



Governor Appoints Aeronautics Board Members

Three members have been reappointed and a new education representative was recently appointed to the Montana Aeronautics Board. The Montana Aeronautics Board is a quasi-judicial board consisting of nine members, each appointed by the Governor for a four-year term.

The Board acts in an advisory capacity to the department and has statutory authority over allocation of airport development loan and grant funds and pavement preservation grant funds. The nine-members represent various facets of the industry and at least one member of the board shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in this state.

Robert Buckles, a native of Poplar, was re-appointed for a third term as the airline representative. Following high school, Rob attended the vo-tech and received his Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) mechanic's license and also completed his private pilot training. After graduating from Montana State University Robert began flight instructing and flying air taxi in Montana, working for Dallas Aero in Poplar and Lynch Flying Service in Billings. In 1985 he was hired by American Airlines based in Dallas and was upgraded to Captain in 1991. Robert currently has over 26,000 hours flight time and remains a current Certified Flight Instructor. He is currently a Captain on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner; flying international routes to Asia and Europe. He owns a 1945 Taylorcraft and a 1958 Cessna 182. He lives in Bozeman with his wife, Kathryn.



Robert Buckles

A. Christopher Edwards was appointed for a third term as the Fixed Based Operator representative. Chris, a Montana attorney, was born and raised in Billings and graduated from Billings West High in 1994. He graduated with honors from the University of Montana with a B.A. in Communications in 2001, and completed Law School at University of Montana in 2005. Growing up Chris worked summers on his family's ranch and ranched full time for several years after completing high school. He seriously considered ranching as his career until he decided to follow in his father's footsteps and attend law school. As a fourth generation Montanan, Chris enjoys hunting, fishing, skiing, and spending time enjoying all Montana has to offer with his wife Kelly.



Chris Edwards

Fred Lark of Lewistown was reappointed for his third term as the member at large; he was originally appointed to that capacity in January 2007. Fred also served one term on the board from 1985 to 1989 as the representative for Montana Pilots Association. Fred is an award-winning broadcaster, business owner, aviator, and entertainer. Fred has been involved in the broadcast business for 40 years. He has been flying since 1976 with 5000+ hours. Fred's aviation ratings include Currency, Multi-Engine Land (MELI), Instrument, Private Pilot, Mountain Search Pilot-Certified 1979, Recertified 2001 & 04, 06, 12, and F.A.A. Wings Certified Phase through VIII.



Fred Lark

Dan Hargrove was recently appointed to the Aeronautics Board serving as the education representative. This term was previously held by Chuck Manning of Lakeside who served three terms with the board. Dan received his BS in physics from the Air Force Academy and MS in mechanical engineering from Montana State University and served in the Air Force for 21 years. He was a pilot in trainers and cargo aircraft, including the T-38, T-41, T-3 and C-141 and he was a professor at the Air Force Academy where he taught engineering and physics. For the last seven years of his career he flew the Boeing 757 VIP aircraft at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington DC. He was the Deputy Operations Group Commander over 700 people flying 37 aircraft providing worldwide air transportation for the Vice President, First Lady, President's cabinet and members of Congress. He has been the Director of Aviation at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana since 2003. He leads the program for 100 students operating eight aircraft and two flight simulators. He also is the Professional Studies Division Chair for the college, overseeing approximately one third of the academic programs.



Dan Hargrove

We congratulate them all on their appointments and look forward to working with them. We also want to thank Chuck Manning for his years of service on the board. We appreciate the hard work and dedication he gave to the board during his tenure.

Administrator's Column

More Airway Beacon Coverage: AOPA writer, Jim Moore, took an interest in MDT's beacon system and published this article recently: http://www.aopa.org/News-and-Video/All-News/2015/April/28/Light-the-way?WT.mc_id=&wtmclid;&WT.mc_sect=trp.

