



America's Eyes In The Home Skies

On Saturday, November 19, volunteer Civil Air Patrol (CAP) pilots from Helena, Lewistown, and Billings, converged at the United States Armed Forces Reserve Center at 2915 Gabel Road in Billings to participate in a CAP Emergency Services Flight Clinic (ESFC). The ESFC is a CAP training program for volunteer CAP pilots that participate in CAP's Aviation Emergency Services Program all across the United States.

CAP is the officially recognized civilian volunteer Auxiliary of the United States Air Force with about 62,000 volunteer members, 530 CAP owned aircraft, over 4,000 member owned aircraft, and one of the largest radio communications networks in the United States. CAP is the world's largest operator of light single-engine aircraft; usually of the Cessna 182 Skylane or the Gippsland GA-8 Airvan variety.

Nationwide volunteer CAP pilots fly non-combat emergency service missions assigned to CAP by the Department of the Air Force, such as aviation search and rescue, disaster relief, counter drug reconnaissance flights for federal and state law enforcement agencies, humanitarian assistance flights, and homeland security support flights. Volunteer CAP pilots and aircraft also provide an economical aviation resource for organizations including the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Blood Services, Montana Aeronautics Division, and county sheriffs departments. CAP aircraft were the only non-combat aircraft flying in the airspace over the World Trade Center after the terrorist attacks on September 11 of 2001, conducting damage assessment reconnaissance flights for FEMA. In 2004, volunteer CAP pilots flew 125,997 emergency services flight hours nationwide; while volunteer CAP pilots in the State of Montana flew 860 emergency services flight hours. There are nearly 300 CAP volunteers (both pilots and non-pilots) in the State of Montana attached to CAP squadrons in Billings, Butte, Bozeman, Great Falls, Harlowton, Helena, Kalispell, Lewistown, and Missoula.

The 18 volunteer CAP pilots that participated in the emergency services flight training conducted in Billings received five hours of ground school training and each volunteer CAP pilot also received one hour of actual flight training with CAP check pilot flight instructors, Major Robert Burns and 2Lt Sage Olson. Gerald Byrd, an FAA Safety Inspector with the Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) in Helena, was also one of the ground instructors at the CAP emergency services flight training program.

To become a volunteer CAP pilot, you must possess an FAA Private Pilot Certificate, or higher pilot certificate; you must have at least 200 hours of "pilot-in-command" experience; and you must be able to pass an FBI security background check. To contact a squadron near you visit the new Montana Wing - Civil Air Patrol website at <http://www.mtwg.cap.gov> and hit the "Squadron Locator" button.

LATE BREAKING NEWS: Erik Lindbergh who was scheduled to speak at the conference banquet has cancelled – the committee is working diligently to assure participants won't be disappointed with Erik's replacement. Stay tuned to future newsletters for speaker information.



2Lt Cecil Bell of Roberts Montana performs a pre-flight inspection on the Civil Air Patrol aircraft prior to his emergency services training flight at the Billings Airport on Saturday. (Photo By: Major Steven C. Heffel, CAP)

Administrator's Column

Seasons Greetings: The holidays have begun and in no time at all it will be Christmas and soon after we will be ringing in the New Year. This is an important time of year to enjoy sharing with your family and friends. I wish each of you blessed and safe holidays. Take pleasure in the season and best wishes for a healthy and productive new year. Many Montanans welcomed home loved ones recently that had been deployed to Iraq and other parts of the world. To each of you—thank you for your service and welcome home. To those men and women that continue to serve overseas we pray for your safety and look forward to your return home. Many thanks to all of our United States military for its commitment to this great county.

Condolences extended: Gerald Allen Shiffer of Urbana, Ohio was killed while flying his twin-engine Cessna from his home in Urbana to Gallatin Field, Belgrade. The aircraft was located about three miles west of the airport in a field by a rancher. Mr. Shiffer founded Tech II Inc. a company that produces plastic bowls and lids for the food-packaging industry. He was an avid downhill and water skier, loved Montana and flying. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Shiffer family. Many thanks to Linda Marshall, Arlin Wass, the volunteer pilots and observers, Gallatin county sheriffs office and everyone that contributed to the search efforts.

Of interest: Billings — The Billings Airport Control Tower has been officially accepted into the National Airspace System. The ATCT Cab Floor is 95 feet above grade level and the area of the Base Building, including TRACON is 11,857 square feet. The official acceptance of the buildings was through the final Plants Joint Acceptance Inspection conducted at the project site. Electronics installation is now underway, and commissioning is scheduled for August 2006. **Kalispell** — A runway extension at Glacier Park International has been completed. Runway 2/20 was extended 1,000 feet to the south making the runway 9000' x 150'. The parallel taxiway is also built and expected to open by mid-month. The identifier for Glacier Park has been changed from FCA to GPI, please make note. **Broadus** – the new general aviation airport has been opened! **Helena** – the terminal remodel project is complete. Be sure to stop by and check out the facility that includes the addition of more than 58,000 square feet that includes an expanded baggage claim area, airline ticket counters and operations area, security areas, administrative offices, a new business center, restaurant and gift shop, striking artwork and much more.

