

April 2014

2015 AMAA  
CONVENTION  
January 26–27  
Heritage Inn  
Great Falls, MT

## Inside This Issue



President's Message	1
Board of Directors	2
Notes of Interest	2
2014 Convention Photos	3
MATE Report	4
NAAA Spring Board Meeting Report	5
Montana Highlights	8
Our Sponsors	9

"Flying is learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss."

-Douglas Adams

## AMAA NEWSLETTER

"Professional Aerial Applicators Providing Crop Protection Products and Services to Production Agriculture Across Montana"

[www.montanaaerialapplicators.org](http://www.montanaaerialapplicators.org)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the season right around the corner, I hope you're ready to go.

The EPA wants applicators who spray restricted use products on Native American reservations to license with the EPA. It wasn't too hard, just one form and a copy of your state license. To access Form 7100-01 go to this website: [http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2013-12/documents/applicator\\_form.pdf](http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2013-12/documents/applicator_form.pdf).

The EPA is also working against us and is proposing buffer zones of 2800 feet. This is what they propose we do around houses, schools, hospitals, etc. The buffer for ground rigs would be 1000 feet. NAAA is currently working on a letter that we can either send as is to our representatives or that we can use as a guideline to word our own letter. Darrin will let us know when this is available and we will email it to the AMAA membership.

We had our spring board meeting March 17th. Most of us drove through a snowstorm to get to Lewistown. The Operation SAFE Fly-In will be held October 7, 8, & 9 in Lewistown. Scott Bretthauer will be our analyst and Tim Shamblin will be our tech. Many of you have already committed to and paid for attending this beneficial clinic. Credits from the Department of Ag will also be given for attendance. Bob Eccles of Wilbur-Ellis will be taking us out to dinner one of the nights. Our fall board meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 7. A block of rooms is being reserved at the Super 8 in Lewistown. To reserve a room please call 406-538-2581 and mention AMAA.

Clayton Hove and Craig Codr of Arysta have generously volunteered to fund our billboard for this summer. The billboard will be placed in the Big Timber area so watch for it if you're traveling in that area this summer. I still have not put the older billboard up on my hangar in Dutton but hope to do so before the upcoming season.

During the board meeting last week we again discussed the idea of an AMAA license plate. The initial cost would be \$4000 so we would like to find sponsors to help out. If you have any input about the license plates or anything else relevant to the AMAA, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other board members.

Hope you have a safe and profitable season!

Mike Campbell

## 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mike Campbell**

President  
Campbell Aviation INC  
1891 23<sup>rd</sup> LN NE  
Dutton MT 59433  
463.2268  
[eccampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:eccampbell@yahoo.com)

**Russell Ferguson**

Vice-President  
Yellowstone Air Service  
82 Airport RD  
Livingston MT 59047-9100  
222.6504  
[russferguson@hotmail.com](mailto:russferguson@hotmail.com)

**Paul Newby**

Secretary-Treasurer  
Agwagons  
411 Mountain View DR  
Bozeman MT 59718-8784  
586.2804  
[agwinc@littleappletech.com](mailto:agwinc@littleappletech.com)

**Darrin Pluhar**

NAAA Representative  
Plu's Flying Service INC  
PO Box 998  
Miles City MT 59301  
232.6853  
[pluflyinc@mcn.net](mailto:pluflyinc@mcn.net)

**Bruce Downs**

Downs Farm INC  
PO Box 131  
Lindsay MT 59339  
584.7462  
[sunny@midrivers.com](mailto:sunny@midrivers.com)

**Justin Ferguson**

Yellowstone Air Service  
PO Box 666  
Big Timber MT 59011  
932.4389  
[yas@mtintouch.com](mailto:yas@mtintouch.com)

**Cody Folkvord**

Headwaters Flying Service  
PO Box 951  
Three Forks MT 59752  
439.4179  
[headwatersfs@gmail.com](mailto:headwatersfs@gmail.com)

**Kendall Johnson**

Nemont Weedbusters  
7050 MT HWY 25  
Wolf Point MT 59201  
653.59201  
[weeds@nemont.net](mailto:weeds@nemont.net)

**Wacey Cathey**

Black Gulch Aviation  
33627 Marion Lane  
Polson MT 59860  
671.3646  
[catheyflyin@gmail.com](mailto:catheyflyin@gmail.com)

