

Happy New Year!

2008 was an interesting year for Boston Virtual ATC. It was a year characterized by strong steps forward, high traffic levels, and...technical difficulties. After a long summer of glitches with the default radar screen and server lag, a fix for the radar removed the freezing problems plaguing controllers. Despite the difficult summer, however, traffic levels remained high; we surpassed the 1,000 member mark in 2008, and are above 1,300 as we move into 2009. As traffic levels increased to a record number of pilots (53) during the Boston Tea Party in November, an untimely server upgrade by our website host knocked out BVA's most powerful marketing and communication tool for the month of November. With the website back online and a steady core group of pilots and controllers, we move into 2009. January is already looking like a busy month with the getaway to Hawaii jammed between the Dance in New York and Domestic Journey, which continues to Atlanta this month. Although we don't know what challenges 2009 will bring, our administrators will work hard to deliver another action-packed year. See you in the skies...

Pilot Tip of the Month

General Aviation aircraft park at a GA ramp, not a gate. 'Gates' are generally reserved for airliners—that is, regional prop and jet aircraft and up. In most cases, Cessnas, LearJets, and other small propeller planes park at general aviation areas which are normally indicated on the airport diagram. In FSX, you can either spawn at "Gate A8" or choose "GA Parking Small", so park accordingly: if you're a small Cessna 172, select the GA Ramp instead of the gate. As an added bonus, most GA parking spots are closer to the runway than the gates.

Events Update

B V A T C Events

Regional
Circuit



The regional circuit kicks off its 2009 season on January 6 (at 8pm ET) featuring **Manchester (KMHT)** and **Burlington (KBTU)**.

B V A T C Events

Domestic
Journey



After a long layover in Washington, the **Domestic journeys** on to Atlanta (KATL) on January 15. Air traffic services at KIAD will be available from 7pm ET.

B V A T C Events

Dance in
New York



The next **Dance in New York** (which includes a fly-back to Boston) is Sunday, January 25. Event: 8pm ET. Flyback: 10:15pm ET

BVA Needs a Programmer

Do you know how to write a simple program (C# or C++ preferred)? Would you like to get involved and start helping BVA? Well here's your chance. We're looking to generate monthly traffic reports from FlightDesk but don't have the programming bandwidth to process the XML files the software collects. You would be asked to produce a report showing monthly traffic, averages, and statistics based on the information FlightDesk already creates. The report would appear on the homepage of BVA's website each month.

If you have any interest in contributing to this community, please contact Evan ('evanet') at operations@bostonvirtualatc.com or Bill ('WhiskeySierraOne') at bills@microvisual.com for more details.

Looking to escape the cold weather this January? Turn on the fire place, grab a blanket, and sit down in front of the computer to enjoy the warm weather and tropical scenery of Hawaii... at least that way you can pretend you're somewhere warm.

America's 50th state is located on an archipelago in the central Pacific Ocean southeast of Japan and northeast of Australia in the Polynesian subregion of Oceania. The capital of Honolulu on Oahu has a population of just over one million. The state of Hawaii encompasses the majority of the Hawaiian island chain which is made up of several hot spot volcanic islands spread over 1,500 miles of the Pacific Ocean. The eight main islands (from southeast to northwest) of Hawaii are Hawaii, Maui, Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai, and Niihau. Hawaii shares no border with any other states, and is the southernmost state of the United States.

Aviation is the primary method of interisland travel in Hawaii. While Hawaiian Airlines, Mokulele Airlines, and go! travel between the larger commercial airports of Honolulu, Kahului, Kona, and Hilo, smaller airliners like Island Air and Pacific Wings serve the smaller airports (and islands). The island chains also offer unique and beautiful VFR and GA opportunities that can be challenging due to the unique mountainous topography of the islands. Mauna Kea (Hawaii's tallest mountain) is actually taller than Mount Everest if followed to the base of the mountain (on the floor of the Pacific Ocean) while the "Big Island" (Hawaii) is the second highest island in the world.

The location of the Hawaiian Islands and the wide range of environments to be found at high elevations close to the equator has resulted in a wide array of endemic flora and fauna. However, Hawaii has more endangered species than anywhere in the United States.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaii>

The Hawaii Getaway | PHNL, PHOG, and PHLI | January 16-24, 2009

The getaway will feature a Regional Circuit event (on the Tuesday) from PHNL to PHOG along with ATC at three featured airports of Honolulu on Maui ('the valley isle'), Kahului on Oahu ('the gathering place'), and Lihue on Kauai ('the garden isle'). The entire state is covered by Honolulu Center while Honolulu Approach also serves the entire island chain. While Honolulu Center will operate as it does in real life to cover all three airports, Honolulu Approach will be 'split' to cover Kahului and Honolulu separately. Approach and departure services at Lihue (a class D airport) will be provided by Honolulu Center. On a regular night, expect local control at PHNL, PHOG, and/or PHLI with HZH (Honolulu Center) overseeing different sectors of Honolulu Approach.

