

SUMMIT AVIATION



Volume 1 / Issue 1 || March 17, 2017

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Feb. 2 – Grant Blostrom earned his instrument rating.
- Feb. 11 – Austin Larson earned his commercial add-on for single-engine landing
- Feb. 13 – Riley O’Leary earned his multi-engine private pilot’s license
- Feb. 13 – Michael Demko earned his private pilot’s license
- Feb. 22 – James Gorman passed his multi-engine private check ride
- Feb. 27 - Brad Groesbeck passed his multi-engine instructor check ride
- March 5 – Chance Rhein passed his private check ride
- March 12 – Missy Harlow passed her private check ride
- March 12 – Eric Rhea earned his instrument rating
- March 14 – Kevin Abrahamson earned his instrument rating
- March 14 – Michael Andriolo earned his instrument rating

HAWKER REVEALED

We recently unveiled the latest addition to our fleet, the Hawker 850XP, to our clients and community. The Hawker, a mid-sized jet with a coast-to-coast range, greatly increases the range of destinations for our charter clients.

The addition of the takes Summit to a new level in the charter industry and in the region we serve. The Bozeman-based Hawker is “the only one of its kind in the region,” according to Summit President Ben Walton.

The Hawker was an immediate success, having made several trips to California, Idaho, Florida and Washington state since it started flying under the Summit flag the day after Christmas.

A KTVQ news crew did a story on the Hawker in mid-February – see their coverage [here](#), and find more information about the Hawker [here](#).

Summit is currently searching for captains for the Hawker. Check out the new [employment page](#) on our website for more information about this and other job openings.

A Note from Summit Leaders

“I couldn’t be more proud of our current team here at Summit. Our recent awards banquet reminded me how much passion, dedication and talent we have in our group right now. I’m excited for what’s to come this year!”

- Ben Walton, Summit Aviation president

SUMMIT GRAD ACCEPTED TO AIR FORCE PROGRAM

Ellie Pennel, a Summit Aviation graduate, was accepted into the U.S. Air Force’s undergraduate pilot training program (UPT) this month. Pennell will be traveling south next winter for a 50-week program that will start her career in military aviation.

The UPT program accepts only the top pilots in the application pool. Candidates are ranked on their test scores, flying hours, commander rankings and grade point averages. The Air Force only accepts enough new students to replace the previous year’s graduates.

#CFIfriday



Introducing #CFIfriday!

Each week, Summit Aviation will turn over its Instagram account to one of our certified flight instructors. In the meantime, here's our latest post.

“Rain rain go away, come again another day when we're not flying preferably. #rainyday”

Follow us at [Summit_Aviation!](#)

Flying for the Air Force will be a big step forward from the Diamond DA20s Ellie's flown at Summit.

“I'll be learning how to fly on T6s and maybe T38s,” Ellie said. “From there, I'll be assigned to fly a specific airplane for the Air Force and I'll have more training, depending on which plane I'm assigned.”

Ellie's passion for flying began about two years ago, when she took an orientation flight with the Civil Air Patrol while doing some ROTC training in Alabama.

“It was the summer after my sophomore year, and I didn't really have any specific goals, then I flew with CAP and it was like, ‘You know what, flying sounds awesome, so I'm going to do that.’ That's how I decided,” Ellie said.

She began flight training with Summit Aviation in June 2016 and earned her private pilot's license on Aug. 28, 2016.

“Flying out at Summit really sparked the fire for me and got me super stoked about flying,” Ellie said.

UPT training will begin in early 2018, after Ellie receives her bachelor degree in computer science from Montana State University. She will be assigned to a training base in either Mississippi, Oklahoma or Texas in May.

“Did I mention that I'm super excited?,” Ellie said.



SUMMIT HOSTS EMPLOYEE AWARDS

Summit Aviation hosted an invitation-only mystery party for its employees on Feb. 24 at the Bozeman International Airport. The party, which included drinks, hors d'oeuvres and dinner, was a formal occasion to recognize Summit's employees.

Ben Walton, President of Summit Aviation, gave a visual history of the company before revealing the purpose of the party – very little information was distributed about the event, and curiosity was high. After much suspense, Ben and Chief Flight Instructor Janine Schwahn awarded personalized trophies to each employee.

“The party was a way to say thank you when words are not enough,” Janine said. “I am proud to work for an extraordinary company, but I am more proud of our extraordinary team members. You all are what makes Summit truly extraordinary.”



As for the audience, the event was a success, and the awards ceremony was a pleasant surprise.

