by the Hysham Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact Bob Miller (406) 342-5252.

August 20-22 — Cut Bank Fly-In and Fun Weekend and Car Show. Starting at noon Friday, ending Sunday afternoon. Breakfast at 7 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, fee required. Visit <https://cutbankairport.org/events/> for more information.

August 28, 2021 — Polson EAA Fly-In. Pancake breakfast and community booths.

September 11, 2021 — Columbus Fly-In Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast served 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Come participate in the flour bombing competition. For more information, contact Hardin Graham at (406) 780-0034.

September 11, 2021 — Havre Air Fair Fly-In and Breakfast. KHVR Havre City County Airport. Games and activities; breakfast served 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. including pancakes, sausage, eggs, biscuits & gravy. Donations accepted. For more information, contact Willie Hurd at 406-945-3646.

WANTED: Your Montana Aviation News

Do you have exciting aviation news from Montana to share? Did you know you can send it to the Aeronautics Division to be considered for publishing in the *Montana and the Sky* newsletter? We love to hear about and share your Montana Aviation news, photos, and stories. Please send contributions to mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov before the first Friday of each month for the next month's issue.

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VISION ZERO ★
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

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 for more information.