



Pilots Gather for Intense Search and Rescue Training

By: Jeanne MacPherson, Bureau Chief, Safety & Education

September 5 - 7, volunteer pilots from throughout Montana gathered in Helena to participate in the 30th annual mountain search pilot clinic. The purpose of this clinic is to prepare volunteer pilots to safely and competently conduct an aerial search for a downed aircraft in mountainous terrain. Volunteer pilots come together for dual mountain search flight techniques, advanced emergency locator ground and field training and survival strategy.

The mountain flight instructors for this year's clinic were, Rick Burger, Wendy Beye, Mike Campbell, Art Dykstra, Jeanne MacPherson and Bill Werner. Attending pilots receive two hours of flight instruction. Each hour was spent with a different instructor and covered the basics of mountain flying including coordination maneuvers, canyon flying, contour search, marking the location of the downed aircraft, canyon turns and over the top and down air search techniques.

An essential part of search and rescue is the Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT) System and detecting and locating emergency locator beacon transmitters (ELT). Peter Graf, Ray Sanders and Hugh Wilkins lead this year's SARSAT/ELT training both in ground school and field tracking.

The clinic would not be complete without "survival sense for pilots" lead by survival expert and instructor Skip Stoffel from the Emergency Response Institute (ERI). Skip incorporates hands-on survival skills to the learning environment.

The evening programs included a ground school covering the Montana air search responsibility, aircraft operations, air search techniques and the observer program.

On Friday, special guest presentations were from Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton and Floyd Roney, manager with KANNAD emergency locator beacons.

Saturday evening, David Hoerner from Kalispell provided the 2008 MSPC participants with "the 20 rules to live by" before attempting mountain flight. David was available after his presentation to sign the book he authored, "Advanced Mountain Flying Techniques."



Chelsie Farmer (l) and Lukas Johnson flight instructors from the Rocky Mountain College Aviation program are getting ready for their flights. See more Mountain Search Pilot Clinic photos on page 4.



MDT Aeronautics Division would like to extend many thanks to Exec Air Montana and to the aircraft owners who lease their airplanes to MDT Aeronautics Division for this important clinic. Thank you to the instructors and presenters and to all the participants who attended MSPC 2008.

The 31st annual MSPC will be held in Helena on September 11-13, 2009. If you are interested in participating and have any questions, please contact Jeanne MacPherson at (406) 444-9568 or email jemaepherson@mt.gov.

Administrator's Column

Master Pilot Award: The Federal Aviation Administration's Helena Flight Standards District Office recently honored a Montana pilot with the Wright Brothers' "Master Pilot" award. The "Master Pilot" award is presented to pilots who exhibit professionalism, skill, aviation expertise and have maintained safe flight operations for 50 years or more. The honoree is Fred Flanders of Helena. He completed his first solo flight in a Piper PA11 on January 13, 1958 at Hector International Airport in Fargo, North Dakota. He received his Private Pilot's certificate in May of 1958. In July 1967 while in Alaska he added a seaplane rating to his certificate. In 1968 Fred earned his commercial certificate and in 1977 both his instrument and multi-engine rating. Fred remains active in aviation today and has been a member of various pilot organizations. Fred's name, city, and state will be entered in the "Roll of Honor" published at www.faasafety.gov. Congratulations Fred, well deserved!

Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) Reversal: The BoR has published its interim final rule for conduct on bureau facilities, lands and waters. Just over two years ago most BoR projects were shut-down to seaplane activity: "You must not take off or land an aircraft on reclamation lands or waterbodies except in special use areas so designated by an authorized official." After a public outcry and rallying by the Seaplane Pilots Association (SPA), other state aviation associations and individuals in the western states, a revision to the rule was drafted. Currently, the BoR website states: "In particular, these amendments will return the regulation of aircraft activity on Reclamation facilities, lands, and waterbodies to pre-April 17, 2006, conditions under which aircraft activity was regulated by applicable Federal, State, and local laws. Reclamation and its managing partners will retain the ability to establish new allowances or restrictions on aircraft activity through the creation of special use areas. This will eliminate the confusion created by the April 17, 2006, Public Conduct Rule's restrictions on aircraft activity." This interim final rule has a 60-day comment period. Submit comments identified by the number 1006-AA55 online through the Federal Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. This rule has been assigned Docket Identification Number BOR-2008-0003. Comments can also be mailed to: Director, Security, Safety, and Law Enforcement, Bureau of Reclamation, 6th and Kipling, Building 67, Denver, CO 80225. For updated information check out: www.seaplanes.org

