



Montana and the Sky

MDT - Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 58 No. 6

June 2007

Students "Read to Fly"

The Mission Valley Hangar of the Montana Pilots Association (MPA) and Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 122 sponsor a "Read to Fly" program with the Valley View School in Polson. In its second year, the kids read a required number of hours in conjunction with science, math, and history lessons circling around aviation to qualify for a Young Eagles flight. This was an outstanding year with 100 percent of the children qualifying.

The day was absolutely fantastic. It started out with Bob Snyder and Lee Lytton flying their airplanes over the school and landing them in a field next door. All the kids were running through the playground watching the beautiful air show they were being provided. The children all gave a great cheer when the planes touched down. Later in the morning, Joe Walchuck landed with his helicopter for the children to view.

Pilots attending the school aviation days were Art Lindstrom, Bob Snyder, Lee Lytton, Tim Moran, Tray Moran, Hawkeye, Glenn Timm, Chuck Jarecki and Joe Walchuck who brought along his flight student, Jordan. Each pilot brought great information to the children about flight with each one sharing their time, talents and love of flying.

The pilots stayed for lunch allowing them more time to visit with the children and after lunch returned to the classroom sharing more views about flight and their passion for aviation.

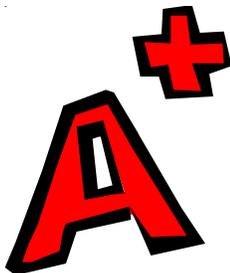
"When you see a sight like this with the planes flying over and landing, and you have aviation planned for the day, it just doesn't get any better than that," said Joe Wing, the class' teacher, who also just completed the MDT Aeronautics Division's workshop, "Aviation Takes Flight." We're sure his students won't argue that fact!



Some of the students that completed the "Read to Fly" program pictured with teacher Joe Wing.



Students thoroughly enjoyed their day - something they'll be talking about for years to come!



Pilot Chuck Jarecki pictured with two of the lucky students that completed the read to fly program.



Administrator's Column

West Yellowstone Airport Season Begins: The West Yellowstone Airport is in final preparations to officially commence its 2007 season. SkyWest Airlines has announced its 21st year of seasonal service between West Yellowstone and Salt Lake City. SkyWest's twice daily round-trip flights between West Yellowstone and Salt Lake will begin June 7 and continue through September 30, utilizing the 30-passenger Embraer-manufactured Brasilia aircraft. SkyWest will once again offer an additional round-trip flight on Saturdays and Sundays. Reservations can be booked online at www.delta.com or call Delta Reservations at (800)221-1212.

Flight Service Station Problems: Much frustration exists over the new flight service station system with letters being written to congressional members, FAA Administrator Marion Blakey and others. Lost flight plans, long hold times, telephone call disconnects are just some of the problems being experienced by pilots trying to use the system as Lockheed Martin and the FAA consolidate and modernize the flight service station system. The FAA and Lockheed Martin are committed to fixing the problems. FAA Administrator Blakey has promised to do whatever it takes to ensure pilots get the safety of flight information they need and deserve. The FAA withheld \$3 million in payments to Lockheed Martin in the first quarter because of poor performance. You'd hope that will get their attention. If you experience problems with Lockheed Martin's service, please report it on the company's website at <http://www.afss.com/feedback/>. The difficulties are also being watched, discussed and addressed by the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO). Useful flight planning tips that include how to file and close flight plans, obtain pireps, notams, TFRs, etc. can be obtained on the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) website at www.aopa.org.

Senate Commerce Committee passes S. 1300: The committee recently passed S. 1300 which includes a \$25 "surcharge" or user fee for IFR air traffic control costs. An attempt to eliminate the \$25 user fee was denied by a single vote. The bill will now be considered by the Senate Finance Committee. This committee cannot directly remove the surcharge from the bill, but it can be removed during consideration by the full Senate. A bill from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is still expected.

