



AMAA NEWSLETTER

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

ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA AERIAL APPLICATORS

Meet Your 2015 AMAA President, Bruce Downs

I'd like to thank everyone for attending the Convention in January. It goes without saying that the more people that attend helps make a more successful and enjoyable event.

About one hour after arriving in Great Falls on Sunday afternoon, I was approached and asked if I would consider being President of the Association. Joanne and I discussed this for some time. She said she would support me if I decided to take the position. A number of members also encouraged me. I feel it an honor to be asked. This position would be very difficult for me without the help of the Board Members and the Executive Secretary. So with everyone's encouragement I agreed to be President.

We had the Spring Board meeting in Lewistown on March 16th. The weather kept us from flying in as usual. Some

highlights of the meeting: The fall operation safe clinic date is yet to be set, as there are many analysts' schedules to coincide. The date will be the end of September or the first part of October. We will let you know the date later.

Patrick Dougherty talked about more of the sensitive crop registry, sounds like a good tool for everyone when he gets it up and running. He has over two hundred phone calls to make to get the information he needs.

The billboard will stay up thanks to Boyd's donation. It is located between Reed Point and Big Timber on the south side of I 90. You can see it when you are headed west.

Darrin gave an update of the spring board meeting of the NAAA, which he writes about in this newsletter.

Roger Lincoln from MT Aeronautics said that although they could use more money to satisfy all the requests for help on airport projects, there will be not be a tax increase on av gas this year.

Paul did the MATE show with help from Breezy and Justin. I was there Saturday and enjoyed a very interesting conversation between a young boy and Paul. The boy didn't like the fact that we sprayed his food. After 15 minutes of explaining what we do he went away with a different point of view! It made the show worthwhile. We also had a few inquiries about becoming Ag pilots.

Check out the AMAA website. It looks great. Wacey is working on a Facebook page, which will be done as time allows.

Have a safe and prosperous season!
Bruce Downs

Volume 9, Issue 1
March 2015

Special points of interest:

- \$370 was raised from the mailbox bank raffle during the AMAA convention in January. Thank you Bruce and Joanne Downs for this donation.
- 2016 Convention Dates—January 24-26 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls.
- 2015 Operation SAFE Dates—TBD
- 2016 MATE Dates—February 18-20
- Fall Board Meeting Date—TBD

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Wilbur-Ellis Company continues to support the AMAA with the In-Place program. For every gallon of In-Place applied by one of our members, we receive \$1. For 2014 that amounted to \$1338.00, which we use to offset expenses of safety programs such as the Operation SAFE Clinic. This program will be offered again in 2015!

THANK YOU!

Patrick Dougherty continues to build an internet mapping program which will be available to all AMAA members in the very near future. The program will show 100% of the organic producers and beehive locations across the state of MT. Another program many of you use, Driftwatch, shows less than 5% of these. We are trying to get financial assistance from the Montana Department of Agriculture to help defray the cost of \$3600 required to implement the program. If anyone has other ideas for funding this valuable program, please contact one of the board members as soon as possible. Watch for more information as it becomes available.



The 2014 **First Response Safety** manuals for Professional Aerial Applicators and Local First Response Units are still available for your use and purchase. During the January meeting, it was decided to offer one book free of charge to each AMAA member. Additional manuals are available for a small charge of \$5.00. These are a great tool for your business and an excellent way to educate your town or county's first responders such as fire departments, ambulance crews and disaster coordinators. Please contact Colleen Campbell for your copies.

Thank you to Breezy Burlison and City Service Valcon for including AMAA in their fuel incentive program for 2014. The AMAA received a check in the amount of \$266.55 for last year's program. We appreciate the additional support! Breezy was also a great help to Paul Newby during the MATE show last month in Billings.



NAAA 2015 Spring Board Meeting

The NAAA held their Spring Board Meeting in Alexandria, VA over the Valentine's Day Weekend where board members from all across the country came together to visit with their local politicians on Capitol Hill and participate in various committees of the Board dealing with the many topics and issues facing the aerial application industry.

