

# Montana and the Sky



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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June 2017

## Montana Seaplane Pilots Association Spring Splash-In

Members of the Montana Seaplane Pilots Association gathered at Lee's Landing on May 20<sup>th</sup> for their Spring Splash-In. About 20 MSPA members attended the annual event on the lower Flathead River. More Splash-Ins are planned throughout the year, and interested pilots should check <http://www.mtseaplanes.org/> for schedule updates and membership information.



Above, Pilot/owner Perry Chin of Kalispell was at the controls of N774HF, a SeaRey Elite, on the day of the Splash-In. Photo Credit: Jeff Scholl

Above, N20969, a 1976 Cessna 185 amphibian, owned by Bob and JoAnn Kemble of St. Ignatius, makes a nice takeoff from the waters of the lower Flathead River near Lee's Landing. Photo Credit: Jeff Scholl

# Administrator's Column

**Powder River Military Operations Area (MOA) Large Scale Exercise:** An upcoming exercise is scheduled for June 27 to June 29, 2017. Combat Raider, a large force exercise (LFE) involving various military aircraft, is scheduled to begin June 27 in the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC), and will conclude June 29, 2017. These LFEs provide joint and coalition training under realistic scenarios that support full spectrum operations against modern threats and replicate today's combat operations. During this period, people living under the following PRTC MOA's can expect to see multiple types of aircraft utilizing the areas simultaneously: Powder River One, Two, Three, Four and Gaps A, B and C. 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. People living under the following PRTC MOA's military operations areas may be affected: Powder River Two, Three and Gap B. A map of the airspace can be found at: <http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/Portals/146/documents/AFD-151103-009.pdf>. The Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for the exercise, issued by the FAA 72 hours prior to its start, will act as the final official notice.

**White House Budget Released:** a look at the budget shows a plan to cut \$300 million from the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) funding in the short term, to rework the tax structure and provide for a user-funded independent air traffic control (ATC) organization that includes many provisions from the proposal by the House last year. The Essential Air Service (EAS) program would be cut, but not eliminated, with annual appropriations eliminated and the overflight fees continuing to be available for a reformed rural air service program. Basically, this would reduce the program from \$254 million to \$119 million. Under the proposal, airline transportation taxes would be eliminated, but other aviation excise taxes would remain—at a rate to be determined. The other taxes would help cover the costs of the remaining portions of the FAA, including its safety and certification functions and the Airport Improvement Program, which would remain at its current level. It will also raise the airline passenger security fees to \$6.60 per one-way trip, which would generate \$530 million for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). FAA funding expires in September and it is expected that markup of the FAA reauthorization legislation will begin this month.

**BasicMed = 5,000+ pilots:** In just a little more than two weeks, more than 5,000 pilots have taken advantage of the new medical certification alternative. Comments regarding BasicMed have been overwhelmingly positive. If you are one of the 5,000 pilots that have recertified under BasicMed, OR if you have experienced any kind of issue trying to recertify, let us hear from you.

**Recreational Drone Registry Ruling:** The US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit struck down FAA's rule, finalized in 2015, requiring all Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) owners to register with the agency before operating their UAS in public airspace. The ruling does not apply to commercial UAS operators – only recreational drone owners. Since 2015, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) sales have exploded and some 760,000 hobbyists have registered more than 1.6 million drones with the Federal registry. FAA's own estimates predict hobbyists will purchase an additional 2.3 million UAVs in 2017 and as many as 13 million by 2021. The court stated: "The 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act provides that the FAA 'may not promulgate any rule or regulation regarding a model aircraft,' yet the FAA's 2015 Registration Rule is a 'rule or regulation regarding a model aircraft.' Statutory interpretation does not get much simpler. The Registration Rule is unlawful as applied to model aircraft." The FAA is considering its options and response to the decision. For those that have registered with the FAA, stand by as answers come from the FAA.



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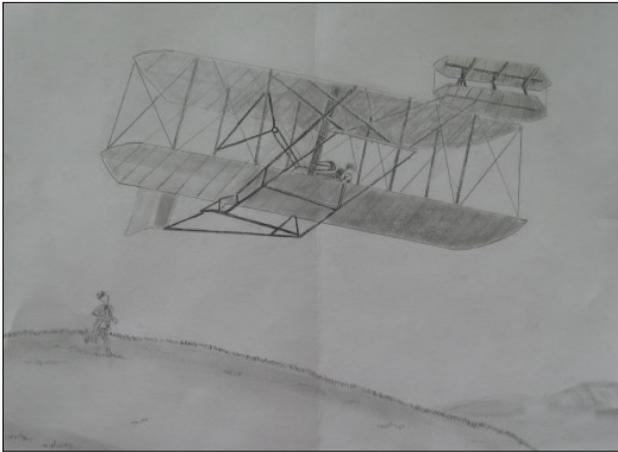
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# 2017 Aviation Awareness Art Contest

