

# Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 75, No. 2

February 2024

## Ted Mathis to Kick off Aviation Conference as Keynote Speaker

Ted Mathis will be the Montana Aviation Conference keynote speaker during the Thursday kickoff luncheon on February 28. Ted's topic is "Some Interesting Pilots I Have Known".

Ted Mathis was born and raised in White Sulphur Springs, Montana. He learned to fly off the old dirt strip there and soloed at the age of 16. He earned his private pilot certificate at age 17, and then commercial and flight instructor certificates at age 18. Ted started his aviation career as a flight instructor for K&K Aircraft Inc. of Helena. He went on to fly for Hensley Flying Service of Havre, Yellowstone Aviation of West Yellowstone, and the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division.

Ted also holds multi-engine, Instrument, and airframe and powerplant mechanic ratings. He received degrees in secondary and vocational education from Northern Montana College and is an Accredited Airport Executive.

In 1972 Ted was hired as the airport manager at Yellowstone Airport where he worked until 1980 when he became the assistant manager of Helena Airport. Ted was named airport director at Gallatin Field in Bozeman in 1981 and held the position for 28 years before retiring in 2009 .

Ted has served as President of the Montana Airport Management Association and the Northwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). He was also Chairman of the Montana Aeronautics Board where in 1984, he co-founded the Montana Aviation Conference and served as its first chairman. He currently serves as chairman of the Gallatin Airport Authority Board. Ted is currently based in Bozeman, where he owns and flies his own aircraft.

Be sure to register for the conference, this is one you won't want to miss!

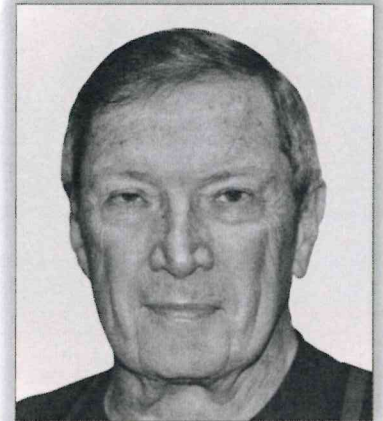


Photo Courtesy Ted Mathis

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Thank you to those who have already opted to receive the e-newsletter!

# 2024 Winter Survival Clinic Was a Big Hit!

From January 5th to 7th, the MDT Aeronautics Division hosted the 2024 Winter Survival Clinic in the Pintler Mountains near Anaconda. This clinic brought together 24 participants from all over the state who were eager to learn hands-on skills for surviving in remote winter terrain after a forced landing. The instructor, Brett Stoffel from Emergency Response International (ERI) provided engaging classroom presentations and practical demonstrations of essential skills. Participants learned about developing a survival mindset, constructing shelters, mastering fire-craft, administering first aid, and using emergency signaling techniques.

The highlight of the clinic was when participants built improvised shelters and spent the night in them, putting their newfound knowledge to the test. Participants discussed the field exercise the next morning, and received constructive criticism from the instructors on the survival skills they had been practicing. The hands-on experience combined with helpful feedback provided valuable lessons to all participants.

**Congratulations, survivors!**



Last Chance to pre-register for the

## The 39th Montana Aviation Conference in Butte

FEBRUARY 29 TO MARCH 2 AT THE COPPER KING HOTEL.

Online registration closes February 14th. Walk-in registrations will be available at the door on a first come first basis.

Scan the QR Code to Register



For more information, contact the MDT Aeronautics Division at 406-444-2506 or email [mdfad@mt.gov](mailto:mdfad@mt.gov)

Photo Courtesy of MDT Aeronautics Staff



## Aircraft Mechanic Inspector Refresher Seminar to be Held in Butte

Online registration for the Aircraft Mechanic Inspection Authorization (IA) Renewal Seminar is now available. The seminar will once again be offered in conjunction with the Montana Aviation Conference which will take place in Butte on March 1st and 2nd. Online registration closes February 23, 2024. Early registration is \$110. Walk-ins for the seminar will be accepted at the door at full price of \$130 on a first come first served basis while space is available. The IA seminar registration includes the IA seminar and access to the conference.

