



## First Lady Honors Aviation Art Contest Winners

Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division's Aviation Art Contest is designed to promote career opportunities in the aviation and aerospace industries. It is also designed to broaden awareness of the importance of aviation and aerospace in the economy.

The first prize in each category was a round trip flight from the winner's hometown to Helena. The students and their parents were flown by MDT Aeronautics Division pilots Jeanne MacPherson and Mike Rogan and Kevin Le Furgey of Taylor Aviation. Once in Helena, the winners received a trophy and certificate of achievement presented by Montana's First Lady Nancy Schweitzer then the winners and their families toured the Capitol and had lunch in Helena's Historic Last Chance Gulch and were flown back home.

See the winning art work on page 4 of this month's newsletter. Congratulations to all the winners - and thank you to all the students that participated in this year's contest.



*First Lady Nancy Schweitzer welcomed the Aviation art contest winners and their families and presented the winners with their awards. Pictured here with Shannon Habel of Dutton.*



*First Lady Nancy Schweitzer with Willie Lytton of Polson.*



*Rebecca Brown of Conrad the next Montana aviatrix, gives a thumbs up after her flight to Helena.*

# Administrator's Column

**FAA Reauthorization Update:** As reported H.R. 915 has passed the house with a Senate AIP/FAA bill yet to be introduced. NASAO staff have been told that Senate staffers are working on legislative language with hopes to have a bill in mid-July to "mark-up." With a fast paced, tight timeline the Senate could vote on the issue before the August recess and have the bill ready for House/Senate conference committee in September. FAA reauthorization expires on September 30 so it's important that Congress gets the work done to avoid yet another continuing resolution.

**State Aviation Journal:** Check out this new publication *State Aviation Journal* magazine at [www.stateaviationjournal.com](http://www.stateaviationjournal.com) by clicking on Magazine. Kim Stevens of Arizona, the publication's publisher is doing an excellent job reporting on issue of interest. Kim is the former Nebraska Aeronautics Director and now with the Arizona Department of Transportation Aeronautics.

**Want to be an air traffic controller?** The Federal Aviation Administration is accepting applications from the general public for trainee air traffic controller positions. The job announcements include both Terminal and En Route controller positions throughout the nation. The opportunity for the general public to apply for entry-level air traffic controller positions does not come along very often, according to FAA officials. The job openings to the public support the FAA's controller workforce plan to hire approximately 15,000 controllers over the next decade. The FAA is undertaking an intensive hiring effort to replace the large number of controllers who began their careers in the 1980s and are now eligible to retire. Any qualified U.S. citizen under the age of 31 can apply for the general public air traffic controller vacancies. For more information: [www.faa.gov/jobs/job\\_opportunities/airtraffic\\_controllers/openings/](http://www.faa.gov/jobs/job_opportunities/airtraffic_controllers/openings/)

**AOPA Air Safety Foundation:** Check out the "Never Again" section in AOPA Pilot one of the most widely read sections of the magazine or find it online at [http://www.aopa.org/pilot/never\\_again/](http://www.aopa.org/pilot/never_again/). This information provides real-life situations experienced by pilots and presented to allow pilots to learn from the experience of others. You can also join an online discussion. The latest "Never Again" encounter involves a pilot who considered himself safe and conscientious shooting an ILS approach to minimums in a mountain valley – with no approach plates and no option other than to "land or die trying." Find out how he got himself and his passenger into this situation and how they got through it. In a typical year, almost half of all weather-related accidents happen due to continued VFR flight into IMC. Most are fatal and most are preventable. Take time to watch the AOPA video "Flying Blind" for an important Pilot Safety Announcement (PSA) at [http://www.aopa.org/asf/psa/flyingblind.html?WT.mc\\_id=&wtmclid;&WT.mc\\_sect=sap](http://www.aopa.org/asf/psa/flyingblind.html?WT.mc_id=&wtmclid;&WT.mc_sect=sap). Fly safe and fly smart.



## *Montana and the Sky*

Department of Transportation

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# Calendar of Events

**July 17-19** – Schafer Meadows Fly In. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

**July 17-19** – National Convention for the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association. Celebrating Centennial of Flight Celebration (1909-2009). For further information go to [www.copanational.org](http://www.copanational.org) or contact Bill Beaton at [bbeaton@copanational.org](mailto:bbeaton@copanational.org).

