

Higher Living

Quarterly E-mail Newsletter



Spring is coming

With near record temperatures it's starting to feel more like summer than late winter, but none-the-less, with spring right around the corner now is the perfect time for a little spring cleaning.

That doesn't just mean emptying the closets and sweeping out the garage. It's time to go through your flight bag. Ensure all of your charts and references are current. Change the batteries in your headsets, GPS, or other electronic devices. Don't forget to pack extras as well. Do you have a BFR or IPC due this year? Now is a great time to start preparing yourself, and scheduling your recurrent training with EFTS.

Just because the new third class medical reform rules have been implemented, that doesn't mean you're not still responsible for ensuring you're medically ready to go. Think about your medications, how you're feeling, how much sleep you got last night. Are you up to flying? That isn't a macho challenge, it's a life saving question you have to answer honestly as part of your flight planning, every time!

Also make sure your aircraft is in tip top shape. Whether you're flying one of ours or your own, always make sure you check the paperwork to verify airworthiness before you fly, and don't forget to check those NOTAMS!

See you all up there.

Fly Hard or Stay Home!

Contact Us Today to
Schedule your next
aviation adventure!

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Places to Fly

- 05 March - South Carolina Breakfast Club (52J)
- 15 March - AOPA Non-towered Cases Studies: What went Wrong (KGSO)
- 02 April - South Carolina Breakfast Club (SC41)

KM is Back!

- Thanks to some hard work by a couple of key EFTS team members N161KM is back on the line. Contact your instructor for a checkout if you need one.

ICAO FLIGHT PLANS



Do you find yourself wanting to get out of a flying rut and go to some new places? Getting a little tired of taking off and flying in circles. Give this a try.

A few years back my flying friend, Chris Conte, and I discovered the Virginia Aviation Ambassadors program. The idea was to provide pilots with incentive to explore Virginia. The organization provides a book with Virginia airports listed in it and pilots then fly to those airports. When they arrive they go to the FBO and request a stamp to be placed in their "Ambassador book." As they collect stamps they become eligible for prizes. Chris and I have gone to many Virginia airports since then collecting our stamps. At the time there was no such option for NC airports and an idea began circulating in my head. I got to thinking that I was spending a lot of money on fuel and lunches in Virginia.

Some months later I was having a fine BBQ lunch with my friend Tom Freeman with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and I pitched the idea to Tom of starting a similar program in NC. My company offered to finance the program for a while to get it started and soon that idea became known as Operation Fly-NC. Operation Fly-NC is modeled on the Virginia program and it offers a booklet with NC airports for pilots and their friends to visit. When pilots arrive they have a stamp in the FBO which they can use to begin filling the book. The NC program also offers stamps for visiting some aviation events and museums throughout the state.

Not to be outdone, an almost identical program is offered in South Carolina.

Why not check out one or all of the programs? They are absolutely free to take part (except for what the flight costs of course). They will get you away from your normal airports and encourage you to see the state from the mountains to the coast. I'm proud that my company had a hand in getting this fun program started in NC. Prizes in all three states vary but are all worthwhile.

No I haven't collected all the stamps for NC or Virginia yet, though our own Graham Moore has. I still have some small airports in the west that I haven't visited.

For more information on the various programs, visit their websites listed below.

Happy Flying,
David Williams

NC Operation Fly-NC

http://wingsofun.com/Operation_Fly_NC.html

Virginia Aviation Ambassadors

<http://www.doav.virginia.gov/vaap.htm>

South Carolina Ambassadors Passport Program

<https://scaaonline.com/ambassadors-passport-program/>

ELECTRONIC FLIGHT BOOK REVIEW: SO MANY CHOICES



Taking a break from my usual column on regulatory issues, a common pilot question is what EFB to use. We hear so much about ForeFlight, which is probably the widest used, but what about the others? What if I prefer an Android phone or tablet to an iPhone or iPad? What if I want both platforms?

All EFBs have things in common. They can all act as a replacement for paper charts – see AC 91-78, *Use of Class 1 or Class 2 Electronic Flight Bag (EFB)*. Beyond that, about 90% of the features are similar – moving maps, geo-referenced approach charts, access to ADS-B weather information (with additional hardware). Although there can be some big ones, most differences come down to personal preference over how functions are accessed, their “look and feel.”

For example, a lot of pilots like “rubber banding,” the ability to press on a course line and move it to an intermediate waypoint. Some have it, some don’t. Those that don’t have a different way of doing it usually just as effective and which appeals to some folks more than rubber banding.

The only way to know which is best for you is to try them. Almost all have YouTube demonstration videos for an initial look. And all have free trials (some are free all the time!). But a word of caution those first few times in in flight: **do it with a safety pilot!** You will be spending a lot of time heads-down while learning the app and possible loss of control a reality. You might even consider a ground session and a flight with a CFI who is familiar with the app you are trying.

To guide your EFB exploration, here’s a roundup of the ones I have used and am familiar with. Other than whether it is free or subscription based, no mention of price. Pricing tends to be somewhat similar and there may be promos from time to time. Some have multiple level pricing. Look carefully at those. In some cases, they make obvious sense – VFR vs IFR features – but in others you may have to pay “IFR prices” for certain VFR features such as geo-referenced taxi diagrams. And, if you are a CFI, be sure to check for discounted (or even free) pricing.

In alphabetical order to avoid showing any personal preference. I caution that the free ones can be, although are not always, problematic. I might feel comfortable with one of them for VFR flight or as a backup; I would not for IFR flight.

Avare. The open-source alternative. Developed and in part crowdsourced by a dedicated

developer and user group. Android only. Free.

AvNavEFB. A relative newcomer with a small and dedicated customer base. Feature set that competes with the “big boys.” Android only. Subscription.

DroidEFB (formerly known as FlightPro and Avilution). The granddaddy of the Android group with a dedicated user group. The name changes reflect some business-related issues they ran into along the way. Fortunately, they came through it. Android only. Subscription.

FitPlan Go! If you fly IFR, you may be very familiar with FitPlan.com, the “go-to” website for corporate and small Part 135 pilots. They entered the EFB market a few years ago with an app that was designed to spin off the website. It has grown considerably. Some folks find its interface a bit clunky but others love it. iOS, Android and Windows (new). Free, ad-supported.

ForeFlight. The 5-year old “co-granddaddy” (with WingX Pro) of EFBs. Probably the most-used by pilots. iOS only. Subscription.

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“Choosing an EFB”



True story - It happen one evening over South Carolina. It was a beautiful October sunset when one of EFTS customers was flying N720FL back from a business trip. He thought to himself, “This would make a wonderful photo. In order to get a clearer snapshot, he opened up the small pilot’s window. As he held his phone near the window to take the picture the slipstream ‘sucked’ out his phone and away it went.

The next day when he went to buy a new phone he was asked what happen to your old phone. To which he replied “you won’t believe be if I told you”

There probably was a kid on the ground wishing he could have a phone like his friends have when all of a sudden a phone drops from the sky. Wishes can come true, but keep your phones away from the open window.

Choosing an EFB (Continued from Page 3)

FlyQ EFB. Brought to you by Seattle Avionics, the same folks who provide charts for some panel avionics such as the Aspen Evolution. iOS only. Subscription, but definitely watch this one for promos!

Garmin Pilot. The same folks bring you the IFR-certified panel mounts. It is very similar in flow and look and feel to the Garmin panel units, especially the touch screen units like the GTN 650 in N720FL. If you are one of those who feels more comfortable with tech products that work like each

other, this is an excellent choice. iOS and Android; the Android version tends to lag a little behind iOS in features. Subscription.

iFlyGPS. A newcomer to phones and tablets, but been around for a while. Their dedicated hardware unit competed with the Garmin handheld GPSMap series when the iPad was just a glimmer in Steve Job’s eye. The most customizable map screen of any of the EFBs. iOS and Android, substantially identical with each other and with the dedicated unit. Subscription.

WingX Pro. The other “granddaddy” of EFBs. It’s been

around as long as ForeFlight. The two apps spend the early years leapfrogging over each other with new features but at this point the two have very similar set of primary features and level of maturity, although with very different looks and feels. iOS and Android, but the Android version is relatively new and so far, has a greatly reduced set of features. Subscription.