FAA funding bill: Congress has passed the FAA funding bill which includes \$3.55 billion for the airport improvement program (AIP), \$110 million for the essential air service program (EAS), \$8.186 billion for FAA operations, \$2.54 billion for facilities and equipment and \$138 million for research and development. The “virtual” 10,000 enplanement provision that was established following September 11, 2001 and continued to provide apportionments to an airport that did not have 10,000 enplanements in the most recent year if it had over 10,000 enplanements in 2000 or 2001 will be discontinued after this year.

Senate Approves Amended “Age 60” Rule: The U.S. Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee approved legislation to raise the current federal “Age 60” retirement mandate for commercial pilots. The bill, S. 65, directs the Department of Transportation to adopt standards proposed by the International Civil Aviation Organization, which allow commercial carrier pilots-in-command to fly up to their 65th birthdays, if flights are with co-pilots age 59 or younger. The bill also permits pilots who have been terminated as the result of the current “Age 60” rule to seek re-employment. The bill awaits Senate consideration and the House has yet to consider.



Montana and the Sky

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A Different Christmas Poem

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light, I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight. My wife was asleep, her head on my chest, My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white, transforming the yard to a winter delight. The sparkling lights in the tree I believe, completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep, secure and surrounded by love I would sleep. In perfect contentment, or so it would seem, so I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near, but I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear. Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear, and I crept to the door just to see who was near. Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night, a lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.

A Marine, I puzzled, some twenty years old, all dressed in cammies, huddled here in the cold. Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled, standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear, "Come in this moment, it's freezing out here! Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve, you should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift, away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts. To the window that danced with a warm fire's light. Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right, I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."

"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line, that separates you from the darkest of times. No one had to ask or beg or implore me, I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.

My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in December," then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers." My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam', and now it is my turn and so, here I am. I've not seen my own son in more than a while, but my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag, the red, white, and blue... an American flag.

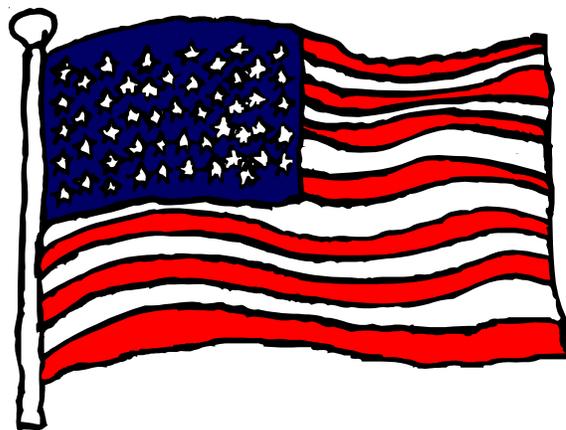
"I can live through the cold and the being alone, away from my family, my house and my home. I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet, I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat. I can carry the weight of killing another, or lay down my life with my sister and brother... who stand at the front against any and all, to ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."

"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright, your family is waiting and I'll be all right." "But isn't there something I can do, at the least, "Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?" It seems all too little for all that you've done, for being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret, "Just tell us you love us, and never forget. To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone, to stand your own watch, no matter how long.

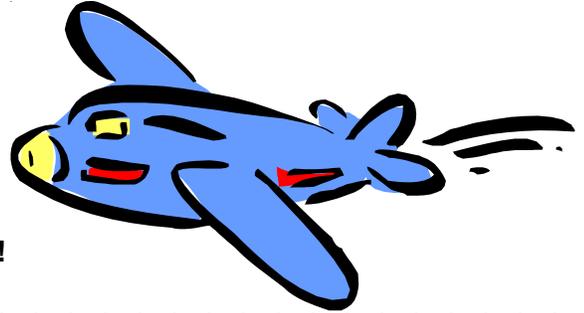
For when we come home, either standing or dead, to know you remember we fought and we bled.

Is payment enough, and with that we will trust, that we mattered to you as you mattered to us.

