



The Passion

By: Mike Quinn, Aviation Support Officer

The Montana Aviation conference took place this year from March 3 through March 6, 2004, at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, encompassing all that is aviation in Montana. Sounds pretty sterile when it's described like that, doesn't it? "A bunch of people gathered together talking aviation." <Yawn> How boring is that? If you were cynical, this would most definitely be your best bet on how to describe those four days in early March. However, if you have "The Passion", you might describe it something like this:

Twelve months previously, a group of like-minded individuals began the arduous task of organizing and amassing people, presenters, exhibitors and instructors from all walks of aviation life in preparation for a four-day celebration thereof. Facilities had to be reserved, speakers had to be contacted, and an appropriate theme had to be chosen in order to be able to label this conference unique. The official theme was "Wright into the next Century", but as the days progressed, one word kept popping up to describe the cohesive theme: Passion.



Ray Sanders (left) & Hank Galpin were a great kick-off to the conference with their humorous stories and amazing photos of a once in a life time trip in Hank's Travel Air 6000 for the National Air Tour and to deliver Montana's flag in the 50 Flag's to Kitty Hawk program. Thank you Ray & Hank for an awesome presentation!

The conference was officially opened with some choice words from Governor Judy Martz, thanking us for inviting her and commending us on our enthusiasm of aviation in Montana. Immediately following Madame Governor, keynote speakers Hank Galpin and Ray Sanders treated attendees to a pictorial stroll down History Lane, as they presented their recap of the National Air Tour in which they flew Hank's Travel Air T-6000 this past September. Hank and Ray were members of an elite group of aviators whose passion for precise restoration of historic aircraft garnered invitation to partake in this historic reenactment of an aviation legacy. Stunning images of powder-blue skies and gleaming antique legends touring the eastern half of the continent, in conjunction with Hank and Ray's heart-felt commentary, gave a perfect jump-start to attendees' enthusiasm.

From that point, it was pretty much "The Sky's the Limit" as to which part of aviation you wished to study to enrich your passion for flight. Forty-six exhibitors, over thirty speakers, and multiple concurrent presentations gave a plethora of choices for the 600-plus attendees to fill their conference days. Over 100 aircraft mechanics shoehorned themselves into a room for two days to recertify their tireless Passion that keeps all of us in the air. Dozens of schoolteachers attended classes to learn new ways to educate young people using aviation, thereby instilling The Passion in future generations. ATC personnel gave lectures explaining the complexities of TFR's and enroute procedures, developing a deeper understanding and appreciation of services that are available each and every time The Passion takes you into the sky.

But the underlying theme was never more prevalent than at mealtimes, when the whole of the conference would gather together to celebrate accomplishments and achievements through awards such as scholarships and accolades like "Airport of the Year", "Pilot of the Year", or the always dreaded "Bent Prop Award".

It was at these times that we would all listen to major presentations, and truly appreciate what it was that we were celebrating: The Passion of Flight. Mike Lavelle's 40 years of aviation experience cover the entire gamut of aviation – from building aircraft (he is currently a manager at Boeing for the F/A-22), to

continued page 3...

Administrator's Column:

The Greatest Show on Earth: Many thanks to Cynthia Schultz, Great Falls Airport Director, the 2004 volunteer host committee, Patty Kautz, Montana Aeronautics Division and all the aeronautics division staff whom worked tirelessly during the past year to make this years aviation conference a great success. The “behind-the-scenes” planning and coordinating is much appreciated as evidenced by the many favorable comments received both during the conference and those that continue to flow into the office. I believe Montana and particularly its aviation industry mirror the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey designation as “The Greatest Show on Earth”. Many of the conference volunteers and staff experience: “juggling acts”; “daredevil adventures”; “magic and illusions”; and “balancing performances” – and all execute successfully. Thanks to all that contribute – sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, aviation organizations and most of all to the many participants that travel great distances to share with us.

