

2023 NMPA Mountain Flying Clinic

Details



Flying in the mountains, especially the spectacular Rockies of the American West, with its multitude of high-elevation airports can be an exhilarating experience for any pilot and can provide easy access to many areas with incredible historical, cultural, and recreational opportunities. However, it can also be hazardous for those unaware of the unique variables encountered in mountain flight and their adverse effects on aircraft and pilot performance. In New Mexico, accident statistics show that pilots without the skills and knowledge needed for safe flight over mountainous terrain often get themselves into positions which exceed their abilities, frequently with disastrous results. The Mountain Flying Familiarization Clinic was developed by the New Mexico Pilots Association to help rectify this situation.

DATES:

Ground school Part I: Friday, September 22d

Optional flight #1: Saturday, September 23d

Ground school Part II: Saturday, September 23d

Optional flight #2: Sunday, September 24th

LOCATION: [The 2023 Clinic returns to its original location at the Santa Fe airport \(KSAF\).](#) Ground school will be held in the New Mexico Army National Guard facility on the north side of the airport and, like last year, will span 2 days in order to allow for more classroom discussion.

DIRECTIONS:

FLYING: KSAF is on the west edge of town, just north of the interstate. GA parking is available on the ramps to either side of the tower. You should plan on providing your own tie downs. DO NOT enter the ramp at the base of the tower as this is reserved for airline operations. Fuel is available from both FBOs, or self serve 100LL is available on the ramp north of the tower next to Santa Fe Aero Services; fuel discounts may be available from both FBOs for transient aircraft.

DRIVING: the airport is on the west side of Santa Fe. Go west on Airport Road, past highway 599 and Aviation Drive (entrance to KSAF). Airport Road changes names at this point to Paseo Real. Continue west a little over ½ mile and take the first left turn onto Huey Road. The clinic will be in the classroom building to your right as you enter the Guard complex.

THE CLINIC: The 9+ hour ground school is taught by skilled New Mexico flight instructors who live and fly the mountains for business and recreation. Through the years, the clinic has evolved into one of the premier safety training courses of its kind. The clinic walks you through scenarios involving high elevation mountain airports, mountain passes, mountain weather, and common mountain flight situations to illustrate factors affecting the safety of mountain flight and the proper way to prepare for and safely execute these flights. The clinic fully prepares the pilot for the optional mountain cross-country flights in the "high country," counts as the ground portion of a biennial flight review, qualifies for FAA WINGs credits, and qualifies you for a discount with many insurers. Upon successful completion of the clinic, graduates will receive a certificate and a copy of Sparky Imeson's, Mountain Flying Bible.

GROUND SCHOOL CONTENT: The ground school covers the basics necessary for safe flight in mountainous areas, including: • Mountain weather phenomena • Flight planning for mountain flying • Communications • Density altitude • High altitude aircraft and pilot performance • Mountain airport arrivals and departures • En-route navigation • Risk management and survival • Proper leaning procedures . You will need to bring:

- ✓ Your aircraft POH and current weight & balance
- ✓ Calculator and standard aviation plotter
- ✓ E6-B (manual or electronic)
- ✓ Paper Albuquerque and Denver sectionals (you will be marking these up)
- ✓ Optional: iPad or equivalent EFB with your favorite flight planning application

Pre-work required: 2 hours of preparation prior to your arrival at the Clinic

GROUND SCHOOL SCHEDULE:

Friday, September 22

1130 MDT Check In

1200 - 1700 MDT Ground School

1700 - 1730 MDT *OPTIONAL* Briefing for Saturday flights

Saturday, September 23

TBD - 1200 MDT *OPTIONAL Mountain Cross-Country Flights (coordinate with assigned CFI, if desired)*

1300 - 1735 MDT Ground School

1735 - 1800 MDT *OPTIONAL* Briefing for Sunday flights

MOUNTAIN CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHTS: The optional cross-country flights, though not a required part of the clinic, are an excellent introduction to flying in the high country. The first route takes you and a highly experienced mountain flying CFI through six mountain passes and up to six mountain airports (all above 6,000' MSL, with paved runways) providing reinforcement of what is learned in the ground school (see the minimum requirements section below for aircraft and pilot requirements to participate in the optional cross country flights). The first route takes 3 to 4 hours to complete, depending on the aircraft. Completion of both the ground school and cross-country flight will fulfill the phase requirements of the FAA's WINGS program and can also meet the requirements for a Flight Review under part 61.56. Pilots successfully completing the first optional flight will be offered the option of a second, customized flight into destinations in the southern and central Rockies such as Leadville, Raton, Pagosa Springs, Trinidad, Creede, Telluride, Aspen, Durango, Kremmling, and/or Eagle. Pre-flight briefings generally start around 0700, and, depending on weather, debriefs are completed around noon.