Hawaii is the only state of the United States that...

- *Is not geographically located in North America*
- *Grows coffee*
- *Is completely surrounded by water*
- *Has a royal palace*
- *Does not have a straight line in its state boundary*



Honolulu International Airport is one of the busiest airports in the United States with traffic exceeding 21 million passengers a year and quickly rising. It is the main gateway to Hawaii and is located about three miles northwest of the city’s central business district. The airport is host to Hawaiian Airlines and Aloha Airlines (once a large passenger airline, now a cargo-only carrier) and plays host to several international flagship carriers with direct routes to American, Asian, and Pacific Rim destinations. In 2007 the airport performed 310,607 aircraft operations serving 21,505,855 passengers and processing 389,054 tons of cargo.

The airport has four paved runways including the famous “Reef Runway” (8R/26L) which is the world’s first major asphalt runway to be constructed entirely offshore. The runway is a designated alternate landing site for NASA’s space shuttle program in association with the Hickam Air Force Base which shares the airport facilities. In addition to the four paved runways, PHNL also has two water runways designated for use by seaplanes.

Airport Information	Airport Frequencies	Nearby VORs	Recommended Routes (download from website)
FAA/ICAO Identifiers: HNL/PHNL ARTCC: Honolulu (HZH) Elevation: 13 ft. Time Zone: UTC -10 Airport Class: Bravo	ATIS: 127.90 Clearance Delivery: 121.40 Honolulu Ground: 121.90 Honolulu Tower: 118.10 Honolulu Approach: 118.30	HNL 114.80 (Honolulu) CKH 113.90 (Koko Head)	To PHOG: PALAY2 LNY CAMPS2 To PHLI: KEOLA2 LIH

Kahului Airport is a regional airport located on the northern edge of the land bridge between Haleakala and the West Maui Mountain Range, about 3 miles east of Kahului on the island of Maui. The airport's two intersecting runways occupy 1,391 acres of land. The airport code pays homage to aviation legend and Lihue native Bertram J. Hogg (pronounced 'Hoag').



Although most flights into OGG originate from Honolulu International Airport (PHNL), Kahului receives some international flights from destinations like Phoenix, Dallas, Vancouver, Seattle, and Los Angeles. The airport is currently not equipped to handle international arrivals so flights from Canada use United States Border Preclearance facilities at Vancouver. There are, however, plans to expand the airport to accommodate international flights in the future by adding customs and immigration facilities. Hawaii's strict laws regarding the export of fruit and plant life outside the state require passengers bound for U. S. mainland destinations to pass through TSA checkpoints along with special agricultural checkpoints. Any fruit found by officers is confiscated.

Airport Information	Airport Frequencies	Nearby VORs	Recommended Routes (download from website)
FAA/ICAO Identifiers: OGG/PHOG ARTCC: Honolulu (HZH) Elevation: 54 ft. Time Zone: UTC -10 Airport Class: Charlie	ATIS: 128.60 Clearance Delivery: 120.60 Maui Ground 121.70 Maui Tower 118.70 Honolulu Approach: 119.50	OGG 115.10 (Maui) LNY 117.70 (Lanai)	To PHNL: BEACH2 LNY JULLE4 To PHLI: BEACH2 LNY KEOLA GRAIL



Lihue Airport is located on the eastern shore of Kauai Island, 2 miles east of the city of Lihue. The island, considered the most luscious and beautiful of the Hawaiian Island chain features some impressive aerial sights. Depart VFR and follow the northern shoreline of the island, the western-most of the chain. As you pass the hotels and emerald-green golf courses, continue follow the coast along the north shore and you will pass Hanalei Bay just ahead of the famous Napali Coast. Heading south on the western shoreline of the island, you'll find Wiamea Canyon. After overflying the farms and sugar cane fields, follow the coast back northbound to line up for an approach to Runway 35 at Lihue. On short final, watch for a historic lighthouse directly underneath the approach path.

Airport Information	Airport Frequencies	Nearby VORs	Recommended Routes (download from website)
FAA/ICAO Identifiers: LIH/PHLI ARTCC: Honolulu (HZH) Elevation: 153 ft. Time Zone: UTC -10 Airport Class: Delta	ATIS: 127.20 Lihue Ground 121.75 Lihue Tower 118.90 APCH/DEP SVC PRVDD BY HONOLULU CENTER ON 126.5	OGG 115.10 (Maui) LNY 117.70 (Lanai)	To PHNL: BEACH2 LNY JULLE4 To PHLI: BEACH2 LNY KEOLA GRAIL

Although the airport does not serve as a hub for any commercial airline, many carriers offer nonstop service to the other Hawaiian Islands as well as the U.S. mainland including destinations like Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Phoenix, and Seattle from Lihue. The airport is equipped to handle planes up to and including the DC-10 and the terminal is mostly un-walled with the check in area completely outdoors. Lihue Airport serves as the primary gateway to Kauai for visitors. Note that, since Lihue is a Class Delta airport, approach and departure services will be provided by Honolulu Center.