

SAFETY GRAM 4.0

February 2022

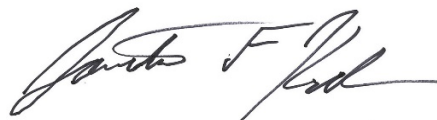


Air Force Aero Clubs,

This month while searching for a new topic I came across a hazardous condition pilots can experience in VMC that I was unfamiliar with called Flat Light. Flat Light is caused when there are completely overcast skies accompanied with fresh snow cover on the ground or over flying over large bodies of water. In these conditions there are no shadows and other terrain features can be masked which create a visual illusion similar to if you were experiencing whiteout conditions from blowing snow or dust. The difference is flat light can occur in VMC below the overcast skies with unlimited visibility being reported. It is also particularly dangerous because pilots tend to experience visual illusions in these conditions which has been attributed to CFIT (Controlled Flight Into Terrain). Proper preflight planning, recognition of the phenomena, and basic understanding of and trusting in the flight instruments can ensure safety during these conditions. For some more details on the topic including pictures please reference this link: <https://www.boldmethod.com/learn-to-fly/weather/how-overcast-skies-and-snow-creates-flat-light-conditions-in-flight-winter-day/>

Additionally, this month I wanted to provide some information I received from both the HAF/A3 and AFMC/A3 regarding 5G interference with radio altimeters. Although I suspect a majority of Aero Club Aircraft don't have systems susceptible to 5G interference I wanted to still provide the attached FCIF and SII so if there are any Aero Club aircraft that do have systems that could be potentially affected they are aware and maintain a higher vigilance as the new 5G infrastructure is rolled out this year. If any members experience 5G interference please report it to your local safety office IAW your own MAJCOM directives and to us at the AFSVC.

Fly Safely,



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