

ROCKY MOUNTAIN METRO, DENVER RNAV (GPS) RWY 30R

The airport on a mesa lies downwind of the Continental Divide.

BY JASON BLAIR

FOR THOSE HEADING to the Denver area—especially those who plan to explore the north side of town—Rocky Mountain Metro Airport (KBJC) gives pilots a great option. More frequently used by general aviation traffic, this airport offers parallel runways and multiple FBOs.

In the event of IFR weather, a pilot might choose to use the RNAV (GPS) Rwy 30R approach. In the springtime, pilots should watch for mountain-wave-induced winds that can hammer the mesa upon which the airport sits. Summer brings the thunderstorm season, though cells are often widely spread and easy to spot visually. A few other things stick out on this approach that a pilot should note before they head inbound.

G MINIMUMS FOR WAAS AND NON-WAAS

MULTIPLE IAFS

Approaching from the

south, a pilot might choose

NSPYR or if from the

north or east, ROKXX as

the first point they select

on their GPS to transition

onto the courses for this

approach. Each of these

waypoints offers a pilot

an opportunity to select

a most efficient position

from which to get estab-

lished onto the approach

Not something you see

on all approaches, this

approach has an inter-

section that has a "Man-

datory" altitude noted.

When a pilot transitions

from the PLAAY fix to

the LAWNG waypoint,

they're expected to be at

7,000 feet msl, not above

or below it. It is not a min-

imum altitude-in this

case, it is a mandatory

altitude. This is most

commonly used when

ATC needs to route traf-

fic across points where

over or underlying air-

space may have other

traffic transiting at differ-

14

ent altitudes.

and continue inbound.

ALTITUDE AT LAWNG

MANDATORY

Knowing what approach minimums are applicable for the equipment in your aircraft is important. In this case, the two main approach minimums that most aircraft have to choose between are LPV and LNAV. Offering both of these options, the approach allows an aircraft capable of receiving WAAS to fly to LPV minimums that are lower than those for an aircraft not equipped with WAAS. Those without must fly to the LNAV minimums.

A pilot will need to know what equipment they have and use it to select the proper minimums as they fly down the approach. In lower weather conditions, it might be the difference between getting in or not. Plus, the LPV will offer the pilot a GPS/WAAS-derived glide slope they can follow for a stabilized approach.

WHEN TO GO MISSED

With "going missed climbing arrows" depicted at multiple points from the 1.0 nm point with a "1" number note and a "V" (visual descent point), and beyond that, an "M" at the RW30R point, a pilot might get confused at when they really need to go missed on this approach. To determine which missed approach point (MAP) to use, refer back to the question of which minimums apply. For the "1" note indication, going missed would happen only if the pilot

was flying the approach as an LNAV (non-WAAS) approach. The RW30R point would be applicable to LPV or LNAV/VNAV approach minimums and would require the pilot to go missed at the decision altitude along the glide slope—if the runway environment was not in sight.

MISSED PROCEDURE NOT TO SCALE

The missed approach takes a pilot first on a climb straight ahead to 6,300 feet and then up to 10,300 feet after a right turn to the HYGEN waypoint-and it has a note that says it is "Not to Scale." This is a hint to the pilot that there may be "some distance" between the MAP and the missed approach holding point. To get the depiction to fit on the chart, they need to do this sometimes. It means the pilot will need to be ready for a shortor in some cases longerdistance to where they will arrive at the holding point. You'll want to be ready to read the distance from your GPS box as you transition.

JASON BLAIR is a flight instructor, an FAA examiner, and an author in the general aviation and training communities.

