

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation | Aeronautics Program | Vol. 75, No 9 September 2026

2027 Aviation Scholarship Sponsors Needed

There are scholarships available for individuals in Montana who are interested in aviation. These scholarships are made possible by generous individuals and organizations who believe in supporting aviation education. The scholarships aim to help with the costs of education, such as flight training or attending aviation mechanic school.

If you are interested in sponsoring a scholarship for the 2027 cycle or need additional information, please contact Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics before September 11, 2026, at mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

Available scholarships will be posted on-line mid September and in the October newsletter. Available scholarships and application instructions may be found at mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.aspx.

The winners of the scholarships will be announced in January 2027, and they will receive their awards February 26, 2027 at the Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula.

Scholarship Winners Update

Helena College Graduates!

This summer, two Aviation Scholarship winners graduated from Helena College's Airframe and Power-plant (A&P) Mechanic program, Aiden Fouhy and TJ Hogan. They proudly accepted their diplomas wearing their propeller hats. They were quite a colorful sight!

Both have been working hard to reach their aviation goals over the last few years. With the assistance of their scholarship awards, many of their goals have been met including becoming fully rated A&P mechanics.

TJ Hogan had already earned his Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) and Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument (CFII) along with numerous other ratings. He became a fully rated A&P mechanic quickly after graduation and has started his own mobile aircraft mechanic business out of Livingston! He is currently working with single and twin engine aircraft and hopes to grow his business to turbo engine aircraft in the future.

Aiden Fouhy has earned his private pilot certificate, seaplane rating, tailwheel and high-performance endorsements, as well as completed emergency maneuver and basic aerobatic training. He is currently working on his Instrument rating and plans to continue his training to earn his commercial and CFI ratings. Aiden is just a few steps away from becoming a fully rated A&P Mechanic.

With their outstanding work ethic, skills and knowledge, TJ and Aiden are welcome assets to Montana's aviation community.



Left to right: Aiden Fouhy, Mason Green, Silas Hilkemann, and TJ Hogan waiting to recieve their diplomas at Helena College's graduation Ceremony.



Aviation in Montana Photo Contest

Attention Montana photographers!

We are seeking standout images that highlight the aircraft, people, and places that make Montana's aviation community extraordinary. Send in your best shots and help us tell the story of aviation across our state.

- Photos must be PNG's and resolution must be at minimum 300 DPI. Low resolution photos, such as from a cell phone, cannot be accepted.
- Photos should be Aviation in Montana themed.
- Consent of use granted upon submittal. Person must own the photo being submitted.
- All photos will be retained for future use in MDT publications and marketing.
- Please submit your photos with your contact information by October 6th, 2026, to mdtad@mt.gov.

1st Place
Pilot's Tool Kit



2nd Place
Flight Gear iPad Bag



3rd Place
Bullseye Pocket Air Inflator



For more information, please contact us at 406-444-2506 or mdtad@mt.gov.

Blue Skies and Tailwinds, Roger

Roger Donald Lincoln passed away peacefully on July 22, 2026, in Kalispell, Montana, at the age of 87. Born on April 26, 1939, in Havre, Montana, Roger was the cherished son of Donald Lincoln and Mary (Ritter) Lincoln. He was raised in the tight-knit farming community of the Rudyard area along Montana's Hi-Line, where he developed a lifelong appreciation for the land, hard work, and the open skies of Big Sky Country.

On September 18, 1960, Roger married the love of his life, Mable Colbry. After a brief tour in the army, Roger and Mable returned to the farm. Together they built a life deeply rooted in love, family, and a shared commitment to God and their community, celebrating 65 wonderful years of marriage.

A member of a multi-generational flying legacy on the prairie, Roger took to the skies at an early age. A passion sparked when his parents gave him a flight for his birthday. He soloed on his sixteenth birthday in 1955, went on to earn his commercial pilot certificate, and built an impressive, decades-long career as a crop-spraying aviator across northern Montana. Flying over rolling fields of wheat was not just his work, but a calling he loved deeply and passed along to future generations. In 1975 Roger was honored with the U. S. Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer Award. In 2020 Roger was honored with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot award, the highest honor the Federal Aviation Administration bestows on civilian pilots. Roger served on the Montana State Aeronautical Commission, First Bank Board of Directors, Hill County Farm Service Agency Committee, Havre Airport Board, Hi-Line Health Foundation Board, and multiple years as Chairman of the Board at Calvary Evangelical Church, among many other volunteer positions.

Above all, Roger cherished his family, his lifelong friends across Hill and Liberty counties, and the strong ties built throughout the Montana agricultural and aviation communities. His legacy lives on through his sons, grand children, family, and friends whose life has been blessed with his kind, wise words, and witty humor.



Photo and obituary courtesy of Asper Funeral Homes.

Overdue Flight Plans and ELT Alerts:

What Happens Behind the Scenes

MDT Aeronautics Search and Rescue (SAR) are responsible for all civilian aviation related SAR operations in Montana. They respond to approximately 30 calls a year. Most of those calls are regarding overdue aircraft that did not close their flight plans and/or accidental Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) activations.