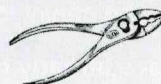
**Seating is limited, so be sure to register early!**

For additional details regarding Montana Aviation Conference cost and registration, see the above article.

A list of speakers is available on the registration website. When registering, please indicate the sessions you plan to attend. Eight hours are required to meet 14 CFR § 65.93 but you are invited to attend as many sessions as you would like.

**You do not need to be a mechanic to attend this seminar and learn!**

For more information, please contact Derrick Olheiser at 406-444-9592 or email at [dolheiser@mt.gov](mailto:dolheiser@mt.gov).



To register, scan the QR code :



# 2024 Montana Aviation Scholarships Awarded

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Montana aviation community including organizations, businesses, families, and individuals, a remarkable total of 17 scholarships were awarded to 32 individuals during the 2024 Montana Aviation Scholarships cycle. This annual program aims to provide support for Montanans pursuing their aviation education and career aspirations. These well-deserved scholarships, amounting to a grand total of \$62,500, have been awarded to deserving students who have shown exceptional dedication and potential in the field of aviation. The scholarship sponsors and committees faced the challenging task of selecting the winners from a significantly increased number of scholarship applications this year, further highlighting the immense interest and need for financial assistance. The community is very fortunate to have returning and new sponsors for stepping up to contribute to this program, resulting in the largest amount of funding ever contributed!

**Congratulations to the following:**

<b>Arlin C. Wass Aviation Maintenance Scholarship</b>	<b>Aiden Fouhy</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Aviation Organizations of Montana Flight Training Scholarship</b>	<b>Mattison Underhill</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Bob and Kathy Dewante Flight Training Scholarship</b>	<b>Collin Holmberg</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>Brett Thoft Memorial Foundation scholarship</b>	<b>Gracie Johnson Reef Hogan</b>	<b>\$2,500 Each</b>
<b>Briar Creek Scholarship</b>	<b>Thomas Blatner</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship</b>	<b>Norma Brooks</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Edwards Jet Center</b>	<b>Gracie Johnson</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Mike and Julie Meloche Flight Training Scholarship</b>	<b>Reef Hogan Joshua Warp Lief Simonson Daria Allred Collin Holmberg</b>	<b>\$1,000 Each</b>
<b>Montana Antique Aircraft Association Scholarship</b>	<b>Nicholas Daugherty Aaron Trueblood Norma Brooks</b>	<b>\$1,000 Each</b>
<b>Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship</b>	<b>Daria Allred Elora Amsler Emma Bitz Jetta Briggs Megan Favre</b>	<b>\$2,000 \$1,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$500</b>
<b>Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship</b>	<b>Benjamin Contreraz</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>MPA Mike Ferguson Flight Training Scholarship (Formerly MPA Air Safety and Education Foundation Flight Training Scholarship)</b>	<b>Patrick Economy</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>MPA Arlin Wass Memorial Maintenance Technician Scholarship</b>	<b>Samuel Zook</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>MPA Aviation Maintenance Scholarship</b>	<b>Mason Roush Kenny Taylor</b>	<b>\$2,000 Each</b>
<b>MPA Central Montana Flight Training Scholarship</b>	<b>Daria Allred</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Stuart Smishek Memorial Scholarship</b>	<b>Kelli Weed Joshua Warp Gracie Johnson Trevor Green Collin Holmberg</b>	<b>\$2,500 Each</b>
<b>Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship</b>	<b>Gracie Simmons</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>

## Calendar of Events

**February 2-3, 2024— Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC).** Double Tree Hotel, Helena.

**February 29 - March 2, 2024 — Montana's 39th Annual Aviation Conference .** Copper King Hotel, Butte.

**March 2-3, 2024 — Aircraft Mechanic Inspector Refresher Seminar.** Copper King Hotel, Butte. *See page 2 for more details.*

**March 1, 2024 - Montana Aircraft and Pilot Registration renewal due date.**

**Thank you for  
reading  
Montana and  
the Sky.  
Fly Safe!**

## FAA Weather Camera Locations



<https://weathercams.faa.gov/>

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**February 2024**

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