Prior to the start of the meetings, Dana Ness and I traveled up on the Hill to make the rounds. We had the pleasure of actually getting to sit down face to face with Rep. Ryan Zinke. We were able to discuss many of the current and pending issues facing our industry such as UAV's, Waters of the US (WOTUS), NPDES permits, tower hazards, fuel tax exemption, aircraft depreciation and user fees. Even though Rep. Zinke is a proponent of the UAV movement, he does agree that steps need to be taken to ensure that their implementation into the national airspace system will be done in a safe and prudent manner. Rep. Zinke also requested that the NAAA keep him advised of all pending legislation (such as WOTUS and NPDES) so that he can be actively involved in the process. Rep. Zinke appears to be a good advocate for our industry.

We later traveled to the Senate Building and met with Mr. Patrick Buell, the aviation staffer for Sen. Daines where we were able to discuss many of the same issues. We were happy to hear that Sen. Daines shares our concerns on many of the issues and is actively involved with many of the pending bills in the Senate. On our way out, Mr. Buell took us over to Sen. Tester's office where he introduced us to his staffer, Mr. Justine Folsom, who he was scheduled to meet with. The two of them work closely together on many Ag and aviation related legislative issues and Mr. Buell promised to brief Mr. Folsom about topics we discussed and our concerns with each.

The Spring Board Meeting kicked off with Congressman Richard Hudson (R-NC) speaking at the AgAv PAC Breakfast. Rep. Hudson is a strong supporter of issues important to modern agriculture production and serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee where he strives to bring a "common sense approach" when it comes to their jurisdiction over the EPA. Rep. Hudson is also a member of the House General Aviation Caucus and the Agricultural Policy Committee, a bipartisan group that works to educate lawmakers on Ag issues.

During the opening General Session, we heard from Jack Housenger, director of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, who briefed us on the EPA proposals that are being considered such as a more strict drift estimate model, amendments to Worker Protection Standards and bee labeling on pesticides.

Executive Director Andrew Moore gave us his "State of the Industry" address. Currently, the biggest topic is UAV's and the safety hazard they represent to our industry. NAAA has stated that to be safe, UAV's need to be marked with strobes, equipped with ADS-B Out tracking systems for easier identification, aircraft must be registered and operated by a commercial pilot. NAAA has responded to many requests for exemptions to the UAV regulations and restrictions that are currently in place, such as the fact that UAV's CAN NOT be used for commercial purposes. As of the meeting date, there had been 342 requests for exemptions by UAV companies that range from Ag, oil, survey and filming entities, with 24 having been granted. Interestingly enough, the initial fine for operating a UAV illegally was challenged in court by a company and their fine was reduced from \$10,000 to \$1100, which will only encourage an increase in such unlawful behavior.

The 114th Congress appears to be made up of a majority of people that are friendly towards our industry; therefore, expect Congress to attempt to invalidate WOTUS expansion and exempt most chemical products from NPDES permits that currently are regulated under FIFRA. In a moot effort towards deficit reduction, there is a movement in Congress towards lowering tax rates but reducing certain tax loopholes and extending depreciation

Safety wise, the 2014 season saw the 2nd lowest amount of accidents (61) since the implementation of PAASS. Unfortunately, our industry also saw 11 fatalities, which tied for the highest number during that same period.

As far as the NAAA Convention, Louisville proved to be a worthwhile site with a good turnout of over 1500 people, considering it was the first time at a “new” location. This year’s NAAA convention will be held in Savannah, GA Dec. 7 – 10th. **NAAA was very pleased to announce that Colonel (retired) Mark W. Tillman, who served as Commander of Air Force One on 9/11/2001 will serve as the Kickoff Breakfast speaker this year!** If you’ve never been there for the convention, Savannah is a beautiful setting and the community has bent over backwards to accommodate the NAAA (including the airplanes!) and is very appreciative of our presence. Hotels appear to be filling up fast, so if you’re thinking of attending, I’d recommend booking as early as possible to ensure our group rate.

In concluding his report, Andrew provided a positive outlook for our industry in the years ahead. Overall global demand for high quality food and fiber is projected to remain strong due to the growing population (7.1 billion currently) that is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050 with a growth in the middle class.

Although commodity prices are presently low across the board, US exports are strong and expected to remain so mainly because of our freight infrastructure and our low cost to move goods, which is substantially less when compared to other competing food producing countries.

