



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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October 2011

Aviation History in Montana

By: David J. Hoerner, Safety & Education

Early day aviation history in the United States usually brings up thoughts of Kitty Hawk and the Wright Brothers. Montana and especially Helena has its own early day aviation history with a young man named Cromwell Dixon.

Cromwell traveled with his disassembled airplane by train to the state capital in 1911. His fragile Curtiss bi-wing aircraft was reassembled at the fairgrounds. On his second attempt the young aviator became the first pilot to fly over the continental divide with a landing on the west side of the mountains and then flew back to the Helena Fair Grounds.

Cromwell received a standing ovation from the largest crowd and dignitaries to gather for such an event. He also received \$10,000 from local businessmen and others for being the first aviator to fly across the Continental Divide.

This historical event opened the skies over the Rocky Mountains for commercial air travel.

In remembrance of the historic event, a weekend of celebration at Helena took place on the 100 year anniversary. On Saturday, MDT Aeronautics and the Helena airport sponsored the event at the airport.

A pancake breakfast was provided for all visitors with airplane rides over the location and monument of Cromwell's famous landing west of the divide given to Young Eagles (children aged 8-18) by the local Experimental Aircraft Association.

Children from local schools dressed up in 1911 clothing and a local band played music from that era. Martin Kidston, the author of the book, *Cromwell Dixon*, was on hand to sign autographs and Jeff Berry, great-nephew of Cromwell revealed family history.

Antique aircraft flew in from around the state to celebrate the young aviator and his historic flight. One hundred years ago aviation history was made in Helena. It was a new age for aviation and the world would never be the same.



Cromwell Dixon received his air pilot license (#43) on August 6, 1911.



Leo and Mary Wadekamper in front of their 1956 Beech T34 Mentor Aircraft at the Cromwell Dixon days.

Administrator's Column

USDOT Awards Small Community Development Grants: The Department selected 29 communities to receive financial grants under the program to implement proposed air service initiatives. Here is a list of award types and communities: 19 awards are made to communities proposing revenue guarantees and/or marketing support to attract new carriers, restore lost service or capacity, and/or provide air travelers with access to additional markets. These include Flagstaff, AZ; Santa Rosa, CA; Evansville, IN; South Bend, IN; Dubuque, IA; Baton Rouge, LA; Kalamazoo, MI; **BOZEMAN, MT**; Albany, NY; Fargo, ND; Grand Forks, ND; Toledo, OH; North Bend, OR; Harrisburg, PA; Tri-Cities, TN; San Angelo, TX; Lynchburg, VA; Spokane, WA; and Green Bay, WI; three awards will assist communities in acquiring scheduled airline service – Auburn/Lewiston, ME; Pikeville, KY; and St. Cloud, MN; Latrobe, PA, will receive assistance for marketing programs to promote future expanded service from an existing carrier; Loveland, CO will conduct a study to develop plans to increase air service; Pocatello, ID looks to transition to larger, jet aircraft; and the EAS communities of Crescent City, CA; Escanaba, MI; Manistee, MI; and Shenandoah Valley, VA – received grants for advertising and marketing their current service. To view the complete order go to: http://ostpxweb.dot.gov/aviation/X-50%20Role_files/scasdp/SCASDP2011SelectionOrderFINAL.pdf

Bozeman Grant Award: Bozeman will receive \$950,000 as a revenue guarantee for service to New York. Criteria sited for the selection: “the community demonstrated the need to obtain summer and winter seasonal service to New York. A very strong local contribution illustrates the public private partnership’s commitment to seeking additional service for this community which is isolated from larger hub service.” Congratulations to Airport Director Brian Sprenger and Gallatin Field for its success.

Big Sky Honor Flight Network: In April close to 100 World War II veterans will travel to Washington, D.C., to visit “their” World War II Memorial. This maiden voyage of Big Sky Honor Flight will be provided free of charge. The statewide chapter was recently started although discussions to begin a Montana chapter have been ongoing for two years. Of those veterans serving in World War II, the youngest are now in their mid-80s. The chartered flight will cost approximately \$150,000 and will be funded with donations. Currently 33 states participate in the Honor Flight program. The plan is to take a group of veterans to the Memorial each April until all Montana WWII veterans have had the opportunity to fulfill this dream. To contribute and learn more about getting involved, please go to: <http://bigkyhonorflight.org>

Large Aircraft Security Program (LASP) Update: In 2008 when the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced the LASP any aircraft over 12,500 pounds would have been grounded and the general aviation community expectedly went crazy. With more than 8,000 negative comments, the proposal was withdrawn and TSA agreed to meet with representation from the industry to re-write the rule. The new proposal has been approved by TSA and is now under review by the Office of Management and Budget before being released to the public for comment. The new version is said to give operators the flexibility to run their businesses. It appears that the federal government has listened to the industry. Watch for the new notice to be released later this year.

