



2011 Conference Simply the Best

The Aviation Conference held in Helena March 3-5 attracted more than 600 participants. The conference kicked off Thursday morning with a busy exhibit hall and the aviation teacher workshop. The kickoff luncheon speaker author Martin Kidston entertained the crowd with his talk on Cromwell Dixon, an amazing young man who truly loved aviation and the great adventures that came with it. This was a special addition to the conference since this year marks the 100th anniversary of Cromwell Dixon's successful flight across the Continental Divide.

Thursday evening awards were given during the social hour in the exhibit hall that was sponsored by our friends at City Service Valcon/Phillips 66. Our conference success would not be possible without the continued support of our exhibitors and sponsors. This year's exhibitor awards were presented to: 27 Years (with us since the beginning!) – Aerotronics and Omaha Airplane Supply; 25 Years – MAC Aircraft Engines & Propellers; 24 Years – Northwest Propeller Service; 22 Years – Montana Aviation Trades Association and Montana Pilots Association; 20 Years – Mountain Air Insurance Services, Inc. and Rocky Mountain College; 17 Years – City Service Valcon; 15 years – Kadrmas Lee & Jackson and L-3 Avionics Systems; 14 years – Montana Antique Airplane Association; 12 years – Regal Aviation Insurance and Cross Petroleum Service; 11 years – Angel Flight West; 10 years – AOPA.

On Friday Dan Ellison kept the crowd enthralled with his great sense of humor and amazing stories of adventure as a Navy helicopter pilot. We appreciate Dan sharing his memories with us. He's certainly led an amazing life!

Friday evening we were all treated to the talents of Bruce Anfinson with traditional cowboy music, stories, and sing-a-longs. What fun!

Saturday evening concluded with the banquet. Speaker Lane Wallace was the grand finale, she too has had a remarkable life in aviation and kept the audience quite entertained with her stories.

The sessions offered this year were all jam packed many with standing room only. We thank all the session speakers that offer their time and expertise as they are one of the many reasons the Montana Aviation Conference is simply the best!

See more photos of this year's event on pages 4 and 5 of the newsletter.



Pictured (l-r) Steve Vold and Brandie Emmett from Aerotronics and Rich Broberg with Omaha Airplane Supply. Aerotronics and Omaha Airplane Supply have exhibited with the conference since it began 27 years ago!



Mike Ferguson, AOPA (center) was presented with a 10 year exhibitor award by Breezy Burlison (l) and Ed Croymans (r) of City Service Valcon. We thank them all for their awesome support!

Administrator's Column

Montana loses a friend: Dave Gates of Butte died March 19 while pursuing one of his many passions. Dave was a great supporter of Montana aviation and held many offices in a number of aviation organizations: the Montana Pilots Association; Aviation Organizations of Montana; the Great Falls International Airport Authority; International Northwest Aviation Council; and the Bert Mooney Airport Board. In addition Dave volunteered as a mountain search pilot for the Aeronautics division and was a volunteer pilot for Angel Flight. Dave was a familiar face at the annual Schafer Meadows Fly-in and often times would pack an instrument in and lead the campers in a sing-a-long and entertain the troops. He was an accomplished musician and performed at many aviation events. We appreciate Dave for his friendship, his many contributions to the aviation industry and will miss him. Our condolences and prayers are with Lorrie, Jessi and Dustin.

Reauthorization: Despite the threat of a veto by President Obama, the House of Representatives passed a reauthorization bill for the FAA after 17 short-term extensions and it now goes to conference with a bill passed by the Senate in February. Some areas of the House bill that cause concern include: reduction of AIP to \$3.1 Billion in the first year and to \$3 billion for each of the succeeding three years; the EAS program for Montana would end at the end of fiscal year 2014, with exceptions for Alaska and Hawaii; PFCs would freeze at \$4.50, where the cap has been for more than seven years; and the "federal match" for small airports would be reduced to 90 percent from the current level of 95 percent. It was hoped that the bill would be a non-controversial one without any of the controversial labor provisions that doomed last year's effort, but that is not the case and triggering the talk of veto by President Obama. Both Houses agreed on another extension of the "Continuing Resolution" which will carry us to May 31 giving the conference committee some time to mediate the differences.

