

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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June 2019

## Funding Aviation in Montana



Photo Credit: The Library at Washington & Lee University School of Law

House Bill 661 was signed into law by Governor Steve Bullock on May 10, 2019, after a rollercoaster ride through the legislative process. The bill was conceived by a group of aviators that came to be known as “Pilots for Montana Airports.” The group of volunteers was formed with the sole purpose of finding a solution for aviation funding in Montana and was comprised of Jerry Cain (Lincoln), John McKenna (Bozeman), Walt McNutt (Sidney), Carmine Mowbry (Seeley Lake), Doug Phair (Miles City), Pete Smith (Lewistown) and Terry Spath (Lincoln). The bill was introduced and sponsored by Representative Geraldine Custer of Forsyth and carried in the Senate by Senator Duane Ankney of Colstrip.

The bill, in its original form, would have provided funding as follows: 1) increase the aviation fuel tax from 4¢ per gallon to 14¢ per gallon distributed as 2¢ to Aeronautics operations, 8¢ to the airport improvement grant fund, and 4¢ to a new education fund; 2) repeal the ½¢ per gallon allocation paid by the scheduled passenger carrying airlines for the pavement preservation fund; 3) repeal the 2¢ per gallon rebate to scheduled passenger carrying airlines; 4) change the distribution of aircraft registration fees from 90% to the general fund and 10% to Aeronautics operations to 30% to the

general fund and 70% to Aeronautics operations.

The bill got a late start in the session but was introduced in the House on March 13 and then referred to House Transportation. The House Transportation hearing was held on March 20 and included spirited testimony from proponents and opponents alike. The bill was amended in House Transportation to provide funding as follows: 1) increase the aviation fuel tax from 4¢ per gallon to 6.5¢ per gallon distributed as 2¢ to Aeronautics operations and 4.5¢ to the airport improvement grant fund; 2) repeal the ½¢ per gallon allocation paid by the scheduled passenger carrying airlines for the pavement preservation fund; 3) repeal 1¢ per gallon rebate to scheduled passenger carrying airlines beginning July 1, 2021; 4) increase aircraft registration fees by 50%; 5) change the distribution of aircraft registration fees from 90% to the general fund and 10% to Aeronautics operations to 30% to the general fund and 70% to Aeronautics operations.

The full House heard 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on March 28 where an amendment to further change the funding was defeated and the bill passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 71-29. The bill passed 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on March 30 (only one day before the transmittal deadline) by a vote of 70-28 and moved to the Senate.

The bill was referred to the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee on April 4 and a hearing was held on April 9. Like the House hearing, the hearing was attended by a strong showing of both opponents and proponents. The bill was amended in Senate Highways and Transportation to provide funding as follows: 1) increase the aviation fuel tax from 4¢ per gallon to 5¢ per gallon distributed as ½¢ to Aeronautics operations and 4.5¢ to the airport improvement grant fund; 2) repeal the ½¢ per gallon allocation paid by the scheduled passenger carrying airlines for the pavement preservation fund; 3) repeal the 2¢ per gallon rebate to scheduled passenger carrying airlines; 4) increase aircraft registration fees by 50%; 5) change the distribution of aircraft registration fees from 90% to the general fund and 10% to Aeronautics operations to 100% to Aeronautics operations.

On April 12, the bill was re-referred to the Senate Finance and Claims committee. The bill passed out of committee 6-4 but not before being amended yet another time with a provision to prohibit Aeronautics from retaining any money from the

increased revenue for administrative purposes.

The Senate heard 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on April 15 where yet another amendment to further change the funding was defeated and the bill passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 33-17. The bill passed 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on April 16 with a 30-20 vote and moved back to the House for concurrence of the amendments. Finally, on May 1, the bill was presented to the Governor for signature.

The legislation will become effective on July 1, 2019, and go a long way toward meeting the needs of Montana's airports. The last legislative funding increase was accomplished during the 1999 legislative session via Senate Bill 205 introduced by Senator Walt McNutt and carried by Representative Bob Pavlovich. Since then, revenues have remained relatively flat, but expenditures have steadily increased. The new law will increase the airport improvement grant fund by seven-fold and allow the Aeronautics Division to consider reinstating programs and services that have been reduced or suspended over the past several years in addition to considering the implementation of new programs and services. The Aeronautics Division staff intends to meet with industry enthusiasts to identify new areas of service to the Montana aviation community.