Scholarship Opportunity: The General Aviation Manufacturers Association is offering a new scholarship in conjunction with the International Council of Air Shows Foundation. The annual award will bestow \$2,000 on a college student seeking an aviation-related degree. For more information on the ICAS Foundation/GAMA Scholarship, go to www.icasfoundation.org

Horizon Air Local Fares: A new fare structure has been announced by Horizon Air to "tag" markets within its system. These "tag" markets are routes between cities that are less than 90 miles away from each other. Fares between Butte/ Bozeman and Great Falls/Helena with a 14-day advance purchase are \$29/ each way. Passengers can take advantage of these local fares for in-state travel or to combine with other interline carriers to connect to final destination. Horizon Air was recently awarded the Regional Airline of the Year Award by the trade publication Air Transport World. Beginning in October, Horizon through its parent-company, Alaska Airlines, will offer non-stop flights from Seattle to Hawaii.



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Department of Transportation

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Jim Lynch, Director

Official monthly publication of the
Aeronautics Division

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Montana and the Sky

Is published monthly

In the interest of aviation in the
State of Montana.

Third Class postage paid at
Helena, Montana 59604

Editor: Patty Kautz

Calendar

June 16 - EAA breakfast at Stevensville Airport, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For further information, contact Steve Rossiter at SteveRossiterMT@aol.com. This event will be held every third Saturday through October.

June 16-17 – Father’s Day Fly In Sourdough Pancake Breakfast. Fort Peck Airport. Barbeque Saturday evening and pancakes Sunday morning. For further information, phone Lanny Hanson at (406) 263-1154 or email hpb@nemontel.net.

June 16-17 – Father’s Day Fly In, Twin Bridges Airport. Pig roast and pancake breakfast. More information on web site at www.rubyvalleyaviation.com.

June 16-17 – Air Show, Baker Airport, featuring Pietsch Air Shows and Gene Soucy Air Shows. Saturday; barbeque at 5:30 p.m. Dance at 8:00 p.m. in new hangar. Sunday, breakfast 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.; air show starts at 1:30 p.m.. For further information, contact Roger at bakerair@midrivers.com or phone (406) 778-3508.

June 23 – “New” Plains Airport Fly-In Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For further information, phone Randy Garrison at (406) 826-3605 or (406) 826-3055.

June 23-24 – Meadow Creek Work Session.

June 30 – North Central Hangar Fly In Breakfast and Big Boys Toy Show, Havre Airport. For further information, phone Darren Huestis at (406) 390-1255 or Bob Breum at (406) 265-7394.

June 30 - July 1 - Fly In Stevensville Airport, breakfast both days; barbeque Saturday afternoon/evening. For further information, contact Steve Rossiter at SteveRossiterMT@aol.com. The Pitstop’s Grand Opening held in conjunction with fly-in. The Pitstop will sponsor a live band and dance with finger food and beverage bar from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on June 30.

July 4 – Townsend Airport Legendary Forth of July Fiesta Breakfast. 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Contact Karen or Neil Salmi for further information (406) 266-5400.

July 14 – Del Bonita Work Session.

July 20-22 – Staggerwing Fly In, Seeley Lake Airport (23S). For further information, slk32190@blackfoot.net

July 20-22 – Schafer Meadows Work Session.

July 28-29—Bozeman Air Show featuring the Blue Angels along with MiG Fury Fighters, World Parabolic Swoop Team, Greg Poe, Kent Pietsch and Jim Pietz. www.blueangelsinthebigsky.com.

July 29 – St. Ignatius Fly In breakfast 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Free (will accept donations). Will be giving away 60-80 gallons of AV-Gas, plus drawings for prizes. Young Eagle Flights. For further information, contact Steve Allard (406) 745-0500 or steve@allardauctions.com.

August 5 – Hysham Airport Dedication. Pancake Breakfast at 7:00 a.m.; spot landing, flour bombing. For further information Bob Miller (406) 342-5252 or email bpmiller@rangeweb.net.