Free Webinar on Wildlife vs. Aviation: The Transportation Research Board (TRB) will hold a webinar on Monday, October 24, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. that features research developed by the Airport Cooperative Research Program related to issues and techniques for repelling and deterring wildlife at airports. You must register in advance for the webinar at: <http://www.trb.org/Aviation1/Blurbs/166011.aspx>. There is no charge to participate.



Montana and the Sky Department of Transportation

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Tim Reardon, Director

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Calendar of Events

January 13 – 15, 2012 – Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic, Marion. A big fear of all pilots is spending a wet, cold night out in the woods after surviving an emergency landing. Winter survival techniques will be taught, which include winter shelters, emergency medical and fire starting techniques. The program will give applicants the option of building and spending the night in a survival hut or staying in a warm bunk house at the program site. Being prepared is the key to survival. Registration forms will be mailed out later this month. For more information contact David Hoerner at (406) 444-9568 or dhoerner@mt.gov or Kelly Dimick (406) 444-2506 or kdimick@mt.gov.

January 25 & 26, 2012 – Aeronautics Board Meeting Loan & Grant Allocations, Helena. For further information contact Patty Kautz pkautz@mt.gov or (406) 444-9580.

February 10 & 11, 2012 - Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Helena. Instructors are the heart and soul of aviation; pilots wouldn't exist without an Instructor to teach them what they know. For more information contact David Hoerner at (406) 9568 or email dhoerner@mt.gov or Kelly Dimick at (406) 444-2506 or kdimick@mt.gov.

March 1-3, 2012 – Montana Aviation Conference. Gran Tree and Holiday Inn, Bozeman. For further information contact Patty Kautz pkautz@mt.gov or (406) 444-9580.

Tim Reardon Named MDT Director



Tim Reardon, MDT Director

Governor Brian Schweitzer appointed Tim Reardon MDT director on August 11. Tim has served as the Transportation Department's chief legal counsel since June 1994.

He stated that he is "humbled and honored to have accepted Governor Brian Schweitzer's appointment," and looks forward to working in his new role.

He previously served as the state workers' compensation judge for more than a decade.



Don DeGraw Hired as Airport Manager



Don DeGraw has been hired as the Airport Manager at the Yellowstone Airport. Don says "he will be striving to continue the outstanding achievements of the departing Airport Manager, Tony Bean."

The 2000 mile road trip across the country from Vermont to West Yellowstone was a first time experience for Don and his wife Sue. They enjoyed the weeklong trip with their two dogs Hunter and Brody.

Don's previous 18 years of airport experience was based in the northeast part of the country working for the Burlington International Airport (Vermont), the State of Vermont (Aviation Program) and finally as the Airport Manager with Warren County, NY. He is an avid outdoorsman and in addition to his airport manager duties he is also looking forward to exploring the opportunities that the State of Montana has to offer.

Welcome Don we look forward to working with you!

Don DeGraw, Yellowstone Airport Manager

MDT Aeronautics Offers Valuable Clinics

By: David J. Hoerner, Safety & Education

Throughout the year MDT Aeronautics sponsors programs that promote safety to pilots and introduces aviation to students.

Our hope is that the information that is provided will help in the case of an unexpected emergency and also give our youth information that will give them more options in their life's endeavors.

Per an agreement with the United States Air Force, civilian aviation related Search and Rescue is the responsibility of MDT Aeronautics. We take this responsibility seriously and provide clinics that are geared toward proficiency in searching and surviving an aircraft accident.

This year's Mountain Search Pilot Clinic was completed in September. The clinic provided 24 Montana pilots the opportunity to gain experience in Mountain flying and SAR techniques.

Pilots were also instructed on surviving emergency landings, emergency medical training and wilderness survival. A new twist this year was off airport Emergency Locator Transmitter training. A transmitter was placed 15 miles from the airport, with the signal just audible from the airport. Training was provided on how to find the transmitter from the ground, this provided a realistic scenario.

