

MONTANA PILOTS' ASSOCIATION
www.montanapilots.org



Heading Bug

January / February 2012

President's Message

Probably every person who has held the position of president of the MPA has wished for only good things to happen during their term. Blue skies, tail winds, cheap avgas, and lots of smiling faces wherever you go would come to mind. Unfortunately, what we wish for and what life gives us are sometimes different.

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have been rumored to be a part of the aviation picture in Montana for over a year. In fact, Predator-type UAVs have been operating along our northern border for some time, albeit in Class A airspace. Rumors emerged of possible UAV operations and even production in Lewistown, then disappeared. None of these rumors had any good information on who, or what, was behind them. Even letters to our congressional delegation requesting participation in any UAV planning meetings were met with cursory responses, or no response at all.

In November, a UAV was displayed to the press and public near Columbia Falls. This aircraft, less than one-third the size of a Cessna 150, has been undergoing testing at low altitudes and in a restricted geographic area. Using the press report, we contacted the primary players in this UAV operation, and invited them to speak at our most recent Board of Directors meeting. To their credit, the parties involved in the Columbia Falls UAV operation came to Helena earlier this month and gave us a presentation and question-and-answer session lasting an hour and one-half. Our issue is one of safety: how can an unmanned aircraft operate in a see-and-avoid environment without an accompanying manned aircraft, or at least ground observers? Additional issues include UAV use in MOAs, and creation of restricted airspace specifically for UAVs. While the presenters assured us there would be no insurmountable safety issues associated with UAVs and their interactions with more traditional aircraft, it is not a settled matter.

My personal opinion is that new technologies should enhance our freedoms, and not diminish them. Look at the aviation community's adoption of GPS technology as an example, and you can see that we are not reluctant to accept new technology. However, UAV operation in the national airspace, without proper safety precautions that protect our traditional use of the airspace, is not acceptable. The proponents of UAVs have a head start on us, and have solicited the approval and support of our congressional delegations (read JOBS! Or at least the rumor of jobs.). This is not just a Montana issue, as this same scenario is being played out in many of the western states. AOPA is actively involved, as are many other state aviation organizations, and the FAA.

Aviators are a small part of the general population, and I get the feeling that many believe that we can be inconvenienced. What do we do? Your MPA Board of Directors is actively putting ourselves into the planning process, particularly with our congressional delegation. We are communicating with the AOPA and the FAA. However, this is an issue that cannot just be handled at the Board of Directors level. Each one of us must become involved in some fashion. At the very least, keep yourselves informed on the issues, and do not hesitate to write letters, particularly to our Senators and Congressman. The more the better, especially in an election year! And don't forget the FAA; watch for their rule-making comment periods, and respond. We'll do our best to keep you informed as the issues develop.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the Aviation Conference here in Bozeman.
Have a safe flight – Jon Hudson, President

Welcome New Members

Presley	Melton	North Little Rock	AR	At Large
Craig	Shirley	Ennis	MT	At Large
Geoffrey	Woodard	Wilmington	DE	At Large
Guy	Pessina	Palmetto	FL	At Large
Stan	Monger	Lewistown	MT	Central MT
Leroy	Musick	Lewistown	MT	Central MT
Anthony	Butlett	Kalispell	MT	Flathead
David	Dickey	Marion	MT	Flathead
Michael	McGregor	Kalispell	MT	Flathead
Doug	Cairns	Bozeman	MT	Gallatin Valley
Leslie	Tugaw	Okanogan	WA	Gallatin Valley
Joint Airport Board	Chouteau County	Chouteau	MT	Great Falls
Jon	Harmon	Turner	MT	North Central
Jacob	Lorang	Havre	MT	North Central
Alan	Van Voast	Turner	MT	North Central
Gerry	Geske	Superior	MT	Sanders County
Jonathon	Ashcraft	Twin Bridges	MT	Southwest
Steve	Bell	Glasgow	MT	Valley
Carl W	Bell	Glasgow	MT	Valley
Shane	Hoyer	Fort Peck	MT	Valley
Glen	Meier	Glasgow	MT	Valley
Chris	Pfeifer	Fort Peck	MT	Valley
Paul	Tweten	Glasgow	MT	Valley
Jon	Albertson	Helena	MT	Vigilante
Charles	Ellis	Helena	MT	Vigilante

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

In 2011 the LWT airport saw the construction of 2 corporate hangars, 2 new licensed private pilots and 3 new/old aircraft hangared on the field. GA is alive and well in Central MT.

We ended 2011 with a Christmas party on the 13th of December at long time member Jack Mortganstern's beautiful hangar, 49 members and guests attended with a surprise visit by Santa aka Jim Lewis.

Our annual fly-in breakfast is currently in the planning stage and we are looking at holding it in the early fall instead the typically rainy spring.

