



## Aviation Icon Celebrates 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Myron (Mike) Strand recently celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party in Kalispell with nearly 200 people in attendance.

Mike is most notably known for Strand Aviation in Kalispell (with the signature red airplane at the entrance) which he and his wife Marilyn founded in 1967. Over the next 30 years, Strand's business trained hundreds of pilots. Strand also flew charter flights, snow surveys, game surveys and fire patrols.

Mike served on the Montana Aeronautics Board from 1983 through 1990. He also did a lot of work as the search coordinator for Northwest Montana and offered his services as a flight ambulance before the days of ALERT helicopter.

During the 2008 aviation conference in Great Falls Mike was presented with the Wright Brothers' Master Pilot Award. This honor is given to pilots who exhibit professionalism, skill, aviation expertise and who have maintained safe flight operations for 50 years or more.

Happy Birthday Mike! "You're not eighty; you're eighteen with sixty two years of experience!"



## Much Accomplished at Benchmark Work Session



The 2010 Benchmark work session had a good turn out and good weather except for some gusty winds off and on throughout the day. This was the first work session in a couple years, so a lot of work was needed. Volunteers changed the wind socks and sprayed the runway for weeds. A new sign had been made and erected for the Van De Riet Camp Ground, with several members of the Van De Riet family in attendance. The campground was dedicated in memory of Ray Van De Riet for his dedication to aviation and leadership in constructing this pilots campground. Members of the Montana Pilots Association supplied lunch, and lots of hard work. Thanks to all for making this work session such a success!

*Van De Riet family in front of new sign honoring Ray. Additional photos page 7.*

# Administrators Column

**Air search:** Thank you to Jeanne MacPherson, Ken Wilhelm, Kelly Dimick and Mike Rogan of the MDT Aeronautics Division and to the division's many air search and rescue volunteers who assisted over Memorial Day weekend in the search for the twin-engine Piper Seneca that went missing Sunday morning. The Division is grateful to each and every one of you for helping in this time of need. Thanks to the following agencies for your dedication and support: Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton and Under Sheriff Dave Rau and Powell County Sheriff Scott Howard, and the Lewis and Clark and Powell County search and rescue teams and law enforcement personnel; Malmstrom Air Force Base; the Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection. And heartfelt thanks to the Montana Civil Air Patrol for its aid and work in locating the aircraft. Condolences to the Dobrowsky family of Detroit and the Nielsen family of San Diego.

**For aviation junkies:** an Aviation Dictionary App with more than 10,000 terms and nearly 500 illustrations has just been released by ASA. The Aviation Dictionary app is based on the "Dictionary of Aeronautical Terms" by Dale Crane. It features a comprehensive search tool, a scrollable index to access the complete database of terms, and a "Word of the Day" function to help users learn something new daily. The app, which is compatible with the Apple iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad, is available in the iTunes App Store for \$9.99. For more information: [ASA2Fly.com/iPhone](http://ASA2Fly.com/iPhone).

**And a new search engine:** in case you need more, [AVAD Aviator](http://www.avadaviator.com) has taken off with its new aviation search engine to cater to the needs of aviation professionals, hobbyists, and hopefuls. AVAD Aviator is an aviation-dedicated Web search portal offering a wide variety of information and listings in all genres of aviation, including events, airports, FBOs, N numbers, FAA-certified aircraft, medical examiners and certificate holders, manufacturers, dealers, brokers, new and used aircraft and parts, aviation jobs, and a host of other aviation items and related businesses. Presently the AVAD Aviator database contains nearly 1.5 million records and is growing daily. Visitors can also find their favorite organizations where they'd like to donate their time, aircraft, and resources to causes such as mercy flights, disaster relief, aviation museums, and others. All listings are free for seven days, check out [www.avadaviator.com](http://www.avadaviator.com)

**TSA Administrator:** As the third nominee for the TSA Administrator job, John Pistole's confirmation hearing draws near, Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) asked the Obama Administration to support legislation he authored to establish a 10-year term for the position of TSA administrator, similar to the appointment of the director of the FBI. Wolf said that a 10-year term would provide stability to the agency, which already has had six administrators or acting administrators since being created following the 9/11 attacks. The TSA has not had a full-time administrator for almost 17 months and the past two nominees both withdrew their names from consideration.

