

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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October 2019

## 2020 Scholarship Opportunities Valued at More than \$16,000

Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations that believe in promoting aviation by offering monetary assistance to qualified candidates through a scholarship program. The scholarships are offered to Montanans to help defray costs of education (e.g., flight instruction, A&P mechanic school, etc.) and will be presented to winners during the 2020 Montana Aviation Conference at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, Montana. The Aeronautics Division assists in administering these scholarships through the collection and distribution of applications to sponsors.

The following sponsors support aviation education through 17 different scholarships.

### **A Love for Aviation Scholarship**

An anonymous donor established this scholarship of \$250 in 1997, and in 2010 two more anonymous donors contributed an additional \$250 each, creating a \$750 scholarship. The Hanson Family sponsors this \$750 scholarship to financially assist a Montana resident with aviation-related educational expenses.

### **AOM Flight Training Scholarship**

Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) has established this \$500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate.

### **Bob Redding Memorial Scholarship**

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 57 in Billings is offering a scholarship in memory of Bob Redding who was a lifetime advocate of general and experimental aviation. Building aircraft was as important to Bob as flying them, and given his tenure as a college math professor, so was education. Consequently, this \$250 scholarship is offered to those working towards their A&P license, first generation pilot training, or any post-secondary STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) degree.

### **Charles Taylor/Rosie the Riveter Scholarship**

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 344 of Helena is sponsoring a \$500 scholarship to be awarded to an outstanding second-year airframe and power plant student enrolled in the Aviation Maintenance Technician program at Helena College. A winner will be selected by the Chapter 344 membership in January.

### **Choice Aviation Scholarship**

A \$1,500 scholarship is available to the holder of at least a Private Pilot Certificate and a Second Class Medical, and who is looking to further advance themselves toward a career in aviation with additional pilot training at any of Choice Aviation's training facilities located in Montana or Wyoming.



*Continued on page 2*

### **EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship**

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 517, Inc. in Missoula will provide **THREE** \$1,000 scholarships in 2020. One will be for a post-solo student, one for a second year A&P student, and one to be used for any type of aviation career training such as commercial, flight instructor, multi-engine, dispatcher, etc.

### **Edwards Jet Center Scholarship**

Edwards Jet Center, a full-service Fixed Based Operator, Part 135 Charter Operator, and Part 145 Repair Station based at Logan International Airport in Billings, is offering a \$500 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction or A&P school.

### **Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship**

The Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, use, and knowledge of antique airplanes. MAAA's motto is: "Keep the Antiques Flying." Their \$1,000 scholarship is to help defray the cost of flight instruction or the cost of A&P mechanic school.

### **Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship**

The Montana Ninety-Nines offer this scholarship to qualified female candidates interested in and passionate about aviation. The dollar amount of this scholarship is dependent on candidate goals and must be used within 12 months of date awarded. Candidates must be residents of Montana to be considered for this scholarship. A supplemental scholarship application is required and may be obtained by emailing [MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov](mailto:MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov).

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

This \$2,000 scholarship is open to an active pilot who has considerable interest in aviation and is seeking advanced flight training or pursuing a profession in aviation. Applicant must be a Montana resident.

### **Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship**

The recipient of this \$1,000 scholarship is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship in their community and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must be a Montana resident and previously soloed. Preference is given to younger applicants who are new pilots or pursuing a profession in aviation.

### **Parrott Family Scholarship**

The Parrott Family offers a \$1,000 scholarship to be used over a one-year period for pilot training programs for students enrolled in the Rocky Mountain College (RMC) aviation program. The funds may be used for tuition in the RMC aviation program, and/or flight training expenses leading to a Private, Commercial, or Flight Instructor certificate, and may include Instrument and Multiengine simulator training and the purchase of aviation-related materials and supplies.

### **Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship**

The Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship is sponsored by the Nistler family and friends of Theresa. This scholarship is in honor of Theresa's memory, who loved flying and was working toward her private pilot certificate. This \$1,500 Aviation Scholarship will be awarded to a student pilot who is actively working toward a private pilot certificate.