Non-stop Seattle service: The Helena Regional Airport Authority recently announced that Alaska Airlines will begin non-stop service to/from Seattle Tacoma International Airport (SEA). Starting August 23, 2015, Helena will have its own direct flight to/from Seattle – the flights will no longer stop in Great Falls. Seattle currently ranks as Helena's #1 passenger destination, and provides a critical link to a number of connections on the West Coast, Western Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, and Asia. The flight will be operated by Horizon Air for Alaska Airlines using a 76-seat Bombardier Q400 aircraft. Alaska Airlines has announced some fantastic introductory fares to celebrate this exciting change. To check out these fares and book flights on Alaska Airlines, visit www.alaskaair.com.

Flight Service Station Changes: With the extensive use of apps and the internet for pre-flight planning, the FAA plans to make changes to operations at its flight service stations. The plan calls for axing little-used services and eliminating redundancies in an effort to improve efficiency and cut costs. Changes include consolidating Flight Watch and after October 1, advisories will be obtained through the regular FSS frequency. Other changes include: having an air traffic controller specialize in handling distress calls on the 121.5 MHz emergency frequency; transitioning from the standard FAA flight plan form to follow the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) format; automatic opening and closing of flight plans and having pilots speak directly to air traffic control to request an IFR clearance. Pilots will still be able to receive a live standard briefing over the telephone. No flight service changes are planned for Alaska. The proposal is expected to be posted in the Federal Register for public comment soon.

Giving Back Grant Program: The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Foundation has announced that it will once again award 10 "Giving Back" grants to charities that are doing good work through general aviation. Ten nonprofits will each receive a \$10,000 grant. The grants are the AOPA Foundation's way of recognizing and spotlighting charitable flying and humanitarian services provided through general aviation. This year the application process has changed. Applicants must first submit a Letter of Intent. The AOPA Foundation will review the letters and ask only a select number of organizations to submit full grant proposals. The Letter of Intent is due by 5 p.m. EDT on Monday, June 1, 2015. Nonprofits selected to submit a full proposal will be notified the week of June 22. The Letter of Intent requirements and instructions can be found at the AOPA Foundation website. Applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and have a current IRS Form 990.

Airport Courtesy Car App: While planning his annual trip to Oshkosh last year, long-time pilot Glenn Brasch discovered there wasn't an app for courtesy car availability so he decided to create one. After gathering close to 800 listings he then had to manually enter the data in the app format on two templates that required several entry locations, and searching and entering the location addresses for the Google map in the app. The free app was officially launched in both the Google Play/Android store and Apple's App Store. The app currently has 1,229 listings nationwide and increases daily as people learn about the app. Pilots using the app can search by state for airports that have courtesy cars available. It also has a Google map that can be zoomed in or out. Phone numbers listed on the app are clickable, so the airport, FBO or other business can be called directly from the app. Long cross country trips to Oshkosh will be coming up soon so be sure to check out and download the app to assist with quick flight-planning. See a list of courtesy cars available at Montana airports on page 5 of the newsletter.



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Walt McNutt, Member

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Calendar of Events

May 23 – Spotted Bear Work Session. For further information call (406) 444-2506.

June 2 – Aeronautics Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., for further information contact Patty Kautz at (406) 444-9580 or pkautz@mt.gov.

June 6 - EAA Chapter 344 Morrison Park Burger Burn. All aviation-related folk, or would-be aviation folk are invited to come and have a burger or hot dog and socialize. All food and soft drinks will be provided. The event times are 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at Morrison Park on the south side of the Helena Airport next to the Helena College Airport Campus.

June 13 – Benchmark Work Session. For further information call (406) 444-2506.

June 13 - 11th Annual Lewistown Airport Fly-In, 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. MPA Sourdough pancake feed, Young Eagles (flights for kids) and displays of Antique, Warbird, Experimental and Sport Airplanes. Held in conjunction with Central Montana Flywheelers Exhibition. For further information contact Jerry Moline at (406) 350-3264.

June 20 – Meadow Creek Work Session. For further information call (406) 444-2506.

June 23-24 – Aviation Career Camp, Helena. For further information contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or email hdramstad@mt.gov.

