

AMAA NEWSLETTER

**“PROFESSIONAL AERIAL APPLICATORS PROVIDING CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS
AND SERVICES TO PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE ACROSS MONTANA”**

**WWW.MONTANAAERIALAPPLICATORS.ORG
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MONTANAAERIALAPPLICATORS**

President's Message

Greg Smith

This is America

Don't tell me I can't have something. If I have the means to pay for it and I want it, then I get it. Why? Because this is America, as Americans we always get what we want. So don't tell me I can't have a new truck. Don't tell me I can't have dinner at my favorite restaurant. Don't tell me I can't have electricity, jet fuel, herbicides, or health care. This is America, and if there is a demand for a product, and someone can make some money by supplying it, then the product or service will be delivered. This is capitalism. This is freedom. This is America.

So, as a business owner and a consumer I have never had to swallow the reality that, regardless of price, I am being denied products and services. It is not going down easy. How did we get here? Sure, we can say "it's the supply chain" or "a truck driver shortage". But I think that is an easy cop out, and something more is going on in America: we are addicted to cheap shit. The continued push for lower costs have created an economy that has pushed more and more suppliers out of business, in turn industries have consolidated to fewer suppliers that are producing massive volumes with low prices. Some of the consolidation is within the U.S. but much of it has pushed products to be produced in foreign countries. So we tend to believe that it is the supply chain that has broken a link when we can't get herbicides because there are no caps available for the chemical jugs. When it may be that we have pushed the cap industry to a single producer in a foreign land.

So what does this mean to the applicator business? I believe the supply of products will get worse before it gets better. Costs for inputs will increase, some permanently. But in the long run some ambitious individuals will fill the demands that have been created from the current international shake up. That's the beauty of the capitalistic economy that we live in. How do I know this? Because, this is America.



**LOOK
INSIDE!**

AMAA Conference—January 24-25, 2022—Great Falls, Montana

- ⇒ Yeah, we get to meet face to face once again! If you feel more comfortable distancing and wearing a mask, that's OK, too.
- ⇒ Due to small but annual increases in the cost of the PAASS program and, due to the rising cost of food, the convention registration price has increased to \$285. Membership rates remain the same. Registrations forms are on pages 6 and 7.
- ⇒ The schedule has not been solidified enough to include it here but I'll email it out as soon as I finalize speakers and times.
- ⇒ If you plan to arrive Sunday evening, please join us for a no-host dinner. The venue and time will be emailed in early January.
- ⇒ For the PAASS program, audience responses will be utilized via your smartphone, tablet or laptop. Please make sure you have access to one of these devices.
- ⇒ PAASS attendance will be recorded using NAAA's Membership software interface which will be provided at the end of the PAASS program. Assistance will be available!
- ⇒ Make your reservation at the Heritage Inn today by calling 406-761-1900. Room rates are \$93 + tax. The AMAA's block of rooms is available until early January.



Employment Opportunity

Are you looking for a new avenue to support the aerial application industry? Do you like flexible hours and a little extra spending money? After almost 18 years (wow!) as Executive Director, I would like to take a step back from these responsibilities. While I'll still be working in and supporting the industry, it's time for a fresh perspective and look for the "face" of the AMAA. If you or someone you know would like to start

transitioning to this position, please contact me, Colleen, at 406-781-6461. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

NAAA Ag Aviation Expo
December 6-9, 2021 - Savannah, GA
(Note Change of Venue)

AMAA Convention
January 24-25, 2022—Great Falls, MT

MT AERONAUTICS—March 3-5,
2022—Missoula, MT



Dana Ness

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Thank you, Boyd Morgan! Boyd is donating the proceeds of a Grumman-Schweizer G-164A Ag-Cat to NAAREF.

N48468 will be auctioned off during the NAAA Convention in Savannah on December 7.



Fall 2021 NAAA Update**By****Patrick Stromberg**

As fall slowly finds its way into the country after a very warm and dry summer, I hope everybody is winding down nicely and getting some much needed free time. I just returned from Fort Worth, TX after attending the NAAA board meetings. I have to say, Texas and Montana would make great neighbors. People are very friendly, and they take their BBQ seriously. The 2024 NAAA convention will be held in Fort Worth and I highly recommend making the trip down there as the downtown area is very nice with plenty of restaurants and activities within walking distance of the convention center.

I'll try and keep this update reasonably short in spite of the fact that as always, there is plenty to talk about in terms of what the NAAA is working on. I don't know how many of you deal with paraquat application, but NAAA fought long and hard to keep the aerial label for it, and was successful in doing so. However, there are restrictions. Unless you are doing cotton defoliation, the daily limit for aerial application is 350 acres. Unfortunately, for operators in my neck of the woods who do a lot of lentil desiccation, this will be a significant hinderance. Chlorpyriphos otherwise known as Lorsban, no longer has an aerial label except in special cases where it is under review for certain public health uses.

