



Aviation Education Programs a Huge Success!

This year's Challenge Education with Aviation had a NASA twist. Kaye Ebel of Missoula and Jeanne MacPherson of Montana Aeronautics teamed up to conduct the three-day University accredited aviation/aerospace workshop.

Two educators from NASA Glenn Research Center, Carol Hodanbosi and Paula Morgan gave presentations on microgravity and space shuttle glove boxes. Ned Penley of NASA's Johnson Space Center put together a Drop Tower for "Dropping in a Microgravity Environment". There was also Amusement Park Physics with teachers building and testing various amusement park rides. This year the teachers were instructed on how to use NASA curriculum to enhance science, math, geography, language arts and how to engage students in hands-on aerospace/aviation related activities.

On Saturday, the teachers were treated to orientation flights, preflight and aerodynamics with Montana pilots, Wade Cebulski of Seeley Lake, Ted Schye of Fort Peck and Jeanne MacPherson of Montana Aeronautics, additionally, Silver State Helicopter Flight School gave orientation flights to the teachers in both the flight simulator and the helicopter. What an outstanding experience for Montana Educators!

In addition to the Teacher's workshop, Aviation and Aerospace Professionals helped to spread the dream of flight. Both students and educators were treated to a top-notch aviation career panel.

The panel consisted of; **Kaye Ebel**, Missoula, Aerospace Educator, facilitator, **Paula Morgan** and **Carol Hodinbosi**,



Teachers prepare for their orientation flights at the Bert Mooney Airport, a fun time was had by all!!

NASA Glenn Research Center, **Ned Penley**, NASA, Johnson Space Center, **Lieutenant Sarah Rhoads**, F-18 Hornet Pilot, **Richard Krott**, Silver State Helicopters, **Rena Smith**, Helena College of Technology, airframe and air plant school instructor, **Dan Hargrove**, Rocky Mountain College, Director Aviation Department, **TSG Duane Dasher**, Montana Air National Guard,

Recruiter and **Andrew Jones**, private pilot and scholarship recipient. The professional panelist addressed the fun parts of their jobs; how they got to where they are; what their jobs are like; what the benefits are; and what the future prospects for new hiring is. Some side notes from the 2005 Aviation Career Panel are, Carol Hodinbosi, a NASA educator, became so enthusiastic by the flying community at the conference and with the aviation panel that she just started flight school to become a pilot. Andrew Jones from Turner, Montana, an aviation fan since age 4, was recently selected for a pilot slot with the United States Air Force! Great things happen when people spread the word!



Administrator's Column

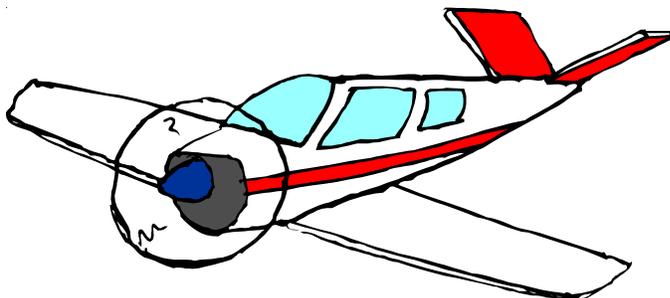
Senator Burns Expresses Concerns: At a hearing to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, Senator Burns voiced concerns about the transportation cuts in the Administration's FY2006 budget. "Among various other cuts, the Administration's transportation budget significantly cuts the Essential Air Service program, the Airport Improvement Program...I am very concerned about the effects these cuts would have on Montana air service. Ours is a rural state, and we need an effective air service...transportation system to move passengers, as well as good and services. These programs are vital to the local communities they serve, and Montana's economy as a whole." In the Vision-100 Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, the Essential Air Service (EAS) program was authorized at \$127 million and the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASD) at \$35 million for FY2006. Despite these levels, the President's budget only requests \$50 million for EAS and no funding for SCASD. The Airport Improvement Program (AIP) has also seen funding cuts in the Administration's budget. Senator Burns said the AIP program must be funded at a level of at least \$3.2 billion, not the \$3 billion proposed. The budget proposal could cause each eligible general aviation airport to lose its \$150,000 "entitlement".



