



AMAA NEWSLETTER

“Professional Aerial Applicators Providing Crop Protection Products and Services to Production Agriculture Across Montana”
www.montanaaerialapplicators.org

ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA AERIAL APPLICATORS

2015 AMAA President, Bruce Downs

Well, another season is almost in the books! I hope everybody has had a safe and prosperous year. Things were pretty dry here in the eastern part of Montana but we still managed to have a good crop despite the lack of moisture. We are very grateful for this since others across the state fought against fires and drought all summer.

We had the fall board meeting October 13 in Lewistown. There is a lot of business to discuss in January at the convention in Great Falls. One thing to think about is what Roger Lincoln talked about regarding funding for Montana Aeronautics. They have so many requests for money that they can only fund about one-third of the requests received. As much as he hates to ask, they need a two-cent fuel tax increase to help meet the needs. This money helps keep airports in good shape for all of us to use. We will need to decide as an association whether or not to support the fuel tax increase.

Also, because we didn't have a spray check this fall, we have decided to do it next spring, sometime in April. We'll have a firm date to report by convention time.

We decided to raise the membership and pilot fees by \$10 a year. It was also decided to raise the convention fees by \$15 to help cover the rising costs of putting on the convention.

The EPA is proposing increasing the requirements for applicator training and certification. We hope to have more information on this by convention time as this is something that affects us all.

So, with this, I hope to see you all in January. Remember, the more people who attend convention, the better time it is for all!

Be safe,
Bruce

The Association of Montana Aerial Applicators encourages membership with the National Agricultural Aviation Association. The NAAA works diligently to represent and promote its 1800 members located in 46 states. Please consider joining both your state and national organizations today!

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Special points of interest:

- 2016 Convention Dates—January 24-26 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls.
- 2016 Operation SAFE Dates—TBD
- 2016 MATE Dates—February 18-20
- Spring Board Meeting—TBD

“Lady, you want me to answer you if this old airplane is safe to fly? Just how in the world do you think it got to be this old?”

-Anonymous

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Tidbits of Information

- ⇒ **Blain Scholarship**—no one has applied for this since 2006. If you know of someone pursuing agricultural aviation as a career, please have them contact Colleen Campbell or Bruce Downs for more information on this \$500 scholarship.
- ⇒ **AMAA Convention**—This will be held at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, MT January 25-26, 2016. The tentative schedule is below. Rob Brattain, formerly with Dupont Crop Protection, will be the keynote speaker; we are expecting humorous stories from his many years working with aerial applicators and crop producers. Please call the Heritage Inn (406-761-1900) to reserve your room. Rates remain at \$89 per night. The AMAA block will be cut off on January 10th so reserve today to guarantee a room and this great rate.
- ⇒ **CEU's** are being offered for many of the sessions during the **NAAA convention** in Savannah, GA in December. Please make sure you sign the Montana sheets that will be displayed in the back of the conference rooms during each session.
- ⇒ Read about the **Leadership Training Program** (page 8) that NAAA and Syngenta offer each year. If you are interested in participating in the 2016-17 program, please ask Colleen Campbell or Darrin Pluhar for additional information.
- ⇒ There are still **First Response Safety manuals** available. You can purchase your copy during the convention in January.
- ⇒ **Operation SAFE**—we were unable to hold the clinic this fall due to time constraints for all involved. We are now looking at dates in April 2016 and will have more information during the convention.
- ⇒ **Dues and Convention Registration** rates were increased this year for the first time since 2010 and 2012 respectively.
- ⇒ The **Montana Department of Agriculture** will be reviewing and proposing changes to its training and certification program due to recent proposed EPA requirements. Please stay active and involved with this ongoing process as it will affect us all.

Monday, January 25, 2016

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

8:00	Registration and Past President's Breakfast	6:30	AMAA Board Meeting
		8:00	PAASS, Part 2
9:00	Chemical/Product Updates	10:00	Break
11:00	Sensitive Areas Interactive Map Application – Patrick Dougherty	10:15	Linda Johns, MDA – EPA Proposed Rule Changes
11:30	Trade Show	11:15	Jessica Rupp, MSU Plant Pathologist
12:00	Lunch	12:00	Lunch & Closing Comments – Bruce Downs
12:30	AMAA Annual Meeting		
3:00	Break		
3:15	PAASS, Part 1		
5:30	Social Hour		
6:30	Banquet		
7:30	Speaker – Rob Brattain		

**ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA AERIAL APPLICATORS
 2016 MEMBERSHIP AND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
 JANUARY 25th AND 26th, 2016
 HERITAGE INN, GREAT FALLS, MT**

COMPANY: _____

NAME: _____

SPOUSE NAME (If attending): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE (Office/Cell): _____ EMAIL: _____

2016 DUES

Operator Membership \$190.00 _____

Pilot Membership \$ 95.00 _____

You must list an Operator you work under; otherwise, you should register as an Operator.

