

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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2023 Montana Aviation Scholarships Awarded to Outstanding Candidates

Through the generosity of Montana aviation communities, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals, a total of 23 scholarships were awarded during the 2023 Montana Aviation Scholarships cycle. As part of this annual program, scholarships are offered to Montanans with the purpose of supporting their aviation education and career goals. These scholarships, totaling \$39,000, have been awarded to well-deserving students. Scholarship sponsors and committees had the difficult job of selecting their winners from more than double the traditional number of scholarship applications this year.

\$39,000 will go a long way in helping many recipients with their aviation goals. Both returning and new scholarship sponsors answered the call for help this year. This year's sponsorships mark the largest amount of money ever contributed to this program. Due to committed people and organizations like these sponsors, aviation has a bright future; thank you for your fantastic support!

Congratulations to this year's recipients!

Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) Flight Training Scholarship - \$1,000

Gracie Johnson of Billings, MT

Bob & Kathy Dewante Flight Training Scholarship - \$3,000

Clara Giffin of Kalispell, MT

Briar Creek Scholarship - two \$2,000 scholarships

Aaron Trueblood of Columbia Falls, MT

Kelli Weed of Stevensville, MT

EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship - \$1,000

Claire Dal Nogare of Kalispell, MT

Edwards Jet Center Scholarship - \$1,000

Shane Hagwood of Richey, MT

Mike & Julie Meloche Flight Training Scholarship - six \$1,000 scholarships

Jacob Kelley of Stockett, MT

Gracie Johnson of Billings, MT

Shane Hagwood of Richey, MT

Colton Wormwood of Trout Creek, MT

Caleb Verreth of Bozeman, MT

Collin Holmberg of Victor, MT

Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship - \$1,000

Gracie Johnson of Billings, MT

Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship -

Kelli Weed of Stevensville, MT \$2,500

Claire Dal Nogare of Kalispell, MT \$1,000

Audrey Banfill of Missoula, MT \$500

Elizabeth Hodgson of Chinook, MT \$1,000

Montana Pilots Association Air Safety and Education Foundation Flight Training Scholarship - \$4,000

Katrina Shull of Missoula, MT

Montana Pilots Association Central Hangar Aviation Scholarship - \$4,000

Haiden Oakland of Miles City, MT

Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship - \$4,000 scholarship

Gracie Johnson of Billings, MT

Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship - \$2,000

Addie Shepard of Kalispell, MT

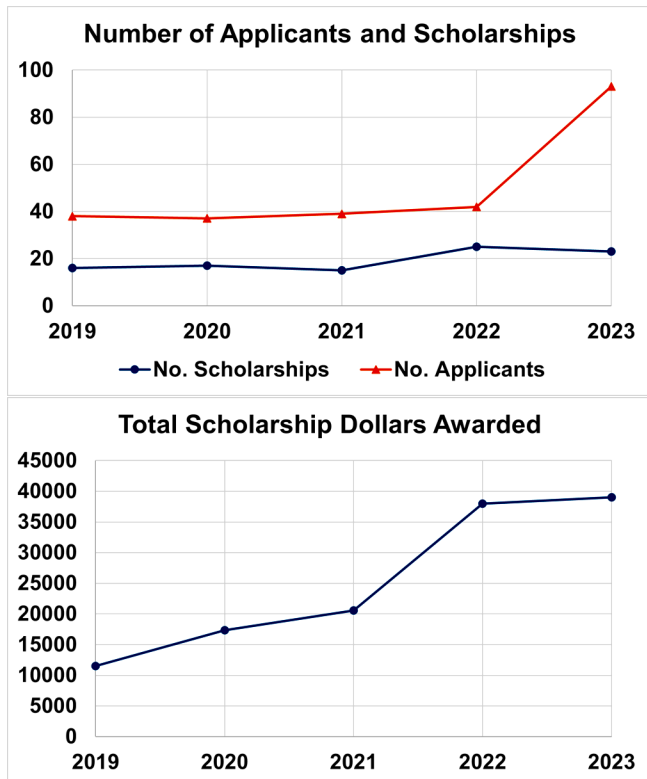
Choice Aviation- two \$1,500 credits to be used at a Choice Aviation location

Nicholas Nieters of Cody, WY

Jace Garoutte of Columbus, MT

MT Aviation Scholarship Program Grows

The Montana aviation scholarship program brought a record number of applicants this year, with 93 individuals applying to the program. This was more than double the number of applicants seen in 2022, demonstrating strong interest in the program as the costs of flight training increase. Sponsors awarded a record \$39,000 to applicants, representing a 2.6% increase over 2022 and a 239% increase since 2019. The increase in funding has generally gone towards larger awards to applicants, with the number of awards remaining similar year to year.



