

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 67, No. 8

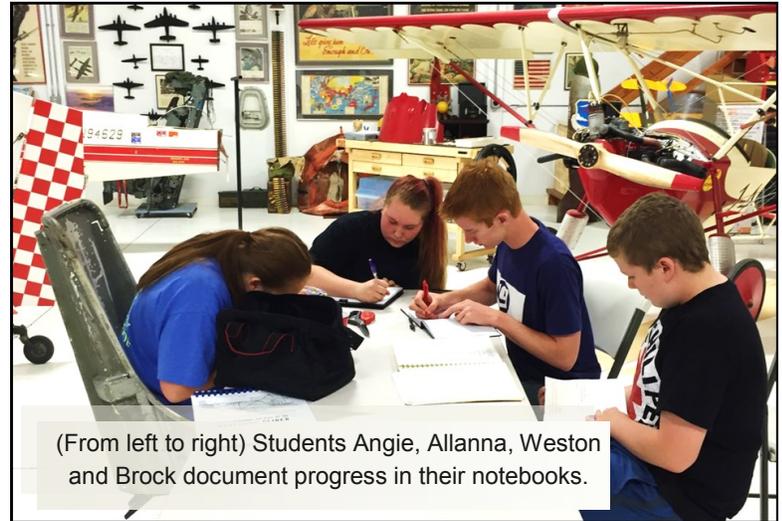
August 2016

## Students Spend Summer Building an Airplane

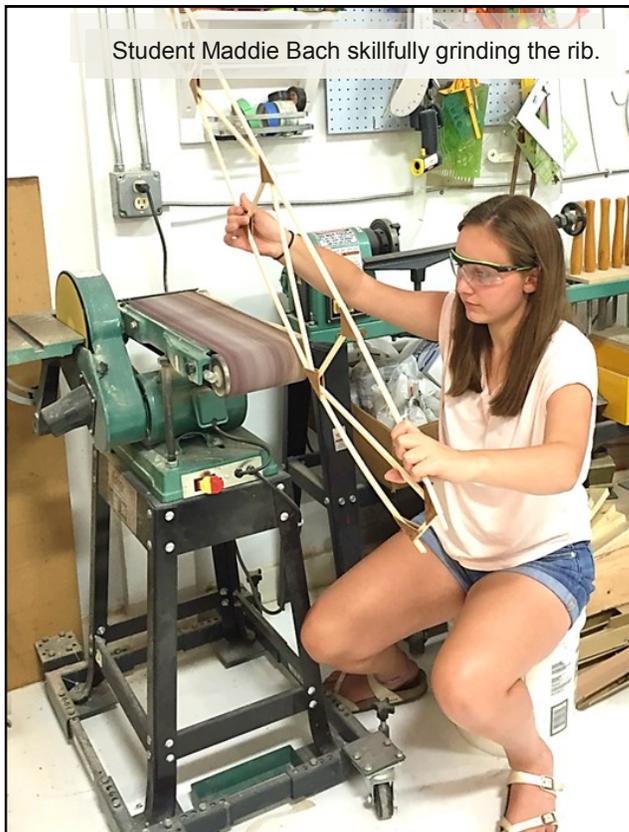
During the school year, Pat Kenney can be found teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade science at Will James School in Billings, MT. During the summer however, Pat is spending his time with a select group of students building a 1929 Northrup Primary Glider (Zogling RRG-1). Construction began in June and a test flight deadline has been set for April, 2017. When completed, this aircraft will be the fifth constructed by Pat and his team. Primarily geared toward high school students, this group of 14 consists of both high school and middle school students alike.

"I don't have any schedules, the kids know what needs to be done, and everybody just does what we can at this early date. I set it up as a buddy system

so all the kids have a pal that they come in with. I also have three dads that are craftsmen in their own right who are helping out in prepping the wood. It's all scratch-built from original plans in the 1930 Flying and Glider Manual. So far we have the ribs, rudder, and elevators done." Pat said.



(From left to right) Students Angie, Allanna, Weston and Brock document progress in their notebooks.



Student Maddie Bach skillfully grinding the rib.

