

AERONAUTICAL CHARTING MEETING
Charting Group
Meeting 18-01 – April 25 - 26, 2018

RECOMMENDATION DOCUMENT

FAA Control # 18-01-321

Subject: Grand Canyon VFR Aeronautical Chart Update

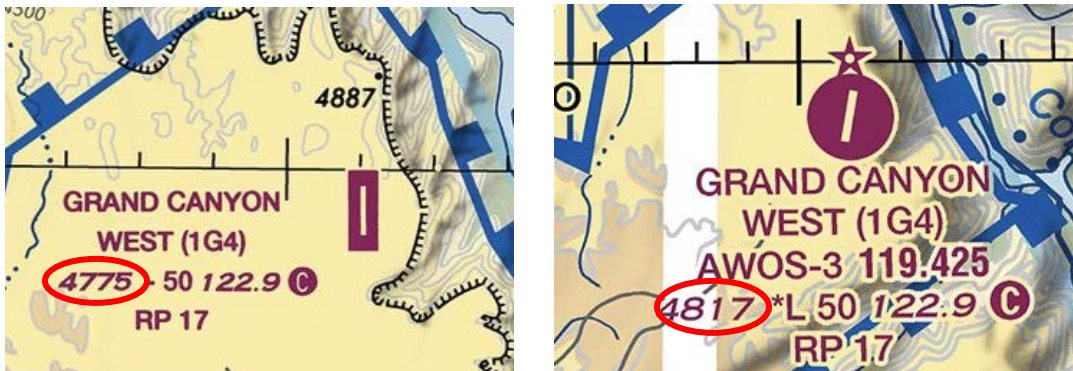
Background/Discussion:

The Grand Canyon VFR Aeronautical Chart, 3rd edition, was last updated in April 2001. The FAA notes that “this chart is updated as required.” Due to its age, some of the information it contains has become erroneous and pilots have lost confidence in it being accurate.

Some of the out of date information is highlighted below:

- Chart states to “contact local FSS for NOTAM information” – The consolidation of FSS occurred in 2005
- Airfield elevations have changed for several airports
- Frequencies and NAVAID data has changed
- Airports are charted that no longer exist
- Incorrect altitude for commercial air tour operator route
- Sector altitudes should be verified

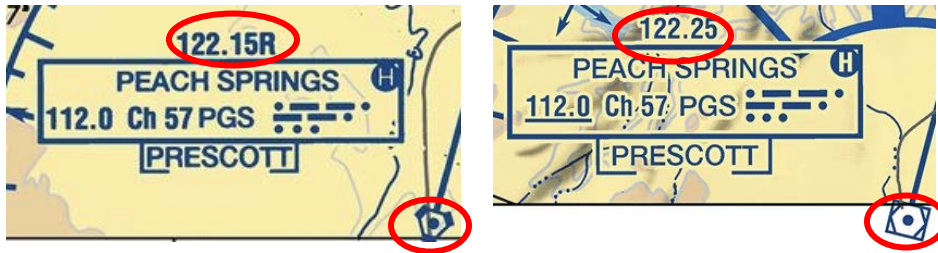
Specific differences highlighted below. The 2001 Grand Canyon VFR Aeronautical Chart is shown on the left, and the current Las Vegas Sectional Chart is shown on the right.