TSA General Aviation Manager: Brian Delauter understands general aviation and can speak the language. He is a GA pilot and aircraft owner, a former NetJets pilot and a former Northwest Airlines pilot. Due to a conflict, Brian regretfully was unable to attend the Montana Aviation Conference but did send a staff member Kerwin Wilson who updated a packed room on current TSA initiatives and answered questions. Brian is a pleasant addition and is highlighted in an interview with AOPA. Check it out at: http://www.aopa.org/aircraft/articles/2011/110324tsa_ga_manager_has_general_aviation_bug.html?WT.mc_id=ebrief

New service at Missoula: Beginning June 5, Alaska Airlines will offer daily nonstop service from Missoula to Portland. The flight will run until August 27. The new flights are an addition to Alaska's three daily flights to Missoula from Seattle. The flights will be operated for Alaska by Horizon Air using 76-seat Bombardier Q400s. The Portland service is the third seasonal nonstop option that Missoula has announced this year. United Airlines announced in February it will again offer nonstop flights from Missoula to Chicago and San Francisco this summer.

Recreational Aviation Foundation: Check out the new video that has been produced and recently released. The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) is also a finalist in the Lightspeed Aviation Foundation's annual grant selection process. Twenty very worthy aviation-related charities have been selected as potential beneficiaries of over \$100,000 in grants to be awarded by the Lightspeed Aviation Foundation. Go to <http://theraf.org/> to enjoy the video and then cast your vote to support and thank Lightspeed for its recognition and commitment to serve the aviation community.



Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation

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Calendar of Events

May 21 - Corporate Jet Fly-In, Billings, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Pancake breakfast by Boy Scout Troop 9. International Learn to Fly Day, BSA Aviation Merit Badge, EAA Young Eagle Flight Rally, Control Tower tours, static displays, equipment demos and lots more. For more information call Walt McIntosh (406) 670-1846 or Kyle O'Leary (406) 245-8400.

May 28-29 – Spotted Bear Annual Work Session.

June 4 – Benchmark Annual Work Session. Lunch provided by the MPA Vigilante Hangar.

June 8 – Aeronautics Board Teleconference Meeting, Loan/Grant Extensions. For further information contact Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 or email pkautz@mt.gov.

June 11 – 7TH Annual Lewistown Airport Fly In and Pancake Breakfast. Enjoy War Birds, Experimentals, Young Eagle Rides. For further information contact Jerry Moline (406) 350-3264.

June 21-22 - Aviation Career Academy for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. To register see page 8 of this month's newsletter, an application is also available on our website www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation. For further information phone Dave Hoerner at (406) 444-9568 or email dhoerner@mt.gov.

June 24-25 – Havre Airport pilot patio party & hangar theatre the evening of June 24. On June 25 annual fly-in breakfast. Breakfast and rides start at 7 a.m. For further information contact Darren Huestis at (406) 945-1861 or email darren.huestis@nuwaveservices.com

June 25 – Plains Airport Fly In Breakfast. 8:00 a.m. to noon. For further information contact Randy Garrison at (406) 826-3605 or email printer@plainsmt.net

June 25-26 – Meadow Creek Annual Work Session.

July 9 – Del Bonita Hands Across the Border Annual Work Session.

July 9 – Big Sky 150 Race Three Forks Airport, 160 nm closed course (SARL sanctioned). Looking for Experimental, Twins, War Birds, Cessna's, High Performance aircraft, Rockets, RV's to participate in the event. Also looking for volunteers to help with the event. For further information contact Cody Folkvord (406) 285-3006; Brian Carroll (406) 980-1193 or Kevin Danz (406) 431-8009.

July 15-17 – Schafer Meadows Annual Work Session.

