



Heading Bug

Season's Greetings



Calendar

December 10, 2008

Potluck Christmas Party
Vetter's, Helena, MT (more
details page 6)

December 11, 2008

Flathead Hangar- Kalispell
Christmas Party, Somers,
MT (more details page 6)

December 17, 2008

Five Valleys Hangar-Missoula
Christmas Party
(more details page 6)

January 16, 2009

MPA Board Meeting, 1100
Vetter's, Helena, MT

January 16-18, 2009

Montana Winter Survival
Clinic
Helena, MT

February 6-7, 2009

Flight Instructor Refresher
Clinic
Helena, MT

March 5-7, 2009

Montana Aviation
Conference
Billings, MT

President's Message

Seasons Greetings Montana Aviators,
2008 is drawing to a close.

Thanksgiving has past and
Christmas is rapidly approaching.
Here in Montana we can be thankful
for having some of the greatest flying
privileges in the world. Incredible
scenery, little airspace congestion, and
great camaraderie with fellow aviators.

I am thankful for the MPA
members willing to serve on your
association executive board: Bobbi
Powers, Wade Cebulski, Chuck
Jarecki, Tim Robertson, and a special
thanks to Geanette Cebulski for all
her hard work as the the secretary/
treasurer.

A big thanks to Willie Stene and
Kristi Dunks for stepping up and
serving as the MPA webmaster and
the Newsletter editor.

Thank you to all the members that
willingly serve as officers in the
individual hangars throughout this
great state.

I also want to thank the Bank of
Montana for offering to sponsor our
newsletter. An article on the Bank of
Montana follows in this newsletter. I

am looking forward to hearing more
about the international travels of Tom
Swenson and Mark Bretz.

The MPA membership drive is on.
For every new member you sponsor,
you have an additional chance of
winning the membership grand prize
of a 406 Mhz ELT (or credit
equivalent at Aerotronics for the non
aircraft owner).

I also want to encourage you to
help sell tickets for the Polaris Ranger
raffle. These funds will help expand
the efforts of the MPA recreational
airstrip committee.

I am hearing a "siren song" from a
'41 Taylorcraft begging to be flown
along the Missouri river, and I can
resist no longer.

Tailwinds and wishing the best for
you and your family during the
holidays!

Russell Dahl
President

**If you have a story or something you would like to see in the newsletter,
please contact Kristi Dunks at 406.498.2470 or kdunks@gmail.com.**

BOB MARSHALL HORSEBACK TRIP

Submitted by Geanette Cebulski



Big Prairie Ranger Station



Ford Tri-Motor

In October, I had a once in a life-time opportunity to ride into the Bob Marshall Wilderness for 10 days. My friend Jan and I used two horses and a mule to transport ourselves and a little bit of gear. I am not much a horsewoman, but Jan is, so she led the mule. We started from the Meadow Creek bridge and rode 11 miles the first day to Black Bear Cabin where we spent the night. Jan was on forest service business so we had permission to use the cabin. It was pretty cold when we started out, with snowflakes falling. I was wearing almost everything I had with me - felt-lined boots, wool pants, fleece muffler and stocking cap, fleece-lined gloves and that was just the top layer. The following day we rode another 20 miles to the Big Prairie Ranger Station where we spent the next 6 days. While there, we burned a lot of deadfall in the pasture, painted window and door trim and cleaned pack saddles. I walked over to see the old wrecked

Ford Tri-Motor that crashed there many years ago. It had been dragged off of the airstrip and into the trees. It is pretty scattered from the dragging and people scavenging.

When we rode back out, the weather was a lot warmer and the Tamaracks had turned even more gold from the frosty mornings of the past week. Kind of a fluorescent gold in the sun, the sky was a beautiful clear blue and just a skiff of snow on the peaks. It was all so beautiful and I realized then what was lost when those airstrips were closed in the 1960's when the Wilderness Act went into effect. There are airstrips at Black Bear, Holbrook, Big Prairie, Basin, Pretty Prairie and Gates Park. We are very fortunate to have Schafer Meadows and Meadow Creek airstrips open. Not very many people will have the opportunity or ability to ride or hike into the Bob Marshall Wilderness and I feel very lucky to have had this experience.

