

## MONTANA PILOTS' ASSOCIATION



# HEADING BUG

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DENNIS LENOIR, WESTERN DIRECTOR

JIM LEWIS, EASTERN DIRECTOR

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LONNIE LESLIE, PAST PRESIDENT

## Letter From Our New MPA President

On behalf of the MPA Board and membership, thank you Lonnie Leslie for your leadership and vision in directing the organization this past year as our President and Jeanie Ferguson for taking Board minutes and keeping our books straight as Secretary / Treasurer. A special thanks to the Dillon Hangar for being the Host Hangar at the Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula, February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Conference was a huge success with record attendance.

The slate of officers elected at the general membership meeting during the conference are Treasurer, Geanette Cebulski; Western VP, Jay Billmayer; Eastern VP, Charles Inman; Western Director, Dennis Lenoir; Eastern Director, Jim Lewis. Geanette Cebulski will also serve as Secretary. She is an active pilot and runs a bookkeeping and secretarial business in Seeley Lake. Her expertise will truly be an asset to our organization. Bailey Egan will continue as the AOM representative and Web Editor, thanks Bailey. The point person for the Recreational Airstrip Committee is John McKenna. This committee is without a doubt the most active and enthusiastic bunch of pilots in the state. They are hosting a silent auction through the MPA website [www.montanapilots.org](http://www.montanapilots.org) May 11-17<sup>th</sup> as a fund-riser for the future of recreational airstrips in Montana. Many items have been donated, and with an international audience, this should prove to be very exciting.

I plan to continue with the ambitious tasks Lonnie initiated. His focus on defining policy and procedures to facilitate management of the MPA and the need to update and distributing a current Membership Directory is timely. I am pleased to announce that Bob Lipscomb has agreed to work on the development of a hard copy newsletter. This newsletter will complement the MPA website. Thanks Bob for volunteering to undertake this much need service for our membership.

General aviation will face many challenges in the coming years. Through the MPA, your unified voice can make a difference and help preserve our freedom under the Big Sky. If I can be of service to you or your Hangar, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Chuck Manning, MPA President

406-257-6262 or 406-844-3369

[cnmanning@centurytel.net](mailto:cnmanning@centurytel.net)



Chuck Manning

## YOUR MPA IN ACTION..... 2002

The 2002 MPA Board made some very positive decisions during the past year. I was a member of that Board and would like to mention some of the things that were done that will carry us forward for many years. Your past President, Lonnie Leslie, took a lot of heat for proposing a dues increase and I highlight the word **proposed** because the MPA Board was the voting body that was unanimous in the decision to raise the dues. That decision was only a small part of the over all picture that your MPA Board was striving to accomplish.

The Montana Pilots was established over 60 years ago and that is a lot of years to lead flawlessly, the largest organized aviation group in Montana. MPA is the only organization to deal with all matters of aviation in this State. It has not been perfect but one thing that has happened with the yearly change of boards and officers, a lot of policy has fallen out of the Constitution and many of the policy's were handed down each year by members that did not always get it right. Let me stress that it was not on purpose or with a malicious intent but it allowed some of the policies to stray. Past President Dennis DeVivo could see this happening and started getting the Constitution up front for the membership to follow. It had many contradictions and etc, that had slowly gotten in by mistake. This year your Board has now gotten it on CD disk and also set out the policies on all of the funding that has been ear marked for different causes. Those policies are not quite complete yet but very near. New Boards, New Presidents and the General Membership will be able to go to those funds or MPA sponsored projects and know exactly how they are to be administered and not have to call the "Old Timers" on how they thought it was supposed to be.

Two additional \$ 500.00 scholarships were added for the people learning to fly. It is with hopes that it will be easier for them to join the world of aviation. The book keeping system was stream lined in an effort to eliminate the antiquated system that has crippled the MPA for years. There have been years that members did not even get there membership cards, some paid twice some didn't pay at all. Policy was set to produce a membership guide much like Bob Lipscomb did on his own some years back. We now hope that it will be published and kept current on a regular basis. The Web Site was promoted because it was the only thing that we could afford. There is a lot of work left to be done to get the information of what is going on in this MPA out to the members.

The 2002 Board made a real effort to break the bonds that have been holding it back. We expect to be handling larger and larger amounts of money as time goes by so the ground work was started to do that better.

