

# MONTANA PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED



P.O. BOX 4311 • HELENA, MONTANA 59604  
www.montanapilots.org

MPA Board Meeting  
December 11, 2004  
Yogo Inn, Lewistown, MT

**Meeting called to order:** 2:00 pm

**Present:** Chuck Manning, President; Geanette Cebulski, Sec/Treas; Chuck Jarecki, W. Director; Jim Lewis, E. Vice Pres; Lonnie Leslie, Immed. Past Pres; Bailey Egan, AOM Rep; Frank Bass, Aeronautics Board Rep; Dan Prill, Great Falls Pres; Ted McPherson, Colstrip Pres; Joe Younkin, Glasgow Pres; Tim Robertson, Central Hangar Pres; Wade Cebulski, Member At-large.

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence for the pilots and MPA members lost this year in aviation accidents.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

Fall Fly-In; US Forest Service 100 year celebration; Audit for 2004; News and Web alerts; RAF funding & auction receipt request.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the October 2 board meeting – Approved as disseminated.

**Treasurer's Report:** Financial Reports YTD 11-30-04, reviewed and approved as presented and discussed.

General Funds	\$ 10,076.04
Junior Pilot Funds	6,206.24
Recreational Airstrip Funds	17,968.74
War Chest Funds	10,097.37
Cash	105.94

**Informational and Appointments:**

- **MPA President,** Chuck Manning presented letters of support of backcountry airstrips in Montana and neighboring states that he had mailed out representing the MPA. The correspondence with Governor-Elect Brian Schweitzer, regarding nominations from the board for the MPA representative seat on the MT Aeronautics Board was discussed. Present nominees and the process involved in appointments were discussed. Anyone who would like to participate in the appointments process may do so by going to this web page <http://govelect.mt.gov/>.
- **MT Aeronautics Division** – Debbie Alke
- **AOPA** – Mike Ferguson
- **MT Aeronautics Board** – Representative, Frank Bass reported next meeting scheduled for January 19, 20, and 21. Loan and grants will be covered at that meeting. New representatives should be in place by that time. Request will be made for appointments not be made or not filled, until after the loans and grants are approved as it is important to have continuity of board members.
- **Aviation Organizations of Montana** – Representative, Bailey Egan reported that no meeting has been held since the Oct 2 meeting, which was reported at our last meeting. As far as we know the Real Estate Disclosure bill has not been drafted and it may be too late now. Later, it was determined that McNutt will carry the bill but doesn't want it to be too complicated.
- **Communications** – Chairman, Art Lindstrom  
Communications Committee Report: Submitted by Art Lindstrom

(statement inserted) "2004 is almost over and the Communications Committee feels the goals for the year were met. Six issues of the *Heading Bug* were published on a bi-monthly basis and mostly on schedule. The first two issues were sent to all the FAA licensed pilots in the state and the last four were sent to members only. The last issue had 650 printed, and all but a few were mailed to members. Approximately 85 members have chosen to receive their copy electronically.

The biggest issue facing the newsletter is timely hangar reports. Some hangars are jolly on the spot every month and others have not been heard from all year. There was one surprise that emerged. There does not seem to be any good spots to fly east of the divide for the \$100 hamburger. \$100 hamburger articles have been requested but nothing has been submitted except for hotspots west of the divide.

Now that the nights are long and cold and you are inside, please sit down and bang out a few lines on flying articles. Many stories reside in the minds of our members but most are afraid to write an article because of a fear of how the story will read. That is why the MPA has an editor, to take rough drafts and polish them into a good story. Contrary to what Chuck Jarecki may tell you the editor is not a madman with a red pen.

The Communications Committee is struggling with the Web site. Chuck Manning, Dan Lilja, Yoshie Simmons (Web master) and the editor are working to build a new Web site. The current Web site is hard to maintain because of the outdated software used to construct it. The new one will be built using Dream Weaver and will be done by Yoshie. There is still a lot of work to be done to design the new site and to choose the look and feel the MPA wants to project.