Saturday mornings at 0900 will find several pilots solving all the worlds problems in the pilot's lounge located in the old FSS building. Sundays, wx and time permitting a fly-out breakfast to Winifred, Stanford or Denton is typical.

We meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Yogo Inn in LWT. Please keep this in mind if traveling through as all are welcome.

Respectfully submitted, Pete Smith, Hangar President



Sanders County Hangar

At the March 25, 2011, Dan Lilja and Walt Pickering updated members about their plane construction projects. Dan is building a Carbon Cub and Walt is finishing a Bearhawk for his son.

The Hangar hosted a barbecue and fly-in at the Plains Airport for their June 17, 2011 meeting. Dave Horner attended the meeting with a slide presentation of Mountain Flying in Montana.

January 13, 2012 meeting, Dan Lilja gave a slide presentation of the construction of his Carbon Cub from purchase to flights on skis this winter. The evening was enjoyed by everyone and many look forward to this time of sharing recent trips, flying issues, family updates and general neighborly discussions.

Walt and Karval Pickering are giving up the gavel as Hangar officers and turning it over to Dallas and Nita Deardorff. Thank you Walt and Karval for many years at the helm.

Five Valleys Hangar

The 5-Valleys Hangar held some joint program meetings with local EAA Chapter 517. In January 2011, A program was presented by Missoula Airport Director Cris Jensen and Deputy Director Brian Ellstad. Brian is fairly new to Missoula, so this was a good chance for him to meet the local pilot community and for us to learn more about his aviation background. Cris and Brian provided an update on the new Missoula control tower to be built soon and also answered questions about other GA airport concerns.

A MOVIE NIGHT was held at the Missoula Airport Conference Room, Jan. 17, 2011, to view "Red Skies Over Montana." We rented a 60" flat screen and fresh, hot popcorn was served.

In March, Jeff Vercoe of the FAA FFAST Team unveiled a new FAA program about Light Sport Aircraft.

May 16th, JoAn Marquardt gave a presentation about her adventures in ferrying a 1956 Dornier 27 from the Caribbean Island of Guadaloupe to Montana in 2004.

July 18th the Missoula Airport hosted a BBQ for local pilots.

December 17th was our Wright Brothers Commemorative Dinner event.

January 2012 we took a field trip to the National Weather Service located at the Missoula Airport. The evening began with a hosted social hour at the Rossiter's heated hangar then the drive over to the NWS.

Montana Aviation Conference March 1 - 3, 2012

The Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Bozeman, March 1—3. Room reservation may be made by calling the Best Western GranTree (406)587-5261 or (800) 624-5865 and at the Holiday Inn (406)587-4561. For further information and a full conference program go to the Montana Aeronautics website www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/.

MPA Hospitality Hour will be held Friday, March 2, in conjunction with the Static Display at Yellowstone Jet Center. The Hospitality hour is sponsored by the *Montana Pilots' Association* and *Peccia and Associates*. MPA Hangars are asked to send contributions towards the snacks and beverages. Buses will begin a rotation leaving Holiday Inn and GranTree Inn curbside outside lobbies at 4:00 p.m. Buses will then take participants to airport terminal for dinner/entertainment and rotate back to hotels with final buses departing from airport at 9:30 p.m.

MPA Annual General Membership Meeting will be held Saturday morning, March 3 at 8:00 a.m. in the GranTree, Aspen Room. MPA Scholarships and awards will be presented at this time. Junior Pilot Scholarship, Flight Training Scholarship, Hangar of the Year traveling trophy, and others. Election of officers—President, Eastern and Western Vice-Presidents, and Western Director. Please contact Chuck Flynn, Nominations Chairman for further information about these positions. Nominations are also accepted from the floor.

MPA Membership Sweepstakes Drawing Saturday during the annual meeting or the luncheon. All current 2012 members are entered in the drawing at least once with additional entries for each new member they sponsor. The prize this year will be a *SPOT Satellite Personal Tracker including a complete one year subscription* for all services.

MPA caps will be available at the MPA booth!



Webmaster Report

As of February 3rd 2012 the MPA website reports 729 members with 326 members who have actually logged on. We continue to provide website support including updating member e-mail addresses for website access, use of member only features (i.e. e-mailing members, etc), and website content. Website statistics are as follows:

	October	November	December
Website Visits	5707	6530	6219

Visits => The total number of times that people visited and interacted with the MPA website.

Website Budget:

The MPA website is broken out into two categories for budgetary purposes. One item pertains to webmaster fee's and the other towards website maintenance. Our budget for 2011 for website maintenance was \$1000 and actual was approximately \$850 (see actual MPA treasurer report for detailed amount). I request that we budget \$650 for website maintenance for 2012 and keep webmaster fee's at the current rate of \$75 month. This would correspond to a yearly budget total of \$1550.00.