**Panel charts course for aviation industry:** a group of bureaucrats, executives and labor leaders are tasked with solving airline industry woes that range from finance to worker fatigue. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood created the Future of Aviation Advisory Committee which met recently to discuss aviation safety, the aviation work force, the industry's competitiveness, funding for aviation systems and environmental challenges. The panel convenes in the wake of airlines' multibillion dollar losses, one huge merger and another announced, concern about the safety of regional carriers and ongoing struggles to fund air traffic control modernization. The committee heard that: 62 of the 65 largest U.S. airports, have lost scheduled flights in the last two years; only Southwest Airlines has investment-grade credit; commercial aviation drives 10.9 million U.S. jobs, including 5% to 9.9% of the jobs in Georgia; since 2001, the airline industry has lost nearly \$60 billion and 160,000 jobs. The committee will make recommendations to Secretary LaHood following a bout of meetings and has no small mission: to map a course that ensures the industry remains vital, competitive, sustainable, and—above all—safe.



## *Montana and the Sky*

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Jim Lynch, Director

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# Calendar of Events

**June 19-20** – Twin Bridges Airport Fathers Day Fly In. On Saturday, Young Eagle Rides; games for kids; airplanes on display; Aerobatics. On Sunday, pancake breakfast; pilot games; free gift for all pilots that fly in. For further information go to [www.rubyvalleyaviation.com](http://www.rubyvalleyaviation.com) or call (406) 684-5335.

**June 20** – Fathers Day Fly In Sourdough Pancake Breakfast, Fort Peck Airport. For further information, contact Lanny Hanson (406) 526-3535 or (406) 263-1154.

**June 21 & 22** - MDT Aeronautics Division's Aviation Career Academy in Helena, for students in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. For further information please contact Jeanne MacPherson at (406) 444-9568, [jemacpherson@mt.gov](mailto:jemacpherson@mt.gov).

**June 26** – Big Boys Toy Show and Fly In at Havre Airport.

**June 26** – Plains Airport Fly In breakfast. 8:00 a.m. to noon. For further information phone Randy Garrison at (406) 826-3605.

**June 26** - Third Annual Seeley Lake Flying Club Fly-in and Community BBQ, flame broiled burgers and hot dogs, salad, beans, drink ,and dessert, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Displays and raffle prizes. Further information: David Wallenburn, (406) 370-3499; [dwallenb@intrex.net](mailto:dwallenb@intrex.net).

**June 26-27** – Meadow Creek Camp Out and Work Session. Work session will take place the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup>. BBQ to follow work session. For further information, contact Perry Brown (406) 892-3996.

**July 4** - Townsend 4th of July Fiesta Fly In, 8:00 a.m. – 11a.m. “we feed you, not fool you”. Contact Neil or Karen (406) 266-5400 or [buenoav@mt.net](mailto:buenoav@mt.net).

**July 10** – Ravalli County Airport Breakfast Fly In. For further information, phone Leland Blatter (406) 363-6471.

**July 10** - Annual Del Bonita Airstrips Hands Across the Border Work Session.

**July 16-17** – Schafer Meadows Work Session.

**July 17** – Jim Bridger Days Bridger Airport Fly In. For further information contact Merrill Pfeifer (406) 662-3319 or (406) 662-5134.

**July 24-25** – Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show, Idaho Falls Regional Airport. Featuring Blue Angels, Idaho Falls is the only city in the Intermountain West to feature a Blue Angels show in 2010. In addition to Blue Angels, the air show will feature several well-known local and national acts. Visit [www.idahofallsairshow.com](http://www.idahofallsairshow.com) to purchase tickets and find more details on the show.

**July 25** – St. Ignatius Airport Fly In. 8:00 a.m. to noon. Huckleberry pancakes, Young Eagle rides.

**July 29- 31** – Montana Antique Airplane Association's Annual Fly In at Three Forks, Pogreba Field Airport. Flour Bombing and Spot Landing. Free Camping on the airport. For further information contact Tim Linn at [tim.linn@hotmail.com](mailto:tim.linn@hotmail.com).

**August 8** – Hysham Airport/Lions Club Fly In/Drive In. 7:00 a.m. to noon. Model RC airplane show. For further information contact Bob Miller (406) 342-5252.

**August 15** – Columbus Airport Woltermann Memorial Dedication Fly In breakfast, car show, class reunion. For further information phone Gary Woltermann at (406) 321-4111.

**August 21** – Cut Bank Airport Fly In, car show, 1/8 mile drag racing and various flying events. For further information contact Dave Ries (406) 873-8683.

**September 10 - 12** - MDT Aeronautics Division's Annual Mountain Search Pilot Clinic to be held in Helena. For further information please contact: Jeanne MacPherson at (406) 444-9568, [jemacpherson@mt.gov](mailto:jemacpherson@mt.gov).

**September 11** – Polson Fly In. For further information, contact Mauri Morin at [maurv8@gmail.com](mailto:maurv8@gmail.com).

