The Aviation Awareness Art Contest awards ceremony was held in Helena on May 5, 2016. This annual contest was first established in 1986 as an essay writing contest to encourage and educate students in the many career opportunities in aviation and aerospace. Over the years, it has grown into a state wide event that has become a recurring project for several schools. 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.

MDT Director Mike Tooley welcomed this year’s Art Contest winners to Helena with a reception in the old Capitol Supreme Court Chambers. Guest speaker, Adam Weitz of Exec Air Montana, told of his success in the field of Aviation after he won first place in the same art contest in 1998. Winners Elijah Erickson, Havre; Narya Sharma, Polson and Jaison Adams, Havre traveled to Helena by airplane with their families to receive their awards. We would also like to recognize Caleb Oriet of Highwood, MT who was unable to attend the ceremony. The guests were treated to a guided tour of the capitol building where they were congratulated by Lt. Governor, Mike Cooney, followed by lunch downtown at Bert & Ernie’s restaurant before being flown back home. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all the students that participated in this year’s contest!

Category 1, First place winner: Elijah Erickson, Havre

Be sure to visit our website for upcoming event information: www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation

2016 Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy June 28-29!
Administrator’s Column

TranPlanMT: MDT invites you to provide input on the future of Montana’s transportation system. An update of Montana’s long-range plan, TranPlanMT, is underway and early public input is being gathered thru an online survey regarding transportation priorities and strategies. The plan is not project specific, but defines policy goals and actions for operating preserving and improving Montana’s transportation system over the next 20 years. It serves as the basis for MDT decisions, especially those related to investing Montana’s limited transportation funds. Transportation needs are outpacing funding 3 to 1. Now is a critical time for MDT to work with the traveling public and openly discuss the future of Montana’s transportation network in the face of limited funding and mounting needs. Public input will be considered along with other analysis and data in updating this multimodal long range policy plan. As users of airports, roads, and public transportation, please take a few minutes to visit the website to learn more and participate through the online survey http://www.mdt.mt.gov/tranplan.

PRTC Training Exercise: A large force exercise (LFE) of military aircraft has been scheduled for June 7-9 in the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC). During this period, people living under the following PRTC military operations areas can expect to see multiple types of aircraft utilizing ALL areas simultaneously. There is also potential for loud noises associated with sonic booms. All B-1 supersonic activities will occur above 20,000 feet MSL and all transient fighter supersonic activity will occur above 10,000 feet AGL. This type of training is limited to 10 days each year, with each exercise lasting no more than three days. This training may occur once each three-month period. This will be the third LFE for the PRTC.

UAS Distinction: Ed Meier of Birds Eye of Big Sky, LLC recently shared that the company has been selected to help film two American Memorial Cemeteries in France and Belgium, using its UAS camera systems. The team will travel to France and Belgium to assist friends at Boston Productions produce films about these very impressive and poignant memorials to American courage and sacrifice during World War I. The Meuse-Argonne Memorial incredibly is the resting place of nine Medal of Honor recipients. Congratulations Ed and crew! Check out the cemeteries at: http://abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/meuse-argonne-american-cemetery#.VzZ9WfkrLjV and https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/flanders-field-american-cemetery#.Vzac5PkrLIU.

Congressional Update: Transportation Funding bills move - the Senate passed a FY 2017 DOT/FAA spending bill that includes $3.35 billion for airport infrastructure projects. The full House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider its transportation funding bill soon that also includes $3.35 billion for AIP and funding for the Contract Tower Program. Senate action is now completed until the two chambers begin the process of reconciling the two proposals. Third Class Medical Reform – the Senate Armed Services Committee has included in the National Defense Authorization Act third class medical reform that will go to the full Senate for a vote later this month. The Senate has already approved third class medical reform language from the Pilot’s Bill of Rights 2 (PBR2) twice in the past five months—first as standalone legislation and then as part of the Senate’s FAA reauthorization bill. FAA Reauthorization – no movement or news from the House. The current reauthorization extension runs through July 15.

Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation

Steve Bullock, Governor
Mike Tooley, Director

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Editor: Stefani Reinhardt

Follow MDT on social media!
Annual Lewistown Airport Fly-In, 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. 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.

Benchmark work session will begin at 9:00 AM. For further information contact Ken Wilhelm at (406) 444-9592.

Meadow Creek work session will begin at 9:00 AM. For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581.

Fly-In Pancake Breakfast at Roundup Airport (RPX) in Roundup, MT beginning at 8:00 AM and going until 12:00 PM. For further information, call Ron MacAdon at (406) 323-2139 or email him at backforty@midrivers.com.

Fly-In Pancake Breakfast at Penn Stohr Field (S34) in Plains, MT, from 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM. For further information, call Randy Garrison at (406) 826-3605.

Fly-In Pancake Breakfast at Big Horn County Airport (00U) in Hardin Montana from 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Contact Jerry Weibert for further information at (406) 665-2069 or call his cell at (406) 679-1063.

Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy - Program geared toward high school students interested in aviation. For more information contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or hdramstad@mt.gov.

Wings & Wheels, Freedom to Dream – Fly-In Pancake Breakfast at the Ravalli County Airport (6SS) Hamilton, MT from 7:00 am till 10:00 am. Stay at the Classic Car Show or attend the many events happening all day for the entire family! Come early for the Friday evening 50's Sock Hop hosted by the Bitter Rodder's Car Club and then campout overnight in the available camping area! For more information call Choice Aviation at (406) 363-6471 or (406) 240-9710 and ask for Shirley.

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. Come join us at Townsend Airport (BUB) from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for breakfast and Young Eagles flights. All proceeds support EAA programs, including scholarships for AVMT students. For further information contact Neil Salmi at (406) 980-0544 and for Young Eagles flight information call Lance Seaman at (406) 442-8459.

Del Bonita Hands-Across-the-Border work session will begin at 10:30 AM. For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581.

Schaefer Meadows work session will begin at 9:00 AM. For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581.

Ennis Air Fair - This will be a fun, family friendly event filled with static aircraft, cars, and inflatables for the kids. The event kicks off at 8:00 AM and will wrap up at 1:00 PM. There will be breakfast, an Iron Pilot Competition, an Airshow by John Bagley in his P-51 (Ole Yeller), and free aircraft rides for kids! A free lunch will be provided by Choice Aviation. For further information, call Troy Hunter at (406) 682-7502 or email him at thunter@choiceaviation.com.

Jim Bridger fly-in and celebration days. Breakfast will be 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 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) 662-5152.

The CanAm Aerobatics competition will be held at the Cut Bank International Airport. Planes and pilots from the Northwestern U.S. and Canada will be competing in this sanctioned event. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your lawn chair and binoculars. Contact Dave Ries at (406) 229-5152 for more information, or watch for updates on www.cutbankairport.org.

The RAF/MPA/Vigilante Hangar BBQ and the MDT Open House will be held at Jerry Cain's hangar, Lincoln (S69). The BBQ will go from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM. For further information, call Choice Aviation at (406) 363-6471 or (406) 240-9710 and ask for Shirley.

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The 14th Annual Montana Fun Weekend will be held at the Cut Bank International Airport.

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 gjmatson@montana.com.
Air Methods Medical Helicopter Base Set to Reopen in West Yellowstone Year Round

Air Methods announces the reopening of the air medical helicopter base serving the greater Yellowstone region. In conjunction with Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC), the Air Idaho Rescue program will extend care to Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the Gallatin National Forest and the Madison River valley. The West Yellowstone base commences 24/7/365 operations on May 23.

“We are honored to have a base at America’s first national park, and to bring our air medical resources to the residents and visitors of the greater Yellowstone region,” said Christina Brodsky, Air Methods spokesperson. “A majority of the call volume is tourist-related within the park, from buffalo and bear attacks to cardiac arrests. We’re here to bring critical care to those in need.”