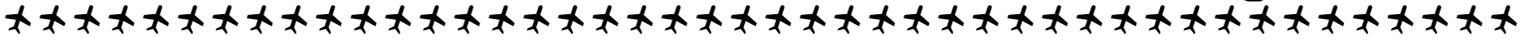


Montana Aviation Conference Red Lion Colonial Hotel - Helena

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Scholarship Opportunities

Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations that 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 a Montanan to help defray costs of education (i.e., flight instruction, A&P, ect.) and will be presented during the 2006 Montana Aviation Conference in Helena. Awarding of the scholarships will be based on a letter explaining the reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience, if any, and any outstanding achievements. Letters of application should be sent to Montana Aeronautics Division, PO Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507 or call (406) 444-2506 for further information. **Letters must be postmarked on or before January 27, 2006.**

A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship – An anonymous donor established the first \$250 scholarship in 1993 and a second donor offered another \$250 scholarship in 1997.

Morrison Aviation Appreciation Scholarship – Jeff Morrison, retired former owner of Morrison Flying Service in Helena has established the \$300 scholarship as a token of appreciation to the aviation community.

Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship – MAAA offers this \$500 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction.

Parrott Family Scholarship – The Parrott Family offers this \$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 related supplies.

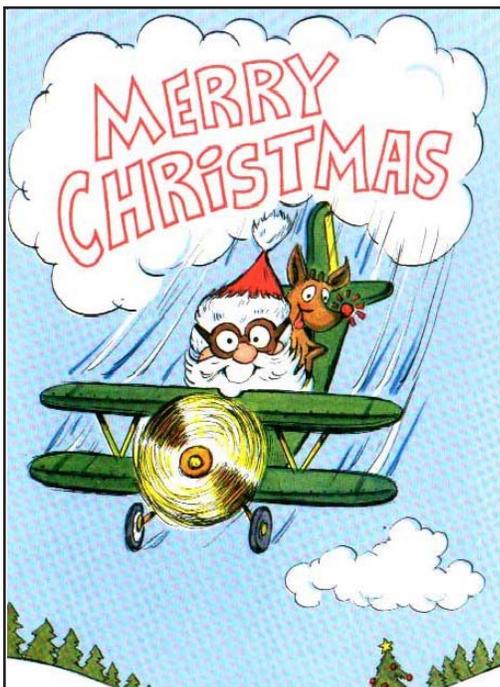
AOM Flight Training Scholarship – AOM has established this \$500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate.

Montana Pilots Association Junior Pilot Award – This recipient is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship within their community and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must have soloed and be actively involved in flight training. This is a \$500 scholarship.

Montana Pilots Association Flight Training Award - This scholarship is open to a person who has a considerable interest in aviation. The \$500 scholarship is to be used for flight training.

Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship – This \$250 scholarship is awarded to a first generation pilot to assist with flight training. This scholarship is designed to assist a person who has a love of aviation, yet had limited exposure to aviation, someone from a non-aviation background/family.

Montana 99's Flight Scholarship – This \$500 scholarship is to be used towards earning a private pilots certificate. The applicant must be female and obtained her medical certificate and student pilot certificate. The training must be completed in Montana and the license obtained within two years. Send a one-page letter stating your reasons for wishing to be a pilot, financial need, and your financial plan for completing the rating. Also send one letter of reference and a copy of your current medical certificate.



January 20-22, 2006 – Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic, Helena. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

February 3-4, 2006 – Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Helena. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

March 2-4, 2006 - Montana Aviation Conference, Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

March 23-25, 2006 – 17th Annual International Women in Aviation Conference. Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee. For further information phone (937) 839-4647.

Challenge Education with Aviation 2006



Colonial Hotel - Helena, Montana

March 2-4, 2006

This year's aviation teacher workshop will provide training and support in the areas of math, science, history, and geography with practical applications in a variety of subjects. All concepts that are taught align with the Montana state teaching standards. EAA orientation flights or a CAP Fly a Teacher flight lesson will be given to the teachers on Saturday, March 4th at the Helena Regional Airport.

Topics:

History of Air Power from the Wright Brothers to Desert Storm

Basic Aerodynamics, Aircraft in Motion, Flight Navigation

Aviation Career Panel, Hands-on aviation stations, Aviation Survival, Wilderness Medicine

- Teacher will receive renewal credits or graduate credits.
- Teachers will receive a \$100 scholarship to assist with travel and/or graduate credits.
- Teachers will receive a free book - *Aerospace: The Journey of Flight*
- Teachers will receive an instructional ready to go flight kit
- Teachers will receive a "vintage" photo of their flight
- For further information, please contact either Jeanne MacPherson or Shirley Bird at Montana Aeronautics Division at 444-2506.

Townsend Installs Automated Fuel System



Russ Voorhees, owner of Aircrafters Maintenance, in Townsend, pumps the first 100 oct gas from Townsend's new 12,000 gal., user friendly, automated fuel system. Russ's comments: "this is too neat!"

