

Navigation – VFR, Part 1

1. When charts are used VFR flight is generally conducted using one or both of the current general charts (publication of the World VFR chart was discontinued in September of 2015). In addition to these two general charts there are special-area charts for the Gulf Coast, Grand Canyon, and Caribbean regions and one for helicopter flight.

What are these two general VFR charts and how do they differ?

2. What is navigation by dead reckoning? What factors / conditions need to be considered when planning a flight using dead reckoning?
3. What is navigation by pilotage?
4. Regarding directions on sectional charts
 - a. What is the orientation of the lines of longitude on a sectional chart?
 - b. What is magnetic variation and how is it used for VFR navigation?
 - c. Are other compass corrections needed and if so where do you find them?
5. What are the rules for determining the appropriate altitude of a VFR flight?
6. When navigating along a route by VFR without the use of electronic navigation equipment you should use checkpoints (ones you pick – not to be confused with charted checkpoints AKA reporting points or VFR GPS waypoints) to verify that you are on course.
 - a. Why might you be at risk of being off-course (you know the answer because you already answered question 2 – the logic follows)?
 - b. Using checkpoints to identify your position is navigation by what means (you know the answer because you already answered question 2)?
 - c. What kinds of things make good checkpoints (name at least five)?
7. Heading indicator (gyro compass) – very useful for VFR flight using dead reckoning
 - a. Why is it superior to the magnetic compass?
 - b. Once set, does it need to be reset? If so, why and how often?
8. VFR flight plans –
 - a. Are they required?
 - b. Do you think they are a good idea for cross-country flights?
 - c. Do you think they are a good idea for local operations?
 - d. Is 'VFR Flight Following' (the official name is Radar Traffic Information Service but hardly anyone calls it that) needed if you file a VFR flight plan? If you don't? If you use it, what information will ATC provide?