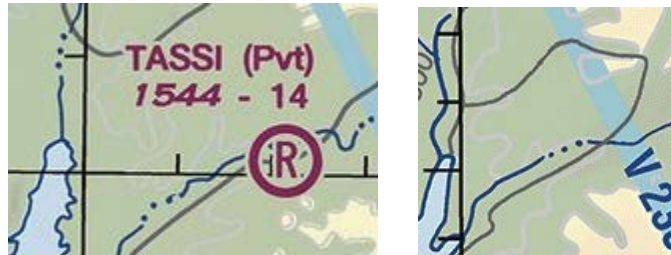
Differences in field elevation



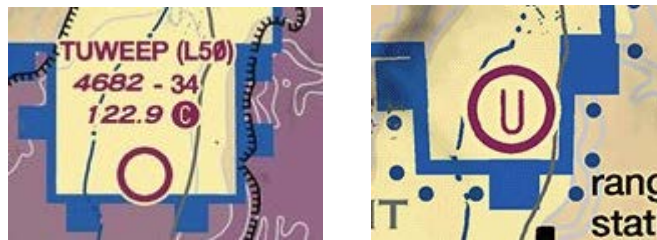
Differences in runway length



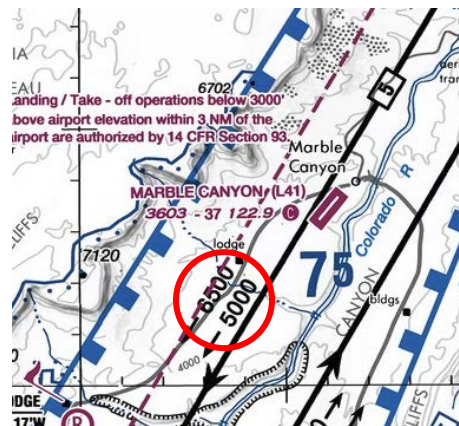
Differences in FSS frequency and type of NAVAID



Airport no longer exists



Tuweep Airport status change



From Grand Canyon Commercial Air Tour Chart: Marble Canyon Sector Black 5 Route altitude of 5000' MSL is not authorized per FAR § 93.307; only 6000' MSL is authorized

Recommendations:

The FAA should update the Grand Canyon VFR Aeronautical Chart and Grand Canyon Commercial Air Tour Chart.

Comments:

Submitted by: Justin Jager, National Park Service; Rune Duke AOPA

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Date: April 2, 2018

MEETING 18-01

Rune Duke, AOPA, briefed the new recommendation. Rune stated that the Grand Canyon VFR Aeronautical Chart was last updated in 2001. He pointed out that there is outdated information on the chart and pilots can no longer have confidence in the data. He asserts that this chart is used heavily by commercial operators and requests the FAA update both sides of the Grand Canyon VFR Aeronautical Chart for both General Aviation and for Commercial Air Tour Operators.

Rick Fecht, FAA/AJV-5223, explained that this chart is not on a regular update schedule and is normally only updated when requested by Air Traffic. He said that his office recognized several years ago that the chart required update and reached out to Air Traffic representatives in the region at that time requesting assistance, but had trouble getting Air Traffic to take action. He said that his office would engage Air Traffic and the Western Service Center again for an update.

Ted Thompson, Jeppesen, said that there should be a process in place to update this chart on a regular basis. Rich Boll, NBAA, agreed and added that there are regulatory implications to this chart. Rich felt that it should be on a regular revision date schedule.

There was a lot of concern expressed in the audience that this chart has not been kept up to date and overwhelming support for updating the chart as soon as possible.

Brian Durham, FAA/AJV-W22, was in attendance from the Western Service Area (WSA) Operations Support Group (OSG). He volunteered to take this recommendation back to his management to prompt their engagement.

Lt. Col. Turner, USAF, stated that he had recently flown through this area as a general aviation pilot and found it difficult to determine what the actual procedures are. Rune suggested that the FAA should also look at the regulatory language that appears on the chart. Valerie Watson, FAA/AJV-553, stated that AJV-5 can communicate these user concerns to the WSA OSG, but said that AJV-5 is not authorized to revise regulatory language or create new ATC procedures. Brian Durham reiterated his assistance as liaison to the Western Service Area OSG.

STATUS: OPEN

ACTION: Rick Fecht, FAA/AJV-5223, will coordinate with his management and the Western Service Center on an update to the Grand Canyon VFR Aeronautical Chart. He will also look into establishing a regular update cycle.

ACTION: Brian Durham, FAA/AJV-W22, will take the recommendation to update the Grand Canyon VFR Aeronautical Chart to Western Service Area management.

ACTION: Rick Fecht, FAA/AJV-5223 and Rune Duke, AOPA, will look into a revision to the regulatory language published on the Grand Canyon VFR Aeronautical Chart.

MEETING 18-02

Valerie Watson, FAA/AJV-553, reviewed the issue. Rick Fecht, FAA/AJV-5223, provided an update on progress made since last the last ACM. Rick stated that the Visual Charting Team has been working with Brian Durham, FAA/AJV-W22, and the Western Service Area to update the Grand Canyon VFR Aeronautical Chart and that a revised edition will be published on 28 Feb 2019. Rick added that from this cycle forward, the Grand Canyon chart will be updated every three years. Rune Duke, AOPA, the original proponent of the recommendation, expressed his appreciation. There was agreement to close this item.

STATUS: CLOSED