July 16 - Jim Bridger Days fly-in at the Bridger Airport. For further information contact Merrill Pfeifer at (406) 662-3319.

July 21-23 - Second Annual Aerobatics competition at Cut Bank Airport. Includes top aerobatic planes and pilots from the U.S. and Canada. Friday practice, Saturday competition and Sunday carry over in case of bad weather. For additional information contact the airport at (406) 873-8683 or go to www.cutbankairport.org

July 24 – Good Ole' Days Huckleberry Pancake breakfast and Young Eagle EAA Fly In, St. Ignatius Airport - 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For further information call Mike Kuefler at (406) 544-2274.

August 4-6 - Montana Antique Airplane Association's Annual Fly In at Three Forks, MT. Flour Bombing & Spot Landing. Free camping on the Airport. For further information call Ken Flikkema at (406) 580-6207; Bob Green at (406) 539-7830 or Tim Linn at (406) 451-5897.

August 13 – Superior Airport Fly In sponsored by Mineral County Chamber of Commerce and Mineral County Pilots Association. For further information phone Mary Jo Berry (406) 822-4800 or email spr4800@blackfoot.net.

August 13 – Big Timber Airport Fly In and Antique Car show. Hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary, unit 19. Pancake breakfast to be served starting at 7:00a.m. All aircraft and cars invited. Registration to start at 7:00 a.m. for the pilots and car owners. Random drawings for Pilot and Car owners only! Trophies to be awarded for top two airplanes and antique cars. For further information please contact Lucinda Klostermeier at (406) 930-1044, Norene Brown at (406) 930-0120 or Phyllis Bryan at (406) 930-1037. You can also e-mail: malinois@cablemt.net Pilots must bring their own tie downs.

August 14 - Hysham Airport Fly In Pancake Breakfast.

August 19-21 - Tenth Annual Montana Fun Weekend Fly-in and Car Show. Fly-in Breakfast Saturday and Sunday. Bowling ball drops on Saturday before the drag races. Prize for direct hit is \$350.00. All aircraft and cars invited with \$100.00 awards for top three aircraft on display, and top five cars. For additional information contact the airport at (406) 873-8683 or go to www.cutbankairport.org

September 9-11 – Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Helena. For further information phone Dave Hoerner at (406) 444-9568 or email dhoerner@mt.gov.

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.

Conference Fun!



Leo Wadkamper was presented with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award and Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award. So far in the history of this program Leo is one of 86 people who have received BOTH awards. To be eligible for those awards you have to keep either certificate current for 50 years, without lapse and without an accident or having either certificate revoked. Pictured (l-r) is Jeff Wadkamper, Helena Airport, conference chair and Leo's son, Jeff Vercoe, FAA and Leo Wadkamper. Congrats Leo - well deserved!



Martin Kidston author of "Cromwell Dixon: A Boy and His Plane" talked about Cromwell Dixon's life and the events leading up to his flight over the Continental Divide.



David Ries, Cut Bank Airport was presented with the "Airport of the Year" award by Debbie Alke, MDT Aeronautics Administrator.



Debbie Alke presented the Harold Hamm Aviation Scholarship in the amount of \$500 to Alex Koch of Helena. Harold's widow Zola established the scholarship in memory of Harold who passed away in 2006.



Larry Taylor, Cross Petroleum (l) (better known as the Ice Cream Man!) was presented with an award by Breezy Burlison, City Service Valcon for exhibiting 12 years at the conference.



Participants in the aviation education workshop were able to test their newfound knowledge on a group of students. Fun was had by all!



Steve and Sherry Rossiter of American Aircraft Traders out of Missoula were part of a packed exhibit hall.



Autumn Wade (l) and Melissa Xiong (r) of Regal Aviation Insurance have been attending the conference for 12 years and counting!



Stelling Engineers out of Great Falls had a fun booth set up for participants to take a variety of aviation photos. Pictured (l-r) is MDT Aeronautics staff, Debbie Alke, Mike Rogan, Ken Wilhelm, Tony Bean, Patty Kautz, and MDT Director Jim Lynch.