Essential Air Service Update: Great news as restoration of service to Miles City has been announced by Great Lakes Aviation on October 26. Flights will operate with one-stop between Miles City and Denver. Two daily departures are offered Monday – Friday with one departure on Saturday and Sunday. Sidney and Lewistown service to Denver resumed on September 3 and Sidney to Billings service is expected to be announced at a later date. An open house/ribbon cutting was held in Lewistown on September 24 with a similar event scheduled for October 23 at Sidney. Stay tuned for return of service announcements to Montana's remaining four eastern essential air service communities. To purchase tickets on Great Lakes Airlines, visit www.flygreatlakes.com, call the Great Lakes' reservation center at 800-554-5111 or through your travel agent.



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Calendar

Richard Neher, National Aeronautical Charting Office, will be conducting presentations in the state beginning on October 27. The seminars (listed below) are posted at www.faa.gov under events (search Montana).

October 27 - Billings, Rocky Mountain College Fortin Center, Rimrock Road Between 13th St West and 17th St. West, 7:00 p.m. - IFR Charts.

October 28 - Bozeman, Airport Safety Building (Old Terminal) 550 Gallatin Field Road, 7:00 p.m. - VFR Charts.

October 29 - Helena, Terminal Building, 2850 Skyway Drive, second floor conference room, 7:00 p.m. - VFR Charts.

October 30 - Missoula, USFS Aircraft Hangar, 5765 West Broadway, 7:00 p.m. - VFR Charts.

January 16-18, 2009 – Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic, Helena. For further information, contact Jeanne MacPherson (406) 444-9568 or email jemacpherson@mt.gov.

February 6-7, 2009 - Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Helena. For further information, contact Jeanne MacPherson (406) 444-9568 or email jemacpherson@mt.gov.

March 5-7, 2009 – Montana Aviation Conference, Holiday Inn Grand Montana, Billings. For further information, contact Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 or email pkautz@mt.gov.

May 30-31, 2009 – Rocky Mountain West Aviation Expo, Boise, Idaho. For further information or to participate, contact Lee Hudson at (208) 323-4464 or league@idahobusinessleague.com.

June 20-21, 2009 – Fathers Day Fly In Sourdough Pancake Breakfast, Fort Peck Airport. Steak Fry Saturday evening and pancakes Sunday morning. Canoe trips down Missouri for those who call and schedule in advance. For further information or to schedule canoe trip, call Lanny Hanson (406) 526-3535 or (406) 263-1154.

Frequency Change at Ravalli County Airport

The AWOS frequency at Ravalli County Airport (6S5) has been changed from 122.800MHZ to 119.825MHZ. If there are questions about the positioning data, please contact Mike Naud, Technical Support Center at (303) 684-5060. If you have other questions, please call Angelo Rivera, program implementation manager, AJV-W36 at (425) 203-4764.

Pilots to get Courtesy Car at Airport

Pilots who are just dropping in at the Mineral County Airport in Superior will soon have a courtesy car to drive into town.

A high-mileage Ford Crown Victoria has been donated by the Sheriff's Office and will be available as soon as the stickers are scraped off.

"It's going to be quite a job because those stickers have been on there for years," said Cindy Grimm, administrative assistant to the county commissioners.

When it's ready to roll, the keys will be placed in a lock box at the airport. Pilots can get the combination to the lock by calling Mineral County Dispatch at 822-3555 and giving their airplane's tail number.

The county will pay for the gas. Currently, if pilots are looking for a ride they have to stick out a thumb.

More planes are anticipated to land at the Superior airport now that a gas pump has been installed. It dispenses 100 LL Avgas fuel, currently at a cost of \$5.09 per gallon – the third cheapest within a 90-mile radius of Polson, Grimm said. She plans to list the county airport in the AirNav system, which should allow pilots to find it more readily.

