



Untowered Airport Communications

Prior to Takeoff

Each non-towered airport will have a specific radio frequency assigned. This is the Common Traffic Advisory Frequency or CTAF. It is shown on Sectional Charts and in the A/FD portion of the Chart Supplement publication. You must know what this frequency is. On this frequency you state your intentions so that other pilots know what you are doing. It's a simple issue of safety.

Before you taxi from your parking spot at the Centerville Airport, press the microphone button and say:
"Centerville traffic. Cessna 12345 is taxiing from the ramp to the runup area for Runway 7. Centerville."

When you prepare for takeoff say:

"Centerville traffic. Cessna 12345 is taking Runway 7 for departure to the west. Centerville."

It's very painless. Tell them who you are, where you are, and what you are doing. It is important to add the name of the airport at the beginning and end of each transmission. Multiple airports will share the same frequency. Pilots listening must know from which airport you are operating.

Prior to Landing

As you approach a non-towered field, you should be listening to the CTAF to determine which runway is in use and what other pilots in the area are doing. They should be communicating their intentions over this frequency. As you get closer to the airport, make your own calls on the CTAF alerting pilots to your presence and intentions.

"Centerville Traffic. Cessna 12345, ten miles north at 3,500, inbound landing. Centerville."

As you close in on the airport, make another call.

"Centerville Traffic. Cessna 12345 four miles north at 2,500 feet. Will be entering on the left downwind for Runway 7. Centerville."

As you enter the traffic pattern, plan on making a call announcing your location on each leg of the traffic pattern.

"Centerville Traffic. Cessna 12345, left downwind for Runway 7. Landing. Centerville."

After you have landed and cleared the runway:

"Centerville Traffic. Cessna 12345, clear of Runway 7. Taxiing to parking. Centerville."