

# Montana and the Sky



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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Photo Credit: Adrian Eichhorn

## Adrian Eichhorn to Keynote Saturday Banquet

Pilot, mechanic, and flight instructor, Adrian Eichhorn, will present the keynote address at the Saturday night banquet at the Aviation Conference. He will recall his round-the-world trip in a Beechcraft Bonanza in a presentation titled, "I Could Never Be So Lucky Again!" Mr. Eichhorn currently flies for JetBlue and holds an Airline Transport Pilot certificate with type ratings on the Airbus 320, Gulfstream, Challenger, and Cessna Citation. He holds an A&P certificate with Inspection Authorization, as well as a Gold Seal Flight Instructor certificate. He has provided flight and ground instruction to upper management of the FAA, including the Deputy Administrator and Federal Air Surgeon. He founded Alpine Aviation in 1994, which is a provider of specialized maintenance, repair and instructional services to pilots of Beechcraft Bonanza, Baron, and Travel Air airplanes. He was

named the FAA National Maintenance Technician of the year in 2016, and holds both the M.D. Cashion Award for Technical Excellence and the Airmanship Award from the American Bonanza Society. Adrian served for 20 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including four years attached to the Joint Chiefs of Staff under President Clinton, retiring at the rank of Lt. Colonel. He earned his B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University and is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College. The banquet begins at 6:30 p.m. on March 4, 2017.

## Montana 2017 Aeronautical Chart Artist Kassi Slowey

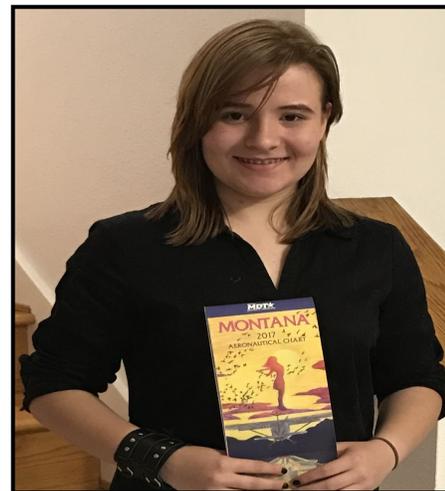


Photo Credit: Mrs. Slowey

Kassi Slowey is the Montana 2017 Aeronautical Chart cover artist. Kassi is 14 years old (soon to be 15) and was a freshman at Billings West High School when she created the cover for the Aeronautical Chart. Kassi recently moved with her family to San Diego, California. She presently attends Coronado High School in San Diego and sings in the choir. During her time in Montana, Kassi volunteered at the Yellowstone Animal Shelter, played ice hockey and lacrosse (Go Billings Scorpions!!). Kassi is a talented guitarist, songwriter, and student pilot with glider, seaplane, and single engine land time. Kassi loves acrobatics and trained with A.J. and Tyler at Northern Skies Aviation in Laurel.

# Administrator's Column

**Congratulations Deb:** The Flathead Chapter of the Society of American Foresters presented Deb Mucklow with the 2016 Field Forester of the Year Award. Deb became the district ranger at Spotted Bear in 1999 and has worked for the Flathead National Forest since 1988. The Field Forester of the Year Award recognizes excellence in the field, application of forestry, an understanding of forest science, and the adaptive management process to achieve landowner objectives and ensure forest sustainability.

As the leader of a forest district comprising 80 percent congressionally designated wilderness, Mucklow has been honored with multiple local and national wilderness awards. Deb is a great partner and friend to Montana aviation.

**Students Build Drone:** Three students from Medicine Crow Middle School in Billings have been working on a project that could help game wardens catch poachers. For this year's First Lego League Challenge, an annual robotics competition, these students decided to meet the theme of "animal allies" by designing a drone that was capable of searching for poachers, complete with a night-vision camera that can be moved with a remote controller. The trio spent hours with a Fish, Wildlife, and Parks game warden learning about poaching. The Styrofoam, wood and carbon-fiber plane the students built from a kit for about \$1,000 is simple enough to be operated by a warden during poaching cases. An anti-poaching drone, or a fleet of them, could help game wardens police the poaching problem, the students suggested. The students equipped their plane with a small digital camera and downloaded free software that is used to program the aircraft's 45-minute flight path. Once in the air, the plane covers its pre-programmed flight path and at the end, the plane returns to a programmed point for landing via a remote control. In its test flight, the plane flew at an elevation of about 100 feet at a speed of only about 30 mph — low and slow. The students test drove their presentation before traveling to Bozeman for the state wide competition this week. The First Lego League Challenge is held in 80 countries and attracts 28,000 teams ages 9 to 16. The contest is meant to teach children how to think like scientists and engineers, as well as adhere to the core values of discovery, teamwork, and gracious professionalism.

