

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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## John Rabenberg, Essential Air Service Board Chair, Retires After Nearly Four Decades

After nearly 40 years, John Rabenberg retired as chair of the Montana Essential Air Service (EAS) Task Force board. The Montana Essential Air Service Task Force is a government program created in 1978 which works to ensure small communities across the country are able to maintain commercial air services. John was elected chair of the EAS task force on December 12, 1982, replacing previous chairman, Lee Baker.

Walter McNutt was elected as the new board chair on September 8, 2021, at a board meeting held in Billings. Walt is a former Aeronautics board member and served in the Montana House of Representatives from 2005-2012. He also served in the Senate from 1997-2004.

We thank John for his decades of dedication serving on the Montana EAS Task Force board and his commitment to preserving and gaining air transportation access to rural communities in Montana!

## New Aviation Webcam Goes Live at Missoula

In a continuation of the emerging weather camera program being spearheaded by the Montana Aeronautics Division, the Missoula Montana Airport was the latest airport in Montana to receive its aviation webcam and go live on the FAA website. Missoula marks the fourth location in Montana to receive a webcam as part of this program.

The camera system was purchased by the Missoula airport, and the Aeronautics Division performed the installation of the system. The webcam is now live on the FAA weather camera website and has camera views in four directions. To view the webcam, visit <https://weathercams.faa.gov/map/-114.42015,46.70746,-113.10179,47.12395/airport/MSO/details/camera>.

The Missoula webcam installation joins installations at Bozeman Pass, Lincoln, and Seeley Lake Airport. More locations are coming soon and will include the Yellowstone and Lewistown airports next.

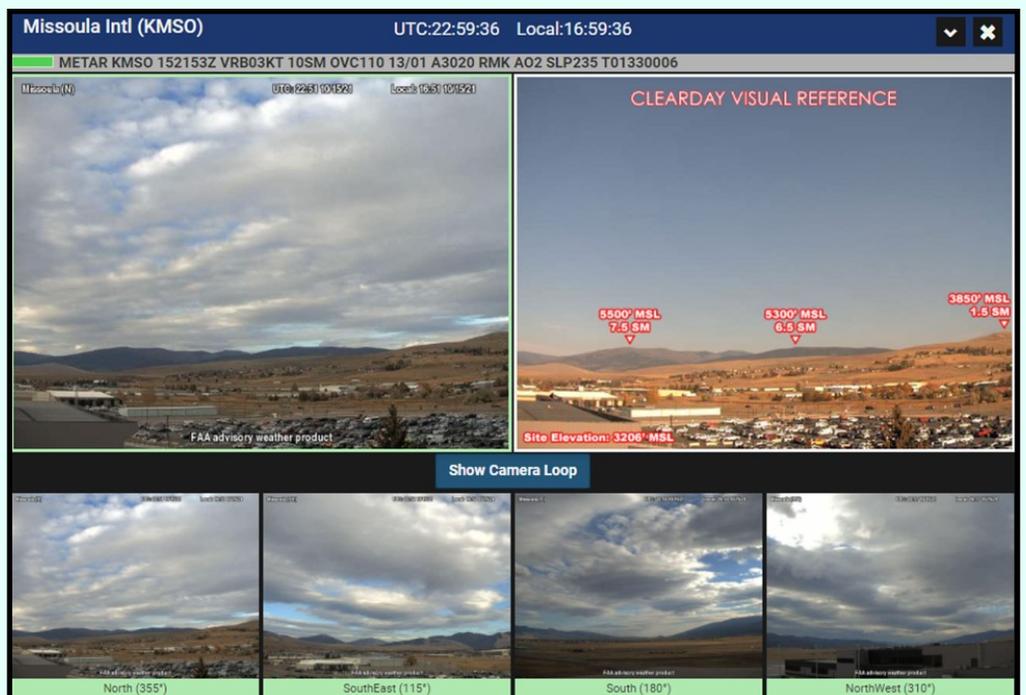


Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

*Happy Thanksgiving*

*From the Montana  
Aeronautics Division*

*Tim Conway, Marc McKee, Matt  
Lindberg, Karen Speeg, Derrick Olheiser,  
Matt Amble, Stacey Gabrio, Shannon  
Buswell, Jeff Kadlec, Bron Hansen*



