

MONTANA PILOTS' ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED



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

Board of Directors Meeting  
Saturday, April 10, 2010  
Helena, MT – Montana Aeronautics Building

**Opening:** President, Wade Cebulski, brought the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**Announcements:** Follow up on the Bill Waldren Veteran's project. Lunch served from Subway.

**Present:**

1. Wade Cebulski, President
2. Jon Hudson, E. Vice-Pres.
3. Steve Rossiter, W. Vice-Pres.
4. Jim Younkin, Treasurer
5. Geanette Cebulski, Secretary
6. Scott Newpower, E. Director
7. Chuck Jarecki, W. Director
8. Robert Shropshire, Gallatin President
9. Chuck Flynn, Vigilante President
10. Willie Stene, Webmaster
11. Debbie Alke, Director MT Aero Div
12. Mike Ferguson, AOPA Rep.
13. Ron Normandeau, Airstrip Chairman
14. Jim Lynch, Director of Transportation

**Minutes:** Chuck Jarecki moved to approve the Minutes of the 12-5-09 meeting as amended to note Ron Normandeau in attendance as an RAF member rather than as Mission Valley Hangar member. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chuck Jarecki moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and discussed by Geanette Cebulski, Secretary and Jim Younkin, Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Fund balances as of April 8, 2010:

General Fund Accounts	\$ 10,136.12
Jr. Pilot Fund	6,227.94
Recreational Airstrip Fund	11,884.98
War Chest	7,852.05
Hangar Rebate Fund	499.67
Cash	157.25

**STANDING COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS:**

**AOM** – Wade reported conference proceeds have been finalized and the total to the MPA is \$1074.00 which is split 25% (268.50) to state MPA and 75% (805.50) to the host Hangar, Five Valleys. 2011 Conference will be in Helena and 2012 will be in Bozeman. Wade, Geanette, Debbie Alke and Patty Kautz toured the newly remodeled Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula and discovered that the upgrades would probably allow enough space and amenities to hold a conference sometime in the future. Jim

Lynch commented on fuel taxes. The AOM board discussed fuel tax proposals and declined to pursue that at this time.

**AOPA** – Mike Ferguson commented also on the fuel tax proposals, federal fuel taxes and the FAA's Through the Fence policies. *Jon Hudson moved to have a letter sent to Tom Lynch regarding the Through the Fence issue. Motion approved unanimously.* Chuck Flynn will draft the letter. The letter should be sent via email, fax and regular mail, and a telephone call advising that it is on the way and what it is about. Notify Jim Lynch when it will be going out and he will contact Tom to introduce us. A "through the fence" issue has come up at the Columbus airport as well as Townsend.

**Membership** – Geanette Cebulski reported an April 2 mailing of 381 renewal forms with self-addressed return envelopes and "Membership Renewal" noted on the front of the envelope. We have received about 60 back in the mail already and now show 485 current members. Only 150 have paid by credit card on-line, the rest have paid with checks or cash.

**Newsletter** – Kristi Dunks sent an email that she wouldn't be able to attend this meeting. She asks that hangar reports be sent to her for the newsletter instead of only to the secretary so that I don't need to forward them and that we send any comments or suggestions for the newsletter. The board discussed the article submission process and decided that all opinion type articles should be followed directly with a disclaimer saying that the views expressed are not necessarily the views of the MPA. The board also discussed asking an additional fee for a hard copy of the newsletter in 2011 in order to help cover the printing and postage costs. We should begin advertising that members select the option for electronic newsletters now in order to prepare for next year. *Chuck Jarecki moved that we solicit business card size ads for the newsletter at \$50. /issue with a 6 issue minimum, (\$300.) payable in advance. We would limit the number to no more than 16 business card size ads with no more than 2 per page for our 8 page newsletter. Motion approved unanimously.* Steve Rossiter plans to submit an ad and we will have something beside it saying something like "Put your card here- Contact Kristi (?) for information". Deadline for next issue is May 8.

