

Pilot Ratings Program off to a Flying Start

Brandon ('bcarter755')
BVA Administration Team


We are glad to inform you that there are 48 active participants enrolled in the Pilot Ratings Program (PRP), the self-study pilot training program released in December that aims to further procedural knowledge for flying within the ATC system. In case you aren't already participating, the PRP consists of 3 VFR and 11 IFR flights, each with reading material regarding a certain skill, as well as a flight to be flown under ATC coverage to officially earn that rating. The PRP suits both novice and even real world pilots—some of the more advanced flights focus on skills such as correctly flying DME arcs as well as various non-precision approaches. You can learn more about the program by visiting the PRP Website at: <http://bostonvirtualatc.com/prp>

Also, Congratulations to Cameron ('CaptCamShu'), Chris ('ChrisOlmstead'), Cody ('tysmi'), Domenic ('leadbottom1'), Keith ('kk1582'), and Larry ('Bulletman70'), who have each earned all fourteen PRP ratings!

For those currently participating in the PRP, please be sure that you remember to request with the controller via voice or

FlightDesk message first that you are looking to complete a PRP flight. Asking first is the only way to ensure that your flight will be tracked appropriately by controllers. Additionally, when you file your flight plan, remember to put the flight you are attempting in the 'comments' section. Finally, if you haven't already done so, you can get your very own, customized PRP forum signature that is automatically updated when you earn a new rating. Read more about that by clicking [HERE](#).

We're pleased to see the widespread success of the program, and we hope that this excellent participation continues in the future. If you have any comments or suggests for the program, please let us know by posting in the Virtual FBO section of the BVA Forums, located [HERE](#). We look forward to seeing your username on the PRP Roster!



Cape Air Virtual >>
Pilot of the Month

Each month, Cape Air Virtual recognizes the pilot who has the most hours for the airline. For January, that pilot is Bill ('braines1'), who has flown a total of 44.1 hours. Congratulations Bill!

New Event Reminder Text Messaging Service

Tom ('tofutwitch11')
Social Media

BVA is proud to announce a brand new way to receive updates and reminders about our upcoming events: text messages! By subscribing, you will be able to receive an event reminder in the form of a text message a few hours before each event is set to begin. Signing up is simple: all you have to do is text 'BVA' to the short code '75309,' and you will automatically begin receiving event updates and reminders on your phone! Should you no longer wish to receive updates, simply text 'STOP

BVA' to '75309,' and you will be unsubscribed from the service. Remember that in addition to text messages, event updates and reminders are always posted to our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Google+](#) pages.

NOTE: Standard messaging rates charged by your mobile carrier may apply. For more information about BVA's text message carrier and the possibility of being charged, click [HERE](#). If you have additional questions, comments, or concerns about this service, please email socialmedia@bostonvirtualatc.com.

Congratulations to our Captain Sim Prize Pack Winners!

Evan ('evanet')
BVA Administration Team

Over 180 members participated in the Captain Sim draw as part of the Member Opinion Survey we ran this year. We are proud to announce the winners of the draw are:

- boatsisahead
- Dharbold
- captharmrabb

Thank you for the support from everyone who took the time to complete the lengthy survey. The A-Team is reviewing and analyzing responses now and will provide a full report to the community in a future Logan Informer.



Captain Sim.



Regional Circuit



Tuesday, February 7
(8-11pm ET)

KASE (Aspen) &
KCOS (Colorado Springs)

Our controllers fully staff two airports and provide complete ATC coverage for flights between the two; pilots are encouraged to file preferred routes and can expect multiple handoffs and busy frequencies throughout the event

Domestic Journey



Sunday, February 19
(1-4pm ET)

KBOS (Boston) &
CYYZ (Toronto)

The Domestic Journey provides BVA pilots with the opportunity to enjoy medium-haul flights across North America with air traffic control coverage from gate-to-gate.

Pack the Pattern



Sunday, February 26
(8-10pm ET)

KOMA (Omaha)

Pilots are encouraged to fly into the event or fly IFR or VFR circuits of a busy Class Bravo airport, with full ATC coverage for the entire evening (including Clearance, Ground, multiple Tower and Approach controllers, and maybe even a Center!)

Fly-In



Sunday, February 12
(8-11pm ET)

Northern California
(KOAK, KCCR, KHWD, KSQL)

Tower (Local) Controllers will feature several small airports designed for General Aviation aircraft. Fly IFR or VFR within controlled airspace; general aviation aircraft (anything from a Cessna to a LearJet) are preferred.

European Tour



To Be Determined

We're taking our popular Regional Circuit concept across the pond to Europe! Our controllers will fully staff two airports 70-200nm apart. Pilots are encouraged to fly between the two airports and enjoy full ATC coverage gate-to-gate.

Getaway



January 27-February 10

Colorado
(KDEN, KASE, KCOS)

BVA's Getaway Event takes pilots and controllers for a change of scenery, and features various airports across North America. Join BVA as we 'Getaway' to explore new airports and destinations

Controller of the Month

Evan ('evanet')

BVA Administration Team

Each month, one member of our controller community is selected by ATC Instructors for special recognition for outstanding performance and ongoing dedication. As essential frontline service providers, controllers play the most important role in ensuring the satisfaction and enjoyment of our membership.

This month, we recognize **Cameron (CaptCamShu)** as the Controller of the Month. After a brief hiatus, Cameron has returned in full

force, recently achieving a Class B Tower (Solo) rating and helping to provide ATC during the first night of our Getaway in Colorado. Cameron displays a consistently positive attitude toward pilots, is typically online in the afternoons and evenings, and has also been heavily involved with administrative activities in the community. We're happy to have him on our controller team and hope he continues his training over the next few months.



Flying Without ATC

It is important to observe proper “uncontrolled” procedures at airports without ATC, even when those airports may be controlled continuously in real life. When flying into an airport without ATC, monitor and provide position updates on the server’s UNICOM frequency (122.95). Communications should be brief and relevant, normally consisting of reports involving the runway (lining up, taking off, vacating) or your position (usually one position report somewhere on the approach or as you enter the airspace and one on final). Be careful not to over-communicate your position and intentions when using UNICOM. Communicating with UNICOM is particularly important when you’re flying into busy airports when ATC is offline (for example, KBOS regularly, or KASE during our current Getaway event).

Additionally, be sure to check the airport’s real-world METAR before you decide which runway to land on. Wind is reported based on the direction it is coming from; thus, pick a runway with sufficient length and with the number closest to that of the wind.

Finally, filing your flight plan (VFR or IFR) is still important when ATC is offline. This not only helps other pilots have an idea of who might be on and around the airport but also provides administrators with an idea of your intentions in case a server restart is planned (we try very hard not to reset the server while pilots are flying; filing your plan helps us estimate when the server can be reset). By filing your flight plan, you ensure others know where you are and that you won’t have to quickly file if ATC comes online.

