



Enthusiastic Group Survives the Cold!

It was another successful year for the MDT Aeronautics Surratt Winter Survival Clinic, where we believe that proper preparation can save a life!

Practicing a skill over and over, equates to having that skill quickly accessible should an emergency happen. The average survival scenario lasts about 72 hours. Skip Stoffel and Paul Green of the Emergency Response International (ERI) are experts in the field of survival and told the group that survival is all about "buying some time." The fundamentals of this belief of "buying time" toward survival are first and foremost a positive mental attitude (PMA), the ability to stay warm and dry which is linked to 98.6 (shelter and clothing) the ability to make a fire, to provide help (first-aid and a survival kit) and the ability to attract help (signaling).

The ground school portion of the clinic was held at the Helena Regional Airport. Skip Stoffel and Paul Green presented the physiologic needs of the body, backcountry first aid, survival kits, and the best types of survival clothing. The overnight session of the clinic was held at the Lincoln Airport where Skip and Paul demonstrated shelter design and construction, fire building and signaling, and where the participants constructed a winter shelter and spent the night "surviving."

Some of the 2009 participants were returning winter survivalist working at improving their chances of survival, and the other half of the hardy bunch were "rookies." The group included private and professional pilots, eight Rocky Mountain Aviation College students and a father and son team who flew their Bonanza from California to attend this year's winter survival clinic. Look for Richard and Tyson's "Hotel California" survival shelter in the pictures of winter survival.

We would like to thank Deb Surratt Myers, Skip Stoffel and Paul Green of ERI, Ron Mercer and staff at the Helena Regional Airport, Captain Jack's of the Helena Regional Airport, and Ponder' Roses in Lincoln, Montana for helping to make the winter survival clinic possible.

See additional photos from the clinic on page 5 newsletter.



Jeanne MacPherson is welcoming instructors Skip Stoffel and Paul Green to Winter Survival at the Friday evening ground school kick off.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For those of you who haven't registered for this year's conference now's the time. With more than 50 exhibitors; exciting speakers and great entertainment you won't want to miss the 25th annual conference! See a conference schedule on our web site at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/ or phone Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 for further information. A registration form is included on page 4 of the newsletter. Hope to see you there!!

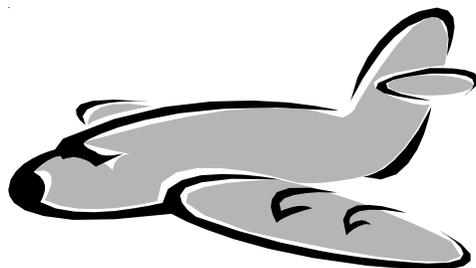
Administrator's Column

Airport Boardings: Congratulations to Montana commercial service airports that handled more than three million passengers for the first time ever in 2008! Yes, that's 3,000,000+ in a year when Montana's seven essential air service airports were without airline service for several months. Thanks to all of the great airport directors, staff, airport authorities and boards for the job that you do.

Stimulus update: The stimulus bills continue to be debated in Congress with the Senate version containing \$1.1 billion in funding for AIP grants along with \$1.2 billion for checkpoint upgrades and EDS purchase and installation. The \$1.1 billion in AIP funding is significantly below the \$3 billion included for that purpose as part of the House-passed stimulus bill. The House has passed its bill which provides \$3 billion in additional funding for AIP grants and \$500 million in funding for EDS purchase and installation and checkpoint technology upgrades. The House version requires a five percent local match. State and industry representatives are working tirelessly to ensure final stimulus legislation includes a 100 percent federal contribution for projects funded under the bill with sufficient flexibility to airports in utilizing the grant funds. Following Senate action, House and Senate negotiators will reconcile differences between the passed versions of the bill with hopes to have a final bill to the President by February 16. Stand by for guidance once an act is signed. We will coordinate with the Helena FAA Airports District Office to distribute information as quickly as it is learned.

Large Aircraft Security Proposal: General aviation association Presidents from the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Associations (AOPA), the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) and the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) have formally requested that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) stop any work on its plan to impose airline-like security on general aviation. The groups asked that a committee be formed to allow industry and TSA to work together to decrease the proposed onerous requirements. The groups said the proposal "will do little to improve general aviation security and will have disastrous consequences on the industry." In recent comments, recently confirmed Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano acknowledged the concerns raised by GA but did not indicate what action the TSA might take to address the concerns. The TSA is accepting public comment on the proposed rule until February 27.

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 2,400 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$936. This includes \$565 for postage.



Montana and the Sky

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Brian Schweitzer, Governor
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Montana and the Sky

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Editor: Patty Kautz

Calendar

February 20 - Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program Open House—meet students and faculty, get your questions answered, go on a free flight. For more information, call Dan Hargrove, director of Aviation, (406) 657-1060.

