



# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 66, No. 7

July 2015

## Aviation Art Contest Winners Celebrate in Helena

The Aviation Art Contest awards were held in Helena on June 17. The art contest is a way to educate students of all ages in the many career opportunities in the field of aviation and aerospace. By broadening their knowledge of this field, it is our hope that students will gain a new found interest in aviation/aerospace and its increasingly evolving career opportunities.

Pictured, MDT Director Mike Tooley welcomed this year's Art Contest winners to Helena with a reception in the capitol rotunda. Winners Grace Boyce, Havre; Tristan Oliszczak, Billings and Matthew Schaak, Billings traveled to Helena by small airplane with their families to receive their awards. The guests were also treated to a guided tour of the capitol building and lunch downtown at the historic Windbag before being flown back home.

Congratulations to all the winners – and thank you to all the students that participated in this year's contest! See the rest of the winning artwork on page 4 of the newsletter.



*Havre 4<sup>th</sup> grader Grace Boyce was the first-place winner in the K-5 category with her drawing of a crop duster.*



*Tristan Oliszczak, 6<sup>th</sup> Grader at Lockwood Middle School in Billings, took first place in Grades 6-8 category.*



*Matthew Schaak, 9<sup>th</sup> Grader at Billings Central Catholic School in Billings received 1st place in Grades 9-12 category.*

# Administrator's Column

**Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP):** The U.S. DOT has issued the RFP for the 2015 program. The SCASDP is a grant program designed to help small communities address air service and airfare issues. SCASDP's eligibility criteria is broad and provide a grant applicant the opportunity to self-identify its air service deficiencies and propose an appropriate solution. SCASDP can involve, among others, revenue guarantees, financial assistance for marketing programs, start-up costs and studies. For information on the program or to see past award recipients go to: <http://www.transportation.gov/policy/aviation-policy/small-community-rural-air-service/SCASDP>. Proposals are due no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on July 22, 2015. The Order is available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under Docket number DOT-OST-2015-0126.

**SPOT unites with Lockheed Martin Flight Service:** Lockheed Martin Flight Service will integrate and provide automated position monitoring for VFR (Visual Flight Rules) flights through Globalstar's SPOT service. Using a SPOT Gen3 or a SPOT Trace, GPS tracking reports are generated and forwarded to Lockheed. The system keeps track of the aircraft and if the aircraft stops moving or stops sending position reports, an alarm is triggered immediately at Lockheed. MDT Aeronautics is a strong advocate of flying with a tracking device such as a SPOT. These devices can provide valuable information in the event of an air search.

## Congressional FAA Reauthorization Actions:

**Senate Appropriations Committee passes FAA budget:** The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee highlights certification reform and ADS-B implementation in its recommended \$16 billion FY2016 FAA budget. The committee is recommending a budget that is \$175 million more than requested from the White House and nearly \$300 million more than last year's. Similar to the House, the Senate would furnish far less for the FAA's facilities and equipment than the White House sought. Senator Steve Daines is a member of the committee and his Deputy Chief of Staff recently visited Montana to discuss with aviation stakeholders priorities for the upcoming FAA reauthorization. A copy of the committee bill can be found at: <http://appropriations.house.gov/UploadedFiles/BILLS-114HR-SC-AP-FY2016-TransHUD-SubcommitteeDraft.pdf>

**House FAA Reauthorization Bill:** The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has announced the bill has been delayed "indefinitely." The complex bill and controversies that surround it remain unsolved and under discussion. The Committee hopes to have a bill on the floor in September. The current FAA authorization expires September 30th. It was adopted after a painful 23 short-term extensions that began in 2007 and ended in 2012. Some lawmakers have promised that we won't have a repeat of that, but a short-term extension of the authorization may be unavoidable while lawmakers hammer out the final bill.

**Plan to Privatize ATC:** Rep. Bill Shuster, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is working to remove air traffic control (ATC) from the FAA. Rep. Shuster has proposed creating a not-for-profit, federally chartered corporation to operate and modernize ATC. The corporation would be governed by a board of system users and funded through a user fee system separate from the congressional appropriations cycle. Impacts of creating a separate user-fee funded group to manage air traffic, the current method of collecting revenues through an aviation fuel tax, access to airspace and airports and per-flight user fees are concerns for many in the aviation community. The bill has yet to be introduced but is expected. Stay tuned.



