



Sentimental Journey to Visit Butte Airport

Butte Airport will be celebrating the arrival of the B-17 Flying Fortress Sentimental Journey a World War II vintage bomber airplane on Monday, June 15 at 12:00 p.m. to kick off the Butte Fly In and Military Appreciation Days. The event will run from June 15 through June 18, with the Sentimental Journey departing Friday, June 19 at 9:00 a.m.

The week will include a static display of fifteen Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) aircraft and Military invites have been sent for the B-2 (Stealth) Bomber and KC-135 as well as many National Guard helicopters. The final list of aircraft will be determined by June 1. Aircraft will be on display for all three days. Since these operations will be conducted with Military Appreciation days, other land based military equipment will also be displayed.

The event will begin with a Military Appreciation Days social on Tuesday evening and end with a barbeque on Thursday evening. The EAA pilots will be on hand to offer free airplane rides to children ages 8-17 on Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The public is also invited to tour the B-17 – inside and out. There's even the opportunity for some lucky individuals to actually take a flight in the Sentimental Journey and experience this rare aircraft first-hand. Tours range from \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 5-12 and free for children under 5. Flight opportunities are \$425 per person for a 45 minute ride. All tour proceeds benefit Sentimental Journey, only a handful of these rare birds remain in the world today and most of them are on static display in museums. In addition the RC aircraft group as well as the RC car group will be giving demonstrations throughout the week.

The event is sponsored by Butte's Bert Mooney Airport, The Commemorative Air Force, The Butte Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce, Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), the Southwest Hangar of the Montana Pilots Association, Butte Aviation and the Civil Air Patrol with great assistance from Major Brian McCluskie with the Military Entrance Processing Station and Pam Haxby-Cote with Senator Jon Tester's office.

Butte Aviation no longer charges day use ramp fees for aircraft less than 4500 pounds and will discount the fuel for participants. Additionally ramp fees for larger aircraft parking will be waived for participants. Arrangements have been made for campsites on the airport premises at no charge.

For further arrangements with general aviation aircraft flying in and those interested in participating in the static display contact Dick Johnson at (406) 494-8030 or Charles Fligel at (406) 494-3836. Charles is making arrangements for B-17 photos with your own aircraft!

For further information contact Rick Griffith at (406) 494-3771 or Marko Lucich at Butte Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce at (406) 723-3177. This is a chance to visit Butte and enjoy a little of that Butte hospitality - they are looking forward to seeing you there!



Administrator's Column

Legislative Recap: The 2009 session of the Montana Legislature adjourned on Tuesday, April 28. The Department had one legislative request pertaining to the Aeronautics Division. **SB 116** carried by Senator Jim Keane was signed by Governor Schweitzer on March 17. This bill clarified the current distribution of the 4 cent aviation fuel tax collected by the Department as recommended in a legislative audit. Other bills of interest to the industry included: **SB 109** outdoor lighting introduced by Senator Bob Hawks, Bozeman. The bill did exempt navigational lighting systems used by airports and the sponsor at MDT's request did agree to a further amendment to exempt airway and airport navigational lighting. The bill was tabled in committee. **HB 426** clarified the appointment of regional airport authorities. Representative Mike Milburn, Great Falls worked to amend language as a result of an issue involving the seating of board members. The bill passed. **SB 354** moved to clarify the law regarding airport authorities and the ability to lease property. This too was the result of a local issue and Senator Dave Lewis, Helena introduced the bill as a result of an action filed in district court. At the request of the airport managers association, following a controversial committee hearing the airport sponsor did not schedule the bill for executive action and it missed the transmittal date. **SB 353**, Senator Jerry Black, Shelby passed which will remove the license tax incentive for ethanol effective July 1, 2009. **SB 435 and HB 79** both bills to prevent a net gain in state lands both died in standing committee. These bills would have affected state-owned airports.

MDT Completes Airport Economic Impact Study: The MDT Aeronautics Division recently completed a study quantifying the economic benefit of Montana's public-use airports. This study measured the economic impact of 120 system airports in Montana. Seven of these airports are the State's Primary Commercial Service Airports, while eight are Commercial Essential Air

Service (EAS) Airports. The study was conducted by Wilbur Smith Associates with assistance from Morrison Maierle and was funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Aeronautics Division. A copy of the executive summary and individual airport brochures have been mailed to the 72 airport sponsors. Copies of the technical report and executive summary as well as 72 individual airport reports are available at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation>.

Federal Legislative Update: The overall federal omnibus funding bill has appropriated funding for the FAA's airport improvement program through September 30, 2009. The current FAA reauthorization HR 915 has not gone to the House floor for a vote but has been marked up by the House Transportation and Infrastructure committee.

