



Montana and the Sky

MDT - Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 61 No. 3

March 2010

Target Range Students Attend Conference

Montana Department of Transportation Director Jim Lynch opened the student aviation program, "Takeoff with Aviation Education" at this year's Montana Aviation Conference held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula March 5. Fifty 5th grade students from Target Range School of Missoula attended the student program. "Takeoff with Aviation Education" was presented by MDT Aeronautics Division with the help of Jeanne MacPherson and Kaye Ebelt, a 5th grade teacher at Target Range. The 50 students rotated around different aviation stations. The aviation stations included a flight simulator, final approach, thrust with propeller airplanes, a paper airplane contest, airplane diagram "name the part", Fly the SR-71, and a famous aviators treasure hunt. The students were treated to a flight demonstration by the Big Sky Thunderbirds. Many of the exhibitors at this year's conference contributed to the student program by offering items for the awards portion of this program. We would like to thank each of you for your involvement with aviation education.



Jim Lynch, MDT director, is talking with the 5th grade students from Missoula's Target Range School. This group of 5th graders are the "Solar Smarties" that took first place in the state robotic contest. The Solar Smarties came up with a creative solution to Missoula's transportation problems by using solar cars. They contacted Jim Lynch by writing letters early in the year, asking for the five biggest transportation problems in Montana and especially in Missoula. Each of their letters was answered.



Clifford Carpenter of the Helena Flight Standards District Office brought the Federal Aviation Administration's new flight simulator to the Montana Aviation Conference "Takeoff with Aviation Education" program for the students. Fifty 5th grade students were able to takeoff and land the flight simulator.



The Target Range students attending this year's aviation program were using rubber band propeller airplanes to help with their understanding of "thrust".

Administrator's Column

Montana Aviators Rally: The 26th annual Montana Aviation Conference is history and what a great one it was with over 600 attendees. It was nice to see so many in attendance and to see that Montana aviation is alive. Thank to the many sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, attendees, staff and to the Missoula Host Committee for its dedication and hard work over the past year. Congratulations to Jack Archibald on receiving the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, a very special honor and well deserved. To all the award winners and scholarship recipients, way to go — good job! And a special thanks to Patty Kautz for keeping us all in line and ensuring your time spent at the conference was worthwhile and enjoyable. See you all next year in Helena.

FAA Reauthorization: After passing 11 separate FAA extensions since its last long-term reauthorization expired in 2007, the long-delayed FAA reauthorization bill made its way to the Senate floor March 11, opening the way for a measure to pass that chamber before the Easter recess. The House passed its own three-year reauthorization in May 2009. Both the House and Senate measures would use aviation fuel taxes, ticket taxes, and a general fund contribution to fund the FAA. An amendment to address the unresolved issue of how to fund the modernization of the air traffic control system, Next Gen, would increase the general aviation jet fuel tax to 36 cents per gallon from the current rate of 29 cents per gallon, establish an account to pay for the effort, and raise approximately \$113 million through 2014. The Senate could complete action on the bill soon. This is not the end of the process as a House-Senate conference committee will be appointed and meet to hammer out all of the measures and come to compromise.

Small Community Air Service Awards Announced: The USDOT selected 19 communities in 18 states and one territory to receive financial grants under the Small Community Air Service Development Program. The program established in 2002 is designed to help smaller communities enhance their air service and address issues related to high airfares. There were 84 grant applications from communities in 38 states and territories received. These communities sought \$39 million in federal assistance to support new and ongoing air service development projects. Seventeen applications were from communities with small-hub airports and nine were from communities now receiving subsidized air service under the Department's EAS program. Seven of the grant awards are made to non-EAS communities proposing revenue guarantees and marketing support as means to attract new carriers, combat higher-than-average air fares, and/or provide air travelers with access to additional markets; including Butte, Mont. Two of the awards go to non-EAS communities seeking to acquire new air service or to restore service previously lost. Four awards go to non-EAS communities for marketing programs to promote existing, upgraded or recently acquired air services at their local airports. The award to American Samoa will help secure ground-support equipment critical for improving access to the remote Manu'a Islands. One award will enable the community to study the possibilities for developing and implementing a new regional scheduled air service. Four grant awards are targeted at EAS communities seeking to promote their existing, recently restored, or newly subsidized air services. Congratulations to Butte on its award of \$460,000. This is a highly sought after USDOT program that provides great assistance to communities concerned about its air service. Several Montana airports have been successful recipients of these funds.

