Boston Virtual ATC's Logan Informer | Issue #6: May 30, 2009

What's on the Horizon for Boston Virtual ATC?

Evan ('evanet'), editor of the Logan Informer and BVA Administrator, comments on the first half of 2009, and provides some insight into the immediate future of Boston Virtual ATC.

It's hard to believe we're not even halfway through 2009! It's been an exciting winter here at BVA, with the introduction of the wildly-popular Domestic Journey event and the continued success of our Regional Circuits. Our first-ever Hyper Tension Convention event was held in March, and the next one is coming up soon! On top of that, we've had regular getaway events almost once each month that have seen us visit Hawaii and California. As the snow started to thaw here in the Northeast, BVA added even more events to our regular rotation including the GA Fly-In (which is set to debut this Thursday) as well as our Pack the Pattern Event. The scary thing is, the best is yet to come!

Your BVA controllers and leaders are gearing up for a jam-packed summer in the skies of the Northeast. With the perfect mix of ocean, blue skies, and the infamous "Cape Cod clam chowdah" that has pilots flying ILS approaches right down to the minimums at Nantucket, this summer is a great time to take advantage of the controllers that are online to serve you every single night (event or not). Complementing our top-notch controllers are the events: the GA Fly-In makes its triumphant return to the skies of Miami this Thursday (June 4). If the turnout for that event is anything like the group that came out to Pack the Pattern, we might need to add some additional general aviation parking spots to some of the airports. Later this month, the Domestic Journey makes its first visit to Canada, continuing the trek from Seattle to Edmonton on June 18. The most exciting event of this month, however, is the Flight for the Fight against breast cancer. To the best of our knowledge, BVA is the first-ever FSX multiplayer community to hold a charity event that will benefit cancer research with the ultimate goal of finding a cure. And that only takes us until the end of June!

In July, we'll be getting away to the Northwestern United States, featuring the British Columbia and Washington areas for almost a week before we head to New York for the next Hyper Tension Convention on June 19. All this, as preparations get underway for BVA's third anniversary party in November.

While our controllers are working hard to make sure these events run seamlessly, Bill ('WhiskeySierraOne') is hard at work on FlightDesk; we are planning to release version 1.0 in July! Finally, our opinion survey regarding the possibility of Cape Air Virtual is set to close tomorrow (if you haven't filled out the survey yet, this is your last chance... <u>click here to do so</u>), and based on the results we've seen so far, it won't be long before the twin Cessnas of Cape Air Virtual take flight in the skies of Boston Virtual ATC.

It's been a crazy first few months of 2009, but it seems like the best is still forthcoming. Thank you for making Boston Virtual ATC the best GameSpy community for FSX. See you in the skies...

Flight for the Fight

As far as we know, nobody has ever done anything like this before. Boston Virtual ATC's **Flight for the Fight"** is Sunday, June 21 from 4-8pm ET. BVA pilots will have the ability to do what we love while raising money for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Breast Cancer Society. Thanks to the generosity of one anonymous BVA member, every single flight you fly earns credits that are translated into money that will help support breast cancer research.

On June 21, pilots can enjoy four hours with at least seven controllers staffing Boston, Burlington, and Albany... and it's all for a good cause. Better yet, the one and only **FSX Blue Angels** demonstration team will officially open the event at 4pm with a high-speed flyover of KBOS.

Details about the event can be found in the May edition of the Logan Informer which is included on Page 5. BVA is counting on your support, so book off Sunday afternoon on the 21st, login to the session, and help us save a life.

Hyper Tension Convention

Our next **Hyper Tension Convention** event is quickly approaching and our controllers are already receiving their blood pressure cuffs in preparation for the event on Sunday, July 19 at 4pm ET. Although it's more than a month away, the pilot sign-up is available on the website and five slots are already taken.

Visit our website and reserve your departure slot in the next HTC today... before it's too late!

Pilot Tip of the Month

A Center or Approach Controller covers Ground and Tower at any Class B, C, or D airport within their airspace.

If you're flying VFR or IFR out of an airport that has a Tower in real life (that is, any Class B, C, or D airport), that airport is covered by the radar controller above the airport. For example, if you are departing VFR from KMHT, Boston Approach (BOS_A) would cover the ground and tower services at Manchester if there is no MHT_T logged into the game. Similarly, if Boston Approach (BOS_A) is offline, then Boston Center (ZBW_C) covers Manchester Tower instead.