It's important to note, none of this would have been possible without the unbelievable dedication, commitment, and sacrifice by the Pilots for Montana Airports in conjunction with the many pilots and organizations who took the time to visit with their legislative representation. Once the bill hit the House on March 13, it was often a daily rollercoaster of anxiety and emotion as negotiations progressed, rumors surfaced, and amendments were passed. In the end, neither side got what it wanted, but perhaps that's the true measure of legislative success. If you see one of the Pilots for Montana Airports volunteers out and about, consider thanking them for their hard work to improve aviation in Montana.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

### Aviation Career Exploration Academy

June 25–26, 2019

**APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JUNE 12, 2019**



You can attend the 2019 Aviation Career Exploration Academy for **FREE**. We have scholarships available. Apply before the June 12th deadline. The Academy will be conducted in Helena on June 25 and 26, 2019. The two-day resident camp for high school students will immerse students in wide-ranging aspects of aeronautics.

Activities will include flights in general aviation airplanes, a general aviation fly-in, a static display at the Army Aviation Support Facility, and tours of the Helena air traffic control tower, the aviation maintenance technician program at Helena College, an agriculture spraying operation, and Montana Medical Transport/Exec Air.

The academy includes all meals and double occupancy lodging. Registration form and flyer can be found at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml>. Contact Patricia Trooien for questions at (406) 444-2506 or [ptrooien@mt.gov](mailto:ptrooien@mt.gov).



Tim Conway, Administrator

**Montana and the Sky**  
Department of Transportation

Steve Bullock, Governor  
Mike Tooley, Director

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Telephone - (406) 444-2506  
Fax - (406) 444-2519  
P.O. Box 200507  
Helena, MT 59620-0507  
[www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/)

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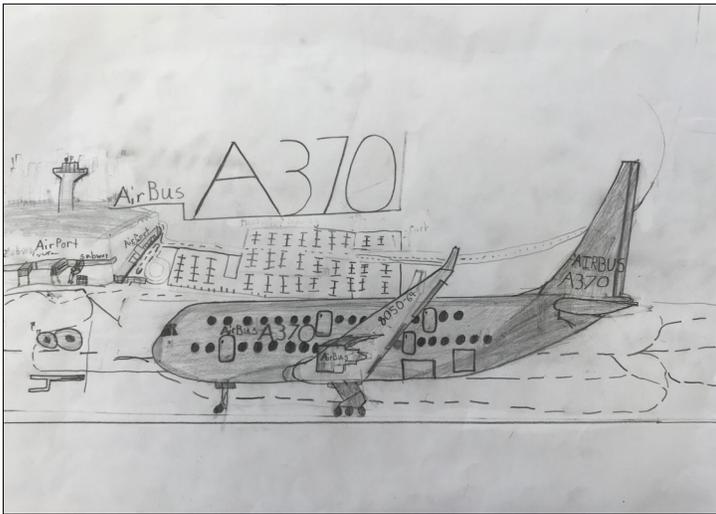
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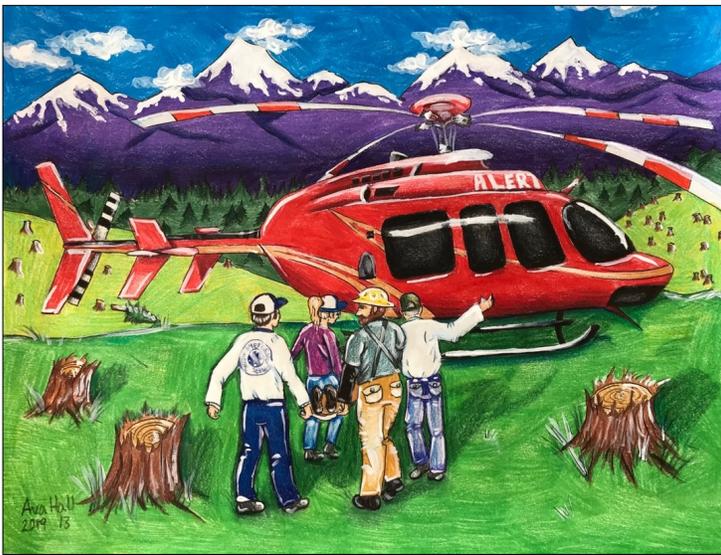
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# 2019 Aviation Awareness Art Contest



