

FAASTeam presents:

Understanding Pressure Altitude and Density Altitude

Pressure what? Density what?

As pilots, we love altitude. So much that we've created a bunch of different kinds of altitude: true altitude, absolute altitude, indicated altitude, assigned altitude, and two kinds of confusing ones - pressure altitude and density altitude. For many pilots, this can lead to a mental overload. Many pilots don't have a working understanding of pressure and density altitude. Are they even real altitudes at all?

In this seminar, SCFC CFI's introduce and explain the terms "pressure altitude" and "density altitude" and demystifies their meaning. Although the word "altitude" is used, these are clearly not measures of altitude. In fact, they are measures of atmospheric pressure and density just converted into units that pilots can understand. Confusing at first, yes, but once understood they serve a valuable purpose in determining aircraft performance.

Although few things are as important to a pilot as knowing the performance capability of the aircraft before taking to the skies, measuring the critical factor - atmospheric density - is not something that pilots can do directly. Instead we use rules of

Event Details

Sat, Feb 27, 2016 - 12:00 PST

San Carlos Flight Center

655 Skyway Road

Suite 215

San Carlos, CA 94070



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Representative Jonathan Slocum

thumb, conversion factors, and our best understanding of how elevation, pressure, temperature, and humidity are interrelated. If you've ever opened your aircraft POH to the performance section and felt humbled, this seminar is for you.

Directions: Pilots who fly in should park in transient parking on the opposite side of the field and expect to walk about 10 minutes (.5 mile) to the Flight Center. Suite 215 is upstairs in the northwest corner. On occasion, rides may be prearranged through San Carlos Aviation and Supply.

A message from the National FAASafety Manager

Invite a fellow pilot to the next WINGS Safety Seminar in your area.

Sign up for the FAA's safety services at www.FAASafety.gov!

The FAA Safety Team (FAASafety) is committed to providing equal access to this meeting/event for all participants. If you need alternative formats or services because of a disability, please communicate your request as soon as possible with the person in the "Contact Information" area of the meeting/event notice. Note that two weeks is usually required to arrange services.