Operator you work under: _____

Retired Membership \$ 25.00 _____

Allied Industry Membership:

Full Voting Member \$260.00 _____

Non-Voting Member \$160.00 _____

2016 CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Registration includes the PAASS program, all concurrent sessions, lunch on Monday and Tuesday, and banquet tickets for yourself and your spouse.

Member Convention Registration

\$250 (Late Registration \$275) _____
After 1/8/16

Non AMAA Member Registration

\$440 (Late Registration \$465) _____
After 1/8/16

Extra Banquet Ticket

\$40 _____

Please indicate if you can help by providing a door prize for the 2016 AMAA Convention.

Door Prize (Please list what you will provide.) _____

TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED: \$ _____

Please mail dues and convention registration to:
 Colleen Campbell, AMAA Executive Secretary, 1891 23rd Lane NE, Dutton, MT 59433
 406-463-2268 eccampbell@yahoo.com



EXHIBITOR FORM
2016 ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA AERIAL
APPLICATORS CONVENTION/TRADE SHOW
JANUARY 25th & 26th, 2016
HERITAGE INN, GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

AMAA Supporter:

Change.....a sometimes dreaded but necessary verb in the English language. Change in the way we do business; change in the latest equipment, application technology and chemical use; change in our customer base; and you, our representatives from the wonderful business' that support the aerial application industry, often transition from one company to another. Change can be a great tool!

One thing that hasn't changed is the cost to rent a booth during the annual Association of Montana Aerial Applicator's conference. We did decide to raise our membership dues slightly this year. However, for the fifth year in a row, the cost to rent a display table during the AMAA convention remains at \$250. This also includes two lunches and a banquet dinner – not a bad deal when so many of our everyday expenses continue to increase.

Advance planning is essential for a successful convention. If there's any way you can commit to this convention now, please send me an email or return this form at your earliest convenience. If you would like to be a presenter or would like to sponsor any portion of the convention (open bar, lunch, dinner, door prize, etc.) let me know that as well. Please respond by November 30th.

Our continued gratitude for your help and support!

COMPANY _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

⇒ I would like to sponsor: _____ \$ _____

⇒ I will be an exhibitor: _____ \$ 250.00

⇒ Door prize: _____

⇒ I would like to be a presenter – Topic to be Discuss _____

Please mail to Colleen Campbell, AMAA, 1891 23rd Lane NE, Dutton, MT 59433. Please call (406-463-2268) or email (eccampbell@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.



2015 NAAA Fall Board Meeting Report

The NAAA recently held their Fall Board Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona on October 8th – 10th, which provided us board members with a much needed refresher and update on the current issues affecting our industry after a long, busy summer. Following are some highlights of these meetings:

The NAAREF committees I serve on meet the day before the NAAA Board Meetings begin. The Program Development Committee (PDC) is responsible for coming up with the content for the PAASS Program. The 2015 – 2016 Program is set and actually is being presented for the first time the week of October 12th at the Southeastern Conference in Florida. As far as the 2016 – 2017 program, there was discussion on including “home grown terrorists” in the Human Factors. Also discussed was a detailed look at a drift scenario starting with doing all you can to prevent, best way to deal with the farmer after an actual complaint, how to deal with the insurance company in processing a claim, and what happens in court.

In Operation S.A.F.E., most of the discussion was on the analyst training that was recently completed in La Junta, CO. A couple UAV companies were there to do some demonstration flights and an obstacle course was established where four fixed wing and one helicopter flew to multiple fields to see if they could detect a UAV that was flying in the area. The results were that only one airplane even saw the UAV, but only briefly and could not track it. The helicopter had a little better luck picking them up, but only after slowing to around 80 mph and the pilot stated that it was still hard to keep track of the drone as he continued to lose sight of it frequently.

The committee also discussed the use of the new florometer being used for the string test and how much easier it is to operate which is leading to more consistent results. There is also a database being developed of all the different types of aircraft that are being analyzed where an operator can go and search for a specific aircraft setup based on make and model, boom and nozzle type that will show you the results of their pattern test and pictures to show you how everything looks on that particular aircraft.

