Growing Aviation

Through Education

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 334 Young Eagles Program and MDT Aeronautics Teacher workshop helps bring aviation education to Opheim high school teachers and students.

High school students from Opheim, along with their math and computer science teacher, Becky Rogenes, were at the Helena airport on March 24th to make introductory flights with local Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 334 in the Young Eagle program. Becky teaches math and computer science to 7-12 graders in Opheim, and attended the MDT Aeronautics Division Teacher’s Workshop last October held at the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake. The teacher’s professional development training included an hour of flight training in Cessna airplanes and ground school activities such as cross country flight planning using E6-B computers, plotters, and sectional charts. Ms. Rogenes now incorporates these activities in her classroom with pre-calculus students as an example of using vectors.

Seven students and two chaperones were on their Junior-Senior trip, with stops in Helena for Young Eagle flights and a visit with their legislators at the State Capitol, then on to Discovery Basin for a day of skiing, before touring the robotics and simulation laboratory and the Museum of the Rockies at Montana State University in Bozeman. EAA pilots from the Sleeping Giant Flying Club, Lance Seaman and Bob Caldwell, volunteered their time for the Young Eagle flights held at Vetter Aviation. Students toured the Helena air traffic control tower between flights. For further information on attending the MDT Aeronautics Teacher’s Workshop, contact Harold Dramstad, at hdramstad@mt.gov, or 406.444.9568.

Left to right Lance Seaman, Becky Rogenes, Amber Lee, and Grace Carroll
More on Flight Plan: In last month’s column I wrote about a discussion that took place at the aviation conference relative to the FAA ICAO requirement for filing a flight plan. Kent Williams of Columbus provided the following note with examples on page 6 that I’ve summarized. Kent has extensive flying experience crossing both the Mexican and Canadian borders. Thanks Kent for sharing your “first-hand” guidance and expertise.

“I have been using the ICAO version of the flight plan for years in Baja and Canada. It really is easy to use. Each country has a few little additions, for instance Canada wants a contact person with phone and is normally in the remarks section. It’s easy to file in person or by phone using an ICAO form that is partially filled out with the information that is consistent for each flight in your particular aircraft. Naturally there are pieces that only pertain to this flight, (airports, time, alt, pax, etc.) but much stays the same. I photocopy the partial one and write in the changes. Most of the time in Mexico, I go into the Operations Office at a towered airport. In Canada, I call it in while on the ground. In addition, there is an explanation of the ICAO plan. Once you start using the new format it will become very simple. I feel that it is an improvement as there is more important and pertinent information in the ICAO form.”

BasicMed Finally! As May 1 approaches, it’s time to review the eligibility requirements for BasicMed one more time. Some documents require that you carry them while operating under the new rules, while others require you keep in your logbook or an electronic format. To operate under BasicMed, you must meet the requirements contained in the final rule, which requires possession of a valid U.S. driver’s license. You also must have held a regular or special issuance medical on or after July 15, 2006. Documents that must be stored electronically or kept with your logbook include the Comprehensive Medical Examination Checklist, which is completed by you and your physician. Prior to operating under BasicMed and then at least every 48 months, you must receive a medical exam from a state-licensed physician. Also the “certificate of completion” that you receive for completing the online medical education course must be completed prior to operating under BasicMed and then at least every 24 calendar months and kept electronically or with your logbook. Once the course is completed, you must send information to the FAA, such as your name, address, and phone number and that of the physician who conducted the medical examination, state medical license number, and date of exam. You will also provide certifications as to your fitness to fly and an authorization for a National Driver Register check. BasicMed does not change the existing requirement that mandates you have your pilot certificate and appropriate photo identification in your physical possession or readily accessible when exercising the privileges of your certificate. The FAA has noted that an official passport, will NOT satisfy the BasicMed requirement to carry a valid U.S. driver’s license. To review all of the requirements of BasicMed, including the final rule and Advisory Circular AC 68-1 click on these hyperlinks.

Fairness for Pilots Act: Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla) has introduced the Fairness for Pilots Act, which broadens protections for GA pilots on top of those provided in his Pilot’s Bill of Rights, which was enacted in 2012. Senator James Inhofe is a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; a member of the Senate General Aviation Caucus; and a CFI with more than 11,000 hours. “The Act increases due process protections for pilots, ensures greater transparency in dealing with FAA, and reduces the unnecessary bureaucratic barriers preventing pilots from flying,” he said. The bill provides for fairer treatment of pilots in FAA investigations and would require expedited FAA efforts to improve the flight information it provides. For the complete text of the bill go to: https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/755/text?r=52.