**Backcountry Airstrips Supported:** Congress is in full swing and with that comes the annual appropriations process. At the request of Senator Steve Daines, language supporting backcountry airstrips is included in the Senate Transportation Appropriations Committee report. Daines crafted language specific to Montana, but it was broadened to cover federal lands. The official Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development budget report was approved by unanimous consent. The language reads: "Landing Strips — The committee finds that backcountry landing strips on federal lands are important assets to the national aviation infrastructure. The committee recommends the FAA assist federal land managers, including but not limited to the Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, and National Park Service, in charting airstrips located on federal lands that are and may be useful for administrative, recreational, and emergency purposes."

**TRB Synthesis Studies:** The Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) is seeking new study topics. This presents a unique opportunity to propose topics for research funding. Synthesis studies document existing knowledge and experience for transportation topics. In the coming year, ACRP will pick nine new topics that result in widely-used reports on key topics in transportation. The deadline for submissions for this funding cycle are due in September, 2017. A proposal for topics must be submitted at the following site on TRB's webpage:

<http://www.trb.org/Studies/Synthesis/SynthesesSubmittal.asp>



**Montana and the Sky**  
Department of Transportation

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**Editor: Patricia Trooien**

**Follow MDT on social media!**





Once a pilot, always a pilot...

**But, if you are feeling a little RUSTY...**

You might be like over 500,000 other pilots (that's right, half a million), that have taken a little breather from flying. The good news is that getting back to flying is easier than you think. So, what **does** it take to get back in the air?

- **Some flight and ground instruction**
- **No FAA checkride or test**
- **You may not even need a medical**

Join us on **March 4, 2017 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** for a fun seminar that will give you all the information you need to get current again. We'll help you understand what's changed in aviation since you last took the controls and brush up on your aviation knowledge. As a seminar participant you'll get three hours of ground instruction towards completing your flight

review, valuable take-home materials, and handouts so you can review what you've learned.

The cost to attend is just \$69 (conference registration is not included), but this seminar is free to Aircraft Owner Pilots Association members. Join AOPA today to waive your registration fee and get all the benefits of AOPA membership for one year.

Register online at: [www.aopa.org/community/events/2017/march/04/rusty-pilots-hosted-by-the-montana-aviation-conference](http://www.aopa.org/community/events/2017/march/04/rusty-pilots-hosted-by-the-montana-aviation-conference).

Register for the Aviation Conference at: [www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/aero/forms/2017\\_Registration\\_Form.pdf](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/aero/forms/2017_Registration_Form.pdf).