## 2nd & 3rd Place Winners

### Category I, Elementary school students grades K-5



*Brynn Ryan of Jordan, 2nd place winner in Category I.*

### Category II, Middle school students grades 6-8



*Andrew Thennis of Montana City, 3rd place winner in Category II.*



*Alex Hudson of Kalispell, 3rd place winner in Category I.*

### Category III, High school students grades 9-12



*Allen Simpson of Raynesford, 2nd place winner in Category III.*

### Category II, Middle school students grades 6-8



*Ava Sneddon of Billings, 2nd place winner in Category II.*



*Star Davis of Kalispell, 3rd place winner in Category III.*

# Yellowstone Airport Hosts Field Trip

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, the Yellowstone Airport (WYS) hosted their annual aviation field trip day for West Yellowstone School first and fourth grade classes. The students spent half a day learning about different types of aircraft and the many elements that it takes to run an airport like WYS. The field trip was split into two parts: an airport terminal tour and an activity rotation.

First, students toured the SkyWest Airlines ticket counter, where ticket agents explained how checked luggage is processed. Much to the student's delight they weighed themselves before receiving their "pilot wings" pin. Second, students experienced going through airport security. Transportation Security Administration Agents (TSA) scanned students through the metal detector and showed them how various items appear on the x-ray machine screens. The final stop on the tour was to Air Idaho's rescue helicopter, where they learned about why a person might need to be evacuated by helicopter and how they are cared for until they arrive at a hospital. Students asked questions and were allowed to sit in the cockpit.



WYS school 1st grade students with medic Bret Smith.

During the second portion of the field trip, students had hands on experience while they rotated through four activities at the airport fire station. Students climbed through the airport firetruck, tried the controls of a Cessna 206 aircraft, flew an aircraft of their choice using a flight simulator, and built their own airfoil and tested it's design in the wind tunnel.



WYS school 5th grade students create and test an airfoil.

There were smiles all around, and several comments were made about wanting to become a pilot in the future. Overall, a great time was had by all!



Above, Yellowstone Airport staff and Harold Dramstad, MDT Aeronautics Safety & Education Bureau Chief, pose with West Yellowstone School's first grade class under the wing of MDT Aeronautics' Cessna 206.

## Yellowstone Airport Welcomes Summer Intern!

The Yellowstone Airport staff is excited to welcome Gwen Satterfield as the newest member of their team. She is filling the summer airport management internship position at Yellowstone Airport. Gwen is a senior at Rocky Mountain College in Billings where she is pursuing degrees in both aviation management and technical theater. She acknowledges that those make for a rather odd combination, but both aviation and theater have played significant roles in her life since she was very young.

This will be Gwen's first job in the aviation industry and she feels extremely lucky to have this extraordinary learning opportunity. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Gwen is excited to spend her summer at an airport so close to one of her favorite national parks and experience life on the western side of Montana. Gwen is enthusiastic about joining the Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics team and eager to further her knowledge, experience, and career in airport management while serving the aviation and local community.



## New Picnic Table Shelter Constructed at Lincoln Airport (S69)



A new picnic table shelter was recently completed at the Lincoln Airport. It is located where the old fire-ring was near the bicycle shack and main restroom. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped complete the project, and in particular, Mr. Doug Vulcan of Lincoln who offered up his carpenter expertise.

**Jerry Cain**  
**Lonnie Cox**  
**Bob Frank-Plumlee**  
**Dan Gilmore**  
**Jerry Hover**  
**Ben Prince**  
**Jim Rauber**  
**Charlie Sherman**  
**Doug Vulcan**



*A new sign on the Lincoln Airport bicycle shed makes it easy to locate and access bicycles for a two mile ride to town for meals and lodging.*

## Work Completed at Spotted Bear (8U4)

The weather for the Spotted Bear work session was somewhat abnormal this year, as it was clear and sunny all weekend. Four airplanes and five campers showed up for the work session on May 27, 2017, with 17 to 20 hard-working volunteers. Some of the maintenance items attended to included; painting, changing hinges on the outhouse, changing windsocks, rolling the runway, and a host of other items. Perry Brown cooked a delicious steak for lunch provided by the Flathead Montana Pilots Association hangar. Thanks to all for their hard work to maintain these backcountry airstrips.



*Volunteers Perry Brown of Columbia Falls (L), Zack Anderson of Bigfork (M), and Chris Morton of Kalispell work on outhouse.*



*Volunteer Kevin Gibson smooths the runway at Spotted Bear.*

**Lincoln Airport (S69) Open House and BBQ**  
**July 22, 2017 11:00 a.m. to 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 [jcain@theraf.org](mailto:jcain@theraf.org) for more information.

# Calendar of Events

**June 15, 2017 – Del Bonita** work session will begin at 9:00 a.m. For further information, contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or email [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

**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](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

**June 17, 2017 - Plains Airport (Penn Stohr) Field (S34) Fly-In Breakfast** - from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Sponsored by the Montana Pilot's Association, Sanders County Hangar. For information, contact Randy Garrison at (406) 370-6179.