United Airlines Adds Service: United Airlines announced additional non-stop service to its hub markets beginning June 9, 2010 as follows: Billings – Chicago through August 23, 2010; Kalispell – Chicago through August 30, 2010; Missoula – Chicago through August 30, 2010; and Bozeman – Los Angeles through August 23, 2010 and Bozeman – San Francisco through November 3, 2010.



Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation

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continued page 3

Administrator's Column, continued

Deadline is here: The FAA's mandate that pilots get a new plastic license to replace the paper one is quickly approaching. Pilots must comply by March 31. You can apply on-line or by mail. For more info: http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/airmen_services/

Small Airport Webinar Coming: On April 6, the Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) will host a webinar based on their recently released publication, "Managing and Marketing Small Airports". This program is provided at a cost of \$99 and will be viewed by personnel at the Aeronautics Division offices in Helena. If you'd like to join us, please let me know or for more information: <http://docs.google.com/fileview?id=0B31kmGQGPhXBY2FIMzAwM2MtODk3ZS00MGU1LTkzYWItODA1MDViZDQwNjZh&hl=en>

Calendar of Events

April 10 – AOM meeting, Helena. For further information, phone (406) 444-2506.

May 29-30 – Spotted Bear Camp Out and Work Session. Work session will take place the morning of the 29. BBQ to follow work session. For further information, contact Perry Brown (406) 892-3996.

June 5 – Benchmark Work Session.

June 5 – Fort Benton Fly In Breakfast. 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to inaugurate the new Hangar. In addition to the breakfast, an aviation demonstration will be held as well as a raffle for a car. For further information, phone Steve Powers at (406) 622-3801 or email profitwithpowers@aol.com.

June 11 – Aeronautics Board Meeting Teleconference. For further information, phone (406) 444-2506.

June 11-13 – Winifred Fly In. June 11 – Campout and supper; June 12 – Fly out to breakfast in Lewistown or cook in camp. Fly outs to central Montana strips, Hangarburgers and camp at Winifred. June 13 – Depart. For further information, phone Ralph Rogers (406) 462-5487.

June 12 – Lewistown Airport pancake breakfast. 7:00 to 11:00a.m.. For further information, contact Jerry Moline (406) 350-3264.

June 12-13 – Farold H. Christensen Family Fly In at Yellowstone Airport. Come and celebrate 75 Years of Aviation to Yellowstone National Park. Campground will be available. They are looking for any Antiquer's out there who want to show off their aircraft as well as event ideas. Contact Tony at Yellowstone Airport, (406) 646-7631 or (406) 459-9825.

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

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

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

July 16-17 – Schafer Meadows Work Session.

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

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 11 – Polson Fly In. For further information, contact Mauri Morin at maurv8@gmail.com.

2010 Mechanics Refresher & IA Renewal A Great Success

By: Michael S. Rogan, Aviation Support Officer, A&P / IA

The annual Mechanics Refresher and IA Renewal Seminar was another success this year. There were ten hours of training conducted by technical instructors representing many areas of aircraft maintenance and four additional hours of regulatory training conducted by the FAA. All of the sessions were well attended with 61 IA Mechanics from Montana and two from Wyoming receiving a Certificate of Training, which can be used to meet the requirements of CFR 14 part 65.93(a) (4) for eligibility for renewal of their inspection authorization for the first year of the two-year authorization.