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Visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml>  
for a current listing of events



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### **Aeronautics Board**

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## Tyler Orsow and Chuck Kimes Forever Flying Scholarship

This scholarship is a fully funded seaplane rating provided by the Seaplane Pilots Foundation. The scholarship honors the memory of seaplane pilots Tyler Orsow and Chuck Kimes who were lost in a crash of a one-of-a-kind seaplane on a ferry flight in the Mideast in 2011. To be eligible, applicants must possess a private pilot certificate, a current flight review and at least a third class medical, be a U.S. citizen between the ages of 17 and 35, a member of the Seaplane Pilots Association, and actively pursuing a career as a professional pilot. The scholarship must be used within 12 months. Those applying for the scholarship must include a color copy of their airman's certificate front and back, a photocopy of their medical certificate, and a copy of their birth certificate or U.S. passport. A supplemental scholarship application is required and may be obtained from Terry Hayes via email [flyames@gmail.com](mailto:flyames@gmail.com) or [MDTAeroSafetyed@mt.gov](mailto:MDTAeroSafetyed@mt.gov).

### How to Apply

Scholarship awards are based on candidate letters explaining the reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience (if any), and outstanding achievements.

Each letter must include a **mailing address, email address, and a phone number**. The same letter can be used for each scholarship, but candidates must submit one copy addressed to each individual scholarship.

Also include **one 250-word biography and one self-portrait**. These will appear in the 2020 Montana Aviation Conference program for those receiving awards.

Scholarship applications must be postmarked or date stamped on or before 11:59 p.m., **December 1, 2019**.

Send scholarship applications via email to [MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov](mailto:MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov) OR mail scholarship applications to:

MDT - Aeronautics Division  
PO Box 200507  
Helena, MT 59620-0507

If you have not received an email confirmation within 48 hours of submission or for more information, please call [406-444-2506](tel:406-444-2506) or visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml>.

# Airport Managers are Required to Update Based Aircraft Numbers by December 15, 2019

**FAA's National Based Aircraft Inventory Program (NBAIP)** requires nonprimary NPIAS airports to enter the aircraft based at their airports into the program website so counts of based aircraft can be validated. In order to ensure your airport is classified correctly in the upcoming National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) Report to Congress, and therefore eligible to receive Nonprimary Entitlement funding in FY21 and FY22, you should have your counts validated and confirmed in the NBAIP system every time the based aircraft number is updated for your airport.

Based aircraft counts are one of the criteria that can be used to classify Nonprimary airports as National, Regional, Local, or Basic airports. Criteria for these classifications can be found in the FAA ASSET 2 Report ([https://www.faa.gov/airports/planning\\_capacity/ga\\_study/media/2014-ASSET-2-Report.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/ga_study/media/2014-ASSET-2-Report.pdf)).

**Airports that do not meet the criteria to be included in one of those four classifications are considered Unclassified and are ineligible to receive Nonprimary entitlements or AIP Discretionary funding.** The snapshot for the NPIAS report will be taken December 15, 2019. If your airport is reporting less than nine based aircraft validated in NBAIP at that time, and the airport does not meet any of the exceptions listed in the ASSET 2 report for any Nonprimary category, the airport will be Unclassified.

The NBAIP can be accessed through the program's website at: <https://basedaircraft.com/>. The site requires the user to register and set up a username and password.

Only NPIAS airports with service levels of Commercial Service, Reliever, or General Aviation are required to participate. (Non-NPIAS and the Primary airports should report their based aircraft counts directly to their inspectors).



For these Nonprimary NPIAS airports, based aircraft counts for single-engine, multi-engine, jets, and helicopters for the FAA's Airport Master Record Form 5010-1 (Items 90-93) must come from the data on this site and this site is now a component of their annual inspections.