Sam Jacobson from Florence, MT, 1st Place Winner — Category I



Ava Hall from Bigfork, MT, 1st Place Winner — Category II



Amariah Hier from Lambert, MT, 1st Place Winner — Category III

Congratulations to this year's Aviation Awareness Art Contest 1st place winners: Sam Jacobson - Category I, Ava Hall - Category II and Amariah Hier - Category III. On May 3, 2019, winners and their families were flown to Helena to receive their awards at a ceremony held at the Capitol Building.

Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney, and Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division Administrator Tim Conway congratulated the winners at the award ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda. The winners were presented with a certificate, a trophy, and their framed artwork.

Following the ceremony winners and their families enjoyed lunch in downtown Helena. They were given a tour of the Helena Regional Airport by Airport Director Jeff Wadekamper before being flown back to their hometowns.

MDT Aeronautics Division programs, like the art contest, bring aviation and youth together so they might see and experience the impact Aeronautics has on careers, transportation, and the economy. Many winners of this contest have found successful careers in aviation.

See second and third place winners' artwork on page four. These winners also received certificates and trophies.



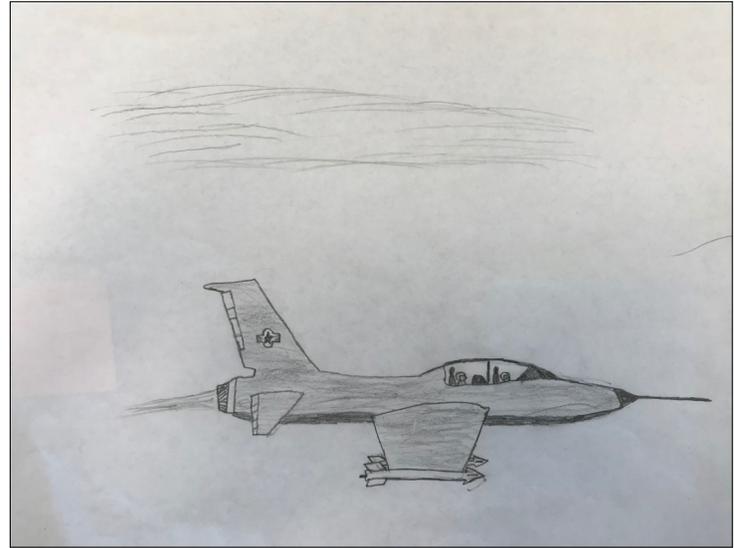
Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney (center) with art contest winners left to right, Amariah Hier, Sam Jacobson, and Ava Hall

# 2019 Aviation Awareness Art Contest Winners

Continued from page 3



Johnnie Schultz from Grass Range, MT, 2nd Place Winner — Category I



Robert Preston from Fairfield, MT, 3rd Place Winner — Category I



Jake Olson from Red Lodge, MT, 2nd Place Winner — Category II



Rakayle Hier from Lambert, MT, 2nd Place Winner — Category III



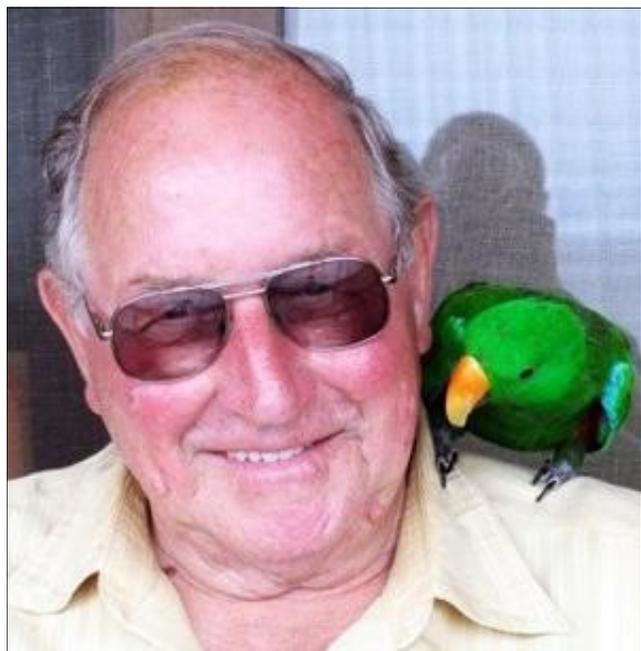
Kayley Denler from Montana City, MT, — 3rd Place Winner Category II