The Helena Flying Tigers RC Club's booth was a great addition to the exhibit area with a flight simulator for all to enjoy.



Pictured (l-r) Kaye Eblet, aviation workshop instructor with banquet speaker Lane Wallace internationally-known columnist for FLYING magazine, a correspondent for The Atlantic, and the founder and editor of no map. no guide. no limits. Lane took time after her presentation to autograph her latest book Unforgettable.



Jeanne MacPherson was presented with the "Pilot of the Year" award by the Montana Pilots Association. Jeanne is pictured here with her proud husband Bill Gallea. Congratulations Jeanne!

Mechanics Refresher & IA Renewal Going Strong Since 1963

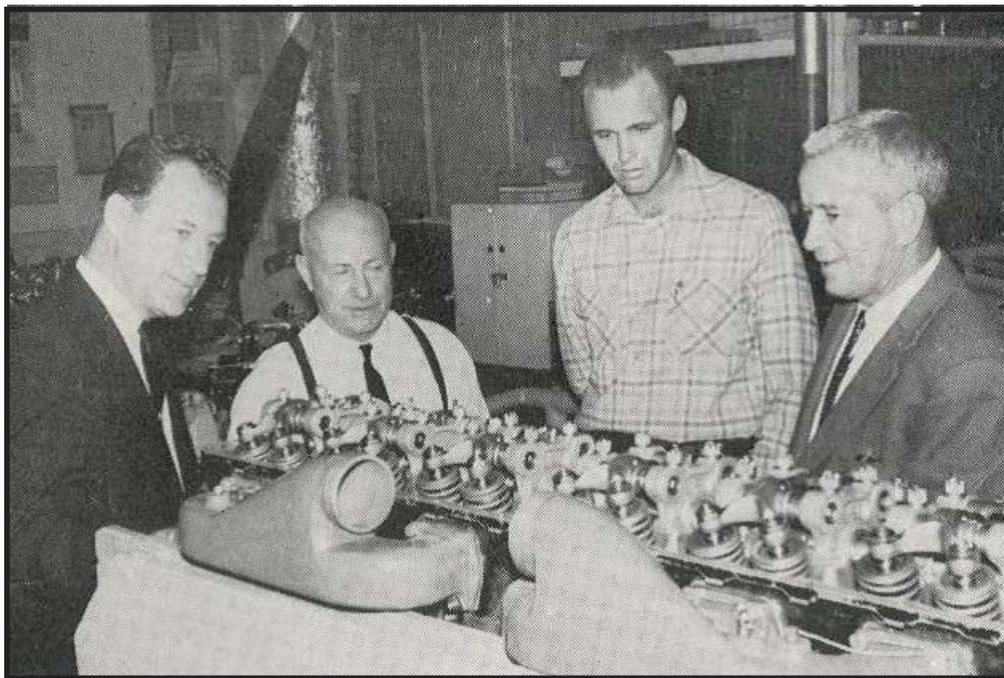
By: Mike Rogan, Aviation Support Officer

The annual Mechanics Refresher and IA Renewal Seminar was another success this year. There were 12 hours of technical training conducted by industry representatives from around the United States and an additional 2 hours of regulatory training conducted by the FAA. All of the sessions were very well attended. There were 81- IA mechanics from Montana, 4-IA mechanics from Wyoming and 1-IA mechanic from Oregon receiving certificates of training. This certificate of training can then be used to meet the requirements of CFR 14 part 65.93 (a) (4) for eligibility for renewal of their inspection authorization for the second year of the new two-year authorization.

The MDT Aeronautics Division, (Montana Aeronautics Commission) as it was known then, has been conducting the Mechanics Refresher Seminar since 1963. The 1963 seminar was the very first state sponsored course of its type in the nation and there has been one ever since. There were 29 mechanics that were awarded certificates during that first course. Representatives from Beech Aircraft, Cessna Aircraft, Piper Aircraft, Lycoming, Bendix, along with the FAA and other companies conducted service clinics.