FSS Competitors Appeal Award: The Harris Corporation and a team of FAA flight service employees that lost the bid to run the flight service station system to Lockheed Martin has appealed that decision. This is the largest A-76 outsourcing contract the federal government has ever attempted. The appeal will go to the FAA Office of Dispute Resolution for Acquisition for an independent review who will make a recommendation to FAA Administrator Marion Blakey within 60 to 90 days. There are no changes for pilots as you still call the same phone numbers and use the same radio frequencies to get your weather briefings and file your flight plans.

Passenger Volume Back: According to a recent report released by the FAA, the number of people flying in the United States will return to pre-2001 levels this year at an average annual growth rate of 3.4% expected over the next 12 years. Regional/commuter airlines (aircraft of 70 seats or less) are projected to experience the greatest increase in passenger volume among commercial air carriers, up 15.4% from last year. A total of 688.5 million passengers flew last year on U.S. commercial air carriers. By 2015, the number of passengers is expected to top one billion.

Air Traffic Controller Hiring Surge: The FAA has unveiled a plan to hire more than 12,000 controllers during the next decade. The hiring is designed to offset the effects of an anticipated wave of retirements. There are currently 15,000 active FAA controllers and it is projected that 11,000 will leave by 2014. A plan to reduce the current three- to five-year training period of new controllers was also announced. Under the new system, controllers will be fully trained in two to three years. Advanced simulators, improved classroom training and more efficient on-the-job preparation will reduce the required training time. The National Air Traffic Controllers Association has said the FAA plan does not go far enough to solve the personnel shortage that has already hit cities across the country. The FAA has also formally proposed allowing some controllers to continue to serve beyond the mandatory retirement age of 56.



Montana and the Sky

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Calendar

May 21-22, 2005 – First Annual Fly2Fun Fly-In, Linn County Fair & Expo, Albany, Oregon, adjacent to Albany Airport. For further information email Fly2FunEvent@aol.com or call Gwen Graham at (503) 381-0997. Additional details of this event are on the organizations website at www.Fly2Fun.org.

May 27-29, 2005 - Benchmark Annual Work Session.

May 27-29, 2005 - Spotted Bear Annual Work Session.

May 28, 2005 – WASP Memorial Fly-In, Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas. This event will celebrate and honor the WASP of WWII. For pilot information contact FBO John Howard (325) 235-8478 or email flyin@avengerfield.org.

June 4, 2005 – EAA Chapter 57 will hold a breakfast and Young Eagles Day at the Billings Airport. Breakfast served at 7:30 a.m., Young Eagle rides beginning at 8:00 a.m. For further information contact Larry Mayer (406) 672-6707.

June 5, 2005 – Airshow Malmstrom Air Force Base featuring the Thunderbirds.

June 10-12, 2005 – Legends of Exploration Summer Celebration, Fort Benton. Held in conjunction with the National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Signature Event. For a schedule of events see www.fortbenton.com/sumcel05.

June 11, 2005 – Central Montana Hangar MPA is planning an informal fly-in at the Lewistown airport. For further information contact Tim Robertson at (406) 538-6004 or email trobertson@centurypaving.com.

June 11, 2005 – Great Falls MPA & EAA Chapter 1141 Annual Poker Run. \$5.00 per person. Route will run from Great Falls, Stanford, Lewistown, Geraldine, Fort Benton and return to Great Falls. For further information contact Tom Wrobel at usnret@sofast.net.

June 17-19, 2005 - Meadow Creek Annual Work Session.

June 17-19, 2005 - Fort Peck Airport (37S). Frank Bass Fathers Day Pancake Breakfast. Friday: Cow Creek Fly-in Saturday: Boating, kayaking on Missouri River with Lewis and Clark History, Summer Theater BBQ evening. Sunday: Frank Bass Annual Fathers Day Pancake Breakfast. Contact Russ Dahl, Sec. MPA Valley Hangar, 406-228-4686, email: nemt1150r@yahoo.com or visit their website at www.montanapilots.org.