In the past I have talked extensively about drones or UAS systems and the concerns that operators and the NAAA have about their use in aerial application and there have been a few developments. The FAA has stated that they will not promote the use of ADSB traffic avoidance technology in drones, at least those under 55 pounds, as it could overload the ADSB system ATC uses for traffic management. This means that UAS manufactures will have to come up with other forms of see and avoid technology. The good news is that as these drones are going out and getting put to use for aerial spraying, the overwhelming conclusion is that the efficiency and efficacy of these units is rather disappointing. We heard from a few operators that know of growers that either hired companies to spray with them, or tried using drones themselves and the results were dismal. It takes significantly more manpower to keep the drones working and loaded than a typical aircraft, and the spray pattern the UAS's put out is also quite sad. There is certainly uses for drones, but for efficient spraying in production agriculture it seems they are just not effective enough for commercial viability at the moment.

Tower markings are now and have been a big issue for aerial applicators and NAAA continues to work with legislators and companies erecting towers to find a reasonable solution to mark them in a matter that will improve the safety of low flying aircraft. NAAA had hoped to get some language in an infrastructure bill to require tower markings, however given the policies of the current administration, it will likely have to wait until the next congress to get anything meaningful accomplished. This emphasizes the point that as applicators, we can approach our local planning and zoning commissions to

Professional Aerial Applicators

promote the marking requirements on a county by county level. On the same subject, a few power companies now have shape files of all the transmissions lines in their service area that can be downloaded and used on GPS systems to identify those hazards. Some power companies have even gone a step further and offered to put wire markers on their lines for no cost if the markers are provided to them. The NAAA is going to meet with one manufacturer of low-cost wire markers at the convention in Savannah to see what the best avenue to get these markers in the hands of applicators or local governments might be.

Recently there has been another push by environmental groups to ban the use of leaded aviation fuels. A few of the big oil companies had tried to come up with an unleaded solution and were unsuccessful for a number of reasons, however GAMI (General Aviation Modifications, Inc) has developed what they call G100UL, an unleaded 100 octane direct replacement for 100LL that is now STC'd for several engines and aircraft. They continue to acquire STC's for additional aircraft and engines, however it's not known how long it will take to get STC's for ag aircraft, especially the less common piston powered models such as Agwagons and Pawnees. While I'm on the subject of fuel, many operators around the country found it difficult or impossible to get Jet A fuel during the season. This was in part because of the lack of drivers for the trucks, and also the priority given to firefighting aircraft and the airlines. The NAAA is looking into ways to get priority given to aerial applicators. As we all know, people still have to eat and if ag aircraft can't operate, that could have direct consequences on the food supply.

If you happen to have an AgCat with a Garrett TPE-331 engine installed, there is an airworthiness concern about that specific installation in regard to the linkage to the fuel controller or prop governor. Apparently, it can come loose and cause loss of control of the engine or prop functions. For further information you can contact Bruce Hubler at TAE Aerospace in Idaho and he can explain it in great detail.

That's a very brief summary of the highlights of the last board of directors meeting, there is far more going on than what I have discussed but if you are an NAAA member you can read more in the magazine and the newsletter that is emailed out. Happy fall everyone and I look forward to seeing all of you in person again in January.

Renew or
Join Today!



Membership and Convention Registration
ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA AERIAL APPLICATORS

Annual Convention and Trade Show
Monday and Tuesday, January 24-25, 2022

Name _____ Company _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ YES, I would like a 2022 AMAA Operator Membership @ \$200.00 \$ _____

_____ YES, I would like a 2022 AMAA Pilot Membership @ \$ 95.00 \$ _____

_____ YES, I would like a 2022 AMAA Associate Membership @ \$ 75.00 \$ _____

_____ YES, I would like a 2022 AMAA Retired Membership @ \$ 25.00 \$ _____

_____ YES, I will be attending the Conference @ \$285.00 \$ _____

_____ YES, I would like a Non-Member Convention Registration @ \$485.00 \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **AMAA**.

Please return registration forms to Colleen Campbell by:
January 14, 2022

Mail checks to:

AMAA

1891 23rd Lane NE

Dutton, MT 59433

If you prefer, you can call me with your credit card information (a small surcharge will apply)
or I can provide you with instructions for an electronic transfer of funds.

Professional Aerial Applicators

Exhibition Space Request Form
ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA AERIAL APPLICATORS
Annual Convention and Trade Show
Heritage Inn – Great Falls, Montana
Monday and Tuesday, January 24 - 25, 2022

Company _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Company Representatives Attending (Registration includes two.)

(Please Print Names. For each additional rep, over two, please add \$20 per lunch and \$50 per banquet ticket.)

_____ **YES**, please reserve booth space for our company @ \$250.00 \$_____

_____ **YES**, we will have more than two representatives. Additional meals: _____ \$_____

_____ **YES**, please reserve a 15-minute presentation slot for our company

_____ **YES**, our company would also like to be a convention sponsor in the amount of \$_____. \$_____

_____ **NO**, we do not wish to exhibit, but would like to be listed as a sponsor of the convention. Our check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed \$_____

_____ **YES**, I would like an allied membership @ \$160.00 \$_____

***** Door Prizes are also gladly accepted!**

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$_____

Please make checks payable to **AMAA**.

Exhibitor applications and payment must be received by **December 31, 2021**

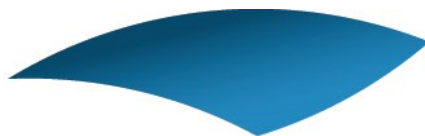
Mail checks to:

AMAA 1891 23rd Lane NE Dutton, MT 59433

2021 SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS



People...Products...Knowledge...



StandardAero



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Enjoy some down time this fall and winter!