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

March 20 - Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program Open House—meet students and faculty, get your questions answered, go on a free flight. For more information, call Dan Hargrove, director of Aviation, at (406) 657-1060.

May 23-24 – Spotted Bear Work Session.

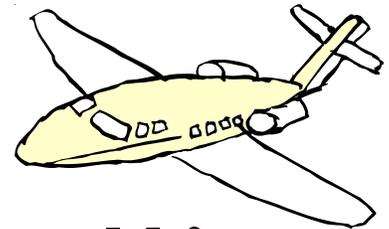
May 30-31 – Rocky Mountain West Aviation Expo, Boise, Idaho. For further information or to participate, contact Lee Hudson at (208) 323-4464 or league@idahobusinessleague.com.

June 20-21 – 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.

June 27 - 2nd Annual Seeley Lake Flying Club Fly-In and Community Barbeque Dinner, Seeley Lake Airport - 23S. Flame broiled burgers and dogs, salad, beans and dessert, raffle prizes and fun for all ages. Contact Calvin Kovatch, (406) 677-2932 kkovatch@blackfoot.net

June 27-28 – Meadow Creek Work Session.

August 2 – Hysham Airport Lions Club Fly-In, Drive In Breakfast, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For further information, phone Bob Miller at (406) 342-5252.



Mechanics Seminar & IA Renewal Held in Conjunction with Aviation Conference

The MDT Aeronautics Division is pleased to announce the 2009 Mechanics Seminar and IA renewal will once again be held in conjunction with this year's Montana Aviation conference in Billings.

The dates for the conference are March 5-7. The Mechanics Seminar will be held on Friday, March 6 and continue through Saturday, March 7.

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 is \$75 after February 2. This allows you to attend all concurrent sessions, morning and afternoon coffee breaks with snacks, Friday dinner/dance and the Saturday luncheon. If only attending the Saturday session, a \$20 day pass may be obtained. Direct any questions to Michael Rogan with the MDT Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-9590 or e-mail at mrogan@mt.gov.

Tentative speakers for the seminar are: Teledyne Continental Motors-Loren Lemen; Colorado Classic Aircraft-Carol Leyner; ACES Systems - Steve Sennett; Diagnostic Solutions (Chadwick)-Jim Ramsay; Flight Resource (MT Propellers)-John Nielsen; Aeroionics- Gordon Dewey; Champion Aerospace-Dick Johnson; North West Propeller - Dick Jacob; FAA Legal Counsel-David Shayne; FAA Safety Team Manger - Steve Jones; FAA Helena FSDO - Bryan Hanson; FAA Helena FSDO - Troy Meskimen.

Make plans now to attend, to discuss and learn the latest in aircraft maintenance.

25th Annual Montana Aviation Conference

March 5-7, 2009 - Holiday Inn Grand, Billings

Mail Registration Form & Payment to:
 MDT Aeronautics Division - Attn: Patty Kautz
 PO Box 200507 - Helena, MT 59620-0507
 Phone (406) 444-9580 – Fax (406) 444-2519
 Email: pkautz@mt.gov

Names of Participant(s) (for badges): _____

Aviation Organization Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Register Early and SAVE!

EARLY REGISTRATION: BY FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Takeoff to Landing Package	___ @\$120/PERSON	\$ _____
(includes registration & <u>all meals</u>)	___ @\$230/PERSON/SPOUSE	\$ _____

-OR- Registration Fee	___ @\$65/PERSON	\$ _____
(includes registration & <u>free meals</u> – see note below)	___ @\$120/FAMILY	\$ _____

Thursday Luncheon	___ @\$15/EACH	\$ _____
Friday Luncheon	___ @\$15/EACH	\$ _____
**Friday Dinner/Entertainment	___ @FREE	\$ _____
**Saturday Luncheon	___ @FREE	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	___ @\$30	\$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

GENERAL REGISTRATION: AFTER FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Takeoff to Landing Package	___ @\$130/PERSON	\$ _____
(includes registration & <u>all meals</u>)	___ @\$250/PERSON/SPOUSE	\$ _____

-OR- Registration Fee	___ @\$75/PERSON	\$ _____
(includes registration & <u>free meals</u> – see note below)	___ @\$140/FAMILY	\$ _____

Thursday Luncheon	___ @\$15/EACH	\$ _____
Friday Luncheon	___ @\$15/EACH	\$ _____
**Friday Dinner/Entertainment	___ @FREE	\$ _____
**Saturday Luncheon	___ @FREE	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	___ @\$30	\$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

****PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WILL ATTEND THE FREE FRIDAY DINNER/ENTERTAINMENT AND FREE SATURDAY LUNCHEON WITH NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED. PERSON/SPOUSE AND FAMILY RATE INCLUDES 2 DINNER/ DANCE AND 2 SATURDAY LUNCH TICKETS – ADDITIONAL TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED - \$30.00 DINNER/DANCE AND \$15.00 SATURDAY LUNCHEON. TO ASSURE ADEQUATE MEAL COUNT IF NO INDICATION IS MADE AS TO NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED NO TICKETS WILL BE RESERVED.**

Refund Policy: Full refunds for cancellations will be given until February 2, 2009. From February 2 through February 20 the registration fee less \$50 will be refunded. **After February 20**, no refunds will be given. If you cannot attend, you may transfer your registration to another person in the same registration category.

Winter Survival continued



Tyson and Richard Roberts in front of "Hotel California" flew their Bonanza from Concord, California to attend this year's winter survival.



Lindsey Gray (Billings) a student from Rocky Mountain College has the construction started for her shelter.



Art Keeler of Helena shows his gear at the gear check-in station.



Dolan McDonald (Lolo) a lead pilot for the US Forest Service inspects his shelter.



The Lincoln Airport base camp of the overnight MDT Aeronautics Surratt Winter Survival Clinic, where some participants drove and some flew to survive!



Eight students from the aviation department at Rocky Mountain College of Billings attended this year's winter survival.

Airport Grants and Loans Awarded

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

On January 30, the MDT Aeronautics Division along with the Montana Aeronautics Board gave away hundreds of thousands of dollars in loans and grants to various Montana airports as part of the annual loan and grant program. The program, developed 16 years ago, has become a major contributor to Montana airports. At any given time, there is nearly a million dollars of Aeronautics Division funding obligated to various airport projects around the state. There was about \$392,000 in grants and about \$350,000 in loans available for disbursement this year for aviation projects around the state. Funding for this program is provided by a \$0.02 / gallon tax on fuel sold to general aviation aircraft in Montana. Although most of the money given in grants and loans each year goes to leverage 95/5 federal (FAA) match dollars for large airport construction projects, there is usually a significant percentage awarded for various smaller airport projects. Applications for the money are due to the Aeronautics Division around Thanksgiving each year, and the money is awarded in January or February of the following year. The nine member Montana Aeronautics Board has sole responsibility for the awarding of loan and grant monies. The board usually discusses each project in general and then hears presentations provided by airport sponsors and their representatives. After some discussion, the board will vote to approve, deny or amend the requests. This program is open to all public use entities and the money can be used for nearly any airport or aviation related project. For more information regarding the program, contact the Aeronautics Division. Following are the awards for fiscal year 2010:

<u>AIRPORT</u>	<u>GRANT AMOUNT</u>	<u>LOAN AMOUNT</u>
Anaconda	5,900	
Bridger	7,000	
Broadus	5,000	5,000
Canyon Ferry	10,000	
Columbus	16,395	16,395
Culbertson	14,000	24,800
Cut Bank		30,000
Deer Lodge	13,870	13,870
Dillon	58,775	58,775
Dutton	2,108	
Eureka	3,947	
Fairfield	15,000	
Forsyth	2,750	
Fort Benton	18,421	18,421
Fort Peck	18,000	
Harlem	14,175	
Jordan	2,000	
Laurel	4,375	
Lewistown	3,947	3,947
Libby	8,500	
Miles City		30,000
Philipsburg	5,000	
Plains	5,500	5,500
Plentywood	3,325	
Poplar	74,875	74,875
Ronan	20,000	20,000
St. Ignatius	12,500	12,500
Shelby	3,050	
Stanford	7,553	7,553
Stevensville	16,250	16,250
Terry	6,000	6,000
Thompson Falls	5,700	5,700
Townsend	2,473	
Wolf Point	5,775	
TOTALS	\$392,164	\$349,586

In Memory

Gerhart Blain

July 31, 1932 - January 14, 2009



Gerhart Blain passed away at his home south of Billings on January 14, 2009, after a long illness.

Gerhart was self employed and earned his living in many different ways, most notably through aviation. Although he had a passion for aviation, his family and friends were more important to him. If Gerhart had one major fault, it would be the endless hours that he spent bragging to friends, or anyone who would listen, about his children and grandchildren. For his friends, no favor was too large. He was always one to help when someone was in need. Always one for a practical joke, he arrived at his own 60th surprise birthday party in disguise. His family thought he was not there because no one recognized him until the party was well underway.

Gerhart was one of the pioneer helicopter operators in the area and was instrumental in starting the Help Flight Program in Billings. He is probably most well known for the Christmas Eve Santa Claus flights, which he began in 1981.