It is encouraging to see this program growing to help promote the progress of new aviators in the state. Montana Aeronautics Division administers the program on behalf of sponsors, but each sponsor chooses their own winners and determines the award amounts. If you are interested in sponsoring a new scholarship for 2024, please contact the Aeronautics Division by emailing mdtad@mt.gov.

Priorities for 2023 Aviation Reauthorization

The Montana Aeronautics Division submitted state priorities to the congressional delegation for consideration in the upcoming 5-year aviation reauthorization.

The priorities identified are: increase non-primary airport funding while lowering their local match obligations to access the federal funding, and to provide expanded support for essential air service, afford air traffic control towers opportunities to utilize existing safety technologies.

Free Lithium-Ion Battery Training

Reprinted with permission from General Aviation News

True Blue Power has released seven free, on-demand lithium-ion battery training courses.

You can receive one credit hour toward FAA Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) and Inspection Authorization (IA) refresher certification when you complete the free True Blue Power training. The online video training can be accessed through FAASafety.gov or the True Blue Power website TheLithiumExperts.com.

The free courses are open to maintenance professionals, pilots, aircraft owners, and anyone interested in learning about lithium-ion batteries for fixed-wing and rotorcraft aircraft.



Tim Conway, Administrator

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Montana
Department of Transportation

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Montana Aeronautics Board Awards Funding for FY 2024

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)'s Aeronautics Board approved over \$2.85 million in funding during their Helena meeting January 17—18, 2023. The requests were for a variety of improvement projects that focused on runway, taxiway and apron reconstruction projects, master plans, lighting rehabilitation and enhancements, land easements, building construction, snow removal equipment, and weather equipment.

A portion of the money awarded in grants and loans each year goes to leverage 90/10 Federal (FAA) match dollars for large airport construction projects. Over \$4.3 million of funds were requested by 31 public-use airports across the state. The Board awarded funds for 58 out of 69 different project requests for 27 of Montana's public airports, to include federally and non-federally funded projects.

Any public airport is eligible to apply for assistance through the loan and grant program. Funds can be used for a wide variety of airport and aviation related projects. Applications for the funding are due for submission to MDT's Aeronautics Division on November 15 each year, and the money is typically awarded in January of the following year. Although the money is awarded in January, the funds are not available until the beginning of the next fiscal year - July 1st. During their meeting, the Montana Aeronautics Board reviews the applications and takes public comment before making their final award determinations for the upcoming fiscal year.

For more information regarding the program, please contact Karen Hallenbeck, MDT Aeronautics Division, at khallenbeck@mt.gov or call 406-444-9581.

The projects funded for FY 2024 are as follows:

AIRPORT	GRANT	LOAN
BAKER - Beacon	\$16,000	\$0
BIG SANDY - Snow Removal Equipment/Building	\$54,650	\$9,719
BIG TIMBER – Pavement Rehab	\$46,150	\$0
BRIDGER – Pavement Rehab	\$69,689	\$0
BUTTE – Pavement Rehab	\$151,700	\$0
CONRAD – Pavement Rehab/Lighting/Taxiway/Equipment/Easement	\$349,625	\$59,786
CULBERTSON – Snow Removal Equip Building	\$29,000	\$7,250
DEER LODGE – Equipment/Expand Apron/Lighting/Easement	\$43,844	\$6,474
DILLON – Pavement Rehab/Construct Apron & Taxiway	\$834,085	\$156,352
ENNIS – Snow Removal Equipment	\$28,050	\$0
FORT BENTON - Weather Equipment - AWOS	\$38,500	\$0
GLASGOW - Rehab Lighting/Electrical	\$30,005	\$0
HAMILTON - Weather Cameras	\$8,550	\$0
HARDIN – Snow Removal Equipment	\$29,070	\$0
HAVRE – Snow Removal Equipment Building	\$7,500	\$0
JORDAN - Update Airport Master Plan	\$2,000	\$0
LINCOLN - Snow Removal Equipment Building	\$36,250	\$0
MALTA - Snow Removal Equipment	\$29,325	\$0
MILES CITY – Pavement Rehab	\$23,800	\$0
POPLAR – Rehab Lighting/electric/Install Runway guidance	\$27,625	\$2,486
SCOBEY – Pavement Rehab	\$21,250	\$0
SHELBY – Snow Removal Equipment	\$13,275	\$0
SIDNEY – Pavement Rehab/Rehab Lighting/Electric	\$365,000	\$68,850
STEVENSVILLE -Update Airport Master Plan	\$17,000	\$0
THREE FORKS – Pavement Rehab/Const & Extend Taxiway	\$148,415	\$26,598
TWIN BRIDGES – Pavement Rehab	\$22,100	\$0
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS – Remove Hazard	\$65,700	\$12,393
TOTALS	\$2,508,159	\$349,909