Tim Conway, Administrator

**Montana and the Sky**  
Department of Transportation

Greg Gianforte, Governor  
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#### **Aeronautics Board**

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**Dan Hargrove, Member**  
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**Editor:** Shannon Buswell

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## **Montana Aviation Conference**

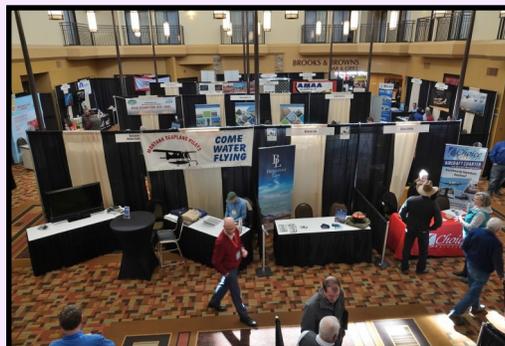
The Aviation Organizations of Montana is pleased to announce the Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Missoula, March 3-5, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Downtown.

The annual Montana Aviation Conference brings together all of 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](mailto:mamble@mt.gov), or call with your ideas at (406) 444-2506.

Online registration for attendees will be available soon, so stay tuned!

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.



Photos courtesy of Aeronautics staff

# FIRC: Flight Instructor Refresher Course



Plans are in the works for a Flight Instructor Refresher Course to be held in Helena February 11-12, 2022. The Aeronautics Division will again host Aviation Seminars for instruction of the 2022 FIRC. This two-day, FAA-approved course will run from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The FIRC meets FAA renewal requirements for certified flight instructors and includes 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 an Aeronautics Division registered pilot? Register 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 a Helena hotel will be available at a later date. To register for FIRC course instruction, visit <https://www.aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/>. Contact Aeronautics at [mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov) or call (406) 444-2506 for more information.



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

## Winter Survival Clinic

We are planning to conduct the Winter Survival Clinic January 7-9, 2022 at the Sugar Loaf Lodge south of Anaconda. The tuition fee has been lowered to only \$75 this year, and includes meals (except one, your campout night) and lodging. There is sure to be plenty of snow to construct survival shelters! Additional information will be included in the December newsletter issue.

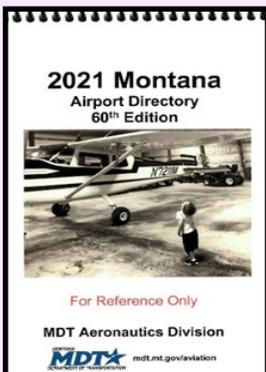
Please contact the Aeronautics Division by calling (406) 444-2506 or email [mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov) to let us know if you would like to reserve a spot in this clinic. Spots are filling up fast!



Photos courtesy of Aeronautics staff



## Aviation Photo Contest



Would you like to see your photograph on the cover of the 2022 Montana Airport Directory? Submit your photos to the Aeronautics Division by **December 1, 2021**, to be considered. The winning photo will be selected based on the best representation of aviation in Montana. Submit your photos to: [mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov).

For more information, email Aeronautics at the above address, or call us at (406) 444-2506.

\*MDT Aeronautics retains all rights to submitted photos and may use them for other promotional purposes.

2021 Airport Directory Cover

# STEM Teacher Workshop



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Photo courtesy of Ryan Hannahoe



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Photo courtesy of Ryan Hannahoe

On October 1-2, fifteen teachers from across Montana gathered in Helena for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Teacher Workshop put on by the Aeronautics Division and the Montana Learning Center. Using aviation as the gateway to STEM discovery, teachers participated in classroom instruction; learned science experiments to reproduce in their own classrooms; visited Helena College's Airport Campus to learn about the variety of programs offered by Helena College of the University of Montana; toured the Helena Regional Airport facility and learned about fire response, snow removal, and more of what it takes to run an airport; and were guided through the Montana National Guard's vast Army Aviation Support facility. In addition to participating in flights with the Aeronautics Division, the teachers had the incredible opportunity to take part in an educator lift in either a UH-60 Black Hawk or CH-47 Chinook helicopter with the Montana National Guard, which was a captivating and unforgettable experience.