**Montana and the Sky**  
Department of Transportation

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Official monthly publication of the  
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**Montana and the Sky**  
is published monthly  
in the interest of aviation in the  
State of Montana.  
First Class postage paid at  
Helena, Montana 59604

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# Calendar of Events

**July 17-18** – Can Am Aerobatic competition held at the Cut Bank Airport. All types of aircraft from Yaks to Pitts all competing for points at this International Aerobatic Club sanctioned event. Free to all. Bring your lawn chair to watch the action. For further information contact Dave Ries (406) 229-0376 or Roy Nollkamper (406) 450-1078.

**July 17-19** - Open House Great Falls International Airport. Bravo 369 group will fly in with several Lend Lease Airplanes. For further information contact the airport administration office at (406) 727-3404. See page 7 of the newsletter for more information.

**July 18** – Air Fair (Fly-In) Ennis Big Sky Airport, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Breakfast, aircraft static displays, and car show. Iron Pilot competition, ping pong ball drop, skydivers, aircraft rides, fly-overs and a free lunch by Choice Aviation. For further information contact Troy Hunter at (406) 682-7502 or email [eks@choiceaviation.com](mailto:eks@choiceaviation.com).

**July 18** - Jim Bridger fly in and celebration days. Breakfast 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. the fly in is held in conjunction with Jim Bridger days that will be going on in the town of Bridger. For further information contact Merrill Pfeifer at (406) 662-3319.

**July 18-19** – Schafer Meadows Work Session. For further information call (406) 444-2506.

**July 19** – St. Ignatius Airport Fly-In, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Huckleberry Pancake Breakfast, EAA Young Eagle Flights. For further information contact Mike Kuefler (406) 544-2274.

**July 19 – 22** – International Flying Farmers Convention. Great Northern Hotel, Helena. For further information go to [www.internationalflyingfarmers.org/](http://www.internationalflyingfarmers.org/).

**July 25** - Lincoln Airport Fly-In. Arrive and depart whenever you like. Food will be served from Noon to 3:00 p.m.. BBQ burgers & dogs with the works, potato salad, chili, cake and ice cream, etc. Bring something to share if you wish. Donations accepted. Camping & bicycles available at airport. Visit the Grizzly Bear exhibit [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5408031.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5408031.pdf) at the Lincoln Ranger Station adjacent to the airport and the Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild <http://www.sculptureinthewild.com/> right across HWY 200 from the Ranger Station. Downtown Lincoln <http://lincolnmontana.com/> is less than a mile west of the airport. RSVP would be appreciated but not necessary. For further information contact Jerry Cain (406) 461-5631 or [sgr@linctel.net](mailto:sgr@linctel.net).

**August 1** - Cabin Creek Landing (97MT) will be holding a Fly-In breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.. This is a paved runway parallel with Highway 2 West, 22 miles west of Kalispell (mile marker 99). To drive in use the Cabin Creek Landing B&B entrance, everyone welcome. Call Carolyn at (406) 854-9399 for more information.

**August 6** - EAA Chapter 344 (HLN) will again be holding a Young Eagles rally at the Three Forks Airport (in conjunction with MAAA Fly-In) from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. The EAA Young Eagles program offers free, first-time flights for kids ages 8 to 17 and is intended as an introduction to flight that might encourage youngsters to consider a career in aviation or get involved in recreational aviation and/or homebuilding.

**August 6 – 8** - Montana Antique Aircraft Association's (MAAA) Annual Fly-In at Three Forks {9S5}. There will be flour bombing & spot landing contests. Free camping on the Airport. For further information contact: Pat Green at [greenrrg@aol.com](mailto:greenrrg@aol.com); Ken Flikkema at (406) 580-6207; Bob Green at (406) 539-7830 or Tim Linn at (406) 451-5897.

**August 9** – Lions Club Drive In, Fly In breakfast and model airplane show at Hysham Airport 7:00 a.m. to noon. For further information contact Bob Miller (406) 342-5252.

**August 15-16** – Montana Fun Weekend Fly-In, car and airplane show, Cut Bank Airport. Cash awards for top five cars and top three aircraft. Breakfast served Saturday and Sunday mornings. Food vendors all day Saturday. Lawn Chair drive in movie Friday night after burn out competition. Don't miss it! For further information contact Dave Ries (406) 229-0376 or Roy Nollkamper (406) 450-1078.

**August 29** - Fly-In Twin Bridges Airport. Pancake breakfast starting at 7:00 a.m.. There will be games for pilots, young eagle rides, aerobatics, static display, food, and BBQ dinner at 6:00 p.m.. Go to [www.rubyvalleyaviation.com](http://www.rubyvalleyaviation.com) for more information or email [Kendra@rubyvalleyaviation.com](mailto:Kendra@rubyvalleyaviation.com).