**Rob Brattain**

Dupont Crop Protection  
1004 Carlos Dr.  
Great Falls MT 59404  
727.5495  
[robby.l.brattain@dupont.com](mailto:robby.l.brattain@dupont.com)

**Colleen Campbell**, Executive Secretary

1891 23rd Lane NE, Dutton, MT 59433  
463.2268 [eccampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:eccampbell@yahoo.com)

**NOTEWORTHY ITEMS**

- ⇒ The 2014 Operation SAFE Spray Clinic will be held in Lewistown, MT on October 7-9. Scott Bretthauer will attend as well as Tim Shamblin of Idaho.
- ⇒ The 2015 AMAA Convention will be held in Great Falls, MT on January 26-27. If you have any ideas for speakers or issues that we need to be addressing, please contact Colleen Campbell.



The smiling faces of AMAA members.  
We'd love more women to join us  
during the 2015 convention!

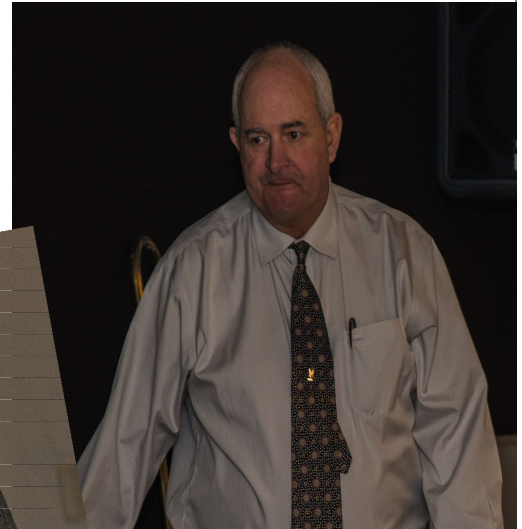
- ⇒ During the fall board meeting last month, we discussed, at length, the idea of sponsoring an AMAA license plate for Montana. We would like to pursue the idea but need ideas to help us fund this venture. If you have any thoughts please let one of the board members know as this will be an item on our fall agenda.
- ⇒ The fall board of directors meeting will be held October 7, 2015 in Lewistown, MT.

## 2014 Convention Photos



AMAA President, Mike Campbell, opens the 2014 convention.

Leif Isaacson, NAAA's 2014 President, made an appearance!



Gaylon Stamps of Texas was one of the PAASS presenters.



Darrin Pluhar, AMAA's NAAA Representative, addresses current issues facing aerial applicators.



Familiar faces....Old friends!

Thank you to Paul Newby for documenting the convention with photos.

## MATE

By Paul Newby

Paul and his wife, Pat Newby, took charge of setting up and manning the booth during the 2015 MATE show in Billings this past February. Russ Ferguson also helped immensely. This is the edited version of what Paul relayed about the show, along with a couple photos he provided:

The MATE Show went very well--we had 500 "Spinning Dragonflies" and gave them all away by about 12:30 on Saturday. We then gave away the rest of the paper Thrush's and some of the paper Jet Rangers. We were in booth 678 directly facing the rear door to the building where a surprising number of people enter the building so we had good exposure and the "spinners" were an excellent attention getter. We distributed 4 of the curriculum guides to teachers and in general had plenty of conversations with good folks.

We played the NAAA video on the little TV and various slide series from my computer on the screen--I found that a 24 slide series of P-38 photos got more people to stop and talk and my photos from Reno were a close second--Dusty Croppopper was the key there. It occurs to me that next year I should take the Disney Video of Dusty--I'll bet it will get a lot of folks to stop, watch and talk. I should have taken photos at peak attendance instead of shortly after opening time, but we were busy enough that I didn't even think of that--if you look at the 4th photo down the booth on the inside corner was selling sausages and snacks and they usually had enough crowd there that impeded the flow of traffic and gave us more opportunity to capture people.

Due to Paul's good report, we are already planning to attend the 2015 MATE show in Billings.



Thank you to Paul and Pat Newby and Russell Ferguson for attending the 2014 MATE show to promote the Association of Montana Aerial Applicators.