Airport Courtesy Cars: New features have been added to the Airport Courtesy Cars, including a new site, in addition to the free app. The data can be viewed on any device and includes updates of more than 1,750 airports nationwide that have courtesy cars. Also listed are locations with airport cafes, in case a car is unavailable. Users can report their experiences with ramp fees through the app or on the website at: https://www.airportcourtesycars.com/.
Astronaut Frank Borman talks candidly about his experience.

Aircraft Owners & Pilot Association’s Warren Hendrickson and Tom George.


Brent Blue, MD., keynote speaker at the Kick-off Luncheon Thursday, March 2nd.

Brody Severson is awarded the MAAA A&P scholarship by MAAA President and AOM Board member Bob Green.

Astronaut Frank Borman talks candidly about his experience.

Pete Smith, AOM Board Member, presents Tori Gandia (left) with the Montana Pilots Association Junior Pilot Award.

Larry Chambers, with wife Owana Chambers, of Aviation Art Forms donated “Coming in Over the Estuary” by Robert Taylor.
Montana 99’s from left; Bobbie Powers, LaRae Stotts, Dianna Ferguson, Ossie Abrams, Tammy Kantorowicz, and Patty Mitchell.

Jerry Myers of Jerry Myers Aviation talks with a conference attendee.


Peter Gross (left) of Backcountry Flying Experience & Steve Bajema of City Service Valcon Aviation Fuel/Phillips 66.

Patrick Stromberg with Association of Montana Applicators.

Mary Newpower & Marilyn Hollister with Montana Pilots Association.

Darrel Ruth (left) & Steve Vold with Aerotronics and member of Montana Aviation Trades Association.

Jerry Myers of Jerry Myers Aviation talks with a conference attendee.

Picture to left: Eddie Anderson, Steve Bajema, and Ed Croymans attend the door prize give away.

Left, Bobbi Powers, presents, keynote speaker, Greg Herrick, with a Montana belt buckle.

The 33rd Annual Montana Aviation Conference continued 2018 Montana Aviation Conference March 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, in Missoula
Rocky Mountain College Graduates Twenty-one Aviators

Rocky Mountain College will graduate 21 seniors in its aviation program at commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 6th. The four-year private college in Billings currently has 100 students enrolled in the aviation program, according to Director of Aviation, Dan Hargrove. Students fly a total of about 4,500 hours each year in the school’s fleet of five Piper Archers, one Cessna 172, two Beech Bonanzas, and a Beech Baron.

The goal of the program is for students to earn their private, instrument, commercial, multiengine, and flight instructor certificates in their first three years, then flight instruct at the school during their senior year. The program is supported by three full-time airframe and power plant mechanics, and four full-time and eight part-time certified flight instructors.

The year-end awards banquet for the aviation students is scheduled for April 19th on the Billings campus. For further information, contact Dan Hargrove at dan.hargrove@rocky.edu.

Apply Now for the Airport Internship Assistance Program

For the second year, 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 program. MAMA would like to see the next generation of Montana airport management grow!

For information and application, contact Yellowstone Airport Manager Jeff Kadlec at 406.646.7631 or jkadlec@mt.gov. Application deadline is May 12, 2017.

Schedule a Capital Improvement Planning Presentation Now

The MDT Aeronautics Division (MAD) has partnered with the Helena Airport District Office of the FAA since 2011 to provide State Aviation System Plan (SASP) funding for Capital Improvement Planning (CIP). The purpose of this grant is to assist the federally funded general aviation (GA) airports in their planning quest to access federal grant funds for airport maintenance and infrastructure needs. Ninety percent of the eligible project costs are funded by federal grant funds and 10% of the eligible project costs are funded by local match.

Since 2011, MAD has provided approximately 30 presentations around the state. CIP Presentations are offered to County Commissioners, Airport Board Members, Airport Managers, Airport Authorities or whomever is the governing body for the city/county airports. MAD will be reaching out to 10 or so locations for CIP presentations again this summer and fall. Subjects to be covered in the presentation include: planning procedures based upon need and justification, Non-Primary Entitlements (NPE) funds, state apportionment funds, discretionary funds, Aeronautics Board loan and grant funds, Airport 5010 Master Record, airport maintenance, courtesy car, education and safety, and a question and answer session.

If you would like to schedule a CIP presentation at your airport or if you have any questions, please contact Tim Conway at 406.444.9547 or tconway@mt.gov or Wade Cebulski at 406.444.9581 or wcebulski@mt.gov.
Opening day is just around the corner! While many parts of the state have already hit temps above 70 degrees, Yellowstone Airport has just begun to thaw out. Assuming that the brunt of winter is finally behind us, the airport will be open to General Aviation (GA) traffic May 25, 2017.