In 1965, the Montana Aeronautics Commission hosted its third annual Mechanics Seminar. The seminar had an attendance of 23 A&E mechanics. The course was much longer at that time lasting eight full days with many hours of hands on training from Beech, Cessna, Bendix, Mooney, Champion, Lycoming and the FAA. The seminar was held in the Department of Aeronautics and Related Trades of the Helena Senior High Schools facilities on the Helena Airport. This is now the Helena College of Technology.

MDT Aeronautics feels this is a valuable course for IA mechanics in the state and plans to continue providing this service. We plan to offer another highly instructional course in Bozeman next year during the annual Montana Aviation Conference which will be held March 1-3, 2012.



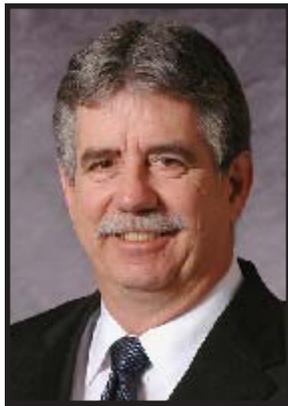
In this photo from the first state sponsored mechanics refresher course Gov. Tim Babcock views a cutaway engine with Giles Russell, principal of the Helena aeronautics trade school; William Wyman, Aeronautics Commission pilot, and Jack Wilson, safety and education officer for the commission and course manager.

Boeing 747-800 Lands at Helena Airport



Pictured is a cool 747-800 that stopped in to see us last week. The 747-800 is still in the certification process and Boeing was doing some flight tests. They flew from Seattle to Helena then on to Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Portland and then back to Seattle. That aircraft has taken off with over a 1,000,000 pound gross weight. The aircraft made an instrument approach to the airport from the east (standard approach) and after a "touch and go" they completed a much more difficult back course approach to the main runway from the west - nice landing!! Photo courtesy of Ron Mercer.

In Memory of Dave Gates



Dave Gates died March 19, 2011, while pursuing one of his many passions.

Born in 1956 to Albert Gates and Gertrude Oquist Gates, he grew up in Lewistown, the youngest of three boys.

After graduating from Fergus High school in 1974, Dave earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and engineering technology from Montana State University and a professional engineering license. He then earned his Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Montana, and completed the Public Utilities Executive Course and Labor Relations School.

During his time in college, Dave played mandolin for the Part-Time Band. Members of the band remained lifelong friends and reunited many times to play music for friends and family. He was a gifted musician and also played the acoustic guitar and upright bass.

In 1992, Dave married his best friend and love of his life, Lorrie Haller. Together, with their children, Jessi and Dustin, they enjoyed many outdoor activities and special family gatherings. Dave dearly loved his family and every person in his extended family and welcomed them with open arms into his home.

Through the years, Dave served on the board of many organizations including, the Montana Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors, Great Falls International Airport Authority, International Aviation Council and Montana Pilots Association.

He served as board president for the Montana Pilots Association Local Chapter, the MT State Pilots Association, and the St. James Hospital Board. He was chairman of the board for Aviation Organizations of Montana, the Bert Mooney Airport Board and the Physical Science Foundation. Dave was a member of Exchange Club, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the Montana Society of Engineers, and Operations Executive Committee-Western Energy Institute. He sat on the committees for the Edison Electric Institute, Transmission Section and the Distribution Section.

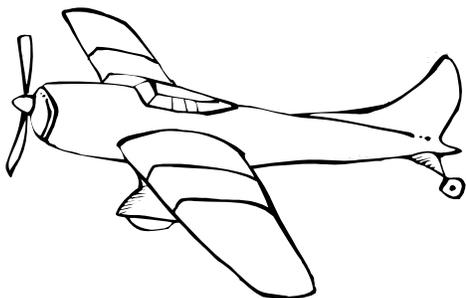
Dave began working in Lewistown for Montana Power as a summer laborer in 1976. He worked as an engineer in Bozeman and Butte, as manager of Distribution Operations in Great Falls, and as executive director of Distribution Operations. When NorthWestern Energy purchased Montana Power, he continued his work as executive director, and then progressed to his current position of vice president of Wholesale Operations.