## NAAA Spring Board Meeting

By Darrin Pluhar

The NAAA Spring Board Meeting was recently held in Washington, DC. Originally scheduled for Friday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, due to the storm that delayed many of the board members from arriving until Friday, the scheduled was condensed into a one day session on Saturday. I was on one of the last flights to make it into Reagan National Airport on Wednesday afternoon.

On Thursday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, the Federal Government was advertised as being shut down due to the storm that dumped 10 – 14 inches of snow on the region. But I, along with some other board members from other states, were able to trudge up to Capitol Hill to visit some offices that were verified to be operating. As far as Montana Legislators, Senator Tester's office was the only one that was open, so although I wasn't able to directly talk with Sen. Tester or any of his staff, I did leave a packet of info concerning many of the issues currently facing the aerial application industry.

Saturday morning opened with the general session where Andrew Moore gave us his insights on the state of aerial application:

NPDES permits – The exemption to these permits for aerial applicators that was included in the farm bill did not make it out of the conference committee due to some last minute politics by certain high powered Democrats, even though it potentially had the backing for enough votes to pass the Senate. NAAA has not thrown in the towel and is actively working on how to best pursue the exemption in the future. Realistically, the best avenue is to have the Republicans take back the Senate this November which would almost assure an exemption to the NPDES for our industry.

Another aspect of the NPDES that the NAAA is monitoring is the proposed expansion of the definition for the "Waters of the US". If that happens, the scope and consequences of the NPDES requirements will be greatly increased for the aerial application industry.

NAAA recently sent out letters to all of the companies that make up the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) advising them of the advisory circular concerning the marking of all MET's and the potential liability consequences involved if they choose not to comply. There is also a "Thank You" type of letter designed to go out to all companies that DO comply with the AC expressing the gratitude of the NAAA on behalf of all aerial applicators for making safety a top priority. NAAA is also working on a letter that individual operators can use to send the wind energy companies in their local area to also make them aware of the AC for MET markings.

NAAA tried hard to convince the FAA to expand the Advisory Circular to ALL towers below 220 feet in height, but got the following response: "...to expand marking guidelines for structures other than MET's is not based on safety of flight issues."!? NAAA will continue to pursue this issue.

The following is a summary of the main topics that were discussed in the various committees I serve on:

On Friday, the Government Relations Committee, joined by many other committee members, had a special meeting with Jeffery Dawson and Chuck Peck of the EPA to discuss their "Spray Drift In Human Health Risk Assessment". This has quietly just come to the surface in the past few months and was initiated by certain activists groups, like PANNA (Pesticide Action Network North America), suing the EPA. In response, the EPA has decided to reevaluate its labeling procedures concerning buffers zones by focusing on areas around yards, schools and anyplace else where there is a perceived potential human exposure risk. As you can imagine, it was a lively debate with lots of members expressing their concerns. Here are some points that were made:

\*Why is this study justified now based only on a perceived theory of potential risk? All the scientific data seems to show human exposure cases have been greatly reduced and are minimal to start with.

\*The drift models the EPA are using are old, out-of-date and exaggerate the "worst case scenario".

\*Why are there hard buffer zones without any regard to wind being used to the applicators advantage in order to reduce buffers and be able to treat more of the field? Why are there different buffer distances for aerial vs ground application?

\*Drift Reduction Technologies (DRT's) are being considered as a way to reduce buffers, but the best DRT available, a smoker, is discounted because it is considered to not be verifiable. The Aircraft Integrated Meteorological Measurement System (AIMMS) seemed to be a more viable system, (according to the EPA and some people within the NAAA) because of the data it collects. But there was a lot of objection to this assumption because of the reported inaccuracies of the equipment in reporting wind direction at light winds speeds. In the real world, smoke doesn't lie and it wouldn't be hard to set up a camera system to verify what the pilot is seeing.

\*Has there been a study on the negative effects that leaving such buffers would lead to such as an increase in weeds, disease and insects by allowing them to thrive in an enhanced habitat with in these non-treated buffers. How does one account for this loss of food production and the cost to the consumer? What's the carbon footprint for bringing more uncultivated land into production?

\*There needs to be more time for DRT's to be assessed before the risk assessment can be concluded.

\*NAAA needs to have an active seat at the EPA's table for this process to give Ag. Aviation's input.

