

# Montana and the Sky



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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April 2019

## ***35th Annual Montana Aviation Conference Held at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort February 28 - March 2, 2019***

The 35th Annual Montana Aviation Conference, hosted by the Butte Conference Committee, was a success. Hundreds of aviation enthusiasts gathered at the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort February 28—March 2, 2019. Conference attendees had the privilege of listening to many interesting, unique and educational speakers, as well as attending business meetings, an Inspection Authorization (IA) renewal seminar, a student aviation career presentation, an aircraft static display, scholarship award presentations, social gatherings and exploring exhibitor displays. The conference hosted keynote speakers Jeff Boerboon, builder of the Yak-110 aircraft, John Tubbs, Director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and aviation enthusiast, and Sarah Rhoads, Director of Amazon Air.

Jeff Boerboon opened the kick-off luncheon on Thursday, February 28. Jeff talked about the invention of the Yak-110 aircraft and gave a detailed account of its conception to completion. The Yak-110 aircraft was constructed by joining two Yak-55 fuselages and a jet engine mounted in between. Jeff flew the public debut of this unique aircraft at the 2018 Experimental Aircraft Association show in Oshkosh, WI.

Friday's luncheon speaker, John Tubbs, spoke of his love of Montana, enthusiasm for aviation, and the historic account of the Mann Gulch fire at the Gates of the Mountains, just 20 miles north of Helena. The very aircraft that transported the team of smokejumpers who lost their lives at Mann Gulch on August 4, 1949, is the same 1944 Douglas DC-3, N24320 now known as Miss Montana housed at the Museum of Mountain Flying in Missoula. Efforts are being made to make Miss Montana airworthy, so that she can join the D-Day Squadron and the Daks Over Normandy on June 6, 2019, in commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day.

A highlight for many at the three-day gathering was the keynote address delivered by Sarah Rhoads at the Saturday banquet. Ms. Rhoads, a Butte native, spoke of her "12 Seconds of Grit" experience while landing a F-18 Tomcat on an aircraft carrier in difficult conditions. Sarah related this to the aviation conference theme of "12 Seconds in Common." She also spoke of the Wright Brothers and their sister's contribution to aviation.



Montana Aviation Conference keynote speakers, left to right, Jeff Boerboon, John Tubbs, and Sarah Rhoads

# **Thank You**

## **for a Successful 2019**

## **Montana Aviation Conference**

### **Conference Committee Members**

Rick Griffith, Co-Chair, MAAA

Pam Chamberlin, Co-Chair, Bert Mooney Airport, MAMA

Alan Eliason, MAAA

Peter Gross, MTSPA

John Maxness, MATA

Ben Racicot, Bert Mooney Airport, MAMA

Tom Schoenleben, EAA and MPA

Janine Schwahn, MT 99s

### **Scholarship Sponsors**

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Bob Redding Memorial Scholarship

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EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship

Edwards Jet Center Scholarship

Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship

Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship

Montana Pilots Association Air Safety and Education Foundation (MPA ASEF) Flight Training Scholarship

Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship

Parrott Family Scholarship

Theresa (Nistler) Colley Scholarship

Tyler Orsow and Chuck Kimes Forever Flying Scholarship

### **Special Thanks**

Harrison Nicoll for the program artwork

Morrison-Maierle, Inc. for the conference signs

Butte Aviation for the use of their hangar for the aircraft static display

City Service Valcon/Phillips 66 Aviation for hosting the Thursday evening Exhibitor Award Kick-Off Event



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# 2019 Montana Aircraft Mechanic Refresher & Inspection Authorization Renewal Seminar



On Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2, MDT Aeronautics presented a Mechanic Refresher and Inspection Authorization (IA) renewal seminar as part of the Annual Montana Aviation Conference. This FAA-approved seminar provided up to 16 hours of required training and Completion Certificates for Airframe and Powerplant mechanics holding an IA.

Eleven speakers presented invaluable information on a variety of topics: misfuelling and fuel handling, accident investigation, tool calibration, lubrication, Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B), and a wide range of aircraft systems. FAA representatives were on hand to provide information on rules, regulations, answer questions, provide additional resources, and process IA renewal certificates.

MDT Aeronautics Division would like to thank all the mechanics and speakers that braved the severe cold and snow to participate in this year's seminar. More than 50 IAs received completion certificates used to satisfy the requirements of CFR §65.93.