To kick off the NAAA Board Meeting, Andrew gave us an update and overview of the issues affecting our industry. In response to the NAAA 2015 season survey, 72% of aerial applicators reported that their acres were greater or somewhat greater than 2014; 28% reported fewer or significantly fewer acres. USDA figures showed that 2015 net farm income was down 36% from 2014, the lowest since 2002. NWS forecasts show a 95% chance of El Nino for winter 2015 – 2016 which usually translates to good moisture throughout most of the US and dry weather for Australia and South America. Concerning legislative issues, NPDES PGP Exemption legislation has passed House and Senate Ag committees with hopes of progressing into law in a more friendly Congress than in the past. NAAA continues to be active in providing a voice on the concerns of our industry towards UAV and all the legislation surrounding them, specifically pushing for better visual awareness through lighting and requiring “geo-fencing” around their operations. NAAA also continues to be active in the low level obstructions awareness and lighting of not just MET towers, but all obstructions below 200’.

Looking towards the future, the US population is forecast to increase from 7.2 billion today to 8.1 billion by 2025. In addition, the middle class across the globe continues to grow, all of which will require an increase in food production, leading to an increase in demand for our aerial application industry.

When we broke off into our committee meetings, most of the discussion in our Government Relations Committee centered on the EPA's proposed new applicator certification rules. Their intent is to establish more uniform nationwide training and testing standards. The rule proposes provisions enhancing reciprocity among states and certifying agencies to aid commercial applicators that operate across state lines. Written examinations and recertification would be required in three areas: Core, Category (Ag, forestry, aquatic, etc.) and High Risk which applies to aerial application, soil fumigation and non-soil fumigation. For recertification, applicators would be required to earn six credits specific to each area every three years. I volunteered to be on the special committee that will explore these changes further and address our concerns and suggestions on behalf of the NAAA. Concerning WOTUS, Andrew stated that he had just received notification that the court had just put a stay on the whole decision and that for now, the WOTUS rules have reverted back to the way they were. This doesn't mean it's going away and I'm sure we will be hearing more about this going forward.

If you're not familiar with the new Agricultural Worker Protection Standards, there is a good chart available under Ag Alerts at the MSU Extension site (mtagalert.org) that summarizes the new standards and compares them with the old.

There wasn't a whole lot to do in the Bylaws Committee since the rewrite, so most of our time was spend on discussing how the transition is going and reviewing certain definitions applicable to those changes.

The Safety and Regulations Committee discussed the 2015 season. So far, there have been 64 accidents with 8 fatalities. There was discussion of the NAAA setting up its own investigative team to look at these accidents and try to dig deeper and find out what the true "root cause" was. The feeling is that the FAA/NTSB isn't spending the time and effort to come up with an opinion that is deeper than just "pilot error" or "power failure". The PDC committee also discussed this with the hopes of implementing the findings into the PAASS Program.

The committee also discussed Senator Feinstein's Consumer Drone Safety Act which would further regulate the operation and safety requirements of both private and commercial applications. Although not perfect, it was agreed that NAAA should support the act and provide feedback on how to make it better for our industry.

There was also discussion of an incident in Nevada where an operator was confronted by an FAA inspector after walking away from an Ag airplane that was running. No citation was issued but according to the regulations, the FAA can suspend a pilot's certificate for 30 – 90 days for such an action. The committee agreed to monitor the situation and work with the FAA to come up with a procedure so as to avoid them from imposing anything that prohibits "hot loading".

The 2015 NAAA Convention will be held Dec. 6 – 10 in Savannah, GA. Highlights include:

*** Kickoff Breakfast featuring Retired Colonel Mark W. Tillman who served as Commander of Air Force One on 9-11.**

*** General Session on Succession Planning for operators approaching retirement.**

* **Compass Rose “Ask the Expert” Speed Mentoring Session.**

***Trade Show booths Sold Out, Floor space limited, 13 aircraft displayed plus 5 outside.**

Future Sites:

2016 – Long Beach, 2017 – Savannah, 2018 – Reno (New Atlantis Motel next to convention center)

2019 – Orlando (Week before Thanksgiving), 2020 – Savannah.

As you can see, the NAAA is working hard to support the longevity of the aerial application industry. What you read previously is just a sliver of all the things that are going on within the organization. If you are not a current member, stop and think how much you value your livelihood and what group of people will be there to **SUPPORT** you through the good times, but especially the bad times that tend to test everyone, sooner or later. All the NAAA asks is for a little **support** from you, which figures out to be about **1 cent per acre or less!** Pretty cheap insurance, if you ask me!