This risk assessment is a very serious issue and the comment period on this closes March 31<sup>st</sup>. Because of the urgency, a sub-committee was formed to come up with a plan of action on how the NAAA should respond. I was part of a conference call on February 24<sup>th</sup> where it was decided to ask for a 60 day extension to give the NAAA more time to evaluate the current model data and come up with a more accurate measure that uses better real world variables in determining drift. Just to give you an example of what we are up against, some of the data EPA is using shows a "potentially harmful drift" 2860 feet downwind for aerial (their ground application figure was 1000 feet), so if you think they aren't going to go after a serious buffer increase, you are mistaken. This includes endangered species buffers, as well.

Just in case the extension is not granted, the NAAA is working to come up with a response and you will probably be seeing updates if you are receiving the e newsletter, probably before you read this newsletter. They will also be asking everyone to be prepared to voice their concerns with this assessment prior to March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Staying with the labeling theme, concerning pollinator issues you will start to see more restrictions on certain product labels when working around bees. In certain cases the language is prohibiting applications when bees are foraging and while plants are flowering. The neonicotinoid insecticides (common on seed treat), along with a few others, are the main targets right now, but there is a push by the activists to put pressure on the EPA to expand these restrictions to more insecticides that we commonly use; as well as some fungicides are also being looked at as potential threats to bees. Some of the label changes being proposed include that applicators will only be able to treat SUNSET TO SUNRISE and when temps are below 55 F! Think about that for a minute.

In the Safety and Regulations Committee, we reviewed the Part. 137 accident stats for 2013:

68 accidents with 5 fatalities (second lowest ever).

Most of the discussion centered on the Night Vision Goggles Certification and Testing. According to Bruce Hubler (ID) who is working directly with the FAA, they are getting close to approving his aircraft for the testing so he can start the flight demonstrations towards full certification. Due to the Pollinator Bee Issues that are developing, there is a growing interest in seeing the NVG's get approved.

Also, the Professional Operating Guidelines will be available to all NAAA members in 2014.

Our Constitution and Bylaws Committee is still in the process of working through combining the two documents into one. Not much to report as it is a work in progress.

Considering that there are 15 separate committees where I serve on three and sit in on a few others when I get a chance, there was a lot more that happened then I can report on. For more information on what took place with the other committees at the Spring Board Meetings, I would encourage to go to the NAAA website.

If you are not a current NAAA member, please reflect on all the important issue I just described going on and ask yourself how you justify not supporting an organization that is fighting for your livelihood and longevity on a daily basis to ensure that you can continue to do what you love to do, all while helping to produce the safest, most nutritious and affordable food in the world!

To all the 2014 NAAA members, Thank you for your support! In return, the NAAA supports all of you.

Just a reminder for you to start planning to attend the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual NAAA Convention in Louisville, KY December 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Have a safe and prosperous summer! Darrin

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON OUR HOMEFRONT:

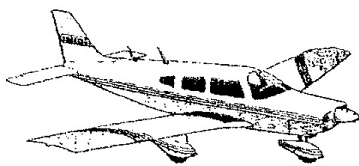
**AMAA Billboard:** The summer of 2014 marks the 9th year that we have placed a billboard (and sometimes two) along Montana's highways, advertising our organization. Our billboard fund currently sits at a negative balance (this is not a budgeted item; we have graciously accepted donations towards this expense) and we wondered how we would fund the project this summer. **Clayton Hove and Craig Codr of Arysta** have agreed to donate what will amount to \$3000 towards the billboard fund, which will bring us out of the red and enable our advertising to continue throughout this summer. The billboard will be placed in the Big Timber area for 2014. **Thank you, Clayton and Craig, for your generous donation!**



**Operation SAFE Funding:** Thanks to your use of In-Place during the 2013 spray season, Wilbur-Ellis donated \$2086.00 to help fund our 2014 Operation SAFE Fly-In Clinic. **Thank you, Wilbur-Ellis!**



Members may now help generate funds for the AMAA with fuel purchases. CityServiceValcon is offering to contribute \$0.01/gallon (one cent/gallon) from the sales of avgas and Jet-A to AMAA members for the 2014 season. Please inform CSV at the time of ordering that you are an AMAA member. For more information, please call Breezy Burlison at 406-250-9225. **Thank you for your support of our organization, Breezy!**



**Bob Corliss**

General Agent  
Corliss Life Insurance Agency  
Life • Health • Annuities

4626 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greeley, CO 80634

(970) 353-4825 or  
(970) 356-2178

*Specializing in Aviation Risks*

Insuring Ag. Pilots for over 30 years.  
Using A+ Superior rated companies.  
Never had a death claim denied.