For A&P mechanics to be eligible for renewal of their IA, they must show completion of one of the five activities in §65.93 (a) (1) through (5) below by March 31 of the first year of the two-year inspection authorization period, and complete one of the five activities during the second year of the two-year period:

1. Performed at least one annual inspection for each 90 days that the applicant held the current authority; or
2. Performed at least two major repairs or major alterations for each 90 days that the applicant held the current authority; or
3. Performed or supervised and approved at least one progressive inspection in accordance with standards prescribed by the Administrator; or
4. Attended and successfully completed a refresher course, acceptable to the Administrator, of not less than 8 hours of instruction; or
5. Passed an oral test by the FAA inspector to determine that the applicant's knowledge of applicable regulations and standards is current.

The FAA approved course meets the requirements of §65.93(a)(4) and helps those IA mechanics renew their certificates each year who may fall one annual short or have not completed enough major repairs or majors alterations or who did not performed a progressive inspection.

This is a valuable course that the MDT Aeronautics Divisions provides for IA mechanics each and every year at the Montana Aviation Conference and for many years prior to the Aviation Conference's existence in 1985. We plan to continue providing this service and wish to thank all of the mechanics in the state and even some from surrounding states for attending.



The Mechanics Refresher and IA Renewal always has a packed house where participants learn the latest and greatest in aircraft maintenance.

Great Lakes Airlines Announces Partnership with the American Red Cross

Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd. announces a partnership with the American Red Cross in hopes of raising awareness about the need for blood donations.

Great Lakes Airlines will offer Wolf Point donors an extra incentive to share their gift of life this year. All presenting whole blood donors will be entered into the 'Great Getaway' drawing to win two free roundtrip airline tickets from the L.M. Clayton Airport in Wolf Point to Billings courtesy of Great Lakes Airlines. A drawing will be held every six months during 2010.

Approximately every two seconds someone in America will need a blood transfusion. Blood and blood products can be used for trauma victims – due to accidents and burns – heart surgery patients, organ transplant patients, premature babies, when there are complications during childbirth, and for patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or other diseases, such as sickle cell disease.

Please call 1.800.Red.Cross (1-800-733-2767) to make your appointment to donate blood.

Montana Pilot Mal Soare's Love of Aviation



Pictured (l-r) Mal and his son, Sean, with Sean's Funk project at the Poplar Grove airport, in Poplar Grove, IL. It will be flying soon.

Mal Soare was raised in a flying environment, as his father and mother operated the Glendive Flying Service in Glendive, Mont. His dad, Art Soare, soloed Mal on his sixteenth birthday, April 4, 1960. Mal received his private license when he was 17 and his Commercial when he was 18. Mal started flying charters right after that.

His father was killed in a Bonanza accident in February 1964, and Mal took his place working with his mother and brother to run the Glendive Flying Service. He received his instructor's license that year. The Soare family did AG spraying, student training, charters, and operated a shop. Mal worked in the shop for four years and received his A&P mechanics license in 1968.

In 1970, he moved to Cody, Wyo. to work for Elgin Flying Service, flying co-pilot, working as a mechanic on a B-17, and dropping retardant on forest fires. Mal also worked in the shop receiving his Inspector Authorization in 1971. In addition to all this, Mal flew charters and instructed students.

In 1973, he moved to Billings, Mont. to become the Chief Pilot for Christian, Spring, Sielbach & Associates, an engineering, surveying, and photogramtry company, operating a Cessna 206 camera airplane, Cessna 402, and later a Cessna 421.

In 1979, he joined K&T Manufacturing, Inc., an oilfield manufacturing firm, as chief pilot, flying a Cessna 421C. In the oilfield economic downturn of the early 1980's, the airplane was sold, and Mal moved to Sidney, Mont. to be the director of Maintenance for Phil Petrik at Richland Aviation. In 1990, he moved back to Billings to become the chief pilot for Big Sky Airlines. In February of 1994, he went to work for Kent Williams and Citation 22KW, Inc. They operated a Cessna Citation V, a Dehavilland Beaver on amphibious floats, a Cessna Citation Excel, and a Cessna Caravan on amphibious floats, in Alaska, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Iceland, and England.

