

## MONTANA SEAPLANE PILOTS ASSOCIATION MEETING JUNE 7, 2014

There were 23 members and guests present when Nick Mason called the meeting to order at the Whitefish Lodge in Whitefish, MT. We got started while waiting for our meal to arrive, which was super good. The day was great, mostly clear skies for the 3 float planes to come in to the great parking area at the docks. Among the planes was a Turbo Beaver owned by one of our newest members, George Turek, what a beauty.

Ry Keller gave a report on the annual MT Aviation Conference in Bozeman in March of this year. He said that it was very well attended and there was lots of interest in seaplane. It is always worth the trip and time to go to any of these conferences, lots of education available.

Your secretary, Joanne, gave a current treasurer's report and there were no questions.

The bi-annual Splash-in will be held at Stillwater this year on August 8, 9 and 10, 2014. It is sponsored by the Kalispell Chapter of EAA. There will be music, camping and vendors for some of the food and EAA will have a breakfast available for a donation. Make your plans to attend, always a great time.

A suggestion was made as to possibility of changing our logo. After some discussion it was decided to leave as is instead of depicting a specific type of seaplane.

Peter Gross gave a report on Back Country Flying Experience. They are giving seaplane ratings and have had many students already. They are starting to give scenic flights out of Whitefish and Flathead Lodges and are having great success with it. What a beautiful place to give tourist a view of our world from the skies. It is also a very positive way to get people to appreciate seaplanes. Contact Peter if you or anyone you know has an interest in getting a seaplane rating. Present at the meeting was Stephan Robinson, our seaplane check ride person here in Montana, nice guy.

Chuck Jarecki gave a current status report on RAF, Recreational Aviation Foundation. They are doing an ABSOLUTELY FABOULOUS job of keeping aviation involved in new rules and regulations in many different government departments, such as, Forest Service, BLM, and others. We need them and they need us to support them. Ry Keller made a motion that some of MSPA funds go to support RAF to be able to continue the work that they are doing. It was seconded by Peter Gross and ALL present agreed. A donation was made and as a side from your secretary, a thank you was received from John McKenna, Pres. of RAF, shortly after they received it and they greatly appreciated the donation.

There was a discussion about invasive species and reminders for EVERYONE to be extremely cautious with any flying between lakes. It was thought that National SPA had a list of lakes that are known to be already invaded, but after checking with them, they do not. They stated that they are hoping to do so but that it will be some time before that happens. So for now the best information is from local users of any lake.

There will be a fall meeting but no date was set. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15.

Joanne Kembel, Secretary/Treasurer