**July 18** – Bridger Airport Fly In breakfast held in conjunction with Jim Bridger Days. Breakfast held at Veteran's Park from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., rides to and from breakfast and downtown available. Limited tie downs available (bring your own tie downs). For further information call Jerry at (406) 662-3375.

**July 19** – St. Ignatius Fly In. For further information, contact Steve Allard [steve@allardauctions.com](mailto:steve@allardauctions.com).

**July 19** – Northeast Wyoming wings and Wheels Air Show and Car Show at Hulett, Wyoming. For further information go to [www.hulettairshow.net/home](http://www.hulettairshow.net/home).

**August 1** – Pioneer Day Fly In and Young Eagle Flights, Ronan Airport. Lunch will be served.

**August 2** – Hysham Airport Lions Club Fly-In, Drive In Breakfast, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For further information, phone Bob Miller at (406) 342-5252.

**August 6-8** – Montana Antique Airplane Association Three Forks Fly In.

**August 7-9** – Yellowstone Airport Open House & West Yellowstone Rod Run & Car Show. Camping at airport; music in town; barbeque hosted by Yellowstone Aviation. For further information phone Tony Bean (406) 646-7631 or Yellowstone Aviation at (406) 646-7359.

**August 14-15** – Wings & Wheels Fly In, Powell Municipal Airport, Wyoming. August 14 – Twilight Airshow/Ice Cream Social; August 15 – Fly In and Airshow. For further information phone Powell Chamber of Commerce (307) 754-3494.

**August 14-16** – Montana Fun Weekend, Cut Bank. Car show, airplane rides, fly in for general aviation (60 aircraft last year) and drag racing. For further information, contact Roy Nollkamper (406) 450-1078 or email [nollkamper47@hotmail.com](mailto:nollkamper47@hotmail.com).

**August 15** – Polson Fly In, breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (fly in pilots eat for free). Free 10 gallon aviation fuel drawings; 50/50 raffles and antique aircraft, homebuilts and other general aviation airplanes on display.

**September 11-13** – Mountain Search Pilot Clinic. For further information phone Jeanne MacPherson at (406) 444-9568 or email [jemacpherson@mt.gov](mailto:jemacpherson@mt.gov).

**September 26-27** – Sidney Montana Airshow with the Canadian forces Snowbirds. Questions call Bryan Prevost at (406) 774-3033 or email [bprevost@midrivers.com](mailto:bprevost@midrivers.com).



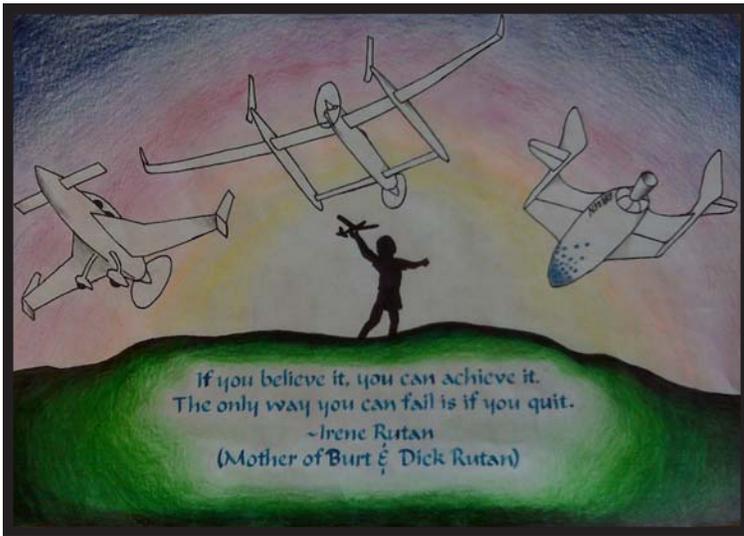
# First Place Winners of Aviation Art Contest



1<sup>st</sup> Place – **Willy Lytton**, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 8 yrs old, Polson, Linderman Grade School, Parents: Pam and Lee Lytton.