One of the big problems with the current arrangement for submission of material to be published on the MPA Web site is most of it goes directly to the Web master. Where this becomes a problem is many times the name of hangar members are misspelled, words like "Rondi" are spelled three different ways and other style errors end up on the Web site. This detracts from the professional look the MPA wants to project.

All the articles and stories should come through the editor so the look and feel of the Web site is consistent. Your editor has the *Associated Press Style Guide*, the *Chicago Manual of Style* and *Webster's Unabridged Dictionary* on his desk and continually uses them to make sure the style and spelling is correct. These are the same books used by most newspapers and magazines so that style and spelling are consistent across the print media.

Several meetings ago the content for the *Heading Bug* was discussed and it was suggested to incorporate some articles on aviation history in Montana. Chuck Manning recently came up with a great article on the history of Schafer Airstrip. The editor has contacted Jack Demmons, historian for the National Smokejumper Association and the Museum of Mountain Flying, and Steve Smith, author of *Fly The Biggest Piece Back* to contribute articles of historical aviation interest. Any members with flying articles, historical or current, are requested to write them up and the editor will work with them.

Happy holidays to all from the Communications Committee"

The board discussed including a small membership form in each *Heading Bug* issue. Geanette will contact Art with small samples of forms to use.

- **Education / Safety** - Chairman, Jim Lewis reported ideas for promoting aviation education (1) MPA booth at high school career days events, (2) bring a young person (student) to your local hangar meetings, (3) utilize the film library at the MT Aeronautics, (4) go to the website of the Air Safety Foundation [aopa.org/asf](http://aopa.org/asf) which offers many ideas.
- **Membership** - Chairman, Don Kinney - no report. As of this date about half of the 2004 membership (over 350) have sent in their renewals for 2005. Discussion was held regarding sending complimentary newsletters to the 2000 Montana registered pilots, and/or a mailing similar to our membership renewals to those pilots. No decision or action will be taken at this time. Reminders to our delinquent members should be sent out in January. Prize incentives were discussed for bringing in new members. An active membership committee is needed. Lonnie wanted to know how many members we have from previous years who were not members this year. (I have determined that we have 361 members going back to about the year 2000.)
- **Recreational Airstrip Committee** - Co-Chairmen, John McKenna and Dan Lilja. Dan Prill reported Lewis & Clark Travel Plan. Chuck Jarecki reported Flathead meeting with Deb Mucklow. 3 airstrips scheduled for maintenance - Spotted Bear and Schafer need routine maintenance, Meadow Creek will need the tractor to smooth runway. It has been determined that there is no way to get water at Meadow Creek unless a well is drilled. The forest service and MT Aeronautics have both prepared brochures. (Which I thought I had picked up copies of, but don't have) The landings counted at Schafer were 20 under the allowed quota of 550 (?). Partially due to the fact that Search and Rescue did not use Schafer this year.



Schafer will have a procedure change in the directory – there will now be no recommendation of which way to land.

- **Hangar Reports:** (16 Hangars)
  1. Vigilante Hangar held their Christmas Party Officer elections last week with 40 attendees. New Officers are President, Bill Gallea; Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_; and Secretary/Treasurer, Jeanie Ferguson. (Jim Lewis)
  2. Valley Hangar held their Christmas Party last Wednesday. They are discussing holding a Lewis & Clark Tour next year and plan to hold the Fathers Day Pancake Breakfast. The Elkram runway to be moved. Markle may lease it to Valley Hangar. Two ronds were held. (Joe Younkin)
  3. Great Falls Hangar will hold their Christmas Party and election of officers Dec 12 at Front Range Aviation in conjunction with Great Falls Chapter of the EAA. The new officers will be President, J.C. Kantorowicz; Vice-President, Lou Ronnau; Sec/Treas, Ray Wallace. (Report attached – Dan Prill)

#### Ad Hoc Committees:

- **Nominations** – Chuck Manning indicated that he would not be a candidate for MPA President next year. The Eastern Vice-President and Eastern Director seats may also need to be filled. Contact Joe Roberts regarding nominations.
- **Policy & Procedures** – On going – it needs to be a usable guide (Lonnie Leslie, Chairman)
- **Scholarships & Awards** – Send recommendations to Bob Hollister.

