

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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May 2016

## A Dream Come True: Flying in a B-17

*By Mark Evanoff, Bigfork Montana*



As the World War II era heavy bomber idles toward the runway, the four massive radial engines can be heard through the uninsulated fuselage, and felt in the seat of one's pants. Through the windy din, a passenger asks Crewman Kevin "K5" Michels when we should put in our issued earplugs. With an impish smile and a knowing nod, Michels replies "you'll know when!" With that, the pilot advanced the throttles of the 1,200 horsepower per engine, and we were racing down the centerline for take-off. It was time for earplugs!

The next twenty-five minutes afforded the 8 passengers an opportunity to explore this venerable old B-17, known as "Texas Raiders." Machine guns with ample 50 caliber ammunition sat poised near strategic openings, ready to fend off enemy aircraft. Bomb bay doors, secured from inadvertent deployment, rattled beneath and in the cockpit, the pilot and crew graciously posed for photographs while

simultaneously navigating the airspace at 2,500' agl. After a generous session of unfettered access, the passengers are instructed to return to our seats for landing. While re-securing their harnesses, the faces of these fortunate guests reflect a mix of sustained excitement along with a healthy dose of somber reverence. With the squeak of the tires and a perfect landing, we were returned to the year 2016. During World War II, the B-17 was used extensively for daylight strategic bombing runs over German military targets. Missions were exceptionally perilous and losses were heavy. The average age of the crew was 18, and the young pilot was typically around 21. On today's flight, one could not help but be awed by the memory of those young aviators. They were fueled by patriotism and empowered with courage, yet knew that they might not return to their families. Perhaps author Tom Brokaw put it best when he referred to them as "The Greatest Generation!" The Commemorative Air Force's Gulf Coast Wing, a non-profit entity, maintains and operates "Texas Raiders" primarily by donations with no government funding. The CAF takes their B-17 as well as other classic war-era aircraft around the country, offering rides to enthusiastic passengers, and educating the public about the invaluable roles warbirds played in winning the war. If you ever have an opportunity to support this most worthy cause, either by taking a commemorative flight or sending a donation, please do so! I also urge you, whenever possible, to thank a veteran for their service.



# Administrator's Column

**FAA Reauthorization:** The Senate has passed an 18-month Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act. The bill now heads to the House, without Air Traffic Control reform, setting up a probable conference committee to work out differences between the two bills. Some highlights of the bill include: third-class medical reform; contract tower reform and protections; aircraft certification reform; increased funding level for AIP. The bill also establishes a Working Group on Improving Air Service to Small Communities, which will include a representation of state aviation officials and other industry stakeholders to look at solutions to address the pilot shortage and other factors that negatively impact air service. Congress has until July 15 to agree on a long-term compromise, or pass another extension.

**Senate Appropriators at Work:** The committee passed a bill that provides \$16.4 billion in funding to the FAA for FY2017, a slight increase over FY2016. The act now goes to the full Senate for consideration who returns from recess on May 9. Other provisions include funding ATC and contract towers, measures to protect access to backcountry airstrips, Next Gen, aircraft certification process and more.

**Planes, Brains, and Civil Resistance:** Dr. Jack Burgess was a physician, AME, University of Montana basketball player, catalyst in the deep south helping to end segregation and a genuine gentleman. His efforts in the south are captured in, *The Secret Game*, a story written by Scott Ellsworth. It has been called one of the top ten books of 2015 by The Chicago Tribune and was named one of six "Sports Books of the Year" by Sports Illustrated. Doc Burgess was a Helena institution. I met first met him as a student pilot seeking a flight medical. He was so gentle and kind and wouldn't accept payment. His comment was, he was just thrilled to see another young person flying. What a guy – check out the full article at: <http://montanan.umt.edu/issues/winter-2016/jack-burgess/default.php> and look for the book on line or at your favorite bookstore.