## Lisle Eugene Wood, 81

Lisle Eugene Wood (aka, Woody, Snooks) was born in Butte, Montana, on December 11, 1937, and “Flew Away Home” on February 28, 2019, surrounded by family and love ones. He was preceded in death by his father, Walter Albert Wood, his mother, Evelyn Lorene Mendenhall, and his stepmother, Ann M. Wood.

Lisle went to Hawthorne Elementary in Butte. He graduated from Butte High School in 1956, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Montana State College (now MSU) in 1961. Lisle enlisted in the U.S. Army/Army Reserve on December 12, 1955, and was discharged honorably on October 3, 1960.

Lisle is survived and cherished by his son Alex Lisle Wood, his son’s wife Jolene Loewen (of Butte and Missoula), Lisle’s precious daughter, Zoe Lisle Wood, of Butte and now La Cruz de Huanacastle, Mexico, Lisle’s grandson, Zachary Oakes (wife Monica), and great grandson, Carter Oakes, of Pandora, Ohio. His former wife and forever friend, Pauline (Wood) Thomas, resides in Cochrane, Alberta. Lisle is also survived and especially remembered by his brother, Donald A. Wood and Don’s wife, Betty (Truzilino) Wood, of Mission Viejo, California, nephew David Wood, David’s wife Stacey and Lisle’s lovely nieces,



*Lisle Eugen Wood*

*Photo Credit: Montana Standard*

Sandra Wood, Sharon Wood, Carole (Wood) Moss and Carole’s husband Ty Moss.

Lisle was employed by the Montana Power Company (MPC) for over 30 years and held many other jobs, including several years with the U.S. Forest Service. Hired as a draftsman with MPC, he was promoted into various management positions and retired as the Vice President of Administration of the MPC, Entech Division, in 1992.

Lisle was born with a desire to fly. His father taught him how to fly and repair an airplane at the same time he was learning how to walk. An early photograph shows one-year-old Lisle sitting on the wheel well of his father’s airplane at the Bert Mooney Airport. A more recent photo depicts Lisle, at age 81, standing in front of his prized 1945 J3 Piper Cub, carefully maintained and hangered at the same airport. He obtained a pilot’s certificate at a very early age and eventually became a flight instructor as well as a glider pilot. Lisle joined the Board of Directors of the Bert Mooney Airport in 2011, and he is memorialized, for being involved with the Butte airport for more than 80 years with the Lisle E. Wood Conference Room at the new Butte airport terminal. Lisle also had a major role in the restoration of the very first hanger on the Butte airport. That hanger was once occupied by Charles Lindbergh and his famous airplane “The Spirit of Saint Louis.”

Lisle was also an avid bird watcher who enjoyed searching for new species to add to his life list. Lisle’s love of flying was matched by his love for his great and lifelong friends, guitar music, “The Part Time Band,” preservation of Montana folklore, and the appreciation for the food and spirits unique to Butte. His knowledge of and appreciation for the history of his hometown made Lisle the ideal tour guide. His humor, compassion, and steadfast nature created friendships that endured decades of change. His positive influence on his family, friends, and the city of Butte, will last forever.

## Conrad Airport

The Conrad Airport has received several improvements during the last few years making it an attractive alternative to neighboring cities. Last year, six new T-hangars were constructed, and there are some large and small hangars still available for rent. Pondera County is willing to waive a month’s rent on a 12-month lease.