Air Methods previously operated a seasonal base at the West Yellowstone airport between the months of May and September in 2014, but will now be expanding to a permanent 24/7 base that will operate year round.

“We not only want to help the tourists during the summer season, we want to be able to help the entire community year round,” Air Methods Regional Business Manager Michael Jenkins said. “Our care is the same as that found in an advanced life-support ambulance, only we fly. We think we can do a lot of good by being here.”

The new year round base will be staffed by Air Idaho Rescue personnel (flight nurse, flight paramedic, pilot and mechanic), creating 15 new jobs. The helicopter is equipped with a variety of critical care supplies and medications found in a hospital emergency room or ICU. These include items such as oxygen, airway resuscitation equipment, heart monitor/defibrillator, suction, IV pump and fluids, specialized monitor/testing equipment, ventilators, and emergency medications.

Flying from West Yellowstone to the clinic in Lake is 22 nautical miles, and the crew can fly to Lake and anywhere in the park in 12 minutes. A flight from Lake to the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls would then take around 45 to 50 minutes.

“When we were here on a seasonal basis, we were finding that people don’t stop needing medical care after 10:00 at night. We decided that it would benefit everyone if we were available around the clock.” Jenkins said. “Our motto is ‘Defenders of tomorrow’ and we want to give as many tomorrows to people as we can.”

Air Methods has additional fixed wing and rotor wing air ambulances throughout the region – including one airplane in Idaho Falls, Idaho at EIRMC, and helicopters in surrounding markets. The aircraft is fully outfitted with night vision goggle technology, which enhances visibility during night transports so crews can better detect hazards and obstructions and have greater situational awareness. Further, the aircraft has a standard suite of advanced cockpit technologies to keep crews and patients safe and enhance the safety of operations.

Loan & Grant Applications for FY 2018

Please be advised that the MDT Aeronautics Division must receive a Closeout Status form for any outstanding projects from FY 2016 before access will be granted to the FY 2018 online Loan and Grant application system. For further information, contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or by emailing him at wcebulski@mt.gov.

East Poplar Airport

Construction of the East Poplar Airport (Scobey, Coronach Border Station) 8U3 was completed in 1955, with improvements in 1961. The airstrip lies directly on top, and parallel to the United States and Canadian border. The turf runway is 3,330’ long, 75’ wide and at an elevation of 2,501’. The runway does have a 3% grade rising to the East and is well marked with white cones. Tie downs are located on the west end. Amenities are sparse at East Poplar, but the airport is a good location for crossing the border when flying north to Canada. Remember to call customs 2 hours ahead of landing.
Do you have any idea how lucky you are to be associated with flying in Montana’s Big Sky Country? Having lived and flown in a number of states, for both business and pleasure, I have found that Montana has an unusually vibrant and active aviation community.

The basic foundation for Montana’s thriving flying community is our Department of Transportation’s Aeronautics Division (Aeronautics). In association with the Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM), Aeronautics insures that our annual Montana Aviation Conference is one of the best in the nation. Each year Aeronautics sponsors four pilot and mechanic oriented training sessions to enhance safety, professional proficiency, and survivability.

The annual Mountain Pilot Search Clinic provides pilots the skill to assist in search and rescue operations within the state. The Winter Survival Clinic teaches the skills to survive in the wild when there is lots of snow on the ground. The annual Flight Instructor Recertification Course provides Montana (or any) Certified Flight Instructor an opportunity to meet the FAA required renewal requirements. And lastly, the annual clinic for Inspector Authorized (IA) FAA Mechanics allows Certified FAA Airframe and Engine Mechanics to meet annual education requirements. It is highly unusual for any state to do some of these, much less all of this training, for its aviation community.

Building on this foundation is the Aviation Organizations of Montana. This is an organization composed of all organization within the state with an active interest in aviation. These are professional aviation organizations, airport management organizations, and recreational aviation organizations (Please see the side bar for a complete list).

