

Sectional Charts

- Show geographical and man-made structures, air space boundaries, and other information in detail.
- Can get paper copies but companies like VFRMap.com and skyvector.com offer digitized versions for free.
- Should understand them to better know the area you are planning on flying in
- Knowledge and understanding of Latitude and Longitude is a must.
 - Each degree of latitude and longitude is made up of 60 units called “minutes” and is marked as a \prime . On a Sectional Chart, these minutes appear as small notches you can count.
 - Each longitudinal and latitudinal line is marked 30 minutes from the next line, which means they are half a degree apart for 60 minutes is 1 degree.
- VFR checkpoint – the small magenta flag used to denote a higher volume of airplane traffic.
- Blue notification boxes detail information not readily known. Example: Independence KS and near airport ECG
- AGL vs MSL
 - AGL – Above Ground Level - literal height above the ground
 - MSL – Mean Sea Level - true altitude or elevation above standard sea level where the atmospheric pressure is measured to calibrate altitude.
 - All numbers on the sectional chart are denoted in MSL unless they are in parentheses which are then AGL.
- Airport Data
 - Provides information about the airport like runway length and altitude (MSL), name and identifier, frequencies of the automated weather station, and the Unicom.
- Isogonic Lines – show the difference between true and magnetic north on the sectional chart. If it is west you will need to add that number to your compass reading and if east, subtract the number. Example: Norfolk VA
- Maximum Elevation Figure (MEF) – is the minimum altitude you can fly and clear all man-made and natural terrain in each quadrangle on the sectional chart. The highest obstacle is rounded up to the next 100 and then an additional 100 feet is added to that to determine the MEF. The number is given in MSL.
- Colors on the Sectional chart terrain indicate levels of the terrain in MSL. See the color key on a sectional chart.
- Victor Airway – a thick light blue line on a sectional chart that shows low-altitude civilian air traffic.
 - They have a number associated with them like a highway.
 - Class E airspace
 - Start at 1,200 ft AGL and go up to 18,000 ft MSL.