**Willy about aviation:** “I like flying with my dad and my friend Bob Snyder. My dad has a Cessna 140 and Bob has a Cessna 206 and a Kit fox. I want to be a pilot someday like my dad and Bob and enjoy the freedom in flight like they do.”

**Willy’s Poster is:** a B-17 flying over the Statue of Liberty. There are two Liberty Ship boats on the water, Willy’s grandpa served on these boats in WWII.



1<sup>st</sup> Place – **Rebecca Brown**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 12 yrs old, Conrad, Utterback Middle School, Parents: Amy and Daniel Brown.

**Rebecca about aviation:** “My dad is a pilot and he’s teaching me how to fly. When I grow up I want to be an airplane mechanic and build my own airplane, too!”

**Rebecca’s poster is:** “My drawing is a silhouette of a young boy throwing an airplane; running on a hill. In front of the hill is the quote “If you believe it, you can achieve it, the only way you can fail is if you quit.”

1<sup>st</sup> Place – **Shannon Habel**, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 14 yrs old, Dutton, Dutton Brady Public School, Parents: Gail and Clay Habel.

**Shannon about aviation:** “When I was little my Dad would take me for airplane rides in his Cessna 172. I have had an interest in aviation since I was very young. I enjoy watching my Dad fly the plane and would love to learn to do the same.”

**Shannon’s poster is:** “My painting is an acrylic of our friend’s seaplane, we watch him land on the lake in front of my Grandmother’s house.”



# Lewistown Airport Gateway to the Heart of MT

*Originally published in Peaks and Plains, reprinted by permission of Winston Publishing*

The Lewistown Municipal Airport (LWT) is gateway to the heart of Montana and its namesake, Lewistown. Drawn in by the town's historic charm, folksy atmosphere, prospering business community and a jewel of a Main Street, there is little mystery why people who visit here leave their region of residence and re-establish themselves in this hamlet of 6,500. LWT is also gateway to the region's beloved expanse of prairie and Big Sky, neighboring island mountain ranges and spring creeks. There is ample opportunity to hike, hunt and fish. Thus, with a perfect balance of small town living and a pro-business attitude couched in stunning, diverse landscapes in which to recreate, it's no wonder local business leaders say, "It doesn't get any better than this."

In March, the Montana Department of Transportation named LWT its 2009 "Montana Airport of the Year." Airport manager Jerry Moline and three employees oversee services and facilities, as well as inclusion in the National Registered Historic Places and a reputation as "pilot friendly." Elements helping to secure the award include three runways, a new and spacious state-of-the-art hangar for commercial and general aviation aircraft, two fixed-base operators, home base to the Central Montana Civil Air Patrol and other agencies, community involvement as well as Lewistown's commitment to the welfare of its airfield. In September 2008, Great Lake Airlines (GLA) became the new commercial air service. The carrier offers two daily round trips from Lewistown to Denver and back, with a stop in Worland, Wyoming. "We started with low passenger numbers but they kept increasing and peaked at Christmas," Jerry Moline says. "Ridership is up significantly, even in the low travel months. The connections out of Denver are traveler-friendly." Monica Taylor, director of sales and marketing for GLA, also noted the increase in passengers. "That's good for Lewistown and us," Taylor says. "It means that Denver is working as a hub."

Entrepreneur Matt Sass who regularly flies between business in Montana and Colorado praises GLA service from Denver to Lewistown, calling it "convenient." Four years ago he bought the Brooks Building on Main Street and remodeled the nearly century old structure. "Lewistown has a proactive, pro-business position that is definitely an asset," Sass says. Today the first floor of the stately building houses a food market and a boutique. Spacious office suites and a shared conference room occupy the second level. The bustling prairie town has been the operations headquarters for Century Companies, Inc., since 1976. "When the company was established in Lewistown, the community supported it directly and indirectly," says Jack Morgenstern, who founded Century in 1975. "That was key to Century's success." The company provides rural and urban infrastructure construction and serves hundreds of rural communities, primarily in Montana and northern Wyoming. In fact, when the Worland Municipal Airport improved its facilities, Century Companies, Inc. laid the runway asphalt. Today the company employs 50 to 150 workers, depending on the season. "Lewistown understands an