One of Dave's greatest passions was flying airplanes. He loved the freedom he found in flight and introduced many young people to the joy of aviation. Dave was restoring his 1946 Piper Cruiser, which was his pride and joy, and anticipated flying it into the backcountry of Montana, which he loved. He volunteered as a mountain search pilot for Montana Aeronautics Search and Rescue and was volunteer pilot for Angel Flight West. He truly enjoyed his twin-engine Cessna, which he was flying when he incurred his fatal accident. In addition to his single engine pilot's license, he obtained his IFR and both twin engine and commercial pilots licenses.

Dave truly lived life to its fullest. Every endeavor was treated with passion, whether it be his work, music, flying, reading, skiing, hiking, carpentry, volunteer work, projects at home, or get-togethers with his friends and family. He was an intellectual and had a thirst for knowledge, and strived to learn all he could about many aspects of life.

One of Dave's qualities was his ability to see and acknowledge the value and potential in every person he met. He treated everyone with respect. He truly has left behind a beautiful legacy that we will honor forever.

He deeply loved our family and was equally loved in return. He is irreplaceable, but it has been an honor and a blessing to have had him in our lives. We cherish our memories of life with Dave and he will be in our hearts forever. We'll miss you Duff. In addition to his wife, Lorrie, he is survived by his daughter, Jessi (Brian) Brock, and son, Dustin; his brothers, Albert (Mary) Gates and John (Doreen) Gates; aunt, Ellen Sundquist; mother-in-law, Dolores Haller; brothers- in-law, Bill Haller, Carl Haller (Denise Neilson), Keith (Cindi) Haller; and sisters -in-law, Marjorie Haller, Suzy Haller (Hans Fairchild), Joni (Mike) Swisher and Toni (Eddie) Ewing. He also is survived by 20 nieces and nephews, multiple cousins and many close friends.



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Aviation Career Academy Offered June 21 & 22 for Middle School Students

<h3>Orientation Flights and the Flight Simulator</h3> <p>Every student will have the opportunity to use the flight simulator and fly in a general aviation airplane! (weather permitting).</p> <h3>Survival Skills</h3> <p>We will venture outdoors and teach the students what steps they can take to prepare and help themselves if they ever find themselves in a survival situation.</p>  <h3>Aviation related Field Trips</h3>	<p>Do you have an interest in Aviation?</p> <p>The MDT Aeronautics Division is sponsoring a two day aviation career academy in Helena MT</p> <p>Invited:</p> <p>Students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grade and we need two parents to volunteer to be chaperones - please indicate on the form if you wish to volunteer.</p> <p>When:</p> <p>Beginning June 21st @ 9:00 am Ending June 22nd @ 4:00 pm</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>MDT Aeronautics Division 2630 Airport Rd Helena MT</p> <p>Cost:</p> <p>\$75 - if not staying in hotel \$125 - if staying in hotel both prices include meals for the two days.</p> <p>Please respond by June 11th, if the date has past and your child is interested in attending, please call to inquire if there is space available.</p>	<h3>2011 ACE Registration</h3> <p>Age: _____ Grade: _____ Male: <input type="checkbox"/> Female: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Participants Signature _____</p> <p>Parent/Guardians Signature _____</p> <p>Will you be staying at the hotel? Y N</p> <p>Parent is willing to Chaperon? Y N</p> <p>Return Registration form with payment: MDT Aeronautics Division 2630 Airport Rd PO Box 200507 Helena MT 59620-0507</p> <p>Administrative Use Only Method of payment</p> <p>Check Money Order</p> <p>Check# _____ Amount: _____</p>
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