



# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 77, No. 5 May 2026

## 2026 ACE Academy

June 18 to 20

The Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy offers high school students a chance to explore various career paths available across the aviation industry. In Helena, students will have flights aboard general aviation aircraft, tour Pioneer Aerostructure's manufacturing facility, the Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility, Helena College's aviation maintenance technician program, and Montana Medical Transport (an air ambulance operation).

On the field trip to Missoula, students will visit Northstar/Neptune Aviation, the Museum of Mountain Flying and the Smokejumper Base. The last day will conclude with a general aviation fly-in at the Canyon Ferry airstrip.

If you know any high school students who are interested in exploring the exciting world of aviation and the various opportunities it presents, please pass this information along to them!

**Participation in the academy is \$50, which covers all meals, flights, activities, and shared accommodations. To register for ACE Academy, scan the QR Code.**

**\*Schedule is subject to change.**

For more information, contact Barbara Barnum at 406-444-2506 or [bbarnum@mt.gov](mailto:bbarnum@mt.gov).



## You Are Invited to Fly Into Canyon Ferry - June 20

Please fly your aircraft to Canyon Ferry on June 20 at 8 a.m. to support the annual ACE Academy.

The final day of the camp we host a general aviation fly-in. This is a great opportunity to show off your aircraft and talk to aspiring and interested high school students. Students love to hear how you got started in aviation and your careers in the field.

We want you to spend some time with us and talk about your airplanes. We hope for a diverse turnout!

The parking area along the strip will be nicely mowed prior to our fly-in, and the 3,200 ft rolled gravel runway is in good condition. The runway was completely redone this spring by Broadwater County Road Department and the repairs were primarily funded through a grant the county received from the Montana Aeronautics Board.

**Please RSVP if you plan on flying in at [mdtad@mt.gov](mailto:mdtad@mt.gov) or 406-444-2506.**



# Density Altitude and Weather Cams

In 2022, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) launched a campaign to raise awareness of density altitude (DA), introducing a new reminder poster at various airports, including those in Montana. Look for these posters at self-serve fuel pumps, pilot lounges, and other locations.

The Montana Pilots Association (MPA), along with the MDT Aeronautics Division and volunteers, collaborated to calculate and install these posters at key points for pilots. The MPA calculated DA for public airports, while the MDT Aeronautics Division assisted in production and placement.

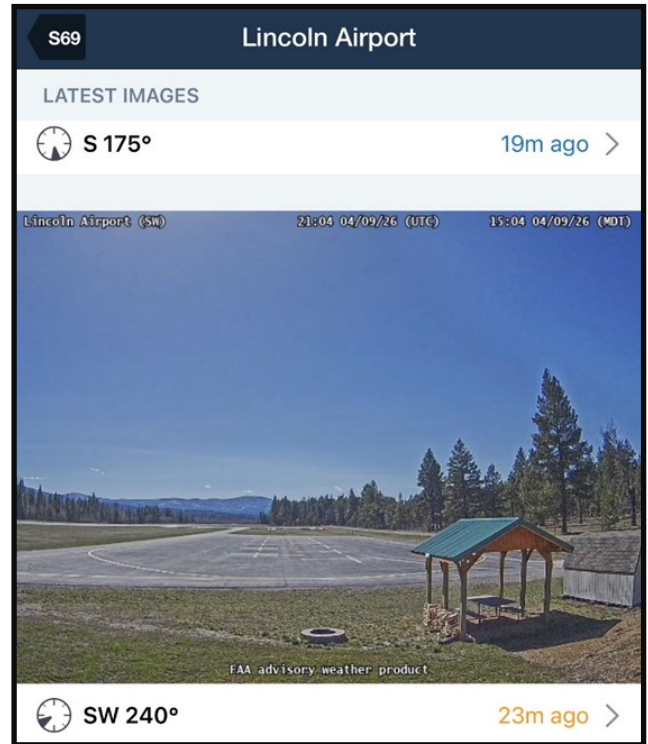
Many of you may recall several accidents in Montana that happened in a short amount of time. Some accidents share contributing factors from conditions we cannot control, but we can manage and mitigate the risk around them. Taking the time to refresh your skills and knowledge related to flying in non-standard conditions can make a world of difference! Sometimes, the right answer is we wait to make the trip on a more favorable day.

***Be on the lookout for these DA posters at Montana's airports and give them a look before you fly. You might be surprised what the density altitude really is!***

The summer flying season is here, which means thunderstorms are here too. Montana is one of few states leading the charge to install Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved weather cameras around the state. These cameras aid in preflight planning and enroute decision making. It can be very helpful to get a real-time view of the actual conditions. Montana is proud to announce it has over 61 camera site installations with more to come.

Depending on which Foreflight subscription level you use, you may

be able to access the cameras, and clear-day reference images, directly off the camera layer on the sectional chart view. This is a fast and convenient way to check conditions before flight as well as enroute.