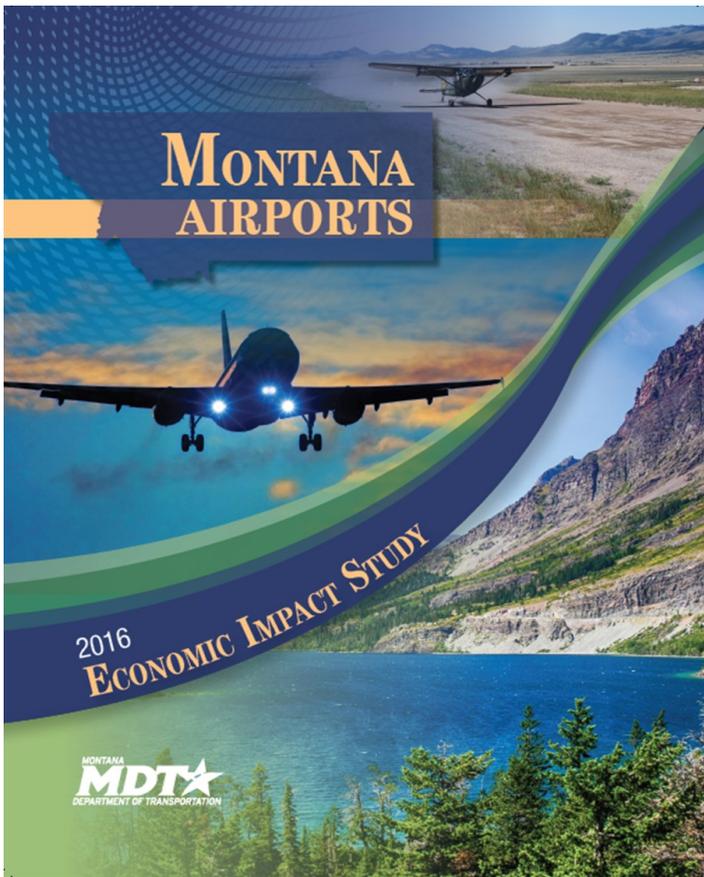
If you have any questions about this training opportunity, please contact Harold Dramstad of the Safety and Education Bureau at 406-444-9568, or [hdramstad@mt.gov](mailto:hdramstad@mt.gov).

## **Scholarship winners to be announced at the 2017 Montana Aviation Conference in Billings on March 3rd, 2017**

As tuition costs climb ever-higher, the 2017 scholarship year saw a dramatic rise in the number of applications submitted for these much-needed endowments. By the scholarship closing date of January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Aeronautics Division had received a total of 306 applications, a significant increase over the 2016 award year. The recipients of the 2017 scholarships have been selected and award letters mailed out. While the actual scholarship winners will not be publicly announced until the 2017 Montana Aviation Conference in Billings, we can assure you that they (and their parents) are delighted to receive this financial assistance. The scholarships will be presented at the Aviation Conference Awards Luncheon on Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and several award winners have already made plans to attend.

Although the recipients have already been selected for the 2017 scholarship year, MDT Aeronautics is already receiving

inquiries about the 2018 award year. Fortunately for these late comers, the Aeronautics Division has two scholarships that are still accepting applications in 2017. Both scholarships are offered by the Montana Airport Management Association (MAMA). MAMA is a professional organization dedicated to promoting and developing best practices in the management of Montana airports. MAMA will present two scholarships of \$2,500 each to Montana high school seniors or graduates who are enrolled in a Montana college or university, majoring in either Aviation or Business Management. The scholarship requires the completion of an application and essay questions and must be received by March 3, 2017. Additional information on these scholarships can be found at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml>.



Thank you to MDT Research for funding this project, and to Kimley Horn, EDR Group, KLJ Engineering, the Steering Committee, and the University of Montana for their commitment to providing an exceptional product.

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division is proud to announce the completed 2016 Economic Impact Study. The study has been in the making for the past 24 months with research funds provided by MDT Research. MDT assembled an experienced staff from inside and outside of the Department to form a highly experienced committee. The committee not only wanted an update to the 2007-2008 study, but wanted additional out-of-the-box thinking to provide the latest methodologies and capture all of the available data for the public's review.

**Montana's airports play an integral role in the transportation system by providing access to destinations within the state, throughout the country, and across the globe.**

Based on an analysis of on-airport businesses, non-aviation tenants, off-airport businesses serving airport visitors, capital expenditures on construction, and airport-reliant businesses, the Montana aviation system provides an overall net contribution to the state's economy of nearly \$2.8 billion in business sales and approximately 24,000 jobs. Nearly four percent of the jobs in Montana are supported by the aviation industry, generating \$839 million in payroll for state residents.