**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 aircraft display, and airshow. This year's airshow will feature Legacy Air Museum and Power Addiction Air Show. For more details, call Choice Aviation at (406) 363-6471 or visit [www.wingsandwheelsairshow.com](http://www.wingsandwheelsairshow.com).

**June 24, 2017 – Rocky Mountain College Flight Team Fly-In – Laurel Airport**, Northern Skies Ramp. Breakfast at 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](mailto:sam@mtchemnet.com).

**June 24, 2017 - Fly-In Breakfast at Round Up Airport (RPX)** - from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information contact Doug Parrott at (406) 323-1662.

**June 24, 2017 - Big Horn County Airport Fly-In** - in Hardin to coincide with the anniversary of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. For information, contact Ed Auker at (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 and Light Sport aircraft sponsored by EAA Chapter 344 at Townsend Airport. Breakfast served 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Young Eagles flights 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For more information, contact Neil Salmi at (406) 980-0544, and for Young Eagles flight information, contact Lance Seaman at (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](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

**July 15, 2017 – Jim Bridger Fly-In & Celebration Days**- Breakfast will be 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and the fly-in is held in conjunction with Jim Bridger days that will be going on in the town of Bridger. For information contact Merrill Pfeifer at (406) 425-4218.

**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, Airport (S69) from 11:00 a.m. to 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 [jcain@theraf.org](mailto:jcain@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 at (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 at (406) 791-0159.

**August 13, 2017- Hysham (6U7) Fly-In** - The Hysham Airport fly-in and drive-in will be on Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> 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 airplane show and shine Saturday. Concessions onsite Saturday. Call Roy at (406) 450-1078 for more information.

**September 8-10, 2017-Search Pilot Clinic**, the 2017 MDT Aeronautics Search Pilot Clinic will be conducted at the Fort Peck Airport, 37S. For more information contact Harold Dramstad at (406) 444-9568.

Calendar of Events Continued from page 7.

**September 9, 2017 - Polson Fly-In Breakfast** - From 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Courtesy of EAA, Chapter 1122. For more information, contact Joe Kuberka at (719) 393-5550.

## Mr. Randall Reynolds Remembered

Long-time Helena air traffic controller, Randall Reynolds, passed away on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, after a 5-year battle with leukemia. Randall was born in Coeur d'Alene, ID on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1947. His career as a controller began when he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he received his initial training in Mississippi, and served in Vietnam and South Korea. Upon his honorable discharge from the Army in 1976, Randall took a position as an air traffic controller with the FAA. He returned to military service in 1987 when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Upon his retirement from combined military service in 1998, Randall was rehired with the FAA as a controller. He worked as a controller in Helena from 1998 until his retirement in 2013. Randall will be remembered by pilots as a friendly, skilled, professional controller. He enjoyed his work as an air traffic controller, and was amazed that he could make money for doing what he loved. It was not uncommon for him to greet the regulars on frequency by first name, as well as by tail number. Randall is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sherry; his daughter Kecia and son Kelley (Becki); grandchildren Alastair, Iola, Emily, and Katie; his brother Butch and sister, Vicki, and many nieces and nephews.



*Butte pilot and District 13 Co-coordinator Joy Coldiron at the controls of N64441 owned by Vetter Aviation of Helena, following a recent proficiency flight in the Helena area.*

## New District Search Coordinators Named

The MDT Aeronautics Division is pleased to announce the pilots who have stepped up to fill volunteer search coordinator roles in districts across the state. Joy Coldiron joins District 13 Search Coordinator, Jonathan Bodine, in Butte as the co-coordinator. Lanny Hanson, in

Glasgow will move to the co-coordinator position in District 7 as Russell Leader, of Leader Aviation, will become Coordinator. Donald Hartrich, an instrument-rated commercial pilot and flight instructor, joins Coordinator Pete Smith in Lewistown as District 6 co-coordinator. Our volunteer search coordinators play a critical role in the air search and rescue system in Montana, and deserve a hearty THANK YOU!.

A promotional poster for a fly-in event. At the top, a green banner reads "RMC - FLY IN". Below it is a photograph of a white and black twin-engine aircraft on a runway. The text below the photo reads: "ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE FLIGHT TEAM IS HOSTING A FLY IN AT LAUREL AIRPORT (6S8) NORTHERN SKIES HANGER JUNE 24TH". Further down, it lists: "Breakfast starts at 8:00 am", "Competition Flying Events start at 9:00 am", "All pilots are invited to compete in the Power off 180 spot landing and Message Drop events.", and "Questions??? Contact Coach Sam at 406.861.1170". At the bottom, there are three smaller images: a small plane on a runway, the Rocky Mountain College logo (a green bear head), and an aerial view of an airport runway.

## Loan & Grant Applications for FY 2019

Please be advised that MDT Aeronautics Division must receive a [Closeout Status form](#) for any outstanding projects from FY 2017 before access will be granted to the FY 2019 online Loan and Grant application system. For further information, contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or by email at [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

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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.

**VISION ZERO**  
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION