

MONTANA PILOTS' ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED



www.montanapilots.org

Sept/Oct 2010 Bi-monthly newsletter

Heading Bug

President's Message

Greetings to All,

It is hard to believe but the fly-ins and work sessions are pretty much over for the year. To be quit honest the work session's participation was nothing less then spectacular. I went to Russian Flat and was amazed at the airplanes and people that were there. Dan Prill has done an outstanding job over the years to see this project come to completion. Tim Robertson and Century Paving were instrumental in all the construction phases of this project, with countless hours, equipment and man hours donated. Thanks to Pete Smith and the Central Montana Hangar for committing to all future maintenance of this airstrip. The Recreational Aviation Foundation was the financial wizard who financed this project to the tune of 30 Thousand plus dollars. I know there are many others who deserve thank you's but this letter would have to go on for many pages. I encourage you to read news releases on our web-site for all the details.

This weekend I am off to the Reno Air Races, which I always look forward to. It is amazing to watch a P-51 doing

500 plus MPH laps. First the airplane then a hundred yards later here comes the noise. It is nothing short of amazing. I hope that you have enjoyed this summer as much as I have, considering it seemed rather short with all the rain, but I reckon that is better then sucking smoke. My favorite time of the year is upon us already, with the leaves changing color, the elk are starting to bugle and getting down to the business end of things. We have been trying to sneak in a couple more motorcycle rides before it just gets to darn cold to be on that thing. Our next meeting is in Helena October 16th. So please attend if you wish, or contact me, if you should have anything you wish to discuss.

Fly Safe and I hope you get the big one this hunting season.

Wade Cebulski, President

Please update your email address

If your email address has changed in the last few years and it has not been updated in the MPA website, please email Will Stene will@steneaviation.com or Geanette Cebulski mpasecretary@blackfoot.net, ask them to update it and email your new login password to you. Without updated email addresses we cannot contact you with notifications regarding event changes or cancellations. Please help us out with this. Thank You!

Proposed Powder River MOA Expansion

submitted by Wade Cebulski

On the 7th of September I was invited to attend a meeting that Congressman Rehberg's staff, J.T. Korkow arranged to have with Col. Jeffery Taliaferro, the wing commandeer from Ellsworth Air Force Base. Concerning the newly proposed MOA's which cover a large section of eastern Montana from the N.D., S.D. state lines to within 30 miles of Billings, south of Interstate 90 to the Wyoming Border. Jim Lynch from MDOT, Debbie Alke from the Aeronautics Division, representatives from the FAA, FBO Operators, ranchers, farmers, local county representatives, etc. This MOA is rather large and will have an effect on many different things. The MOA will be from 500 feet AGL to 30,000 feet plus. The sonic barrier will be broken at 10,000 plus feet occasionally. The comment period will only last for short period of time. I encourage you to read the EIS summary (which is only 40 pages long) and attend the town meetings to make comments, as they are important. You can access the EIS Summary and meeting dates at this <http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/prtc.asp>. We will also post this information on the MPA website and newsletter. Thanks to Col. Jeff Taliaferro and his staff for attending this meeting and briefing us on what is proposed.

Debbie Alke, Montana Aeronautics Division, recently received a circular from the FAA, ATO Central Service Center in Fort Worth announcing the proposed air space expansion and requesting comments be sent to the FAA. These are two separate processes. The FAA conducts its own aeronautical study of the issue. The past 2½ years has been the environmental study. Our job now is to inform everyone that in this next phase, comments need to be sent to **BOTH** the FAA and the military.

Comments are due on or before November 30 -

Please send your comments to:

Ms. Linda DeVine HQ ACC/A7PS,
129 Andrews St, Rm 337,
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

AND ALSO to the FAA at:

Manager, Operations Support Group, ATO Central
Service Center, AJV-C2
Airspace Study 10-AGL-6NR
ATTN: Michael Rizzo, AJV-C23
Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
2601 Meacham Blvd
Fort Worth TX 76137
Fax - 817-321-7744 or 817-321-7649

Powder River MOA Public Hearings

Oct. 12 – Broadus - Powder River County District
High School 500 W. Trautman 5:30 p.m. - 8:00
p.m.

Oct. 13 – Baker - Baker High School 1015 S.
Third St. W 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m

Oct. 14 – Ekalaka - St. Joan of Arc Parish Hall,
Church St. 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m

Oct. 15 – Miles City - Miles City Community
College 2715 Dickenson 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
and 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Oct. 20 – Colstrip - Isabel Bills Community
Learning Center 520 Poplar Dr. 5:30 p.m. - 8:00
p.m.

Oct. 22 – Hardin - Hardin Chamber of Commerce
10 E. Railroad St. 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Oct 26 – Billings - Hilton Garden Inn 2465 Grant
Road 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

***Thank you Steve and Sherry for your
support of our newsletter!***

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Steve Rossiter 406 529-1601
Sherry Rossiter 406 544-6182

MPA Calendar of Events

October 16 - MPA Board Meeting – Montana Aeronautics Building at the Helena Airport following the AOM meeting (usually about 11). All MPA State Officers and Hangar Presidents should attend. Other interested members are also welcome. **Info:** Geanette Cebulski, Sec. 406-677-3423 or mpasecretary@blackfoot.net

November 12 – Heading Bug Deadline - November/December issue deadline is Friday, November 12th. Contact Mary to add any events or information. **Info:** Mary Newpower 406-670-5526 or email mnewps@bresnan.net

March 3-5, 2011 – Montana Aviation Conference. Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena. For further information phone (406) 444-9580. **Info:** Patty Kautz 406-444-9580 or pkautz@mt.gov

June 11 –13, 2011 - Missouri Breaks - (9S7)
Winifred, MT - Friday 10 June (evening): Early arrival, dinner on your own, or we will meet you downtown for a 2-handed hamburger.
Sat 11 June: AM: Flyout or Meet in LWT. PM: Flyout and camp at Cow Creek ... CowCreek bar-b-q provided with RSVP by TheCubWorks.
Sunday 12 June: Explore Breaks strips, move camp to Winifred. Dinner by the plate in Hangar.
Monday 13 June: AM departure...
For questions call Ralph @ 406 462 5487

Go to our website – www.montanapilots.org to add your Hangar meetings and events to the Calendar of Events.

Welcome New MPA Members We appreciate your support!

Mark Melotz, Arlee, MT – Mission Valley Hangar
Karl Buttstadt, Boerne, TX –South Central Hngr
Aaron Jones, Butte, MT – Southwest Hangar
Sarah Jones, Butte, MT – Southwest Hangar
Deana Strand, Grand Junction, CO–Flathead Hngr
Aaron Foster, Missoula, MT–Five Valleys Hangar
Kerry Gray, Black Eagle, MT–Great Falls Hangar
Mary Newpower, Billings, MT–SouthCentral Hngr
George Dyer, Victor, MT – Five Valleys Hangar
Albert Hathy, Helena, MT – Vigilante Hangar

Opheim Airport Honors Airport Manager!



Majory Burdette received an award for dedicated service as manager of the Opheim Airport. Marjory's husband had been the airport manager, but upon his death she continued in his place.



Her energy and dedication are evident in the condition of the airport. Majory assumed the responsibility after her husband passed and had been an asset to the flying community. Our heartfelt thanks to this gracious lady. Members of the Valley Hangar flew to Opheim for breakfast and to present Marj Burdette with her much deserved award and thanks!

Place Your Business Card Ad HERE!

Contact Geanette 406-677-3423 or
mpasecretary@blackfoot.net for details.

Blessings of Schafer Meadows.....

(Schafer Meadow, Great Bear Wilderness, Bob Marshall Complex, MT)

Submitted by Will Stene

I've been flying throughout Montana with my father since my earliest memories as a child and have been flying throughout the state and elsewhere since I was 17. Like all aviator fathers, I search out opportunities to share that passion with my kids. This weekend for me posed the most fortunate opportunity to collage an experience and set of memories, I believe, that not even the grips of something like Alzheimer's could steal.

I'd been planning on attending the MT Schafer Meadow work session since early spring, and the initial plan was that only I would be able to attend. In the early AM on the departure date my oldest son, 11years old, was getting quite stirred that I was going camping and was persistently indicating he wanted to come too. He began packing a bag and before I knew it was in the truck on his way to go airplane camping with his father in Schafer Meadow.

Now to preface: My oldest son was born with Down Syndrome and has never liked airplanes. We had attempted endless times since he was a whee little boy just to get him to sit in an airplane let alone fly in one. We took him on a trip to Idaho three years ago and it led to having to land in McCall and getting a hotel room as he was terrified by flying in slight turbulence. Needless to say this was the first time he had willingly been near or flown in an airplane since.

This trip was a new beginning for Dothan. He was excited to open the hangar door, load the airplane, and he even independently jumped into the passenger seat and said "LETS GO DAD". Heck, I was so amazed that I forgot to check the baggage door and had to stop on the ramp to close it. When in route to Schafer we once again encountered some slight turbulence and Dothan proceeded to look over at



me and said "ITS ALRIGHT DAD", wow!! In the eleven years with our son I wouldn't trade any of them and this was surely one of those joyful moments that brought a tear to your eye.

We proceeded to land at Schafer 25minutes after taking off from Polson and had a wonderful time as told by Dothan in his own utterances; "Airplanes, Piling Wood, Hikes, Cabins, Cookies, River, Treasure (dugout fire pit), Sleeping Bag, Tent, Soup (Jambalaya), Ice Cream". He had a wonderful time with all there and wanted to thank everybody for making it so much fun. He was so excited to come home and tell the rest of the family of his adventure.