121.5 MHz Satellite Processing Terminates February 1, 2009

A reminder to aircraft owners that on **February 1, 2009** the International Search and Rescue Satellite System, known as COSPAS-SARSAT, will cease monitoring 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz emergency beacons including Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs).

In order for your beacon to receive satellite coverage in the event of an emergency it will need to operate on the 406 MHz frequency.

It is recommended that aircraft owners who operate aircraft with 121.5 MHz ELTs transition to the improved digital 406 MHz frequency before February 1, 2009. For more information visit www.sarsat.noaa.gov.

The logo features the word "BIG" in large, bold, red letters with a white outline, and the word "NEWS" in blue letters with a white outline below it.

More MSPC 2008!



Jeanne MacPherson, flight instructor, explains the FAA Wings program to Robert Shropshire (l) and William Duffiel (r).



Kristi Dunks, a flight instructor and NTSB investigator, just moved to Butte and signed up for the 2008 clinic. Picture is Kristi (l) with flight instructors Wendy Beye and Jeanne MacPherson (r).



David Hoerner gave the advanced mountain flying techniques presentation Saturday evening.



Debbie Alke, administrator, MDT Aeronautics Division, gets advanced dual from ELT Instructor Peter Graf.



Art Dykstra, CFI from Missoula, was interviewed by the local news about the 2008 clinic.

Skip Stoffel of the Emergency Response Institute is ready to offer his expertise on survival strategies.



Scholarship Opportunities

Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations who 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 Montanans to help defray costs of education (i.e., flight instruction, A&P, etc.) and will be presented during the 2009 Montana Aviation Conference in Billings. 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. **The same letter can be submitted but applicants must submit one copy addressed to each individual scholarship they are applying for.** Letters of application **must** include a **mailing address, daytime phone number and photograph**. If you are selected to receive one of the scholarships, your photo will appear in the 2009 Montana Aviation Conference Program. Letters should be mailed 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 9, 2009.**

A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship – An anonymous donor established this scholarship of \$250 in 1997.

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

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.

Harold Hamm Scholarship – Harold and Zola Hamm were the anonymous donors who established the first \$250 A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship in 1993. With the passing of Harold on September 1, 2006, Zola decided to rename the scholarship the “Harold Hamm Scholarship” in honor of her husband of 19 years. Harold had an extremely strong passion for aviation. Together he and Zola completed two airplane projects: the restoration of a J-3 Piper Cub and an experimental RV-6 aircraft. In 2008 Zola graciously increased the amount of the Harold Hamm Scholarship to \$500.

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

Montana Pilots Association Flight Training Award - This scholarship is open to a person who has a considerable interest in aviation. The \$750 scholarship is to be used for flight training.

Montana Pilots Association Junior Pilot Award – This recipient is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship within his or her community and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must have soloed and be actively involved in flight training. This is a \$750 scholarship.

Morrison Aviation Appreciation Scholarship – Jeff Morrison, retired former owner of Morrison Flying Service in Helena has established the \$500 scholarship as a token of appreciation to the aviation community.

Mountain Air Dance Flight Training Scholarship One: Jeanne MacPherson and Bill Gallea offer this \$750 scholarship to a person with a huge interest in aviation; this scholarship would be used for flight training of any type.

Mountain Air Dance Flight Training Scholarship Two: Jeanne MacPherson and Bill Gallea offer this \$750 scholarship to an active pilot who desires to pursue advanced training such as tailwheel endorsement, mountain flying, aerobatics, or a higher rating.

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.

Montana Airports & Activities

By: Max Murphy, Aviation Support Officer, Airport/Airways Bureau

Like most Montanans, my co-workers and I at the MDT Aeronautics Division make the most of the nice summer and fall weather to complete outdoor tasks. This year was no exception. In fact, in addition to my scheduled visits to one-third of Montana's smaller airports to complete 5010 inspections and continued improvements to the Lincoln Airport, I began a new task of spraying noxious weeds at Montana's state-owned airports.