Montana Loses an Aviation Icon

Obituary by Abby Wass

Arlin Wass, 88, of Belgrade, MT passed away from heart failure in Missoula, MT on Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

Arlin was born December 16, 1934, in Long Beach, CA, the first of seven children born to Carl Alfred Wass and Mable Hegg Wass. After graduating from Glasgow High School, he attended Montana State College for a year. Since he was always interested in aviation, he enrolled at Helena Vocational-Technical Center where he received his Airframe & Power Plant Certificate in 1956, and later received his Inspection Authorization in 1964.

Arlin worked for Flight Line, Inc., in Belgrade, MT as an A&P mechanic and shop foreman from 1957 to 1979. He then started Arlin's Aircraft Service, Inc., which provided maintenance, fuel, and hangar service to based and transient aircraft. He was active in the business until the time of his death.

On May 25, 1960, he married Judy Johnson in Bozeman, MT and together raised three children.

He joined the Montana Army National Guard in 1957, attended Army Helicopter Flight Training in 1964, and served as an instructor pilot in UH-1H and OH-58A helicopters. He retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 in 1994, with nearly 38 years of service.

Arlin learned his work ethic from his father at a young age. And although he had a gruff exterior, he truly had a heart of gold, and was always willing to help his friends and customers in any way he could. He was a mentor to many young men and women that he employed.

He enjoyed hunting with his grandsons and the annual fishing trips to Canada with family and friends. He also cherished road trips with his brothers and sisters to see family.

Arlin is survived by his wife of 62 years, Judy Wass; children, Abby Wass Jackson, Arron (Andrea) Wass, and Alan (Stacy) Wass; seven grandchildren, Nicholas and Gabriel Jackson, Andrew, Sophia and Emma Wass, and Sarah and Nicole Wass. He is also survived by his siblings, Jan Spurgin, Orville (Virginia) Wass, and Linda (Marvin) Frank; sister-in-law, Percy Wass; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arlin is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Myron and Carl "Dale" Wass; sister, Charlene Sternhagen; sister-in-law, Patty Wass; brother-in-law, Lee Spurgin; and nephews, Douglas, Marcus, and Arlin Dale, and Charles Sternhagen.

A reception was held at Arlin's Aircraft Service on February 3rd.

Final Boeing 747 Takes Flight

The final 747 produced by Boeing rolled out of the company's Everett, Washington plant departed on its delivery flight to cargo carrier, Atlas Air, on Wednesday, February 1st.

The 747 has been known as the "Queen of the Skies," and in a fitting tribute to that title, the flight crew undertook a route that traced a crown in the sky. After completing the tribute maneuver, the flight passed through Montana's skies enroute to Cincinnati, OH.

Boeing began production of the 747 in 1969 and produced a total of 1,574 during a five decade run.



Pictured is the crown traced by the final Boeing 747's flight path as a tribute to the retirement of the "Queen of the Skies" from production.

Data from flightradar24.com

2023 Montana Aviation Awareness Art Contest

MDT Aviation Awareness Art Contest is designed to broaden knowledge of aviation and aerospace 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 - 8th Grade

Category 3: 9th - 12th Grade

Prizes:

First Place in each category receives:

1. A roundtrip flight to Helena for the winner and two guests (weight restrictions may apply due to aircraft limitations) for the awards ceremony on May 17, 2023.
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 receives:

A trophy and Certificate of Achievement.

Additional Information:

Artwork will only be returned 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.

Cover Sheet Must Include:

1. Name
2. Grade Level
3. Mailing Address
4. Phone Number
5. Email Address
6. Return Artwork? Yes or No.

Mail Artwork & Cover Sheet to:

MDT Aeronautics Division
P.O. Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507

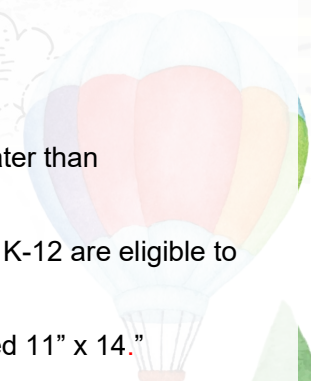
More Information:

mdtad@mt.gov
406-444-2506
mdt.mt.gov/aviation



Entry Requirements:

1. Entries must be submitted no later than **Friday April 14, 2023.**
2. All Montana students in grades K-12 are eligible to enter.
3. Size of poster should not exceed 11" x 14."
4. Artwork must have an aviation theme—can be color or black and white in any medium.
5. All submissions must be original artwork (no tracing, etc.).
6. All artwork must be accompanied by a completed cover sheet (see below).
7. Previous years first place winners are welcome to participate but are not eligible for first place prize.