August 11-12 – Winifred Fly In and Backcountry Fly Out. For further information, contact Ralph Rogers (406) 462-5487.

August 17-19 – 6th Annual Montana Fun Weekend, Cut Bank Airport. <http://cutbankairport.org/>

August 18 – Polson Fly In. Pancake Breakfast 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Lunch noon to 2:00 p.m.. and concessions all day. Soroptimist’s Wine Festival 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.. Sponsored by Mission Valley EAA chapter 122 and Mission Valley Hangar, Montana Pilot’s Association.

August 22 – Open House Browning Airport. For further information, phone (406) 444-2506.

Please fly clear of wildfires!

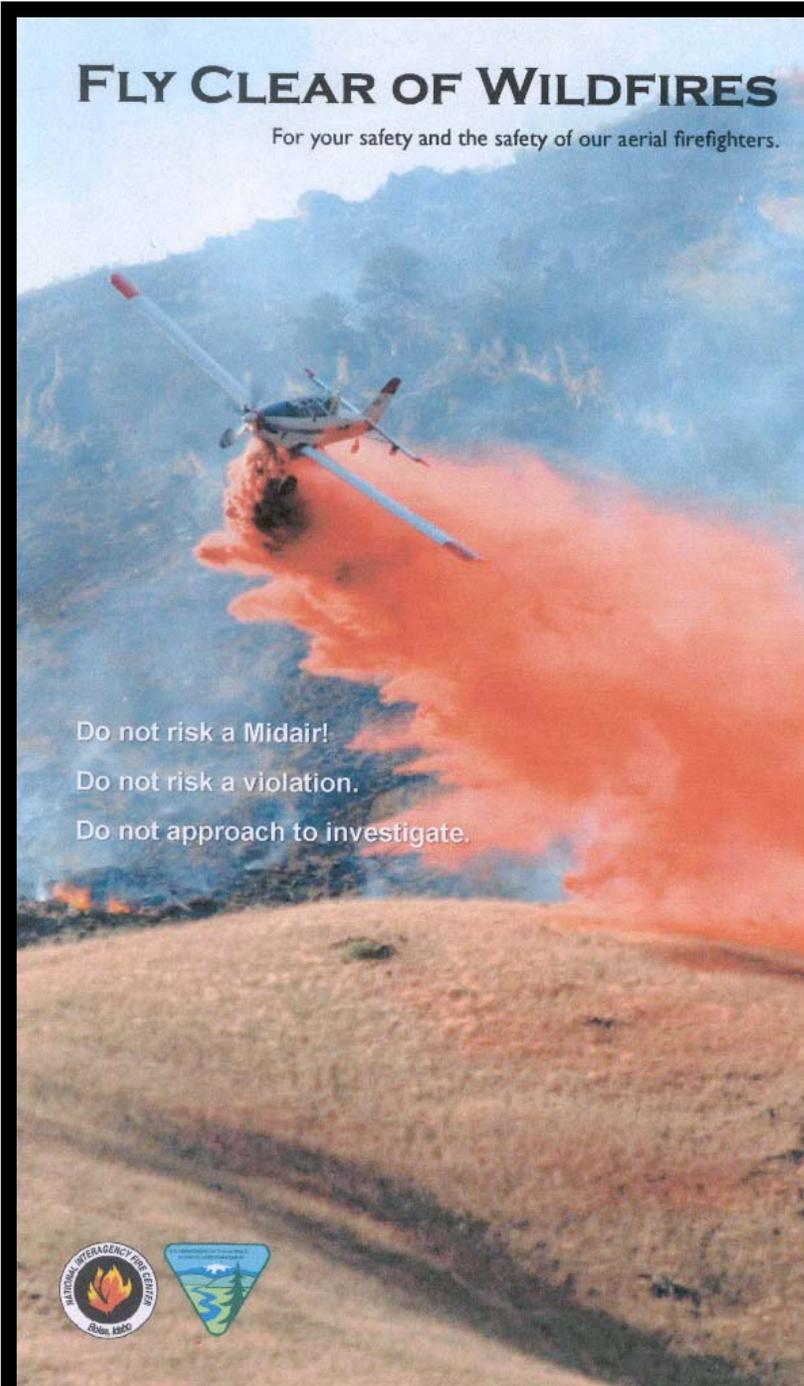
By: *Jeanne MacPherson Chief, Safety and Education Bureau*

Please fly clear of wildfires! Ben Hinkle of the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management National Office of Fire and Aviation wants to remind pilots to prepare for the upcoming fire season.