This summer the airport is installing an aboveground, self-service fuel farm with a 24-hour credit card reader. There is also a new airport beacon, courtesy car PAPI and GPS Instrument approach procedure.

Some of these projects were made possible because of assistance received from the Montana Aeronautics Grant and Loan program.



*Photo Credit: MDT Aeronautics*

# Three Montana Airports Selected to Receive Supplemental Funding

The FAA has awarded three Montana airports with “round two” Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Supplemental Appropriations. Big Sky Airport (KEKS near Ennis) was awarded \$9,300,000 to improve the taxiway and extend the runway; Ravalli County Airport (6S5 near Hamilton) was awarded \$11,800,000 to develop a new runway and taxiway; and Roundup Airport (KRPX near Roundup) was awarded \$3,800,000 to rehab all pavements and construct a parallel taxiway. The funding was made available when the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 on March 23, 2018, which provided an additional \$1 billion in discretionary grants to the \$3.31 billion that was funded for the AIP. The Act stipulated priority consideration to projects at: a) nonprimary airports that are classified as Regional, Local, or Basic airports and not located within a Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area as defined by the Office of Management and Budget; or (b) primary airports that are classified as Small or Nonhub airports. The money was awarded in two rounds with \$205 million awarded in round one last year and \$795 million awarded in round two. To be considered for “round two” funding, candidate airports had to be federal aid eligible and apply by October 31, 2018.

Most, if not all, of Montana’s federal aid airports will benefit from these three airports receiving a combined \$24.9 million in supplemental funding. This funding will ease the strain on the AIP distributions across the program and free up money for priority projects. Coincidentally, the success of HB661 is timely and the additional state-match money will be available to leverage these federal dollars at a ratio of 1 local dollar for every 9 federal dollars. Congratulations to the communities of Ennis, Hamilton, and Roundup for securing this additional funding.

## Calendar of Events

**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) or call (406) 737-4375 or (406) 868-1763.

**June 8, 2019 — Annual Montana Pilots Association Fly-In.** Come out for a world famous pancake breakfast from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Lewistown Municipal Airport (KLWT). There will be young eagle rides and a large number of Super Cubs, back-country, and other aircraft on display. For information contact Donald Hartrich at [donaldhartrich@gmail.com](mailto:donaldhartrich@gmail.com).

**June 8, 2019 — AOPA Rusty Pilots Seminar.** Blue Goose Aviation is hosting a Rusty Pilots Seminar at the Polson Airport from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Following the seminar take time to meet instructors, look at aircraft for rent, and enjoy a free burger. You may register for the Rusty Pilots seminar at [www.bluegooseaviation.com](http://www.bluegooseaviation.com). This is free to AOPA members; there is a charge for non-members. For more information contact Joe at (719) 393-5550.

**June 13, 2019 — Del Bonita/Flying Farmers of America Work Session.** For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or email [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov)

**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 15, 2019 — EAA's Helena Chapter 344 Annual Morrison Park "Burger Burn."** All aviation aficionados, including members of EAA, MPA and the general public, are invited to participate in this spring warm-up to the 2018 flying season from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Partake of a free hamburger or hot dog and soft drink while enjoying the friendly camaraderie of like-minded individuals. Morrison Park is located just east of the Helena College airport campus off Airport Road. Those who fly in may park in the southwest corner of the general aviation ramp, in the vicinity of ExecAir's hangars. For information contact Woody Hopley at (406) 433-3122 or email [jal747@me.com](mailto:jal747@me.com).

**June 15, 2019 — Twin Bridges Airport (7S1) Bi-Annual Fly-In & Car Show.** Please join us from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for our bi-annual fly-in at Twin Bridges Airport (7S1). Brunch begins at 11:00 a.m. and the day ends at 5:00 p.m. with a free BBQ dinner. We have gifts for all pilots who fly-in, cash prizes for the airplane that comes the furthest distance, the oldest airplane, and the plane voted people’s choice. Events throughout the day. Tent camping spots are available in our new park! For more information call Kendra at (406) 684-5335, email [kendra@rubyvalleyaviation.com](mailto:kendra@rubyvalleyaviation.com), or visit [www.rubyvalleyaviation.com](http://www.rubyvalleyaviation.com).