# *Flying to Oshkosh – Tips for First Timers*

*By: Mark Evanoff, EAA Chapter 102*

Encouraged by reasonable aviation fuel prices and the promise of good en-route weather, I flew to Oshkosh, Wisconsin this July for the annual Airventure celebration. This was my second solo trip back and involved “sleeping under the wing” for the duration of the event. As I compiled the list of items that I’d inevitably forgotten and/or brought too much of, the notion of writing up a tips article came to mind. What follows below are simply some suggestions I wanted to share and is not meant to be a complete how-to guide to Oshkosh.

**PREFLIGHT PLANNING:** As part of the logistical preparation for this trip, consulting with a flight planning software program was a tremendous aid. I used DUATS.com as well as the AOPA flight planner for determining en-route times and weather. Both planners can incorporate forecast winds aloft with your aircraft’s performance data and yield accurate fuel burns and en-route times; For fuel stops, 100ll.com provided information on the cheapest fuel along the way; Bring a United States map. If bad weather changes your planned route, it’s much easier to visualize alternatives by looking at a US map rather than piecing together 2 or 3 sectionals; Airventure publishes a NOTAM for the event that has all of the arrival/departure procedures. Google Earth has aerial photos that can help make greater sense of the features one experiences from the air. The arrival can be crowded but is orderly; Bring a AAA guidebook for Wisconsin. There are many interesting things to do in and around Oshkosh via shuttle or rental car. As fascinating as Airventure is, a change of scenery can be welcome after awhile.

**ARRIVING:** Having a portable GPS with moving map will make your arrival much easier. The Notam’d procedures are for the period shortly before the actual event through the end of the event. You may wish to arrive even earlier at which time conventional Class D airspace is in effect.

**PRE-CAMPING PLANNING:** Aside from your essential needs... tent, sleeping bag, etc... it’s important to remember to bring some creature comforts. A cooler stocked with snacks insures that you’re not reliant on the site vendors being open for food, especially if you arrive early. Bring an extra camp chair to accommodate the occasional visitor. A thicker air mattress ensures a good night sleep! That said, many pilots simply took a cab to WalMart or the shuttle to Target and purchased all of their camping needs off the shelf. At the end of their stay, they donate the items to the local scouts or thrift store; The Airventure folks publish a “survivors guide” that reminds one to bring a big hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, raingear, etc. as well as other suggestions. It’s available online at their web site. [http://airventure.org/planning/survival\\_guide.html](http://airventure.org/planning/survival_guide.html).

**CAMPING OPTIONS:** Most general aviation aircraft camp at what is referred to as the North 40. It is convenient to hot showers and nearby off-site restaurants and is connected by shuttles to other parts of the site. It is somewhat distant from the actual showplace event so many bring bikes or, if an early arrival, buy a cheap one from the nearby Salvation Army; If you have an aircraft manufactured prior to 1968, you may camp in the Vintage area. Not as close to the nearby stores and restaurants but there are some shaded areas for tents. One downside is that they don’t allow bicycles in the vintage area so I had to leave mine outside the fence.

**EVENT/ AIR SHOW STRATEGIES:** Many veterans of Airventure point out that it always rains at least a day or two during the event. Choose one of those days or an exceptionally hot day to visit the indoor air-conditioned EAA museum; Airventure.org provides a complete listing of lectures, seminars, symposiums, etc. in the weeks preceding the show. You can print out a list of selected events that you’ve chosen which you can keep handy while walking the grounds; The plane adjacent to mine was a veteran of many Oshkosh camp-outs. The pilot purchased foam swimming pool “noodles” from WalMart and affixed them to the trailing edge of the wings of his Cessna. He pointed out that even though you think you’re familiar with your plane, all it takes is one careless nocturnal collision between your head and ailerons to ruin your trip; A visit to the Seaplane base takes one away from the crowded grounds to a serene cove setting filled with float planes. Although essentially just a static display, there are several booths representing related organizations. A free ride on one of two pontoon boats takes you past the assorted moored aircraft; Most of Airventure is now covered by Wi-Fi internet coverage, if your computer has those capabilities. There are also several internet cafe’s that will allow you to go on-line to check your email, etc.; One of the shuttles conveyed people to the nearest supermarket. On site vendors tended to favor deep fried foods and bratwurst/ hot dogs. The grocery store had deli sandwiches, fruit, and an incredible salad bar. It was not uncommon to see pilots returning to Airventure with several bags of fresh provisions for their planeside meals; Bring along small cards that have your contact information. You will have made friends with folks you’d like to have visit you in the future and they’ll appreciate the gesture of good will.