The aircraft was originally imported into Minnesota, where it was dimensioned in standard units and named the *Northrup*. Kenney went on to say "It's the first aircraft Alexander Lippisch designed and he later went on to design the ME-163 after the war when he went to the States, and his research resulted in our B-58 Hustler F-102, and F-106. An interesting aspect is that in Germany back in the twenties and early thirties, kids this same age would join a glider club, build a glider and then gradually learn to fly it in sequential steps ultimately earning their A Certificate with a six minute solo flight."

Each student has a journal where they write down the date, hours worked, and what they did. The group is expected to double in size once school starts and work will continue throughout the year. Former Commander of Apollo 8 (the first mission to fly around the moon), Colonel Frank Borman, is scheduled to meet with the builders this month to officially kick off the project. A special thanks to the project sponsors Exxon, Morledge Eye Clinic, and the Billings Education Foundation. Also to the EAA Chapter 57s who have graciously opened their doors to Pat and his students to work out of their new hangar.

# Administrator's Column

**FAA Reauthorization:** Congress recently passed an FAA extension through September 30, 2017. Some highlights include: maintains current funding levels for Essential Air Services (EAS); Airport Improvement Program (AIP); includes language to ensure small airports that see a decrease in enplanements for a year, they don't lose AIP dollars; increase the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) to \$10M; requires marking of towers between 50 and 200 feet in height in non-urban areas; makes drone interference with wildfire suppression or other emergency services a crime and several new unmanned aerial system (UAS) safety provisions; creates a working group to improve small community air service; and security reform.

**Third-Class Medical Reform:** the long awaited and hard sought after legislation made it into the FAA Reauthorization extension. This allows GA pilots to operate aircraft weighing 6,000 lbs. or less with a valid driver's license, provided that the pilot-in-command has held a valid medical in the previous ten years, and has not received a denial on the last application or an unresolved revocation. Pilots will still be required to undergo a biannual physical from any state-licensed doctor, rather than a certified medical examiner, and must submit an FAA prescribed condition checklist to the doctor for review. Pilots will also be required to complete a newly devised online aero medical test every two years, and keep records of both the tests and physicals in their logbooks. The FAA has one year to develop and enact rules that align with the reforms. Pilots will not be allowed to fly under the reforms until the FAA has completed its rulemaking process or the one-year time limit has elapsed.

**Cancer Survivors Treated:** Ben Walton, Owner of Summit Aviation, volunteers to share his love for aviation by teaching young cancer survivors how to fly. Recently, Walton and some of his employees participated in Big Sky Kids' Cancer Survivor Flight Camp; a partnership between the nonprofit Eagle Mount and Summit Aviation. This is the third year of the weeklong, all-expense-paid camp to teach four young survivors to fly. An experienced flight instructor mentors each camper and together they fly around the state. Attendees must be over 18 years of age and in remission. This year' students were Noah "Eagle Eye"; Silas "The Prodigy"; Eden "La Capitana"; and Megan "The Sheriff". Congratulations Noah, Silas, Eden and Megan on your achievements and future blessings for health and happiness. Ben, thanks for your passion, you are an inspiration to us all.

**ACRP Topic Solicitation:** The Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) is soliciting potential synthesis topics for FY2017. Topics must be submitted by September 16, 2016. Syntheses are state-of-the-practice reports prepared under contract by outside individuals or firms. These reports seek to locate and assemble information; to learn what practice has been used; to identify ongoing and recently completed research; to learn what problems remain largely unsolved; and to organize, evaluate and document the useful information acquired. Syntheses describe and document current practice in a given area. They highlight practices that are viewed as successful. To avoid duplication current ACRP project can be viewed at: <http://www.trb.org/SynthesisPrograms/ACRPSynthesisCompletedStudies.aspx>. The preferred method for submitting an ACRP syntheses topic can be found at: <http://www.trb.org/Studies/Synthesis/SynthesesSubmittal.asp>.

