

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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December 2021

Tim Sheehy Keynote Speaker at Aviation Conference Kickoff Luncheon March 3, 2022

Tim Sheehy is the founder and CEO of Bridger Aerospace, an industry leader in aerial firefighting capability. Starting in November of 2014, Tim grew the company from one airplane and two people to over 20 aircraft and nearly 300 personnel today. He subsequently founded Ascent Vision Technologies, which he spun out of Bridger Aerospace in 2015, that focused on airborne sensor solutions critical to modern wildfire mitigation. Tim pivoted Ascent to defense applications and scaled it to



Photo courtesy of
Tim Sheehy

100 employees, later merging AVT in 2020 with CACI International. Tim remains an advisory board member for CACI. Prior to his business career, Tim was a Navy SEAL officer, deploying several times around the world in support of combat operations. He was wounded and subsequently discharged in 2014. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star for valor, the Purple Heart Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal with valor, and various other commendations. Tim's operational experience includes time in Iraq, Afghanistan, SDV National Missions, PACOM and SOUTHCOM AORs. Tim also completed several joint assignments with the U.S. Army, including the 5th SFG, USASOC, U.S. Army Ranger School (Honor Graduate), Army Recon School, and the 75th Ranger Regiment RIP. He is a certified mini submarine pilot, commercial pilot, and a U.S. interagency-carded aerial firefighting pilot. He serves as an active line pilot in support of the Bridger Aerospace fleet, flying as first officer on the CL-415EAF Superscooper. Tim is also a member of the Montana Board of Aeronautics and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and resides in Montana with his wife and four children. He enjoys hay farming, cattle ranching, and downhill skiing.

Aviation Conference Information and Registration

The 37th Annual Montana Aviation Conference will be held March 3-5, 2022, in Missoula, Montana, at the Holiday Inn Downtown. The annual Montana Aviation Conference brings together Montana's aviation organizations and the flying public for three days of speakers, seminars, workshops, business meetings, and social events. It is an opportunity for those from all facets of the aviation community to learn from each other and discuss issues of mutual concern. The Montana Aviation Conference has around 500 participants each year.

Montana Aeronautics welcomes Montana's aviation community to offer suggestions for exhibitors for the upcoming conference. To submit your suggestions, or to sign up, please email mamble@mt.gov.

Lodging Information

For your convenience, rooms have been blocked at conference rates at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown. Reservations must be made prior to January 31, 2022, to be eligible for the conference rate. Rooms are limited, so make your reservation today! Call the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown directly at (406) 721-8550 and reference the Montana Aviation Conference to receive the conference rate.

Conference Registration

Early birds will receive a discount for the conference!

Please visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml> for the link to online registration.

Registration Rates

- \$100 through January 31, 2022
- \$125 February 1, 2022, and after
- \$20 high school & college students through January 31, 2022
- \$25 high school & college students February 1st, 2022, and after

Conference registrations will be accepted at the door at full price of \$125; or a single day pass for \$75. No discounts will be available.

MDT Aeronautics Annual Aircraft Registration Deadline March 1, 2022

Action Required!

Montana does not have any taxes for aircraft but does assess an annual registration fee in lieu of tax for aircraft registration. The fees are set by the Legislature and are determined according to the type and age of the aircraft.

Aircraft customarily kept in Montana, as well as any aircraft with a Montana address on their FAA registration, **must** be registered with the Montana Aeronautics Division on or before March 1 every year (within 30 days of purchase date for any *new* aircraft purchase). Aircraft renewal invoices are sent the first week of December, and a reminder letter is sent before the renewal deadline of March 1. **A statutory penalty for late registrations must be assessed in the amount of five times the registration fee if payment OR signed affidavit for exemption with supporting documentation isn't received by the March 1 deadline.**

PLEASE POSTMARK OR TIMESTAMP YOUR REGISTRATION PAYMENTS OR AFFIDAVIT FOR FEE EXEMPTION WITH REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1ST FOR A RENEWAL, (OR BEFORE 30 DAYS AFTER A NEW AIRCRAFT PURCHASE), TO AVOID THE PENALTY.

