

Heading Bug

Chuck Manning, President

Bob Lipscomb—Editor

NOTAMS:

Thompson Falls now has a credit card fueling facility. Ron Turk has 100LL, the current price is \$2.35 per gallon.



The Annual **FRANK BASS FATHERS DAY FLY-IN PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Frank and Patty have decided to slow down slightly in retirement. This very successful annual event will no longer be at the BEACON STAR, instead it will now be held at the Fort Peck Airstrip.

MPA Membership Renewals

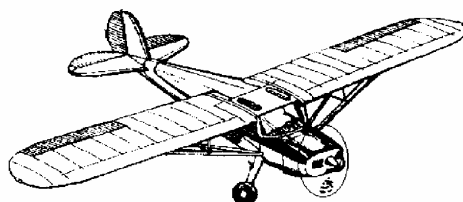
Current MPA members will be receiving notification soon for membership renewals for the **2004 calendar year**.

MPA memberships are based on a calendar year, Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. All dues received between Oct 1 and Dec. 31 shall be deemed to be paid up for the ensuing calendar year. After Jan. 1, members no longer show up on a Current Membership list. If you are not a current member, please fill out the attached membership form on page four, and mail it along with your check to the address provided. **Remember, the fee you pay to the MT Aeronautics Division is your State pilot registration fee – not the Montana Pilots Association membership dues.** Please help out by promptly paying your dues so we will be able to include you in all activities.

President's Notes:

The Montana Pilots Association Planning Retreat on October 25th was a huge success with over 20 members representing Hangars, Committees and the Board participating. Steve Swann of Clearwater Research, Inc. facilitated the strategy planning session. We were very fortunate to have Steve guide us through a process of idea capture, feasibility, attributing importance and setting realistic goals from which we can build our organization. At the end of the day, topics were grouped into the following for recommendation to the Board.

1. Regular Communication is mandatory
2. Every Member Encourage Others To Join
3. Fly & Pitch To The Public
4. Maintain Recreational Airstrips/Work Sessions
5. Local Political Involvement.
6. School Presentations.
7. Special Membership Awards To New Pilots, Students.



On Sunday morning the Board adopted the planning session recommendations. Focusing on #1, the Board voted to start publishing a bimonthly newsletter beginning January of 2004 to encourage pilots and others in the aviation community to join the MPA. The newsletter will be disseminated to all Montana pilots holding an FAA medical in addition to current MPA members. The Newsletter/Membership Drive will continue throughout 2004.

Dan Prill, President of the Great Fall Hangar says the planning phase for the 2004 Montana Aviation Conference is on track with many outstanding speakers and concurrent sessions being scheduled. Bob Hoover is scheduled to be the Saturday Banquet speaker so dust off your straw hat and block off March 4-6 on your calendar.

The BLM has made an update to their website concerning the letters and e-mails that have been sent in concerning the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument draft alternatives. Please check out <http://www.montanapilots.org/backcountry/index.html> for more information. I think it is obvious we made an impression at the public forums.

Fly safe...

Chuck Manning
MPA President

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Flying Montana's Missouri River Breaks

Montana is generally known for its majestic mountains in the west. But there is another spectacular place known as the Missouri River Breaks in north-central Montana. This is the area bordering the Missouri River from near Fort Benton downstream into the Charles M. Russell Game Reserve. Much of this rugged landscape is now in the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument, created by Presidential proclamation in January 2001. The Monument encompasses a total of over 377,000 acres. The area is largely unchanged since Lewis and Clark ascended the Missouri River 200 years ago.

The Breaks is dominated by the Missouri River as it courses its way eastward beneath sandstone cliffs. The upland grass and sagebrush covered prairie is deeply incised by numerous coulees draining into the river. They have the appearance of the badlands found in the Dakotas. Pine and juniper trees dot the landscape. Except for the odd livestock fence and numerous two-track road, little has changed the landscape over the years. This country begs you to land and explore. It can be done.