Ben reports that they averaged over eight incursions a day on fires last year. Please do not risk a midair collision. Stay at least five nautical miles from the smoke. Check NOTAMS prior to every flight.

Checkout the Interagency Airspace web site at: <http://airspace.nifc.gov> this government website plots all TFR's and does this on current FAA charts. The site has easy to print sectional/WAC and GNC charts that are great for navigation and avoiding all TFR's.

Please do report suspicious smoke to the nearest flight service station, but do not approach the smoke to investigate. The fire may already have firefighting aircraft on the scene.



FLY CLEAR OF WILDFIRES

For your safety and the safety of our aerial firefighters.



Please...

Stay at least five nautical miles from the smoke.

Report suspicious smoke to the nearest flight service station.

Check NOTAM's prior to every flight!

- 1 800 WX BRIEF
- 1-800-992-7433

Restriction size may vary with every incident.

Even a single smoke could already have firefighting aircraft on scene.

Use the National Interagency Airspace Information System at <http://airspace.nifc.gov> to view:

- Complete Graphical TFR's
- Fires, Stadiums, Nuclear Facilities, Laser
- Current FAA Charts
- Letter-size TFR Charts

Do not risk a Midair!
Do not risk a violation.
Do not approach to investigate.



BLM Aviation
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 South Development Ave.
Boise, ID 83705
208-387-5180

Baucus, Tester Announce Major Grants for Montana's Airports

Airports across Montana are about to get a lift from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Montana Senators Max Baucus and John Tester announced in May.

The FAA is awarding 32 airports in all regions of the state nearly \$16 million in grants. The money will be used for various projects including runway improvements, fences, lighting and equipment.

"Montanans depend on good airports to see family and friends, get medical attention and travel for business," Baucus said. "These dollars will open up great opportunities for folks in every corner of our state."

"In a state as big as Montana, good airports are critically important," Tester said. "This money will literally pave the way to better infrastructure in cities and small towns. Better airports mean better economy, better security and better health care."

The FAA grants will be distributed as follows: Anaconda (Bowman Field) - \$115,165 to improve the runway; Big Timber Airport - \$109,250 for new fencing; Billings Logan International Airport - \$475,000 to update Master Plan Study; Bozeman (Gallatin Field) - \$3,421,921 for new apron, a new service road and improved taxiway lighting; Butte (Bert Mooney Airport) - \$835,274 to improve the access road and taxiway; Choteau Airport - \$53,675 to maintain runway and taxiway; Circle Town County Airport - \$1,800,000 to improve the runway and runway lighting; Colstrip Airport - \$80,750 to improve the runway; Culbertson (Big Sky Field) - \$93,100 to improve the runway; Cut Bank Municipal Airport - \$1,808,000 to improve the runway; Ekalaka Airport - \$123,500 for new snow removal equipment; Ennis-Big Sky Airport - \$110,970 to build a snow removal equipment building; Eureka Airport - \$279,300 for new snow removal equipment and equipment building; Forsyth (Tillitt Field) - \$147,250 for new snow removal equipment building; Fort Benton Airport - \$110,000 to install weather reporting equipment; Glasgow (Wokal Field/Glasgow International Airport) - \$263,800 for snow removal equipment and to conduct a Master Plan Study; Hamilton (Ravalli County Airport) - \$109,250 to install weather reporting equipment; Harlowton (Wheatland County Airport) - \$196,650 for snow removal equipment and new building; Helena (State of Montana) - \$142,500 to conduct a State System Plan Study; Kalispell (Glacier Park International Airport) - \$1,149,246 for new snow removal equipment, expanded equipment building and \$475,000 to update Airport Master Plan Study; Libby Airport - \$150,000 to improve the runway and runway lighting; Malta (Phillips County Regional Airport) - \$254,974 for a new taxiway, fencing, improved runway; Miles City (Frank Wiley Field) - \$133,000 to improve the runway; Plentywood (Sher-Wood Airport) - \$166,250 for new snow removal equipment; Poplar (City of Poplar and Roosevelt County) - \$1,662,500 to build an airport; Ronan Airport - \$219,450 to install a runway guidance system and weather reporting equipment; Roundup Airport - \$159,600 to conduct a Master Plan Study and improve the runway; Sidney-Richland Municipal Airport - \$678,385 for a new aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle; Stanford Airport - \$283,483 for new snow removal equipment, equipment building; Stevensville Airport - \$95,000 to update Airport Master Plan Study; Three Forks Airport - \$60,000 to install weather reporting equipment; Townsend Airport - \$75,000 to improve the runway; Turner Airport - \$150,000 to improve runway and runway lighting.