**DEPARTING:** Of all of the aircraft related operations one must prepare for, departing Oshkosh is the least stressful. Following a weather/ departure briefing, you listen to ATIS and then taxi to the departure end of the active runway. In rapid succession you are cleared for departure and then maneuver your way out of Class D airspace at specific altitudes and headings. It’s interesting to note that they are accommodating voluminous incoming traffic simultaneously on other runways; So, you’ve experienced Oshkosh and are now headed home. You’ve paid for the fuel to get there so why not take your time getting home. There are many resort areas in Wisconsin and Minnesota that are worth stopping at. I was fortunate enough to visit in-laws near Decorah, Iowa that showed me how beautiful the mid-west corn country can be. Two of my fellow EAA’ers, Chapter 102 president David Schmeckle and A& P extraordinaire Bob Colby, left Oshkosh and went off to Colorado and Wyoming respectively before heading back to Montana.

*continued page 5*

## *Flying to Oshkosh, continued*

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** If I were to distill the Oshkosh experience down to one thing it would be the atmosphere of camaraderie and kinship with fellow aviation enthusiasts. Most people are smiling, happy, and eager to share in this celebration with other like minded people. There's a familiarity with the crowd that makes one feel like a member of a large, really large, family. It felt great!

## *ADS-B Tower Operating at GPI Airport*



*The ADS-B tower is in and operating at Glacier Park International Airport. It will be in testing for several months before going into service.*

## *Bridger Airport Installs PAPI System*

Bridger Airport installed a new Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) on the approach end of runway 34. The PAPI was purchased with grant money given to the airport through the Montana Aeronautics Divisions Loan and Grant program. A total of \$7,000.00 was granted to the airport to be used to help purchase and install this very important visual navigational aid. The PAPI was set for a standard 3 degree approach slope to help pilots landing from the south on runway 34 clear a power line that is almost impossible to see. Airport manager Merrill Pfeifer was responsible for applying for the grant money and working to acquire an engineering firm to do all of the needed engineering for location of the unit. Merrill also worked side by side with the local contractor, Mark DeRudder, State-Line Contractors, Inc, doing everything from digging holes, putting up concrete forms to boring conduit under the nearby county maintenance yard to bring power to the end of the runway. This is a great asset for Bridger and greatly enhances the safety of the airport.

## *Missouri River Breaks Holds Work Party*

*By: Ron Normandeau, RAC*

The work session for maintenance of the Missouri River Breaks National Monument (MRBNM) was held on May 15, as scheduled with clear and warm weather. Participants from ten (10) hangars put in nearly seven (7) hours of work and acquired some blisters for their effort.

Black Butte North had twelve workers (12) and had about two hundred (200) feet reclaimed from the sage brush and the rest of the length cleared of encroaching sage. The strip is 30 to 40 feet wide and 1700 to 1800 feet in length.

Bull Whacker and Cow creek had sage brush removed from the existing clear area, which should keep them clear for a few years. Bull Whacker needs some extension work to reclaim some length at both ends where sage has invaded.

Twenty-two people participated in the work accomplished at the three airstrips. This equates to about 154 hours of labor which is a great showing. The participants (by Hangar) are: Central - Ralph Rogers; Five Valleys - Wade & Geanette Cebulski; Gallatin - John McKenna, Tim Linn; Great Falls - JC Kantorowicz, Harvey Hampton; Mike Reardon; Mission Valley - Chuck Jarecki, Ron Normandeau; North Central - Willie Hurd, Richard Lawrence, Darren Huestis, Raymond Lawrence; South Central - Scott Newpower, Sanders - Dan Lilja; Valley - Mick Reyling, Joe Reyling, Larry McLeod; Vigilante - Jerry Cain, Lowell Hanson, Minnesota - Steve Johnston.

Ralph Rogers provided a BBQ of salad, French bread (seasoned), beans, pulled pork, and the condiments to accompany. If you weren't there you missed a great feed. To top it off, Dan Lilja brought his ice cream churn and made ice cream for dessert. It doesn't get much better. Thank you all for your effort.



*Pictured are Mark DeRudder (l) State-Line Contractors, Inc. and Merrill Pfeifer, Airport Manager.*

# Great Lakes Airlines to Begin Service to Denver from Dawson Community Airport

Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd. announced they will add service to Denver from the Dawson Community Airport in Glendive beginning July 5, 2010. This addition will give the residents of Glendive and the surrounding area service to both Billings and Denver.