**Congratulations Jerry:** The National Association of Flight Instructors inducted Jerald D. Cockrell into the Flight Instructor Hall of Fame recently at SUN 'n FUN. Cockrell, of Stevensville, was also the recipient of the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award at the Montana Aviation Conference held in Helena earlier this year. Jerry, also a popular aviation humorist, has made numerous presentations at the aviation conference over the years. I'm sure many of you will smile when you remember his sic sac (or other favorite) story! He has more than 52 years of aviation experience, including more than 5,000 hours of instruction given and more than 20,000 flight hours.

**Backcountry Noise Study:** A recent study concludes that there is no significant increase in stress levels among wildlife due to recreational aviation activity. The two-year study, researched the relationship between aircraft noise and wildlife as a consideration of land management planning. The study was funded by the Montana Department of Transportation, the Recreational Aviation Foundation and the AOPA Aviation Foundation. White-tailed and mule deer were studied by biologists that were flown in and out of backcountry airstrips. The report adds that a recreational aircraft "is one of the lowest-impact means of backcountry access." Check out the full report at: [http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/aer/air\\_strips.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/aer/air_strips.shtml)



**Montana and the Sky**  
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# Calendar of Events

**May 13, 2016** – Deadline for 2016 Montana Airport Management Association (MAMA) Internship Assistance Program Applications. This program is intended to promote internships at airports across Montana. For further information contact Jeff Kadlec at (406) 646-7631 or email [jkadlec@mt.gov](mailto:jkadlec@mt.gov).

**May 21, 2016** - Southwest Montana MPA Hangar invites you to test your short field takeoff and landing skills at Twin Bridges (K7S1). For more information, please contact Ryan Flaming at [ryan@rubyvalleyaviation.com](mailto:ryan@rubyvalleyaviation.com). This event is geared toward pilots but everyone is welcome! Signup starts at 10:00 am and flying starts at 10:30 am.

**May 21-22, 2016** - 6th Annual Idaho Aviation Expo, Aeromark Hangar. Aircraft manufacturers, maintenance and parts suppliers, avionics, clubs and associations, workshops, and guest speakers. For more information contact Tom Hoff at (208) 524-1202 or visit [www.aeromark.com](http://www.aeromark.com).

**May 28, 2016** – Spotted Bear work session will begin at 9:00 AM. For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or email [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

**June 11, 2016** - 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 18, 2016** – Meadow Creek work session will begin at 9:00 AM. For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or email [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

**June 25, 2016** - 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.

**June 28-29, 2016** - 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](mailto:hdramstad@mt.gov).

**July 2, 2016** - Wings & Wheels, Freedom to Dream – Fly-In Pancake Breakfast at the Ravalli County Airport (6S5) Hamilton, MT from 7:00 am till 10:00 am. Stay for 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.

**July 4, 2016** - 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 (8U8) 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.

**July 16, 2016** – Schaffer Meadows work session will begin at 9:00 AM. For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or email [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

**July 22-23, 2016** - 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) 229-0376 for more information, or watch for updates on [www.cutbankairport.org](http://www.cutbankairport.org).

**July 23, 2016** – The RAF/MPA/Vigilante Hangar BBQ will be hosted by Jerry and Liz Cain at their hangar, Lincoln (S69). The BBQ will go from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm, but attendees are welcome to arrive anytime. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, ice cream and more! Attendees may bring food to share or cook on the BBQ. Tie down area and campgrounds with tables, fire rings, and outhouse are available! In order to plan accordingly, please RSVP to Jerry at (406) 461-5631 or email [sg@linctel.net](mailto:sg@linctel.net).

**July 24, 2016** - EAA will be sponsoring a Fly-in at St. Ignatius Airport with a free huckleberry pancake breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information call Mike Kuefler at (406) 544-2274.

**August 4-6, 2016** – Three Forks Fly-In. For further information contact Pat Green at (406) 285-6949.

**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).

## Elkhorn Search and Rescue Holds Field Exercise, Trains on DF Equipment



The Elkhorn Search and Rescue Unit, under the direction of the Jefferson County Sheriff Craig Doolittle, carried out a joint field exercise on April 26th involving the MDT Aeronautics Division, and rescue helicopters from the 40th Helicopter Squadron at Malmstrom Air Force Base and Reach Air Ambulance of Helena. Volunteers received hands on training in the use of direction finding equipment for locating missing aircraft and practiced with air crews to load patients and dog teams onto the helicopters. Search and Rescue Unit leader, Dave Kauffman, of Clancy, praised the interagency cooperation in making the training event a success.