The flight training provided pilots with instruction in how to fly in mountain winds and flying search patterns. Also new this year was flight training that provided information on finding an emergency locator from the air using the aircraft radio.

Northern Lights Training Group's Frank Bowen provided survival training. The members of this group are former Special Forces personnel. We are happy and pleased to have them in the program.

We are considering changing the location for next year's MSPC program to give pilots training in different terrains.

The Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic coming in January will take place in Marion, which is twenty miles west of Kalispell. The program will take on a new image with the option to stay in your own survival hut, cabin, bunk house or



Participants receive hands on training which is very helpful during the Mountain Search Pilot Clinic.

lodge floor. You can make the decision on how comfortable you want to be.

Friday evening will begin with a talk on air emergency procedures for surviving a crash landing. What can a pilot do to up the chances of surviving?

Northern Lights Training Group will provide three Special Forces instructors to teach cold weather techniques and survival training. They will also teach fire-craft, which includes building, maintaining and developing a survival fire and a cooking fire. The program will continue with shelter building, food procurement and ground to air signal procedures.

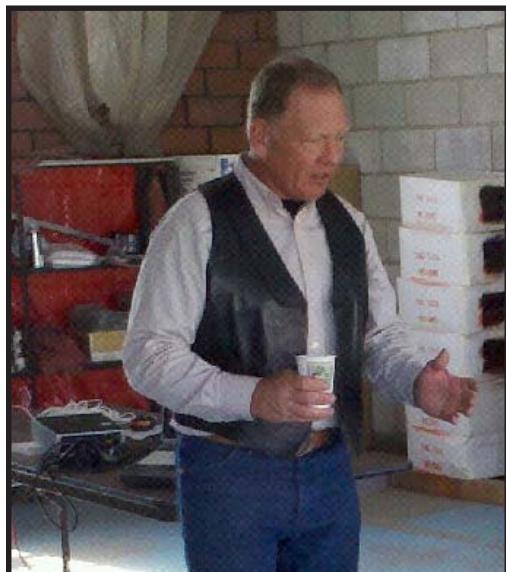
Chuck Curry who is a former Flight Paramedic for Alert and a Critical Care Paramedic and the Sheriff for Flathead County will provide hands on emergency medical training inside and then move to the cold outdoors for cold weather medical training. Other subjects covered will be survival medicine such as broken limbs, treating burns, treating shock and controlled bleeding.

New this year will be time provided to meet and visit with fellow pilots and instructors, followed by an on-site dinner.

The program will end with a no host lunch on Sunday at the Marion Grill.

We are excited about the new format. It should be a great learning experience and fun for all.

A registration form is provided in this issue of Montana and Sky. Sign up early to assure a spot in the program.



Frank Bowen taught survival skills at the Mountain Search Pilot Clinic.

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 2012 Montana Aviation Conference in Bozeman. 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 applicant must submit one copy addressed to each individual scholarship they are applying for.** Letters of application **must** include a **mailing address and daytime phone number.** If you are selected to receive one of the scholarships your photo will appear in the 2012 Montana Aviation Conference Program, **please include a photo with your applications for this purpose (only one photo necessary).** 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, 2012.**

A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship – An anonymous donor established this scholarship of \$250 in 1997 in 2010 two more anonymous donors contributed an additional \$250 each creating a \$750 scholarship. This year another anonymous donor has contributed an additional \$250 in memory of Mike Biggerstaff who died in May from injuries sustained in an airplane crash, creating a \$1,000 scholarship.

AOM Flight Training Scholarship – AOM has established this \$500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their 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 that 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 \$1,000 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction.

Montana Pilots Association Air Safety & Education Foundation 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 their 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 AirDance Flight Training Scholarship: 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.