Currently, I still sit on the Government Relations, Bylaws and Safety & Regulations Committees. I was also appointed to be on the Awards Committee as well as NAAREF’s PAASS Program Development Committee (PDC) and Operation SAFE Committee. Following is a brief summary of some of the major issues currently facing our industry not previously covered:

Government Relations: Jim Williams, head of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office revealed that the FAA is NOT considering a complete exemption to Part 137 for UAVs, which has been requested by certain companies. Within days after our meeting, the FAA released its Small UAV rule, known as Part 107. The proposed rule takes into account some of the NAAA’s recommendations to the FAA concerning UAV’s, but unfortunately ignores many of the most important ones.

These new FAR’s would allow commercial operations of small UAS (under 55 pounds) within natural visual line of sight of the operator. Small UAS would not be able to operate over persons or property not directly involved in the operation and would only be allowed to operate during daylight hours, plus these aircraft must be registered. The rule also permits the UAS operator to have no manned aircraft flight experience or experience with the UAS they tend to operate; only a written examination that will be required to be retaken every 24 months for the operator to stay current. The UAS will be required to comply with standard aircraft markings, limited to 100 mph, a 500 foot operating ceiling and three miles visibility. Operations in Class B, C, D, and E are permitted with ATC approval. They are free to fly in Class G and a preflight inspection is required.

Being a proposed rule, it will be made available for public comment for 60 days. I would encourage everyone to do so and NAAA will have information available on their website to help with drafting those comments.

Safety & Regulations: Jody Hemler with the FAA spoke about certain FSDO's are still trying to push that Op Specs are required for Part 137 Operations, BUT STATED THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED!!

Following up on what the NTSB recommendations were from their audit of Part 137 accidents, it was brought to our attention that Transport Canada is proposing duty limits for Canada's aerial applicators. This should get every ones attention because the writing is on the wall that if we don't police ourselves as an industry, someone will do it for us! Therefore, once again:

Upon the Performance of Each, Rests the Fate of All!!

In closing, I'd just like to say that in writing this report, I have only briefly covered the very tip of the iceberg as far as everything that the NAAA is working on for the benefit of everyone in the aerial application industry. Please feel free to visit the NAAA website for more details on these topics.

Obviously, NAAA is working hard to support all of you. If you haven't already done so, don't you think it's time for you to return the favor?

Fly Safe!
Darrin



Darrin Pluhar, AMAA's
NAAA Representative

Montana Congressman
Ryan Zinke

Dana Ness, past NAAA
President

February 2015

2015 MATE Show

Paul Newby

I rate the MATE show, February 19 through the 21st, a success. Thursday I set up the booth in time for the 10:00 AM opening and easily handled the flow of people by myself that day, mostly adults, several of whom I know from across Montana. The photos from our fall pattern test in Lewistown generated several interesting discussions about pattern testing, aerodynamics and several “I remember when” discussions.

Friday brought Breezy Burlison, many more folks and nearly continuous discussion, mostly with adults. I thoroughly enjoyed having Breezy there—my voice got a good rest with him around and several of the discussions turned toward the Oil Industry for some reason! Friday also brought a couple of folks around who kept coming back for more discussions—and I’m sure some of you know each of them: Dick Hatfield from the Laurel area, who has taught some of the winter survival courses given by MT Aeronautics and Burn Petrie, from Malta, whose business card says “We are “Well” experienced.”

Saturday brought the families and kids, Justin Ferguson and Bruce Downs to help, and brought us a 12 year old who provided the highlight of the three days. He immediately pointed out that we are the folks responsible for putting those “pesticides” on food and his mother had taught him that “organic” is a better choice! So, as you might expect, we embarked on an effort to “re-educate” which he was remarkably open to. I first demonstrated how a magazine can become a “pesticide” by rolling one up and smacking an imaginary fly with it and then asking him what the magazine had become because of that demonstration. It did not take him long to grasp that “pesticide” does not mean “poison.” In fact, most pesticides are not poisons. From there we established the understanding that it is the “dose” that makes the poison and showed him how table salt can quickly become a poison. This added to a visual demonstration that Bruce added with a bottle of water and he grasped the understanding that our chemicals are not put on crops in an undiluted state. At that point we all saw the light come on when he revealed that his mother is a “smoker” and he now saw the “hypocrisy” in the training he had been given. We were all wishing we could witness his attempt to “re-educate” his mother when he got home!!

We gave out about half of our supply of “hand powered” helicopters and I noticed Justin had a lot of good discussions with the kids that usually ended with a “fist bump” or a high five.