June 27 - Big Horn County Airport (00U) at Hardin is open. They are planning a fly-in breakfast in conjunction with Little Big Horn Days 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Contact Ed Auker at (406) 665-1731 for more details.

June 27 - Fly-In hosted by North Central Hangar MPA at KHVR Havre, MT. Featuring the second best breakfast you will get at an airport, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Static displays, Candy drop for the kids, and Sky Bowling. The local FBO is offering a discount fuel price for the day of \$4.00/gal. AVgas for the day. More information call Willie at (406) 945-3646.

July 4 - Townsend Festival of Flight. We don't fool you, we feed you! An annual, deluxe fly-in breakfast and Young Eagles Rally for all GA, Experimental, Classic, Vintage, Light Sport aircraft sponsored by EAA Chapter 344. Townsend Airport (8U8). Times: breakfast served 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Young Eagles flights 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Proceeds support EAA programs, including scholarships for AVMT students. Contacts: Neil Salmi 406 980-0544, Young Eagles: Lance Seaman 406 442-8459.

July 4 – Heritage Days Air Fair (Fly-In) Hamilton Airport (6S5), 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Breakfast, aircraft static displays, car show, warbirds, skydivers, EAA Young Eagle rides, and pilot competition. For further information contact Joel Jessop at (406) 363-6471.

July 11 – Hands across the Border work session, Del Bonita Airstrip, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Alberta Flying Farmers will provide lunch. For further information call (406) 444-2506.

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 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.

July 18 - 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.

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/.

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. 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.

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.

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 kippkefer@me.com.

Big Horn County Airport Receives Award!

Commissioner Chad Fenner and Commissioner Sidney Fitzpatrick together with Ed Auker, Big Horn County Airport Manager, traveled to Seattle for the FAA Northwest Region Airports Conference to accept an award presented to Big Horn County for the new airport facility.

Big Horn County began planning for the construction of a new airport over 25 years ago. As with many local governments, Big Horn County is small with limited personnel and financial resources. Big Horn County relies on local funds as well as grants from the State of Montana and FAA.

The existing airport located within the Hardin City Limits, Fairground Airpark, was known for its challenging winds during landing and takeoff operations due to hangar configurations causing what is known as a venturi effect on winds. The constraints surrounding the existing location's area made it unfeasible to bring the existing airport up to FAA Standards.

The planning efforts necessary to develop the new airport occurred over a series of 3 grants from 1990 through 2008 with a total cost of \$180,200 (federal investment of \$168,530).

Land acquisition for the new airport took place in 2010 with a total cost of \$306,913.68 (federal investment of \$291,568).

The final design and construction efforts occurred over a series of 3 grants from 2011 through 2014 with a total cost of \$6,111,595.55 (federal investment of \$5,500,436).

The end result of these efforts was the January 8, 2015 opening of the Big Horn County Airport meeting FAA Standards. The total investment in this property consisted of \$6,598,709.23 (federal investment of \$5,960,534) and countless hours of efforts by the County.

The new Big Horn County airport will provide important medical evacuation services, and support agricultural, business, and recreational flying for this remote corner of the state, near both the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian reservations.

For many years Big Horn County carried the torch as various sites were analyzed and construction efforts underway. Not only has the Sponsor put forth tremendous effort in developing an FAA compliant airport; it is apparent that they plan to continue investing in this high quality product. The Sponsor has already constructed hangars to protect aircraft from the harsh eastern Montana climate and taken the initial steps towards development of a snow removal equipment storage building and airport owned revenue generating fuel facility. This is an indication that the Sponsor understands the need to adequately maintain and protect the public investment while striving to become as economically self-sustaining as feasible.



Pictured is Tim Orthmeyer, Sidney Fitzpatrick, Chad Fenner, Fred LeLacheur, Morrison-Maierle, Ed Auker, Airport Manager. Photo courtesy of Sidney Fitzpatrick. Morrison-Maierle, Inc., of Helena, Montana, has been the County's engineering firm for this project since the project began.