Overall the trip was a blazing good time and a sensational success. Even though it wasn't a trip of a memorable take-off or landing(all could have been better) it was a trip that will never be forgotten as it was an opportunity to see our son who continues to work on overcoming tall obstacles knock a big one down. Taking to flying again and experiencing the wilderness MT has to offer. It would have never happened it if was not for that stirring of interest for camping in the wilderness to enable him to overcome his own personal barriers.

Note: "Keep Them Accessible and Open" I want to emphasize to everybody to support their state aviation association (membership and work parties) as well as the RAF. Our son most likely would have never had the chance to experience the wilderness if it were not for the access granted by these airstrips. So assist these groups and organizations in their continued work to "Keep Them Accessible and Open".

NEW RECREATIONAL AIRSTRIP OPENS IN MONTANA – Russian Flat

Submitted by Carmine Mowbray

Armed with hand tools, sunscreen, insect repellent and a lot of enthusiasm, 40 volunteer pilots, families and guests spent the August 21-22 weekend putting the finishing touches on America's newest public landing strip. Now open for use, Russian Flat is in Montana's Lewis and Clark National Forest and is ideal for recreational flying purposes. It's adjacent to a tree-sheltered USFS, leave no trace campground and vault toilet. Russian Flat was just a twinkle in the eyes of many recreational flying enthusiasts seven years ago. The addition of an airstrip at Russian Flat was included in the October 2007 Travel Management Plan of the Lewis and Clark Nat'l Forest. Through the efforts of the Montana Pilots Association, (MPA) and with a grant from the Recreational Aviation Foundation, (RAF) the airstrip is now open to the public. MPA President Wade Cebulski said, "This is a precedent setting event." Cebulski added, "I was ecstatic at this weekend's turnout at Russian

Flat. I've been pleased at the exceptional turnout of volunteers throughout Montana this year. Dan Prill, Century Company, Tim Robertson and Jeff Patnode especially are to be commended for their dedication to Russian Flat. It wasn't an easy project." MPA volunteer Dan Prill has helped lead the effort from its beginning stages of identifying the location, and shepherding the project through the public planning process, working closely with Judith District Ranger Ron Wiseman. Prill – who also serves as board member and vice president of the Recreational Aviation Foundation – explained that the project fit into the mission of the RAF, which provided funding for materials, purchase of the vault toilet, a runway roller and grass seed. Ranger Wiseman said, "From the very beginning of this project, it has gone as well as I could have envisioned, especially the last two years of implementation. We appreciate the high level of cooperation from all different aspects of the pilots. The volunteers respected our requests for low-impact access, and minimal disturbance to the land." He continued, "I was impressed with the attitude that in spite of not getting everything they requested in the Travel Plan, the pilots put their best efforts into carrying out this project. We look forward to cooperating on the last few details yet to be done." Century Companies of Lewistown donated labor and

equipment to the project under the supervision of Tim Robertson. Central Montana Hangar provided breakfast on Saturday and Sunday and a steak and corn BBQ on Saturday. The RAF provided a bratwurst lunch on Saturday. Special guests were Ron Wiseman, USFS Judith District Ranger; Wade Cebulski, MPA president; John McKenna, RAF President; Pete Smith, Central Montana Hangar President; and Don and Marilyn Derks, the USFS permittees who graze their cattle on Russian Flat. Taking honors for farthest distance was MPA member Richard Benton, DVM of Jackson, Mississippi. Cebulski concluded, "The RAF has really hit the nail on the head getting the world to recognize that aviation is part of recreation."

RAF President John McKenna said, "Montana is seen nationally as a recreation destination, and Russian Flat airstrip serves to enlarge opportunities for recreational aviation. It's collaborative partnerships like this that will ensure the ongoing success of recreational flying destinations." Wiseman added, "Saturday evening was quite a sight . . . people sitting around a fire together, really enjoying the opportunity." A formal dedication ceremony is planned for summer of 2011. Russian Flat (N 46° 43' 28.24" W 110° 24' 41.07") is approx. 6400' elevation and 3000' long. Bring tie downs and park in the corral, as there could be cattle grazing. Recommend landing uphill to the west; takeoff to the east, conditions permitting. 122.90. As always, pilots are responsible for their and their airplane's capabilities. Practice "no trace" camping; no fire rings; Portable fire pit lock combo: CTAF



Pilots put finishing touches on Russian Flat

Pilots camp out, fix up backcountry strips

(as reported on the AOPA website June 16, 2010 By
Alyssa J. Miller aopa.org/airports/3U7)



Nestled in a valley between mountain ridges west of Great Falls, Mont., Benchmark Airport serves as a trailhead to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The airport, built as a backcountry strip in the 1960s by the Forest Service, FAA, and Montana Aeronautics Commission, features a camp site on the south end complete with picnic tables, campfire grills, tent sites, and a pitcher pump well providing fresh water.