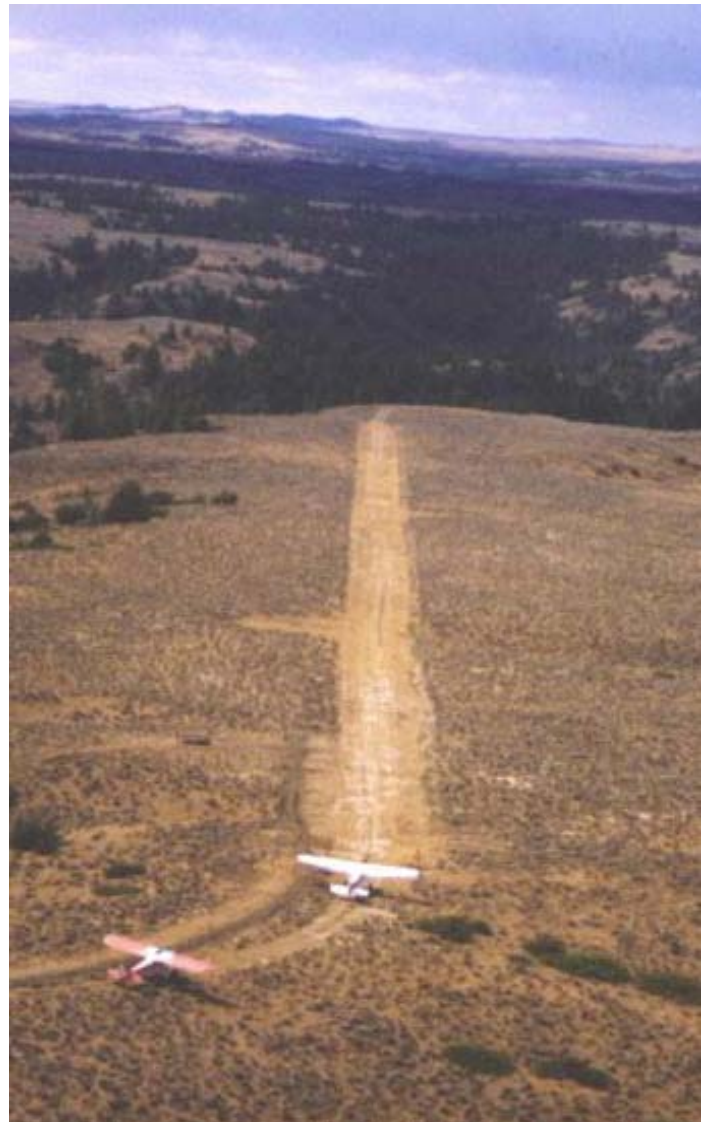
The Monument is under the auspices of the Bureau of Land Management. That agency is now involved in the four-year process of developing a resource management plan for the entire Monument. The Montana Pilots Association is involved in the planning process, with the goal of protecting the over flight rights and to maintain the continued use of the ten primitive airstrips located within the Monument. The final plan will not be completed for at least two more years. The MPA will continue to monitor and participate in the planning process.



As you fly over the Monument, you will probably see several airstrips on the uplands, especially in the Bull Whacker Coulee area. At this time, all the airstrips located on BLM land are open for use by the public. Some are good, and some are rough. All provide a unique opportunity for camping, hiking, wildlife viewing and solitude. Future issues of this newsletter will feature various airstrips within the Monument, along with their coordinates, length, runway surface and other characteristics to consider before landing. **Be aware that all of this area is located under the Hayes MOA, so be vigilant for low flying F-16's.** In the mean time, look over this unique corner of Montana. Fly courteously and respect the users on the ground.

Chuck Jarecki

Photos of several of the airstrips on the Monument





Are you looking for a reason to go flying? Well, look no more. Become an Angel Flight Pilot and fly to interesting places, meet interesting people, get that wonderful feeling from helping someone in need, and get an income tax deduction for it all to boot! There is a Montana Wing of Angel Flight West and more pilots are needed as the number of requests is increasing dramatically. If I have your attention, go to the Angel Flight website at <http://www.angelflight.org/> to check out all the details.

I've flown eight missions for Angel Flight since I became an Angel Flight Pilot, and every one of them has been an extremely rewarding and enjoyable experience. My flights have included taking patients for treatment at various facilities, young cancer patients/survivors to summer camps, and Indian youth to summer camps for introduction to the medical field. There is a great demand for mission pilots for these summer camps, and it's a great opportunity to meet other Angel Flight Pilots from around the state and the great people that put on these camps. Many flights involve multiple leg relays to get patients across multiple states for treatment, and again provide opportunities to meet Angel Flight Pilots from other states. After 9/11, Angel Flight was permitted to fly relays across the country to deliver blood supplies from the west coast and after the War in Iraq, Angel Flight provided the means for many servicemen to get to their homes during their return visits to the states. As I write this, there are 12 Montana missions waiting to be filled, and more are added daily.