Community Airport Association Holds Convention

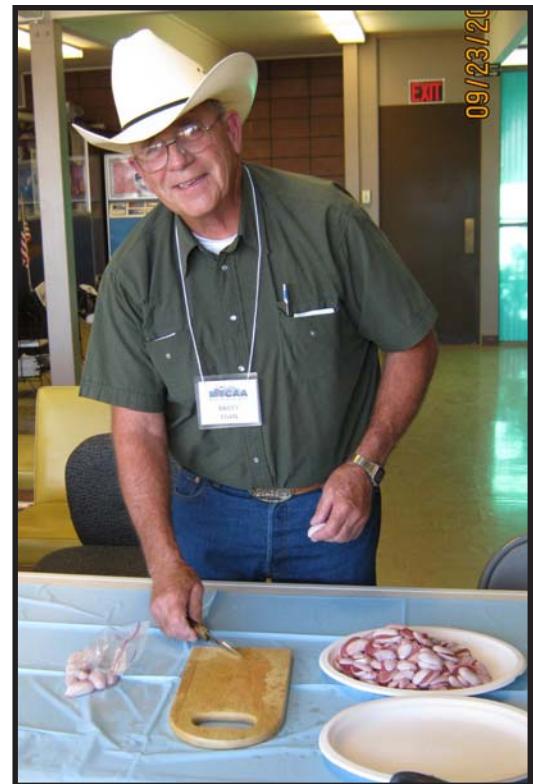
By: Wade Cebulski, Airport/Airways

After a beautiful flight from the Helena valley to the Livingston Airport on Friday September 23, I was met by Russ Ferguson, airport manager and FBO operator of the Livingston Airport. Russ gave me a personal tour of the new construction project taking place at the airport. The project includes new asphalt, lighting, parking and many more amenities.

I then headed to the hotel to attend the Montana Community Airport Associations (MCAA) annual convention. The convention started with Bailey Egan, President of MCAA, welcoming all the attendees. Leonard Barry from MT Department of Agriculture and Samantha Travis from MT Department of Environmental Quality gave a great presentation on the issues related to Aerial Applicators and the associated risk of chemical accidents and/or spills.

The next item on the agenda was a tour of the airport with Rick Donaldson from Robert Peccia and Associates being the official tour guide. The tour was informative and very interesting to say the least. These projects take quite a while to complete but the end results will last for years to come with appropriate maintenance. After the tour a steak dinner was provided with Rocky Mountain Oysters and deep fried bacon as a side dish.

The next morning after a meeting of the membership Mason Short gave a great presentation on Airport Self Inspections and other Safety Issues at Community Airports. Fred Leistiko the Airport Manager for Kalispell City and member of Montana Board of Aeronautics did a power point on the Basics of Community Airport Funding and Budgeting which was very informative and useful in different approaches to making your airport financially viable. Last but not least another Aeronautics Board member Fred Lark gave a colorful presentation on Marketing for Community Airports. Thanks to Bailey Egan and all who attended for a successful convention.



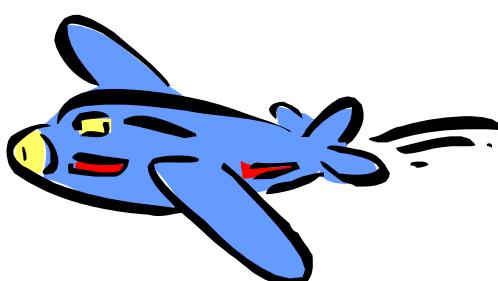
Bailey Egan, MCAA President prepares the delicious Rocky Mountain Oysters for the Friday evening dinner.

NASAO Elects 2012 Officers

Members of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) elected Joe Pestka, Administrator of Aviation of Missouri Department of Transportation as Chairman of the Board of Directors for 2012 at their annual convention and tradeshow in Nashville, Tennessee earlier this month.

Debbie Alke, Administrator, Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division, was elected Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors. A member of NASAO since November 2001, Alke previously served as NASAO's secretary of the board and currently is the chairman of the NASAO Special Events Task Group. She has also served for the AASHTO Standing Committee, Air Service Committee, Center Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Intergovernmental Committee.

The members elected Tommy Booth, Director, Mississippi Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division, as Treasurer of the Board of Directors. Christopher Willenborg, Administrator Massachusetts Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division was elected Secretary of the Board of Directors. As immediate past chairman, Randy Burdette, Director, Virginia Department of Aviation, continues to serve on the NASAO Executive Committee.



Why Do Some Survive and Some Not Survive?

By: David J. Hoerner, Safety & Education

Trying to analyze the cause of an aircraft accident can bring up many unanswered questions. Why did this high time pilot lose control or why did one pilot survive and another one didn't?

Sometimes the answer can be as simple as a bad preflight or a fuel cap wasn't put on after refueling. Other times there is no answer, everything seemed normal.

Eye witnesses stated that the airplane was flying straight and level and then suddenly dropped a wing and flew into the ground for no apparent reason.