Please keep in mind that aircraft out of annual inspection are not considered "unairworthy" as defined by administrative rule and **are** subject to annual registration fees.

Online fee payment services for aircraft and pilot registration are available at: <https://app.mt.gov/aeronautics>. Vendor fees apply.

For other questions, please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506 or mdtaerosafeted@mt.gov.

***ACTION IS REQUIRED BY AIRCRAFT OWNERS ON ALL AIRCRAFT REGISTRATIONS EACH YEAR**

MDT Aeronautics Pilot Registration

Montana is required to register all pilots in the state. The annual fee is \$10, and with annual pilot registration you receive a Montana Airport Directory, subscription to the monthly *Montana and the Sky* newsletter, and your annual pilot registration card.

Registered pilot information is collected only to aid in the event of a search and rescue case, as it can help us locate and contact you sooner during an emergency.

Annual pilot registration renewal memos will be mailed in December. **If you own an aircraft, you will also automatically receive a pilot registration form with your annual aircraft registration invoice.** Only one pilot form is required to be returned or completed online per pilot.

- To register as a pilot online, please visit: <https://app.mt.gov/aeronautics>
Vendor fees apply.
- To locate and print the form online for mailing to the Aeronautics Division, please visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/regpilot.shtml>
- To request a Pilot Registration form be mailed or emailed to you, please call the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506 or email mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov.

Please note: Annual pilot registration with the Montana Aeronautics Division is required by state law and should *not* be confused with the Montana Pilots Association's (MPA) registration dues, if you are also a member of the MPA.



Tim Conway, Administrator

Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation

Greg Gianforte, Governor
Malcolm Long, 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/

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Follow MDT on social media!



Yellowstone Airport Has Record Season

Yellowstone Airport (WYS) passenger enplanements recovered from the pandemic-related slowdown in 2020 by setting a passenger record for 2021! This year marked the first season the airport had service with United Airlines to Denver in addition to ongoing Delta flights to Salt Lake City. Flight frequencies varied day to day, with the busiest days having five flights per day combined between both carriers.

Enplanement numbers were up despite the lack of international tourists, reaching in excess of 13,000 total passengers this season. This is a 280% increase over 2020, and a 20% increase compared to a more typical year, 2019.

Travelers also enjoyed the recently lengthened seasonal timeframe for airline service, from early May through mid-October.

The airport had to battle a few snow events this season, which were successfully mitigated by Yellowstone Airport staff, allowing the airlines to maintain their schedules.

The airport is typically open for a few weeks on the shoulder seasons beyond airline service for general aviation use, remaining open for business until snow accumulations cause its closure for the winter. Always be sure to check NOTAMs!

MDT Aeronautics is in the process of designing a new terminal to replace the original terminal, which has reached the end of its useful life, to accommodate increasing flights and passengers for years to come.

The WYS team looks forward to seeing you in the spring of 2022!



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

MPA's Scholarship Fund License Plate in Distress



Image courtesy of Montana Pilots Association

Your next vehicle license plate could display a stunning photo of a Husky approaching Ryan Field, just outside of Glacier National Park. Please consider selecting this license plate, as it is 100% used to fund Montana Pilots Association (MPA) aviation scholarships.

The initial cost is \$40, and 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 is new, and not all counties have it displayed. MPA past president Scott Newpower completed the required application to establish this new plate. For the background image, the MPA board selected a photo by George Kounis of *Pilot Getaways* magazine. 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 will 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.

New legislation requires each group of specialty plates to achieve a count of at least 400 by January 1, 2022, or they will be discontinued. The MPA is currently about 150 short of this requirement, so make the switch with your vehicle(s) this month and help MPA reach the minimum count! Don't let aspiring aviators in Montana miss out on the awesome scholarship opportunities these license plates fund. It is important to maintain this program going forward, for the future of aviation in Montana.