**Scholarships Available:** AOPA is offering many scholarships this year through the AOPA AV8RS Scholarship and the AOPA You Can Fly High School Flight Training Scholarship. The You Can Fly High School Aviation Scholarship program will award 20 flight training scholarships to teens ages 15 to 18 (AOPA membership is not required). The AOPA AV8RS Scholarship will award up to four scholarships totaling \$15,000 to deserving members of AOPA's AV8RS program, a free AOPA membership for teens ages 13 to 18. The scholarships will go to individuals pursuing an aviation-related goal, including a primary pilot certificate, study in an aviation or aerospace field through an accredited aviation program, or attending an aviation or aerospace camp. The deadline for both the You Can Fly High School Flight Training Scholarship and the AOPA AV8RS Scholarship is Sept. 30. For more information go to: <https://youcanfly.aopa.org/scholarships>.



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Department of Transportation

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Official monthly publication of the  
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# Calendar of Events

**August 4, 2016** – Helena EAA Chapter 344 will be hosting a Young Eagles Rally at Three Forks airport (9S5) 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The EAA Young Eagles program is intended to motivate youngsters aged 8 thru 17 toward a career in aviation by providing positive experiences in the form of free airplane rides. Kids must have the permission of a parent or guardian to fly. For further information, please call Lance Seaman at (406) 442-8459.

**August 4-7, 2016** – Montana Antique Aircraft Association presents the 39th Annual Three Forks Fly-In at Pogreba Field (9S5). Events include: a featured 1928 Boeing-40-C airplane, drone display/demonstration with audience participation, flour bombing and spot landing contest, aircraft on display, gun raffle, airplane awards, food and camping with showers on site. There will also be Young Eagle Flights on Thursday from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (kids 8-17 years old are free), please call Lance Seaman at (406) 442-8459 to sign up. For all other questions about the event, please call Pat Green (406) 285-6949.

**August 13, 2016** – Southwest Montana MPA Hangar invites you to test your short field takeoff and landing skills at Twin Bridges (K7S1). This event is geared toward pilots but everyone is welcome! Signup starts at 9:00 AM and flying starts at 9:30 AM. For more information, please contact Ryan Flaming at [ryan@rubyvalleyaviation.com](mailto:ryan@rubyvalleyaviation.com).

**August 14, 2016** – The 9th Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly In-Drive In at the Hysham Airport (6U7). It will be \$5 at the door and all proceeds will go toward the Hysham Lions Club. For further information, call Bob Miller, airport manager, at (406) 342-5252.

**August 19-21, 2016** – The 14th Annual Montana Fun Weekend will be held at the Cut Bank International Airport. Events include a fly-in breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings, burn-out contest, Lawn Chair Drive Inn Movie Friday night and an aircraft and car show all day Saturday. Food vendors on Saturday and prizes awarded to best airplanes, cars and motorcycles. For more information call Roy at (406) 450-1078 or check for updates at [www.cutbankairport.org](http://www.cutbankairport.org).

**September 9-11, 2016** – Search Pilot Clinic in Helena, MT. Learn the skills necessary to be an effective volunteer search pilot and observer and serve the Montana aviation community in the air search and rescue system. The selected 24 pilots will each receive 3 hours of dual instruction flying practice search patterns in Cessna 182's over mountainous terrain. Ground school and field exercises will cover wilderness air crash survival, signaling, shelter, fire craft, mountain flying weather, search patterns, observer training and more. Cost is \$140 for pilots, \$70 for non-pilots. For more information, contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or [hdramstad@mt.gov](mailto:hdramstad@mt.gov).

**September 10, 2016** – The General Aviation Barbeque in Missoula, MT – Located at the "Runway 25" condominium hangars just northeast of Northstar/Neptune Aviation. Beginning at 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM come view fine GA aircrafts (experimental/factory built), skydivers, a display by the Museum of Mountain Flying, and the Missoula Rods and Customs Car Club will be displaying their finest restored cars. The airport's Director and Deputy conspire to create the best burgers and brats served at no charge to attendees! For further information, call Gary Matson at (406) 370-6584 or email him at [gimatson@montana.com](mailto:gimatson@montana.com).

**September 10, 2016** – Columbus Fly-In Breakfast – Will begin at 8:00 AM and will go into the afternoon. Bring the kids to watch pilot games like flour bombing and more! For further information, contact Hardin Graham at (406) 780-0034.