The question remains. Why do some survive and why do some not survive?

Can it be luck or good or poor preparations or decisions? The answer could be yes to all three. Some people describe luck as good fortune or an unseen power watching over them. This could be correct, in no way would I question what others believe or think.

Maybe trying to always complete goals as precisely and correctly as possible would turn a possible bad situation into a good one. This outcome could be considered good luck.

Pilots can create their own luck by making it a habit to fly over open areas or fly close to roads when possible. This could produce good outcomes in case of an emergency or some might say the pilot had good luck.

If a pilot had learned from his instructor that emergencies can happen and an emergency happened with a successful outcome, you might say; "that pilot was lucky."

What no one knew was that the pilot had planned ahead. He increased the odds of survival by flying safer routes with a good outcome. You could say he created good luck.

The opposite could be true when flying over mountainous terrain with very limited options for landing. This could result in a bad situation if problems arise. If the end result was fatal, you might hear that his luck ran out.

Being a pilot and defying the law of gravity is a great gift that we sometimes take for granted. We always should remember that what goes up will come down. It is a pilot's responsibility to be prepared in any situation.

Practice spot landings until you land every time within a few feet of your intended landing spot at the speed you select.

The time to practice and be prepared for an emergency landing is when everything is running smoothly, not when you experience an actual emergency. Being prepared takes dedication and effort.

Do you have survival gear and know that you will be rescued? This is all part of being a competent and successful pilot. Being prepared is not an option; it's a requirement for survival.

As pilots, the decisions we make control the fate of friends and families that fly with us... this responsibility and these decisions should weigh heavily on pilots shoulders.

If you exhaust all attempts to restart the engine, it's time to commit to an emergency landing. That doesn't mean you can't still try to restart. What it means is that by committing you start making plans early, while you still have time to make good decisions. Waiting too long takes your control away.

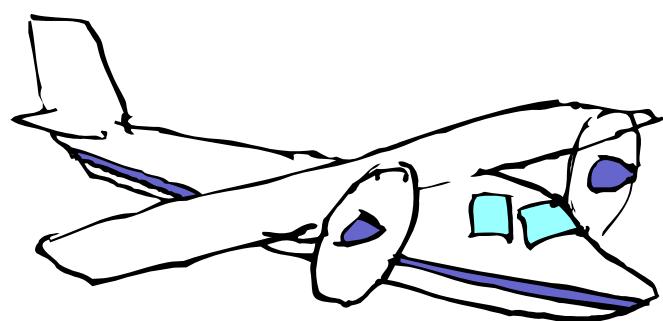
It's hard to admit to yourself that you're going to wreck and could possibly get hurt, but you have to come to grips with what is going to happen.

Chances of survival goes up if you maintain control, land where you think is the best location and at the best airspeed. You must control the situation all the way to the ground.

Don't let peer pressure of another pilot force you to make a bad decision that you're not comfortable with.

There is nothing so important that you can't delay a flight. Getting in a hurry to get somewhere should never happen. If you have to get there, go by car.

The chance of having an emergency in an aircraft is slim. But, always be prepared for the worst, it could be the best insurance you can have.



Attention Montana Airport Managers: A reminder to fill out your airport directory updates and surveys that were mailed to you earlier this month and return them to the MDT Aeronautics Division by November 11 so we may accurately update the 2012 Airport Directory. If you have any questions or did not receive your information please contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or wcebowski@mt.gov.

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Airport of the Year Nominations Requested

Are you often heard telling your friends that your airport is better than theirs? Do you feel an insatiable need to brag about your airport? Do you have dreams picturing your airport manager standing atop a three tiered podium with Olympic theme music bellowing in the background? If so, why don't you nominate your favorite airport for our annual "Airport of the Year" award? To nominate an airport, simply send us your nomination with an explanation of why you think your airport is the airport of the year. Nominations can be made by anyone on behalf of any Montana airport, can be as short or lengthy as you wish and will be accepted through the end of December 2011. MDT Aeronautics will collect and review all information and the winner will be selected and notified. Formal public recognition and an award will be given to the airport representatives during the Montana Aviation Conference awards luncheon in Bozeman on March 2. Nominations can be sent to any of the following: MAIL: MDT Aeronautics Division, Attn: Jim Greil, P.O. Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507 EMAIL: jgreil@mt.gov FAX: 406-444-2519. Questions please call Jim at (406) 444-9547.



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