Excerpt from Carmine Mowbray

MPA Scholarship Winner Returns to Montana to Instruct

Past Montana Pilots Association scholarship recipient Bailey Stevens has returned home to Montana to pursue her interests in aviation.

Bailey is rated in both rotor and fixed-wing aircraft, has a tailwheel endorsement, and is a fixed-wing certified flight instructor (CFI). Last month she gave her first flight review to Billings pilot Rebecca Newton in a 1946 Champ.

Contact Bailey at baileygayle9817@gmail.com

Excerpt from the Heading Bug by Pete Smith



Photo courtesy of Montana Pilots Association

2022 MDT Aeronautics Winter Survival Clinic



The Aeronautics Division invites you to attend the 2022 MDT Aeronautics Winter Survival Clinic

**The 2022 Winter Survival Clinic is being held January 7-9, 2022,
at the Sugar Loaf Lodge near Anaconda, MT.**

This clinic is geared toward all aviation pilots in the event an emergency landing takes place and survival is necessary until help arrives; however, these skills can be used by anyone who finds themselves in a cold-weather survival situation. Emergency medical training is also included.

Lodging accommodations for Friday night will be provided. Co-ed, shared cabins have been reserved for Friday evening at the Sugar Loaf. Classroom instruction will start at 5:00 p.m., Friday evening. Saturday morning, we will have breakfast and a brief equipment check and then head into a nearby forested area where participants will learn techniques on winter survival, construct survival shelters, and later spend Saturday night outside in their own survival shelters after making and eating bring-your-own dinner.

Meals will be provided, with the exception of Saturday evening, which is bring-your-own dinner for the campout. All meals will be prepared and served family-style by the Sugar Loaf and will be as follows: Friday dinner of spaghetti, bread, and salad; Saturday breakfast of bacon, eggs, toast, and fruit; Saturday sack lunch of a sandwich, chips, cheese, and fruit; and Sunday breakfast of bagels, cream cheese, fruit, and hard-boiled eggs. Substitutions will not be available. If you require or desire alternate meals, please bring your own food. There will be a kitchen available in the lodge. This location is in the mountains, and there is no cell service or Wi-Fi.

Come join us at the 2022 Winter Survival Clinic to build confidence in survival techniques in the great outdoors of Montana! But be sure to sign up early; we have limited space available, and spots fill up fast! Clinic cost is ONLY \$75. Payment is required to reserve your space. The tuition fee is not refundable unless the Aeronautics Division cancels the clinic. The clinic starts at 5:00 p.m. on January 7 and ends at approximately 11:00 a.m. on January 9. **Registration must be completed no later than December 29, 2021.** To register visit: https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event_id=15157

Additional information regarding the Sugar Loaf Lodge can be found at: <https://sugarloaf lodgeandcabins.com/>

Please call MDT Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506 or email MDTAeroSafetyEd@mt.gov with any questions.

Rod Alne, owner of The Peak Inc., will be providing the survival training for the clinic. Rod is the owner and creator of The Peak Inc. located in Butte, MT and is a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant. His company provides training to military special operations, law enforcement, wilderness professionals, and outdoor enthusiasts. We are glad to have Rod and The Peak, Inc. back for this year's Winter Survival training!

FIRC: Flight Instructor Refresher Course

The MDT Aeronautics Division is again hosting Aviation Seminars for the 2022 Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC), February 11-12, 2022, at the Comfort Suites Helena Airport, 3180 Washington St, Helena, Montana. This two-day, FAA-approved course will run from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday. The course meets FAA renewal requirements for certified flight instructors (CFIs) and includes Integrated Airman Certification and Rating Application (IACRA) renewal. You don't need to be a CFI to attend; it is fantastic knowledge for all pilots.

Tuition has been dropped to only \$75 this year! There is also a \$25 discount for current registered Montana pilots; please contact the Aeronautics Division for the applicable promo code. Not yet an Aeronautics Division registered pilot? Keep in mind that pilot registration is required by law in Montana. Register as a pilot now with Aeronautics for \$10.00 per year and save on FIRC tuition! All registered pilots also receive a pilot registration card, Montana Airport Directory, and monthly copy of the Montana and the Sky newsletter.