Therefore, stop just boring holes in the sky; become an Angel Flight Pilot and provide a valuable and rewarding service to those in need.

Jerry Cain

Angel Flight West, Montana Wing
MPA Vigilante Hangar

Board Meeting Highlights

October 26, 2003, Wingate Inn, Bozeman, MT

A report titled **Airstrip Issues, Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument** was prepared and presented by MPA member **Chuck Jarecki**. Casual maintenance on airstrips has not been approved by BLM and until further notice, is not permitted. All strips are open.

State Conference 2004 – Dan Prill reported on preparations for the coming event, March 4-6, 2004. **Bob Hoover will be the speaker for Saturday's Banquet. Please contact Dan to make a contribution to help bring this outstanding speaker to GTF.** The Hospitality Room will be open Friday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Hangars are requested to make donations to help fund this MPA social. **The Ringling 5 will provide music for the Friday night Hangar dance.** The MPA General Membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday morning at 8:00.

A check for \$200 will be presented to Larry Hoyer to help fight his citation for landing on the ice at Ft. Peck Reservoir.

The MPA Board adopted the recommendations from the Saturday Strategy Planning Retreat. A printed report will be available on request.

The #1 recommendation – Regular Communication is Mandatory – was acted upon by committing to the publication of a bi-monthly newsletter to be mailed out to all FAA registered pilots in Montana. This commitment is to provide better communication within the organization and to increase membership.

Centralized billing through the MPA Secretary is scheduled for implementation during the fall of 2004 for 2005 membership dues.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The MPA is taking letters of application for **Web Site Editor and Newsletter Editor**, two very important positions within the MPA. If you are or know of someone who may be interested, please contact MPA President, Chuck Manning at 406-257-6262 or cnmanning@centurytel.net. **A special thanks goes out to Bailey Egan and Bob Lipscomb who are retiring as editors after their many years of service to the MPA.**

HEADING BUG

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We're on the web....

Look for us at:

<http://montanapilots.org>

Reasons for joining the Montana Pilots Association

1. It's your voice for General Aviation in Montana.
2. Bi-monthly Newsletter informs the Aviation Community of Montana.
3. MPA Web Site keeps you up-to-date on Montana aviation issues.
4. Lobbying at State and Federal levels to protect the rights of General Aviation.
5. Local Hangars, informative speakers, meetings and activities.
6. Fly-in/fly-out activities across Montana.
7. Preservation and maintenance of Recreational/Backcountry Airstrips.
8. Educational programs which benefit the public.
9. Supports airport maintenance throughout Montana.
10. Co-host Annual Montana Aviation Conference.
11. Aviation Career Days in Montana schools.
12. Scholarships to encourage new pilots.
13. Safety talks through Hangars and the Annual Aviation Conference.
14. Supports State Aeronautics Search and Rescue through local ELT training.
15. \$10 discount on the GA News the General Aviation News of the NW.

Montana Pilots Association

Membership Application

Become a member today by using this form or go online at

<http://montanapilots.org>

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail Address _____

Student Private Commercial ATP Aircraft Owner Non-Pilot

Please select one of the MPA Hangars (local clubs) below to join, OR you may choose to become a "Member At Large" (no local affiliation).

Central (Lewistown) Colstrip Dillon Glacier (Cut Bank)

Flathead (Kalispell) Glendive Great Falls North Central (Havre)

Miles City Roundup Sanders County South Central (Billings)

Valley (Glasgow) Vigilante (Helena) MEMBER AT LARGE

MPA Membership includes bi-monthly newsletter "Heading Bug"

MPA Annual Dues (Calendar year from Jan—Dec) \$20

Associate Member (those who have not soloed) \$10

Montana First Year Solo Student Pilot (1st year free) Free

GA News & Flyer (MPA members discounted from \$35) \$25

Make check payable to: **Montana Pilots Association** Total \$ _____

Mail to: **Montana Pilots Association, Inc.**

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