

## ***Welcome to Cordele!***

### ***Things you 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! 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. Fortunately, the Golden Corral restaurant sends some girls out to the launch line every day with free iced tea. You should know that in the South, tea comes in two varieties, "sweet" and "un". If you're expecting "un", the "sweet" will really knock your socks off.

### ***Town information***

You'll find Cordele is a friendly city, with just about all the amenities you need for a nice stay. The local people and the Chamber of Commerce look forward to our coming, and will go out of their way to help.

Cordele is located at Exits 101 and 102 (same as mile markers) on Interstate 75, about 150 miles south of Atlanta. Exit 102, GA Hwy 257, is an easy way to get to the airport from southbound I75. Exit 101, US 280, 16th Avenue, is where all the motels and restaurants are. Many contest people stay at the Best Western Colonial Inn, which is just west of I-75, turning it into a little glider pilots' colony. The Colonial Inn has been a strong supporter of the Cordele contest for several decades!

To get to the airport from I-75 Exit 102, turn west and go about a half a mile until you get to a traffic light at see the National Guard Armory and some baseball fields on the left. Turn right at the convenience store (2nd Street) and go until it ends at the airport.

To get to the airport from I-75 Exit 101, turn west and go to the traffic light at Pecan Street. Turn right on Pecan Street and travel until it intersects Blackshear Road (you'll see the airport on the other side of the intersection). Turn left on Blackshear and proceed to 5<sup>th</sup> Street (first right turn). Take 5<sup>th</sup> Street until it intersects 2nd Avenue and turn right. Travel a few hundred yards and you'll see Cordele-County Airport.

Occasionally trains may block the two crossings for long periods of time. Remember, you can always go out to the interstate and go from Exit 101 to 102, or vice versa. There is also an overpass on 5th Street, closer to downtown.

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. Laundromat is about a ½ block on right.

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, near downtown.

### ***Where to eat***

We can all recommend the following from experience:

#### *Moderate:*

- Smokies Bar-B-Q (Excellent BBQ; the owner, Steve Southwell has been a very loyal supporter of the glider contest for many years)
- Golden Corral
- Los Compadres (Mexican, outdoor deck)
- El Girasol Mexicana (Excellent, downtown)
- Cracker Barrel
- 16 East Bar and Grille (pleasantly upscale)
- Tri-County Seafood
- TJ's Italian

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#### *Elegant and Sophisticated:*

- Daphne Lodge (steaks and seafood) - A contest favorite at Lake Blackshear
- Cordelia's (Italian) at the Lodge in Georgia Memorial Veterans State Park - upscale

#### *Fast Food:*

- Wendys
- Subway
- McDonalds
- Burger King
- Hardees (next to Colonial Inn)
- Taco Bell
- Pizza Hut
- Zaxbys
- Krystal
- Arbys
- Chick-Fil-A
- Sonic

### Delivery

- Pizza Hut
- Dominos

For necessities, there is a 24-hour Super Wal-Mart with groceries. Harvey's, a locally owned grocery store is also in town.

For technical issues, Wells Ace Hardware is very well-stocked, and there is full size Home Depot behind the Cracker Barrel restaurant. If you have cell phone issues, Verizon Wireless has a large store in Cordele (note that Verizon has super coverage in South Georgia while AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile seem to have spotty coverage away from the Interstate and larger towns).

If you are golfer and have opportunity, don't miss the Georgia Memorial Veterans Park's golf course, it is a beautiful and challenging course. Some of us will go out there for sure... provided there is a rest day or weather doesn't cooperate... for flying that is!...

***Have a great contest!***