Gerhart often said “it’s been a wonderful life,” and he lived it to the fullest. The unknown author of the following quote, could have been describing Gerhart Blain’s life:

“Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, totally worn out and proclaiming, ‘Wow, What a Ride!’”

He was preceded in death by his parents, Grace and Robert Blain, and his brother, Robert, along with many special friends.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Aldonna Walborn Blain; daughter, Flori Meyer (Dan) and children, Daniel, Dillon, Blayne and Marin; three sons, Al (Bobbi) and children AJ, Erin and Bridger, son Gary (Vickie) and children, Dani, Ali, and Ashli, son Robert (Julie) and children TJ and Sydney; two sisters, Grace Lehnerr and Gertrude Christensen (Don); two brothers, Wallace (Marge) and Rodney (Mary); and several nieces and nephews. His grandchildren were the light of his life and he loved spending time with them.

Harold “Hal” Edward Wright

July 11, 1936 - January 22, 2009



Harold “Hal” Edward Wight, 72, passed away on January 22, 2009 in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. He was born on July 11, 1936 in Billings.

Hal was the first airport manager at West Yellowstone. He went on to manage several other airports around the nation.

Hal moved to Lake Havasu City five years ago from Oregon. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force. Hal married his wife, Francis, in Japan. He enjoyed writing newsletters on the computer and traveling with his wife.

Hal is survived by his loving wife of 45 years and brother, Norm Wight.

RAF to Present at this Years Conference

The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) will be presenting an informational program on the purpose and progress of the Foundation at this year’s Montana Aviation Conference March 5-7 in Billings. RAF board members will have available safety details on Ryan Field near West Glacier.

In addition to RAF’s popular embroidered limited-quantity cap sales, this year’s RAF supporters will get a chance to win a Telex headset, valued at \$550 and a Garmin 696 valued at \$3,295. Both prizes will be on display at the RAF booth during the conference.

Caps are numbered one through 75 and are sold for \$100 each. Each cap gives the buyer one chance in the raffle. Contact Jerry Cain by email at raf@lincnet.net to reserve your numbered cap and raffle chance.

Unreserved caps will be available for sale at the RAF booth at the conference. Winners will be announced at the Saturday night banquet and the winner need not be present to win. The Recreational Aviation Foundation wishes to thank Mitch Steinberg of Rocky Mountain Aircraft Services of Kalispell for donating the headset for this year’s raffle.

Important Reminder to Pilots

As of February 1, the International Cospas-Sarsat [1] Organization (U.S. included) terminated processing of distress signals emitted by 121.5 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs). Pilots flying aircraft equipped with 121.5 MHz ELTs after that date will have to depend on pilots of over flying aircraft and/or ground stations monitoring 121.5 to hear and report distress alert signals transmitted from a possible crash site.

Currently only 12-15 percent of the registered aircraft in the United States are flying with 406 MHz ELTs. This means that there is at least an 85 percent chance that an aircraft in an accident will only transmit a 121.5 MHz signal, remaining silent to the satellites. It will be up to other pilots monitoring the 121.5 MHz frequency in the cockpit to alert search and rescue authorities to accidents involving 121.5. When you fly, look out for your fellow pilots, and when possible monitor 121.5 MHz.

If a 121.5 MHz ELT is heard on guard, report to the nearest air traffic control tower, the time and location of when you first detect the ELT, when it is the loudest and when it drops off your radio. Listening and reporting may well be the difference that saves a life.

Cospas-Sarsat System (U.S. included) has been and will continue processing emergency signals transmitted by 406 MHz ELTs. These five-watt digital beacons transmit a much stronger signal, are more accurate, verifiable and traceable to the registered beacon owner (406 MHz ELTs must be registered by the owner in accordance with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulation at www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov). Registration allows search and rescue authorities to contact the beacon owner or his or her designated alternate by telephone to determine if an emergency exists. This often solves a 406 MHz alert without launching costly and limited search and rescue resources, which would have to be done for a 121.5 MHz alert. Therefore, the search and rescue community is encouraging aircraft owners to consider retrofit of 406 MHz ELTs or at a minimum, consider the purchase of a hand held 406 MHz Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), which can be carried in the cockpit while continuing to maintain a fixed 121.5 MHz ELT mounted in the aircraft's tail.

For further information concerning the termination of 121.5 MHz data processing visit www.sarsat.noaa.gov or contact Switchto406@noaa.gov with any questions.

Aeronautics Division
Montana Department of Transportation

2630 Airport Road
PO Box 200507
Helena, Montana 59620-0507

Montana Department of Transportation



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