

Harriman and West Airport to Albany VOR, 097° inbound

KAQW to ALB VOR

The flight begins on Rwy 29 of Harriman and West airport in North Adams, Mass. After takeoff, exit the left traffic pattern and intercept the 097° radial of the Albany VOR . Track inbound to Albany Int'l airport and land on Rwy 28.

Go to www.airnav.com to see if there is anything that we should be aware of regarding the Harriman airport, Albany Int'l, or the Albany VOR.

The remarks for the Harriman airport warn us of mountain ranges nearby:

Mountain ranges 9100 ft. north at elev. 1894 ft.; 4300 ft. north at elev. 2254 ft.; 10,800 ft. south at elev. 2951 ft., and 12,800 ft. south at elev. 2690 ft.

Well, that's certainly worth knowing. We better not stray too far north or south of Harriman until we gain some altitude. Harriman's field elevation is 654 ft.

Information on Albany Int'l airport is also interesting. Besides obtaining the field elevation of 285 ft., we learn that deer and birds can either be on or in the vicinity of the field. We'll have to keep a watch out for that when landing.

From the same website we learn that the Albany VOR suffers usability limitations for many segments. The one that concerns us most is:

... from 100° – 135° beyond 8 nm below 10,000 ft.

Well, we will be tracking inbound on the 097° radial, only 3° removed from the segment that is unusable beyond 8 nm below 10,000 ft. Best that we pay attention to our track since we won't be at 10,000 ft. altitude. We infer from that that there is a mountain range 8 nm distant from the VOR in that segment.

Armed with this information, we're ready to start our flight from Harriman and West airport. Set the Nav receiver to 115.3 MHz. and rotate the OBS to 277°, the reciprocal of the 097° radial. Start the takeoff roll and remain vigilant of the surrounding mountain ranges while climbing out after lift off.

Intercept Albany's 097° radial using the same techniques as intercepting an outbound radial except for the presence of the TO flag. The westbound flight will be at 6,500 ft. You will be cleared for a straight-in approach to Albany's runway 28. Enjoy a cup of coffee in the pilot's lounge on the completion of the flight.

Repeat this flight one more time, then fly it again with a 33 kt. wind from 350°.