25TH ANNUAL MONTANA AVIATION CONFERENCE

Compiled from Montana and the Sky

"Next year we'll be celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Montana Aviation Conference! It is scheduled for March 5-7, 2009, in Billings at the newly remodeled Holiday Inn Grand. The committee is working hard confirming speakers to ensure the 25th will be something to remember. Phone the Holiday Inn at (877) 554-7263 or

(406)248-7701 to make reservations and reference Montana Aviation Conference."

Conference registration forms are usually mailed out from Montana Aeronautics with your pilot and airplane registrations in early December. If you do not receive this please contact MPA Secretary, Geanette Cebulski at 406-677-3423 or mpasecretary@blackfoot.net for a copy of the conference registration.

COLUMBUS FLIERS OFFER THANKS



Columbus Pilot's Building

**Submitted by Roger
Johnston**

Thanks to MPA project funding, Columbus volunteers were able to install an underground sprinkler around their pilot's building. The last shovel full of fill dirt hit the trench just as the fall weather delivered a foot of snow. The final grading and preparation for seed will commence at the first hint of spring. The project will provide a lawn area around the building for summer camping and it will make the area more attractive. The pilot

building, also built with volunteer power and funding, was finished last summer and includes a shower, kitchenette and a comfortable lounge area with a hide-a-bed. There is also a full aviation library among its amenities that operates on an honor system.

Thank you MPA from the
Columbus Fliers

ETHANOL FUEL SALES

The president of the Mission Valley Hangar, Mauri Morin, recently submitted an inquiry to the Montana Department of Transportation regarding questions about mandating ethanol fuel statewide. In a response, the Director of the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), Jim Lynch, reported that legislation passed in 2005 states that once the department mandates that all gasoline be blended,

retailers and distributors shall offer for sale non-ethanol blended gasoline. The MDT has not mandated blended fuel.

Without the mandate in place, there is no state statute that prohibits distributors from selling ethanol-blended fuel. In the letter, he suggested contacting local fuel suppliers to see if they would be willing to sell non-ethanol blended fuel for the purposes needed.

GALLATIN FIELD INCURSION

A local pilot invited a friend to his hangar inside the secure area. The pilot escorted his friend in his vehicle through the gate and to his hangar, which is located on the west side of Runway 03/21. Following their visit, the pilot allowed his friend to drive off unescorted. You guessed it; the visitor drove right out onto the Runway 03/21 safety area. As if that wasn't bad enough, there was an aircraft on short final for Runway 03. The pilot of this aircraft had to take evasive action to miss the car.

As a result of this incident, the FAA has conducted an investigation and the pilot has had the use of his gate card suspended for ninety days.

If you escort a vehicle inside the secure area, it is your responsibility to escort that vehicle back out again. Don't assume that the driver knows the way out.

BANK OF MONTANA

The Bank of Montana is the new sponsor of the Montana Pilots' Association newsletter. The bank specializes in aircraft financing and their aviation lending program features up to 30 year amortizations, competitive low rates, fixed and variable rate loads, pre-approvals, refinances, commercial or instructional use aircraft financing, jets and turbines, older or specialty aircraft financing, and it an approved Cessna broker. With their experience as both pilots and aircraft lenders, they are able to quickly identify which loan program best fits your specific situation.



The Bank of Montana's CEO and President, Tom Swenson, had flown cross-country from coast to coast

with his father as the pilot by the time he was seven. His dad owned 14 different planes, was instrument rated and had his float license, and logged over 4,000 hours of flying. Tom officially started taking lessons in Pennsylvania when he was 16. Tom is now a licensed private pilot with a taildragger endorsement, and has taken instrument and float training. Tom is also a licensed pilot in Australia and New Zealand and completed mountain flying training in New Zealand, aerobatics training in Gore, Australia and Bozeman, Montana, and a cross winds course

in Queensland, New Zealand. Tom recently flew from Missoula to Fort Yukon, over Kodiak Island and back down the west coast of Alaska, Canada, and home to Montana.

The Bank of Montana's Chairman of the Board, Mark Bretz, has been flying since 2002. Mark started by taking lessons in Missoula. Mark is a licensed private pilot, instrument rated, and multi-engine pilot. He has flown across the country numerous times, and in 2007 flew from Brownsville, TX on a tour to Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama City, back around the Gulf, over Cuba to the Cayman Islands. Mark's international flying experience made him appreciate flying in the States even more, saying that it's easy to take our aviation freedom for granted. Mark said that in other countries it could take up to 2/3 of an entire day to gain permission in order to fly. Mark has been volunteering with Angel Flights for the past two years.