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

On the second day, teachers dove deeper into hands-on experiments and various aviation-related STEM subject matter at the Montana Learning Center, interacting with content and experiments both inside and outside of the classroom, as well as logging individual time on the Montana Learning Center's flight simulator. In addition, all teacher participants of the workshop were provided supplies to take home with them so they are able to reproduce their newly learned aviation-themed experiments within their own classrooms.



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Photo courtesy of Ryan Hannahoe

The STEM Teacher Workshop is held annually and offers Montana teachers an opportunity to sharpen their STEM knowledge and develop additional tools to help them continue as leaders in STEM education. The Teacher Workshop is open to all teachers who teach in formal classroom settings in Montana that teach a STEM subject, and the workshop is authorized to provide 20 renewal units through the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

A huge thank you to all involved in making the Teacher Workshop a success, including the Montana Learning Center (Ryan Hannahoe, Dr. Walt Woolbaugh, and Chris Gillette), Helena College of the University of Montana, the Helena Regional Airport, the Montana National Guard, and all teachers who participated!



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Photo courtesy of Ryan Hannahoe



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



Photo courtesy of Ryan Hannahoe

# Aeronautics Board Loan & Grant Application Reminder

As a reminder to Montana Aeronautics airport Loan and Grant Program applicants, the Loan and Grant online portal (<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml>) is accepting FY23 applications from July 1, 2021, through November 15, 2021.

If you cannot enter the website, you may have a previous award that needs a closeout form or a status report filed (required at project completion, or annually).

Additionally, projects must be broken down and listed as one project per line item on the application. As an example, asphalt projects should be broken down by runway, apron, and taxiway and not as one project combined together.

## Non-Federally Funded Airport Alert!

Recently, many federally-funded airports have been able to fund 100% of their upcoming infrastructure projects through legislation passed by Congress due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, there may be an unanticipated increase in grant funding available due to a lack of local match required for federal-aid airport projects in FY21. Airports are encouraged to apply at the link above.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Karen Speeg at (406) 444-9569 or [kaspeeg@mt.gov](mailto:kaspeeg@mt.gov).

## 2022 Aviation Scholarships

Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations who believe in promoting aviation by offering monetary assistance in the form of scholarships to qualified persons. The Aeronautics Division assists in administering some of these scholarships and encourages participation. The scholarships are offered to help defray costs of education (e.g., flight instruction, A&P mechanic school, etc.). Winners will be announced in January 2022 and awards will later be presented at the Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula.

Here is a list of the scholarships available this year, funded by generous contributors who make this program possible. For more information on each scholarship, please visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.shtml>.

- ◇ **AOM Flight Training Scholarship** - \$1000
- ◇ **Bob and Kathy Dewante Flight Training Scholarship** - \$3000
- ◇ **Briar Creek Scholarship** - \$2000
- ◇ **Choice Aviation Scholarship** - \$1500
- ◇ **EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship** - \$1000
- ◇ **Edwards Jet Center Scholarship** - \$1000
- ◇ **Mike and Julie Meloche Flight Training Scholarship** - \$1000
- ◇ **Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship** - \$1000
- ◇ **Montana Aviation Education Scholarship (anonymous donor)** - \$5000 (may be awarded in multiple scholarships)
- ◇ **Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship** - not to exceed \$5000
- ◇ **Montana Pilots Association Air Safety and Education Foundation (MPA ASEF) Flight Training Scholarship** - \$3000
- ◇ **Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship** - \$3000
- ◇ **Parrott Family Scholarship** - \$1000
- ◇ **Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship** - \$2000

### How to Apply:

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

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

Also include a **biography** (not to exceed 250 words) **and one self-portrait**.

**Scholarship applications must be postmarked or date stamped on or before 11:59 p.m. MST, December 1, 2021.**

Mail scholarship applications to: MDT-Aeronautics Division PO Box 200507 Helena, MT 59620-0507

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

Please call (406) 444-2506 with questions or for more information.

# WYS Survey

Do you fly in or out of the Yellowstone Airport? If so, we would love your feedback! Please either scan the QR code found in the flyer below, or follow the link below, to be taken to a short survey regarding winter operations at WYS. <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/wys-user-survey.shtml>.

