

# EAA CHAPTER 879 Newsletter

June 2023

## Notice to Chapter Members

During our next meeting (June 10th), we will accept nominations for our next EAA Chapter president. You may nominate yourself or any member of the chapter.

## Notes from the President

Greetings,

Have you been out to the airport lately? We miss you.

Have you volunteered for a young eagles activity?

Come to your chapter meetings and get entertained and informed.

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## FIRST YOUNG EAGLE RALLY

EAA Chapter 879's first Young Eagles (YE) rally was a resounding success. Almost 20 Young Eagles experienced their first general aviation flight in a piston-driven airplane. The flight consisted of an extended traffic pattern off runway 14. After the flight, the Young Eagles flew a simulated Cessna 172

from Lake Ridge Aero Park (8NC8) to Raleigh-Durham

International Airport (RDU) while being coached by our members, Frank White and Dave Kerr.

During the rally, lunch was made available to all who attended. Ben Plowman, our YE Coordinator, said he plans for our chapter to host more of these rallies.



# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Our newsletter needs a name. Let's test the wit and creativity of the members of Chapter 879. Our last newsletter was called "The Propeller" and, the tagline, *"A mile of highway will take you a mile, but a mile of runway will take you anywhere,"* accompanied the name.

We'll take your suggestions directly from the floor. Once all are in, a winner we'll choose a winner. The winner will get a brand new RV10 - scratch that last sentence. The winner enjoys the knowledge that their suggestion was the coolest of all. If there is no winner, we will default to naming the newsletter The Propeller and keep the existing tagline.

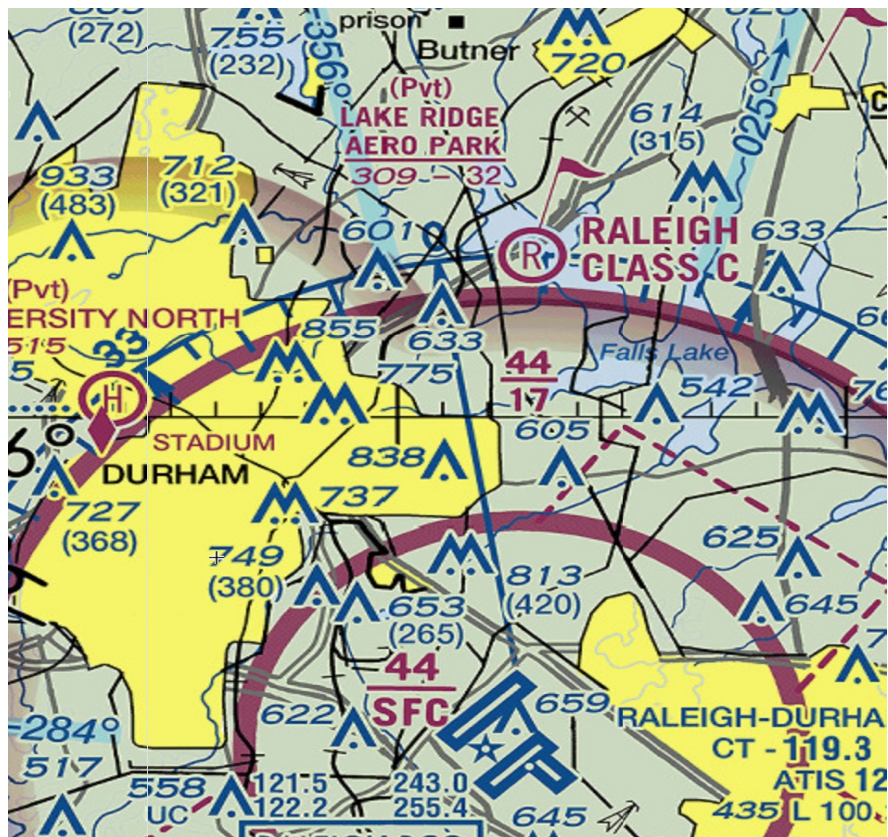


# SAFELY ENTERING CLASS C AIRSPACE IN A PISTON-DRIVEN LIGHT AIRCRAFT

So, you want to dive into the mystical world of Class C airspace? Well, buckle up! Class C is where the cool kids hang out, especially around places like KRDU. It's a mix of radar-controlled and non-radar-controlled airspace, designed to keep the airport traffic flowing smoothly and avoid any mid-air fender benders. Now, here's the unofficial, totally-not-boring guide to getting into Raleigh-Durham like a pro:

## 1. Get Friendly with the Charts

Before you go on your Class C adventure, grab those aeronautical charts. Seriously, they're like treasure maps, but with frequencies and altitudes. Look for the sectional chart and the Terminal Area Chart (TAC) specific to KRDU. They'll spill the beans on where the boundaries are, which frequencies to rock, and the altitudes you need to respect. Study those charts like a detective on a hot case. Figure out the right entry and exit points and any restrictions you need to avoid.