The Bank of Montana's company car is a plane, and it has allowed the Bank of Montana to fly across to state to meet with clients more readily and visit their projects. Tom, Mark, and the team at the Bank of Montana are passionate about aviation and have a deep respect for pilots and those who are attracted to aviation.

 **BANK OF MONTANA**

MPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Membership Sweepstakes

The **Montana Pilots' Association** Membership Sweepstakes runs from Oct. 1 until the annual Montana Aviation Conference. The drawing will be held at the Conference March 5—7, 2009 in Billings, MT. You do not need to be present to win. The 2009 Sweepstakes Prize will be a New 406 MHz ELT.

Each renewing member, each new member and each current member who sponsors a new member, will have their name entered in the drawing. To earn an extra chance in the sweepstakes drawing make sure and include your name as the sponsoring member on a new member's application. The more new members sponsored the more chances to win.

Fill out the attached membership application and mail it with your check to the MPA Secretary. Membership applications are also available from MPA Hangar (chapter) officers, or printed out from the MPA Web site www.montanapilots.org. Membership Renewal forms will also be mailed out to each member in November.

MONTANA PILOTS' ASSOCIATION - Membership Renewal Form

Name: _____ Spouse/Significant Other Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____ FAA Certificate #: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ Occupation: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
 E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Aircraft Owner? "N" Number _____ Make/Model _____ Year _____

Select your license category: Student Private Commercial ATP Instructor

Please share your talents with MPA by volunteering to HELP in one or more of the following areas:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Social Activities | Newsletter |
| Recruiting | Administration |
| Safety/Education | Recreational Airstrips/Airports |
| Aviation Issue Support | Other (specify) _____ |

Please select a local Hangar (chapter):

- Central (Lewistown) Colstrip Five Valleys Flathead Gallatin Valley Glacier Glendive Great Falls
 Miles City Mission Valley North Central Sanders County South Central Southwest Valley
 Vigilante Member At Large (no chapter affiliation)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (JAN – DEC 2009)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Regular Member (pilot) <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | Household Membership (2 Regular Members) <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 |
| Associate Member (not soloed) <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 | Family Membership (1 Regular and 1 Associate) <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 |
| Montana 1st Year Solo Student Pilot <input type="checkbox"/> Free | Subscription to GA News <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 |
| | Ranger Raffle Tickets (\$20 Each or 6 for \$100) _____ |

TOTAL \$ _____

Make check payable to: **MPA**
 Mail to: Geanette Cebulski, Sec/Treas
 P. O. Box 1178
 Seeley Lake, MT 59868-1178

Sponsoring member

(All members will be entered in the 2009 Sweepstakes Drawing—Sponsors of new members will be added additional times—Prize will be a New 406MHz ELT—Drawing to be held at 2009 MT Aviation Conference—Need not be present to win.)

HANGAR REPORTS

Five Valleys Hangar: The Five Valleys Hangar (Missoula) will be having a Christmas Party on December 17. If you are planning to attend the December 17 banquet for EAA 517 and MPA FVH Banquet, you must make reservations with SHerry Rossiter by December 11. The cost is \$20 per person. Please make your check out to EAA Chapter 517, Inc., and mail the check to Sherry Rossiter, PO Box 16446, Missoula, MT, 59808. Cocktails at 6PM, dinner at 630PM, at the Broadway Inn, one block west of Russell on Broadway. Food, fun, prizes, trivia game, and "White Elephant" gift swap (optional participation). - Sherry Rossiter

Flathead Hangar Report: The Flathead Hangar (Kalispell) began its fall meeting schedule in October. Officer Dan Curran, Customs and Boarder Protection give up-to-date information on border security and entering the United States in your GA aircraft; what to do, what not to do and what to expect. In November the Hangar was honored to have local pilot John Casalegno share with us the restoration of his 1956 Cessna 182.

John's 182 was the November cover story in AOPA Pilot .