Drummond VOR: FAA Regional Administrator Doug Murphy visited with aviators at the aviation conference and conducted a listening session that was well attended by interested persons and FAA staff from Doug’s region. An issue that all of Montana has been following and is interested in is the status of the Drummond VOR. It was reported that the FAA is considering an alternative location for placement of the VOR with two site visits being conducted and a third location scheduled for visitation soon. Once a site has been selected the FAA will work to relocate the VOR and accompanying equipment to bring the device back into service.

Small Community Air Service Development Program: The U.S. Department of Transportation invites proposals from communities interested in obtaining a Federal grant under the Small Community Air Service Development Program to address air service and airfare problems at their communities. Grant Applications will be accepted in April with \$20 million available nationwide and up to four grants may be awarded per state with a maximum of \$500,000 per grant. I will be attending a meeting later this month with the USDOT to learn more about the program, the application procedures, selection procedures, program history, guidance on airline and local contribution issues, and reimbursement procedures. The Cut Bank Airport Authority was successful in 2003 in obtaining a grant under this program and will conduct a study to look at the feasibility of scheduled passenger air carrier service into Cut Bank. Cut Bank is just in the process of awarding the contract to begin the study.

Montana receives new Federal Security Director: The Transportation Security Administration has recently named four federal security directors – one at Billings, Montana. John Kinney previously served as an assistant federal security director for Chicago Midway and has more than 15 years’ experience in airport operations. John replaces Hugh Ford who retired recently. Congratulations and welcome John!



Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation
Judy Martz, Governor
David A. Galt, Director

Official monthly publication of the
Aeronautics Division
Telephone - (406) 444-2506
Fax - (406) 444-2519
P.O. Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507

<http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/aeronautics/>

Debbie K. Alke, Administrator
Aeronautics Board
John Rabenberg, Chairman
Frank Bass, Member
Craig Denney, Member
Lanny Hanson, Member
Lonnie Leslie, Member
Chuck Manning, Member
Will Metz, Member
Kenneth Tolliver, Member
George Warner, Member

Montana and the Sky
is published monthly
in the interest of aviation in the
State of Montana.
Third Class postage paid at
Helena, Montana 59604
Subscription: \$5 per year

Editor: Patty Kautz



The Passion, continued.....

maintaining aircraft (he has his A&P certification), to flying them (over 7000 hours – including the most noble of hours: directly instilling The Passion as an instructor). Mr. Lavelle gave a thorough presentation on the history of flight *before* the Wright's "got it right" and demonstrated the evidence to which the Wright's referred when they commented, "If we are successful, it is only because we have stood on the shoulders of giants." Susan Edsall presented the inspirational story of her father's courageous recovery from a debilitating stroke to once again take command of his Fleet biplane. Her vivid descriptions of a family's struggle to preserve a fallen aviator's Passion made all who listened realize how much we take for granted in our own everyday lives.

Yet The Passion culminated Saturday night with Brian Udell. In talking with Captain Udell before his presentation, it was not difficult to grow giddy with enthusiasm for aviation; his Passion is evident and infectious. How could it not be from a man who began walking among the clouds in an airplane at age nine? The Top Gun winner, Southwest Asia combat pilot (in F-15's), and current Southwest Airlines pilot stood before us all, and through the course of his tale became the embodiment of The Passion. Captain Udell survived what can only be called a trip to Hell. At approximately 10:00pm while on an F-15 combat training mission, everything in his world went wrong. He was out over the ocean, at night, in total darkness, with no visual reference, when every on-board computer system failed. Within seconds, he and his RIO (radio intelligence officer) knew what was coming; fifteen hundred feet above the apathetic, relentless, restless Atlantic, Brian Udell pulled the ejection handles and blasted into the 600 knot wind – and the dark unknown. The force of the wind was like a block of concrete: it blew the helmet right off his head, and bruised his face so badly that it swelled to twice it's normal size from the impacts. His left arm and both legs were decimated to the point that they remained attached to his body mostly by the elastic properties of his skin – neither bones nor ligaments remained at the joints. He hit the water, and began his fight to survive in the cold watery darkness. Alone. Brian Udell thought of his wife – four months pregnant with their first child, his RIO, and his Passion, and decided it was *not* his time to call it quits. His miraculous survival that night was only the beginning, as many painful surgeries and a seemingly infinite number of excruciatingly torturous rehabilitation hours lay before him. But Brian Udell, like so many others, has The Passion. He knew that he didn't belong on the ground, that adversity is the harshest yet purest teacher of the Self, and that The Passion would carry him back to where he did belong; it took him only one year to get back into that F-15. Ten years later, Captain Brian Udell stood before a hushed crowd in Great Falls, Montana, healthy, whole, and strong. He said, "If you have a passion for something, there is nothing that you cannot accomplish." Choice words from a Choice Aviator.

