

KILM



PILOTS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 6

Sept 12, 2024

NUMBER 6

KILM's Proposed Class C Airspace Update

In the last several years KILM's volume of aircraft traffic and numbers of passenger enplanements, have increased 20-30%. Currently these numbers exceed the FAA minimums for establishing a Class C Airspace by a factor of almost 2.5 times.

The first step to develop the Class C airspace is for the FAA to conduct a Staff Study to determine if there is a necessity for the new airspace, and to examine whether there are any other means by which the problem could be alleviated. This step has been completed. The Class C Airspace has been proposed as a solution and a basic design has been drafted.

The second step is to seek airspace user input before officially proposing the airspace. To do that an ad hoc committee is created. Here is a quote from the regulation:

An ad hoc advisory committee, composed of representatives of local airspace users, must be formed to present input or recommendations to the FAA regarding the proposed design of the Class C airspace area.

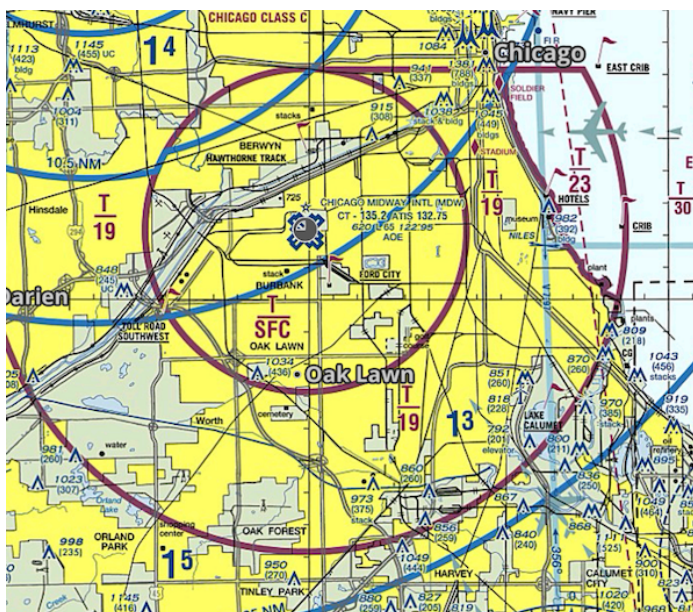
When the ad hoc committee has developed a proposed design for the Class C airspace, again by local airmen, they will draft a report. Then the third step is taken and Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) is issued. The NPRM is supposed to incorporate the user input from the ad hoc committee. The NPRM is published in the Federal Register for a 60 day comment period.



Wilmington's Proposed Class C Airspace

The final step involves addressing all *substantive aeronautical comments* that are made to the NPRM. Then the final description of the Class C airspace will be published with an effective date. Then the new airspace must be publicized so that its appearance is not a surprise to users.

At this point we are in the very early stages of the design of the airspace. At this point, we have two primary concerns. The first involved VFR traffic transiting along the beach under the shelf of the Class C airspace. If the shelf of the Class C airspace is left at the currently proposed 1200 feet MSL then this "VFR Beach" who are not talking with ATC will be compressed between a minimum of 1000 feet AGL and a maximum of the floor of the airspace



Midway Class C Airspace

(1199'). We believe that that will significantly increase the opportunity for midair collisions.

Also noted, is that the aircraft traffic at the Pilot's Ridge airport will be compressed under the proposed airspace. During last week's Controllers meeting, we discussed a higher floor for the Class C airspace along the beach and a cut out for the Pilot's Ridge airport. We recognized that there is a conflict with the minimum altitudes of the instrument approaches for ILM's Runway 35 which cross the beach. Those are some of the topics that the ad hoc committee and the FAA/ATC will have to address.

If you would like to be a member of the ad hoc committee they will conduct their first meeting on *Thursday, October 3, 2024, from 9-11 am, at the ILM Administration Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Terminal Building, 1740 Airport Blvd.*

If you plan to participate, please *RSVP* by emailing info@flyilm.com no later than September 26, 2024.

Wilmington Pilot's Meeting

I would like to invite the Wilmington Pilots to a meeting regarding the proposed Class C upgrade at Wilmington.

The agenda for the meeting will discussion of:

- 1) The reasons given for need to upgrade the airspace.
- 2) Review the proposed design of the new Charlie Airspace
- 3) A review of the process of the Ad Hoc Committee's process for the airspace
- 4) Gather input from the pilots regarding the design of the airspace
- 5) Develop recommendations on behalf of the Wilmington Pilot's to be made to the Ad Hoc Committee

Join us at Ponysaurus Brewing Co.
214 Market Street, Wilmington.

(<https://www.ponysaurusbrewing.com/ilm>) Tuesday
Evening September 17, 6PM. Pizza and Beer!

Special Thanks to Mark Thoman for helping to digest
the Class C process and information!

Upcoming Events 2024

NC Aviation Museum & Hall of Fame Sept. 21
Fly-In, (9 AM – 4 PM) Asheboro Airport (KHI)

South Carolina Breakfast Club. Sept. 22
Laurens County Airport (KLUX)

Triple Tree Fly-In Sept. 23 - 29
Triple Tree Aerodrome (SC00)

Wilmington's GA Day Oct. 26
9 AM-1 PM