A block of rooms at the Comfort Suites Helena Airport has been reserved at the prevailing government rate, plus tax. Please call the hotel directly at (406) 495-0505 and reference the "FIRC" block to book your room if you would like to stay at the FIRC venue. The last day to book with the hotel at this rate is January 21, 2022.

To register for FIRC course instruction, visit <https://www.aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/>.

Contact Aeronautics at mdtaerosafety@mt.gov or call (406) 444-2506 with any questions.



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

HLN's Jeff Wadekamper Named Boss of the Year

Jeff Wadekamper, director of the Helena Regional Airport, was recently named "Boss of the Year" in an employee-nominated contest sponsored by the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce. The Boss of the Year award contest is put on annually and is open to any boss from any field in the Helena area. The nomination process highlighted the following: leadership qualities in the treatment of staff, implementation of special programs or benefits for staff members, unique qualities that set the individual apart from other bosses or supervisors, an example of going above and beyond regular supervisory job duties, and community involvement outside of work. Jeff was nominated for the award by airport employees.

As part of the award, Jeff was presented a plaque by the Chamber board at the Helena airport in October in front of the Chamber board, employees, and family members. The key to being a good boss, according to an interview with Jeff by the *Helena Independent Record*, is to be fair to all employees and to be a participatory manager, but not micromanage. As a manager, Jeff says he tries to make the Helena airport "a fun and fair place to work" and wants to "make sure everyone has the things they need to succeed." He also says the "most important aspect of being a good boss is understanding that each employee has their strengths and weaknesses".

Jeff comes from an aviation family and has a long history with the Helena Regional Airport. He began working at the Helena airport when he was in high school and became airport manager in 2014. Jeff is also active in several Helena community organizations, as well as active in the aviation community.

Montana is fortunate to have dedicated individuals such as Jeff working in the Montana aviation community. Congratulations, Jeff!

Excerpt from the Helena Independent Record: "Helena airport director Jeff Wadekamper named 2021 Boss of the Year" by Tyler Manning https://helenair.com/business/helena-airport-director-jeff-wadekamper-named-2021-boss-of-the-year/article_454f8765-f684-564a-950e-1235b4015735.html

ADS-B Coverage in Montana



Photo courtesy of Flightradar24 Photo courtesy of FlightAware

Flyers across the state have seen the safety benefits of having coverage of Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) increase over the years. As the FAA pushes toward a NextGen Airspace system, they have encouraged expansion of ADS-B coverage. Displays with onboard equipment and on personal tablets continue to improve to provide better traffic awareness to all aviation users. Montana's low coverage level is starting to increase, with several new receiver antenna installations planned across the state over the next few months.

To strengthen their coverage areas, flight tracking companies Flightradar24 and FlightAware provide free receiver units to those who apply for a unit. Units require only power and an internet connection. The location needs to have a clear 360-degree view of the sky for an antenna, along with a 180-degree view for a GPS receiver. MDT Aeronautics has installed units in the Lincoln valley and the Seeley Lake area, and both are scheduled to be operational before the end of November. Aeronautics is also working with airports to place units in Missoula, Havre, and Jordan areas where coverage is needed most.

If you are interested in a free receiver and antennae for installation at your location, applications are available at: <https://www.flightradar24.com/add-coverage> or <https://flightaware.com/adsb/request>. The application requires a few short forms and location information. Photos taken in four directions to show clear line of sight will be requested as well. The application is then reviewed, and the respective service will let you know if there is a need for your proposed location. As a bonus, if there is a need in your area, a free subscription may be offered to the host. Coverage needs change over time, so keep your application up-to-date, in case the selection is not available upon initial time of application.