**Scan the QR Code to access the FAA weather cameras.**

## Do You Want to Help Plan the 42nd Montana Aviation Conference?

The Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) is seeking volunteers to join the conference planning committee to plan the 2027 conference to be held in Missoula. The committee meets virtually monthly to report on their progress from individual and group tasks.

The group relies on volunteer participation to help make the conference as best as possible. If you are interested in helping, especially if you are local to the Missoula area (not required), please reach out.

**Interested persons should reach out to Kelly Atkins with MDT Aeronautics at [katkins@mt.gov](mailto:katkins@mt.gov) for more information or to sign up.**

**\*Planning meetings will begin in late June.**

## Confused About the New Changes to MOSAIC Repairman Certificates?

If you answered yes, you are not alone. The FAA has developed a new website resource to answer questions and clarify limitations related to the changes MOSAIC (Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certification) brought to repairman certificates.

**For more information, scan the QR Code.**



# Calendar of Events

**May 14 - Blackfoot Aviation. Missoula. GA Seminars - Density Altitude/Aircraft Performance** with speaker Kurt Kleiner. (FAA Safety with WINGS credit). Starts 6:30 p.m. at hanger #3 of the East LZ hangers. 4198 Corporate Way. For more information, contact Kendon Campbell at [kendonc@blackfootaviation.net](mailto:kendonc@blackfootaviation.net) or 406-519-3757.

**May 15 - 17 - Cub Doctor. Roundup. CANCELED**

**May 16 - Lincoln Fly-In.** The Lincoln Airport Foundation will be hosting a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at 406-362-4473 or [vulcandg406@gmail.com](mailto:vulcandg406@gmail.com).

**May 29 - 31 - Stillwater Balloon Rally. Columbus.** Wolterman Memorial Airport, 602 E 8th Ave. For more information, contact Lisa Westervelt at 406-322-4302 or [lwestervelt@columbusfirerescue.com](mailto:lwestervelt@columbusfirerescue.com).

**May 30 - John Beer Memorial Poker Run. Columbus.** Breakfast starts at 8 a.m., card draw and activities at 10 a.m. and lunch at 12 p.m. Coolest airplane contest, kids paper airplane contest and 5 card poker. For more information, contact Carter Beer at 406-855-3200.

**May 30 - EAA Chapter 344 Pancake Breakfast. Helena. CANCELED.**

**June TBD - Del Bonita Work Session.** For more information contact, Stephen Torske at [storske@mt.gov](mailto:storske@mt.gov).

**June 13 - Butte Wings and Wheels Fly-In or Drive-In.** 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. For more information, contact Walt McIntosh at 406-670-1846.

**June 13 - Townsend Fly-In.** Sponsored by the Broadwater County Airport Board. Breakfast served for a fee and proceeds go to the local 4H club. For more information, contact Jess Lancello at 406-860-5355 or [jessarnold@hotmail.com](mailto:jessarnold@hotmail.com).

**June 13 - Spotted Bear Work Party. CANCELED.** The runway was reconstructed last fall.

**June 20 - Geraldine Fly-In.** 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. In conjunction with Geraldine Fun Day. Lots of activities downtown. There will be a fireman's breakfast at the fire station downtown (Check courtesy car availability.) For more Fly-In information, contact Butch Hankins at 406-737-4244. For information on Geraldine Fun Day, go to [geraldineac.com](http://geraldineac.com).

**June 20 - Meadow Creek Work Party.** For more information, contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169 or [snewpower@theraf.org](mailto:snewpower@theraf.org).

**June 20 - Big Timber Fly-In and Car Show.** Breakfast starts at 7 a.m. followed by a pig roast lunch starting at 10 a.m. Breakfast and lunch are free. Donations accepted. For more information, contact Kirk Bryan at 406-930-1780.

**June 20 - Canyon Ferry Fly-In.** 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. *Please fly your aircraft into Canyon Ferry to support the annual ACE Academy!* This is a great opportunity to show off your aircraft and talk to high school students interested in aviation. Students love to hear how you got started in aviation and about your careers in the field. Please RSVP to Barbara Barnum at [bbarnum@mt.gov](mailto:bbarnum@mt.gov).

**June 26 - 28 - Fly-In. Annual Missouri Breaks Fly-In.** The Fly-In starts Friday, June 26 with arrivals in Winifred. Fly out to Missouri Breaks strips, then dinner in Winifred's hangar. Saturday June 27, fly out to Lewistown's MPA Central Hangar Fly In Breakfast, then fly to the Breaks followed by dinner in Winifred. Breakfast in Winifred Sunday, June 28. For more information, contact Ralph Rogers at 406-350-5487.

**June 27 - Choteau Fly-In.** 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Free breakfast starting at 6:30 a.m., donations welcome. Young Eagles airplane rides available. For more information, contact Scott Gasvoda at 406-590-2836 or Ben Hodgkiss at 406-737-4244.