In 2005, Mal moved to Great Falls, Mont. to join the flight department of D.A. Davidson Companies, and became the chief pilot in March 2008. On April 4, Mal will have been flying for 50 years, 48 commercially, mostly in Montana. He is retiring on June 30 and has enjoyed a great career. We wish Mal nothing but the best in his retirement!

Thunderheads' Premieres

Explore the power of "Thunderheads," premiering on DVD March 23 from Infinity Entertainment Group.

In a quest into the eye of the storm, a group of scientists, researcher, and top-gun pilots – in seven planes and armed with the best high-tech gadgets money can buy – embark on a treacherous journey in a struggle to understand the role of thunderstorms in the global warming puzzle.

In this documentary, an international force of 250 experts who comprise I.C.E. (the International Cloud Experiment) converge on Darwin, Australia, the lair of "Hector," one of the planet's largest thunderstorms. As the pilots edge closer to the storm, they battle life-threatening turbulence, lightning, grapefruit-sized hail, microbursts, mysterious "gravity waves," mechanical mishaps, and more.

For further information, visit <http://www.infinity-entertainmentgroup.com/> or <http://www.smithsonianchannel.com/site/smithsonian/index.html>.

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day

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. MDT produces 2,200 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$858. This includes \$465 for postage.

In Memory of William P. Mufich

William P. Mufich died suddenly of natural causes on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010, at his residence in Kalispell.

He was born on Dec. 5, 1919, in Butte, the youngest of four children born to John and Theresa Mufich.

He was a Butte Rat through and through. He worked in the mines with his father and brother during school breaks. An outstanding high school athlete, Bill graduated from Butte High School in 1938.

His father and shift bosses always encouraged him to go to college. A member of the 1937 Bulldog championship football team, he went to the University of Montana on a football scholarship. Small but tough, he was a natural for the Grizzly team.

During the four years prior to graduation in 1942, the Grizzlies played larger schools such as California, USC, Washington, Oregon, Arizona and Texas Tech. Bill loved the game. In later years, he faithfully followed every football season with enthusiasm, often singing the fight song at a homecoming game or in front of the television.

Following his graduation in 1942, Bill joined the U.S. Navy, entered flight training and subsequently, in 1944, was assigned to the USS Intrepid as a Hellcat pilot with fighter squadron VF-18. He saw action throughout the Pacific in WWII, including Formosa, Luzon and Mindanao.

His outfit had a reputation for getting the job done. Bill fought in one of the most significant battles of the Pacific — the Battle of Leyte Gulf. That battle would decide who would have control of the Philippines. His carrier, USS Intrepid, is now a museum in New York City and the contribution of VF-18 is prominently acknowledged.

During his service in combat, Bill downed four enemy aircraft, earning two Distinguished Flying Crosses, an Air Medal and a Philippine Liberation Ribbon. It was during his service that he met his much-loved wife, Thelma, of Two Rivers, Wis. She was a WAVE stationed at the Naval Air Station, North Island, in Coronado, Calif.

Following their release from active duty, Bill and Thelma married in Missoula, where Bill attended law school.

When he wasn't studying, Bill was on the football field as an assistant coach for the Grizzlies. Upon graduation, he left Montana for a short time to join the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where he served the agency in Charlotte, N.C., and New York City.

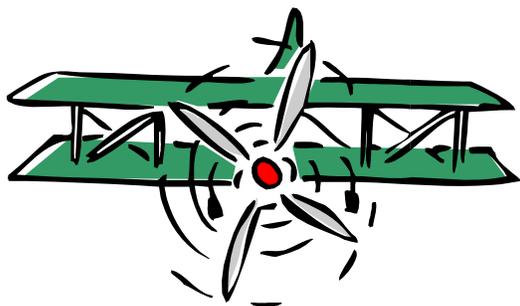
In 1949, Bill and Thelma moved to Helena, where their daughter, Molly, was born. During their 21 years in Helena, Bill worked as an attorney for state and local government, as legislative assistant, assistant city attorney and had his own private practice. He was admitted to practice to the U.S. Supreme Court and to the Supreme Court of Montana. In 1970, he joined the Anaconda Company Legal Department, and Bill and Thelma moved to Butte. Upon his retirement from the Anaconda Company, then Arco, Bill practiced law in Butte until his retirement. His wife of 53 years, Thelma, died in 1999.