"The Montana Aviation Conference was a bunch of people gathered together talking aviation." Perhaps - if you were on the outside. But those of us on the inside know better, because we have The Passion.

Calendar

April 17, 2004 – Rocky Mountain College "The Economic Impact of Aviation in Montana" Conference, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. For more information, go to Rocky's web site at www.rocky.edu or call (406) 657-1149.

May 10-14, 2004 – Laurel Aviation & Technology Week. For further information contact Druann Kerns (406) 628-3357.

June 12, 2004 – North Central Fly-In breakfast & Toy-Show, Havre Airport.

June 20, 2004 – Frank Bass Father's Day Fly-In Pancake Breakfast will be held at Fort Peck Airport. Camping on field; boating; fishing. For further information phone Lanny Hanson at (406) 228-2433.

June 26, 2004 – Fly-In & Antique Air Show, Museum of Mountain Flying, Missoula Airport. For further information contact Stan Cohen, (406) 549-8488 or phpc@montana.com.

August 13-15, 2004 – McCall Family Fly-In.

August 20-22, 2004 – Third Annual Montana Fun Weekend. Cut Bank International Airport. For further information contact Montana_fun_weekend@yahoo.com.

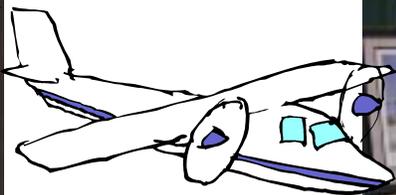
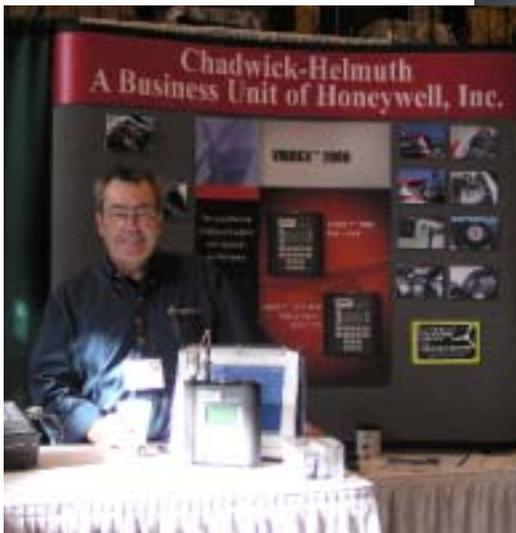
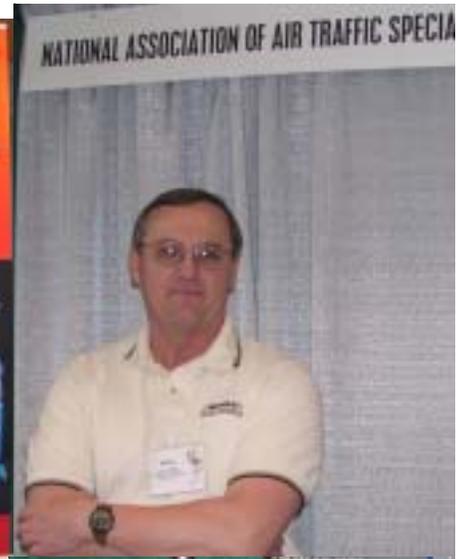