Frequently Asked Questions about the National Based Aircraft Inventory Program, including a definition of "based aircraft," can be found at: <https://basedaircraft.com/public/requentlyAskedQuestions.aspx>

The site is to be used by airport managers, sponsors, and their authorized personnel to review and maintain their lists of based aircraft. State aviation offices and specific FAA personnel are also authorized to use the site for the support of the airports in this purpose. Please contact your ADO Project Manager if you have any questions, or send your questions to [basedaircraftsupport@basedaircraft.com](mailto:basedaircraftsupport@basedaircraft.com).

## Christmas in August 2019



*Yellowstone Airport staff, their families and Santa celebrated Christmas in August*

Every year at the Yellowstone Airport, a celebration known as "Christmas in August" is held. This event stems from the original "Christmas in August" event inside Yellowstone National Park. On August 24, 1925, at Fishing Bridge in Yellowstone National Park, it snowed on the tourists! The tourists and park staff decided to have an impromptu Christmas celebration the next day on August 25<sup>th</sup>. They enjoyed food and exchanged a few small gifts, and "Christmas in August" was born!

Yellowstone Airport continues this tradition and has done so for more than 20 years! The celebration for the airport is very fitting, as that the airport is closed during the winter months and unable to observe the holiday season.

On August 26, 2019, the celebration with the airport team was had. A potluck with various delicious foods and treats were shared amongst friends and families. Great conversation and the expressions of appreciation to one another for another great season were exchanged.

## FAA Reminds Us Drones and Weapons are a Dangerous Mix

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is reminding the general public that it is illegal to operate a drone with a dangerous weapon attached.

You may have seen online photos and videos of drones with attached guns, bombs, fireworks, flamethrowers, and other dangerous items. The FAA says not to consider attaching any such items to a drone, because operating a drone with such an item may result in significant harm to a person and to your bank account.

Operating a drone with dangerous weapon attached is a violation of Section 363 of the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act enacted October 5, 2018. Operators are subject to civil penalties up to \$25,000 for each violation, unless the operator has received specific authorization from the Administrator of the FAA to conduct the operation. "Dangerous Weapon" means any item that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury.

Operators should keep in mind that federal regulations and statutes that generally govern drone operations still apply. Some state and federal criminal laws regarding weapons and hazardous materials may also apply to drone operators or manufacturers involved in certain operations.



# Miles City, Montana's Interesting History



During the dead of winter on March 21, 1944, Miles City, Montana, residents woke to their quaint little town being overrun and submerged by the rising water of the Yellowstone River. Ice jams were building quickly, raising the subzero river water levels over 16 feet. As the blocks of ice, slush and freezing waters flooded into the city, residents were forced to flee their homes for safer ground.

Miles City Mayor L.S. Keye knew immediate action must be taken and brought in explosive experts from a nearby town. Two local pilots took a small aircraft over the river and attempted to drop and detonate 50-pound homemade bombs on the Yellowstone ice jam, but unfortunately it had little effect.

Mayor L.S. Keye then decided to do the unthinkable and placed an urgent request to the Governor's office. His request was short and to the point, "Send in the Bombers!"



At a USAAF base in Rapid City, S.D. the crew of an Army Air Force Base B-17 was quick to accept the unusual mission, and preparations to bomb an American city were fast underway. The crew hastily began fusing and loading 250-pound bombs into the bomb bay of their USAAF Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress. Shortly thereafter, the loaded bomber with her crew of eight took to the skies in a harsh blizzard and low ceilings.



The plan was to deliver the bombs to Miles City where the load would be transferred to a waiting dive bomber to execute the bomb delivery. As the lone B-17 was nearing Miles City, low clouds forced the plans to change. Under a blanket of 1,000 foot overcast skies, the B-17 crew was then ordered to handle the bombing run on its own.

Originally planned to release the load at 10,000 feet, the low overcast forced the bomber crew to take the ship lower. At 19:30 hours, in heavy snow, winds and cold, the bomber appeared over the river and executed two dummy bombing runs as crowds of locals watched in amazement. On the third pass, the B-17 release a test bomb that exploded precisely on target. Unsure of the effect, the crew brought their bomber around again.