The Montana Department of Transportation will be utilizing feedback generated by this survey in evaluating the potential benefits, requirements, and costs of extending Yellowstone Airport's operating season to include the winter months.

## Yellowstone Airport Winter Operations Survey



The Yellowstone Airport (WYS) has historically operated May thru mid-October due to harsh winter weather conditions and associated lower aviation traffic demand during the November thru April period.

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is soliciting user feedback on interest in extending the existing operating season and the potential to open to year-round operations. If you desire to provide feedback for consideration, please complete the associated survey by scanning the QR code below for General Aviation personnel.



Thank you for your response!



# Aviation Quiz

(Answer Key found on Page 7)



### 1) Why does avgas have lead in it?

- A: It prevents engine knocking
- B: It reduces spark plug fouling
- C: It prevents oil buildup in the cylinders
- D: It decreases ignition temperature

### 2) What primarily determines the speed of a weather front?

- A: Coriolis effect and varying latitudes
- B: Temperature differential
- C: Upper-level winds
- D: Stability of the airmass

### 3) You're flying at night cross country and you are looking for the airport beacon at your civilian destination airport, which is next to a military airport. What color should a civilian airport beacon be?

- A: Green/red
- B: White/white
- C: Green/yellow
- D: Green/blue
- E: White/red
- F: White/blue
- G: Green/white

## If You Have It, Fly It!

Camshafts are particularly prone to corrosion if engines are not operated regularly. Just running an airplane once a month on the ground can do more harm than good. Fly the airplane; bring oil temperature up to normal operating parameters with high cruise RPMs and burn that moisture out of the oil. Nothing is more worthless than an airplane sitting on the ground.

Contribution from Swayne Martin, CFI

## Aeronautics Courtesy Car Grant Program: Administrative Rule Public Comment Period Opens

The Aeronautics Division is working with Montana Department of Transportation's Legal Services department to establish Administrative Rules to clarify the application and award process for Courtesy Car grants. These rules are now open to public comment. An electronic copy of this proposal notice is available through the Secretary of State's website at <https://sos.mt.gov/ARM/Register>.

Concerned persons may submit their data, views, or arguments concerning the proposed actions in writing to: The Airport/Airways Bureau, Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 200507, Helena, Montana, 59620-0507 or via e-mail [mmckee@mt.gov](mailto:mmckee@mt.gov), and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., December 3, 2021.

If persons who are directly affected by the proposed actions wish to express their data or views in writing at a public hearing, they must make written request for a hearing and submit this request, along with any written comments, to Marc McKee at the above email address, no later than 5:00 p.m., November 26, 2021.

# C-17 Globemaster III Visits Yellowstone Airport!

On September 18, 2021, a C-17 Globemaster III from Hickam Air Force Base, Oahu, Hawaii, paid a visit to Yellowstone Airport (WYS). The crew made several practice approaches including a few touch-and-gos, focusing on high altitude training techniques.

Yellowstone Airport sits at 6,649' in elevation and hosts an 8,400' long runway which can handle almost all aircraft. In fact, in 2009 WYS hosted the President of the United States and Air Force One (B-747)!



Photos courtesy of Aeronautics staff



## Calendar of Events



**November 15, 2021 — Airport Loan and Grant application period deadline.** More information can be found at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtm> or contact Karen Speeg at (406) 444-9569 or [kaspeeg@mt.gov](mailto:kaspeeg@mt.gov).

**December 1, 2021 — Aeronautics Airport Directory Aviation Photo Contest deadline.** See Page 3 for details.

**December 1, 2021 — Montana Aviation Scholarship application deadline.** See Page 5 for more details.

**January 7-9, 2022 — Winter Survival Clinic.** For more information, see Page 3.

**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](mailto:eccampbell@yahoo.com).

**February 11-12, 2022 — FIRC Flight Instructor Refresher Course, Helena.** For more information, see Page 3.

**March 3-5, 2022 — Montana Aviation Conference, Missoula.** See Page 2 for more information.

**Aviation Quiz Answer Key: 1:A 2:C 3:G**

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

# November 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](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero) for more information.

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

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION**

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