- Effective May 6, services were transferred from Great Falls Flight Service Station to flight service stations in Denver (6:00am - 10:00pm) and Prescott (10:00pm - 6:00am). All frequencies will remain the same. Pilots may also want to visit www.afss.com, this site offers a chance for pilot feedback and has other pertinent information that may be helpful.

Call for:

WX briefs: 1-800-WX-BRIEF

TIBS WX: 1-877-484-2799

NOTAMS: 1-877-487-6867

- In response to a previous article asking if anyone knew of temporary windmill/towers, the following was reported by a pilot flying in the area: Teton Ridge area between Dutton and Choteau there are two tripod towers 80+ feet in height on the ridge that are unmarked. The lat/long are: 47.48.771 N x 111.48.949 W and 47.48.407 N x 111.51.321 W.

Take note and fly safe.

Pilot Sign in Box Installed at Meadow Creek



Larry Ashcraft, Chuck Jarecki and Steve Riddle flew in to Meadow Creek and installed a pilot registration box. The project required assembling the steel structure and cementing it to the ground. Bob Snyder of Ronan had earlier flown in 300 lbs. of sand for the project. Pictured is flight instructor Harold Dramstad of Helena signing in before taking a walk down to the south fork of the Flathead River.

Search & Rescue Volunteers Receive Training



On May 5, the Glasgow air search and rescue volunteers of MDT Aeronautics Search District 7, coordinated by, Lanny Hanson, gathered with the Valley County Sheriff's search and rescue ground team at the Glasgow Airport for (ELT) emergency transmitter location training with Jeanne MacPherson.

New ELT direction finding equipment was presented to the districts air search volunteers as a part of the memorial honoring the Newman family from Cut Bank.

Debbie Newman purchased and donated the equipment to MDT Aeronautics Division to be given to three districts (Cut Bank, Havre and Glasgow). All three aided in the search for the Newman airplane in January of 2004. Pictured are some of the Glasgow volunteer pilots. Left to right: Ken James, Lowell Jacobson, Steve Stanley, Steve Bell, Leland Blatter, Larry McLeod, Russ Dahl.

Airports/Airways Bureau Update

By: *Jim Greil, Airports/Airways Bureau Chief*

Summer is nearly upon us and it's time once again that airport projects are in full bloom. With Montana's relatively short construction season, most of the jokes you hear refer to Montana's seemingly never ending highway construction in the warm weather, however, the same holds true for airports. The airports/airways bureau has planned for some aggressive construction, updating, repair and maintenance this year.