# THANKS TO OUR 2014 CONVENTION VENDORS AND SPONSORS

## **AG-WEST DISTRIBUTING**

Marlin Graff  
4212 N Star Boulevard #4  
Great Falls MT 59405  
406-453-0010

## **AGRISMART INFORMATION SYS.**

Kevin Britten  
1000 N Broad St.  
Red Oak IA 51566  
712-623-4446

## **ARYSTA LIFESCIENCE**

Craig Codr  
44 Eagle Mountain Road  
Columbus MT 59019  
406-780-0265

## **BASF**

Chris Berg  
PO Box 756  
Conrad MT 59425  
406-210-4460

## **BAYER CROP SCIENCE**

Jim Elliot  
624 17th Street  
Havre MT 59501  
406-750-4057

## **CASCADE AIRCRAFT CONV.**

Scott Kinzer  
903 Grinnell Rd.  
Garfield WA 99130  
509-635-1212

## **CITY SERVICE CENTER**

Breezy Burlison  
Box 305  
Fromberg MT 59029  
406-250-9225

## **CROP PRODUCTION SERVICES**

Issac Salcido  
708 US Highway 87 N  
Great Falls MT 59401  
406-217-3268

## **CROSS PETROLEUM SERVICE**

Greg Cross  
PO Box 1388  
Glendive MT 59330  
406-377-8325

## **DOW AGROSCIENCES**

Lee Ohlinger/Seth Keas/Karli Clark  
562 Old Ulm Cascade Road  
Cascade MT 59421  
406-866-3200

## **DUPONT CROP PROTECTION**

Rob Brattain/John Raisler  
1004 Carlos Drive  
Great Falls MT 59404  
406-727-5495

## **DYNANAV SYSTEMS INC**

Reg Moen  
121-18799 Airport Way  
Pitt Meadows BC V3E 2B4  
604-405-0009

## **HELENA CHEMICAL COMPANY**

Brooks Hammel/Paul Olson/Willie Krueger  
10 5th Avenue South  
Laurel MT 59044  
406-628-8768

## **MONSANTO**

Kerry Yates  
44 Pheasant Lane  
Great Falls MT 59404  
406-727-5641

## **MOUNTAIN AIR INSURANCE**

Ken Brion/AJ Schutzman  
PO Box 1918  
Hamilton MT 59840  
406-363-1411

## **NORTHWEST PROPELLER**

Dick and Martha Jacob  
16607 103rd Avenue Ct E  
Puyallup WA 98374  
253-770-7400

## **OMAHA AIRPLANE SUPPLY**

Rich Broberg  
PO Box 181  
Waseca MN 56093  
507-993-2250

## **QUEEN BEE AIR SPECIALTIES, INC**

Steve Willey  
136 N Yellowstone  
Rigby ID 83442  
208-745-7654

## **REGAL AVIATION INSURANCE**

Rusty Wissmiller/Jason Wissmiller  
5625 NE Elam Young Parkway, Suite 100  
Hillsboro OR 97124  
800-275-7345

## **SKY TRACTOR SUPPLY**

Mike Deck/Peg Klemetson  
16285 5th St. NE  
Hillsboro ND 58045  
701-436-5880

## **SUNSHINE SAUNAS**

Clint Carleton  
PO Box 427  
Hardin MT 59034  
406-679-1978

## **TRACMAP**

Mark Hornback  
1145 Uniform Road  
Griffin GA 30224  
888-656-6135

## **TULSA AIRCRAFT ENGINES**

Rex Vaughan  
9311 E 44th Street N  
Tulsa OK 74115  
918-838-8532

## **US BANK**

Carisa Hamrell  
619 Main Street  
Miles City MT 59301  
406-232-0805

## **WILBUR-ELLIS COMPANY**

Burl Brawley  
PO Box 1627  
Great Falls MT 59403  
406-727-4500

EMERALD 32 1981  
33495 T Mandu D  
EREQ VRES NR UTER

