

AVIATION QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Answer to last month's question: *Are the traffic pattern altitudes listed in the Airports/Facilities Directory compulsory? In other words, is it a violation of the regulations to fly higher or lower than the traffic pattern altitude?*

According to AOPA: Traffic pattern altitudes can range between 600 and 1,500 feet AGL. Chapter 4-3-3 of the Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM) states that 1,000 feet AGL is the recommended pattern altitude unless the airport recommends otherwise. Sometimes airport management decides to set or change a traffic pattern altitude (within the parameters of 600 to 1,500 feet) for obstruction clearance, noise abatement, and the like. While the AIM is not regulatory, it is recommended that you follow its guidance and the traffic pattern altitude shown in the Airports/Facility Directory.

(Note that more and more airports now have different altitudes for rotorcraft and ultralights/light planes)

This Month's Question:

A pilot wants to file a flight plan for a flight in his homebuilt experimental aircraft. What type designator does he use?