Each year Exhibitor's who have attended the Montana Aviation Conference for 10 years or more are presented with an award during the Thursday evening cocktail hour sponsored by City Service Valcon. This year awards were presented to, Aerotronics Inc., Montana Aeronautics Division, Omaha Airplane Supply – 20 years; MAC Aircraft Engines & Propellers – 18 years; Northwest Propeller Service - 17 years; Montana Aviation Trades Association, Montana Pilots Association, Rocky Mountain College Aviation - 15 years; Edmo Distributors Inc., Mountain Air Insurance Services Inc. - 13 years; City Service Valcon & Corporate Air – 10 years. Congratulations and thank you to these companies for their continued support of the conference.

2004 Conference Exhibitors

This year the exhibit hall was sold out!! We would like to thank the exhibitors for their awesome support because without them the conference would not be possible. A BIG THANK YOU TO: ACES Systems, Aerotronics Inc., Air BP, Angel Flight West, AOPA, Avfuel Corp., Aviall Inc., Big Sky RC Modelers, Chelton Flight Systems, City Service Valcon, Cleveland Wheels & Brakes, Corporate Air, Cross Petroleum Service, EAA Chapter 1141, EDMO Distributors Inc., Exec Air Montana Inc., FAA Runway Safety, Great Falls Automated Flight Service Station, Hartwig Aircraft Fuel Cell Repair, High Tech Filters/Facet International, Honeywell Chadwick, Kadrmas Lee & Jackson Inc., L-3 Avionics Systems, Liberty Studios, MAC Aircraft Engines & Propellers, Midland Bi-Fold Doors, Montana Aeronautics Division, Montana Antique Airplane Association, Montana Aviation Trades Association, Montana Pilots Association/RAF, Montana Wing Civil Air Patrol, Mountain Air Insurance Services, National Association of Air Traffic Specialists, Northern Skies Aviation, Northwest Propeller Service Inc., Northstar Air Express, Omaha Airplane Supply, Regal Aviation Insurance, Robert Peccia & Associates, Rocky Mountain College Aviation, Superior Air Parts, Teledyne Continental Motors, Travel Marketing/F10s 2000, Westminster College, WSI. Hope to see you all next year in beautiful Butte, MT!!





Pilot & Actor Harrison Ford Accepts Chairmanship of EAA's Young Eagles Program

Harrison Ford, best known as a renowned actor in more than three dozen films but also an extremely active pilot and member of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), was introduced on March 8, 2004 as the new Chairman of the EAA Young Eagles Program, which has flown more than 1 million young people since 1992.

During a welcoming program at Van Nuys, CA, with EAA President Tom Poberezny, Ford accepted the chairmanship of the program, saying, "It's daunting to step into General Yeager's shoes, but aviation is about learning new skills and the satisfaction that comes with practicing them and doing better.

Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, who has served as Young Eagles Chairman since 1994, has been named the program's Chairman Emeritus and will continue to participate as one of more than 35,000 volunteer pilots who have been involved since Young Eagles was founded.

"Harrison Ford's passion for flight has grown through the years, as he achieved several pilot certificates and ratings, and made aviation a major part of his life," Poberezny said. "He discovered Young Eagles on his own several years ago and quietly started flying young people. He now has flown 82 Young Eagles. He is a natural fit to help lead us to even greater achievements as EAA members prepare the next generation of aviators."

The Young Eagles Program's original goal of flying 1 million young people ages 8-17 was reached in October 2003, when 15-year old Andrew Grant of German Valley, IL, was flown by EAA member Rick Ellis. The one-to-one outreach between pilot and youngster was part of what attracted Ford to the program.