Aviation Quiz

(Answer Key found on Page 7)



- 1) When do you need to use your aircraft's position lights?**
 - A: At all times
 - B: The beginning of civil twilight to the end of civil twilight
 - C: Sunset to sunrise
 - D: 30 minutes after sunset ending 30 minutes before sunrise
- 2) ADS-B is required for flight above 10,000 feet MSL.**
 - A: False
 - B: True
 - C: True, excluding airspace at and below 2,500 feet AGL
 - D: It is not required
- 3) Your RPM is dropping and you think it may be carb ice. You turn your carb heat on and the engine starts running extremely rough. What should you do?**
 - A: Pitch down to increase airflow
 - B: Turn the carb heat off immediately
 - C: Shut down the engine and pitch for best glide
 - D: Leave the carb heat on
- 4) You are flying on a cold winter day in your Cessna 172. You and your passenger start feeling sick to your stomach. What should you do?**
 - A: Declare an emergency
 - B: Turn off the cabin heat and open the fresh air vents
 - C: Descend to a lower altitude immediately
 - D: Look outside the cockpit and focus on the horizon
- 5) You should cross a mountain pass at least _____ feet above the pass elevation during calm winds.**
 - A: 2,000
 - B: 500
 - C: 1,000
 - D: 2,500

WYS Facebook Page



Want to stay up to date on happenings at Yellowstone Airport? Be sure to check out and follow the official WYS Facebook page! Scan the QR code (right) with your phone to access the page, or search "Yellowstone Airport – WYS" in Facebook. The official Facebook page for WYS contains the Yellowstone Airport logo, (left).



FAA Proposes Medical Requirements for Commercial Hot-Air Balloon Pilots

In early November, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposed a rule requiring commercial hot-air balloon pilots to hold medical certificates when operating for hire. The rule would mandate a second-class medical certificate, the same standard required for other commercial pilots.

“Balloon pilots are responsible for the safety of their passengers,” FAA Administrator Steve Dickson said. “This proposed rule would ensure that balloon pilots meet the same medical requirements as pilots of other commercial aircraft.”

Currently, commercial balloon pilots are exempt from the medical requirement. In the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, Congress directed the FAA to revise the medical certification standards for commercial balloon pilots. The draft rule also addresses a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommendation that the FAA remove the exemption.

The FAA in recent years took steps to increase the safety of hot-air balloon tourism by working with the Balloon Federation of America (BFA) on an accreditation program. The program includes voluntary standards for pilots and operators and offers multiple tiers of BFA safety accreditation.

Excerpt from the Federal Aviation Administration: <https://www.faa.gov/newsroom/faa-proposes-medical-requirements-commercial-hot-air-balloon-pilots>

Happy Holidays!

From the Montana Aeronautics Division

Tim, Marc, Matt L., Karen, Derrick, Matt A., Stacey, Shannon, Jeff, and Bron



Calendar of Events



January 7-9, 2022 — Winter Survival Clinic. For more information, see Page 4.

January 11–13, 2022 — Aeronautics Board Loan and Grant application meeting. For further information, contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

January 24-25, 2022 — Association of Montana Aerial Applicators (AMAA) 2021 Convention and Trade Show. Attend the AMAA trade show at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, Montana. Have fun while learning, network with peers and exhibitors, and see the latest technology, specialty items, and be eligible to win door prizes. For more information, contact Colleen at (406) 781-6461 or eccampbell@yahoo.com.

February 11-12, 2022 — FIRC Flight Instructor Refresher Course, Helena. For more information, see Page 5.

March 1, 2022 — Aircraft and Pilot Registration Renewal Deadline. See Page 2 for details.

March 3-5, 2022 — Montana Aviation Conference, Missoula. See Page 1 for more information.

Aviation Quiz Answer Key: 1:C 2:C 3:D 4:B 5:A

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-5416 or Montana Relay Service at 711.



VISION ZERO

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

December 2021

5403

Aeronautics Division
2630 Airport Road
PO Box 200507
Helena, Montana 59620-0507



Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

In 2020, there were 209 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 209 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 2019 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 Malcolm Long, MDT

Visit www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero for more information.

VISION ZERO 
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

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