**Following is the Glendive flight schedule effective July 5, 2010:**

## **Glendive to Billings:**

Flight 5191	Departs	5:14p	Arrives	6:14p	Operates	Monday-Friday
Flight 5190	Departs	10:08a	Arrives	11:08a	Operates	Saturday
Flight 5191	Departs	3:00p	Arrives	4:44p	Operates	Sunday

## **Billings to Glendive:**

Flight 5117	Departs	7:00a	Arrives	8:00a	Operates	Monday-Friday
Flight 5190	Departs	8:22a	Arrives	9:58a	Operates	Saturday
Flight 5191	Departs	1:50p	Arrives	2:50p	Operates	Sunday

## **Glendive to Denver:**

Flight 5117	Departs	8:10a	Arrives	10:40a	Operates	Monday-Friday
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## **Denver to Glendive:**

Flight 5191	Departs	2:35p	Arrives	5:04p	Operates	Monday-Friday
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To purchase tickets on Great Lakes Airlines, visit [www.flygreatlakes.com](http://www.flygreatlakes.com), call the Great Lakes' reservation center at 800-554-5111 or through your travel agent.

Great Lakes is providing scheduled passenger service at 59 airports in fifteen states with a fleet of Embraer EMB-120 Brasilias and Raytheon/Beech 1900D regional airliners. A current route map may be viewed at [http://www.flygreatlakes.com/route\\_map/route\\_map.htm](http://www.flygreatlakes.com/route_map/route_map.htm)

All scheduled flights are operated under the Great Lakes Airlines marketing identity in conjunction with code-share agreements with United Airlines and Frontier Airlines at their Denver, Phoenix, and Billings hubs. Code-share agreement with only United at their Kansas City and Ontario hubs; and only Frontier at their Albuquerque and Milwaukee hubs. The company also operates a hub in Las Vegas.

Additional information is available on the company web site that may be accessed at [www.flygreatlakes.com](http://www.flygreatlakes.com)

## Rare Sight Lands in Helena



*A Russian Antonov AN-124 cargo plane landed in Helena on May 18. The Russian crew and plane who were under contract with the U.S. Government stopped in Helena to load supplies the Montana National Guard used to support the Haiti earthquake relief mission. This was a rare sight and one of the largest planes to ever land at the Helena Regional Airport. Photo by: Kelly Dimick*

# Youth Art Competition Accepting Submissions

In April 2011, experts from around the world will gather in Houston for the International Academy of Astronautics Humans in Space Symposium. As part of this event, students ages 10-17 are invited to express their ideas about the future of human space exploration through visual, literary, musical or digital art.

Artwork submissions will be judged on creativity, skill, and demonstration of meaning relevant to expressing “What is the future of human space exploration, and why is it important?” Bonus points will be awarded for artwork that does not break obvious scientific principles.

Winning art will be displayed in an online gallery, and winners will be invited to attend the symposium in person. Submissions must be received by **Sept. 30, 2010**.

For additional information and a complete list of guidelines, visit [www.humansinspaceart.org](http://www.humansinspaceart.org).

Inquiries about this opportunity should be directed to [info@dsls.usra.edu](mailto:info@dsls.usra.edu). Please include “HIS Youth Art Competition” in the subject line.

## AWOS Installed at Yellowstone Airport

The AWOS (Automated Weather Observation Station) at the Yellowstone Airport is installed and in working order. To access the information the frequency for the radio is 118.10 and the Phone number to call in is (406) 646-7727. Pictured is Dean Ballesteros with All Weather Incorporated providing operator training to personnel at the Yellowstone Airport on the newly installed AWOS III. Also pictured is Jeff Heaney and Tom Cherhoniak from Yellowstone Airport and Mike Rogan with MDT Aeronautics.



## More Benchmark Photos!



*Several pilots flew in to this beautiful back country airstrip to assist with the work session that help make these strips safe for all to enjoy. Above, volunteers install a new windsock.*



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*June, 2010*

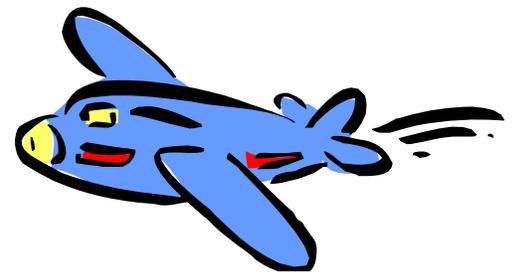
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## *Lincoln Airport Hosts BBQ*



The annual Vigilante Hangar meeting and barbeque was held at Lincoln Airport on June 9. Jerry and Liz Cain put on a delicious dinner and the weather was perfect for an evening dinner flight. Pictured (l-r) are Bob Frank-Plumlee, Randy Robinson, Charlie Sherman, Harold Dramstad, Brent Vetter, Jerry Cain, Wade Cebulski, Jim Lynch and Mike Naegle.



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