"Young Eagles gives kids a view of the world they've never seen before," Ford said. "Each Young Eagle flight is an opportunity to excite kids by sharing your passion for flight and to show them that they, too, can learn the skills to participate in aviation."

Ford actually began flight training as a college student in the 1960s, but then put his training on hold until he rediscovered it in the early 1990s. He has since earned ratings in rotorcraft and tailwheel aircraft. He has been an EAA member since the mid-1990s and a member of a local EAA Chapter near his home.

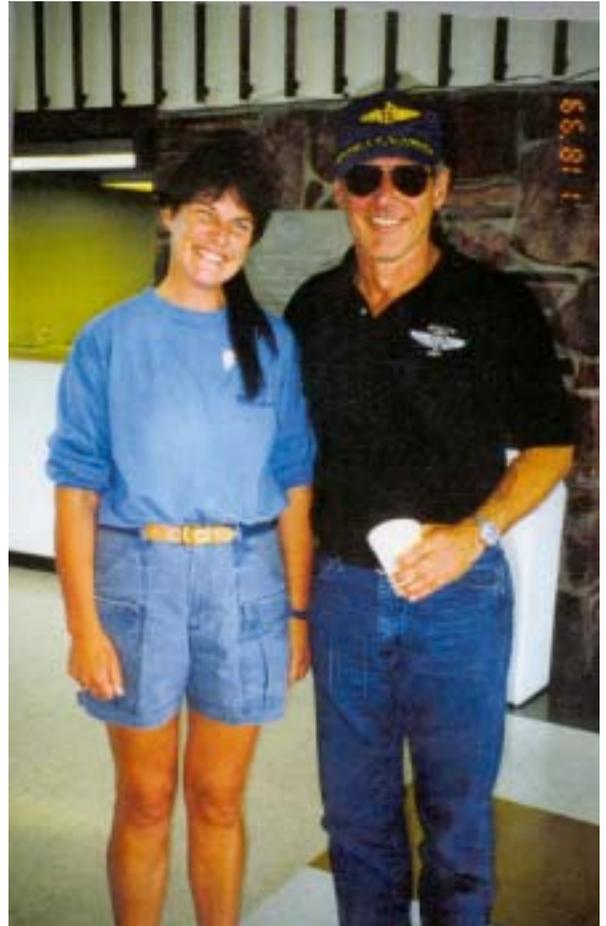
The new Chairman is the third in the history of the Young Eagles Program. Academy Award-winning actor Cliff Robertson served as Chairman from the program's founding in July 1992 through 1994, with Gen. Yeager serving 1995-2003. Under these two Chairmen, EAA's Young Eagles has grown to the largest youth aviation education program ever created.

Since those first flights in 1992, Young Eagles flights have taken place on every continent except Antarctica and in aircraft ranging from business jets to blimps. Each year, EAA receives numerous reports of young people who have been inspired to pursue aviation as a career or as recreation because of their Young Eagles flights. Many of those early Young Eagles are now introducing flight to other Young Eagles as well. Every major university aviation program and all U.S. military academies also have current students who were inspired by a Young Eagles flight.

"As we launch the second century of powered flight, Young Eagles will also reach for new horizons," Poberezny said. "We have seen the impact that this program has made on young people, whether or not they pursue aviation. That inspires us to do even more."

The EAA President also announced new offerings as follow-ups to initial Young Eagle flights, including expanded web site activities and recognition levels for young people interested in aviation. Those specific activities will be announced, as they are unveiled.

The Young Eagles program was founded in 1992 and has provided more than 1 million free demonstration flights to young people. Through January 2004, young people around the world have participated in the program through the efforts of 35,000 volunteer pilots. Major support is provided by Jaguar Cars. More information is available at www.youngeagles.org.