Making two more passes, the crew released all six of the 250-pound bombs while hundreds of residents watched motionless, and none speaking a word. The entire town, their homes and their families' futures hung in the balance as they watched the bombs fall. Seconds later a huge plume of ice, mud and water exploded skyward from the frozen Yellowstone River.

The ice jam quickly broke apart, and the frozen waters slowly receded, saving the small town. The next morning local residents were thrilled to watch as the water levels dropped a full 10 feet from the day before.



That night the crew of the B-17 was welcomed by the thankful and relieved residents of Miles City, Montana. The entire crew was put up at the local hotel, and each crew member received a well-deserved steak dinner.

The next morning, the crew departed and the B-17 made a final victory pass low over the town 50 feet above the rooftops, rocking their wings as they flew back home to Rapid City, SD.

# Five Reasons Why You Should Always Get A Weather Briefing



**Your aircraft is now on record.** When you get a weather briefing, your tail number is recorded on file. And in addition to getting all the weather information for your flight, if you were to have an incident or accident, the NTSB will know you actually received a weather briefing.

**The weather charts, reports and forecasts give you information that helps you create a detailed mental picture.** Weather charts are more advanced than ever. Convective outlooks and forecasts help you understand where unstable weather is most likely to be. And CIP icing charts are able to predict areas where icing is probable, the severity of the icing, and the altitudes where it's most likely to occur. Having the data helps you make smart and safe decisions.

**Calling a flight briefer can cover areas that you might have missed.** While all the charts are useful, there's a lot to look at. By calling a weather briefer, you can cover areas you might have missed or overlooked on your own.

**Talking to a flight briefer gives you a second opinion.** When you call a briefer, they're able to use their experience to help determine whether or not a particular flight may be worth canceling. We've all heard the words "VFR flight not recommended." If you're not instrument rated, it probably means it's time to stay on the ground.

You can request more information with a flight briefer on areas of concern. Whether it's an active TFR that you are unsure about, or an unauthorized approach for an airport, a weather briefer is able to gather more details and inside information on areas that might affect your flight.

## Graphical Forecasts Coverage Areas Expands

The National Weather Service (NWS), which launched the Graphical Forecasts for Aviation (GFA) tool for the continental U.S. in October 2017, recently expanded the coverage area to include the Gulf of Mexico, the Bahamas, the Caribbean, and the New York Oceanic region, including Bermuda.

The GFA lets pilots view current weather observations and forecasts. Pilots can see up to 17 hours of past observations to help them spot trends and can look up to 17 hours into the future for all of the forecasts, which are updated hourly.

The forecasts cover all the old text-based favorites, including ceilings, cloud bases and tops, visibility, precipitation, winds, ice and turbulence. Operators can move through the altitudes in several of the categories and can zoom in and out to see detail in specific areas of the map.

During a recent experiment at the NWS' Aviation Weather Center in Kansas City, Missouri, general aviation pilots gave positive feedback about the GFA, saying the enhanced information will improve their ability to make critical decisions.



Photo Credit: NBAA

### ~ Reminder ~

## Aeronautics Board Loan & Grant Application

As a reminder to loan and grant applicants, the Loan and Grant online portal (<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml>) will accept FY 2021 applications from July 1 through November 15, 2019. If you cannot access the website, you may have a previous award that needs a closeout form or a status report filed.

Additionally, make sure projects are broken down as required. As an example, asphalt projects should be broken down by runway, apron and taxiway and not as one project lumped together. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Wade Cebulski at (406) 444-9581 or [wcebulski@mt.gov](mailto:wcebulski@mt.gov).