Bill was inducted into the Butte Sports Hall of Fame in 1993. He attained Golden B status as a life member of Butte High School Silver B's. He was also a longtime member of the University of Montana M Club and a lifetime member of the U of M alumni association. Bill was a pilot with the Montana Air National Guard, retiring with the rank of major after having served over 20 years. He was also a member of the Civil Air Patrol in Helena. In Butte he served on the St. James Hospital and Butte Country Club boards.

He enjoyed golf and after retiring from Arco, was able to spend more time on the course with friends. His greatest passion next to family was flying. There was always a sparkle in his eye when he talked about being a pilot.

In 2009, Bill moved to Kalispell to be near his daughter and son-in-law. He spent many happy winters in Florida with family, but his heart was always in Montana. He was a loving and generous man to whom family and friends meant the world. He will be missed.

His wife; parents; brother, John (Agnes); and sisters, Julie Chebul (John) and Ann Sutey (John) preceded Bill in death. He is survived by his daughter, Molly Hobgood, her husband, Bill; and two step-grandchildren, Laura Littlecott (Marc), Jim Hobgood; great-grandchildren, Daniel and Margaret Littlecott; and numerous nieces and nephews.



MDT Hosts 48th Annual Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic

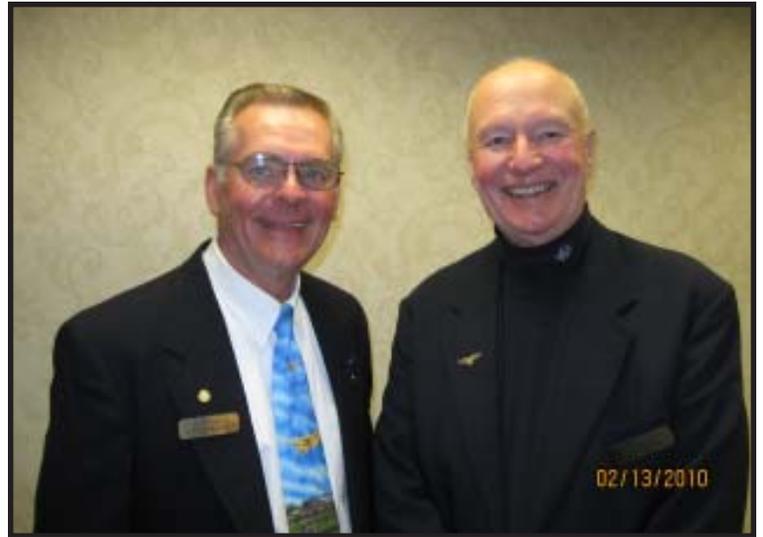
By: Jeanne MacPherson, Bureau Chief, Safety and Education

MDT Aeronautics Division hosted 51 of Montana's professional flight instructors at the annual Aeronautics Division Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic (FIRC) which took place February 12 - 13. Gregory Gorak of Gaits Aviation Seminars, Inc, presented the 16-hour flight instructor refresher clinic. Gaits Aviation Seminars, Inc. was founded in 1977 by Gregory G. Gorak. The primary goal of Gaits Aviation Seminars is to conduct flight instructor refresher clinics of the highest quality. Gregory has been presenting the professional flight instructor refresher clinic to Montana's flight instructors for the past 30 years.