For the most up to date status on the airport please refer to the FAA published NOTAMS https://pilotweb.faa.gov/PilotWeb/ or feel free to contact the airport directly, 406.646.7631.
Calendar of Events

May 27, 2017 – Spotted Bear work session will begin at 9:00 a.m. For further information, contact Wade Cebulski at 406.444.9581 or email wcebulski@mt.gov.

June 3, 2017 - Annual Burger Burn Social - From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Morrison Park, Helena, hosted by EAA Chapter 344. Inviting any and all aviation enthusiasts and their guests to join us for a burger, fixings, and beverages. Included, of course, will be the airplane banter from the local homebuilders and aircraft owners/operators/controllers.

June 10, 2017 - Lewistown Airport Fly-in Breakfast 13th annual pancake breakfast served from 7 a.m. to noon for $6. There will be Young Eagle rides courtesy of EAA Chapter 344 from Helena. A large turn out of Cubs from back East is expected. Vintage tractors and a working black smith shop will be in operation at the airport.

June 17, 2017 – Meadow Creek work session will begin at 9:00 a.m. For further information, contact Wade Cebulski at 406.444.9581 or email wcebulski@mt.gov.

June 19-20, 2017 - 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.

June 24, 2017 - Wings and Wheels Airshow, Hamilton Airport - Join us for a pancake breakfast, car show, static display aircraft, and airshow. This year’s airshow will feature Legacy Air Museum and Power Addiction Airshow. For more details, call Choice Aviation at 406.363.6471 or visit: www.wingsandwheelsairshow.com.

June 24, 2017 – Rocky Mountain College Flight Team Fly-In – Laurel Airport, Northern Skies Ramp. Breakfast from 8:00 a.m. Pilot competitions start at 9:00 a.m. For more information, call Sam at 406.861.1170 or email sam@mtchemnet.com.

June 25th, 2017 - Big Horn County Airport Fly-in - Hardin to coincide with the anniversary of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. For information, contact Ed Auker, 406.665.1731.

July 4, 2017 - 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 at Townsend Airport. Breakfast served 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Young Eagles flights 09:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. For more information, contact Neil Salmi at 406.980.0544, and for Young Eagles flight information, contact Lance Seaman 406.442.8459. Proceeds support EAA programs.

July 15, 2017 – Schafer Meadows work session will begin at 9:00 a.m. For further information, contact Wade Cebulski at 406.444.9581 or email wcebulski@mt.gov.

June 17, 2017 - Plains Airport (Penn Stohr) Field (S34) Fly-In Breakfast - from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 am. Sponsored by the Montana Pilot’s Association, Sanders County Hangar. For information, contact Randy Garrison at 406.370.6179.

July 21-22, 2017 - Can-Am Aerobatic Competition Cut Bank Airport. This is the only sanctioned competition in Montana, drawing pilots and airplanes from Montana and northwestern U.S. and Canada. Everyone is welcome with transportation to town available during the event. Call Dave Ries for more information at 406.229.0376.

July 22, 2017 – Jerry Cain's annual BBQ and community open house at the Lincoln, MT airport (S69). The BBQ from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, cake, ice cream and more. You may bring food to share or cook on the BBQ. Tie down area and campgrounds available. Contact Jerry at jocain@theraf.org for more information.

July 23, 2017 - Annual St. Ignatius (52S) Huckleberry Pancake Fly-in Breakfast - From 8 a.m. until noon. This free event is sponsored the EAA Chapter 1122. For more information, contact Michael Kuefler, 406.544.2274.

July 22-23, 2017 - “Flight Over the Falls” – U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, Thunderbirds in Great Falls, MT. For more information, contact Montana Air National Guard 406.791.0159.

August 13, 2017- Hysham (6U7) Fly-In - The Hysham airport fly-in and drive-in will be on Sunday, August 13th from 7 a.m. to noon. The breakfast is a fundraiser for the Hysham Lions Club. Cost is $8 and will include pancakes, ham, eggs, coffee, and juice. Contact airport manager, Bob Miller, with questions at 406.342.5252.

August 18-20, 2017 - The 15th Annual Montana Fun Weekend Fly-In and Car Show will be held at the Cut Bank Airport. Breakfast available Saturday and Sunday. Burn-out contest and movie Friday night. Car, motorcycle, and air-plane show and shine Saturday. Concessions onsite Saturday. Call Roy at 406.450.1078 for more information.
Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

In 2016, there were 190 fatalities on Montana roads. What does that mean? 190 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 2016 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.