**June 15, 2019 - Annual Roundup Airport Fly-In Pancake Breakfast (KRPX).** Join us for breakfast served from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Roundup Airport. For more information contact Ron MacAdon at 406-323-2139 or [backforty@midrivers.com](mailto:backforty@midrivers.com).

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**June 22, 2019 — Meadow Creek Work Session.** For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or email [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

**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, 2019 — Fly-In Air Fair.** Enjoy the second best breakfast you can get at any airport from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Havre Airport (KHVR). Then fly to Fort Peck for the remainder of the weekend. For more information contact Willie Hurd at (406) 945-3646 or email [pronghorn@mcn.net](mailto:pronghorn@mcn.net).

**June 29, 2019 - AOPA Rusty Pilot's Seminar.** Red Lodge Flying Club is hosting a Rusty Pilot Seminar at the Red Lodge Senior Center, 207 S. Villard. For more information contact Dick Nolan at (406) 425-2269.

**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 4, 2019 - Townsend Festival of Flight Fly-In.** Chapter 344 of the Experimental Aircraft Association will be sponsoring this fly-in at the Townsend, MT Airport. Families are invited to kick off their July 4th holiday by coming out and participating in this fun, fly/drive-in event featuring a deluxe breakfast followed by free Young Eagles® airplane rides for kids. This is a great opportunity for everyone who enjoys seeing airplanes and experiencing aviation up close and personal, not just pilots. Vintage as well as contemporary aircraft of many types from all over the state will be available for public viewing, including several "homebuilt" airplanes (meaning they were actually built by the individuals who own and fly them). For more information contact Chapter 344 President Albert Hathy, [EAACH344@gmail.com](mailto:EAACH344@gmail.com), or event Chairman Neil Salmi (406) 980-0544.

**July 20, 2019 — Schafer Meadows Work Session.** For further information contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or email [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

**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. to 12:00 p.m. This free event is sponsored by the EAA Chapter 1122. For more information contact Michael Kuefler at (406) 544-2274.

**July 27, 2019 — S69 Lincoln Airport Community Open House and Fly-In BBQ Potluck.** Airport Community Open House from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with Fly-In BBQ Potluck from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the aircraft and emergency vehicles on display. For more information contact Jerry Cain at [sgr@lincnet.net](mailto:sgr@lincnet.net) or (406) 461-5631.

**August 1, 2019 — Young Eagles® Rally at Three Forks Airport (9S5).** Sponsored by Helena EAA Chapter 344 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The EAA Young Eagles® program strives to motivate youngsters aged 8 thru 17 to consider a career in aviation by providing positive experiences in the form of free airplane rides. Kids must have the permission of a parent or guardian to fly. For additional information contact Lance Seaman (406) 442-8459.

**August 2-3, 2019 — Three Forks Fly-In.** The Montana Antique Aircraft Association is hosting this FREE 42nd annual two-day event. Fly or drive in and enjoy flying events, great food, free camping and the camaraderie of friends old and new. For more information contact Pat Green at (406) 539-1880 or [greenrrg@aol.com](mailto:greenrrg@aol.com).

**September 7, 2019 — Annual EAA Chapter 1122 Fly-In Breakfast.** This year's event at Polson Airport is themed "Thanking Our Veterans." Warbirds will be on display to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day. For information contact Joe Kuberka at (719) 393-5550.

**September 7th, 2019 — Rocky Mountain College Fly-In.** Hosted by Rocky Mountain College Flight Team at Columbus Airport (6S3). Breakfast starts at 8:00 a.m. All pilots are invited to compete in the Power-Off 180 spot landing and Flour Bombing competitions. For more information contact Coach Sam at (406) 861-1170.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT WORK SESSIONS —** Please consider volunteering at the following work sessions:

**June 13, 2019 —** Del Bonita/Flying Farmers of America Work Session

**June 22, 2019 —** Meadow Creek Work Session    **July 20, 2019 —** Schafer Meadows Work Session

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**VISION ZERO**

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

**June 2019**

5403

Aeronautics Division  
2630 Airport Road  
PO Box 200507  
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  
OF TRANSPORTATION**

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