MPA/EAA Christmas Party- Thursday, December 11 at the Vista Linda, Somers, MT. Each year the Flathead Hangar, EAA Chapter 102, and guests come together to celebrate the holiday season. - Chuck Manning

Vigilante Hangar Report: We were fortunate to have Martin Kidston of the Helena Independent Record present a synopsis of his book about Cromwell Dixon and his historic flight from the Helena Fairgrounds across the Continental Divide to Blossburg. We will have an article next month about the historic man and flight! As a follow up to Martin's presentation, several members of our MPA group are going to get this monument moved to a place where today's citizens of Helena can enjoy it. Martin intends to write a piece in the paper about the monument and Helena's place in aviation history when we get it moved. Christmas party on December 10 at 630 PM at Vetter's Aviation. MPA will provide ham, and each couple please bring a dish! - Chuck Flynn

POLARIS RANGER LE RAFFLE

MPA Air Safety and Education Foundation - a 501(c)(3) charitable organization

Polaris Ranger LE Raffle

The winner will have the option of applying the value (retails between \$11,000 and \$12,000) towards a snowmobile, motorcycle or boat from Kurt's Polaris located in Seeley Lake, Missoula, Kalispell, www.kurtspolaris.com.

Drawing

March 7th, 2009 at the Montana Aviation Conference to be held in Billings. Need not be present to win.

Tickets

\$20 each or six (6) for \$100 and limited to 2000 tickets.



For more information email or call Wade Cebulski at slk3219@blackfoot.net or (406)677-3219

Raffle Ticket Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Tickets: \$20 each or six (6) for \$100. Make check payable to MPA ASEF and mail to P O Box 1178 Seeley Lake, MT 59868. We will mail your tickets to you.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this fundraising project is to help replenish our Recreational Airstrip Fund. Proceeds are used to provide small grants to help pay for improvements at Montana's many recreational airstrips and airports. In the past the MPA has provided the following grants:

- \$1000. to Seeley Lake Airport for picnic tables and fire rings at their pilots camping area
- 900. to Townsend Airport for their picnic table shelter (which they donating back)
- 2000. to Bozeman Airport to help with their Pilot's Shelter project

Grant Application Forms are available upon request. Please contact us if your airport has a project to be considered for grant monies.

MPA STATE OFFICERS

President

Russ Dahl
406.785.4801
acerdahl@yahoo.com

Western Vice President

Wade Cebulski
206.677.3219
slk3219@blackfoot.net

Western Director

Chuck Jarecki
406.883.2248
skywagon@centurytel.net

Secretary -Treasurer

Geanette Cebulski
406.677.3423
mpasecretary@blackfoot.net

Past President

Joe Roberts
406.442.8891
joerob7@msn.com

Webmaster

Willie Stene
406.883.6743
will@steneaviation.com

Eastern Vice President

Bobbi Powers
406.628.4267
powersprop@yahoo.com

Eastern Director

Tim Robertson
406.538.6004 or 366.1940
troberson@centurypaving.com

Newsletter Editor

Kristi Dunks
406.498.2470
kdunks@gmail.com

MPA LOCAL HANGAR PRESIDENTS

Central Hangar (Lewistown)

Dale Chamberlain
406-538-7586
chmblin@midrivers.com

Gallatin Valley Hangar (Bozeman)

Jon Hudson
406-522-3883
jph@littleappletech.com

Miles City Hangar

Lee Richardson
406-232-2213
lrich@midrivers.com

South Central Hangar (Billings)

Bobbi Powers
406-628-4267
powersprop@yahoo.com

Colstrip Hangar

No active officers

Glacier Hangar (Cutbank)

Roger Sammons
406-873-4663
rogersammons@yahoo.com

Mission Valley Hangar (Polson)

Mauri Morin
406 675 8488
maurv8@compuplus.net

Southwest Hangar (Butte/Dillon)

Denzel Davis
406-842-5721
ddavis@3rivers.net

Five Valleys Hangar (Missoula)

Jim Younkin
406-626-4174
jcyounkin@msn.com

Glendive Hangar

Leon Baker, Sec/Treas
406-365-5528
airport@midrivers.com

North Central Hangar (Havre)

Darren Huestis
406-394-2311
darrenhuestis@nuwaveservices.com

Valley Hangar (Glasgow)

David Heins
406-367-5339

Flathead Hangar (Kalispell)

Chuck Manning
406-844-3369
chuckmanning@gmail.com

Great Falls Hangar

Lou Ronnau
406-781-1520
lou@lounet.com

Sanders County Hangar (Plains)

Walter Pickering, VP
No contact information

Vigilante Hangar (Helena)

Brent Vetter
406-443-4079
barvetter@hotmail.com

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

Heading Bug

PO Box 4311, Helena, MT 59604

MONTANA PILOTS' ASSOCIATION



INCORPORATED

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