Livingston Airport Board Imposes Landing Fee for Heavy Aircraft

Last summer, the Livingston airport board decided to apply a landing fee ranging from \$150—\$500 depending on weight for aircraft over 12,500 pounds. At the time of this writing, the fee was not publicly advertised or posted on popular electronic flight bag software for air crews, which resulted in some operators getting surprise bills in the mail. A game camera is being used to assist county staff in identifying aircraft landing at Livingston.

According to the most recent economic impact study conducted by the state, usage of the Livingston airport contributed to 25 jobs, \$803,000 in payroll, and \$2.9M in local economic impacts. This fee could cause aircraft operators to use alternative airports in the area which would result in a decrease in revenues for the airport, local trade area, and for the local fixed base operator's business.

2023 Flight Instructor Clinic Held



Montana Aeronautics hosted the annual flight instructor clinic in Helena February 10-11. Twenty-five flight instructors gathered to renew their certificates with the course taught by Aviation Seminars.

The next flight instructor clinic will be held in February of 2024. The class fills up fast so be sure to keep an eye out for the next advertisement. Congratulations instructors!

A Fishy Enclosure with Aircraft Registration Renewal

Montana Aeronautics staff have been busily processing aircraft and pilot registrations since renewals began in December. During the renewal season, the office receives high volumes of mail daily, with peak days bringing more than 200 envelopes to be opened and processed by staff each morning.

In the busy holiday season leading up to Christmas, we received an unusual enclosure alongside an aircraft registration renewal: a recipe for smoked salmon dip. Not wanting to see a good recipe go to waste, the dip was recently prepared and served at the monthly MDT Aeronautics Division staff meeting. It is published below in the interest of returning it to the anonymous individual who enclosed it with their renewal and to share a refreshing spring treat with Montana's aviation community.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (8 ounces) cream cheese
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 Tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 2 Tablespoons capers, drained
- 1/4 teaspoon hot sauce (Tobasco or similar)
- 4 ounces smoked salmon, roughly chopped
- 2 Tablespoons fresh chopped dill
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped chives
- Salt, to taste

Instructions:

1. Combine the cream cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, lemon juice, capers, and hot sauce in a food processor fitted with the metal blade; pulse until blended. Add the salmon, dill and chives and pulse, scraping the sides of the bowl as necessary, until the salmon is finely chopped. Taste and add salt, if necessary. Serve as a dip with crackers or bagel chips, or as a spread with bagels.
2. Make ahead: This dip can be made a few days ahead of time. However, it gets quite firm in the fridge, so let it sit out at room temperature before serving or it will be hard to scoop.



Calendar of Events

March 1, 2023 — 2023 Aircraft Registration Deadline. Remember to get your Montana aircraft registered no later than March 1, 2023, to avoid penalty fees. For more information, contact MDT Aeronautics at 406-444-2506.

March 2-4, 2023 — Montana Aviation Conference. Billings Hotel and Convention Center, Billings, Montana. For more information, or to register, visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/conference.aspx> or call Justin Zindell at 406-444-9580. Registration is \$130 for individuals or \$10 for students.

March 27– April 1, 2023 — Sun ‘n Fun Aerospace Expo. Lakeland, Florida. Need a break from the Montana winter? Join over 225,000 aviation enthusiasts for the 2nd largest airshow in the world! Details at <https://flysnf.org/>.

May 19-21, 2023 — The Cub Doctor Seminar. Roundup, MT. Clyde Smith, Jr., aka “The Cub Doctor,” will offer his Standard Seminar. Contact Clint Worman at 406-209-1802, or visit www.cubdoctor.com for information and registration. Seating is limited.

May 20, 2023 — Lincoln Airport Fly-in Breakfast. The Lincoln Airport Foundation will host fly-in breakfasts from 8 to 11 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month from May to September. Donations will be accepted to support the airport courtesy car. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at vulcandg406@gmail.com.

May 26-27, 2023 — Phil Olson Memorial Fly-in & Camp-Out. —The Three Forks EAA Chapter is holding a fly-in Memorial Day weekend at the Three Forks Airport. Fly in to 9S5 and camp out for the weekend! There will be food, an aviation movie shown in Hangar 22 Friday night, and a spot landing contest, with prizes for the top three performers! For more information, contact Nick Bilton at 406-570-0803.