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## Laurel Municipal Airport Authority & KLJ Engineering Receive Recognition Award at FAA Northwest Mountain Region Airports Conference

On March 20, 2019, the Laurel Airport Authority and KLJ Engineering were recognized for their significant support and dedication in the relocation of crosswind runway 14/32. The Laurel Airport Authority began planning for the relocation of crosswind runway 14/32 over 14 years ago. As with many local authorities, Laurel Airport Authority is composed primarily of volunteers resulting in limited personnel and financial resources.

In 2004, it was determined the original crosswind runway was not only in poor condition, but located in a fashion needing correction. Some of the challenges associated with the original location included terrain to the north, displaced threshold on the south end due to its proximity to a local road, as well as an inadequate runway protection zone on the southern end. These concerns made it unfeasible to bring the existing runway up to FAA Standards.

The planning efforts necessary to relocate the crosswind runway were addressed with an Update Master Plan Study grant in 2004 with a total cost of \$103,445 (local investment of \$10,345). The environmental analysis of the proposed runway relocation was originally accomplished under a Conduct Environmental Study in 2008 with a total cost of \$181,272 (local investment of \$18,128).

Land acquisition for the relocated runway took place in 2016 with total cost of \$206,489 (local investment of \$20,649). The final design and construction efforts occurred over a series of three grants from 2016 through 2017 with a total cost of \$4,173,277 (local investment of \$417,328).

The end result of these efforts was the September 15, 2018, opening of relocated crosswind runway 14/32. Laurel airport celebrated the runway opening and long-time supporter Dr. John Smith. As the Laurel Airport Authority Chairman, Dr. Smith carried the torch as various locations were analyzed and construction efforts were underway. Dr. Smith, a Laurel native, has retired after many years of leadership and dedication. He served on the Laurel Airport Authority board for 50 years, 48 of which he chaired.

Congratulations to KLJ and the Laurel Airport Authority for the tremendous effort in developing FAA-compliant crosswind runway 14/32 .

# 1929 Northrup Primary Glider Built by Billings High School Students



Billings high school student Taryn Vestal is ready for flight in the 1929 Northrup Primary Glider. Photo Credit: Patrick Kenney

By Patrick Kenney

Ben Steele Middle School in Billings has a new addition to its commons, a 1929 Northrup Primary Glider. The project started in 2016 under the guidance of Patrick Kenney, Ben Steele Middle School science teacher, and Jerry Scherer, whose son, Riley, was the first to sign up. The aircraft was built in twenty-three months by twenty-seven students ranging from grades 8 through 12 with a total construction time of 1200 hours.

Built in EAA Chapter 57's hangar, the project was officially kicked off in the fall of 2016 by Colonel Frank Borman who spoke with students and parents about his Gemini and Apollo flights and the attributes required of such an endeavor. A short article followed in Sport Aviation magazine which grabbed the attention of Kit Carson of Everett, Washington, who had built the same glider outside of Columbus, Ohio, in 1932 when he and his brother were 12 years old. After teaching

themselves how to fly by being towed aloft by their mother, Kit went on to fly B-17s during the war and became Chief Training Pilot for Boeing on 747s. At age 95, Kit traveled to Billings in the Spring of 2016 to see the glider and meet the students and their parents.

The aircraft was officially presented to Mrs. Steele and her family in 2018 and hung thereafter in the commons at the new Ben Steele Middle School. Built as a tribute to Ben Steele, who served with the 5th AF, 19th BG, and who was a survivor of the Bataan Death March, the glider also pays tribute to all who served in the Army Air Corp/Air Force during World War II.

This is the fifth aircraft to be built by students in EAA Chapter 57's hangar and tentative plans are underway for a sixth student project, a 1935 Boeing 306B.



This 800- square-foot mural hangs behind the 1929 Northrup glider in the new Ben Steele Middle School commons listing the names of all the builders, the seventeen community sponsors, and visually depicting the builders construction process while also paying tribute to Colonel Borman, Kit Carson, and Ben Steele. Photo Credit: Patrick Kenney

# What to Do After an Aircraft Accident or Incident

Most pilots will never be involved in an accident or an incident involving an aircraft. However, flying is not without the risk of having an accident or an incident that could lead to aircraft damage or worse.