Recreational Aviation Foundation Holds Annual Board of Directors' Meeting

The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) recently held its annual Board of Directors meeting at Lincoln, Montana. Director Jerry Cain and his wife, Liz, hosted the meeting.

The RAF is in the final stages of producing a video that promotes the value of recreational airstrips. Jim Clark, from Santa Cruz, California, is doing the filming and production. Jim has done several high quality films on recreational aviation flying in the backcountry.

The RAF has received donations from about one hundred and eighty supporters during the past two years. Recently, a substantial gift was made by the Shep-Rock Inc. Foundation of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. This donation will be used for the future acquisition of land for a public use recreational airstrip. The RAF Board of Directors expressed their sincere thank you to all those who contributed.

Through donations to the RAF, the pilot campground and shelter at the Bozeman airport is well on its way to completion. The Lincoln, Montana, airport is currently being reconstructed. Plans are being considered for having a joint campground for pilots and highway users, with a fence separating the two entities. Tax-deductible donations to the RAF will fund the pilots' portion of the facility. It is hoped that other communities with airports adjacent to highways can adopt similar projects.

At the present time the RAF has had no membership class, just the Board of Directors. The Directors voted to amend the By-Laws to provide for establishing one class of membership to be known as Supporting Members.

RAF Director Karl Spielman gave a production update on Galen Hanselman's latest book on flying the backcountry of Utah. It will be similar to his previous high quality books on Idaho, Baja, Mexico, and Montana. The RAF is funding a portion of the production costs in the interest of aviation safety and education.

The RAF will continue to be present at various state aviation conferences next year, with Montana, Idaho and Washington currently on the calendar. Directors attend these functions, as well as other meetings, at their own expense.

The Recreational Aviation Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to enhance recreational flying opportunities by acquiring new airstrips, maintaining and preserving existing airstrips and promoting aviation safety and education. For more information telephone (406) 587-5166 or go the Foundation web site at: www.recreationalaviationfoundation.org.



Seasons' Greetings

Aeronautics Mechanics Seminar & IA Renewal

The Montana Aeronautics Division is pleased to announce the 2006 Mechanics Seminar & IA renewal will once again be held in conjunction with this year's Montana Aviation conference in Helena MT.

The dates for the conference are March 2-4, 2006. The Mechanics Seminar will be held on Friday March 3 and continue through Saturday March 4.

We will be offering six hours of training on Friday and a full eight hours of training on Saturday. This has worked out well in the past for those mechanics only wanting to attend on Saturday but still needing the training to update their IA for renewal.

Mechanics attending this year's seminar will be required to register for the Aviation Conference. The registration fee will be \$55.00. This allows you to attend all concurrent sessions, morning and afternoon coffee breaks with snacks, Friday night dinner dance and the Saturday luncheon. Or if only attending the 8-hour Saturday session, a \$15.00 day pass may be obtained.

Tentative Speakers: Teledyne Continental Motors – Loren Lemen; Colorado Classic Aircraft-Carol Leyner; Engine Components Inc.-Tim Morland; American Bonanza Society-Neil Pobanz; Precision Airmotive-Alan Jesmer; Aerotronics Inc.-Steve Vold; Bell Helicopters-Jim Szymanski; Northwest Propeller-Dick Jacob; Steve Jones & Staff – Helena FSDO. Make plans now to attend, to discuss and learn the latest in aircraft maintenance.

*Wishing you joy in your home
and peace in your world at
Christmastime and always
from the Montana
Aeronautics Division
staff: Debbie, Patty,
Jeanne, Shirley,
Sheila, Jim, Mike &
Ken.*



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MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-6331 or TTY (406) 444-7696.

Winter Survival Clinic

Plan to attend the annual Montana Aeronautics Division's Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic to be held in Helena and Stemple Pass on January 20, 21, & 22 2006.

Skip Stoffel and Paul Green of the Emergency Response Institute (ERI) will be the instructors. Skip and Paul have worked extensively in the disaster planning, emergency management, search and rescue operations and survival education.

Cold environment survival can be a challenge; the chances of survival are greatly improved with the right training and with practice. The Winter Survival Clinic offers a hands-on learning atmosphere and gives the participants a chance to develop and practice these winter survival skills.

Some of the topics covered are the physiologic needs of the body, backcountry first aide, survival kits, clothing, shelter design, and construction, fire building and signaling.

Participants will build and live in a survival shelter on Saturday night. The classroom ground sessions are open to anyone interested, due to a limited group size the outdoor overnight session will be held to 30 participants on a first come basis. So please, get your applications in.

For further information call Jeanne MacPherson or Shirley Bird at Montana Aeronautics Division (406) 444-2506.



December, 2005

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