



## Trial: Boston Virtual ATC Member TeamSpeak

### Zac ('zplach')

BVA Administration Team

In response to community feedback, BVA will be piloting (so to speak) a TeamSpeak-based open voice communication platform for all members during the month of February. TeamSpeak is Voice-over-IP software similar to Skype that allows users to communicate with one another individually or in groups. Implementing such a platform would add a means of communication for our members in addition to our active forum community and the private and global messaging options available in FlightDesk. It will give members more of an opportunity to interact with each other in an "off frequency" environment.

The purpose of the trial is to evaluate whether there are any technical impacts associated with running the server (e.g., connectivity issues, stability of the FSX server, etc.) along with whether the TeamSpeak server would have an impact on daily server operations.

### Trial Schedule

- February 6th to 22nd, 2014
- TeamSpeak server available from Thursday to Saturday

### The trial will be held in the Pilot Meetings TeamSpeak Server

- Address: [teamspeak.bostonvirtualatc.com:9989](http://teamspeak.bostonvirtualatc.com:9989)
- Password: ANCHR2!

The TeamSpeak server details will also be posted on the [Server Information](#) page of the website.

During the trial, the TeamSpeak server will be available three nights a week (Thursday to Saturday) and accessible to all BVA members. Members using the TeamSpeak server will be expected to act in accordance with BVA's Member Expectations and in particular our shared values.

Any concerns or complaints about member conduct in the TeamSpeak server may be addressed to any member of the Administrative Team (A-Team).

At the conclusion of the trial period, the A-Team will determine whether or not to create a permanent Member TeamSpeak server for the community. This announcement will be made in the March Logan Informer.

## Training Day: February 15, 4-7pm ET

### Evan ('Evanet')

BVA Administration Team

If you've been waiting to get up the courage to get on frequency or just want a bit of a slower-paced event to practice something new, this one's for you! Training Day is an event designed for new or returning members. During the event, controllers slow down and simplify instructions and provide additional spacing to help student pilots get the practice needed to become regular members. Mark your calendar for **4-7pm ET on Saturday, February 15**.

Located at the home airport of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Training Day will provide a great introduction (or re-introduction) to the community for those who may feel like they don't have the knowledge, skill, or currency to participate on our server on a regular basis.

As during our last Training Day, many of our experienced members were sharing aircraft and demonstrating flight procedures that ranged from VFR closed traffic to DME arc-based instrument approaches. In addition to having experienced members on hand to help, controllers have been instructed to talk more slowly than normal, and will be providing all aircraft with extra spacing. We'll also have extra frequencies open, so the amount of transmissions won't be quite as intense as usual.

There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions and learn. Please view the [Challenge](#) page of the BVA website full event details!

### Live ATIS Beta V1.0.5.6

Community-wide beta testing has begun for the next major version of Live ATIS! In addition to a number of performance and reliability improvements, Live ATIS 2 offers pilots:

- METAR retrieval functionality within FSX
- Simulation of the 'digital ATIS' available at large, U.S. airports when ATC is online
- An enhanced METAR lookup window in Live ATIS itself
- An updated interface

Air Traffic Controllers have been beta testing Live ATIS Version 2 for the past few weeks and have been very positive about the new features of the program.

We encourage members of the community to take part in the beta test. Please view this forum thread for more information on how to participate: <http://forums.bostonvirtualatc.com/viewtopic.php?f=25&t=4556>.



## Regional Circuit

Rc

Friday, February 7  
(8-11pm ET)

KRNO (Reno) &  
KSFO (San Francisco)

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

Dj

Wednesday, February 19  
(8-11pm ET)

KLAS (Las Vegas) &  
KPHX (Phoenix)

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

Pp

Thursday, February 25  
(8-10pm ET)

KBTR (Baton Rouge)

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

Fi

Sunday, February 9  
(3-6pm ET)

Atlanta  
(KAHN, KLZU, and KPDK)

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.