I hope this sheds some light on the reason that your 2002 Board did the things they did. I was a member of that Board and I'm proud of what we were trying to do for the MPA. I'm sure we will be remembered as the bad guys that raised the dues but also I don't think there was any one member that did not make his or her decisions for the betterment of aviation in Montana. By the way what have you done for aviation in Montana lately?

Bailey Egan, Board Member, Colstrip Hangar

## Benefits of Membership

When you join the Montana Pilots' Association you become a part of a larger voice for General Aviation in Montana.

### Specifically you gain:

Membership in an organization that represents your general aviation interests.

Subscription to a quarterly newsletter that includes a calendar of aviation events and Hangar reports from around the state, as well as keeping you informed on issues important to Montana Pilots.

Representation at the local, state and national levels on aviation issues.

## Subject: Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula

The Recreational Airstrip Committee held its concurrent session at the aviation conference in the Missoula Holiday Inn on Saturday the 1st of March. The meeting was very well attended with standing room only for those that didn't arrive early. Members of the committee who attended included Nigel Davis, Chuck Jarecki, Dan Lilja and John McKenna. The talk started out with Dan Lilja presenting a Power Point program outlining the history of the closed backcountry airstrips in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The status of some strips on Forest Service land, either closed or open, was questioned. The remainder of the program dealt with the recreational strips in the Missouri Breaks. These Breaks strips, on BLM land, are now within the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument. For those that missed the Power Point program we're attempting to make it available as a download on the MPA website.

Mike Korn of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks was present and as a pilot, gave the group some tips on dealing with government agencies and sensitive issues. Gordon Scofield from the U.S. Forest Service was also present and gave an impromptu discussion of the importance of getting involved in the forest planning process.

Chuck Jarecki discussed his involvement in the planning process for the Missouri Breaks Monument plan now underway and passed out a handout with pictures of the Breaks strips and coordinates. Chuck's tireless efforts were recognized when outgoing MPA president Lonnie Leslie awarded Chuck with the Sparkplug award for 2002. The group very much appreciates all of the time, effort and dollars that Chuck has put forth on the Breaks strips.

Later that evening, at the Saturday night banquet, Dan Lilja was awarded the Sparkplug award too and John McKenna was presented with the President's Choice plaque. Website editor Bailey Eagan was also given the Sparkplug award for his untiring efforts managing the MPA site.

At the meeting the committee sold 20 Pulaski's for use wherever the new owner may find appropriate. Those in the know demonstrated the "sage brush swing" to the new owners. Thanks to all who made a well-intentioned \$20 purchase and to our Pulaski supplier. And tanks to all who attended and everyone who has an interest in preserving and maintaining the recreational airstrips of Montana.



**Left:** John KcKenna holding a Pulaski sold as a fund raiser.

**Above:** Chuck Jarecki gave a presentation on the status of the Missouri Breaks.

One other item on the agenda was the upcoming silent online auction scheduled for May 11th - 17th. We'll keep you informed of the auction through this e-mail list and also on the MPA website.

# Heading Bug

Bob Lipscomb

Editor

Spring 2003

MONTANA  
PILOTS'  
ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 4311  
HELENA, MT 59604

WE'RE ON THE  
WEB...

[HTTP://MONTANAPILOTS.ORG](http://MONTANAPILOTS.ORG)

YOUR VOICE FOR GENERAL  
AVIATION IN MONTANA

Attach mailing label here

## Calendar of Events

- June ( Mid ) — MAAA Tour, To be announced
- June 14 — International Young Eagles Day ( 920 ) 426-4831
- June 28-29 — EAA Rocky Mountain Regional Fly-in, Longmont Co.
- July 9-13 — Northwest EAA Fly-in, Arlington Wa.
- July 12 — Rosebud Co.Airports Open House, Colstrip-Forsyth (406) 477-6645
- July 12 — Missoula Airshow
- July 12 — Big Sandy Fly-in & Toy Show, ( 406 ) 265-4757
- July 18-20 — Schafer Meadows Work Session,( 406 ) 444-2506
- July 29-Aug 4 — EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI.
- August 7-10 — MAAA Fly-in, Pogreba Field, Three Forks
- August 15-17 — Montana Fun Week-end, Cut Bank

Check the MPA Website <http://montanapilots.org> for changes and updates