

Shrimp Boats and Corridor Cakes - Understanding the Evolution of Airspace

Modern pilots know airspace in terms of the alphabet system: class A, B, C, D, E, and G. Those labels are a relatively recent facade on a beast whose unnatural evolution was written in blood and bitterly contested.

CFI/CFII Sal Valdes will reconstruct the National Airspace from cloud clearances in the forties, to the "all-weather positive control concept," in the fifties, to today's ADS-B requirements. Over one hundred years, personal liberty clashes with public safety and separation technology is tragically outpaced by aircraft performance.

Throughout the talk, Sal will discuss online government archives that you can use to solve your own regulation mysteries. If you have an interest in history or want to know how we got to the current airspace rules, join us for this insightful presentation.

The seminar will be in-person at the San Carlos Flight Center, 800 Skyway Road in San Carlos.

Event Details

Wed, Oct 21, 2026 at 19:00 PST

San Carlos Flight Center

800 Skyway Rd

San Carlos, CA



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Select #: WP15146723

Representative Herbert Patten n/a

Note: Construction is occurring at 795 Skyway Road so the seminar will be in the portable classroom just past 795 Skyway Road.

San Carlos Flight Center is on the Southwest side of the airport and there are no transient aircraft parking spots on the field other than the Transient Parking adjacent to the SQL Terminal Building. If you plan to fly in for the event, please be aware that we have no parking spots and that you'll need to walk 0.7 miles around the airport from airport Transient Parking to our offices.

A message from the National FAASafety Team Manager

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