June 18, 2005 – Fly-in breakfast/aviation day, Big Sandy Airport (3U8). Breakfast will be from 7:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.; \$5 per person (all you can eat). Flour bombing, spot landing, EAA young eagle rides. For further information contact Tom Hlavnicka or Bill Sheets at (406) 378-2629.

June 18-19, 2005 – Second Annual Twin Bridges Fly-In. For further information phone Heather Puckett at (406) 684-5335, check the following website for details, www.rubyvalleyaviation.com.

June 25, 2005 – Open House & pancake breakfast fly-in Ravalli County Airport, Hamilton. For further information contact David Hedditch at (406) 360-3283 or email drh29@bitterroot.com or Red Caldwell, Airport Manager (406) 369-0183.

July 1-3, 2005 - Intermountain Chapter 99s NW Section 2005 Meeting, Red Lion Hotel, Spokane, Washington. For further information go to www.NWSection99s2005.com.

July 15-17, 2005 - Schafer Meadows Annual Work Session.

July 30-31, 2005 – Mountain Madness 05 Airshow. Glacier International, Kalispell. Featured acts include The Blue Angels, Pietsch Brothers, Jim Franklin, Schocklee Jet Truck, Gordon Bowman Jones Announcing and some war birds.

August 19, 2005 – National Aviation Day.

August 20, 2005 – Wing's & Wheel's Fly-In. Powell, Wyoming. For further information contact Orville Moore at (307) 754-5234.

Airport News

Kalispell: A flying club was started in July 2004 flying out of Kalispell City Airport (S27). The club “Flathead Flyers LLC” presently owns a Cessna 172 and has 17 members. In addition to traditional club officers they have their own instructor and mechanic. The club is looking to increase membership and purchase additional aircraft. Those interested should contact Tip Clark, (406) 857-2240; cell (406) 249-2240 or email tipndi@centurytel.net. Pictured is Tip Clark, Brig Gen, USAF (Ret), Tip serves as President of the flying club.

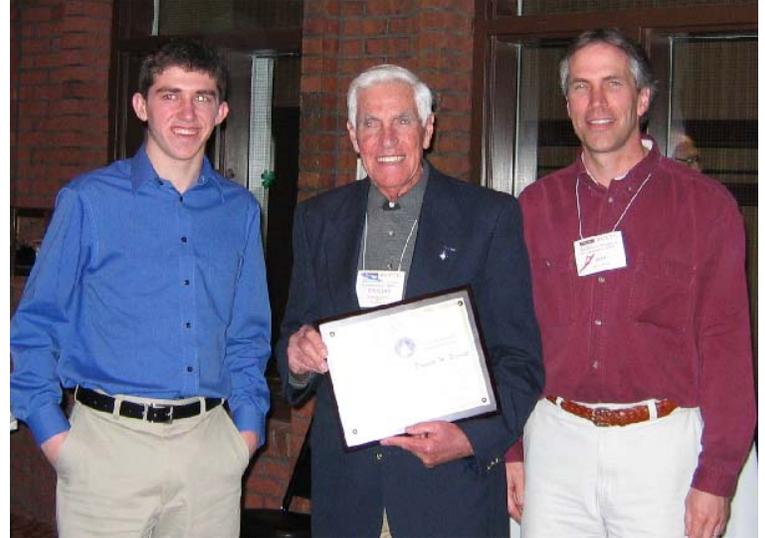
Hamilton: The Hanger Café located on the Ravalli County Airport in Hamilton is open for breakfast & lunch and has 24-hour restrooms complete with showers. There is also a small picnic area next to the café, which is suitable for camping until their airpark is completed.



Awards Aplenty at 2005 Conference!



John "Tuck" Barrett of Cascade accepts the "Master Pilot" award from Steve Jones, Helena FAA. Tuck is an expert Mountain Flying Pilot and always on hand to help out with Young Eagle Flights. Congratulations Tuck!!