Congratulations: Ted Mathis, Bozeman Airport Director will retire May 31 after serving 28 years in that capacity. Ted began his aviation career in Helena as a commercial pilot and flight instructor. He worked for the Aeronautics Commission as a pilot/mechanic before accepting the Airport Manager position at the Yellowstone Airport. Ted then became Assistant Manager at the Helena Airport before moving to the Bozeman Airport. Ted served as Chairman of the Montana Aeronautics Board and was instrumental in starting the Montana Aviation Conference and served as its first Chairman. Thank you Ted for your many contributions to Montana aviation. Happy retirement!

New Bozeman Airport Director: Brian Sprenger has been named the new Airport Director at Gallatin Field, Bozeman. Brian has served as Assistant Airport Director for the past ten years and will begin his new duties on June 1. The Montana aviation community congratulates Brian and looks forward to a continued relationship and friendship. Congratulations Brian.



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Calendar

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.

May 30-31 – Ellsworth Air Force Base is hosting their Dakota Thunder 2009 open house and airshow featuring the USAF Thunderbirds. You are invited to fly your airplane in. The open house website www.dakotathunder.com is updated with the Arrival/Departure information for Civilian Pilots including arrival flow, airfield diagrams, etc. Please check back frequently for updates. Fly in coordinator Maj. Dave Marten (605) 390-8044 or david.marten@ellsworth.af.mil.

June 8 – Aeronautics Board Teleconference 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. View agenda details at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/. For further information contact Patty Kautz (406) 444-9580 or email pkautz@mt.gov.

June 12-13 – 5th Annual Lewistown Airport Fly In and Pancake Breakfast. Friday, June 12 – 6:30 p.m. – Steak fry, sponsored by MPA Central Hangar – RSVP requested, Sandi Chamberlain at schamberlain@lewistown.k12.mt.us. Saturday, June 13 – 7:00 a.m. to noon – Fly In and Sourdough Pancake Breakfast. For further information, contact Jerry Moline, (406) 535-3264.

June 12-14 – Winifred/Breaks Fly In – 12th - camp/cookout Cow Creek (RSVP on the cookout), 13th – Morning breakfast at Lewistown Fly In, Fly the breaks, hamburger feed at Winifred hangar, 14th – departure. Call Ralph Rogers for more information (406) 462-5487 or nafanew@ttc-cmc.net.

June 15-18 – Butte Airport Fly In and Military Appreciation Days. B-17 Flying Fortress Sentimental Journey; business card social; barbeque; Young Eagle Rides; static display and more! For further information contact Rick Griffith at (406) 494-3771 or Butte Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce at (406) 723-3177.

June 20 - Plains Airport Fly In Pancake Breakfast. 8:00 a.m. to noon. For further information, contact Randy Garrison, (406) 826-3605 or printery@plainsmt.net.

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 20-21 – 6th Annual Fathers Day Fly In, Twin Bridges Airport. Events start Saturday morning with Young Eagle Rides and end Sunday afternoon. Skydiving, family potluck barbeque (bring a side dish), games and prizes for kids, aircraft display, games for pilots, food and more. Visit www.rubyvalleyavition.com for more information or call Kendra at (406) 684-5335.

June 25-27 – Aviation Career Academy for students in grades 6-8 (for the school year 2008/2009). Flight Simulator; Survival Skills; Field Trips. For further information contact Jeanne MacPherson (406) 444-9568 or email jemacpherson@mt.gov or visit our web site at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/.

June 27 - Airport Heritage Day, Ravalli County Airport (6S5). Sponsored by the Ravalli County Pilots' Association, the Ravalli County Aviation Safety Foundation and the Ravalli County Museum. Pancake breakfast 7:00 - 11:00 a.m.; static display of antique aircraft and warbirds, historical information booth, skydiving demonstration, radio controlled aircraft and EAA Young Eagle Flights will continue into the afternoon; and finally, 7:30 - 11:00 p.m., a USO Hangar Dance.

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 – North Central MPA Hangar – Fly In breakfast, Havre. For further information, call Darren Huestis (406) 945-1861.

June 27-28 – Meadow Creek Work Session.

Calendar continued page 4

Calendar, continued

June 27-28 – Gateway to Freedom Air Show, Helena Regional Airport. Featuring the United States Air Force Demonstration Squadron, the “Thunderbirds” and the United States Army Parachute Team, the “Golden Knights”. For further information visit www.helenairshow.com or email info@helenairshow.com.

July 4 – EAA Flight Festival, Townsend Airport. Breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Young Eagle Flights from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The city of Townsend will be having a picnic at Heritage Park. The courtesy van and cars are available. Camping and barbeque grill is also available at airport. For further information contact Karen Salmi at karensalmi@hotmail.com.