## 2. Shoot the Breeze with RDU Approach Control

Communication is key! Make sure your aircraft has a fancy radio that can tune in to KRDU frequencies. Give a shout-out to RDU Approach Control way before you enter their airspace. Tell them where you're at, how high you're flying, and what you plan to do. And hey, if you need any special instructions or a little hand-holding, don't be shy to ask.

## 3. Enjoy the Radar Perks

One sweet advantage of Class C airspace is the radar services they offer. RDU Approach Control will hook you up with radar vectors and traffic updates, like your personal GPS with style. It's like having a guardian angel in the sky. Follow their instructions like a boss, keep the communication flowing, and stay away from any wannabe collisions. If you can't do what they ask or their instructions sound like gibberish, just say "unable" or ask for a quick explanation. No shame in that game!

## 4. Plot Your Epic Route

Before you crash the Class C airspace party around KRDU:

- Plan your route with care.
- Spot any landmarks or reporting points that ATC might mention. It's like they're giving you little hints to find hidden treasures. This prep work will help you give accurate position reports and make ATC's life easier.
- Stick to the assigned altitudes and headings. We don't want you playing bumper cars with other planes, right?
- Oh, and by the way, don't forget about the transponder thingy.

Many Class C areas, including KRDU, demand that your aircraft has a working transponder with Mode C capability. Check that your transponder is in tip-top shape and set to the right altitude reporting mode. Those transponders are like ATC's secret handshake, so you better comply if you want to stay on their radar.

## 5. Keep Your Eyes Peeled for Traffic

Around KRDU's Class C airspace, you'll find more planes than at a bird convention. Be on high alert and predict where those metal birds might be heading. Use your eyes like a hawk and your ears like a bat to keep track of other aircraft. Follow the usual collision avoidance rules,



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respect right-of-way, and do what ATC tells you. Basically, be a responsible pilot and don't make a mess.

## 6. Avoid Distractions... Seriously!

Listen up! Cockpit distractions are like gremlins waiting to ruin your day. Don't get caught up in chit-chats with passengers or you might miss a crucial message from ATC. There's no harm in having a clean sterile cockpit. If you're the type who misplaces things, tie your pencil to a string and hang it around your neck. You don't want to be that guy who constantly says, "say again".

Operating safely in Class C airspace, like the one around KRDU, with your flying contraption requires some prep work, good communication skills, and familiarizing yourself with the airspace. By studying those aeronautical charts for KRDU, chatting it up with RDU Approach Control, mapping out your route with clarity, and keeping an eye on traffic, you'll rock that Class C airspace like a pro pilot, unless you are a pro. Just remember, stay aware of your surroundings and follow ATC's instructions like they're the golden rules. That way, we'll all have a smooth and groovy air traffic experience.

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## CONTRIBUTE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

No one can make every meeting. That is why our newsletter is essential. It also provides an opportunity for members to share stories we find interesting. "Pictures are worth a thousand words". Share a picture on your phone or in your photo gallery.



one of the reasons why our chapter newsletter is essential is the opportunity to engage members and non-members with entertaining or informative content. It is said, Share the story behind that great picture

Send your announcements and/or, story & picture(s) to [frank@ewhitecap.com](mailto:frank@ewhitecap.com) for inclusion in an upcoming Chapter 879 newsletter.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- July 24-July 30, - EAA AirVenture (AKA: Oshkosh)

Email local and EAA events to Frank ([frank@ewhitecap.com](mailto:frank@ewhitecap.com))

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# ABOUT EAA CHAPTER 879

<b>EAA 879</b>	<b>Meetings:</b> Every 2nd Saturday 10:00 AM
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<b>Location:</b>	<b>Chapter Officers:</b>
Lake Ridge Airport - FBO Bldg 100 Citation Circle Durham, NC 27704	Carl Jenson – President <a href="mailto:cvj77@bellsouth.net">cvj77@bellsouth.net</a>  Randy Smith – Technical Counselor <a href="mailto:randyjudy@mindspring.com">randyjudy@mindspring.com</a>  Ben Plowman – YE Coordinator <a href="mailto:bwpagr@yahoo.com">bwpagr@yahoo.com</a>  Frank White – Newsletter Editor <a href="mailto:frank@ewhitecap.com">frank@ewhitecap.com</a>