Our bureau has also had a few shifts in personnel in the last year, as well. For those of you who need a quick refresher, the airports/airways bureau is the MDT's Aeronautics Division's largest bureau and has a variety of responsibilities. Just a few of our duties include; overseeing all aspects concerning state involvement in the public and private airport and airways system in Montana; owning and operating 15 public use airports including the commercial service Yellowstone airport; operation of all NDBs and Unicoms within the state; inspection of all public use airports; creating an aeronautical chart and directory; and providing individuals and communities with engineering, design and technical assistance or advice. The Bureau is also responsible for all Division assets, including two aircraft, numerous vehicles and buildings.

Some of you have come to know most of the bureau employees through our travels, but for those of you who don't, here's a list with a just a few of our responsibilities: **Jim Greil** (Bureau Chief) bureau management, airport loans and grants and airport assistance; **Mike Rogan** (Aviation Support Officer) state and public airport assistance, division lease and agreement oversight, NDBs, Unicoms, resale and surplus programs; **Max Murphy** (Aviation Support Officer) state and public airport assistance, state system planning, public airport inspections, state aero chart and airport directory; **Ken Wilhelm** (Aircraft Mechanic) state and public airport assistance, aircraft and division vehicle / facility maintenance; **Tony Bean** (Yellowstone Airport Manager) management and planning for Yellowstone airport; **Jeff Heaney** (Yellowstone Ops Chief) oversight of facility operations, airport security, airport fire fighting; **Tom Cherhoniak** (Yellowstone ARFF / Maintenance) fire fighting and maintenance.

Below is a list of our state operated airports and just some of the projects that we may be working on at each of the airports this summer:

Augusta	general maintenance, outhouse repair and weed control
Babb	general maintenance
Browning	Completion of lighting project; solar powered windsock and taxiway lights; painting and gates
Del Bonita	general maintenance and rodent control
Sweetgrass	general maintenance and rodent control
East Poplar	general maintenance and rodent control
Dell	pilot controlled lighting upgrade; painting
Lavina	seed and fertilizing project
Lincoln	new campground / parking area; walk-through gate; taxiway wandring; outhouse upgrade or repair
Richey	general maintenance
Rock Creek	general maintenance and weed control
Ryegate	general maintenance; security gate project
Seeley Lake	water well development; numerous general improvements
Tiber Dam	general maintenance
Yellowstone	ongoing ramp development and major wildlife fencing project

The Division will be having functions at several of our airports this summer, including the Browning open house showing off our new runway lighting, the annual work session at Del Bonita and other annual functions associated with Lincoln, Seeley Lake and the Yellowstone airports. Please be aware that the Rock Creek airport will be closed during the annual testicle festival tentatively scheduled from July 27 through August 6. We appreciate your use of our facilities, and we hope that your 2007 summer will be a safe and happy one to enjoy our "Big Sky!"



Joe Kuberka to Speak at 2007 Air Venture

Joe Kuberka of Blue Goose Aviation will be doing two presentations at 2007 Air Venture Oshkosh this year. Both presentations are on Thursday, July 26. Joe will be doing a presentation on, Density Altitude and Aircraft Performance, at 4:00 p.m. in the 17 Workshop Classroom and a presentation on Flying Montana Big Sky at 7:00 p.m. in the 01 Dake Corporation Pavilion. All are welcome to attend and stop by to say hello to Joe. For more information, contact Joe at (719) 393-5550 or look at his website: www.bluegooseaviation.com.

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. MDT produces 2,700 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,053. This includes \$700 for postage.

Airshow Tickets Go On Sale

Tickets for the Blue Angels In the Big Sky airshow to beheld July 28- 29 are now on sale through the airshow website at www.blueangelsinthebigsky.com and through the Bobcat Ticket Office at 1-800-808-5940.

In addition to the Blue Angels, this year's airshow will feature Greg Poe, Kent Peitsch, Jim Pietz, MiG Fury Fighters, World Parabolic Swoop Team, The World's Fastest Chevy Truck, military and civilian statics and many warbirds.

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June 2007

Pre-Sort Standard
US Postage Paid
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Permit No. 141