Congratulations to Doug Parrott retired Northwest Airlines Captain from Roundup who received the "Master Pilot" award, not only is Doug a master pilot he also gives a very generous \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving young student each year at the conference. Pictured are Doug and his son & grandson.



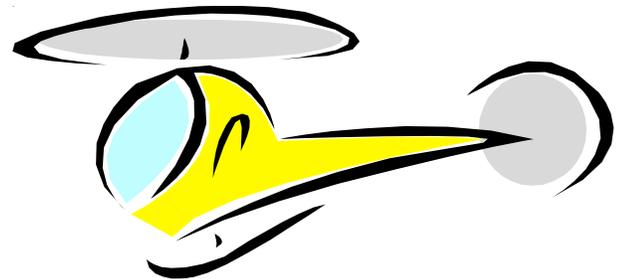
Byron Bayers of Twin Bridges pictured here with Leo Wadekamper, FAA was also awarded the "Master Pilot" award. This prestigious award certainly says a lot about these amazing pilots. Congratulations Byron - well deserved.

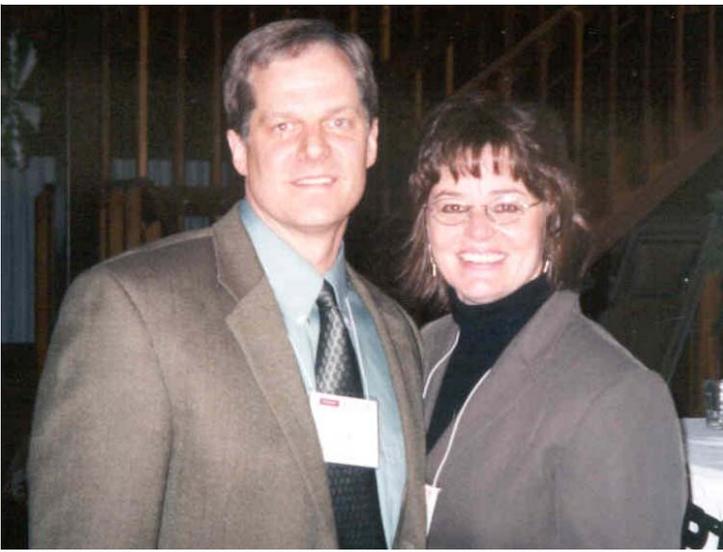


John Baldwin of Ismay, was on hand to receive his "Master Pilot" award. Montana is very fortunate to have such a high caliber of seasoned pilots. Congratulations John for your amazing achievements in aviation.



Leo Wadekamper, FAA presents Greg Jones from Neptune Aviation Services Missoula the Diamond Certificate of Excellence Award. Unfortunately we are unable to fit every recipient's photo in our newsletter however we congratulate all of the award recipients for a job well done! For a complete list of recipients see the March 2005 newsletter.





Dan Hargove, Aviation Director at Rocky Mountain College spoke at the Friday awards luncheon, conducted a concurrent session and served on the aviation career panel; as always Dan is a big support of aviation. Pictured are Dan and Debbie Alke, Administrator, Aeronautics Division.



Crystal Dorne of Swan Lake received two very prestigious scholarships, the \$2,500 Dorothy Krantz Memorial Scholarship and a \$500 Montana 99's Scholarship. Pictured are Crystal and Ray Ross of Bozeman, Ray was Dorothy's flight instructor and friend and was very honored to present this scholarship in memory of Dorothy an amazing woman. Congratulations Crystal!!



Chuck Manning, MPA Immediate Past President presented the Spark Plug Award to Dan Prill of Sand Coulee. Congratulations Dan!!



Andrew Jones of Bozeman received the Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) flight training scholarship. Pictured are Andrew and Marilyn Lewis, AOM Secretary and Flying Farmers representative.



Tyrel Hendrickson of Chester received the Morrison Family Aviation Appreciation Scholarship. Pictured are Tyrel and Debbie Alke.