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes when these activations happen? If you don't close your flight plan and it becomes overdue, your ELT is set off accidentally, or there is an emergency. Here's what the process looks like:

1. When a flight plan becomes overdue, Flight Service initiates an investigation 30 minutes after the Estimated Time of Arrival. This marks the beginning of the Search and Rescue (SAR) process.
2. Within minutes of an ELT activation, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) receives notification, a 406MHz signal is detected. A 121.5MHz ELT signal, however, may take much longer—sometimes days—because it must first be detected by another aircraft and reported to Aircraft Control before it can be reported to the AFRCC.
3. The AFRCC then contacts MDT Aeronautics to report either an overdue aircraft or an ELT activation. The MDT Aeronautics SAR staff begins investigating to determine the aircraft's location or the source of the ELT signal.

SAR staff use all available information; Montana Pilot and Aircraft registration information, radar data, last known coordinates, intended destination, and other details from the flight plan. SAR personnel do not know whether the alert is accidental or a true emergency, so it is treated as an emergency until proven otherwise.

SAR staff rely on accurate flight plans and registration information to contact the individual/s associated with the aircraft and continue their search.

How Can You Help?

Flight Plans:

- Keep your contact information updated through your aircraft and Pilot registrations in MDT Aeronautics's system. MDT SAR need to be able to contact you quickly to resolve the incident or launch a search. To update your information give us a call at **406-444-2506**, email us at mdtad@mt.gov/, or go online at app.mt.gov/aeronautics/registration/Contact/Lookup and use you access code to update your profile.
- File and activate a flight plan and *be sure to close it* when you get to your destination. Make clear flight plan updates and timely amendments. When filling your flight plan it is helpful to include contact information of who is traveling with you. Leaving a trail of information will help SAR find you faster in an emergency.

ELT's:

- Keep your ELT registration information up to date. If you acquire a new aircraft equipped with a 406Mhz ELT, change your tail number or install a new ELT, you will need to update the registration information with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association at beaconregistration.noaa.gov/RGDB/index.
  **The FAA does not update ELT registrations.*
- 406Mhz: If you accidentally set off your ELT, call the **AFRCC** and let them know. They can be reached 24/7 at **1-800-851-3051**. Even if a 406Mhz is on for a few seconds in your aircraft or inside a building, the AFRCC will notify MDT Aeronautics SAR to begin looking for you!
- 121.5Mhz: Check your radio frequency 121.5Mhz before shutting down your engine. Should your ELT accidentally be activated, you will hear it sounding.

Big Happenings at Havre Airport!

Long-time manager, Tony Dolphay, retired this year and new manager, Austin Moore, has stepped in to be the new manager at Havre Airport. Austin is the owner of Triple L Aviation Fuels Flight-Base Operator (FBO). He and his family are from the Havre area and are excited to be part of the Havre aviation community.

In August, Havre received a new seal coat and final painting with the assistance of the Federal Aviation Administration, MDT Aeronautics and the Havre Airport.



Come to the MPA North Central Hanger Fly-In in Havre, Sept 12, for some pancakes, say "Hello" to Austin and check out the new seal coat!

Fly-In details are in the Calender below.

99's Airmarking Airports

The Montana Chapter of the Ninety-Nines have been busy this summer touching up and updating several air markings at airports throughout the state. They repainted our newly rehabilitated ramp at Lincoln Airport as well as Scobey, Seeley Lake, and Forsyth, with plans to visit Sidney, Red Lodge, and Circle Airports before the end of the year. Montana Aeronautics happily provides the paint, and they tackle the hard part of painting in the heat, smoke, and wind.

The Ninety-Nines is the international organization of women pilots that promotes advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight.

Established in 1929 by 99 women pilots, the members of The Ninety-Nines, Inc., International Organization of Women Pilots, are represented in all areas of aviation today.

If interested in learning more about the 99's, you can visit their website at ninety-nines.org/.



2026 Helena Aviation Day: Static displays Needed

Join us at this years Helena Aviation Day, September 12, and [illegible] of you [illegible] to the public. Please RSVP to Jake Cirincione at the National Guard at jake.w.cirincione.mil@army.mil. Parking will be on the National Guard ramp starting from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Helena Aviation Day starts at 10 a.m. (See calendar below for more event details.)

RAMP IS NOW FULL

Hope to see you there!

Calendar of Events

September 6 - Red Lodge Wings and Wheels Fly-In/Cruise In. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Free pancake breakfast. For more information, contact Bo Enwald at 406-425-1591.

September 12 - Helena Aviation Day. Helena. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Montana National Guard Facility located at 2030 Cromwell Dixon Lane. Aircraft static displays, Boeing facility tours, armory and aviation facility open house, events and games for kids. Please RSVP to Jake Cirincione at jake.w.cirincione.mil@army.mil if you would like to display your aircraft at the event.

~~**September 19**~~ **- MPA South Central Fly-In. Laurel. *Due to weather, rescheduled for September 26.**

September 19 - EAA Chapter 344 Young Eagles Flight Rally. Helena. Montana EAA Chapter 344 will be hosting a free Young Eagles Flight Rally for youths ages 8 to 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the MDT Aeronautics building (2630 Airport Road). Online registration (required) go to eaa.org/eaa/youth/free-ye-flights or contact Dave Lehman, Young Eagles Coordinator at YEchapter344@earthlink.net.

