

[Click here to launch Nantucket Memorial Airport
AirportMonitor immediately](#)

Welcome to the new version of Nantucket Memorial Airport's (ACK) Internet Flight Tracking System – AirportMonitor v 2.0 Gold.

Here's what's new!

- **Pause/Resume:** You can now pause the flight activity, click on flights in pause mode to see who they are, then resume where you left off, (works in both live and replay mode) – useful for taking the time to find the flight you want at your own pace
- **Fast Forward** in replay mode lets you choose faster replay speeds, to view the flight you want quicker
- **Color-coding for alternate airports** – a new color for flights from nearby airports local helps clarify and sort traffic
- **Helicopter identification** – some helicopters, depending on their speed and flight behavior, will be identified by a black helicopter icon (helicopters that are flying like airplanes may still be identified by a black airplane icon).
- **Online help page** – frequently asked questions and topics are now conveniently located right on the application

If this is your first time using AirportMonitor, we recommend that you first read the material on this page to familiarize yourself with how it works. If you choose to bypass this page, you can always access the help page on AirportMonitor.

Using AirportMonitor

AirportMonitor shows the flight tracks of aircraft arriving and departing to and from ACK, and from other airports throughout the region. It also shows aircraft transiting through our airspace.

- **Green** aircraft icons represent departures from ACK
- **Blue** aircraft icons represent arrivals to ACK
- **Black** aircraft icons represent aircraft operating to or from another airport in the region, general aviation aircraft, or aircraft that are transiting through the region at high altitudes
- **Red** indicates that you have selected a specific aircraft by clicking on it with your computer mouse

The size of the airplane icons is the same regardless of which type of aircraft it represents. At closer zoom levels, the size of the plane icon is larger than at wider zoom levels, to make the screen easier to view, and to simulate the effect of a changing “bird’s eye view.”



Zoom and PAN

Just to the right of the map you will notice 5 buttons with corresponding zoom settings ranging from 5 miles to 80 miles. In order to change the preset zoom level, just click the button corresponding to the zoom level you desire.

Then using the compass (*shown on your left*) click the direction you desire. The middle button will bring you back to starting center point. The panning function works for the 5 mile and 10 mile (2 pans in any direction) and the 20 mile (1 pan in any direction). There is no panning for the 40 and 80 mile maps.

Remember: First select the zoom level, then pan.

General Aviation Identification

“General Aviation” (GA) is a term that covers both small, private planes as well as corporate jets. One way these are divided is into “VFR” (“Visual Flight Rules,” generally the smaller, private propeller aircraft) and “IFR” (“Instrument Flight Rules,” generally the larger private or corporate jets).

If a GA aircraft is flying “VFR,” it will often be identified by the software as a radio frequency code “1200” with altitude; and it will not contain aircraft type, origin or destination (this limited information on some GA aircraft is due to the way flight plans are filed).

If a GA aircraft is flying “IFR”, AirportMonitor will usually have all of the same information fields available as for scheduled airline flights.

Helicopters are usually represented by black helicopter icons, although they may also show as a black airplane icon instead.



“Current” Mode

The default view for AirportMonitor is “Current,” which is the actual flight activity around ACK, with a 10-minute delay for security.

When you click on a flight in “current” mode, it will display SOME of that flight’s identification (limited in current mode for security):

- Aircraft type
- Altitude



“Pause” Mode

When you click on “Pause”, it will pause the display for viewing. You can click on any plane icon while in pause, and it will display the available flight information. Clicking “Restart” will pick up the flight tracking where you left off (to get back to the current time, hit “Current”). Pause and Resume work in both Current and Replay modes.

Replay Mode

AirportMonitor makes all flights available in “replay mode” and makes them available up to three months for past flight activity to be played back at any time. This makes it easy to review flight activity at your leisure.

Flight numbers become active for a given flight one hour after it has first appeared on AirportMonitor. When you click on a plane in replay mode, “Airline/Flight number” and “Origin and Destination” airports are added to the other information available in current mode (“aircraft type” and “altitude”).

To operate the replay, use the pull-down menus at the top of the page and enter the corresponding date and time you wish (using the 24-hour clock system), and then press the Start Replay button. To end the replay and return to the 10-minute delay mode press the “Current” button.

Replay Mode Speed

In Replay Mode you have the option to choose the speed of the aircraft on your screen. This is useful for "fast-forwarding" to a flight or track of interest without waiting for it to appear in real-time. First choose the date and time of replay; then select the playback speed you desire; then click on "replay". You can also adjust the speed of playback after you are already in replay mode.



You also have the option to



in Replay Mode – it works exactly the same way as it does in “Current” mode. (see above)

Help Page

Click this button on the top right corner of the AirportMonitor page to receive troubleshooting tips and answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Understanding Airline and Aircraft codes

The information contained in some of the data fields is encoded to conform to standard FAA contractions (or shorthand). If you wish to decode the information in the Flight ID, Aircraft Type, and Origin and Destination fields please click on the following links:

- [Aircraft Type](#)
- [Airline Code](#)
- [Airport Identifier](#)

A Word about Radar

Aircraft tracking radar, and the software that supports it, while highly reliable, is also complex. Sometimes circumstances can interfere with the signal, causing temporary distortions. For example, you will probably notice that an aircraft flying directly over ACK may temporarily disappear from the screen and then reappear away from the airport. This is due to the aircraft passing directly over the radar antenna and the temporary loss of signal. You may also notice aircraft icons sometimes “dropping off” and/or suddenly doing unusual things. This is especially true in the area immediately around ACK, but could also occur away from the airport as well. These “ghost” aircraft are due to radar reflections from around the airport, and possibly from terrain and meteorological conditions farther away from ACK.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS/INFORMATION

- AirportMonitor is designed to run on any computer that supports Java Applets and JavaScript.
- A reasonable amount of memory is necessary. A minimum 64 MB of RAM is recommended.
- AirportMonitor runs best in Netscape or Internet Explorer version 3.0 and higher. JavaScript and Java must be enabled in your browser.
- AirportMonitor may take some time to load and begin playing, depending on the speed of your communication link and computer processor. The performance of AirportMonitor will be adversely affected by slow or intermittent Internet connections.
- AirportMonitor is a resource intensive application that is best run without any other applications open at the same time.
- The optimal screen resolution for viewing this site is 1024 x 768

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