## Challenge

Ch

Saturday, February 15  
(4-7pm ET)

Training Day  
KDAB (Daytona Beach)

BVA's Challenge event will test your piloting skills in the realistic atmosphere of BVA. This event is about exercising your multi-tasking ability in challenging and unfamiliar situations—something pilots have to do all the time.

## Getaway

Ga

February 27 - March 4

New Orleans  
(KMSY, KBTR, KLFT, KNEW)

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.

For January, we recognize **Cody ('Bluewarrior4185')** as Controller of the Month. In the 28-day period ending January 11, 2014,

Cody controlled 26.7 hours and handled over 300 takeoffs and landings. He has been one of the most active controllers during our Aspen Getaway, working positions at KASE, KCOS, KDEN, and KGJT (during a Pack the Pattern).

Despite being one of our youngest controllers, Cody continues to progress well and is currently training on Class B (Boston) Tower. Mentors working with him have indicated Cody coordinates well with his teammates, and has shown excellent improvement in his handling of VFR traffic (one of the core skills that a Class B Tower controller learns during training).



# Flight SimCon 2014 Standard Registration is Now Open!

**Max ('Ameri767300')**

BVA Administration Team

**F**light SimCon 2014, the second annual flight simulation, takes place from June 7-8, 2014 at the New England Air Museum in Hartford, Connecticut. This year, Boston Virtual ATC will be participating in the event as a sponsor and the official provider of Air Traffic Control. We are also encouraging our pilots to attend the event and, if possible, to bring their simulation equipment along with them! Power and an internet connection are included in registration.

Registration is required for all BVA members who are attending the event; standard registration is \$60 for the weekend event (\$50 for high school or college students, or student pilots). Registration includes access to an evening "Sky Lounge" on Saturday at Sheraton Bradley, access to the New England Air Museum, and access to presentations and exhibitor booths.

Registration also includes access to power and internet for anyone interested in bringing their own flight or controlling computers. There is no additional fee for BVA members to bring computers to the event (anyone who has already paid the \$20 fee will be reimbursed).

BVA is encouraging members who are attending Flight SimCon and need accommodation to stay at BVA's preferred Flight SimCon hotel, Sheraton Bradley.

Flight SimCon provides a social conference format with networking and learning for enthusiasts of desktop flight simulation programs and aviation in general. For more information on the event or to register, check out [www.flightsimcon.com](http://www.flightsimcon.com).

Please note that Flight SimCon is not part of Boston Virtual ATC and any information provided to Flight SimCon would not be covered by Boston Virtual ATC's Privacy Policy.

## BVA Switches Email Sending Providers

**Evan ('Evanet')**

BVA Administration Team

**L**ast month, BVA switched to a new email sending service to ensure that our regular email distributions continue to reach our members. Based on information collected from the system, the change should not have been noticeable and members should have been receiving email communications from us without interruption.

All BVA members should receive monthly emails from "Boston Virtual ATC" ([communications@bostonvirtualatc.com](mailto:communications@bostonvirtualatc.com)) with our Logan Informer; there are occasional messages sent to the entire community about important happenings like major events. In addition, members who requested to receive reminders about our events should receive those within 36 hours of the event's start time.

If you have not been receiving emails you think you should have, please [Contact Us](#) so we can investigate the issue.

Members can subscribe or unsubscribe from our various email distribution lists on the [Account Management](#) page of our website.

Please remember to always keep your email address up-to-date. An active email address is one of the requirements for membership, as email is the only way we have of contacting most of our members. When logged in to the website, you can double-check the email address we have on file is accurate by clicking on the "Profile" link at the top right corner of any page.

## Export BVA Events to your Calendar

**Evan ('Evanet')**

BVA Administration Team

**B**VA members are now able to connect our schedule of events to an email client or mobile device that supports the Internet Calendar (iCal) format. This is a 'live' calendar, meaning new events or changes to existing events will automatically be synchronized to your calendar.

If you use a desktop calendar application like Microsoft Outlook, click the 'iCal' button on the [Calendar and Overview](#) page. For all internet-based applications or mobile devices, add an internet calendar through your "Settings" application and the URL <http://bostonvirtualatc.com/events/>. Our events calendar also supports RSS.