**September 10, 2016** – EAA Chapter 1122 Fly-In Breakfast in Polson, MT. Will begin at 8:00 AM and will go until 11:00 AM. For further information, contact Joe Kuberka at (719) 393-5550.

**ATTENTION!**

## MSO Taxiway Closure Information

Please be advised that the Missoula International Airport (MSO) will have a limited taxiway closure during September 19th - September 25th for construction.

Due to the taxiway closure, larger aircraft may have an occasional need to back-taxi on runway 11/29. Pilots are advised to check notams and be alert for unexpected air traffic controller clearances. A little disruption of normal operations is to be expected.

## Benchmark Work Session

MDT Aeronautics and volunteer pilots from Helena went to work on the airstrip at Benchmark on Saturday, June 11. 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 white cones were placed around the North Windsock. The numbers on runway 30 were repainted. Lunch and refreshments were furnished by the Vigilante Hangar of the Montana Pilots' Association. Thanks to Lance Seamen, Paul Gordon, Claudia Clifford, Dave Gans, Sandy Gans, Brent and Rosemarie Vetter who volunteered.

Please visit our website for more information on upcoming work sessions at:  
[www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml).



Newly equipped windsock at work.



Volunteers painting runway 30.

## 2017 Montana Aeronautical Chart

**Now Requesting Photos**

**Must be High Resolution**  
Contact Wade Cebulski at  
(406) 444-9581 or [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov)

# Stevensville (32S) Closes August 1st for Runway Project

The 3,800 foot runway, 12-30 at Stevensville Airport will be widened and a full length parallel taxiway will be added in a \$2.6 million project, according to airport manager, Bob Otte. The project, which also includes new radio-controlled runway edge lights, a PAPI, and AWOS, is expected to be completed by November 1st.

Sponsor of the project, the town of Stevensville, was the recipient of a \$71,000 loan and a \$26,000 grant awarded under the Loan and Grant Program of the MDT Aeronautics Board. Additional funding came from a Targeted Economic Development District at the Stevensville airport. Federal funds will pay for 90% of the cost of the project.

For more information on the MDT Loan and Grant Program, please visit our webpage at: [www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml), or contact the following:

**Tim Conway**  
Airports and Airways Bureau Chief  
(406) 444-9547  
[tconway@mt.gov](mailto:tconway@mt.gov)



## RV-9A Takes First Flight

William "Willie" Hurd of Kremlin, MT took to the air during a test flight in his homebuilt Van's Aircraft RV-9A on June 5th. His first landing was completed after his first approach and was so smooth that onlookers thought he was still floating.

It was said to have "nary a bobble" on takeoff and landing. In fact, it was such an eventless flight that Willie took it up again for a second time.

"I have never flown an aircraft this sweet. Now only 39.25 more hours of phase one testing to go," said Willie.

Everything went picture perfect as a result of all the thorough prep work by Willie.

Good job Willie!

**NEW DATE**

**Southwest MT MPA  
Hanger Presents**



**Annual Short Field  
Takeoff & Landing Rally**

**August 13, 2016**

7S1, 9:00 AM Signup

An event for pilots to show their skills at short field takeoff and landings in two aircraft categories:

- 1. Turf : 2 seaters**
- 2. Pavement: 4 or more seaters**

There will be \$200 in cash drawings & \$50 in fuel drawing for participating pilots. The rally is not a competition, but field measurements will be taken to see how well you do. A free Pilot BBQ will be provided by SW MT MPA at 1:00 PM at 7S1.

For questions, please contact

Ryan Flaming at:

[ryan@rubyvalleyaviation.com](mailto:ryan@rubyvalleyaviation.com)

<http://www.montanapilots.org/>

# Schafer Meadows Work Session



Beautiful view on Saturday evening.