## Montana General Aviation Survey, Economic Impact Study

The State of Montana is conducting an economic impact study contracted by Kimley-Horn to measure the value of Montana airports to their communities and to the state. An important part of this study involves surveying airport users. This *Airport Visitor Survey* is intended to gain an understanding of how general aviation pilots and passengers visiting Montana contribute to the State's economy.

We encourage FBO's and the public to please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your participation is deeply appreciated and crucial to the success of this study. Your answers to these questions will be held in strict confidence.



Scan this QR code to complete this survey online or visit [surveymonkey.com/r/MDT\\_GeneralAviationSurvey](https://surveymonkey.com/r/MDT_GeneralAviationSurvey).



## West Yellowstone Airport Set to Open May 26

*By Jeremy Weber, originally appeared in the April 8, 2016 issue of West Yellowstone News, reprinted with permission*

SkyWest Airlines and the West Yellowstone Airport are pleased to announce that daily jet flights from Salt Lake City to West Yellowstone will resume on May 26, five days earlier than last season. The seasonal Delta Connection service ensures visitors to Yellowstone National Park will enjoy quick, convenient flights and unmatched access to the world's first national park.

"I was pleasantly surprised when I got the call this winter saying that SkyWest was interested in expanding their service into May for the first time since they have been flying here," Airport Manager Jeff Kadlec said. "It's an exciting thing for all of us here at the airport and for the community as well."

The West Yellowstone Airport resumed jet service for the first time in many years in 2015, a change that helped bring in 2,168 more travelers than the airport saw in 2014, a 38 percent increase. This season, SkyWest will be adding an additional one flight per day from May 26-31 before resuming its usual summer schedule June 1. The airline will also be adding an additional flight on Wednesdays for eight weeks this summer, bringing the total number of new flights to West Yellowstone to 13 this season.

"I think this expansion shows that SkyWest is really wanting to invest here in West Yellowstone," Kadlec said. "This is the most convenient way to travel to Yellowstone as we are located only two miles from the West Gate of the park."

Each of the jet flights from Salt Lake City to West Yellowstone will be onboard the 50-seat Canadair Regional Jet (CRJ200). There will be two daily flights Thursday through Monday and one daily flight on Tuesday and Wednesday, with an additional flight on Wednesday during the peak of the summer season. Each flight is timed to ensure passengers are able to easily connect from Salt Lake City to hundreds of destinations around the world through Delta's global network.

SkyWest Airlines has proudly provided quality service to the West Yellowstone community since 1986. The airline is a leading Bombardier CRJ200 operator and has been named the manufacturer's most reliable operator in North America five times. Customers may book the new jet flights immediately at [delta.com](http://delta.com).

## Southwest MT MPA Hanger Presents



## Annual Short Field Takeoff & Landing Rally

**May 21, 2016**

*K7S1, 10:00 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 rain date is set for June 4, 2016 and a free Pilot BBQ will be provided by SW MT MPA at 2:00 PM at K7S1.*

*For questions, please contact:*

**Ryan Flaming**  
[ryan@rubyvalleyaviation.com](mailto:ryan@rubyvalleyaviation.com)  
<http://www.montanapilots.org/>



### Civil Air Patrol Holds Open House in Helena

On Thursday, April 14th, the Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol held an open house on the Helena Regional Airport to show case for the public all it offers our community. Potential new cadets and senior members visited with advisors Mike Dixon, Trena Bonde, and CAP Major Spencer Gilchrist to find out about the important role CAP plays in disaster relief, search and rescue, as well as leadership and character development for youth. Attendees at the open house toured the CAP Cessna, and tried their hand at using direction finding equipment for homing to emergency locator transmitters.

