

## Introducing RTMM "Route Safe Altitude" (RSA) for RTMM Simmers.

As you know, at RTMM, we make low and slow flight plans staying often between mountains so we can fly below the weather that is usually there. Flying, particularly in the Misty Fjords area, the weather seems to hover at about 1500 feet. So we typically fly that area at 1200 feet.

When you download the RTMM flight plans.zip and refer to any of the over 700 flight plans, and you will see on each flight plan an altitude level which immediately follows, or is to the right of the "from Name (ICAO)".

IE: Crawfish Lake (CRAF) from Gold River SPB (CAU6)-**1200 RSA**-W-L--(N. Route)----- MFC0131A.pln

Indicated in **RED** is the Route Safe Altitude (RSA) which means if you fly at this altitude you shouldn't hit anything! (This is not the VFR Cruising Altitude or Flight Level\*). For a more scenic hands-on bush feel and a better observatory view of the scenery and terrain fly the flight plan at the Route Safe Altitude (RSA).

If you are flying with Misty Flying Club and using our routes, you will see two altitudes on the MFC schedules which are also both displayed in "Cigar Box".

At the top, there is a window labeled: "**Flight Level**". This altitude refers to the official VFR designated flight level or "cruising altitude" which is made up of the Minimum Sector Altitude (MSA) and the VFR directional cruising altitude value: which is determined by VFR rule for over 3000 feet but under 18,000 feet MSL. We have many flights that are over 3000 feet as well as many that are below 3000 feet AGL but for consistency have indicated all as per VFR directional rule: flying ceiling greater than 3,000 feet AGL and visibility greater than five miles and with directional altitude levels: defined as:

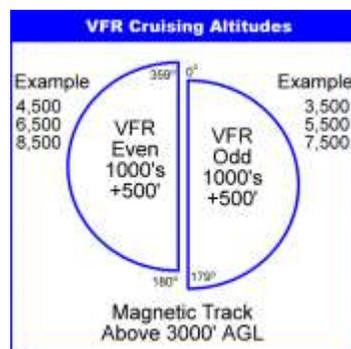
### VFR Cruising Altitude or Flight Level (FL)

Except while holding in a holding pattern of 2 minutes or less, or while turning, each person operating an aircraft under VFR in level cruising flight more than 3,000 feet above the surface shall maintain the appropriate altitude or flight level prescribed below, unless otherwise authorized by ATC:

When operating below 18,000 feet MSL

On a magnetic course of **zero degrees through 179 degrees**, any odd thousand foot MSL altitude +500 feet (such as 3,500, 5,500, or 7,500)

On a magnetic course of **180 degrees through 359 degrees**, any even thousand foot MSL altitude +500 feet (such as 4,500, 6,500, or 8,500)



(East is Odd)

<https://learntofly.ca/vfr-ifr-cruising-altitudes/>

## RTMM Route Safe Altitude (RSA)

At the bottom of the MFC schedule and same displayed in "Cigar Box" is the Route box ("Route").

The altitude in this window for all RTMM Flight plans will reflect is the RTMM Route Safe Altitude (RSA) for that flight or planned route. If you strictly fly the RTMM route with the GPS, and use the RSA, you will be safe.

It is possible to have a Minimum Sector Altitude (MSA) for the area at 8,500 feet and Route Safe Altitude (RSA) at 1200 feet. This is because you are flying BETWEEN, not OVER the mountains in that route.

So for RTMM simmers enjoying the low and slow RTMM Flight Plans, (RTMM\_Flight\_Plans.zip), you can set your altitude on the autopilot, select GPS for navigation, turn it on and sit back and enjoy the scenery. If you prefer a manual fly, try to hold at this RSA and you will maintain a safe flight and still enjoy the scenery: but it's definitely not so easy to maintain the aircraft at a consistent altitude level when manually flying the aircraft but it is definitely more of a challenge.

We are double checking that all of our flight plan routes are safe and these will be indicated by showing "RSA" after the altitude value shown and this will be shown in the flight plan name (ie: **1200 RSA**). If there is no RSA, then that flight plan hasn't been double checked or "RSA certified" so just a heads up: if you fly a flight plan that doesn't show RSA after the names altitude you should be ok but please KEEP YOUR EYES open just in case!

Using the RSA level will put you "down into" the scenery so you can really enjoy the amazing beauty of the areas we fly at RTMM (and we also carry the VFR values as directional altitude levels as being under VFR conditions which will at higher altitudes than the RSA altitudes).

When viewing or loading a RTMM-MFC flight schedule and reflected in "Cigar Box" as illustrated in the fig. below you will see both the VFR Flight level or VFR cruising altitude in the Flight level box (circled in green) as well as the "RTMM Route Safe Altitude (RSA)" which will appear in the Cigar Box Rout, (circled in red).