Pilots must provide their own aircraft for the optional flights. Local rentals may be available from Sierra Aviation (505-474-0774) at KSAF and High Country Air Service at KABQ (admin@hcas.pro, 505-675-0604), early reservations are highly recommended.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHT

- Current FAA Medical or Basic Med
- Current BFR
- Current Aircraft Liability Insurance
- Minimum of 100 hours PIC in category and class
- Sport pilot endorsement for class C and/or D airspace and towered airport operations, if applicable
- 3 takeoffs and landings in make/model in last 90 days
- Minimum of 180 HP engine
- NO fixed pitch "CRUISE" props
- Personal survival kit
- Warm clothing (including hat and gloves) in case of an off airport landing
- Any FAA approved medication in case of any delays returning to KSAF

NOTE #1: *Contact clinic coordinator in advance for possible approval if you do not meet these requirements. Be advised that the cruise prop limitation will not be waived.*

NOTE #2: *You may be required to add your assigned CFI to your aircraft's insurance policy. S/he will discuss this with you.*

CLINIC (GROUND SCHOOL) FEE

In-person attendees: \$165 for NMPA members / \$210 for non-members

Fees can be paid online at the NMPA website or via check. Students desiring to pay by check should contact the clinic coordinator for mailing instructions.

OPTIONAL CROSS COUNTRY FLIGHT FEE

The instructor fee for the first optional cross country flight is a flat rate of \$300 and is paid directly to your flight instructor at the time of the flight. The instructor fee for the second, custom flight option is set at a flat rate of

\$75/hour and is payable directly to your flight instructor at the time of the flight. You will receive contact information for your assigned CFI and you will need to coordinate acceptable method(s) of payment. You are responsible for all costs associated with supplying an appropriate aircraft.

LODGING

Santa Fe offers a diverse range of accommodations in all price ranges, ranging from unique internationally acclaimed historic properties near the Plaza to the usual chain hotels. Many are located only a few miles from either airport. More information can be found at santafe.org. Early reservations are suggested.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION: Avis and Hertz have rental car outlets in the main terminal. GoRentals has a service desk inside the new Jet Center lobby. Enterprise has an off-airport location. We strongly suggest prior rental car reservations as the FBOs have a limited number of crew cars available. Signature or Jet Center will provide shuttle transportation to/from the Guard facility although there may be lengthy delays; inquire at their front desk. NMPA *may* also be able to assist with some ground transportation needs. Contact the clinic coordinator for more information.

MEALS: Ground school coffee, tea, and break snacks are included in the registration fee.

Registrants are responsible for all other meals. There are numerous dining options available within a few miles of KSAF.

REGISTRATION: In-person enrollment is limited and pilots wishing to attend the ground school are urged to register as early as possible. On-line registration is available at www.nmpilots.org; click "Read More" under the Mountain Flying button on the home page. An in-person waiting list will be maintained and registrants will be contacted by the clinic coordinator if a slot opens up. Registrants on the waiting list do not pay the registration fee until they are cleared from the waiting list. Registration for one or both of the optional flights is also available on this site. After registering, you will receive an e-mail confirmation with a link to the course pre-work.

COURSE MATERIALS: All attendees will receive an electronic copy of the course materials.

CANCELLATIONS: Should the Clinic be canceled *by NMPA* for any reason, all registrants will be notified via email and will receive a full refund. *Registrants* canceling before September 8, 2023 will receive a full refund; cancellations received after this date are subject to a 50% penalty. In the event of last minute, weather-based cancellations, contact the clinic coordinator. In the interest of safety, full refunds will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Clinic Coordinator, Dave Jesurun at 505-675-0604 or dave@hcas.pro