*"The Lewistown airport received this year's Airport of the Year award in recognition of its outstanding achievements in the last several years with airport development and management," says Jim Greil at the MDT Aeronautics Division. "The community has developed the necessary infrastructure to cater to a wide range of airport users and other business interests." Pictured is (l-r) Fred Lark of Lewistown who serves on the Montana Aeronautics Board and Jim Greil, Bureau Chief, MDT Aeronautics.*

economic engine is a mixed engine," Morgenstern says. "We have a mix of agriculture, construction, manufacturing and health services, and not one is dominant. That is why the town consistently has a healthy economy." Tim Robertson, Century president and CEO, adds, "The people who live here really want to live here. We see our employees' enthusiasm and commitment to their community. Lewistown is a safe and attractive place to build their professions and raise a family."

These Lewistown businessmen also note a top-notch medical facility and a hotel and convention center. Central Montana Medical Center is the cornerstone for local medical and health care services. It features a 25-bed acute care hospital with an adjoining skilled nursing center and medical offices. "The hospital is a top-rated, five-star hospital," says Ann Tuss. "The medical staff includes a full-expertise range of physicians. We provide a community service to a population spread well over 17,000 square miles." Across town at the Yogo Inn, a traveler settles into one of 123 comfortable and spacious guest rooms. The hotel offers its guests a heated indoor pool and oversized hot tub. The Yogo's business center provides several meeting rooms, computers and copier, and high-speed wireless Internet service. Small town appeal and surrounding forests and prairie are Lewistown's constant attributes. Meanwhile, its residents and business leaders value fresh, innovative ideas. Several organizations—Snowy Mountain Industries and Central Montana Manufacturing Alliance come to mind—assist anyone wanting to explore business opportunities. Notes Century's Robertson, "With an award-winning airport and convenient air service, we're able to live in Lewistown and run a nationwide business."

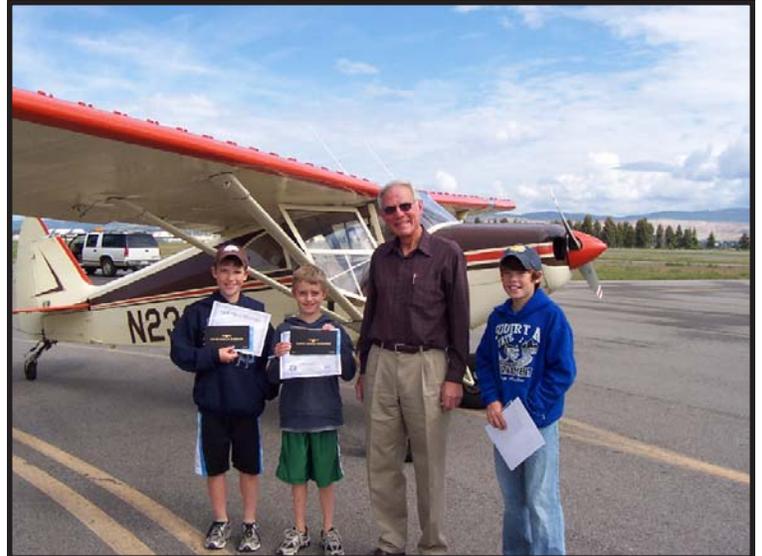
# Butte Fly In and Military Appreciation Days - Fun for All!



*As a part of the Butte Fly In and Military Appreciation Days the B-17 Flying Fortress made its approach on Wednesday, June 17. Butte area EAA pilots, Jim Beauchamp, Dave Fine, Charles Fligel and Dick Johnson offered Young eagle flights on both Wednesday and Thursday of the Butte Fly In and Military Appreciation Days.*



*Dave Fine offered the Young Eagles rides in his homebuilt aircraft - very cool!*



*Charles Fligel with a few of the Young Eagles, these flights are a sure way to get kids excited about aviation.*

## Plan to Attend the Mountain Search Clinic

The Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division is inviting Montana pilots to attend the annual Mountain Search Pilot Clinic (MSPC). The clinic ground school and the flight training operations will be headquarter in Helena at MDT Aeronautics Division and the Wingate Inn on September 11 - 13, 2009. The clinic will kickoff on Friday, September 11th at 7:00 PM with MSPC ground school at the Wingate Inn. Applications are in the mail to 2009 Montana registered pilots the application is also available online at: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/>. For more information please call Jeanne MacPherson at (406) 444-9568 or email: [jemacpherson@mt.gov](mailto:jemacpherson@mt.gov).



# Bozeman Airport Offers Comfy Pilot Shelter

The Bozeman Pilot Shelter is open for business. The grass is green, the tie downs installed, the showers and bathrooms working. Bozeman has this facility available to local aviation groups as well as transient pilots who would like to spend a day or more. Bozeman is looking forward to you coming and enjoying this facility. It was made possible through the efforts of the Recreational Aviation Foundation, the Gallatin Field Airport, the Montana Pilots Association, and local pilots and business's that donated time and material. Stop by and enjoy. The shelter is in the S.W. corner of the airport. Just ask the tower for directions.



# Yellowstone Airport to Hold Open House

By: *Tony Bean, Airport Manager*



*Local wildlife stay off the runway thanks to the recent fencing project completed at the Yellowstone Airport.*

Yellowstone Airport and Yellowstone Aviation invite you to tour our facilities and partake in a host of events for the weekend of August 7-9. Yellowstone Aviation would like to invite all to enjoy their brand new fixed base operator building located just north of the Fire Station. We hope to have a lot of you here and will be providing a BBQ sponsored by Yellowstone Aviation on August 8 from 10:00 a.m. until we run out of food. If you have never been to an event hosted by us you will find that we pride ourselves in putting on BBQ's that are second to none.

Ground transportation is provided by Yellowstone Airport via numerous complimentary bicycles. Bicycles are secured but may be accessed by knowing your emergency frequency. Rental cars are also available through Budget or Avis in the terminal building for those desiring a vehicle for their stay.

On August 7 bring your blankets, lawn chairs, picnics, and the kids. This casual evening of Music in the Park will feature the sounds of The Iron Front Band. The music is free so come join in the fun from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the City Park.

For those that admire shiny machines ( I have yet to meet a pilot that doesn't...) the town of West Yellowstone will be hosting the 38<sup>th</sup> annual rod run and car show titled Street Rod Heaven. Food, frolic, parade, showin' and shinin' and cruisin'. This year's event will be bigger, longer and better than ever to celebrate 38 years of this annual gathering.

We anticipate that the campground will be in great demand for the fly- in. MDT Aeronautics Division/Yellowstone Airport maintains a first class pilot's campground at the Yellowstone Airport free to all pilots flying in. The pilot's campground is located directly north of the general aviation ramp. The campground is heavily forested has four developed campsites with plenty of room for rustic type camping. Campground amenities include running water, restroom facilities, a heated shower, and stocked firewood. The airport will provide flyers with directions and a schedule of all the different events for your use. All of the events for this weekend offer free admission. The airport will waive parking fees for the fly-in and Yellowstone Aviation will be giving discounts on fuel. So set your calendars and come celebrate Yellowstone Aviation's new digs! Questions may be referred to Tony Bean at (406) 646-7631 or Yellowstone Aviation at (406) 646-7359.

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## **New Airstrip Expands Access to Rocky Mountain Forests**

A new grass runway is now being built on land owned by the U.S. Forest Service in Montana, after four years of effort by recreational pilots. The strip, which is expected to be ready for next spring, will be 4,000 feet long, stretching across a meadow at an elevation 6,300 feet, surrounded by plenty of open grassland for approaches and climbouts. The site is close to a popular trout-fishing area and a campground in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Members of the Montana Pilots Association and the Recreational Aviation Foundation worked with federal officials to create the airstrip. The agreement required four years of planning, including an environmental impact statement and an opportunity for public discussion. Several sites were considered and rejected before the final site made the cut. "This decision is significant because until this location was selected at Russian Flat, there were no public airstrips on Forest Service lands east of the Rocky Mountain Front," said Dan Prill, of the RAF. The runway is under construction now but is not expected to open until the grass surface has time to develop.

The RAF also announced recently that a previously private airstrip just outside Glacier National Park will open this summer for public use, but only with prior permission.

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