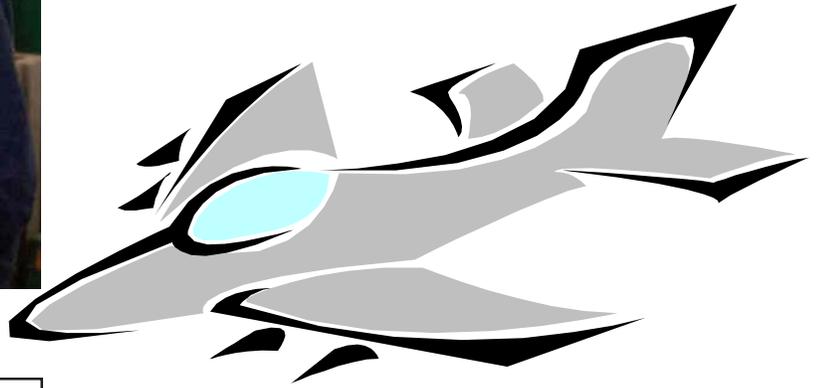


Steve & Cindy Kleimer, Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) presented the \$500 MAAA scholarship to Aaron Andren of Billings.

Laurel Teacher Receives Educator of the Year!



Druann Kerns of Laurel was awarded the Montana Aeronautics Division, "Aviation Educator of the Year Award" at the recent Montana Aviation Conference in Butte, Montana. Druann is a teacher, the District Technology Coordinator of Laurel Middle Schools and serves as Chairman of Aviation and Technology Week, one of the largest aviation and technology weeks in the United States. More than 12,000 students from Montana and Wyoming schools attended the last Aviation and Technology week in May of 2004. Pictured (l-r) are Lieutenant Sarah Rhoads and Druann. Congratulations Druann aviation education is so vital to the future and we thank amazing educators like yourself that help spread the word.



Big Sky Announces New President

Big Sky Transportation Company announced the appointment of Fred L. deLeeuw as its new President. Mr. deLeeuw has been involved in the airline industry for more than 30 years. He has been a financial consultant to Big Sky Airlines for the last year. Prior to that he held senior level positions with Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Vanguard Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Continental Airlines and People Express Airlines.

Jon Marchi, Chairman of the Board of Directors, said "We are fortunate to have attracted Fred and look forward to his leadership in the operations and financial results of the company."

Fred deLeeuw said, "The team at Big Sky is second to none in the industry and having worked with them for the last year I feel confident that we will be able to continue improving the level of service provided to our customers."

deLeeuw added, "This is an exciting time for Big Sky Airlines as we reflect our airline with the Beechcraft 1900D aircraft which will provide our customers with the highest level of service and begin service between Sheridan, Wyoming and Denver, Colorado. We look forward to the benefits that our customers will experience the first time they ride on one of our B1900D aircraft."

deLeeuw and his family will relocate to Billings, Montana.

Thanks to the Griffith's



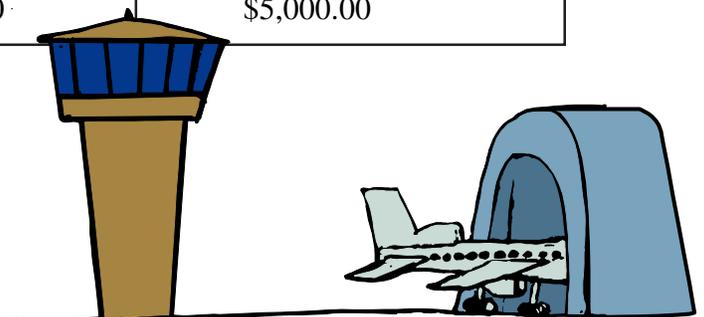
Rick & Kathy Griffith prepared a spectacular breakfast on Sunday, March 6 for all of the volunteers that worked to make the 2005 conference such a success. I must say Rick & Kathy are both outstanding cooks and no one went away hungry. As conference chair Rick did an excellent job making sure the 2005 conference included something for everyone. Thanks again – you're the best!!