May 27, 2023 — Spotted Bear Work Session. Fly in to help with airstrip maintenance. Session starts at 9 a.m. Lunch provided by Flathead Montana Pilots Association Chapter.

June 3, 2023 — First Annual Livingston Fly In. Livingston, MT. Free Pancake breakfast with donation preferred begins at 7:30 a.m. Proceeds promote general aviation access for local youth. Pilot briefing for real-world safe STOL performance competition (*flown at 85% of Gross-Weight and minimum 90 minutes of usable fuel [self-calculated]*) starts at 9-a.m. in the FBO. Sandbags will be available for participants to safely increase their weight. Engine start at 9:45 a.m., with prizes for the winners (including one for best go-around decision). For more information, contact Austin Timm at 406-220-0611.

June 10, 2023 — Butte Wings & Wheels. Butte, MT. Fly-in or drive to Bert Mooney Airport for the third annual aircraft fly-in and car/truck show! Hosted by the Butte Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol. Enjoy a free breakfast from 7:30-10:00 a.m. (donations accepted), Avgas discount at Butte Aviation, and fun for young and old alike, plus prizes! Miss Montana will be there, weather permitting! For more information, contact Walt McIntosh at 406-670-1846.

June 17, 2023 — Meadow Creek Work Session. Starts at 9:00 a.m. Bring your shovels to 0S1 and pitch in! Lunch provided.

June 24, 2023 — Whitefish Fly-In. Come to 58S for a fly-in June 24th for a free BBQ Lunch from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.! Donations accepted. For more information, contact Bill McKinney at 406-261-4385.

June 24, 2023 — Choteau Fly-In. 6:30-10 a.m. Free breakfast, donations welcome. Young Eagles airplane rides available. See and tour Miss Montana! For more information, contact Scott Gasvoda at 406-590-2836.

August 12-13, 2023 — Yellowstone International Airshow. Billings, MT. Experience a two-day action-packed lineup of family-friendly aviation excitement featuring the US Navy’s Blue Angels flight demonstration team. For tickets and information visit: <https://yellowstoneairshow.com/>

Do You Know of an Aviation Event in Montana?

Montana Aeronautics relies on input from sponsors, planners, hosts, and volunteers for aviation events to inform us about planned activities. Please let us know what events you have planned, and we will add them to our calendar of events to share with the flying community.

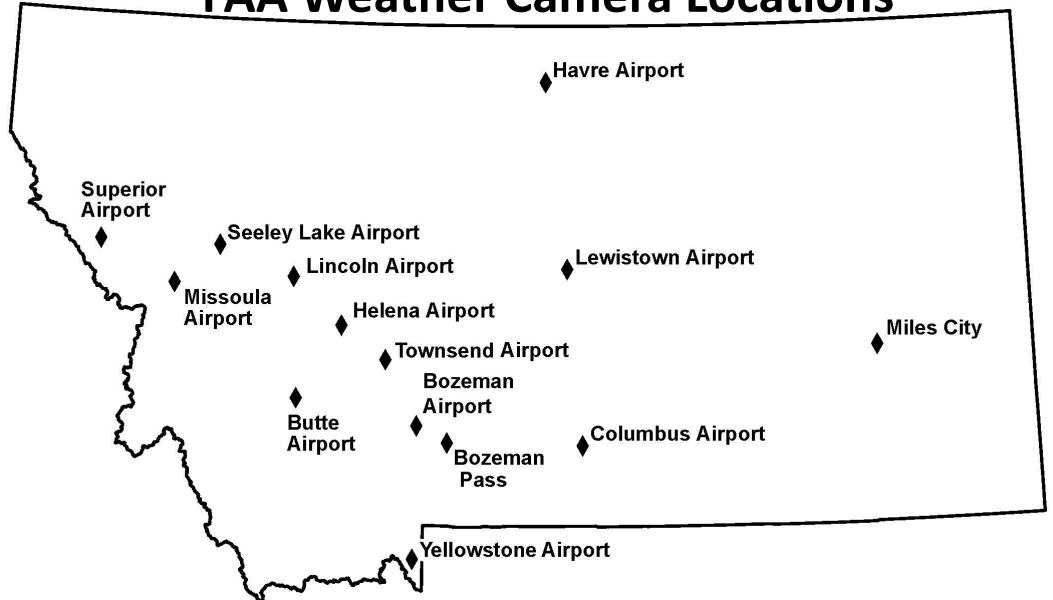
You can email your events to mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov.

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FAA Weather Camera Locations



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