Thanks to all who helped and I’m looking forward to next year.

NAAA Statistics

(www.agavation.org)

- ⇒ There are approximately 1,350 aerial application businesses in the United States and 1,430 non-operator pilots.
- ⇒ Of those 1,350 businesses, 94% of the owners are also pilots.
- ⇒ NAAA represents more than 1,800 members.
- ⇒ According to NAAA records, aerial application operations are located in 46 states—all but Alaska, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Please consider joining NAAA– the Voice of the Aerial Application Industry

LOBBYIST REPORT

John Semple

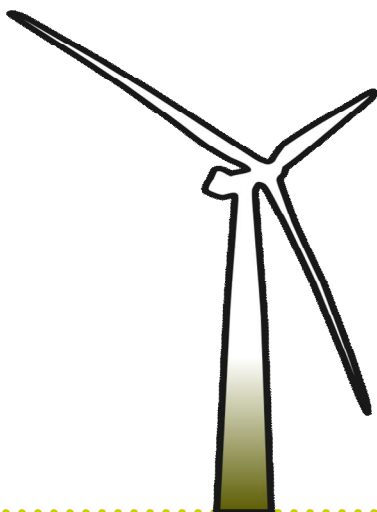
The session has been relatively quiet for us. Several bills, such as HB413, Create a State OSHA, never made it through the full house. Proponents said this bill was “enabling” language as a first step for Federal OSHA to acknowledge the State of Montana as having its own mechanism for administration. An interim committee, along with several business groups, had looked at various ways to control work comp costs and this seemed a way to address those costs (Montana has a high rate of accidents compared to most other states) i.e. local control vs. federal control.

The bankers had a request to “generally revise mortgages, pledge, and LIEN laws.” Our presence at the capitol and talking to the bill sponsor helped in keeping this bill from being presented.

Senator Elsie Arntzen carried SR17, a resolution confirming A. Christopher Edwards (MATA) and Fred Lark (at large) to the Aeronautics Board.

Several bill drafts proposing an increase in the State aviation fuel tax stayed as drafts, not going anywhere. Comments to the legislators from us and likely opposition from the airlines and cargo carriers kept these proposals from advancing. Look for some interim activity (meetings) on this subject.

Several bills addressing drone use are in committee, as of this writing. AMAA chose to watch these bills, since the FAA has primacy over airspace from the ground up. Plenty of opposition, from business organizations (they wanted out of the rules in the bills), modelers, and Montana Pilots Association. There is plenty of confusion as to who is or will control drone activity. And, of course, drone proponents would have it that a sheparding in of a new way to do business, is being thwarted by some. AMAA’s website (montanaaerialapplicators.org) contains updated information on these and other bills using our watch list. Any questions, please call me, John Semple, at 406-443-7487.

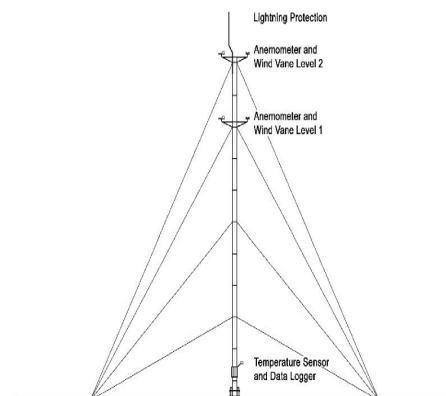


Wind Tower vs. Met Tower

One is clearly more visible than the other. Please be safe while spraying during the upcoming 2015 season. If you see unmarked MET towers in your area, report them to Montana Aeronautics so that action can be taken to enforce Montana’s new laws. NAAA still has bill inserts entitled “Let’s Be Fair About Sharing The Air” for your use. Contact Margaret Dea at NAAA for these.

FLY SAFE

Meteorological Tower Diagram



Created by Jeff Speert

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

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Willie Krueger 406-855-4910

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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

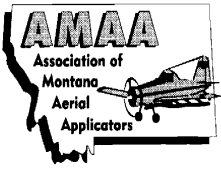
TULSA AIRCRAFT ENGINES, Rex Vaughan, 918-838-8532

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WILBUR-ELLIS COMPANY, Burl Brawley 406-727-4500, Bob Eccles 503-881-1436

THANK YOU!





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RETURN SERVICE RE-
QUESTED