Pictured is our own Jeanne MacPherson with Harrison Ford at the FAA Northwest Family Fly-In in July 1999 at the Yellowstone Airport. Jeanne has flown over 2,900 Young Eagles through the Montana Aeronautics Division's youth aviation education program, we're sure Mr. Ford had no idea what kind of a celebrity he was meeting at the moment or he certainly would have asked for an autograph!!

Cadet Earns Eaker Award

Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron cadet, Elizabeth Semple, successfully completed all sixteen achievements and four phases of Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program to earn the Ira C. Eaker Award. There are approximately 27,000 cadets enrolled in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Program. She is the 1,323rd cadet to earn the Ira C. Eaker Award which recognizes cadet completion of academic, leadership, moral leadership and physical fitness curriculum in existence since 1964. The award honors the late Air Force General Ira C. Eaker, aviation pioneer, career military officer and one of the chief architects and visionaries of the US Air Force.

Cadet Semple is the daughter of Montana City residents, Douglas and Karen Semple. She is home schooled and currently in her senior year of high school studies. She is a member of Helena Karate and Judo Club, holding a purple belt. Cadet Semple is also a participant in Carroll College's Accelerated College Experience (ACE) program and has successfully completed Emergency Medical Technician-Basic at University of Montana-Helena. She will graduate high school this spring with 29 semester hours of college credit.

Cadet Semple has been a member of the Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron since June 2000. Since enrolled in the cadet program, she has attended and served on the cadet staff of three basic encampments: Montana Encampment, 2001—Flight Sergeant; Rocky Mountain Region Encampment, 2002—Flight Commander; Montana/Wyoming Encampment, 2003—Standards and Evaluation Team member. In 2001, Cadet Semple placed third in the Montana Aeronautics Aviation Art Poster Contest and second in a University of Montana/NASA contest for CAP cadets where she designed a project integrating emerging satellite technology with search and rescue techniques. She was awarded an all-expenses-paid trip to a hybrid Advanced Space Academy/Aviation Challenge program in Huntsville, Alabama, where she trained for a mock space shuttle mission as a payload specialist. Additionally, in 2001, she was a member of the squadron color guard team which represented Montana and the Rocky Mountain Region at the National Color Guard Competition held at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It was the first time a Montana color guard team had represented the region at the national competition. The team placed 5th overall.

Cadet Semple was presented her award by CAP National Commander, Maj. Gen Richard Bowling, during the 2004 Winter National Board Meeting in Washington, D.C. in March 2004. In recognition of this achievement, she has been promoted to the grade of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel.

To Fly, One Must Know The Rules

Excerpts from Private Pilot, November 1987

Even aviation isn't immune from the absurd. The following are actual laws taken from a variety of locations throughout the United States.

It is against the law for a pilot to tickle a female flying student under her chin with a feather duster in order to get her attention.

Columbia, Pennsylvania

It is a violation for a woman over 200 pounds and attired in shorts to pilot or ride in an airplane.

Pocataligo, Georgia

Lingerie can't be hung on a clothesline at the airport unless the undies are carefully hidden from prying eyes by a "suitable screen."

Kidderville, New Hampshire

Women who are single, widowed, or divorced are banned from parachuting on Sunday.

Crawford, Nebraska

No female shall appear in a bathing suit at any airport in this state unless she is escorted by two officers or unless she is armed with a club. The Provisions of this statute shall not apply to females weighing less than 90 pounds nor exceeding 200 pounds, nor shall it apply to female horses.

Kentucky

It is a violation of local law for any pilot or passengers to carry an ice cream cone in their pocket while either flying or waiting to board a plane.

Lowes Crossroads, Delaware

Pilots and passengers are prohibited from eating onions between the hours of 7 am and 7 pm.

Bluff, Utah

Citizens are not allowed to enter an airplane within four hours of eating garlic.

Wakefield, Rhode Island

No female wearing a nightgown can be taken for a flight on a private plane.

Headland, Alabama

It is against the law to eat ice cream in the local airport with a fork.