- ◆ There are some basic steps you should take after an incident or accident:
- ◆ Report the accident. As soon as possible, the accident needs to be reported to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and National Transportation Board (NTSB). Lastly, inform your insurance carrier.
- ◆ Capture the event area and damage. Photograph the damage and surrounding area in the greatest detail you can. Write a statement to describe your recollection of events to the best of your knowledge as soon as you can while the event is still fresh in your mind. You should have all your passengers write statements as well.
- ◆ Protect your aircraft from further damage. Depending upon the seriousness of the accident or incident, you may or may not be able to move your plane right away. However, no matter what the situation is, you will need to protect your aircraft from further damage. Grazing animals can often will rub against a disabled aircraft and cause additional structural damage, or a dust devil could pick up your plane.
- ◆ Cooperate with investigators. If you want to get back in the sky earlier rather than later, you will need to cooperate and work with the FAA, NTSB, and your insurance carrier. Their focus is to figure out how and why this happened and how they can prevent it from happening to you or anyone else in the future.
- ◆ Try not to speak about the incident with anyone, other than your representative, until the investigations are complete. Refrain from posting pictures or your accounts on social media sites and blogs.
- ◆ Consider this a learning experience. After the repairs are done, ask yourself what you need to do differently. In other words, ask yourself whether you need more training or perhaps you need to pay more attention to aircraft maintenance. The FAA inspector assigned to you will help you with this process.
- ◆ Contact a local FAA Safety Team Representative in your area and begin counseling. Focus on the details relating to the incident and be sure to log the instruction.
- ◆ You will likely be eligible for the FAA's Compliance Philosophy. Remember to read up on your Pilot's Bill of Rights. File a National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Aviation Safety Reporting System (NASA-ASRS) report if eligible.
- ◆ An accident or incident involving an aircraft can be overwhelming and emotional. Reach out to the Aircraft Owner and Pilots Association (AOPA) and a local Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team (FAAST) Representative in your area to guide and counsel you.



The 2019 Aviation Career Exploration Academy for high school students will be conducted in Helena on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The two-day resident camp will immerse students in wide-ranging aspects of aeronautics that will include flights in general aviation airplanes. Other activities may include a tour of a state-of-the-art aerospace manufacturing facility, a visit to a hangar where aircraft are restored, and visits to a static Boeing 727 flight deck, the Army Aviation Helicopter squadron, an air traffic control tower, and the aviation maintenance technician program at Helena College. Cost of the academy is \$120 and includes all meals and double occupancy lodging. For registration form visit [www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml). Contact Patricia Trooien for questions at 406-444-2506 or [ptrooien@mt.gov](mailto:ptrooien@mt.gov)



*Hangar construction as of March 2019*

*Photo Credit: Mike Cunningham*

## Great Falls FBO Gets New Name

Under the new ownership of Eagle Jet Solutions, Front Range Aviation at the Great Falls Airport has changed its name to Great Falls Jet Center. Great Falls Jet Center also is expanding its facilities.

The FBO is building a new 40,000-square-foot hangar with a 45-foot-tall door and the ability to accommodate an aircraft as large as a 737. The new facility is scheduled to be completed spring of 2019 and will be the largest private hangar in Montana, company officials note. It is the first development on a 20-acre aviation park being developed by the Great Falls Airport.

## Ben Steele Middle School Students Build Wind Tunnels



*One of three wind tunnels built by Ben Steele Middle School students Photo Credit: Patrick Kenney*

*By Patrick Kenney*

On the heels of the 1929 Northrup Glider, students at Ben Steele Middle School received a large grant from BNSF Railroad to build wind tunnels for use in their school. Accordingly, construction started in November of 2018 to build three wind tunnels; one for Tech Ed to test CO<sub>2</sub> cars, one for flight to test their balsa wood gliders, and a replica of the Wright Brothers Tunnel for high school students to use the original lift balance design. Overseen by Ben Steele Middle School Science Teacher Patrick Kenney, and working out of EAA Chapter 57's hangar, twelve Ben Steele Middle School students have been hard at work building the tunnels which are 11.5 feet long, flow 5500 cfm, and are equipped with smoke to illustrate the airflow. The students are on the buddy system and work three to four nights a week on the tunnels. At times, six to eight students are working on the tunnels, and their craftsmanship and attention to detail is superb. All three tunnels will be completed by May of this year.

# Calendar of Events

**May 1, 2019 – Powder River Council (PRC) Meeting.** Held at the Bismarck Aero Center, Bismarck, N.D. at 9:00 a.m. to discuss issues related to Powder River Training Complex operations. Lunch and refreshments will be provided by the North Dakota Aviation Council. A call-in option will be available. For more information call (406) 444-2506 or email [ptrooien@mt.gov](mailto:ptrooien@mt.gov).

