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Newsletter - September 9th, 2009

New! FltPlan.com files VFR Flight Plans

You asked and we listened. You can now file your VFR flight plans through FltPlan.com. All the great tools you use for IFR flight planning are now available for domestic VFR flight plans. When you file VFR through FltPlan.com you get:



- Detailed Navigation Logs
- Accurate routes
- Forecasted winds aloft / Wind Component / Temperature
- Fix names/Frequencies/Latitude & Longitude
- Course/Distance information
- Estimated enroute times / Time Remaining / Time between fixes
- Display your route on Sectionals, Street Maps, and Satellite Imagery Maps
- Route Overlay with Weather/TFRs and Special Use Airspace
- Fuel Burn information
- FSS/Flight Watch frequencies
- FSS phone numbers
- Departure and Arrival airport information
- Passenger Briefings
- FBO Briefings

So how do you get started?

- If you are already filing with FltPlan.com, you just need to go to the **Change User or PIC Info** section, and enter any necessary data in the VFR Filing Section.
- If you're not already using FltPlan.com to file your flight plans, you must first be processed for filing flight plans using FltPlan.com. (See [How to File](#) Using FltPlan.com.)

After this has been completed, you can go to the **Change User or PIC Info** section, and enter the necessary information for filing VFR flight plans using your CSC DUATS access code.

With FltPlan.com, you have the advantage of creating a flight plan weeks in advance without it automatically being filed. When you're ready to file your flight plan, just select it by putting a check in the **File This** box and click **Press Here When Done**.

When you create and file your VFR flight plan with FltPlan.com, you'll have access to all of our up-to-date information for your flight. This includes FAA-approved weather, Winds, ETE, and more. With FltPlan.com you get the reliability and accuracy of our proven system.

Use of Call Signs and Lifeguard Flight Designator

FltPlan.com makes it easy to enter and change the way your Aircraft Identification is filed with ATC.

First, some background. Here are some key words you need to know:

- Call sign
- Flight number
- 3-letter designator
- Flight designator

1.) In certain cases, a *call sign* and *flight number* are used in lieu of your aircraft registration when talking with ATC. Combine the *3-letter designator* with the flight number and you now have the *flight designator* for filing a flight plan.

Here are some examples of airlines using designators:

- American Airlines' 3-letter designator is AAL and their call sign is AMERICAN. They would file their flight plans as AAL123, and on the radio they are referred to as "AMERICAN ONE TWENTY THREE."
- British Airways' 3-letter designator is BAW, and their call sign is SPEEDBIRD. They would file as BAW234, and when talking to ATC they use "SPEEDBIRD TWO THIRTY FOUR."

Fractional operators would use the same system.

- Citation Shares' 3-letter designator is FIV, their call sign is FIVESTAR, and they file as FIV234 and use "FIVESTAR TWO THIRTY FOUR" on the radio.
- Flight Options is OPT, and they use OPTIONS on the radio.

Many Charter companies (and even some Part 91 Flight Departments) also use 3-letter designator.

2.) You cannot 'make up' your own call signs. Call signs must be requested, approved, and issued by the FAA. You must have a reason for use of a call sign, and requests will be disapproved that do not meet the FAA criteria.

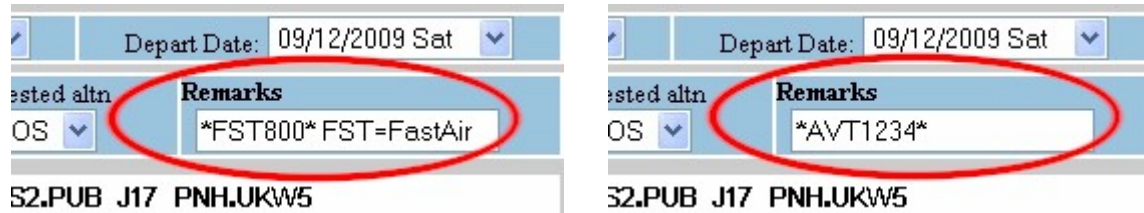
3.) Lifeguard flights are air ambulance flights or flights responding to medical emergencies (carrying patients, organ donors, organs, etc.).

- If you use an N# when filing, then you would put the letter "L" at the beginning of your N# (i.e. LN1234A if your tail registration is N1234A). On the radio with ATC, the correct phraseology would be "LIFEGUARD NOVEMBER ONE TWO THREE FOUR ALPHA."
- If you use a 3-letter designator when filing, then you would put LIFEGUARD in the REMARKS section of the flight plan (and use the normal 3-letter designation when filing). On the radio, the correct phraseology would be "LIFEGUARD METROJET FIVE SIXTY SEVEN."