September 19 - Lincoln Fly-In. The Lincoln Airport Foundation will be hosting a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at 406-362-4473 or vulcandg406@gmail.com.

September 19 - Flathead Lake Sky Ranch 24th Annual Fly-in. Kalispell (MT95). 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hosted by the Sky Ranch Airport Community. Benefiting Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Flight Scholarships. Come join our fly-in fun! Free pancake and egg breakfast 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Sky Diving and Intro flights with local flight schools. Meet and greets: EAA, Recreational Aircraft Association (RAF), Two Bear Air Rescue, and the Somers Fire Department. RAF guest speaker, Mike Perkins. Family fun for all! For more information, contact Dan Soto at 530-305-4538 or secretary@flatheadlakeskyranch.com.

September 19 - Girls Aviation Day. Neptune Aviation, Missoula. The complimentary event, for girls ages 8-17, is scheduled 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is designed to spark interest in aviation careers through interactive stations, hands on activities, and panel discussions featuring women with successful careers in aviation and aerial firefighting. To register, visit: forms.cloud.microsoft/r/H4QNN8p7fh?origin=lplink.

September 26 - MPA South Central Fly-In. Laurel. Starts at 8 a.m. Static displays including War Birds! Food trucks and local vendors. Contact John at 406-855-2372 or email at johnfredroberts@gmail.com.

November 14 - Loan and Grant Application Deadline. For more information, contact Stephen Torske at 406-444-2506 or storske@mt.gov. To access the online portal, go to mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml.

Dec 1 - 2027 Aircraft and Pilot registrations open. Go to app.mt.gov/aeronautics/registration/Contact/Lookup and use your access code listed on your mailed invoice to register for 2027. Deadline is March 1st! First registration notices are mailed by December 1st. Check your mailboxes for your invoices.

January 8-10 - Winter Survival Clinic. Sugarloaf Lodge, Anaconda. For more information, contact MDT Aeronautics at mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

February 5-6 - FIRC. Helena. *Registration link coming soon.*

February 25-27 - 42nd Montana Aviation Conference. Missoula. Hilton Garden Inn. For more information, contact Kelly Atkins at katkins@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

March 1st - Aircraft Registration Deadline. If you have not received your registration notice, please contact us ***before*** the registration deadline for assistance to avoid late fees.

September 2026

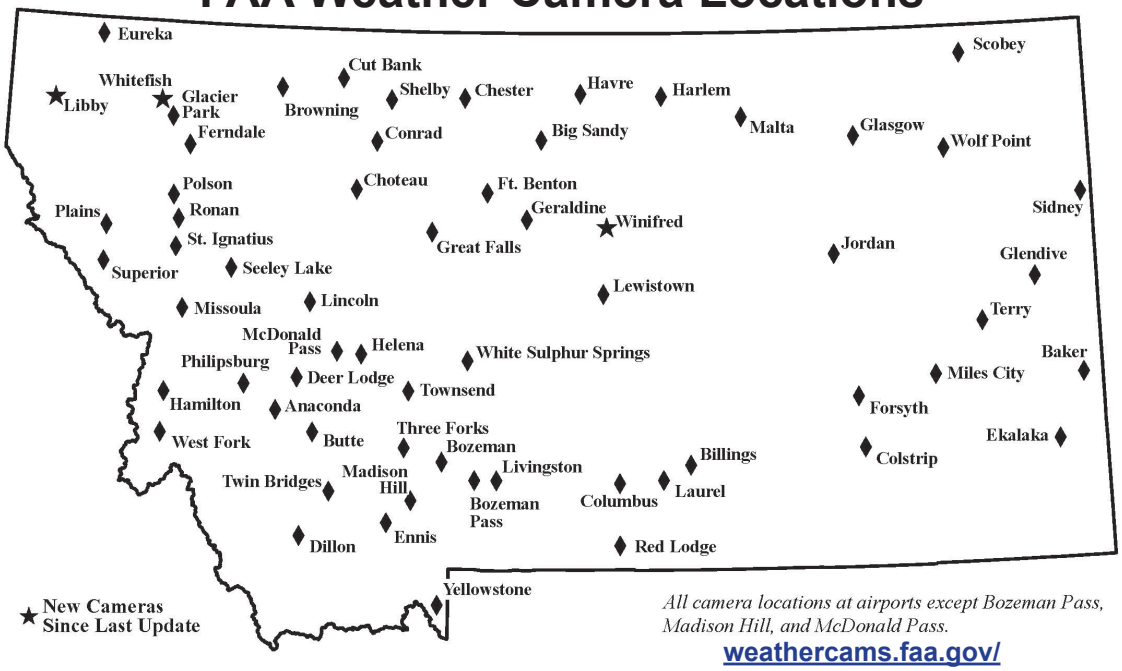
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Fly Safe!

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FAA Weather Camera Locations



All camera locations at airports except Bozeman Pass, Madison Hill, and McDonald Pass.

weathercams.faa.gov/

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