The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Calendar and Overview". At the top, there's a navigation bar with "Calendar" selected. Below it, a calendar for January 2014 is displayed, showing days from Sunday to Saturday. A callout box points to a button that says "Add events to a desktop application like Microsoft Outlook." Another callout points to a button labeled "Events RSS Feed".

The banner has a dark blue background with a white bird logo on the left. The text reads "Cape Air Virtual >> Pilot of the Month". Below this, it says "Each month, Cape Air Virtual recognizes the pilot who has the most hours for the airline. For January, that pilot is Dave ('davedog330'), who has flown a total of 34.2 hours!"



# Calling Up the Landline

We'll be profiling some of the stories and pictures from last year's event as we lead up to Flight SimCon 2014 on June 7-8, 2014 at the New England Air Museum. Registration for this year's event is now open at [www.flightsimcon.com](http://www.flightsimcon.com).

This month, an Air Traffic Controller providing services live from the event talks about the unique experience of working with controllers located across the country to safely guide aircraft on approaches into KBOS.

Tom walks over to my radar setup and asks if two aircraft (each of which have two pilots crowded around two computer screens right across from me) can get simultaneous approaches on Runways 4L and 4R at KBOS. I turn to my left and ask Jeremy if he can accommodate that—yep. Oh, now I have to call up ZBW to ask a question—look across the table, yell at Dan...yes, he'll help with some spacing.



instructions. Here I'm staring at him and watching as he reads back the instructions, moves the controls to comply...and he's laser-focused on nailing his instructions. I vector the two simultaneous approach aircraft onto their respective approach courses and get visual separation—stealing glances above my screen to watch the four pilots on both computers complying with the instructions and fighting over who gets to read them back.

Time for a controller switch. I'm physically pointing to aircraft on my scope as I explain what instructions I've given to the controller taking over so I can grab lunch. I point out the two aircraft on simultaneous approaches to the 4's that are a few miles off the field and cleared to land. Time for a descent for UAR35—I give it to him, and turn my head to watch as Chuck visibly becomes alert and instantly starts scribbling down my instructions on his branded Flight SimCon notebook. Jeremy's ready. I pass over my

Gotta call BDL\_A...he's not sitting beside me in the radar room... call up the landline and talk to Skylar across the country in Arizona. Loving the realism.

headset, confirm that he's in control, and then run around the table to watch the two aircraft land on Runway 4R and 4L, proudly declaring to the gathered conference crowd that I was the one who vectored them on that nice approach.

Chuck checks in on frequency as UAR35. He's flying his Embraer beside me and doesn't bat an eyeball as I start to give him

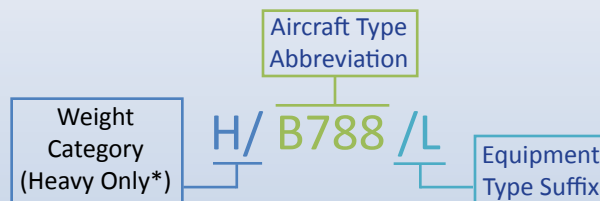
Okay, that was cool...now, time for lunch.

## Pilot Tip of the Month

### Equipment Suffixes

An equipment suffix—part of the aircraft type entry on a flight plan—provides controllers with information about your aircraft's navigation capability. Filing this information properly helps ATC plan routes and manage traffic volumes. For example, a pilot that doesn't have GPS/RNAV capability shouldn't be assigned a procedure that requires it.

Equipment suffixes are one of the three components to the aircraft type:



\* Heavy aircraft are those capable of takeoff weights of 300,000 pounds or more, regardless of actual aircraft weight.

Always file the equipment suffix that represents the highest capability of your aircraft, even if you plan not to use that capability during the flight.

A full list of Equipment Suffixes is available on our website. You can also use our [Equipment Type Suffix Selector](#) to find the correct suffix to file directly.

