

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 is located at Exits 101 and 102 (same as mile markers) on Interstate 75, about 150 miles south of Atlanta and 100 miles north of the Georgia/Florida State Line.

The best way to get to the airport from I-75 is exit at Exit 102. Do not use Exit 104 (Farmers Market Road) as the side road leading to the airport is unpaved and is in rough condition.



- Turn to the west after exiting (8th Avenue)
- Proceed to the first traffic light, then turn right (Pecan St.)
- Follow this road until it T's.
- 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 T- intersection mentioned above. Always watch

for trains when going to the airport from the hotel area!

Oftentimes very long freight trains may block the two crossings for extended periods of time. Remember, you can always go out to Interstate 75 and go from Exit 101 to 102, or vice versa. There is also an overpass on 5th Street, closer to downtown.

AIRPORT:

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.

AMENITIES

Hotels: The hotels are located at Exit 101 off of I-75. Many contest people stay at the Best Western Colonial Inn, which is a block or so west of I-75. The Hotel has been a strong supporter of the Cordele contest for several decades! And they provide a very nice and free (hot) breakfast and special rates for contestants.

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 50 amp service (you'll need a converter plug) with water and power only and no sewer. All sites are assigned by contacting us flycordele@yahoo.com in advance, prior to the contest to request a site. Book early! Unfortunately for those without a sewer hookup, we try to schedule a reasonably priced dump service but oftentimes that may not be available so you will need to travel into town and utilize one of the truck stops for dumps (Pilot at Exit 101 or Loves at Exit 102). Please note that our hosts request that you DO NOT drain grey water onto the ground.

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 self-serve Laundromat (Bubble Up) located on 16th Avenue between Second and Third Streets, across from Ameris Bank. Their machines take only quarters, so bring a good-sized handful. Change for bills can be made at the adjacent gas station.

Ice Machines: There are two self-service ice machines on the way from the hotel to the airport.

- Twice-The-Ice: located at the northern foot of the 5th Street overpass at 8th Avenue.
- Fresh Bagged Ice: located at Pecan Street and 13th Avenue, adjacent to the railroad tracks.

Hardware Stores:

- Wells Ace Hardware, located downtown, is very well-stocked.
- Home Depot is located behind the Cracker Barrel restaurant, accessible from 16th Avenue.

Other Stuff:

- Post Office: Corner of 6th Street and 11th Avenue.
- Banks: Most have offices with ATMs along 16th Avenue.
- The Chamber of Commerce: 502 South Second Street, near 16th Avenue.
- Groceries and necessities: 24-hour Super Wal-Mart with groceries and Aldi, both on 16th Avenue.
- Mobile Phones: All three major carriers have retail outlets along 16th Avenue,
- Golf: Georgia Memorial Veterans Park's golf course, beautiful and challenging course, about 6 miles west of downtown along Highway 280 (16th Avenue).
- Lake Blackshear: Water and Water Sports.

Where To Eat: There are no eating places immediately around the airport, but there are plenty in town. We know can all recommend the following from experience:

Moderate:

- Los Compadres: Very good Mexican, with large outdoor deck.
- El Girasol Mexicana: Excellent, downtown.
- Pancho's Cantina and Grille: Excellent Mexican, located about six miles west of downtown Cordele on Highway 280 (16th Avenue). Can be very busy on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Cracker Barrel.
- 16 East Bar and Grille (pleasantly upscale).
- Tri-County Seafood.
- Hachi Sushi and Japanese Grill.
- Rail House Tavern: Burgers, sandwiches, wings, etc., and full bar and nice craft beer selection, located downtown, near the rail fan train watching platform.

Elegant and Sophisticated:

- Daphne Lodge (steaks and seafood) - A contest favorite at Lake Blackshear, located about six miles west of downtown Cordele on Highway 280 (16th Avenue).

Fast Food:

- Wendy's
- Subway
- McDonalds
- Burger King
- Hardees (next to Colonial Inn)
- Taco Bell
- Pizza Hut
- Firehouse Subs
- Zaxbys
- Arbys
- Chick-Fil-A
- KFC
- Cook-Out

Delivery

- Pizza Hut
- Papa Johns
- Dominos

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. Also your pilot kit will have a spray bottle of Gnat Repellant!
- 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 hydration replenishment liquids (Gatorade, Powerade). Rig your glider early then hydrate again (early means before breakfast).
- Sun Protection – Please use plenty of high SPF lotion and cover up as needed.
- 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.

In closing, other stuff you might want to know:

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 Georgia, South Carolina, Florida 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 Airport, and Eric Richter, Airport 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!