**July 11 - 12 - Saint Ignatius Fly-In.** Saturday, July 11, 4 a.m. to 8 p.m., free BBQ with all the fixin's. Sunday, July 12, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., free huckleberry pancake breakfast, 100 gallon avgas giveaway, many door prizes. Helicopter rides both days. For more information, contact Michael Kuefler 406-544-2274.

**July 19 - Schafer Meadows Work Party.** For more information, contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169 or [snewpower@theraf.org](mailto:snewpower@theraf.org).

**July 23 - 26 - Big Sky Balloon Rally. Billings.** For event information go to, [bigskyballoonrally.com](http://bigskyballoonrally.com).

**August 9 - Hysham Fly-In.** Breakfast available for a small donation 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. For more information, contact Ruth Baue at 406-342-5328.

**August 15 - MPA Central Montana Fly-In. Lewistown.** 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Hosted by the MPA Central Montana Hangar. We will be serving scrambled eggs, sausage and Jeff and Stacy Martinez's world famous, cinnamon chip pancakes! For more information, contact Pete Smith at 406-366-1435 or [pete180@gmail.com](mailto:pete180@gmail.com).

**September 12 - North Central Hanger Fly-In. Havre.** 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Breakfast will be served 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. All activities will be completed by 11 a.m. For more information, contact Chad Olsen at 406-945-1577.

**September 19 - MPA South Central Fly-In. Laurel.** For more information, contact John Roberts at 406-855-2372.

**September 19 - Lincoln Fly-In.** The Lincoln Airport Foundation will be hosting a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at 406-362-4473 or [vulcandg406@gmail.com](mailto:vulcandg406@gmail.com).

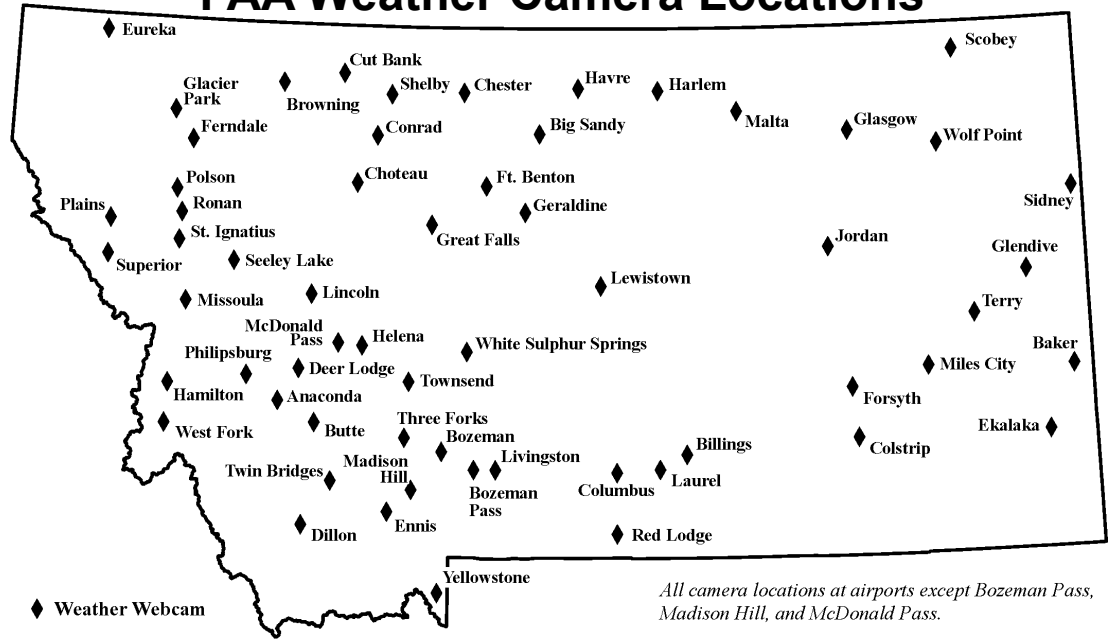
***Do you want your Montana aviation event considered for the Calendar of Events?  
Please send your event details to [mdtad@mt.gov](mailto:mdtad@mt.gov)  
35 - 45 days in advance of the month you want your event listed.***

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

**Thank you for  
 reading  
*Montana and  
 the Sky.*  
 Fly Safe!**

To manage your *Montana  
 and the Sky* newsletter  
 subscription preferences or to  
 sign-up for the e-newsletter  
 Please email [mdtad@mt.gov](mailto:mdtad@mt.gov)  
 or call 406-444-2506.

## FAA Weather Camera Locations



To request an alternative accessible format of this document, please contact MDT's ADA Coordinator at 406-444-5416, Montana Relay Service at 711, or by email at [mmaze@mt.gov](mailto:mmaze@mt.gov)

This document is printed at state expense. Information on the cost of producing this publication may be obtained by contacting the Department of Administration.