Coming from an agricultural background, Montana's "War on Weeds" is a project I have participated in for many years. My 25 years of personal experience of weed control has been helpful in weed identification and proper elimination techniques. This year I was able to step up my applicator's license from a Private Applicator to a Commercial Applicator. The Division has invested in weed spraying equipment, protective gear and personnel time to advance the cause of weed management.

Most Montanans are aware of the spread of spotted knapweed across our Big Sky Country. Many other noxious weeds are also making their way across our state owned airports are Houndstongue, Dalmatian toadflax, yellow toadflax, Hoary Cress, Mullen and various thistles. Weeds are spread by wild game, birds, livestock, vehicles, people, pets, and yes, even airplanes. This is true particularly when weeds are present on turf strips as seeds adhere to tires, shoes and clothing and are then transported unknowingly to other destinations. Paved airstrips reduce the spread of weeds, however, the ground bordering the pavement is often infested with weeds. Seeds are then carried by wind and other elements to the pavement then transported elsewhere.

Noxious weeds are a threat not only to our land, but also our way of life in Montana. At the MDT Aeronautics Division we are doing our part to attack and stop the spread of noxious weeds.



How do witches keep their hair in place while flying?
With scare spray...

Idaho Aviation Expo Planned for Spring 2009

The Idaho Aviation Association and the Idaho Aviation Foundation will host the Rocky Mountain West Aviation Expo (RMWAE) in Boise, Idaho May 30-31. RMWAE will feature exhibits, educational seminars and aircraft / equipment displays for aviation enthusiasts.

The 7th Annual Rocky Mountain West Aviation Expo carries on the proud tradition of the Idaho Aviation Festival.

Expo attendees will find the latest information on aviation, technology and aircraft including business, experimental and light sport products. Attendees will meet the pros, view displays, learn about aviation job openings, future career opportunities, training, seminars and see live product/service demonstrations. Companies joining in this Idaho aviation event will be showing their support of Rocky Mountain Aviation, while gaining incomparable exposure to a select group of aircraft owners, pilots, mechanics and the general public.

For more information or to participate in the Rocky Mountain West Aviation Expo, contact Lee Hudson at the Idaho Business League, Inc. 208-323-4464 or league@idahobusinessleague.com.

Glasgow Offers NEAT Program for Students

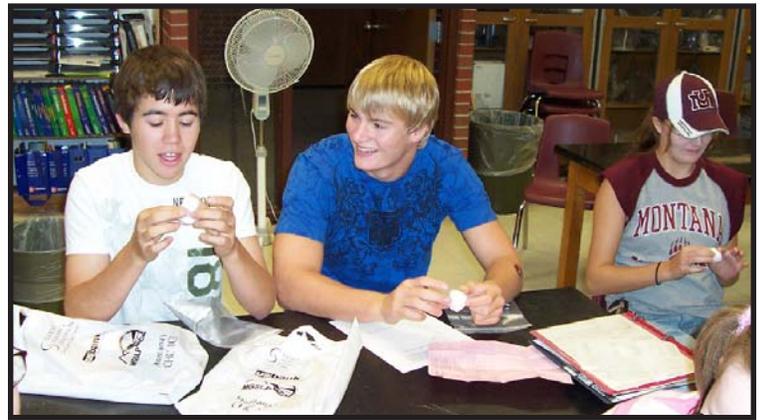
The tradition lives on, NEAT (North East Aviation and Technology) just happened in Glasgow on September 9-11. The program was started in 2006 as a way to encourage students to aim high and to expose the students to the technical jobs that exist in aviation and technology.

On Tuesday, the Glasgow high school students spent their day in aviation assemblies and in the classrooms with more than 20 aviation and technology professionals from NASA, NOAA, Border Patrol, FAA, MDT Aeronautics Division, air taxi and air ambulance, Fish Wild Life and Parks, the Bureau of Land Management, Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Geological Survey.