The Division has been putting on the annual flight instructor clinic since 1962 and showed the way to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). It was in 1966, when the FAA began to hold recertification courses for flight instructors around the country. It soon became evident to the FAA that they didn't have the resources to deal with a project of this size. In 1967, AOPA Air Safety Foundation (ASF) demonstrated competency in aviation education, the FAA authorized ASF to conduct the recertification courses. As a result, another ongoing program: the Flight Instructor Refresher Courses (FIRCs). Thousands of CFIs renew their certificates every year under this extremely popular course, and it's still the largest in the nation. By the early 1990s the ASF again led the way by successfully petitioning the FAA to shorten the course from its original three-day/24-hour format to its current two-day/16-hour length. Better teaching techniques and a more focused curriculum made this change possible.

Attending a 16-hour FIRC is one of the ways that flight instructors can renew their certificate; they attend, graduate, receive a temporary flight instructor certificate and a few weeks later they get a newly minted, good for another two years, certificate. Once again, the Helena Flight Standards Office expertly took on the processing of the temporary flight instructor certificates. MDT Aeronautics is very grateful to Derek Amos, Glen Siwarski, and Patricia Thomas.

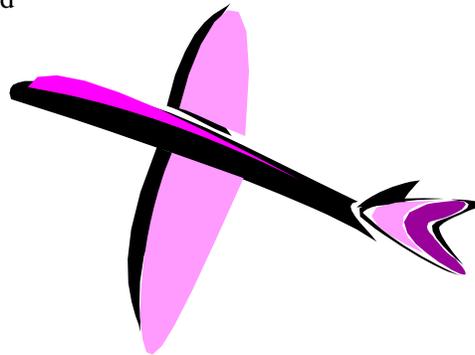
Montana's professional flight instructors are ready to give the Montana flying community a commitment to quality flight instruction, a dedication to their flight students and clients, and a sincere desire to help Montana's pilots fly safe. Thank you to all of Montana's flight instructors who help keep Montana flying.



Pictured are 2010 FIRC presentors (l-r) Jimmy Szajkovic, FAA retired and Gregory Gorak, Gaits Aviation Seminars.



Thanks to Glen Siwarski (l) and Derek Amos of Helena Flight Standards Office for the great work on the temporary flight certificates for the instructors.



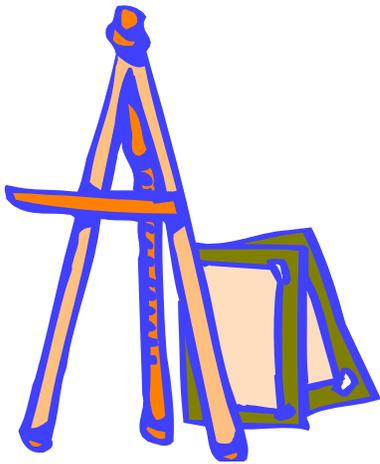
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Art Contest Deadline Extended to April 30



The deadline for the 2010 Montana Aviation Awareness Art Contest has been extended to April 30, 2010. The contest is open to all students in Montana, ages 6-18. Size of poster should not exceed 11" x 14". Artwork may be; technical drawing (schematics), color or black and white and have an aviation theme. First, second and third place will be selected from each of the three categories – Category I – Ages 6-10; Category II – Ages 11-15; Category III – Ages 16-18. Name, age, mailing address, home phone number, school and teachers name MUST be printed neatly on the back of each entry. Art work will not be returned except for first place winners in each category. Mail completed art work to MDT Aeronautics Division – PO Box 200507 – Helena, MT 59620-0507.

First place prizes in each category includes a round trip flight from the winner's hometown to Helena for the winner and his/her parents (legal guardians). A tour of the Montana Capitol and lunch in Helena, a trophy and certificate of achievement, and art work will be matted and framed and returned to you at the Capitol Building. Second and third place in each category will receive a trophy and certificate of achievement.

Further information may be found on our website www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/ or phone (406) 444-2506 or email Jeanne MacPherson at jemacpherson@mt.gov or Kelly Dimick at kdimick@mt.gov.