**Website** – Willie Stene reported ongoing website issues and answered questions.

**Legislative** – Chuck Flynn will be working on letters regarding the FAA Through the Fence issue and discussed some hangar use (storage) issues. Chuck Jarecki discussed the Forest Service Planning Process and the date and time of the meeting in Missoula, Tues. April 13<sup>th</sup> with registration beginning at 8 am at Holiday Inn Parkside. Steve Rossiter, Jim Younkin, Ron Normandeau and Chuck Jarecki all plan to attend to provide input from either the MPA or RAF.

**Recreational Airstrips** – Newly appointed committee chairman Ron Normandeau presented a written report of his activities of the last month including attachments which are on file.

Recreation airstrip Committee Chair: Ron Normandeau accepted a one year appointment as chairman.

Press Release: A press release was distributed to the Daily Interlake addressing the award presented to the MPA by Region One of the Forest Service. The MPA was nominated by the Spotted Bear Ranger District and the Flathead Forest. The award was presented by Debbie Mucklow, District Ranger and Dave Bull, Regional Director for RMLHW at the Aeronautics Conference in MSO. (Attached)

Notification of Chair change: Distributed a letter to all hangar presidents notifying of a change of RAC chair. (Attached)

Call for committee members: A call was made to all hangar officers for the appointment of a hangar member to be named to the RAC. Expect some volunteers after the April Hangar meetings.

Call for work parties: Distributed a letter, drafted by C. Jarecki, to all hangars calling for workers for the Missouri Breaks airstrips work day on May 15<sup>th</sup>. I coordinated with Ralph Rodgers to provide a bar-b-que at Cow Creek after work. (Attached)

Assigned airstrip responsibility: Requested the Valley Hangar to provide coordination of the work party on Cow Creek airstrip; North Central Hangar to provide work party coordination to Bullwhacker airstrip; and Great Falls Hanger to provide work party coordination for Black Butte.

Wade brought to the attention of the Board a letter from the RAF to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation regarding the Benchmark airstrip which was brought to the attention of the MT Aeronautics Division and ultimately to him. He stated that he was disappointed to learn of this issue in this manner. Wade flew into Benchmark this morning and his personal opinion is that there are a lot of years of use left with some minor maintenance. He also took a photo of the sign there, which states "this airfield was constructed to provide aircraft facilities for enjoyment of national forest recreation opportunities and for administration of the national forest. It was built cooperatively by the US Forest Service, the Federal Aviation Agency and the MT Aeronautics Commission in 1966". Chuck Jarecki stated that the RAF has an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding?) w/ the RMEF and that the letter to them is conceptual. Jim Lynch stated that if the Forest Service wants to abandon the strip, the State would want to discuss taking it over as they have with other strips abandoned by the FS or other entities. The Forest Service, Aeronautics and MPA will be doing an on-site project assessment in mid-May prior to the MPA Work Session scheduled for June 5.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Museum Of Mountain Flying** - We received an email notice from Art Dykstra who is on the Museum Board of Directors. They are having a fundraiser on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm which will focus on a presentation from Ken Dial and dinner. They have 20 tables that seat 10 people each and can be reserved with a \$1000 tax-deductible donation. To date they have sold 11 tables and have offered to be the contact and help round up 10 people for an MPA table. The MPA stores their filled Hangar of the Year trophy there and held the Hospitality Event at the conference there this year. Wade and Geanette have already spoken for two seats and other MPA board members appeared to be interested in purchasing seats. *Chuck Flynn moved to purchase one \$100. seat at the table and Wade should find someone such as a media person or other VIP person to be the guest of the MPA. Motion passed unanimously.* Geanette will email the notice out to our membership.

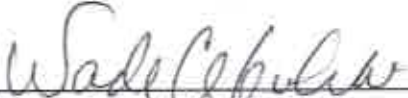
**License Plate Fundraiser** – Steve Rossiter reported to the board about license plate fundraising. No decisions were made at this time.