The focus of this article is the “fun” aviation organizations for pilots. These are the organizations with more specialized interests and includes the Montana Pilots Association (MPA), the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), the Montana Seaplane Pilots Association (SPA), the Montana Antique Airplane Association (MAAAA), and the Montana 99s (99s).

**Montana Pilots Association (MPA)** is made up of pilots from Montana and interested pilots from out of state who fly in Montana. The organization has fifteen local member “Hangars” located throughout the state plus a Member “At Large” category for members who cannot participate with the localHangars. MPA Hangars and members support the maintenance of back country airstrips and conduct program meetings and social events so members can interact through “hangar flying” to take advantage of others who may have with more flying experience. For more information about MPA: [www.montanapilots.org](http://www.montanapilots.org).

**Montana Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)** Chapters are made up of members who build “experimental” aircraft, own experimental aircraft, own standard production aircraft, pilots with no aircraft, and other people with an interest in aviation. Montana EAA Chapters have a very active Young Eagles program and member meetings. Montana has seven active chapters located in Billings, Butte, Cascade, Helena, Kalispell, Missoula, and Polson. The main focus of the EAA Chapter is to enjoy aviation in whatever capacity you care to. Each chapter meets monthly and usually there is a program about some aviation interest. Each of our Montana Chapters has their own web site for specific chapter activities: [https://www.eaa.org/en/eaa/eaa-chapters/find-an-eaa-chapter](https://www.eaa.org/en/eaa/eaa-chapters/find-an-eaa-chapter).

**Montana Seaplane Pilots Association (SPA)**’s membership is dedicated to the recreational aspect of seaplane flying and the promotion of safe and responsible seaplane flying in Montana and everywhere. Montana SPA is actively working to maintain freedom of operation on Montana waterway as well as those in surrounding states and Canada. You can obtain more information about membership and programs at: [http://mtseaplanes.org/home](http://mtseaplanes.org/home).

**Montana Antique Airplane Association (MAAAA)** members are focused on the operation, restoration and maintenance of a variety of antique aircraft in Montana. MAAA sponsors an annual air tour and a fly-in at the Three Forks Airport. For additional information contact: [kenflikkema@gmail.com](mailto:kenflikkema@gmail.com)

**Montana 99s** are women pilots who promote the advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support. As one of the oldest aviation organizations in the world, they hold a unique history of sharing the passion for flight. For more information: [info@montana99s.org](mailto:info@montana99s.org)

So there you have it. If you would like to increase the fun factor in your aviation life, you now have all the contact information you need to remedy the situation. By joining one or more of the above organizations, you will automatically become a more meaningful part of the Montana aviation community, one of the most vibrant and active aviation communities in the world. Whether you just want to socialize, broaden your aviation network or delve deeper into one of the specialized organizations, the opportunity is yours. Come join us. It will be a blast!
FAA TO PUBLISH AIRMAN CERTIFICATION STANDARDS IN JUNE

The FAA will publish this June new Airman Certification Standards (ACS) for the Private Pilot Airplane and Instrument Airplane rating, which will supersede the current Practical Test Standards for that certificate and rating. The practical test standards are familiar to all flight instructors and any of us who have taken a check ride. This is the end result of a 5 year effort between industry and the FAA to align knowledge and practical tests with what an applicant should actually know, consider, and do to operate safely in the national airspace system.

The criticism for many years was that the knowledge test questions were outdated and irrelevant, and that the practical test standards contained an ever-expanding list of special emphasis areas that were not associated with any particular area of operation or task. The subject of risk management is covered in no less than 8 of the FAA Series 8083 Handbooks, and will now be specifically evaluated as part of the airman certification process. The new ACS will not add any time to the current practical test, but it will clearly define what an applicant must know (aeronautical knowledge), consider (risk management), and do (skill) to exercise the privileges of his airman certificate. More information may be found at http://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/.