“It felt like a wedding,” said certified flight instructor and charter pilot Miles Goad. “Everyone was dressed up, and the buffet was delicious. The awards were well thought-out.”

The awards are as follows:

- Warren Abbott – the Baby’s Bum Award
- Jacob Beach – the Seinfeld Award
- Joel Benson – the Highest of High Fives Award
- Andy Bloyer – the Big Kahuna Award
- Andrew Casey – the Most Improved Employee Award
- Jessica Denby – the Abacus Award
- Kelly Di Berto – the Earhart Award
- Robert Evans – the Loch Ness Award
- Cody Fabritz – the Up and Coming Award
- Steve Garvine – the Living Legends Award
- Jason Grafel – the Old Faithful Award
- Miles Goad – the Almost Made It Award
- Drew Hansell – the Rockefeller Award
- Ryan Haskins – the Lewis and Clark Award
- Ryan Hilliard – the Dandy Award
- Tanya Jans – the Pom Pom Award
- Charles Johnson – the Jack of All Trades Award
- Jeff Modrow – the Swiss Army Knife Award
- David Myers – the Long Road Award
- Tucker Ott – the 99% Perspiration Award
- Peter Owenhouse – the Customer Whisperer Award
- Russel Parker – the Duct Tape Award
- Megan Petersen – the Good Addition Award
- Levi Schmid – the Vertical Flight Award
- Janine Schwahn – the Gold Star Award
- Mike Schwahn – the Masonry Award
- Evan Schwarzenbach – the Rookie Award
- Pat Sinnott – the Chief Closer Award
- Robert Tidler – the Broken Wing Award
- Ben Walton – the Ben Hur Award
- Rachel Walton – the Blood, Sweat and Tears Award
- Justin Waugh – the First Responder Award
- Robert Wert – the Wikipedia Award
- Gavin Weissman – the Greatest Reflection Award

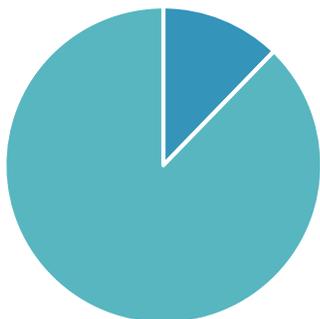
We’re grateful to have such a hard-working and fun-loving team here at Summit!

SUMMIT STAFF ATTENDS MT AVIATION CONFERENCE

Several members of Summit's staff were in Billings on March 3 and 4 for the 2017 Montana Aviation Conference. Montana Department of Transportation and the Montana Pilots Association hosted the annual event. Summit's Student Client Manager Charles Johnson, Chief Flight Instructor Janine Schwahn, President Ben Walton were there representing our flight school and charter company.

"It's a good opportunity for people in the business to get together and see what's happening in the industry," Charles said. "There's always a wealth of knowledge at the conference, and it's an important event to look to the future of aviation in Montana."

Presenters at the conference included representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board, Experimental Aircraft Association, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Aviation Art Forms, and Apollo 8 Commander [Frank Borman](#).



- 49 Days Gone By
- 351 Days Remaining

COUNTDOWN TO JASON'S RETURN

Jason Grafel, a Summit Aviation Assistant Chief Instructor, was deployed with the Montana Army National Guard. He's currently training in Texas with his med-evac unit, but is expected to be shipped off in the coming week.

Jason's deployment will last 400 days or less, and he left Summit on Jan. 27, 2017. Though we don't know exactly when he'll return, he should be back by March 2018.

Thank you for your service, Jason! You make us very proud.

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NEWS TIPS APPRECIATED!

Feel free to contact us at

info@flysummit.net or at the front desk with any news! Thank you.

Events/Birthdays

Friday, March 17 – Vic Arthun’s birthday; St. Patrick’s Day

Monday, March 20 – Luke Evans’ birthday; Spring Equinox

Wednesday, March 22 – Peter Owenhouse’s birthday

Thursday, March 23 – Michael Andriolo’s birthday; Raeann Shelagowski’s birthday

Friday, March 24 – Jessica Denby’s birthday

Saturday, April 1 – Matt Henningsen’s birthday; April Fool’s Day

Friday, April 7 – Kyle Hyde’s birthday; National Walk to Work Day

Tuesday, April 11 – Christopher Geppert’s birthday

Friday, April 21 – Drew Hansell’s birthday

FUN STUFF: A JOKE

How do you know you’re broke?

When you get mad and you can’t afford to fly off the handle, so you have to take the Greyhound off the handle.

Next month’s fun stuff is a poll, and the question is: Do you have a family history of flying, or are you the first pilot in your family?

Submit your responses to info@flysummit.net.