

## MPA Members.....

This is a follow up on the **Three Forks Airport issue** that you were recently advised of. If you would like to send an email(s) that support the airport and the need to preserve a safe flying environment in and around the airport, read below for information on who to contact and how. "Silence" from the aviation community is the greatest enemy of an endangered airport. Please take the time to send one or more short emails that support the **zoning height ordinance** that will keep the skies around Three Forks safe for all those who fly in and out of the airport. Here is the contact information:

**City email link:** [http://threeforksmontana.us/city/contact\\_city.asp](http://threeforksmontana.us/city/contact_city.asp)

**Gene Townsend, the Mayor,** email address: [tfmayor@threeforksmontana.us](mailto:tfmayor@threeforksmontana.us)

The **Three Forks city office** can provide individual council member's email addresses. Call them at 406-285-3431

If you have any questions, contact **David Boyd, Three Forks Airport Manager:**  
[davidboyd@hotmail.com](mailto:davidboyd@hotmail.com)

Here is a general synopsis of what is going on out here @ 9S5. We are required to pass a zoning ordinance that restricts the height of any/all new structures that would be built near the airport in the future. This ordinance is being called the "Airport Affected Area", or AAA. An advisory committee made up of several individuals was tasked with writing the ordinance and passing it along to both the city of Three Forks and Gallatin County for approval. This task began over 8 years ago. The ordinance itself does not impose any additional burden on any land owner, with the caveat being that if they want to apply for a variance (on a case-by-case basis), there is a fee associated with it. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect the airspace surrounding Pogreba field so that future structures that might be hazardous to aircraft would not be able to be built. The implication of not passing this ordinance is to jeopardize future funding for the operation of the airport. In short...the ordinance **MUST** be passed for the airport to have any kind of future.

Unfortunately, there is a vocal minority of landowners who are doing their best to delay, water down, and downright do away with this required ordinance(ironically, the most vocal opponent is an airline captain [!] that learned to fly right here at Pogreba field [!]). Their methodology thus far has included making inflammatory statements that passing this ordinance is opening the door to Three Forks becoming a commercial airport, and soon we will have airline and/or freight air traffic using this airport(which any pilot knows is logistically ridiculous, considering our proximity to Gallatin Field). Additionally, the use of the airport by student pilots has been presented as a hazard (again...the most vocal opponent **LEARNED TO FLY RIGHT HERE AT POGREBA FIELD!!**). As a result, other neighboring landowners, who know nothing about aviation, have shown up with torches and pitchforks in hand, thinking their way of life is being threatened. Three Forks airport is a wonderful asset to the Gallatin Valley, hosting such

events as the MAAA's antique aircraft fly-in annually. That this airport is a valued and important part of our community was confirmed by its nomination and subsequent selection as MDOT Aeronautics' 2010 Airport of the Year.

Please show your support for this wonderful and historic airport by attending the public hearings addressing the passing of this ordinance, by writing letters and/or making phone calls to the Three Forks City Council and Gallatin County Commissioner's Office voicing your opinions on what Pogreba Field means to you.

If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call at 406-581-6308, or you may contact me via email at davidboyd@hotmail.com. As an additional point of contact, I am including Lewis Rafferty's contact information, he is a member of the advisory committee that wrote the original AAA ordinance. He can be reached at 406-209-0323 or via email at pitchraf@yahoo.com. Also, I am including a link to a copy of the ordinance itself,  
[http://www.gallatin.mt.gov/Public\\_Documents/08.05.2009\\_Airport\\_Affected\\_Area\\_Regulation.pdf](http://www.gallatin.mt.gov/Public_Documents/08.05.2009_Airport_Affected_Area_Regulation.pdf)

Thank you for your help. Hopefully once those who have the power to pass this ordinance see just how important the continued operation of Pogreba Field is to those of us who live here, they will make the right choice to pass this ordinance.

David Boyd,

Three Forks Airport Manager