**September 6** – Fly-In pancake breakfast, Young Eagles flights from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Car show downtown Bigfork. For further information contact Ry Keller (406) 837-1379 or (406) 837-6679.

**September 11-13** – Search Pilot Clinic, Missoula. For further information contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or email [hdramstad@mt.gov](mailto:hdramstad@mt.gov).

**September 12** - Columbus Airport 3rd Annual Fly-In. Pancake breakfast starts at 8:00 a.m. They hope to see you there! For further information contact Mark O'Bryant (406) 696-6923 or [kippkeefer@me.com](mailto:kippkeefer@me.com).

**September 12** - Fly-In Pancake breakfast sponsored by the EAA Chapter 1122, at Polson, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. \$5 per plate, free to pilot in command. For further information call Joe Kuberka (719) 659-5052.

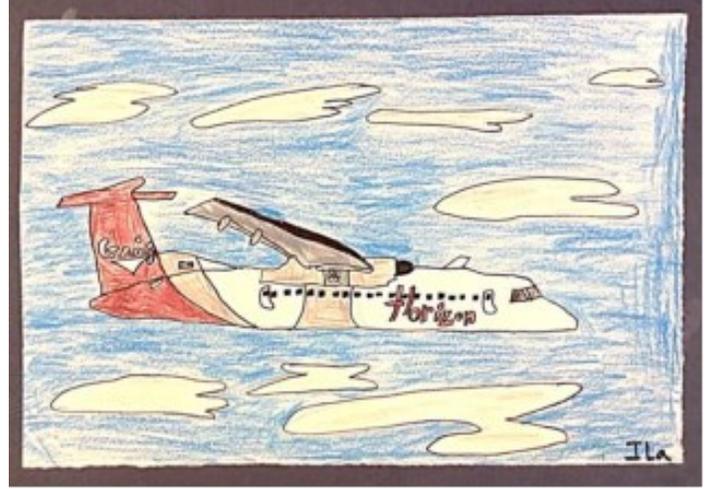
**September 20** - The traditional "GA BBQ" at Missoula International Airport from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. This annual events features burgers grilled with peerless talent by Missoula Airport's Cris Jensen and Brian Ellestad. Classic cars add a rich flavor to the event, thanks to participation of the Garden City Rods and Customs car club. Displays are expected from the Museum of Mountain Flying and from others with aircraft of special interest. A competitive aviation event (for example, a spot landing contest) is also in the works. All Montana pilots and their guests are invited. The location is the "Runway 25 Hangars" just east of Northstar Jet. For information contact Gary Matson [gmatson@montana.com](mailto:gmatson@montana.com).

# Aviation Awareness Art Contest Winners!

## Category 1 (K-5):



2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Colter Wilson, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Linderman Elementary, Polson.



3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Ila Bell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Sussex School in Missoula.

## Category 2 (6-8):



2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Josiah Wheeler, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Northwest Indian Bible School in Alberton.



3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Sarah Anson, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Sheridan Middle School in Sheridan.

## Category 3 (9-12):



2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Shawn Camp, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Northwest Indian Bible School in Alberton.



3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Kimberlee McDonald, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Bigfork High School in Bigfork.

# MDT Aeronautics Welcomes Young Aviation Enthusiasts to Career Camp



High school students from across Montana came to Helena on June 23-24 for the Aviation Career Exploration Academy for a look at opportunities in the aerospace industry. Students received Young Eagle Flights courtesy of Helena EAA Chapter 334, sat on the flight decks of jet transport aircraft,



visited the shop floor of a state of the art manufacturing facility, and questioned local general aviation pilots at a fly-in on the Canyon Ferry Airport. This annual event is made possible with the generous support of our scholarship sponsors, the Montana Chamber of Commerce, the Montana Pilots' Association, and EAA Chapter 517 of Missoula. Thanks to all that participated to make this event such a success!



# SkyWest Station Manager Retires

This season the Yellowstone Airport is sad to see one of its greatest assets go. After 24 years of serving the Yellowstone Airport and the community, SkyWest Airlines Station Manager, Christine Wong-Cervantes has retired. As the Station Manager she oversaw all the airline operations at the airport. Everything from handling baggage, assisting passengers, to marshaling the aircraft to parking, Christine did it all! She brought her positive attitude to work every day to help make the terminal an enjoyable place to work. Everyone will miss her smiling face, and of course, her cooking at the Christmas in August celebration. One of a few different retirement celebrations was held at the Povah Community Center in West Yellowstone. Many people from the airport and community showed up to congratulate her and wish her the best on her new adventure! She enjoyed living here in West Yellowstone, but she is excited to start a new chapter in her life. She will be moving back to Hawaii to be closer to her family and friends. We hate to see her go, but we know she will be enjoying her well-deserved retirement and island life!



