2015 Scholarship Recipients

A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship - An anonymous donor established this scholarship of $250 in 1997, in 2011 two more anonymous donors joined in the scholarship creating a $750 scholarship. This year’s recipient is Alex Koch of Helena. Alex is a Private Pilot, Montana native, and a student at Rocky Mountain College. He previously earned his Associate of Applied Science degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology graduating with honors from Helena College in the spring of 2014. He is currently pursuing an Instrument Rating. Next semester he will start training for his Commercial certificate. When he graduates Rocky he will have his Commercial, Multi-Engine, and CFI certificates and ratings. He plans on pursuing a job at Rocky as a Flight Instructor. His future career goals are to get a job at a bush/air-taxi service in Alaska or a regional airline. From there he plans to progress to a major airline.

AOM Flight Training Scholarship – AOM has established this $500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate. This year’s scholarship winner is Brendyn Hewitt of Great Falls. Brendyn has been flying back and forth from parents to parents since he was 2 years old and that has been a major factor in his love for aviation. He is currently looking in to ground school at Holman Aviation in Great Falls and would like to begin classes this year. He was blessed to fly a Cessna 172 at Dover AFB aero club this past summer and it further fueled his love for flying. He has a 3.3 GPA at Great Falls High School and plans to attend the University of North Dakota to major in Commercial Aviation.

Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship - Joe and Kathy Kuberka offer a $1,000 value scholarship to be flown at Blue Goose Aviation in Polson (either 5 hours dual in a Cessna 182 or 8 hours dual in a Cessna 150). 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. This year’s recipient is Ian White of Three Forks. In addition to the Blue Goose Scholarship Ian is also the recipient of the Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Award. This recipient is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship within their community and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must be a Montana resident and previously soloed. Preference is given to younger applicants who are new pilots or pursuing a profession in aviation. This is a $1,000 scholarship. Ian is enrolled in the Gallatin College at Montana State University in Bozeman. His major is in Aviation but technically his degree will be an Associates of Applied Sciences. He is still considering all routes of aviation as options for a career. He wants to get his Instrument rating as well as High Performance, Complex, and Commercial ratings. This year’s scholarship goes to Walter Johnson of Colstrip. While living in Utah he participated in a program that offered ground lessons and one free flight. The moment that Cessna 172 left the ground he was in love, he wanted to fly every single day. He got a student loan and continued with his flight training. As a Part 141 student he made it through the Jeppesen Coarse checkride with his written exam passed all he needed was to pass his FAA checkride. Unfortunately he was laid off from his job in Utah. He then found a job in his home state of Montana, where he is an Operator’s Apprentice at the Colstrip Power Plant. It has been a year since his last flight and he desperately wants to get his license. He hopes to one day fly for a living and is searching for a way to accomplish that dream.

Bob Redding Memorial Scholarship – EAA Chapter 57 in Billings is offering a scholarship in memory of Bob Redding who was a lifetime advocate of general and experimental aviation. Building aircraft was as important to Bob as flying them and, given his tenure as a college math professor, so was education. This $500 scholarship is offered to those working towards their A&P license, first generation pilot training, or any post-secondary STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) degree. This year’s scholarship goes to Walter Johnson of Colstrip. While living in Utah he participated in a program that offered ground lessons and one free flight. The moment that Cessna 172 left the ground he was in love, he wanted to fly every single day. He got a student loan and continued with his flight training. As a Part 141 student he made it through the Jeppesen Coarse checkride with his written exam passed all he needed was to pass his FAA checkride. Unfortunately he was laid off from his job in Utah. He then found a job in his home state of Montana, where he is an Operator’s Apprentice at the Colstrip Power Plant. It has been a year since his last flight and he desperately wants to get his license. He hopes to one day fly for a living and is searching for a way to accomplish that dream.
2015 Scholarship Recipients, continued

**EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship** – EAA Missoula Chapter 517 provided three $1,000 scholarships in 2015. One for post-solo flight training; one for a second year A&P student; and one to be used for any type of aviation career training. The EAA post-solo flight training goes to Kyle McMillan of Laurel. Kyle is about to take his final written to achieve his Private Pilot’s License. He has 42 hours of complex time. He is a senior at Laurel High School with a 4.2 GPA, 4 year honor roll, AP Credit, and may various multiple activities. Most of his free time is spent with school, extra-curricular activities, work and aviation. He hopes to apply all of his knowledge and experience towards a safer industry and advancing his dream of becoming an airline captain. The second year A&P Scholarship goes to Sierra Juliano of Circle. Sierra is majoring in Airframe and Power plant (aviation maintenance) at the Helena College. In May, 2013 she attended an open house in Glasgow and received a flight in a Cessna 172. This helped solidify her decision on a future career, and she has been in love with flying and aircraft ever since. After finishing the two year aviation program she plans on getting her pilots license and specializing in avionics. Sierra completed her first semester at Helena College with 21 full time credits and a 3.1 GPA. This scholarship will help her towards the accomplishment of finishing school without debt. The third scholarship goes to Brody Severson of Stevensville. Brody is a junior in high school. He has had an interest in aviation ever since he listened to his great-grandpa’s stories about flying during World War II, and he has pursued that interest in full during the past two years. He had his first solo shortly after his 16th birthday, and this year earned his private pilot’s license shortly after turning 17. He is now planning to become tailwheel rated, and instrument rated before graduating high school. He eventually wants to become a licensed commercial pilot, but first he is going to college to become an A&P mechanic. He is on the honor roll at Stevensville High School, and currently holds the position of president of the Barnyard Bunch 4-H club, and also holds a membership with EAA Chapter 517.

**Edwards Jet Center Scholarship** – Edwards Jet Center a full-service fixed base operator and Part 135 charter operator based at Logan International Airport in Billings offers this $500 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction. This year’s recipient is Nathan Luibrand of Helena. Nathan is currently enrolled in his first year of the Aviation Maintenance Technology program at Helena College. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA through all of his 21 credits his first semester. He also has his private pilot certificate and about 110 hours of total flight time. He hopes to get a job in aviation maintenance for a few years after he graduates and his long term goal is to become a missionary pilot serving in remote areas of Africa.

**Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship** – MAAA offers a $1,000 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction. This year’s scholarship goes to Wyatt Ayers of Bozeman. Wyatt has wanted to be a pilot ever since he was in kindergarten. Wyatt works two jobs and attended college full time last year. He has maintained a GPA of 3.2 while working and logging over 110 hours of flight time. Wyatt has his private pilot’s license but when he was half way through his instrument training he ran out of money. His greatest hope is to continue with his aviation education. He would like to obtain his instrument rating, become a commercial pilot and a certified flight instructor. He eventually wants to learn to fly helicopters and earn his rotorcraft pilots license.

**Montana Air Safety and Education Foundation (MPA ASEF) Flight Training Scholarship** - This $1,000 scholarship is open to an active pilot who has considerable interest in aviation and is seeking advanced flight training or pursuing a profession in aviation. The applicant must be a Montana resident. This year’s recipient is Richard Wissenbach of Pinesdale. Richard has had a life-long aviation passion. He has held an Airframe and Powerplant license since 1985, Inspection Authorization since 1999 and is currently employed by Aircraft Structural Repair in Stevensville. In April, 2013 he obtained his Commercial Pilot’s License. In order to obtain a job as a pilot he needs an instrument rating. His ultimate desire in addition to flying the Idaho Backcountry is to teach short field, backcountry type flying. In his spare time he is rebuilding a 1960 Cessna 182C.
2015 Scholarship Recipients, continued

**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. This year’s scholarship goes to Jeremy Downs of Missoula. Jeremy’s desire is to be an aerial firefighter. In the summer of 2012 he attended the Aviation Career Exploration Academy sponsored by the MDT Aeronautics Division. After attending he was certain he wanted a career in aviation. He graduated from Eagle’s Flight Home School academy in December 2013 with a 3.88 GPA and started attending Rocky Mountain College this past fall. While at Rocky he has achieved his goal of getting his Private Pilot’s License. In the spring term he plans on obtaining his Instrument Rating and continuing his sophomore and junior years to acquire his Commercial License, Multi-Engine Rating, and Flight Instructor Certificate. Upon graduating Jeremy hopes to secure a position flying regional jets, cargo, or possibly agricultural aircraft in order to acquire the necessary flight hours and skills needed to afford him a career as an aerial firefighter.

**Theresa (Nistler) Cooley Scholarship** – Mountain AirDance Flight Training (Jeanne MacPherson and Bill Gallea) and Vetter Aviation (Brent and Rosie Vetter) offer this $1,000 scholarship in memory of Theresa (Nistler) Cooley who passed away from Leukemia (AML) in February, 2012. Theresa loved flying and was working towards her private pilot certificate. This scholarship will be awarded to a student pilot who is working on getting their private pilot rating. This year’s recipient is Kelsey Schmidt of Columbus. He has a 3.91 GPA and enjoys math and science classes and is involved in many extracurricular activities. She is currently working on obtaining her private pilot rating and has been flying out of Billings, Laurel and now Columbus. She soloed in November and has about 25 hours of time. She wants to somehow incorporate flying in to her future career as she plans to enter the medical field. Regardless, she will continue to fly no matter what!