First Responders Practice Emergency Response at Three Forks Airport

Emergency crews from 5 agencies took part in a mock accident response conducted on the Three Forks airport on May 15th. Airport manager David Boyd coordinated the drill with first-responders from Reach Air Ambulance, Gallatin and Broadwater County Sheriffs, Three Forks Fire Department and AMR ambulance service. 15 drama students from Three Forks High School added realism to the exercise by acting as accident victims, complete with make-up to resemble injuries. The scenario was a head-on collision between a car and an airplane attempting to land on a roadway. The airplane was provided by MDT Aeronautics Division, a Beechcraft Debonair fuselage and wings used extensively over the years for training exercises.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY GATHER TO REMEMBER PETE SANDERS

Pete Sanders passed away on May 6th, 2016 at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center in Helena. He was 92. Friends and family gathered for the funeral service with full military honors and shared stories and memories of Pete Sanders, Navy veteran, aircraft mechanic, ski instructor, sheet metal craftsman, motorcyclist, uncle, and friend.

Pete was born in Flint, MI, April 19th, 1924, the older brother of his sister, Betty. He enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17 after Pearl Harbor. During the war he served as an aviation machinist mate and was stationed in Australia during the island hopping campaign in the Pacific. Following his honorable discharge from the Navy, he returned to Flint, and in 1947, rode his new Harley Davidson motorcycle to California.

In California, Pete worked as a pattern maker in a foundry. Pete and longtime friend, Wayne Drennon, rode their motorcycles from California to Montana, arriving in Helena in 1949 during the construction of Canyon Ferry Dam. In 1953, Pete loaded a trailer with a brand new BSA motorcycle and drove north for Alaska for work with the fishing fleet out of Anchorage. Upon his return to Montana, he operated the Ski Trail Inn at Red Lodge Mountain, serving as a ski instructor and tavern owner, and operated his own plumbing, heating, and sheet metal shop in Red Lodge from the mid-1950s through the 1970s.

Pete made his career as a tinner, or sheet metal craftsman, and worked on the construction of many buildings around Helena, including Four Georgians School and St. Peter’s Hospital. While working on construction at the Glasgow Air Base in the 1960’s, Pete received his primary flight training from Montana pilot and flight instructor, Vic Wokkal. Over the years, Pete owned several airplanes, including a Hatz biplane, a Citabria, a Cessna-180 and many projects.

Pete was employed for many years by Reber Sheet Metal and Plumbing of Helena as a journeyman in the Sheet Metal and Roofers Union. He retired from the trade in the 1990’s and turned to his passion of aviation full time. He took great pride in winning the “oldest pilot” honor each year at the Three Forks Fly-In. He was a regular at Vetter Aviation, where Rosie made sure there was an apple fritter saved and a fresh cup of coffee for Pete when he came in the morning. Pete enjoyed a homemade rhubarb pie every year on his birthday, courtesy of Mary Wadekamper.

Pete is survived by his niece, Sheila White of Helena; great-nephew David White and his wife Beth; great-great niece and nephew Norah White and Peter Nelson Sanders White, also of Helena.

Lincoln Airport (S69) Open House and BBQ

For the last 13 years, Lincoln resident and pilot Jerry Cain has hosted an annual fly-in BBQ at his Lincoln Airport hangar for Montana and out-of-state pilots to enjoy. The Lincoln Airport is a state-owned airport managed and maintained by the Montana Aeronautics Division (MAD) of the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). Since the airport is a valuable asset to the Lincoln community, this year there will be a MAD sponsored open house in conjunction with Jerry’s fly-in BBQ. The airport will be open to the public on Saturday July 23rd from noon to 3:00 PM and everyone is invited to Jerry’s BBQ. Various Lincoln community service organizations along with some popular aviation organizations will be present to discuss and display their involvement with the airport. Local hangar owners will have their hangars open and airplanes on display as well as those that fly in for the event. So come out to the Lincoln Airport to enjoy the day, July 23.
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 for more information.