July 11 – Del Bonita Work Session.

July 17-19 – Schafer Meadows Fly In. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

July 19 – St. Ignatius Fly In. For further information, contact Steve Allard steve@allarductions.com.

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.

August 6-8 – Montana Antique Airplane Association Three Forks Fly In.

August 14-15 – Wings & Wheels Fly In, Powell Municipal Airport, Wyoming. August 14 – Twilight Airshow/Ice Cream Social; August 15 – Fly In and Airshow. For further information phone Powell Chamber of Commerce (307) 754-3494.

August 14-16 – Montana Fun Weekend, Cut Bank. Car show, airplane rides, fly in for general aviation (60 aircraft last year) and drag racing. For further information, contact Roy Nollkamper (406) 450-1078 or email nollkamper47@hotmail.com.

August 15 – Polson Fly In.

Administrators Column, continued

More retirements: Three long-time Helena Airport employees are retiring after a combined 97 years of service. Harold Williams (Project Manager - 38 years), Bruce Stewart (Public Safety - 30+ years) and Groucho Marcil (Mechanic- 29 years) have all recently retired. Helena will miss having these “legends” around the airport. Best wishes to all of you in your retirement and thanks for all you’ve done over the many years to make the Helena airport a better facility.



Classic Tower Conversations

“Air Force ’45, it appears your engine has...oh, disregard...I see you’ve already ejected.”

”You’re gonna have to key the mic. I can’t see you when you nod your head.”

”Climb like your life depends on it...because it does.”

The controller working a busy pattern told the 727 on downwind to make a three-sixty. The pilot of the 727 complained, “Do you know it costs us two thousand dollars to make a three-sixty in this airplane?” Without missing a beat the controller replied, “Roger, give me four thousand dollars worth!”

Pete Sanders Receives Master Pilot Status!

On April 18, 2009, the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Helena Flight Standards District Office presented pilot Pete Sanders with the Wright Brothers' "Master Pilot award. The "Master Pilot" award is presented to pilots that exhibit professionalism, skill, aviation expertise, and have maintained safe flight operations for 50 years or more.

Montana's newest Master Pilot was born in Flint, Michigan on April 19, 1924. He began flight training with Darnall Flying Service in Glasgow, Montana in January of 1957. After 14 ½ hours of flight time in a Cessna 140 and Aeronca, he soloed in a Cessna 140 on February 1st of 1958.

He may have been the longest operating student pilot in the Northwest. For 17 years, he flew a variety of aircraft, PA-11s, PA-12s, Champs, Cessna 150s, and 172s. Because that darned FAA changed the rules regarding student pilot privileges, he had to take the Private Pilot test.

In September of 1975 he completed his Private Pilot check-ride. Jack Hughes of Missoula issued him a temporary Airmen Certificate as a Private Pilot.

He attended many of the annual fly-ins. He flew many of the aircraft he had restored to places like Arlington, Oshkosh, and Three Forks. In 1988 he purchased a Hatz biplane that he flew all over Montana. He flew the biplane to Oshkosh in 1990 as a group of 10 Hatz for the John Hatz memorial.

In 2004, he received the Oldest Active Pilot Award at Three Forks, during the annual Montana Antique Aircraft fly-in.

At the tender age of 70 he tested and received his Mechanics certificate with an airframe rating. He followed that up one year later with the Powerplant rating.

Aviation has been a big part of his life and he is still active today with some projects he is working on. The aviation community and the general public owe a debt of gratitude for his contribution to aviation safety.

Pete received a certificate (plaque), lapel pin, and his name, city, and state will be entered in the "Roll of Honor" published at www.faasafety.gov. Pete is recognized for his contribution to aviation safety and his roll in making the United States aviation system the envy of the world.

Congratulations Pete – well deserved!



In addition to the award presentation a celebration was also held for Pete's 85th birthday! Happy Birthday Pete!!



Steve Jones of the Federal Aviation Administration (l) presents Pete Sanders with the Wright Brothers "Master Pilot" award.

"I'm in love with Montana. For other states I have admiration, respect, recognition, even some affection. But with Montana it is love. And it's difficult to analyze love when you're in it."

—John Steinbeck,
"Travels with Charley"

Yellowstone Airport Opens for the Season



The Yellowstone Airport will open for the 2009 season approximately Mid-May for general aviation (GA) traffic. Yellowstone Aviation has a new fixed based operator building that is located just north of the Airport Fire Station and will receive all GA traffic there and not in the Terminal. Terminal access will be via the public access similar to all other airports that have commercial operations. Please check NOTAM's and contact Yellowstone Airport at (406) 646-7631 or Yellowstone Aviation at (406) 646-7359 for additional information or prior permission as required. We are finally getting an AWOS this year!!! We hope to have weather info for you up and running before the end of this operating season. SkyWest Airlines will start their scheduled flights to and from Salt Lake City on the 4th of June and their schedule as well as other information is posted on the airport's website <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/airports/yellowstone/about.shtml> The campground should be full functional by Memorial Day for those adventurous folks who don't mind it being a little on the cool side. We hope to see a lot of you and will post further info as to events etc. on the website and in this newsletter. Happy Flying and hopefully we will see a lot of you throughout this season.