In addition to the Executive Summary, individual airport reports can be accessed through the MDT website at the following link <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/economic-impact-study.shtml>



# Airport Grants and Loans Awarded

By: Tim Conway – Airports / Airways Bureau Chief

On January 19, the MDT Aeronautics Division along with the Montana Aeronautics Board awarded a little over \$600,000 in loans and grants to various Montana airports as part of its annual loan and grant program. The program, developed 23 years ago, has become a welcome contributor to Montana airports. At any given time, there is usually over a million dollars of Aeronautics Division funds obligated to various airport projects around the state. There was about \$232,500 in grants and about \$371,000 in loans available for disbursement this year for aviation projects around the state. Funding for this program is provided by a \$0.02 / gallon tax on fuel sold to general aviation aircraft in Montana. Although most of the money given in grants and loans each year goes to leverage 90/10 Federal (FAA) match dollars for large airport construction projects, there is usually a significant percentage awarded for various smaller airport projects as well. Applications for the money are due into the Aeronautics Division on November 15 each year, and the money is typically awarded in January of the following year. Although the money is awarded in January, the funds are not available until the beginning of the next fiscal year - July 1. The nine members of the Montana Aeronautics Board have sole responsibility for awarding loan and grant monies. This program is open to all public-use airport entities and the money can be used for any qualified airport or aviation related project. For more information regarding the program, contact the Aeronautics Division. Here are the awards for fiscal year 2018.

## The projects funded for FY 2018 are as follows:

AIRPORT	GRANT AMOUNT	LOAN AMOUNT
Baker - PVMT Rehab	\$6,764	\$0
Big Sandy - Lighting/ Nav aids	\$975	\$8,500
Chinook - PVMT Rehab	\$7,535	\$0
Circle - PVMT Rehab / WX Reporting	\$11,425	\$35,675
Columbus - PVMT Rehab	\$53,552	\$145,086
Conrad - PVMT Rehab / Nav aids	\$5,815	\$11,500
Culbertson - WX Reporting	\$0	\$18,500
Cut Bank - PVMT Rehab	\$8,756	\$0
Ekalaka - PVMT Rehab	\$4,173	\$0
Eureka - Lighting	\$3,000	\$0
Fairfield - PVMT Rehab	\$10,000	\$0
Forsyth - PVMT Rehab	\$26,916	\$0
Havre - PVMT Rehab	\$11,740	\$82,900
Lewistown - PVMT Rehab	\$26,068	\$8,232
Superior - PVMT Rehab / WX Reporting	\$9,192	\$30,998
Three Forks - PVMT Rehab / Lighting	\$8,086	\$0
Townsend - PVMT Rehab	\$4,375	\$11,321
White Sulphur Springs - WX Reporting	\$34,134	\$0
West Yellowstone - PVMT Rehab	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$18,450</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$232,506	\$ 371,162

## Large Commercial Service Airport Pavement Preservation Program

AIRPORT	GRANT AMOUNT
Billings	\$16,500
Bozeman	\$16,500
Butte	\$16,500
Great Falls	\$16,500
Helena	\$16,500
Kalispell	\$16,500
Missoula	<u>\$16,500</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$115,500



Aeronautics Division  
2630 Airport Road  
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Helena, MT 59620-0507



Calling All Youth Artists!



Do you like to draw? Do you have an interest in aviation/aerospace?  
This contest is for you!

**Categories ..... Prizes ..... Entry Requirements**

**Category 1:**  
Kindergarten - 5th grade

**Category 2:**  
6th Grade - 8th Grade

**Category 3:**  
9th Grade - 12th Grade

**FIRST PLACE in each category:**

1. The school will be notified and an MDT Representative will mail a 1st Place Congratulatory Letter to the student.
2. A round trip flight from the winner's hometown to Helena for the winner and his/her parents (legal guardians).
3. Lunch and a tour of the Montana Capitol Building.
4. A trophy and Certificate of Achievement presented by an MDT representative.
5. Artwork will be matted and framed, and returned to you at the Capitol Building.

**SECOND & THIRD PLACE in each category:**

1. A trophy and Certificate of Achievement.

1. Contest deadline is: Friday, April 15, 2017.
2. Contest is open to all Montana students, grades K-12.
3. Size of poster is not to exceed 11" x 14".
4. Artwork must have an aviation theme - can be color or black & white.
5. Please no tracing the images.
6. All artwork must include the following:  
Name of Student, Student's Grade, School's Mailing Address, Phone Number, and Teacher's Name

## MDT Road Weather Information System Resource for Pilots

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) operates a network of 73 Road Weather Information System stations across the state, all of which provide near real-time camera views that can be a valuable resource for general aviation pilots in their aeronautical decision making. Loss of control accidents continue to be a leading cause of GA accidents, including continued VFR flight into IMC conditions. The General Aviation Joint Steering Committee Loss of Control Working Group recommended in its October 2014 final report that pilots use accurate, real time weather reporting technology. In Alaska, FAA weather specialists and pilots can monitor cameras at over 190 locations to provide near real time information made available on the internet. Dillon pilot, Paul Lenmark, who flies lead plane for the BLM in Alaska makes regular use of the Alaska weather cameras. Pilots wishing to view the weather cameras on the MDT network around Montana may visit: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/weather/rwis.shtml>.