The Squadron now has a Cessna 182 based at the Helena Regional Airport to help the squadron meet its mission goals of aerospace education, cadet training, and emergency services. The airplane, provided by the Air Force, was recently transferred from Colorado and is equipped with a Becker Direction Finding receiver that is capable of homing to ELTs. It joins 6 other similarly equipped CAP Cessnas stationed around the state that are available for air search and rescue. The cadet program, under the direction of CAP Major Spencer Gilchrist, offers youth ages 12-18 opportunities for fun, physical training, and leadership development at its weekly meeting. Senior members and cadets of the squadron train monthly to be effective in disaster relief and search and rescue. For meeting and membership information, you may contact Major Gilchrist at 406-431-0628.

## 2016 Montana Airport Management Association (MAMA) – Internship Assistance Program

For the first time the Montana Airport Management Association (MAMA) is pleased to announce the Airport Internship Assistance Program! This program is intended to promote internships at airports across Montana. Airports that struggle to hire interns or airports that may have never had an intern now have the opportunity to apply for assistance through this new program. MAMA would like to see the next generation of our airport management be grown right here in Montana! The application is due Friday, May 13, 2016 and can be found on our website at:

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

If you have any questions about the program please contact:

**Jeff Kadlec**  
**MAMA Vice President, Class C**  
**406-646-7631**  
[jkadlec@mt.gov](mailto:jkadlec@mt.gov)



## New & Improved Video/DVD Library!

2630 Airport Road, Helena, MT 59620-0507



The MDT Aeronautics Division Video/DVD Library is driven by the needs of the piloting community. Whether you are researching aviation history, flight test preparation, or in need of specific training resources – the Aeronautics Division Library has the resources to meet your needs and those of the whole community. Video suggestions can be made by emailing [hdramstad@mt.gov](mailto:hdramstad@mt.gov). Stop by our office or go online and reserve your video today!

Go to: [http://mtsc.sdp.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/MT-DOT/](http://mtsc.sdp.sirsi.net/client/en_US/MT-DOT/) and click on the **Aeronautics** Collection on the left.

# Calling all High School Students! **2016** *Aviation Career* **EXPLORATION ACADEMY**

June 28-29, 2016  
Aeronautics Division Office  
2630 Airport Road  
Helena, MT 59601-1261



The \$130 tuition includes meals, lodging, and all activities. Enrollment is limited to 12 students. Hotel rooms will be provided (double occupancy) for Tuesday night. A limited number of scholarships are available, to be awarded on the basis of a personal essay describing your passion for aviation and career goals.

Registration forms and what you need to include with your application are available on our website.

**Applications must be postmarked no later than >> June 17, 2016.**

**For more information, please contact the Aeronautics Division:**

**Website:** [www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml)  
**Phone:** 406-444-2506  
**Fax:** 406-444-2519  
**Email:** [sdemars@mt.gov](mailto:sdemars@mt.gov)

## **Cut Bank International Airport Receives Award**

Cut Bank International Airport received a Certificate of Excellence award at the FAA Northwest Mountain Region conference in Seattle, Washington on March 30, 2016. The Cut Bank Airport Authority and Glacier County were recognized for their mitigation of the cultural and historic aspects relative to the Cut Bank International Airport Improvement Project. The environmental mitigation efforts included:

- Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) of the 1949 terminal building;
- Preservation of the historic pavement along the storm drain system of Runway 14-32;
- Installation of two separate interpretive panels. One panel documents the airport's historic role and the other panel documents the evolution of the airfield;
- Installation of two authentic "split filter range lights" from the historic Runway No. 2 threshold adjacent to the interpretive panels; and
- Coordination with the Blackfeet Nation to have an on-site representative present during all ground-breaking activities that occurred in any areas not previously disturbed by construction of the airfield.



The Cut Bank Airport Authority and Glacier County completed the airport improvement project and mitigation efforts in 2014. Thanks to Rick Donaldson of Robert Peccia and Associates for sharing this story with photos.

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 (800) 335-7592 or go through the Montana Relay Service at 711.



## 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.

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