MONTANA PILOTS' ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

Heading Bug

November / December 2011

President's Message

Recently I was invited to attend an informal meeting in Great Falls with Mr. Bob Abbey, Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Also attending were MPA member and Recreational Aviation Foundation Vice President Dan Prill of Sand Coulee and Pete Smith, MPA's Eastern Vice President and president of the Central Montana Hangar. We met with Director Abbey for over twenty minutes, which is a long time to meet with someone at that level of the federal government. Our conversation largely centered on our cooperation with the BLM in developing the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (UMRBNM) resource management plan, and our intervention in the lawsuit challenging that plan filed by the Montana Wilderness Society and the Western Watersheds Project. The Director urged us to become involved in upcoming Resource Management Plans at the scoping level, and we offered to be an aviation resource to BLM planners, whether in Montana or elsewhere. It says a lot about our teamwork with the BLM that three Montana pilots could sit down with the Director and have a sincere and cooperative discussion about issues of mutual importance to all of us.

In the last issue of the Heading Bug, you read about our success in fending off the initial legal challenge to the UMRBNM resource management plan and its six permitted airstrips. This success did not come without some cost. The MPA has spent almost $5,000.00 as our share of the legal costs associated with being "interveners". No offense intended to those of you who are attorneys (including my niece), but I can't help but think there are places we would rather spend the money. Indeed, this money has bought us the opportunity to continue as interveners in the recent appeal of the August 9 decision by the plaintiffs. To continue, of course, will require more money.

Our intervention into the UMRBNM legal issues allowed us to participate in any settlement which might be reached between the primary parties. In other words, no one could make a deal without us. It allowed us to put our money where our mouths are, which is not always the easy thing to do, but it is the right thing to do. The MPA's Board of Directors, at its most recent meeting, has agreed to continue our role as interveners in this case

While our financial situation is reasonably secure, there may come a time when we must assess how legal costs may affect our other goals. At some point the Board may ask each member to contribute directly to a legal fund for this type of cost. Even if you never plan on landing at one of the six airstrips in the Upper Missouri River Breaks, backing away from this issue may only weaken our stance at other sites. We don't want to look vulnerable, and then have our access to someplace like Schafer Meadows challenged!

Now, if you aren't worked up enough about this type of thing, consider this: If the groups which challenge these management plans are ever successful at any point in their legal challenges, they can have all of their legal costs reimbursed <u>by the Federal Government!</u> We, and the BLM, do not have that privilege, even if we are successful. Now there is a law with unintended consequences, and it explains why cases like this seem to have eternal life in the court system! This is an issue which should motivate you to write your congressional delegation. Jon Hudson, MPA President

Calendar of Events

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 25th, Merry Christmas!
January 13th, 2012 – MDT – Aeronautics Winter Survival Clinic
January 15th, 2012 – Deadline for Heading Bug
January 25th—26th, 2012 Montana Aeronautics Board—Loan and Grants meeting
February 4th, 2012 MPA Board of Director's Meeting - Helena
March 1-3, 2012, Montana Aviation Conference, Bozeman

***Check out the MPA website www.montanapilots.org for more events and details!

Welcome New Members

Ronald Beck, Aledo, TX
Warren Davis, Lakeside, MT
John Gerken, Sandpoint, ID
Ellis Surratt, Huson, MT
Douglas Vulcan, Lincoln, MT
Tammy Kantorowicz, Laurel MT
Geoffrey Woodard, Wilmington, DE
Guy Pessina, Palmetto, FL
David Dickey, Marion, MT

2012 Membership Renewals

Membership renewal letters and forms were mailed out December 5th. Please renew your membership as soon as possible using the forms mailed to you, the form in this newsletter or our website www.montanapilots.org.

Please update your email address

If your email address has changed in the last few months 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!