# Calendar of Events

**October 15, 2019 — Western Aerospace Scholars Program Online Application Deadline is 11:59 p.m.** The Western Aerospace Scholars is seeking Montana middle and high school teachers. Apply today. Up to \$2,800 in stipends and 60 Montana OPI Renewal Units available. <https://form.jotform.com/museumofflight/OAEApplication2019-2020>. For more information contact [WAS@museumofflight.org](mailto:WAS@museumofflight.org)

**October 25–26, 2019 — STEM in the Rockies Teacher Workshop.** The Montana Learning Center has teamed up with the Montana Department of Transportation - Aeronautics Division to bring you a unique opportunity to be on the forefront of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) education right here in Montana! Come and learn about engaging hands-on curricula that will excite you and your students about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This STEM in the Rockies workshop also includes an introductory flight in one of the Aeronautics Division's aircraft. For more information and registration, please visit the [workshop's website](https://forms.gle/euzLAQQkNZpJS6e26) at <https://forms.gle/euzLAQQkNZpJS6e26> or contact Matt Lindberg MDT Aeronautics Safety and Education Bureau Chief at [mlindberg@mt.gov](mailto:mlindberg@mt.gov), at [406-444-9568](tel:406-444-9568).

**October 30, 2019 — Western Aerospace Scholars Program Online Application Deadline is 11:59 p.m.** The Western Aerospace Scholars is seeking Montana high school sophomores and juniors for a two-part program focused on the history and future exploration of space by NASA and topics in earth and space science. Applications are available at [www.museumofflight.org/WAS](http://www.museumofflight.org/WAS) For more information contact [WAS@museumofflight.org](mailto:WAS@museumofflight.org)

**November 15, 2019 — Aeronautics Board Loan & Grant Application deadline.**

**December 01, 2019 — Aviation Scholarship Application Deadline.** Scholarship applications must be postmarked or date stamped on or before 11:59 p.m., December 1, 2019. Visit this site for details <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml>

**January 15–16, 2020 — Aeronautics Board Meeting.** For further information contact (406) 444-2506.

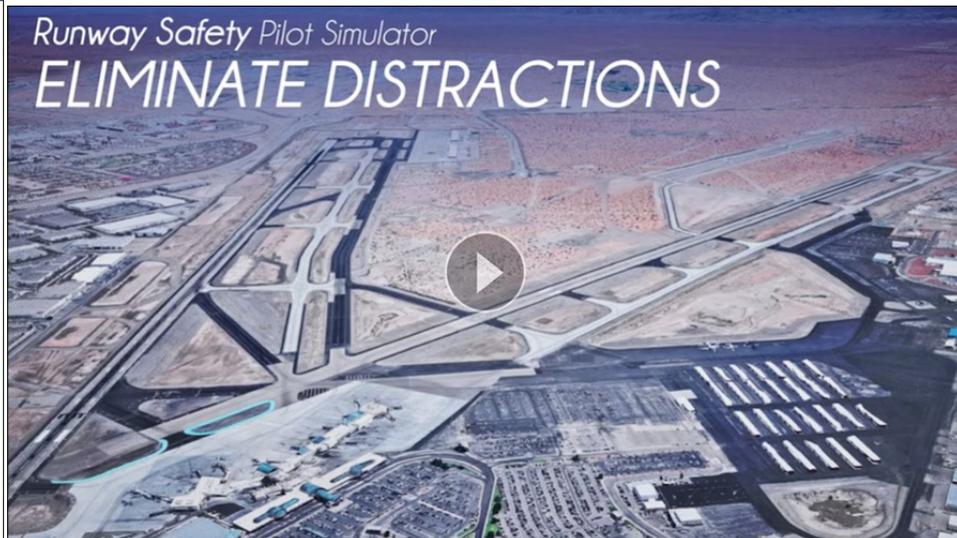
**January 19–21, 2020 — Association of Montana Aerial Applicators (AMAA) 2020 Convention and Trade Show.** Attend the AMAA trade show at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, Montana, for educational opportunities, networking with peers, visit with new vendors and suppliers, and have FUN! Pre-register by email at [eccampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:eccampbell@yahoo.com). For more information contact Colleen Campbell at 406-781-6461.

## Winter Survival Clinic

Please contact the Aeronautics Division by calling (406) 444-2506 or email [MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov](mailto:MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov) to register for the Winter Survival Clinic scheduled for January 24-26, 2020.

## FAA Runway Safety Simulator

Go to  
<https://www.runwaysafetysimulator.com>  
to try out a couple runway safety scenarios!



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.



**VISION ZERO**

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

**October 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

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