#### Old Business:

- **Committees** – Review function and appointments for 2005
  - **Finance** – Executive board will review budget.
  - **Communications** – Website links to Lewis & Clark and other recreational and aviation websites. Map of the state with links to every city by clicking on the city. Information comes up about the city including airport. Laurel website is an example. Bailey will send the link to Geanette.
  - **Aviation Archives** – (AOM), digital recordings, cd's and dvd's. What would be the cost of converting the present video. Bailey will inform the AOM of our interest.
- **2005 Conference** – Byron Bayers, Southwest Hangar. The MPA is slated for our Annual Meeting to be held at 8:00 am Saturday with a board meeting preceding it at 6:30 am. We plan to sponsor two, one-hour back-to-back concurrent sessions later in the day. The concurrent sessions will cover some form of a parliamentary procedures workshop and a session on officer training, and possibly membership recruitment and program ideas. We plan to sponsor a Hospitality Room as usual, but need to remind hangars that a contribution of approximately \$25.00 is greatly needed. We usually spend about \$400, which includes the room, beverages and hors d'ouvres. The refreshments are complimentary. We may place a rack of brochures and membership forms in the room this year. We plan to include a Conference Registration page in the next Heading Bug, which will be similar to the form provided by the MT Aeronautics Division. It will include a schedule of the MPA events also – meetings and concurrent sessions. The MPA and the RAF will share a triple size booth with the MPA paying 1/3 and the RAF 2/3.
- **Website** – Yoshie Simmons presented a print-out of the proposed website layout using the Dreamweaver Program. (attached) The project was discussed. Contact Yoshie if you want to request any changes.
- **Merchandise Sales** – It was again stressed that merchandise sales need to be centralized – one person to coordinate merchandise through the website. Some merchandise shops offer a service where they receive the orders through our website or link, ship them and accept payment directly with a credit card. Wade Cebulski will research the local shops in Missoula to see if any of them offer this service.
- **Fall Fly-In** – Discussed ideas for an air tour. Tabled.

#### New Business:

- **Forest Service 100 Year Celebration** – Ideas discussed were to tie in aviation with Spotted Bear event. Do something at the conference such as a plaque of recognition.
- **Awards & Scholarships** – *Joe Younkin made a motion to open a new award category in order to present an award to a member or non-member who has made an outstanding contribution to aviation in Montana. The name of the award to be determined later.* Motion seconded and passed.
- **Northwest MT Youth Aviation Fund** – Flathead Hangar – (Statement Inserted) "The Montana Pilots' Association recognizes the Flathead Hangar to be the Fund Manager of the Northwest MT Youth Aviation Fund and grants the use of its tax ID to open an account with the Whitefish Credit Union, Flathead County, Montana. It further grants Judy Harris and Charles Manning to be the initial co-representatives/signers of

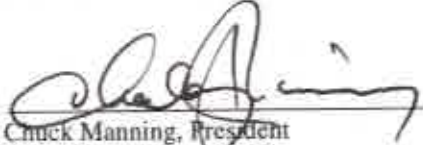
this account. These funds are to be used solely for youth residing in NW Montana. Should the Flathead Hangar be dissolved, the State MPA shall honor its intent." *Lonnie Leslie made a motion to enter into an agreement with the Flathead Hangar in regards to the Northwest MT Youth Fund bank account at Whitefish Credit Union. Motion was seconded and approved.*

