



## Super Constellation Update



*By Jeff Wadekamper, Airport Director*

I recently visited with the curator for the Castle Air Museum about the status of the Lockheed Super Constellation. General Services Administration, which retains ownership of the aircraft, has made the decision to not allow the aircraft to be ferried out of Helena due to its condition and age. That leaves the option of disassembly and hauling the aircraft to the museum in California. The museum has

contacted Worldwide Aircraft Movers, who previously hauled a Super Connie from the east coast to the west coast and they have agreed to do the move. This is an expensive endeavor, with a cost of \$200,000.

Castle Air Museum is conducting a fundraising effort to pay for this move, but is only a portion of the way there. As a result, the aircraft will not be moved in 2015, but instead will likely be relocated in 2016 once the funds are raised. The Castle Air Museum has made this their #1 priority and their past efforts have produced quite an impressive collection. You can view their efforts on this project at their website -

[www.castleairmuseum.org/ec121warningstar](http://www.castleairmuseum.org/ec121warningstar).

### Runway Safety Action Team Meeting - June 24, 2015

Once each year the FAA facilitates a meeting between the Airport, the FAA Control Tower, and local pilots to discuss issues concerning overall runway safety. Any vehicle or pilot deviations or air traffic controller operational errors are reviewed to determine if there are changes which need to be made. Proposed changes can include physical changes to the airfield system, or procedural changes for managing air traffic and vehicle movements. This year's meeting will be on Wednesday, June 24 from 9:30—11:30 am at Airport Fire Station #1 (2150 Airport Road).

If you plan to attend, please be sure to RSVP no later than June 18 to Pete Schmitz, Air Traffic Manager, by calling 449-5756 or emailing [pete.e.schmitz@faa.gov](mailto:pete.e.schmitz@faa.gov). Following the meeting, the Air Traffic Control Tower staff will be providing a complimentary BBQ lunch.



Photos Taken By Sam Thomas, Lead PSO, after the May 29, 2015 rainstorm.

## HELENA REGIONAL AIRPORT

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## AIRPORT BADGING OFFICE HOURS

AIRPORT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

2850 MERCER LOOP

**MONDAYS: 10 am – 1 pm**

**WEDNESDAYS: 1 – 3 pm**

**FRIDAYS: 10 am – 1 pm**

Please bring all your access media with you when you come to renew. Thank you!

*Note: Per TSA regulations, if your ID is not renewed on/by its expiration date, your access media will be disabled. A reactivation fee of \$25 will be assessed for access media which must be reprogrammed into the system.*

## RMESTC UPDATE

Pete Hartman, Training & Facilities Coordinator

Now that the 2015 Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) training season has started you may have noticed smoke rising up on the northeast side of the Airport. This season started with a bang with groups from all over the US and several airports from Canada sending their employees to the Rocky Mountain Emergency Services Training Center for their annual live fire training. Groups from Kelowna and Victoria, BC and Grande Prairie and Leismer, Alberta attended. This season looks to be one of the busiest ARFF seasons the training center has ever had and we just love meeting all the new students and showing them what a great community Helena is and what we have to offer them. The picture above is taken from inside the fire truck as students from Kelowna, BC work the Spill Fire Mock-up from the firetruck designated ARFF-1.



The driving track has also been very busy with the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety Program, SCCA (Sports Car Club of America), and the Karting Association (go-carts) all having track time. At the end of June we will see the annual Helena Valley Timing Association drag races, which is always a fun event to watch.

## 120 Airlift Wing To Use Helena Airport In August

The Montana Air National Guard's 120<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, which is based out of the Great Falls Airport, is planning to conduct a readiness exercise August 10-14.

This will involve numerous C-130 flight operations each day that week. During this exercise, firefighters from the 120<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Fire Department will join forces with the Helena Regional Airport's Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting team to provide fire protection services for the increased aircraft operations. The Helena Airport looks forward to hosting the Air National Guard alongside our home-based Army Aviation units.

## Grass Strip Update

The process is still moving ahead to designate our grass strip as an actual runway. Once completed, the landing surface will be regulated in a similar manner as any other runway.

The proposed runway will be designated 10/28 to avoid confusion with runway 09/27, which is nearly parallel with the grass strip. As part of this process the FAA Control Tower is developing operational procedures to manage traffic using the grass strip along with all other air traffic. We expect that this process will be completed later this year.

## Annual Lease Payment Rates Fiscal Year 2016

The Helena Regional Airport's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. At the beginning of each fiscal year, lease payments for some of the Airport's building/property are adjusted based on the Consumer Price Index – CPI-U. This year there was not an increase in the CPI rate, so there will be no increases to those ground lease rates.