

## Private Pilot Guide – Cross Country

*(This is a general overview and guide and not a comprehensive syllabus. Feel free to search YouTube and other internet sources for some good videos and other ways of explaining these concepts.)*

**About This Phase:** In the cross country phase of your training, you will begin to fly to airports other than your home airport. You will learn how to plan cross-country flights, airspace, GPS and VOR navigation, navigating by instruments only, as well as short and soft field takeoffs and landings.

*Abbreviations key used in study guide:*

- AFH - Airplane Flying Handbook

- ACS - Airmen Certification Standards

- PHAK - Pilots Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge

- POH - Pilots Operating Handbook

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## Lesson One:

### Homework beforehand:

- AFH Chapters 5 and 8 – Short and soft field takeoffs and landings
- AFH Chapter 17 – Inadvertent VFR Flight into IMC
- PHAK Chapter 17 – Spatial Disorientation and Illusions
- PHAK Chapter 15 – Navigation (VORs)
- ACS – Short and Soft Field Takeoffs and Landings
- Bring foggles or a hood

**Ground:** Specialty (short and soft field) takeoffs and landings, basic VOR navigation

**Maneuvers:** Short and soft field takeoffs and landings. Do a couple at RCR, then go over to OXI for a soft field landing in the grass. Introduce VOR navigation on the way over. Introduce simulated instrument.

### Homework:

- KSBN frequencies: ATIS, Approach, Tower, Ground, Clearance, Departure
- LiveATC.net
- PHAK Chapter 14 – ATC Instructions
- PHAK Chapter 15 – Airspace
- AIM Chapter 3 – Airspace
- AIM Chapter 4 – Air Traffic Control: Section 1, Section 2, Section 3
- AIM Chapter 5 – Air Traffic Procedures
- ATC Radio Communications Document

## Lesson Two:

**Ground:** ATC Communications, role play

**Flight:** fly to SBN for cookies (ATC communications practice), incorporate short field takeoff

### Homework:

- PHAK Chapter 15 – Navigation
- ACS – Section VI. Navigation

## Lesson Three:

**Ground:** Cross country flight planning. Create flight plan for long cross country. Three stops, total 150 miles long (i.e. RCR, FWA, MIE, RCR). Plan the first leg or two and leave last leg for homework.

### Homework:

- Finish flight plan for long cross country. Three stops, total 150 miles long (i.e. RCR, FWA, MIE, RCR)

## Lesson Four:

**Ground:** Go over weather brief, check flight plan, ATC frequencies, airspace

**Maneuvers:** dual long cross country, short field takeoff, pilotage/dead reckoning to FWA, VOR to MIE, GPS/more pilotage back to RCR, simulated instrument for one leg if student isn't overwhelmed.

### Homework:

- Plan solo cross country (same route)

## Lesson Five:

**Ground:** Check weather briefing, flight plan and endorsements

**Maneuvers:** long solo cross country, incorporate tower landings

### Homework:

- AIM Chapter 2 – Airport lighting
- AFH Chapter 10 – Night Operations
- PHAK Chapter 17 - Illusions
- ACS – Night Operations
- Make a flight plan for RCR, SBN, RCR
- FAR 61.57(b) - Night currency (tab)
- FAR 91.209 – Position lights (tab)
- FAR 1.1 – Definition of night for logbook (tab)
- Three definitions of Night explained: <https://www.boldmethod.com/learn-to-fly/regulations/logging-night-time-and-night-landings-explained/>

## Lesson Six:

**Ground:** night definitions and illusions, go over flight plan

**Maneuvers:** Night intro. Landings, fly to SBN and back, one landing without landing light.

### Homework:

- Plan night cross country RCR, ANQ, FWA, RCR

## Lesson Seven:

**Ground:** Go over weather brief and flight plan.

**Maneuvers:** Night x-country. Fly to ANQ, FWA, RCR. Incorporate some simulated instrument and VORs if possible. Example: pilotage/dead reckoning to ANQ, VOR to FWA, GPS/simulated instrument to RCR.

**Homework:**

- POH, ACS, PHAK review emergency procedures, carb ice
- PHAK, ACS, AIM – review weather

## Lesson Eight:

**Ground:** check flight plan

**Maneuvers:** more solo cross country, finish solo tower landings requirement

**Homework:**

- ACS maneuvers standards
- Maneuvers Study Guide

## Lesson Nine:

**Ground:**

**Maneuvers:** Solo maneuver practice

**Homework:**

- Review airspace, weather theory, weather briefings, performance charts, weight and balance.

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