4.) Charter Flight Designations are used for Part 135 flights that do not use a call sign. Charter flights that do not use call signs should include a leading "T" to their N# when filing. (i.e. Use TN678BA.) When talking on the radio, use "TANGO NOVEMBER SIX SEVEN EIGHT BRAVO ALPHA."

With all this under your belt, we can now show how easy it is to use FltPlan.com for entering this information into your flight plan.

- a.) If you have room in your aircraft profile, and your flight designator is usually the same, then just add a new aircraft to your profile (in the **Change or Add Aircraft** section).
- b.) If you already have used most of your allotted spaces, or your flight designator changes often, then you can enter the flight designator in the REMARKS section of your flight plan by placing an * (asterisk) in front of and in back of the flight designator. Our system will then use this as your flight designator in lieu of the aircraft you have selected when building the flight plan. The flight designator can be up to seven characters, and it will appear on the Main Menu Page. This is your confirmation that FltPlan.com will use this flight designator for filing the flight plan (it will also appear on the top left side of the NavLog). Other remarks can be entered after the second asterisk. For many commonly used 3-letter designators, FltPlan.com automatically includes the call sign in the REMARKS section of your flight plan, so ATC does not need to look up what to call you. See examples below.



Call signs entered in the Remarks section on the Flight Plan Entry Page.

Navigation Log		back		FltPlan	
FST800	IFR	GenAv	H25B/M	Equip: SGWZ/S	
Dep: KMMU	1730Z	383kts	17,000	Filed Route (see below)	
Dest: KBED	ETE: 0:40		Altn: KBOS		
item 18: NAV/RNVA102 RMK/FST=FASTAIR					
item 19: FOB: 0300 SOB: 5 PIC: JAMES JONES					

BREZY V39 CMK MERIT HFD.GRAYM2
From the NavLog.

Wed. 9/09	KMMU	KALB	0600	0907	3:07	N12345A	Com f	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N
Sun. 9/13	KMMU	KBED	1330	1410	0:40	FST800	James	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sun. 9/13	KBED	KMMU	1520	1708	1:48	N3456B	James	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Press Here When Done

From the Active Flight Plan List.

This also applies to Lifeguard and Angel (NGF) / Compassion (CMF) flights. You can enter your flight designator for these flights in one of two ways.

- The first way is to add an additional N# to your A/C list, but add an L in front of the N# (so you would enter LN123AB). Then when flying a Lifeguard flight for N123AB, you can select the LN profile.
- The other way is to enter *LN123AB* into the remarks column on the NavLog. By entering the LN123AB in asterisks you let the ATC controller know you are a lifeguard flight.

Depart Date: 09/12/2009 Sat

Remarks: *LN1234A*

TUS ALMON V105 DRK

If you have any specific additional questions, please email us at Support@FltPlan.com and include your username.

Quick Info

FltPlan.com's *Quick Info* page is one of the greatest tools for planning a trip. Why not make sure you're using all of its features?

The purpose of *Quick Info* is to give you fast, accurate information for planning trips. It can be used by pilots, schedulers, dispatchers, and even the boss for getting fast and comprehensive information.

Much more than just a distance calculator, our *Quick Info* section gives you accurate performance profiles based on your selected aircraft. You can find such information as:

- 90% probability flight time using Historical Winds. This includes flight times for Current Winds, Worst Winds, Average Winds, and Best Winds. (More about this in the next FltBrief!)
- Intermediate Fuel Stop planning, based on distance and/or flight time
- True Airspeed/Winds Aloft Matrix
- World wide airports database

- Approach Plates
- Weather
- Route Map of your flight
- Time Zone info, Sunrise/sunset info, Hotel information, and more
- FBO Briefing sent directly from *Quick Info*
- Passenger Briefing sent directly from the *Quick Info*

Now, that's a lot of information that's quickly available at your fingertips. You can find the *Quick Info* link on the left-hand side of the **Main Menu** page; it's right at the top. In the next few issues of Flt Brief, we'll go into more detail about some of the quick info features.

Smart Phones

We constantly get asked about various cell phones and whether FltPlan.com supports various models. FltPlan.com mobile version works on just about all smartphones (PDAs).

Here's the listing:

iPhone - <http://www.FltPlan.com/iPhone.htm>

iPhone

iPhone 3G

iPhone 3Gs

BlackBerry - <http://www.FltPlan.com/BB.htm>

8800

Curve

Pearl

Bold

Storm

Tour

Palm - <http://www.FltPlan.com/Treo.htm>

Pre

Centro

Treo

Windows Mobile - <http://www.FltPlan.com/WM.htm>

Windows Mobile 5.0

Windows Mobile 6.0

Windows Mobile 6.1

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