**2010 Budget** – *Chuck Jarecki moved to approve the 2010 proposed budget as reviewed and discussed. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Gift Certificate for 2008 Audit** – The board approved an expenditure of \$50.00 for a gift certificate from Lindey's Steak House to present to Loren Rose, CPA for donating his time to audit the 2008 financial records.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:20 PM.**

**Next meeting** – Next meeting is scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup> in Helena following the AOM meeting.

  
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Wade Cebulski, President

  
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Geanette Cebulski, Secretary



# MONTANA PILOTS' ASSOCIATION



Report for Month of March

April 7, 2010

Recreation airstrip Committee Chair: Ron Normandeau accepted a one year appointment as chairman.

Press Release: A press release was distributed to the Daily Interlake addressing the award presented to the MPA by Region One of the Forest Service. The MPA was nominated by the Spotted Bear Ranger District and the Flathead Forest. The award was presented by Debbie Mucklow, District Ranger and Dave Bull, Regional Director for RMLHW at the Aeronautics Conference in MSO. (Attached)

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## U.S. Forest Service Awards Montana Pilots Association Volunteer Award

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS), Flathead National Forest (FNF), Spotted Bear Ranger District awarded the Regional level 'Volunteer Program Award' in the Volunteer Group category, for fiscal year 2008 to the Montana Pilots Association (MPA). Dave Bull, Regional Director of Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage, and Wilderness and Debbie Mucklow, Spotted Bear District Ranger, presented the award to Wade Cebulski, President of the Montana Pilots Association at the Montana State Department of Aeronautics' (MSDA) annual Aviation Conference held in Missoula, MT, March 4-6, 2010.

The award is presented annually by the USFS in several categories to groups and individuals who have contributed significantly to aiding the USFS in its mission of managing the public's national forests.

Starting with an annual meeting between the USFS, Montana Aeronautics Division, and the MPA, a program of work is developed to address the maintenance requirements of the three landing strips (Spotted Bear, Meadow Creek, Schafer Meadow) on the Spotted Bear Ranger District, and tentative dates for the work parties are established. At this point the Flathead Hanger (Kalispell) of the MPA assumes responsibility for coordinating the work parties and puts out a call to all MPA Hangers for volunteers. Pilots from all across the state, and some from outside the state, on the date selected for the specific airstrip, converge and spend a weekend camping and accomplishing the maintenance tasks identified in the program of work. The tasks may include replacing the wind soak, filling gopher holes, cleaning camp grounds of winter's debris, etc. and usually ends in a steak fry in the evening.

The MPA has agreement with the Lewis and Clark National Forest (Benchmark, and Russian Flat), and the Bureau of Land Management (five airstrips in the Missouri River Breaks National Monument) to accomplish similar maintenance.

The work schedule for 2010 is: Missouri Breaks – May 5<sup>th</sup>; Spotted Bear 8U4 – May 29-30; Benchmark 3U7– June 5<sup>th</sup>; Meadow Creek OS1- June 26-27; Russian Flat – July 10-11; Schafer Meadow 8U2 – July 16-17. Anyone is welcome to come and participate in the sweat, camaraderie, and fun of a backcountry airstrip work party. More information can be found at the MPA web site; [www.montanapilots.org](http://www.montanapilots.org)

Chuck F. Flynn  
Vigilante Hanger

Gentlemen,

This memorandum introduces me to you as the 2010 Chairman of the Recreation Airstrips Committee, solicits a member from each of your hangars to participate on the Recreation Airstrip Committee, and defines the duties of the committee.

My name is Ron Normandeau (Nor- emphasis on MAN- doe). I reside in Polson, my home town; have been a pilot since 1964 and have used ALL of the means available to participate in flying. I am presently restoring a 1947 Aeronca Chief and flying another person's Taylorcraft. I am the Montana State Liaison for the Recreational Aviation Foundation and have been associated with the RAF for about four years.