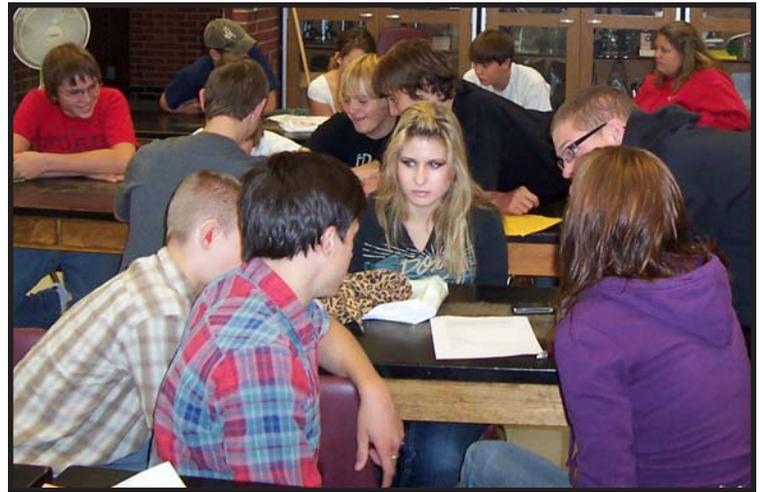
On Wednesday and Thursday, students from Glasgow, Scobey, Poplar, Bainville, Vida, Wolf Point, Whitewater, Saco and Malta were invited to the airport where aircraft were on static display. The students also toured the Valley Event Center, the Pioneer Museum and the Fort Peck Fish Hatchery.

Kelly Dimick, administrative assistant, MDT Aeronautics Division, presented “the many aviation careers” to the high school students and Jeanne MacPherson, Safety and Education Bureau, from MDT Aeronautics Division, offered a hands-on aviation survival scenario to the students. The students from this year’s NEAT program left with new ideas, some new skills and a new appreciation of aviation and technology for the future.

The Glasgow high school students (in their teams) are selecting the five best items that will aid them in their survival for the next 72 hours.



The Glasgow high school students are making fire starter (cotton balls with a dab of Vaseline) for their survival kits.



Pilot Creates Full Size Flight Simulator



Where is the rest of the airliner?? Joe Scott, (l), and Dr. Mike Hennessy examine Joe’s full-size flight simulator cockpit at Joe’s hangar near Front Range Aviation in Great Falls. Picture courtesy Russ Verbael.

Joe Scott, a retired Great Falls Mercy Flight pilot, is busy developing and upgrading a 40-year-old F-27 flight simulator that will utilize current Microsoft simulator software. This simulator will be capable of configuring and functioning as a variety of aircraft from a King Air 200 to a Boeing 747. Joe is installing a total of five screen monitors, projectors, sound effects and a full panel layout including all indicators necessary to train/maintain IFR proficiency. Joe reports that aside from offering pilots the opportunity to “fly” the machine and practice emergency procedures, the portable cockpit-simulator will be made available for transport and hands-on demonstrations at schools and other groups interested in aviation such as Boy Scouts, air explorers and Civil Air Patrol. We are sure anxious to see the final project and will surely have more to report after this amazing task is complete!

Now Accepting Airport of the Year Nominations

Do you often hear yourself telling your friends that your airport is better than theirs? Do you feel an unquenchable need to brag about your airport? Have you had dreams at night where you picture your airport manager standing atop a three tiered podium with the American flag hung overhead with Olympic theme music bellowing in the background? If so, you may have what it takes to nominate your favorite airport for our annual "Airport of the Year" award. If you are interested in nominating a particular airport, please drop a letter or an email to the following address with a brief description of just why you think that your airport is the best. Nominations will be accepted through the end of the year. Aeronautics will collect and review all of the nominations and will select one lucky airport to be our "Airport of the Year!" Awards will be presented during the annual Montana Aviation Conference in March. Nominations may be made by anyone on behalf of any airport. Please be sure to include a contact name and number and be sure to tell us just why you think your airport should be selected, whether it is because of some recent projects that have taken place, or because of its outstanding management or any other reason you can think of. Nominations can be sent to either of the following: MDT Aeronautics Division, Attn: Jim Greil, PO Box 200507, Helena, MT 599620-0507 or email jgreil@mt.gov.

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