"It's unusual for a backcountry strip because it's paved," said AOPA Northwest Regional Representative Mike Ferguson. The strip also can be accessed by road and other trails. An outfitter post is located nearby for groups traveling with horses and pack mules.

But the airport needs regular maintenance and upkeep because of the harsh winters and other weather conditions that wear on the facility.

The Montana Pilots Association (MPA), Helena Hangar of the MPA, the Montana Aeronautics Division (formerly the commission), and a member of the Recreational Aviation Foundation joined together in June to spray the cracks in the runway and tiedown areas to kill weeds, install new windsocks, re-stain picnic tables, and paint and repair some signs. Ferguson and three other pilots camped overnight in below-freezing temperatures during the weekend project. Ferguson likened the Helena Hangar of the MPA's participation

in the work sessions as an "adopt an airport" effort.

Although Ferguson has a deep passion for backcountry strips, these work sessions hold a special part in his heart: He started the work sessions during his 27-year stint as the administrator of the Montana Aeronautics Division.

"I work on them every year," said Ferguson, who flew in one of the eight aircraft despite strong winds and turbulence to spend a weekend upgrading the airport. "I always volunteer and go in."

The MPA and the late Ray Van De Riet were key in developing the camp site at the airport and making the early work sessions a success. The Van De Riet family installed a new memorial sign for the late cattle rancher in June.

More work sessions are scheduled this summer, including Meadow Creek at the end of June and Schafer in July. Both of those strips are accessible only by air, foot, or horseback.

"It's a big volunteer effort," Ferguson said, adding that the way the Forest Service, state, and pilots work together to maintain these strips is an example other areas with backcountry airports should follow.

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MPA Hangar Reports

Valley Hangar Report

Submitted by Russ Dahl, Secretary 4/8/2010

The Valley Hangar has been meeting on the second Tuesday of the month 6:30 PM at the Hangar Cafe on HWY 2 E of Glasgow.

We are planning to give rides for the eighth grade students on May 7th. Previously we called them Young Eagle Rides, now we refer to it as Aviation Appreciation Rides. The Valley Hangar has been giving the eighth grade students rides for over 25 years (Longer than the EAA's Young Eagles Programs existence) On June 20th the Valley Hangar will be cooking at the Father's Day Breakfast at Fort Peck (37S) Everyone is invited. We are in the planning stages for hosting some BBQ's this summer. One at the new Poplar airport (PO1) and one at Jess Erickson's airfield, north of Saco, Mt. We have gathered windows and some of the building materials for a pilot shelter at Fort Peck, also hope to finish that project this summer. (Sorry this is such a belated posting!)

Central Montana Hangar (9/15/10)

Submitted by Pete Smith, President

The Central Montana Hangar of the Montana Pilot's Association held their summer picnic on Tuesday August 31st at SmithField Airfield 4.5 nm NE of LWT. Steaks were grilled over an open fire by Jeff Patnode with each one being grilled to perfection. It was a beautiful evening with a light wind out of the west so 5 airplanes and one helicopter flew in along with 31 members and guests.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 28th and will be held at the Yogo Inn. Happy hour at 6:00 with dinner being served at 6:30, all are welcome.

Thank you Rob Duncan at Airbase 1 for supporting our website!



**WEBSITE
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MPA STATE OFFICERS

President

Wade Cebulski
(406) 677-3219
mpapresident@montana.com

Secretary

Geanette Cebulski
(406) 677-3219
mpasecretary@blackfoot.net

Treasurer

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

Eastern V-President

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

Western V-President

Steve Rossiter
(406) 542-5177
steverossitermt@aol.com

Eastern Director

Scott Newpower
(406) 670-3169
scnewps@bresnan.net

State Western Director

Chuck Jarecki
(406) 883-2248
skywagon@centurytel.net

Newsletter Editor

Mary Newpower
(406) 670-3169
mnewps@bresnan.net

Webmaster

Will Stene
(406) 883-6244
will@steneaviation.com

Contact Information for HANGAR OFFICERS can be found at our website www.montanapilots.org

We are now accepting dues for the 2011 Membership year!

MONTANA PILOTS ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (JAN - DEC 2011)

Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please select one of the local MPA Hangars to join: Central (Lewistown) Southwest (Dillon, Butte) Flathead (Kalispell)
 Gallatin Valley Glacier (Cutbank) Glendive Great Falls Miles City Mission Valley Sanders County North Central (Havre)
 South Central (Billings) Valley (Glasgow) Vigilante (Helena)) Five Valleys (Missoula) Member At Large

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The Heading Bug - Sept/Oct 2011

Montana Pilots' Association
PO Box 1178
Seeley Lake, MT 59868-1178