## Pilots receive MDT pins for attending Flight Instructor Refresher Course

Twenty flight instructors from across the state attended the MDT Aeronautics Divisions annual Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC) on February 10th & 11th at the Wingate Hotel in Helena, MT. Instructor Harold Dramstad presented the three pilots pictured below with a MDT Flight Instructor Wings.



Pilots: Len Miller, Paul Lenmark, & Rocky Yassin

# Calendar of Events

1122. For more information contact Michael Kuefler, (406) 544-2274.

**March 1, 2017 - Aircraft Registration Renewal Deadline**

**March 2-4, 2017 - 33rd Montana Aviation Conference** - Red Lion Hotel & Convention Center, Billings. For further information contact Effie Benoit at (406) 444-9580 or [efbenoit@mt.gov](mailto:efbenoit@mt.gov).

**March 3-4, 2017 - MDT Aeronautics IA Refresher Course** - Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center. For further information, contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568 or [hdramstad@mt.gov](mailto:hdramstad@mt.gov).

**March 4, 2017 - Rusty Pilots Seminar** - Hosted by the Montana Aviation Conference from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center. For details visit: [www.aopa.org/community/events/2017/march/04/rusty-pilots-hosted-by-the-montana-aviation-conference](http://www.aopa.org/community/events/2017/march/04/rusty-pilots-hosted-by-the-montana-aviation-conference).

**March 6-12, 2017 - Women of Aviation Worldwide Week** - Fly It Forward flights for girls of any age, in celebration of the first pilot certificate issued to a woman, French pilot Raymode de Loroche, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1910. For details, <http://www.womenofaviationweek.org/compete/fly-it-forward-challenge/>.

**April 15, 2017 - Aviation Art Contest** - Deadline for all submissions. For more information visit our website at [www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation) or call our main office at (406) 444-2506.

**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](mailto: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 Air Show. For more details visit: [www.wingsandwheelsairshow.com](http://www.wingsandwheelsairshow.com), call Choice Aviation at (406) 363-6471.

**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



**REGISTER NOW**

## 2017 Aircraft Registration Deadline March 1st, 2017

**Aircraft Registration:** Montana uses a simple fee structure in lieu of tax for the annual aircraft registration, based on the type and age of the aircraft. Aircraft customarily kept in Montana must be registered on or before March 1st of each year. Late registrations are subject to a penalty of five times the fee, in addition to the fee itself. If your aircraft has been sold, is dismantled, or otherwise unflyable, check the appropriate box on your registration invoice, sign and return it to MDT Aeronautics Division before March 1, 2017. Second notices were mailed in early February. **Please mail your aircraft registrations in by March 1st, 2017 to avoid late penalty fees.**

**Pilot Registration:** The annual pilot registration fee of \$10 goes to support the many clinics and programs of the MDT Aeronautics Division, including the Winter Survival Clinic, Aviation Career Exploration Academy, Aviation Art Contest, and the Aeronautics Resource Library. Registering pilots will receive a 2017 Montana airport directory and the monthly newsletter, *Montana and the Sky*. The information collected on pilot registration cards becomes invaluable in the event of search and rescue operations. Pilots interested in volunteering as search pilots and spotters may so indicate this on their registration card.

Aeronautics staff have been working hard to process over 4,400 pilot and aircraft registrations. If you have mailed your pilot and aircraft registration to the Aeronautics office and have not received your pilot registration card and airport directory or aircraft decal in the mail, please contact our office. For more information or questions, please contact the MDT Aeronautics Division's main office at (406) 444-2506. **We thank you for your patience during this busy time.**

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.

**Aeronautics Division**  
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## **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](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero) for more information.