Fly Safe!!
Darrin

The [NAAA/Syngenta Leadership Training Program's](#) goal is to develop strong, knowledgeable leadership in the agricultural aviation industry. The year-long program includes training that enables its participants to clearly communicate the important roles aerial application plays in the production of our country's agricultural products to the public, media and government. The program has been offered by NAAA and Syngenta Crop Protection Inc. (formerly Zeneca Agricultural Products) since 1995. **Paul Newby** was chosen to represent Montana during the 2015-16 program year. Paul was in Scottsdale, AZ October 8-12 for the first session. Here is what Paul has to say about NAAA's Leadership Training Program:

NAAA Leadership Training Program is a great asset and experience. I arrived Thursday afternoon at 4 PM and immediately ran into Dana Ness, Darrin Pluhar, Tater, Galen Stamps and several more that I know. Friday morning started with the general meeting where all folks were introduced, Andrew Moore spoke and we proceeded to the training session at 9:30 AM. The morning and half the afternoon were filled with “Dimensions of Behavior” with Jerry & Becky Brown----- (DISC) followed by Steve Powell and “Public Speaking in an A.D.D. World”. Both sessions were great learning experiences. All this followed by dinner at a fine restaurant a few blocks away and a dinner beyond description!!

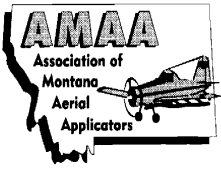
Saturday contained sessions on Transformational Leadership with Dr. Robert Moorman, Lunch and “Etiquette for Leaders” with Jodie Beach, a class in Public Speaking followed by class discussion, a reception and a Group Dinner. Our class consists of 13 pilots and two women non-pilots who are connected to the industry. We enjoyed the entire experience and got to know ourselves and others in the class quite well, and I'm looking forward to the final session in February in Washington, D.C. Thanks to AMAA and NAAA for the opportunity.

2015 EXHIBITORS AND SPONSORS

AEROTRONICS, Steve Vold, 406-259-5006
AG-WEST, Marlin Graff and Casey Lilly, 406-453-0010
ARYSTA LIFESCIENCE, Craig Codr, 406-780-0265
BASF, Chris Berg, 406-210-4460
BAYER CROP SCIENCE, Jim Elliot, 406-750-4057
CASCADE AIRCRAFT CONVERSIONS, Scott Kinzer, 509-635-1212
CD AVIATION SERVICES, Joe Price, 417-206-2327
CITY SERVICE VALCON, Breezy Burlison, 406-250-9225
CORLISS LIFE INSURANCE AGENCY, Bob Corliss, 970-353-4825
CROP PRODUCTION SERVICES, Issac Salcido, 406-217-3265
CROSS PETROLEUM SERVICE, Greg Cross, 406-377-8325
DOW AGROSCIENCES, Lee Ohlinger 406-866-3200, Seth Keas 785-737-6234,
Alison Anderson 662-416-8280
DUPONT CROP PROTECTION, Tater Erickson, 406-366-1287
HELENA CHEMICAL COMPANY, Brooks Hammel 406-628-8768, Paul Olson 406-262-3737,
Willie Krueger 406-855-4910
MONSANTO, Kerry Yates, 406-788-4215
MOUNTAIN AIR INSURANCE, Ken Brion/AJ Schutzman, 406-363-1411
NORTHWEST PROPELLER, Dick and Martha Jacob, 253-770-7400
OMAHA AIRPLANE SUPPLY, Rich Broberg, 800-228-9400
PICKETT EQUIPMENT COMPANY, Bailey Pickett, 901-494-1937
QUEEN BEE AIR SPECIALTIES, Chip Kemper, 208-745-7654
REGAL AVIATION INSURANCE, Rusty Wissmiller, Jason Wissmiller, 800-275-7345
SKY TRACTOR SUPPLY, Peg Klemetson, 701-436-5880
SYNGENTA, Johnnie Scott, 406-453-5004
TRACMAP, Mark Hornback, 888-656-6135
TULSA AIRCRAFT ENGINES, Rex Vaughan, 918-838-8532
US BANK, Carisa Hamrell, 406-232-0805
WILBUR-ELLIS COMPANY, Burl Brawley 406-727-4500, Bob Eccles 503-881-1436

THANK YOU!





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RETURN SERVICE RE-
QUESTED