## Search Pilot Clinic to Be Held in Missoula

MDT Aeronautics is the state agency responsible for missing aircraft searches within the State of Montana. We accomplish this mission with our network of 14 search districts and volunteer search coordinators across the state. The district search coordinator will call upon trained local volunteer pilots to fly search missions on his district. The annual MDT Aeronautics Search Pilot training will take place at the Museum of Mountain Flying on the Missoula airport on September 11-13. Pilots will receive about 3 hours of dual instruction in mountain flying and search pattern techniques. Ground school topics will include mountain flying, the use of the electronic flight bag in air searches, observer training, ELT direction finding equipment, and mountain flying weather. The class size is limited to 24 search pilots, but the ground school is offered to anyone interested in aerial search and rescue. A registration form is included in this month's issue of *Montana & the Sky*. For further information contact Harold Dramstad (406) 444-9568 or email [hdramstad@mt.gov](mailto:hdramstad@mt.gov).

### 3 Reasons to File a Flight Plan

83% of general aviation flights conducted under VFR are flown without the benefit of a flight plan filed with the FAA. This is surprising, because filing a flight plan is easy, it's the law in Montana, and it's purpose is for safety.

Flight plans may be filed by phone with Lockheed-Martin flight service at 1-800-WX-BRIEF, or online at 1800WXBRIEF.com. The process takes less than 2 minutes to complete by phone, and the same specialist who takes your information will give you a briefing on weather, NOTAMs and TFRs while you're on the phone.

Montana law, 67-3-212, requires that pilots carrying passengers on flights of 250 nm or longer, and departing from a public use airport, file a flight plan with the FAA. Filing a VFR flight plan is considered an essential skill for private pilots and is included in the preflight preparation area of operation on the private check ride.

Of course the purpose of filing a flight plan is your safety and the safety of your passengers. If you are 30 minutes overdue on your flight plan, for whatever reason-the -you forgot to close it, you encountered stronger headwinds than anticipated, or you made an unplanned, off-airport landing, Flight Service will initiate an information request, or INREQ. Air traffic control towers, airport managers, and county sheriffs will be contacted along your route of flight, and they are expected to respond with any information of your whereabouts within 1 hour. If you have not been located within one hour, Flight Service will initiate an Alert Notice, or ALNOT, and the phone will ring at MDT Aeronautics. If it's after normal business hours, the call will go through Montana Highway Patrol dispatch who will contact the Aeronautics person on call.

It's easy, it's the law, and it's for safety.

# Volunteers Maintain Airstrip



MDT Aeronautics and volunteer pilots from Great Falls, Fairfield, Augusta and Helena went to work on the airstrip at Benchmark on Saturday, June 13. Herbicide was applied to the paved surfaces of the runway and ramp area to control the weeds growing through the cracks, windsocks were replaced, and the segmented circle received a fresh coat of paint. Lunch and refreshments were furnished by the Vigilante Hangar of the Montana Pilots' Association. Thanks to all who volunteered!

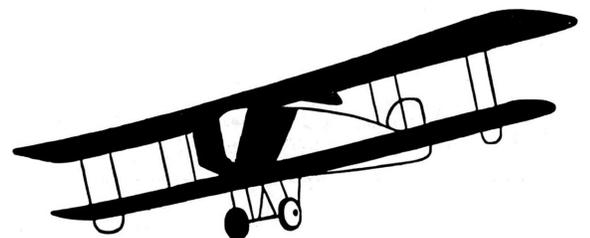
# Montana Ninety-Nines Airmark Hardin Airport



The Montana Chapter of the Ninety-Nines recently got together to Airmark the Hardin Airport. The Ninety-Nines is an international organization of women pilots that promote the advancement of aviation through education, scholarships and mutual support while honoring their unique history and sharing their passion for flight. Pictured above (l-r) are Linda Marshall, Janine Schwahn, Claudia Kirkwood, Miranda Edwards, Charity Fechter, Ann Danyelle Campbell.



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## **Dell Airport: The \$100 Hamburger Getaway**



The Dell Airport is one of fifteen airports owned and maintained by the MDT Aeronautics Division. The airport construction was completed in October of 1943 for the military as a stopover landing strip for bombers during WWII. The runway is 7000'x70' and is paved. Tie downs are located on the North side of the large hanger. If you are looking for that \$100 hamburger, there is the Yesterdays Cafe just a short 20 minute walk on the East side of Interstate 15. Dell also offers the Dell Mercantile and The Stockyard Inn Bed & Breakfast.