

2016 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 **Brody Severson of Stevensville**. Brody is a senior at Stevensville High School and has a passion for all things aviation. Shortly after his seventeenth birthday, Brody earned his private pilot's license and is currently pursuing an instrument rating. He has been accepted to attend Helena College's two year aviation maintenance program where he will study for his A&P certification. His future career goals include pursuing a career in Alaska as a pilot/mechanic, missionary aviation, and eventually starting his own flying operation. Brody spends his free time working on his family's ranch, skiing, hiking, livestock judging through FFA and playing guitar. As a senior project, he organized an aviation camp for 4th - 6th graders with the help from the EAA Chapter 517 who offered young eagle flights to all that participated.



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 **Alex Healy of Hamilton**. At the age of 14, Alex got to fly with friend who was a retired airline pilot. After flying nine hours with her, he began training at Choice Aviation in Hamilton. He passed his private pilot ground test with a 90% and completed his first solo flight in October. Following his 17th birthday this May, Alex will take his private pilot Checkride. He plans to enroll at Gallatin College and Montana University in Bozeman next fall, where he will work towards an Associate's degree in aviation, a Bachelor's degree in engineering and a minor in aerospace. In concurrence with attending school, he will also be working for a commercial pilot's license, multi-engine rating, and instrument rating.



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 **Garret Point**. Garret has always dreamed of being a pilot and worked through high school to attend flight training and fund his love for model airplanes. After attending the University of Wyoming studying Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management, he took a full time position with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Through much trepidation, Garret is pursuing his passion for aeronautics by completing his instrument rating and becoming a certified flight instructor. He plans to be a commercial pilot in the future.



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. This year's recipient is **Michael Cichon of Bozeman**. Michael is a recent graduate of Bozeman High School and participated in the school symphony orchestra, track and field, engineering and robotics competitions and managed the swim team. Michael had his first taste of flying at age eight and it didn't take long for him to decide he wanted to be a pilot. He is currently attending Gallatin College studying aviation.

2016 Scholarship Recipients, continued



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 **Sierra Montana House of Columbus**. Sierra is a senior at Columbus High School, participating in golf, cross country and basketball. She also volunteers her time with Project Hope and the Stillwater Backpack Program, coaches a Special Olympian Golfer and is a member of the National Honor Society. Sierra plans to attend the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott Arizona and hopes to become a corporate pilot.

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 **Christina Marie Weibert of Hardin**. Christina comes from a family of pilots and plans to be the first female in the family to hold a pilots' license. While in high school she participated in the 89er's 4H Club, Rainbow Girls community service, Bulldog Buddies tutoring program and was also a swimming instructor. She is currently working to complete her requisites for a private pilots' license and pursuing her associate's degree in Aviation. She plans to become a commercial pilot or flight instructor.



The second year A&P Scholarship goes to **Garret Point of Helena**. Garret has always dreamed of being a pilot and worked through high school to attend flight training and fund his love for model airplanes. After attending the University of Wyoming studying Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management, he took a full time position with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Through much trepidation, Garret is pursuing his passion for aeronautics by completing his instrument rating and becoming a certified flight instructor. He plans to be a commercial pilot in the future.



The third scholarship goes to **Jeremy Downs of Missoula**. Jeremy is a junior at Rocky Mountain College in Billings majoring Aeronautical Science with a minor in Unmanned Aerial Systems. Fires near his hometown sparked his passion for flight when he witnessed a slurry bomber dispersing fire retardant as he passed by in his car. Since then he has been pursuing a career as a slurry pilot. Jeremy has his private pilots' license and instrument rating. He is set to receive his commercial license this spring in addition to his multi engine rating. He plans to obtain a job crop dusting after graduation before becoming a professional firefighter pilot.



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 **Joyanna Rae of Laurel**. Joyanna met several students of Rocky Mountain College's aviation program during her first semester of general studies at MSU Billings and quickly decided to pursue a career in aviation, enrolling in RMC's program the following semester. She plans to obtain her private pilots' license and gain her instrument, commercial and multi-engine ratings upon her graduation from college and pursue a career in aviation.

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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 **Garret Point of Helena**. Garret has always dreamed of being a pilot and worked through high school to attend flight training and fund his love for model airplanes. After attending the University of Wyoming studying Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management, he took a full time position with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Through much trepidation, Garret is pursuing his passion for aeronautics by completing his instrument rating and becoming a certified flight instructor. He plans to be a commercial pilot in the future.



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 **Leah C. Hiebert** of Missoula. When Leah was 17, she became the second youngest member of the Clearwater Valley Aero Club to receive a private pilots' license. She completed her instrument ground school at Inter-State Aviation before diverting her time to completing her B.S. in Microbiology Cum Laude as well as completing a medical mission project in Southern India. After this, Leah returned to Missoula to work for Northstar Jet-Neptune Aviation and received her instrument rating, complex, high performance and tailwheel endorsements and expects a commercial certificate this year. Her future plans include becoming a flight instructor, crop duster, air tanker pilot and ultimately become a multi-engine certified commercial pilot.



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 **Alex Koch of Helena**. Alex is currently enrolled in Rocky Mountain Colleges' Aeronautical Sciences program with intent to gain his flight instructor and multi engine certifications. He is a member of the Montana Pilot's Association, Experimental Aircraft Association and Aircraft Owners and Pilots' Association. He has also volunteered with EAA Chapter 344, serving as secretary/treasurer in 2013. Alex competed all three years in the Big Sky Air Races, finishing first place in his division every year. His future plans are to pursue a career in the aviation industry as a commercial pilot for a major airline.



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 **Wyatt DuCharme of Polson**. Wyatt is a senior at Polson High School on the Flathead Indian Reservation. He is a member of the Polson High School LINK crew, a student run transition aid for high school freshmen. As a freshman in high school he was selected to play basketball in Europe, an achievement he holds in the highest regard and an experience he will never forget. Wyatt plans to attend MSU Gallatin College studying aviation and business. After college Wyatt hopes to join the Air Force with plans to eventually become a commercial pilot.