MPA Hangar Reports

Central Montana Hangar Report

The Central Montana Hangar has 32 paid-up members. We meet the last Tuesday of each month (with the exception of July and August) for a dinner meeting at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown. We typically have 25 +/- members and guests in attendance, get started at 1830 and are usually finished by 2100. All MPA members past and present are always welcome.
On Saturday August 27th the Central MT Hangar held their summer picnic at the Winifred Airport. Member and airport manager by default Ralph Rogers did a great job of hosting his fellow members most of which are from LTW. Member Peter Mickelson provided steaks for the entire group because this year's picnic was suppose to be at his ranch. We had 28 members and friends attend including 2 under the age of 2. Seven planes flew in and two additional members just flew over apparently the two are vegetarians. Don and Bobetta Newton brought their 15 month old grandson Cooper via their Husky but the little guy did not appreciate being lashed down in the baggage compartment so I think he got some stick time on the flight home.
A work session at Russian Flat was held on August 6th. Approximately 14 airplanes and 30 individuals were in attendance. On the whole Russian Flat is in very good condition. Even so, the work party accomplished much to include falling numerous dead trees which were cut into firewood, mowing the strip and moving rocks to the stock tank.
Our first post summer meeting was held on September 27th at the Yogo Inn with 15 members and guests attending. Members Jack Morganstern and Tim Robertson gave a presentation covering transitioning from a piston twin to a twin turbo prop.
Our next scheduled meeting will be 6:30pm Tuesday October 25th at the Yogo Inn, all are invited.
Respectfully submitted, Pete Smith, President

Mission Valley Hangar Report

Another successful fly-in September 10, 2011 at Poison with large numbers of various airplanes and great weather.. The Good Old days Celebration and Fly-in at St. Ignatius was a huge success. Served record number of breakfasts and a good turn out from the local Mission Valley residents.

KOA Campground has expanded to a new addition known as Poison Motor Home. Many of the owners of pads for their Class A motor homes are avid aviation enthusiasts.

MPA/EAA have given record numbers of Young Eagle flights at Poison, Ronan and St. Ignatius.

We are in the final planning stages for our Christmas party in December at the Elks lodge in Poison. If interested in joining us contact Trey Moran or Larry Ashcraft 982-3366 or 250-3303.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

MPA Recreation Airstrip Report for Summer 2011

Submitted by Ron Normandeau, Recreational Airstrips Committee Chairman

This past summer saw maintenance accomplished on eight (8) of the twelve (12) airstrips located on public land in Montana. Maintenance is scheduled by a Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Hanger responsible for that particular airstrip. The weekend scheduled is entered into the event calendar on the MPA web site to notify interested pilots as to the dates of the work session. A typical work party consists of 8 to 12 airplanes, some drive in, and around 15 to 25 workers.

Maintenance tasks performed were: mowing of landing area, gopher hole filling, camping area cleanup, weed spraying, snag (dead tree) falling, firewood cutting, fence repair, wind sock replacement, brush removal, and general clean up of debris accumulated from wind and snow from the winter. The responsible hangar provides a bar-b-que at the end of the day and the result is camaraderie with people of like interests and pleasures. This winter will see meetings with the public agencies (USFS,BLM) to establish priorities for airstrips to be maintained and tasks needing to be performed. The responsible hangar will then schedule the week end for the work party, and we will prepare for another summer of fun.

MPA and RAF Meet with BLM

Pictured: Bureau of Land Management Director Bob Abbey (second from left), along with MPA President Jon Hudson (far left), MPA member and RAF Vice-President Dan Prill (second from right), and Pete Smith (far right), MPA Eastern Vice-President and Central Montana Hangar President. Photo taken during a late September meeting with Director Abbey in Great Falls. During this meeting, we discussed our mutual cooperation with the BLM regarding the six permitted airstrips in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, and our partnership in supporting the BLM in legal challenges to the Resource Management Plan covering the national monument. The director appreciates the efforts of the MPA and the RAF on behalf of Montana aviators, and urges us to become involved at the scoping level for all federal agency planning efforts which may impact access to public lands. Photo courtesy of Dan Prill.

Carl Hicks Named RAF Executive Director

Following a nationwide search, the Board of Directors of the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) have announced Carl Hicks, 58 of Gig Harbor Washington, as their first Executive Director. Truly a recreational pilot, Hicks received his private pilot license in August, 1975, and has several thousand hours of flight experience, remaining current ever since. After retiring from his first career as a combat decorated, U.S. Army Airborne Ranger Officer, Carl pursued a successful career in business, attaining the COO, CEO positions in diverse companies from start-up size to nationwide. Using aspects of his business experience on the non-profit side, he helped build the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) from a small little-known patient organization into one that is revered internationally with thousands of members around the world. Currently serving as the immediate past chair of the PHA board, Carl has extensive lobbying experience on Capitol Hill. A key vote required visiting 115 congressional offices in a 1 ½ day period which ended with the bill passing. Carl brings that same passion to the RAF.

