

Welcome to Cordele!

Town and Airport Information

You'll find Cordele is a friendly town with just about all the amenities you need for a nice stay. The local people and the Chamber of Commerce look forward to our contest each year and will go out of their way to be helpful.

Cordele-Crisp County Airport (CKF) was built during World War II as a bomber pilot training base. It has three 5000-foot runways in a triangular layout. The primary instrument runway is 10 – 28. The runway we will use for most of the contest is 06 - 24. It is closed by NOTAM for contest use. The third runway 14-32 is closed permanently, but it is usable in an emergency and at your own risk. There is a lot of crop duster traffic and a few large corporate planes, so it is very important that you educate yourself on the airport traffic requirements. **Please thoroughly read the Cordele Etiquette, Operations and Safety Rules Document before you tie down your trailer, assemble and fly.** This is your primary information about the contest and operations.

Cordele is located at Exits 101 and 102 (same as mile markers) on Interstate 75, about 150 miles south of Atlanta. The best way to get to the airport from I-75 is exit at Exit 102:



- Turn to the west after exiting (8th Avenue)
- Proceed to the first traffic light, then turn right (Pecan St.)
- Follow this road until it dead-ends
- Turn left (Blackshear Rd.)
- Take the first street on the right (5th Street)
- Proceed until you come to a 4 way stop sign and turn right to the airport entrance.

There are several ways to get to the airport from the hotel area, but the best is to go to the stop light at the Wal-Mart, turn north (Pecan St.) and remain on that road until you come to the dead-end mentioned above. Always watch for trains when going to the airport from the hotel area!

AMENITIES

Hotels: The hotels are located at Exit 101 off of I-75. You are welcome to stay at any of them. However, many contest people stay at the Colonial Inn, which is a block or so west of I-75. The Colonial Inn provides free breakfast and usually special rates for contestants. Some group contest events will take place at the Ramada Inn which is a block to the east of I-75 at Exit 101.

RV: For RVer's, there are twenty-five sites located at the airport beside the contest office. Of those, seven of the sites offer 30 amp and full water and sewer hookups. The others have water and power only but no sewer. All sites are assigned by calling the FBO and requesting a site prior to the contest (229-273-3124). Book early! For those without a sewer hookup, we have arranged with a local septic company to come out to the airport on a frequent basis for dumps

Gotta Go: The contest provides well maintained portable toilets at various points on the field. Please use these whenever possible. Also, please make sure no trash is thrown into the toilets as it makes them hard to clean and can damage the pumps used to service them. If you are presented with an extreme need, you may come to the Contest Office trailer and use its restroom

Clean: There is a nice Laundromat in town that has drop-off service. You bring them dirty clothes and tell them how you like them washed, then go back a couple of hours later and you have clean clothes! They charge by the pound, dirty, so knock off the bigger clumps of mud first. It's located at 203 East 14th Avenue, near 6th Street. From the airport, turn right at second stop sign (8th Avenue). Turn left at 5th Street and go over railroad overpass. Turn right on 14th Avenue. The laundromat is about 2 blocks on right.

Other Stuff: The post office is at the corner of 6th Street and 11th Avenue. Most banks have offices with ATMs along 16th Avenue. The Chamber of Commerce office is also on 16th Avenue; near downtown.

Most Important Stuff for Pilots: AOPA lists no eating places around the airport, but we know better and can all recommend the following from experience:

Moderate Rate (depending on how much you can eat). We have frequented these restaurants so you should get a good meal.

- Cracker Barrel
- El Girasol Mexicana
- Los Compadres Mexican
- Golden Corral
- Hachi Sushi and Japanese Grille
- TJ's Italian
- 16 East
- Tri-County Seafood

Sunday Clothes (AKA Elegant)

- Cordelia's (Italian) in Veterans Park at the conference center
- Daphne Lodge (seafood) just past Veterans Park on the right

Unique (you probably can't get this at home)

- A Real Southern BBQ place in Vienna (Ask contest staff or Dub & Cecile)
- Great BBQ ribs from Tifton (Ask Dub for directions)
- L-Bo's BBQ Hwy 280 West, Cordele
- Mennonite restaurant in Montezuma,
- Smoakie's BBQ at East 8th Avenue at Exit 102 on I-75, Cordele (a contest-goer's favorite)

Things you probably should know about South Georgia:

- Fire ants are common. They build large mounds in the grass and they will swarm all over you if you disturb them. Their stings will set you on fire and you'll quickly learn the fire ant dance! If you are allergic to bee stings, be extra careful of fire ants.
- Although Cordele is below the famous "Gnat Line", they are not usually bad early in the summer. Just get one of those watermelon-shaped fans from the Chamber of Commerce and wave it in front of your face.
- Heat and humidity can really sap your strength. Be sure to stay in the shade whenever possible, wear a hat and sunglasses, and drink plenty of water and other liquids. Rig your glider early then hydrate again (early means before breakfast).
- Tie downs - One local rule, "don't ever tie out at night in south GA in the Summer" because as a few have found the hard way, popup thunderstorms are common. And always secure your trailer at all times as well with the top down when you are not close by.

Other stuff you might want to know:

- Walmart
- Wells Ace Hardware
- Home Depot
- Veterans Park for outdoor fun and golf
- Lake Blackshear for water and water sports

There is no year-round glider operation at Cordele. Everyone you see working here and all the equipment comes from as far away as North Carolina and Tennessee. Many people from in town and out of town have volunteered to help show you'll have a good time. Some members of the staff have been coming here for nearly thirty years; so it's like a second home to us. Our hosts, Dub and Cecile Cooper, who run the FBO, have been very good to the contest for many years, so please respect their ground rules on the airport. They are always glad to help answer any questions about Cordele.

We look forward to your participation. Have a great contest!

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