Sample Radio Calls

The following sample communications will help you frame various types of radio calls.

When in doubt, remember the four Ws:
• Who you’re calling
• Who you are
• Where you are
• What you want

Class D Airspace

Departing

When ready to taxi:
- Pilot: Lancaster Ground, Cherokee 8121K, west ramp, VFR, 4,500 to Frederick with [information] Sierra.

When ready for takeoff:
- Pilot: Lancaster Tower, Cherokee 8121K, Runway 26, ready for departure.
- Tower: Cherokee 8121K, Runway 26, cleared for takeoff.
- Pilot: Cleared for takeoff Runway 26, Cherokee 8121K.

Arriving

- Pilot: Lancaster Tower, Cherokee 8121K, 10 [miles] southwest at 2,500, inbound for landing with [information] Sierra.
- Pilot: Report entering left downwind, Cherokee 8121K.
- . . . .
- Pilot: Cherokee 8121K entering left downwind Runway 31.
- Tower: Cherokee 21K, cleared to land Runway 31.
- Pilot: Cleared to land Runway 31, Cherokee 21K.
Class C or TRSA Airspace

Departing

When ready to taxi:

Pilot: Greensboro Ground, Cherokee 8121K, general aviation ramp, VFR, 5,500 to Raleigh with [information] Sierra.

Ground: Cherokee 8121K, Greensboro Ground, cleared to Raleigh, maintain VFR at or below 3,000, departure frequency 118.5, squawk 4234, advise when ready to taxi.

Pilot: Cherokee 8121K is cleared to Raleigh, maintain VFR at or below 3,000, departure frequency 118.5, squawk 4234, we’re ready to taxi.

Ground: Cherokee 21K, Runway 23 Left, taxi via Kilo, hold short Runway 23 Left.

Pilot: Greensboro Ground, Cherokee 21K, Runway 23 Left, taxi via Kilo, hold short Runway 23 Left.

When ready for takeoff:

Pilot: Greensboro Tower, Cherokee 8121K, Runway 23, ready for departure.

Tower: Cherokee 8121K, Runway 23, cleared for takeoff.

Pilot: Cleared for takeoff, Runway 23, Cherokee 8121K.

Arriving


ATC: Cherokee 8121K, Greensboro Approach, squawk 2150 and ident.

Pilot: Squawk 2150, Cherokee 8121K.

ATC: Cherokee 21K, radar contact, fly heading 110, descend and maintain 4,500, maintain VFR.

Pilot: Fly heading 110, descend and maintain 4,500, maintain VFR, Cherokee 21K.

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Class B Airspace

Departing

Class B departure calls follow the same format as Class C or TRSA airspace. However, you may need to contact Clearance Delivery prior to calling Ground and provide them the four Ws.

Arriving


ATC: Cherokee 8121K, Charlotte Approach, squawk 4323 and ident.

Pilot: Squawk 4323, Cherokee 8121K.

ATC: Cherokee 21K, radar contact, cleared to enter Class Bravo airspace, fly heading 020, descend and maintain 3,000, maintain VFR.

Pilot: Cleared to enter Class Bravo airspace, fly heading 020, descend and maintain 3,000, maintain VFR, Cherokee 21K.

Transiting


ATC: Cherokee 8121K, Seattle Approach, squawk 3121 and ident.

Pilot: Squawk 3121, Cherokee 8121K.

ATC: Cherokee 21K, radar contact 18 miles southwest of SeaTac, Seattle altimeter 29.88, cleared through Class Bravo direct Arlington, descend and maintain 5,500, maintain VFR.

Pilot: Cleared through Class Bravo direct Arlington, descend and maintain 5,500, maintain VFR, Cherokee 21K.
Opening a VFR Flight Plan

Pilot: Raleigh Radio, Cherokee 8121K on 122.2.
Pilot: Cherokee 8121K from Greensboro to Knoxville at 1835 Zulu.
Flight Service: Cherokee 21K, flight plan activated at 1835 Zulu, Greensboro altimeter 30.02. We’d appreciate any pilot reports on Flight Watch, 122.0.

Requesting/Canceling Flight Following

Requesting

Pilot: Manchester Approach, Cherokee 8121K.
ATC: Cherokee 8121K, Manchester Approach.
Pilot: Cherokee 8121K over Concord VOR at 6,500, en route Trenton Mercer, request flight following.
ATC: Cherokee 21K, squawk 3314.
Pilot: Squawk 3314, Cherokee 21K.

Canceling

Pilot: Manchester Approach, Cherokee 8121K would like to cancel flight following.
ATC: Cherokee 8121K, radar service terminated, squawk VFR, frequency change approved.
Pilot: Squawk VFR, Cherokee 8121K.