As chairman of the Recreation Airstrip Committee, I am a committee chair without a committee. What I need from each of you is a volunteer to participate on the Recreation airstrip Committee (RAC). I have included as an appendix the list of MPA members who have expressed an interest in recreation airstrips by checking the box on the application. Please approach a person or persons listed in your area of the state to become a committee member. It is in your interest to find a person who wants to actively participate, because, in the absence of a participant from your Hangar, you become the default committee member. If all Hangars participate, it will be a large committee (15 members) and tasks and projects can be shared between hangars in a geographic area. Your RAC member is authorized to organize a local RAC committee within your hangar to aid in tasks as needed.

The un-official mission of the RAC, as penned by Board Member Chuck Jarecki is: "Working through the Montana Pilots Association to preserve and enhance recreational airstrips and facilities in Montana for the present and future generations of recreational aviators."

Chuck also laid out the tasks for the RAC Chairman as follows:

- 1) Attend the MPA Board meetings.
- 2) Direct fund raising to maintain adequate funds in the RAC account.
- 3) Alert and coordinate membership where membership action is needed (like public input into a Federal Land Agency plan).
- 4) Hold a RAC meeting at the Montana Aviation Conference.
- 5) Assist hangar committee reps when they need help on an issue that affects more than their area.

These tasks, with word changes to fit, are extended to committee members and provide the framework within which the committee will work.

I will be looking forward to your nominations to the Recreational Airstrip Committee.

Ron Normandeau  
Chairman, Recreational Airstrip Committee  
[Ronald06@centurytel.net](mailto:Ronald06@centurytel.net)  
406 529 5661 cell

# MONTANA PILOTS' ASSOCIATION



Memorandum For:

March 20, 2010

Dale R. Chamberlain  
Central Hangar

Jim Younkin  
Five Valleys Hangar

James R. Pierce  
Flathead Hangar

Robert Shropshire  
Gallatin Valley Hangar

Roger Sammons  
Glacier Hangar

Elmer Egli  
Glendive Hangar

Harvey Hampton  
Great Falls Hangar

Le J Richardson  
Miles City Hangar

Mauri Morin  
Mission Valley Hangar

Darren M. Huestis  
North Central Hangar

Walter R. Pickering  
Sanders County Hangar

Scott Newpower  
South Central Hangar

Denzel C. Davis  
Southwest Hanger

David A. Heins  
Valley Hanger



## Calling all Pulaski swingers

Here is your chance to join the Order of the Polaskis!

Mark the weekend of May 15, 2010 on your calendars. There will be a work party(s) in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument to remove sagebrush from three of the six airstrips that have been approved in the final Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP). The three airstrips are:

- Cow Creek 47°56'51"N, 109°00'29"W
- Black Butte North 47°50'44"N, 109°11'13"W
- Bullwhacker 47°50'52"N, 109°05'58"W

All three airstrips run approximately east and west. There is at least 1500' usable runway at this time. There are no windsocks.

The plan is to remove all the sagebrush from the original foot print of the three airstrips, which will provide at least 2000' of usable runway. Only hand tools are allowed for this work. Polaskis, or similar tools, work best (cutting the sage off just below ground level) and a pitchfork is needed to remove the sage off the runway. For those of you that do not have a Polaski, there will be loaners available. So, not having the proper tool is no excuse for not showing up. Bullwhacker and Black Butte North are the airstrips that need the most attention.

Arrive early on Saturday morning at one of the strips, spend the day cutting sagebrush and then finish up the evening with a BBQ at Cow Creek, hosted by Winifred pilot Ralph Rogers. Some of us will be camping at Cow Creek. Be sure to bring plenty of drinking water.

If the weekend forecast is for rainy weather, the work session will be delayed to the following weekend. On May 14<sup>th</sup> I will send out to MPA members an email with any final details. Do not land in the Breaks if the ground is wet.

The Montana Pilots Association has worked long and hard to keep these airstrips available for public use and having them included on the final Monument RMP. You are asked to be considerate of other Monument visitors. Do not fly low over the Missouri River.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, contact me by:  
Telephone: 406 529 5661 Cell  
Email: ronald06@centurytel.net

Ron Normandeau, Chair, Recreational Airstrip Committee, MPA

RSVP by 1 May 2010 We need a count for the Bar-b-que