*** the website www.fltplan.com was recommended by one of our members ***

Events Update

BVA has a number of exciting events coming up, including a Hyper Tension Convention in New York (this July), as well as the "Flight for the Fight". The list below outlines the basic concept of each event as well as the date, time, and location of the next event. Don't forget, full details about each event can be found on the Events page of our website.



REGIONAL CIRCUIT

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

Next Event: Tuesday, June 2 (8-11pm ET)

Location: KCOS (Colorado Springs) & KDEN (Denver)



DOMESTIC JOURNEY

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.

Next Event: Thursday, June 18 (7-11pm ET)

Location: KSEA (Seattle) to Edmonton (CYEG)



PACK THE PATTERN

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!)

Next Event: Thursday, July 2 (8-10pm ET)

Location: Boston International Airport (KBOS)



GENERAL AVIATION FLY-IN

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.

Next Event: Thursday, June 4 (8-11pm ET)

Location: Southern Florida



HYPER TENSION CONVENTION

The HTC aims to create the most intense experience for pilots by squeezing eleven controllers into a small airspace, encouraging pilots to sign-up for a departure slot, and keeping blood pressure as high as possible for as long as possible.

Next Event: Sunday, July 19 (4-8pm ET)

(pilot sign-up is available now - CLICK HERE TO RESERVE YOUR DEPARTURE SLOT TODAY!)

Location: **New York**



GETAWAY

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

Next Event: July 2-10, 2009

Location: Northwestern United States

FLIGHT FOR THE FIGHT

This special, one-time event asks pilots to come out in full force to stimulate traffic and benefit a good cause. Pilots fly routes around the Northeastern US and receive credit for each flight. The credits are tallied at the end of the event, and one anonymous BVA member donates the money to the Susan G. Komen For the Cure Breast Cancer Society; A matching donation is then made to BVA.

Event Date: Sunday, June 21 (4-8pm ET)

Location: Boston, Albany, and Burlington

Cape Air: Last Chance to Access the Survey

The opinion survey regarding Cape Air Virtual is set to close on May 31 at 11:59pm. If you have not completed the survey yet, please do so by <u>clicking here to visit our website</u>.

Flight for the Fight (from Logan Informer #5)

BVA's Economic Stimulus Package is here: an anonymous member has offered to help our community and a prominent Breast Cancer charity. With the help of BVA's top-notch pilots and controllers, we can 'stimulate' traffic, funds, and help out a worthwhile cause.

On **Sunday, June 21 (from 4-8pm ET)**, six controllers across the Northeast will login at Boston, Albany, and Burlington. Pilots are encouraged to fly with or into the Boston ARTCC, and **for each flight that a pilot completes, \$1 will be donated to "Susan G.**<u>Komen for the Cure"</u>, the global leader of the breast cancer movement. This charity has invested more than \$1 billion since its inception in 1982, and works together with breast cancer survivors and activities to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all, and energize science to find the cures for

KBOS, KBTV, and KALB will be staffed for the event. However, pilots are welcome to 'fly in' to ZBW from afar, or depart any other airport covered by Boston Center. More flights means more money for breast cancer, so spread your wings of hope and join us on June 21!

The "Fight For The Flight" will take place on **Sunday, June 21** from 4-8pm ET, and feature six controllers (BOS_Cl, BOS_G, BOS_T, BOS_A, ALB_T, BTV_T, and ZBW_C) across the Boston ARTCC.

breast cancer. We need BVA pilots to come out in full force to raise as much money as we possibly can to support this charity! Fly as many trips as you can with ATC between Boston, Albany, and Burlington, and **generate a \$1 credit for each flight**. Given a four hour window to fly as many trips as you can between our featured airports in Boston Center, we should be able to raise hundreds of

Pilots generate \$1 for each flight. Controllers generate a \$0.10 credit for every pilot they talk to.

dollars to support breast cancer research! Furthermore, pilots will receive an additional credit for every single Ground, Tower, or Approach controller they talk to during their flight. At the end of the event, the total number of pilot and controller credits will be tallied, and that amount will be donated directly to "Susan G. Komen for the Cure" by a generous BVA member who has decided to remain anonymous. A matching donation will also be made to BVA. While this event costs nothing but time for our members, it offers us the ability to make a meaningful difference in someone's life while doing what we love—flying and controlling at BVA!