FAA Proposes Cancellation of 11 NDB and VOR Approaches in Montana

The FAA is seeking public comment on its proposal to cancel certain ground-based instrument approach procedures in the national airspace system. The proposed cancellation of select ground-based NDB and VOR approaches will affect 11 airports in Montana. In recent years, the number of instrument approach procedures has nearly doubled, with the implementation of satellite based navigation and RNAV GPS approaches. This growth is unsustainable and the cancellation of redundant approaches is part of the FAA's process of right sizing. A list of approaches slated for cancellation can be found at: https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/procedures/reports/.

Comments of the proposal will be accepted until May 28 and can be submitted at the following link. <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Jet Service returns to Yellowstone Airport



It has been over 30 years since Yellowstone Airport (WYS) has hosted scheduled Jet Air Carrier Service. Starting June 1, 2015 (the airport's normal Air Carrier Service start date for the summer season) the first 50 seat Canadair Regional Jet (CRJ200) will land at WYS.

Before the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978, Yellowstone Airport was no stranger to the Jet. In fact for many years Western Airlines flew the Boeing 727 and Frontier Airlines flew the Boeing 737 into WYS. After deregulation and the conception of the Essential Air Service Program Yellowstone Airport saw a reduction in service and equipment, at one point the airport was only being served by a 19 seat Fairchild Metroliner. From 1986 until 2014 SkyWest Airlines served the region with the 30 seat Embraer Brasilia (EMB 120). The transition and upgrade to the CRJ200 had been pursued by the airport and the airline since 2012.

Since it has been so long since Scheduled Jet Air Carrier Service the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) required the airport to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA). The airport recently received the Finding of No Significant Impacts Statement (FONSI) from the FAA the final piece in the process to proceed with Jet Service.

The new CRJ200 offers faster/higher quality service and with the increased capacity more passengers will now have access to the greater Yellowstone region.

Customers may book their airfare directly at Delta.com. Remember, the best fares are always available at Delta.com.

Montana Airports with Courtesy Cars

Baker
Billings
Bozeman
Broadus
Butte
Choteau
Colstrip
Columbus
Dillon
Conner (West Fork)
Cut Bank
Deer Lodge
Ennis
Fort Peck
Glacier Park Int.
Helena
Hot Springs
Kalispell City
Lewistown
Laurel
Libby
Malta
Miles City
Missoula
Plains
Plentywood

Polson
Poplar
Ronan
Roundup
St. Ignatius
Seeley Lake
Sand Springs
Sidney
Superior
Thompson Falls
Twin Bridges
Townsend
Three Forks
West Glacier (Ryan)
White Sulphur



120th Airlift Wing in Helena



A C-130 of the 120th Airlift Wing of the Montana Air National Guard was recently seen making touch and go landings on the Helena Regional Airport. The 120th AW under the command of Air Force Colonel Leslie T. Smith fulfills both federal and state missions, including emergency support during natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and forest fires, search and rescue operations and support to civil authorities. Eight C-130s from the 120th will be briefly based in Helena later this summer as Great Falls International Airport undergoes taxiway reconstruction.

New Flight Instructor Scholarship

The Vigilante Hangar of the Montana Pilots Association announced last month its sponsorship of a new flight training scholarship open to any instrument-rated commercial pilot who is pursuing their flight instructor certificate. Hangar Treasurer, Brent Vetter, said the \$650 scholarship will be awarded on the basis of a letter of application and a letter of recommendation from the applicant's flight instructor. The first annual flight instructor scholarship will be awarded at the 2016 Montana Aviation Conference to be held in Helena next March. The Vigilante Hangar joins dozens of other aviation organizations in Montana in supporting general aviation. Look for application details on the MDT website at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml>.

Montana Native Confirmed as NASA 2nd in Command

On April 27th, Helena native, Dr. Dava Newman, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as deputy administrator of NASA. A graduate of Capital High School, Dr. Newman will leave her position of Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology to take the number 2 post at NASA. Montana Senators Tester and Daines praised Dr. Newman's accomplishments and dedication to public service.



GA airplane shipments and billings fall in first quarter

New numbers released by the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) show that airplane shipments and billings were down in the first quarter of 2015.

