

VFR flight following

What is the proper radio call?

Initial call to ATC:

"Center, Skyhawk 12345, request flight following."

It's important to wait to give your full request until ATC has acknowledged your call. Wait at least four or five seconds for a response. If there is no response, you can try again. Remember to continue to use your full call sign until ATC shortens it.

"Skyhawk 345, squawk (code), go ahead."

Enter your squawk code and continue with your request. This should include your position, current altitude, type of aircraft and your destination (preferably in that order). If you are requesting VFR practice approaches, ATC will want to be notified.

"Skyhawk 345, is 5 miles north of Salem airport, 5,500 feet, (Include type if not stated in your callsign), we would like to request flight following to the Medford airport." OR "....request flight following to Redmond with multiple practice approaches."

ATC will then radar identify you and will likely issue you an altimeter setting:

"Skyhawk 345, radar contact (5 miles north of Salem), the Salem altimeter is 29.95"

If you are doing practice approaches, do not list the approaches until ATC has asked you to. Some controllers will prefer that you state only your next approach and some controllers will ask you to list all the approaches you will be requesting (in order).

"Skyhawk 345, say approach request(s)."

Indicate with each approach whether it will be a missed approach or full stop.

"Request VOR-A to RDM, missed approach, RNAV Y RWY 5 to RDM, missed approach, followed by the RNAV Z 16 approach into BDN, full stop, Skyhawk 345."