- **Audit for 2004** – A list of bookkeepers and accountants from our membership was presented with thoughts that one of them may be interested in reviewing the books for 2004. Dan Prill is going to check on having his personal accountant do the audit.
- **Web Alerts** – Discussion was held regarding requests to inform our membership through email of alerts of interest to the aviation community.
- **Recreational Aviation Foundation** – Request (statement from Dan Prill inserted) "to be put on the agenda to discuss the possibility of the Recreational Aviation Committee donating money to the Recreational Aviation Foundation with some of the monies made from the on-line-auction? We were thinking that the RAC could donate approx. 70% of the monies left to the RAF. The RAF is making some in roads on the backcountry issues and of course needs money. Since the Auction raised money for backcountry airstrips we were thinking of splitting the money 70/30 and the MPA could do whatever with the 30% left." Chuck Manning stated that he was leaning towards funds to be used only for Recreational Committed projects and that the money should stay in the fund created for that purpose as originally intended. Some discussion was held but since it was a late agenda request with a large monetary impact, no action was taken. Chuck Jarecki explained that RAF is a vehicle for receiving tax free donations but needs start-up money to pursue contributions by having booths at Sun 'n Fun and Oshkosh. When asked, it was also clarified that money came into the RAF for the Bozeman pilots' shelter was donated specifically for that purpose.

**Closing:** Tim Robertson, President of the Central Montana Hangar thanked the board for coming out for their Christmas Party.

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> in Butte at the Montana Aviation Conference. Board Meeting 6:30 am and Annual Meeting 8:00 am.

**Adjourn:** 5:35 pm

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chuck Manning, President

Date 2-5-05

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Geanette Cebulski, Sec./Treas.

Date 3-5-2005

November 19, 2004

Governor-Elect Brian Schweitzer  
Montana State Capitol, Room 201  
P.O. Box 200850  
Helena, MT 59620-0850

Dear Governor-Elect Brian Schweitzer,

As President of the Montana Pilots' Association (MPA), I congratulate you on being elected to the office of Governor for the State of Montana. The MPA has maintained a very good working relationship with past administrations and we look forward to working with you and your staff.

As you know, the MPA holds a seat on the State Aeronautics Board currently held by Frank Bass. This seat is up for re-appointment.

To this date, five pilots have contacted me personally inquiring about the opening; all with intentions of submitting a letter to you. The inquiries are Frank Bass, Bob Hollister, Jim Monger, Tricia McKenna and Ted Schye. It is my understanding you plan on making selections to fill the Aeronautics Board in the very near future and before the next MPA Board meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>. As the MPA Board cannot offer you a nomination list by Board action in a timely manner, I offer you the above inquiries for consideration. All are current MPA members and in good standing.

With reference to the above five inquiries, I can offer you my personal insights if you choose to contact me.

I can be reached at 406-257-6262 or 406-844-3369

Sincerely,

Charles Manning, President  
Montana Pilots' Association  
cnmanning@centurytel.net

Cc: Bob Ream



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR ELECT  
STATE OF MONTANA

2

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR ELECT



JOHN BOHLINGER  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ELECT

November 26, 2004

Charles Manning, President  
Montana Pilots Association  
P.O. Box 4311  
Helena, MT 59604

Dear President Manning:

Thank you for your letter indicating the interest of five pilots, all of whom are members of your association, in being appointed to the Board of Aeronautics. We will make sure the Governor-Elect has this information for his consideration as he reviews nominees for this important appointment.

While we appreciate having names in as timely a manner as possible, it is not likely that these appointments would be made prior to your December 11 meeting. Should the board wish to submit other names, we would be able to accept them.

I would also like to bring to your attention, and ask that you pass it along to your friends and associates, the opportunity to participate in the appointments process electronically. With a goal to making the recommendations process as inclusive and convenient as possible, the Governor-Elect's webpage, <http://govelect.mt.gov/> has a form for those who are interested in applying or for those submitting names for the Governor-Elect's consideration. In addition, this helps ensure that the names, along with the applicants' or nominees' backgrounds, interests and experience are captured in the office database. There is also a place to upload a more complete resume and/or cover letter.

On behalf of Governor-elect Schweitzer, I extend deep appreciation to you and the Montana Pilots Association for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sidney Armstrong".

Sidney Armstrong  
Appointments Advisor  
Transition Team