Plan to Attend the Gateway to Freedom Air Show!

The Gateway to Freedom Air Show to be held June 27-28, 2009 will feature premier demonstration teams performing in the skies over Helena. The United States Air Force Demonstration Squadron, the "Thunderbirds," and the United States Army Parachute Team, the "Golden Knights," will be headline participants in the Helena Area Montana Military Open House and Air Show.

The air show is part of a military open house, hosted by the Montana National Guard and Reserve Units assigned to Fort Harrison, making this event free to the public. The Helena Military Affairs Committee of the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce is also sponsoring the air show.

This event will showcase numerous aircraft and tactical vehicles used by both the Army and Air National Guard units in Montana and the United States military. Numerous live demonstrations will be incorporated into the program which will make this a very special event.

The Thunderbirds, "America's Ambassadors in Blue," perform gravity-defying feats in iconic red, white, and blue F-16s, reaching speeds over 500 mph. The Thunderbirds team consists of twelve officers and 120 enlisted personnel.

In 2009, the Golden Knights will be commemorating 50 years since the formation of the Strategic Army Corps Sport Parachute Team, which later evolved into the U.S. Army Parachute Team, and later the Golden Knights. The Golden Knights travel as two demonstration teams and also have competition and tandem teams.



Career Academy to be Held in Helena



Amy Stocki, a former Montana student, is now an Aviation Career Airline Pilot, you can be one to!

Pilots and aviation enthusiasts, do you know a young person with an interest in aviation, if so, please help us spread the word about this year's Aviation Career Academy (ACE) for students in 7th, 8th and 9th grade.

The MDT Aeronautics Division and the Federal Aviation Administration are sponsoring a three day aviation career/aviation interest academy (ACE) for students in 7th, 8th and 9th grade (for the school year 2008/2009). The academy will be held June 25-27, 2009 in Helena.

ACE will include aviation ground school, flight simulator flights, aviation tours and aviation careers including the aviation colleges of Montana. There will be a flight day with preflight and orientation flights in the Helena area. This year we will be visiting the USAF Thunderbirds and watching the Thunderbirds air show!

The cost for ACE is \$200.00 for students needing lodging and \$100.00 for students that do not need lodging. The fee includes meals and chaperoned lodging for the out of town students

Enrollment is limited; please respond by May 29, 2009. For further information please contact MDT Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-9568 or Email: jemacpherson@mt.gov .

2009 ACE Program

Age: _____ Grade: _____ Male: _____ Female: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Participants Signature _____

Parent/Guardians Signature _____

Return Registration form with payment

Montana Department of Transportation
Aeronautics Division
2630 Airport Rd
PO Box 200507
Helena MT 59620-0507

\$200, includes the cost of a hotel room for Thursday and Friday, and all meals for three days. Make checks payable to MDT Aeronautics Division.

Method of Payment

Check

Money Order

Check # _____

Total: _____



ELT Switch Could Save Your Life

By: *Dave Sclair, General Aviation News & Flyer - reprinted with permission*

What's more important to you: Money in your bank account or a search and rescue operation if you go missing in your airplane? If your choice is for the search and rescue effort, you would be well-advised to switch your ELT from the old standby 121.5 to the newer 406 Mhz frequency.

Lt. Col. Bill Clarke, USAF Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), explained during Sun 'n Fun that the 121.5 satellite monitoring system has been shut down and that means the only monitoring on that frequency is done by other aircraft in the air. If they happen to pick up your signal, there's the question of whether or not it gets reported promptly, he warned.

With the 406 beacons, there is constant satellite monitoring and reporting to the AFRCC, he said. When they get the beacon alert or you fail to close a flight plan, they coordinate efforts to start a search.

The 406 beacons are digital. That means it is directly related to you and your airplane and provides a great deal of information to search coordinators. Finally, the beacons allow the search area to be dramatically reduced over the old 121.5 units, meaning you have a better chance of being found quickly.

Unfortunately, most GA planes are still using the old beacons and the FAA has not mandated a switchover. One IA reported 95% of the planes he inspects still have the old units and few switch to the new ones since the cost, including installation, can be around \$1,000.

It's your choice: Money sitting in your bank account or a possible lifesaving search.



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