As always I encourage members to participate with photo galleries and input on what we can do to make the MPA website a valuable resource for its members.

Best Regards,
Willie Stene

Trade Show Aviation Idaho Press Release

Aero Mark, an FBO in Idaho Falls, Idaho (KIDA) will be hosting the 2nd annual Trade Show Aviation Idaho on Friday and Saturday May 18-19, 2012. The trade show, run in conjunction with the Idaho Aviation Association's Annual Conference & Convention, will be open to everyone. It will feature new aircraft, maintenance and avionics, aviation clubs and associations, and all other things aviation related in Aero Mark's 30,000 sq. ft. XL hangar. Geared toward recreational, professional, and all others directly involved in general aviation, the trade show will have vendors, workshops, guest speakers and social events.

The announcement of this year's headline speaker and workshop topics will be forthcoming. Last year's show featured 27 vendors, including Aviat, Beechcraft, Cessna and Pilatus, all of which were able to display their aircraft in the show hangar next to their booths.



Tickets will be \$6 at the door, or free for Idaho Aviation Association members. To get more information, to see a schedule, or register for the event, please visit aeromark.com. If you have any questions please contact Thomas, Robert or Karen at [1-208-524-1202](tel:1-208-524-1202), fax 1-208- 524-8924, or email info@aeromark.com.

Lady Taildraggers & Friends Fly-In

I'm just back from a productive & fun weekend in Savannah, TN planning our next lady taildraggers flyin. We were a team of 5 people all devoted to making this the best lady pilots flyin anywhere - anytime!

The Savannah, Tennessee area is beautiful to fly over with gently rolling hills covered in lots of pine trees. The Tennessee River meanders through the area and there are 2 huge lakes, Kentucky and Barkley not far to the north. The small town of Savannah, TN was the sight of the infamous Battle of Shiloh and as you drive through town you'll see reminders of the time both Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee spent there. Like antebellum mansions and antique shopping? Come early or stay late and take it all in!

This year we're inviting ALL women pilots, nosewheel and tailwheel, and hopefully the non-tailwheel gals will leave Savannah understanding what it is we love about dragging our tails. Please forward this invitation to all the lady pilots you know.

Here's the link to the latest flyin update which includes more weekend details, hotel info and a Registration form. If you think you might come, please fill out the registration. It's just to help us guesstimate the kind of numbers we can expect but doesn't mean your attendance is guaranteed!

<http://www.ladieslovetaildraggers.com/announcement-2012-ladies-love-taildraggers-friends-fly-in/>

Submitted by Jeanne MacPherson for Judy Birchler

www.ladieslovetaildraggers.com

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NPRM Seeks Comments on Future Airspace Transition

I just got this on my email from the FAA....

On Dec. 15, 2011, the FAA issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to seek comments on a proposed transition of the U.S. National Airspace System (NAS) navigation infrastructure to enable performance-based navigation (PBN) as part of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). The FAA plans to transition from defining airways, routes and procedures using VORs and other legacy NAVAIDs towards a NAS based on Area Navigation (RNAV) everywhere and Required Navigation Performance (RNP) where beneficial. Since VORs do not enable RNAV, RNP, or Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) operations, **the FAA plans to reduce costs by drawing down the number of these FAA-provided VORs to a minimum operational network.**

As part of this transition process, the FAA will form a working group to engage aviation industry stakeholders and other members of the public for input. **The group will also provide a candidate list for VORs for discontinuance that will ensure safety and continuous operations.** For details and instructions on how to provide comments, see:

<http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2011/12/15/2011-31451/proposed-provision-of-navigation-services-for-the-next-generation-air-transportation-system-nextgen>

Submitted by Chuck Flynn



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Calendar of Events

CIVIL ENGINEERING | TRANSPORTATION | PLANNING | SURVEYING



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RPA is proud to support MPA's ongoing traditions at the Montana Aviation Conference by sponsoring the MPA hospitality function.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 1-3— Montana Aviation Conference, Bozeman

May 18-19—Idaho Aviation Trade Show

June 6-8—Winifred/Missouri Breaks Fly-In

June 9-10—Havre Fly-In

June 3-17—MAAA Hop 2012

July 4—Townsend 4th of July Fiesta Fly-In

July 7—Big Sky Air Race

July 7—Hamilton Airport Heritage Days

July 20—Big Sky Flight to Oshkosh

Aug 2-5—MAAA Three Forks Fly-In

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

MONTANA PILOTS ASSOCIATION - Order 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 (1 st year free)	ð Free
GA News	ð \$25.00
MPA Caps (Faded Blue, Red, Green, Stone, Khaki, Carrot, Dandelion)	ð \$20.00
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

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