"One of my fondest memories in aviation was that of taking a date for a picnic before the ink was dry on my private ticket to a beautiful little grass strip alongside Pleasant Hill Reservoir near my hometown of Mansfield, Ohio" says Carl. "It was a state-owned strip that now sadly, like so many others, has vanished forever from the charts. The Recreational Aviation Foundation exists solely to prevent this from occurring in the future, preserving, maintaining and creating safe recreational airfields, and providing recreational opportunities for generations to come. " "I am deeply honored to be selected and am deeply committed to this endeavor" says Carl.

Carl is a longtime member of the AOPA, EAA, International Cessna 180 -185 Club, and an active volunteer in the Young Eagles with several hundred missions flown in his Cessna 180A. He holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees in business from the Ohio State University. Contact Carl at chicks@theraf.org [1]. Submitted by John McKenna

RAF Wins Lightspeed Grant

We Did It!

The votes are counted and the Recreational Aviation Foundation is the recipient of a Lightspeed Aviation Foundation Pilot's Choice Award. To say that we could not have done it without you is not cliché, it is a fact. For those of you who never think your vote counts, it did this time.

The winners were announced this morning at the AOPA Summit in Hartford Connecticut. RAF President John McKenna was on hand to accept the grant presented by Allan Schrader, Founder and President of the Lightspeed Foundation. According to John, "We work hard for every dollar raised and even harder to make sure donor dollars are spent effectively.

The aviation community has spoken, you like the RAF and we like that! Now it's back to work preserving, maintaining and creating public use recreational and backcountry airstrips around the nation. Thanks to all who made this possible." John McKenna

LIGHTSPEED

Scholarship Opportunities

Montana Pilots' Association - Junior Pilot Scholarship – This recipient is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship within their community and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must have soloed and be actively involved in flight training. This is a $750 scholarship.

MPA Air Safety & Education Foundation – Flight Training Scholarship – This scholarship is open to a person who has a considerable interest in aviation. The $750 scholarship is to be used for flight training.

The Montana Aeronautics Division assists the MPA in administering our scholarships as well as scholarships offered by other aviation organizations in Montana. The complete list of available scholarships is listed in their newsletter, Montana and the Sky. The MPA scholarships are offered to a Montanan to help defray costs of education and will be presented during the MPA Annual General Membership Meeting at the 2012 Montana Aviation Conference in Bozeman. Awarding of the scholarships will be based on a letter explaining the reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience and any outstanding achievements. The same letter can be submitted but applicant must submit one copy addressed to each individual scholarship they are applying for. Letters of application must include a mailing address and daytime phone number. If you are selected to receive one of the scholarships your photo will appear in the 2012 Montana Aviation Conference Program, please include a photo with your applications for this purpose (only one photo necessary). Letters should be mailed to: Montana Aeronautics Division, PO Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507 or call (406) 444-2506 for further information. **Letters must be postmarked on or before, January 9, 2012.**

Some of the local MPA Hangars are also offering scholarships to individuals in their areas. Please contact your local MPA Hangar and ask if they are awarding any scholarships. Qualifications vary.

Jim Younkin, Five Valleys Hangar President presenting 2011 Jr. Pilot Scholarship to Nicholas McKinney.

Robert Shropshire, Gallatin Valley Hangar President presenting 2011 Flight Training Scholarship to Derek Canen.

Contributions Needed for ASEF Flight Training Scholarship

The Flight Training Scholarship is supported by donations to the MPA Air Safety and Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization which supports the tax deductible activities of the Montana Pilots' Association. Donations to this entity are tax deductible to the donor. We appreciate your contributions to continue this scholarship award. Contributions may be included with your membership renewal form which is printed on a following page. Thank you for your support!

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MONTANA PILOTS ASSOCIATION - Membership Form

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

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (JAN – DEC)

Regular Member (pilot)	ð $25.00
Associate Member (those who have not soloed)	ð $15.00
Montana First Year Solo Student Pilot (1st year free)ð Free GA News	ð $25.00
Donation to Montana Pilots' Assoc. – for Missouri Breaks Airstrips litigation	ð $ _____
Donation to MPA Air Safety & Education Foundation (501(c)(3) donation is tax deductible)	ð $ _____

Total $ _____

Renewal available on-line (www.montanapilots.org) or mail check to: MPA, PO Box 4311, Helena, MT 59604-4311

MONTANA PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

www.montanapilots.org

The Heading Bug – November-December 2011

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