Bicknell, Tennessee

No married man can go flying on Sunday.

Burdoville, Vermont

No married man can go flying without his spouse along at any time, unless he has been married for more than 12 months.

West Union, Ohio

No one can play cards on the airport grounds with a woman, a child, or an Indian.

White Horse, New Mexico

No one – man, woman, or child – can be seen flying while barefoot.

Fairplay, Colorado

Don't let your horse fall asleep at the airport.

Pewee, West Virginia

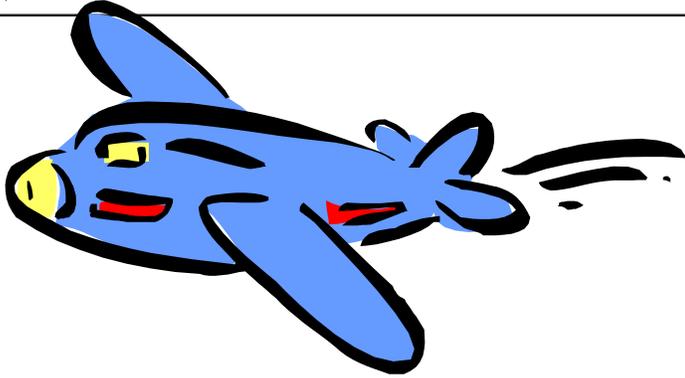
No turtle races shall be held at the airport.

Bourbon, Mississippi

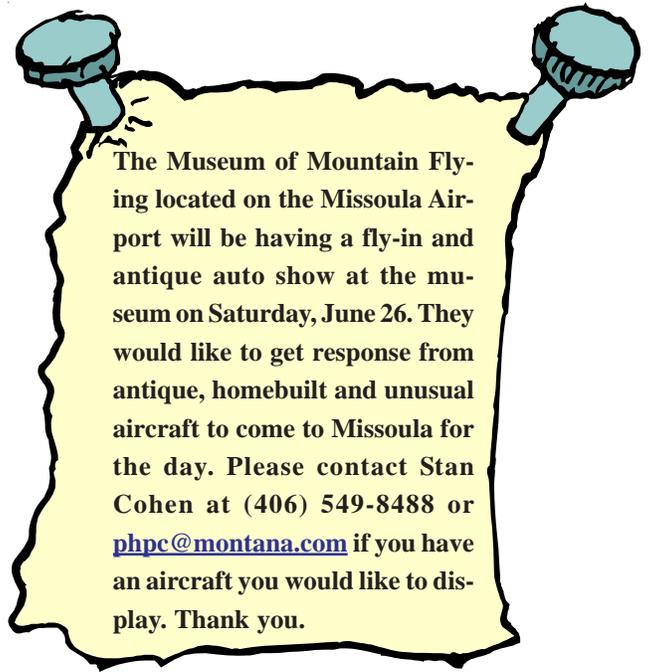


ANNOUNCEMENTS!

The date for the Rocky Mountain College conference “The Economic Impact of Aviation in Montana” has been changed. It was formally scheduled for April 15, 2004 and is now scheduled for Saturday, April 17, from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. For further information phone (406) 657-1149.



Twenty-nine hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,131. This includes \$200 for production, \$750 for postage and \$181 for printing.



The Museum of Mountain Flying located on the Missoula Airport will be having a fly-in and antique auto show at the museum on Saturday, June 26. They would like to get response from antique, homebuilt and unusual aircraft to come to Missoula for the day. Please contact Stan Cohen at (406) 549-8488 or phpc@montana.com if you have an aircraft you would like to display. Thank you.

The Department of Transportation attempts to provide reasonable 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 document will be provided upon request. For further information call (406)444-2506 or TDD (406)444-7696.



March, 2004

Pre-Sort Standard
US Postage Paid
Helena, MT 59620
Permit No. 141

PO Box 200507
Helena, Montana 59620-0507