If you didn't attend this year's work session at Schafer Meadows, you missed out! There were only a dozen or so folks who participated but, in all fairness, nearly an equal number of dedicated supporters went to Meadow Creek the same weekend. For those that don't know, Meadow Creek sustained substantial damage to its infrastructure as a result of a forest fire that passed through last year. It presented an opportunity to split resources between the two airstrips since Schafer Meadows didn't

have an overwhelming amount of work to be accomplished. In typical work session fashion, the team split up duties and went to work bright and early Saturday morning. As usual, teams worked to clean the bathrooms, maintain the fences, and changed the windsock. Overgrown vegetation that was creeping up to fence height was cleared by volunteers at the East end. The weather was fair except for a shower on Saturday evening.

The big improvement this year was the installation of 2 refurbished bear boxes. MDT Aeronautics flew the boxes to Helena where the Montana Pilot's Association had arranged to have the boxes powder coated before Aeronautics flew the boxes back into Schafer Meadows. There are a total of 3 bear boxes at Schafer Meadows scattered throughout the camping area.

One of the best things about the Schafer Meadows work session is the anticipated arrival of Loren Smith and his awaited feast. This year was no disappointment as Loren showed up at 6:00 pm sharp with a boatload of prawns, a pot of fresh corn on the cob, a large bowl of fresh fruit salad, and a potato salad that could make the finest restaurants jealous! Loren doesn't just bring the food; he brings a friendly efficient staff that prepares, serves, and cleans up the food. Thank you to Loren and staff for another excellent feast, to all the volunteers that pitched-in to keep the Schafer Meadows experience memorable, to District Ranger Deb Mucklow-Starling and her staff for their help and continued support.



Installation of one of the new bear boxes.



# 2016 Search Pilot Clinic

Join MDT's Aeronautics Division for the annual Search Pilot Clinic!



WHEN: September 9-11, 2016

WHERE: Helena, MT

COST: \$140 for whole clinic  
\$70 for ground school ONLY

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Wingate at a state rate of \$92+tax per night. The block expires on August 19th. Please call 406-449-3000 to reserve.

Block Name: Search Pilot Clinic

Register or find more information online!

[www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml)



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## Search Pilot Clinic Set for September 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> in Helena

Air search and rescue of general aviation aircraft in Montana is the responsibility of the MDT Aeronautics Division, under an agreement with the U.S. Air Force. Aeronautics accomplishes this important mission with a network of 14 volunteer district search coordinators and more than 300 volunteer pilots and observers across the state. The skills needed to be an effective search pilot will be taught on September 9-11 at the Search Pilot Clinic. There will be 24 pilots accepted for the clinic, and each will receive about 3 hours of dual instruction in a Cessna 182 with an experienced flight instructor. Practice search patterns will be flown in mountainous terrain near the airports of Lincoln, Canyon Ferry, Townsend, Deer Lodge, Boulder, and Augusta. Field exercises in wilderness air crash survival and the use of emergency locator transmitter direction finding equipment will be conducted on Saturday and Sunday. Survival training will include signaling, shelter making, and fire craft. Ground school lectures on Friday and Saturday evening will cover mountain flying weather, the air search and rescue system in Montana, search patterns, principles of survival, and observer training.

Ground school starts at 5 pm on Friday, with flight training and field exercises from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM on Saturday and 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM on Sunday. If you have an interest in serving your fellow pilots and the Montana aviation community as a volunteer search pilot or observer, please consider attending this valuable training opportunity.

Contact Harold Dramstad at 406-444-9568 or [hdramstad@mt.gov](mailto:hdramstad@mt.gov) for information.

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## Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

In 2015, there were 224 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 224 parents, children, grandparents, friends, siblings, spouses, and other loved ones had lives that were cut short. It also means countless tears and shattered lives of those left with the aftermath of unsafe driving behaviors. Which loved one are you prepared to lose? If your answer is none, then Vision Zero is also YOUR goal.

It will take every one of us to work towards the day that Vision Zero is met, and the fatality total reads "ZERO." Two of the highest contributing factors to traffic fatalities in 2015 were alcohol and no seat belt.

These are behaviors that can be changed! Start by always wearing your seatbelt and planning for sober transportation. Remind your loved ones and those around you to do the same.

**-Director Mike Tooley, MDT**

Visit [www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero) for more information.

This document printed at state expense. Information on the cost of publication may be obtained by contacting the Department of Administration.