Airport Grants and Loans Awarded

By: Jim Greil – Airports / Airways Bureau Chief

This year, the Montana Aeronautics Division gave away hundreds of thousands of dollars in loans and grants to various Montana airports as part of its annual airport development loan and grant program. The program, which was established as major contributor to Montana airports, was developed 12 years ago, although it has greatly increased in both size and scope in the last few years. At any given time, there is nearly a million dollars of Aeronautics Division funds obligated to various airport projects around the state. Under current funding levels, there is usually about \$800,000 of money available for disbursement each year for both loans or grants for airport projects around the state. Funding is provided by a \$0.02 / gallon tax on aviation fuel collected by sales for general aviation aircraft. Although most of this money is used for large projects that need to leverage much larger federal (FAA) airport dollars available for Montana airports each year, (approximately 8 to 12 million per year at a 95/5% match), there is always a small percentage awarded for various smaller airport projects as well. Applications for the money are due into the Aeronautics Division around Thanksgiving each year, and the money is awarded usually in January or February of the following year. The Montana Aeronautics Board has sole responsibility for the awarding of loan and grant monies. The board meets in late January or early February to listen to project presentations by airport sponsors and to vote on disbursements. For more information regarding the program, contact the Aeronautics Division. Here are the awards for fiscal year 2006.

AIRPORT	GRANT	LOAN
Big Sandy	\$2,293.00	
Browning	\$23,750.00	
Canyon Ferry	\$50,000.00	\$27,682.00
Chinook	\$19,225.00	\$19,225.00
Columbus		\$4,992.00
Deer Lodge	\$43,750.00	\$20,750.00
Eureka	\$1,500.00	
Forsyth	\$5,770.00	\$5,770.00
Fort Benton	\$1,305.00	
Fort Peck	\$27,816.00	
Glasgow	\$2,000.00	\$5,500.00
Glendive	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00
Havre	\$10,000.00	\$21,000.00
Hot Springs		\$15,000.00
Hysham	\$9,000.00	
Kalispell City	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00
Laurel	\$2,250.00	
Lewistown	\$5,000.00	\$8,250.00
Livingston	\$4,675.00	\$4,675.00
Miles City	\$4,500.00	
Plains	\$50,000.00	\$17,500.00
Seeley Lake		\$15,000.00
Scobey	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
Shelby		\$6,000.00
Sidney	\$10,000.00	\$42,500.00
Wolf Point	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00



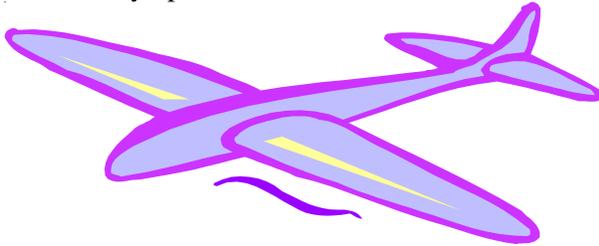
Aviation Facts

Who was the first licensed pilot in the US?

The Aeronautics Branch of the Department of Commerce issued Pilot License No. 1 to William P. MacCracken, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics, on April 6, 1927.

How did the aircraft nationality markings ('N' numbers) begin?

In 1919, an international treaty assigned "N" as the designator for U.S. aircraft. The United States did not sign this agreement, however, so use of the "N" did not become compulsory then. In December 1926, the first U.S. Air Commerce Regulations set up a system of licensing and identification marking for aircraft. In March 1927, amendments to those regulations mandated that U.S. Aircraft engaged in foreign air commerce display the letter "N" at the beginning of its identification markings. Today, all aircraft registered in the United States must carry the "N" marking regardless of where they operate.



What was the first U.S. airline?

The St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line ran the world's first regularly scheduled airline service using heavier-than-air craft during January through March 1914.

What aircraft received the first type certificate?

On March 29, 1927, the Aeronautics Branch of the Department of Commerce issued Aircraft Type Certificate No. 1 to the Buhl Airster C-A3, a three-place open biplane.

MDT attempts to provide 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 information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-6331 or TTY (406) 444-7696.

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