Total airplane shipments declined from 520 during the first quarter of 2014 to 441 in the first quarter of 2015. Airplane billings were down 12.6% from last year to \$4.5 billion.

Rotorcraft shipments declined by 18.3% to 188 aircraft delivered in the first quarter of 2015 while billings were down 17.9% to \$0.8 billion.

FIRST QUARTER SHIPMENTS OF AIRPLANES MANUFACTURED WORLDWIDE

	2014	2015	CHANGE
Piston	241	193	-19.9%
Turboprops	125	115	-8.0%
Business Jets	154	133	-13.6%
Total Shipments	520	441	-15.2%
Total Billings	\$5.2B	\$4.5B	-12.6%

FIRST QUARTER SHIPMENTS OF ROTORCRAFT MANUFACTURED WORLDWIDE

	2014	2015	CHANGE
Piston	74	52	-29.7%
Turbine	156	136	-12.8%
Total Shipments	230	188	-18.3%
Total Billings	\$1.0B	\$0.8B	-17.9%

“The first-quarter numbers show that, while our industry has been gaining traction over the past few years, we face some renewed headwinds in several regions of the world, including Asia, parts of Europe, and Latin America,” said GAMA President and CEO Pete Bunce. “Our industry is focused on regaining momentum, but we need the U.S. Congress to be a strong partner and reauthorize the Export-Import Bank before the June 30 deadline. It is time to stop playing political games with industry jobs. Congress needs to move ahead and pass reauthorization quickly to ensure a level global playing field and provide needed stability in a difficult market.”

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Civil Rights Bureau, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone (406) 444-9229. Those using a TTY may call 1 (800) 335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.



Sporty's updates training catalog

Sporty's has updated and expanded its online video training catalog to include four new aircraft transition courses, including So You Want to Fly Twins, So You Want to Fly Helicopters, So You Want to Fly Gliders, and So You Want to Fly Seaplanes.

Each program incorporates Sporty's signature video style centered primarily around in-flight footage from both inside and outside the cockpit, complemented by realistic 3D graphics to help students learn complex subjects. The course material focuses on both aircraft systems and maneuvers to thoroughly prepare you for the FAA checkride.

“Pilots have their comfort zones with aircraft. When you're changing the type of aircraft you fly, these transition courses provide you with not only important information, but a big boost in confidence,” says Sporty's Vice President John Zimmerman.

Each course includes a variety of supplemental FAA training resources to provide additional information right in the course. A review quiz is included based on content from the videos. After successful completion of the course, you'll receive a personalized completion certificate. All four courses are accepted for FAA WINGS credit.

Courses can be viewed online anywhere you have a web browser and internet connection. The courses require no software to install — just sign in.

So You want to Fly Twins [93000] is available for \$79.99, and So You Want to Fly Gliders [93003] is available for \$49.99. So You Want to Fly Seaplanes [93002] is available for \$39.99, and So You Want to Fly Helicopters [93001] is available for \$69.99.



Lockheed Martin Flight Service and Globalstar Satellite Tracking Devices

SPOT Tracker has now joined Spider Tracks and DeLorme as partners with Lockheed Martin Flight Service to provide Surveillance Enhanced Search and Rescue, SE-SAR. It's easy to register your satellite tracking device in your Lockheed Martin account, under "Register for Advanced Services." Step by step directions and instructional videos are linked on the LMFS account page. If a SAR operation becomes necessary, flight service specialists are able to narrow the search area significantly with the information provided by your satellite tracking device.

New DVD Titles to Aeronautics Library

MDT Aeronautics has recently added several new titles to our video collection. Patrons are welcome to checkout items from our library by contacting Stefani DeMars at (406) 444-2506. Among the new arrivals are: The Complete Jeppesen Chart Review and Weather Wise, by King Schools; Stall, Upset, and Spin Recovery; NOVA Rise of the Drones; NOVA Why Planes Vanish; Frontline, Flying Cheap.

Keep checking for new titles as we continue to update our video library.