**June 1, 2019 — MSU Flying Bobcats Annual Reunion.** Starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Pilots Pavilion at the Bozeman airport. Contact Rich Owen at [rowen@itstriangle.com](mailto:rowen@itstriangle.com), call (406) 737-4375 or (406) 868-1763.

**June 15, 2019 — 3rd Annual Wings & Wheels Car Show & Fly-In.** Presented by Sanders County Pilot Association at Plains Airport (S34) from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. FREE fun for the whole family includes antique and modern airplanes, Remote Control (RC) plane exhibit, vintage cars & trucks, pilot games, kids games with prizes and aviation displays. Pancake and ham breakfast \$5 per person. For more information contact 406-529-4059.

**June 25-26, 2019 — Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy.** Program geared toward high school students interested in aviation. For registration form visit [www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml). For more information call (406) 444-2506 or email [ptrooien@mt.gov](mailto:ptrooien@mt.gov).

**June 29-30, 2019 — Nelson Airstrip MT 58 Fly-In BBQ/Camping.** Enjoy live music Saturday, pancake breakfast Sunday morning. Shuttle from MT58 to Fort Peck lake. Bus and boat rides to Rock Creek Marina available. For more information contact Russell Leader at (406) 696-5169 or Russell Dahl at (406) 263-7821.

**July 20- 21, 2019 — Annual St. Ignatius (52S) BBQ & Huckleberry Pancake Fly-In Breakfast.** BBQ on Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Breakfast from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This free event is sponsored by the EAA Chapter 1122. For more information, contact Michael Kuefler at (406) 544-2274.

## Scenic Montana License Plate Benefits Montana Pilots Association

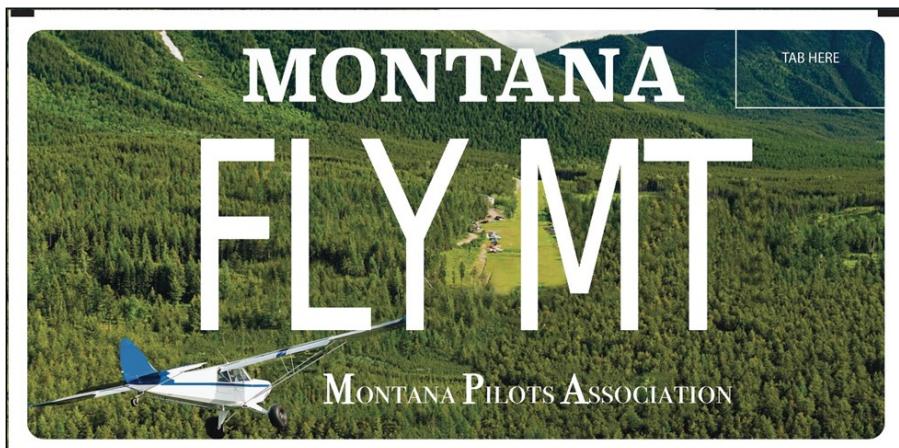
By Carmine Mowbray

Your next vehicle license plate could display a stunning photo of a Husky approaching Ryan Field and benefit Montana Pilots Association (MPA). Please consider selecting this plate as it benefits the MPA's aviation scholarship funds and efforts to preserve and maintain Montana airstrips.

The initial cost is \$40 of which \$20 goes to MPA with \$20 to cover production and administration; renewals cost only a \$20 donation fee. You may have to ask specifically for the "Montana Pilots Association Air Safety Education Foundation plate" since it's new and not all counties have it displayed. (It's not to be confused with the EAA plate, also available.)

This "vanity plate" will accommodate up to six characters including spaces. Regardless of your renewal date, you may re-register your vehicle(s) now. You retain the original renewal date and the benefit of any remaining tax and fees, so you are encouraged to act now and show your pride as a Montana pilot everywhere you drive.

MPA past president Scott Newpower completed the required application to establish the new plate. For the background image, the MPA board selected the photo by George Kounis of *Pilot Getaways* magazine.



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**VISION ZERO**

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

**April 2019**

5403

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Helena, Montana 59620-0507



## **Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone**

In 2018, there were 181 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 181 parents, children, grandparents, friends, siblings, spouses, and other loved ones had lives that were cut short. It also means countless tears and shattered lives for 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 2018 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  
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