BVA's Member TeamSpeak is Live!

Evan ('Evanet')
BVA Administration Team

Our community-wide TeamSpeak server was launched earlier this month. This new social voice platform allows members to connect via voice between flights. Numerous channels are available to ensure quiet space is available for pilots who may be flying with ATC or operating the aircraft during a critical phase of flight.

Connection information for the new server is posted on the Server Information page of the website.

BVA's shared Member Expectations apply to the new server as they would to FSX frequencies or messages posted on our forums. Particularly in an open environment like TeamSpeak, members should be conscious of the varying ages and backgrounds of our many members. This includes respect for pilots who may be operating in an ATC environment and need to focus on controller transmissions.

If you choose to login to TeamSpeak while flying, please ensure you use the channels designated for that purpose and make sure that TeamSpeak does not become a distraction from the safe operation of the airplane.

As was the case during the recent trial period, the Member TeamSpeak server will be available on an optional basis, with no requirement to use TeamSpeak in order to participate in the server. FSX-based radio communication will continue to be the mechanism for communicating with ATC and other pilots for operational purposes.

Cape Air Virtual >> Pilot of the Month

Each month, Cape Air Virtual recognizes the pilot who has the most hours for the airline. For April, that pilot is Jonathan ('Jonathan'), who has flown a total of 40.9 hours!

Flight SimCon 2014...Gettin' Even Closer!

There's just over a month to go until Flight SimCon 2014! From June 7-8, BVA members will be flying and controlling live from the New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. Of course, there will also be a social component to the weekend—as described by the article below from BVA member Jon ('Chickiee88').

Boston Virtual ATC and Flight SimCon were recently featured on an episode of Sky Blue Radio's FS in Focus show.

If you aren't able to join the event in person, we look forward to seeing you flying on the server! Bradley Approach, Tower, and several other ATC positions will be staffed throughout the convention hours (10am-5pm ET on Saturday and 10am-3pm ET on Sunday).

Please visit BVA's Flight SimCon 2014 page for more information. For more information on the convention or to register, visit the event website at www.flightsimcon.com.

It's Friday afternoon, about 6pm or so. For the past five hours, I've been stuck in my Hartford hotel room (there is only one flight per day from Palm Beach to Bradley, and it departs at 7am). I'm sure my mom, quietly reading on the couch, is still wondering how on earth I convinced her to spend a March weekend in Hartford over Florida. I glance out the window yet again to see if anyone I might know has pulled into the parking lot...still nobody.

Finally, I get a text message from Alex ('pilotalex91pf') saying he will be at the hotel shortly. "Ok," I think to myself, "finally this weekend can begin."

An hour later, there's a knock on my door. Alex is standing there, and to my surprise, so is Evan ('Evanet'). As I angle the door to keep a physical barrier between them and my mom, I start to think about how surreal it is to finally be meeting these people I've known and talked to for years.

Seconds later, Bradley ('topgun68') turns the corner and joins the conversation. After exchanging our various stories about getting to Hartford, we head up to Alex's room where I meet Dan ('SoloWingDemon') for the first time (he's a nice guy, believe it or not). Soon after, I am introduced to Jeremy ('jrvalent'), who is already manning Bradley Approach on his LED-lit beast of a computer.

A few minutes later, we're downstairs in the lobby meeting the team behind it all: Chuck and Nicole are beginning to unwrap all of the SimCon merchandise. A few hours of irrelevant events later, we're upstairs in the conference room. Fresh from a wedding, the location of Flight SimCon 2013 is far from being ready for a flight simulation convention. The crew of about 20 people from the hotel is busily carrying tables and chairs out of the room just as our crew starts carrying tables, cables, and boxes of computer equipment in.

I check my phone. It's 11:00pm. My mom is going to kill me. Oh well. As I put my phone away, I look up and see Jeremy and Evan opening a huge box that says VolairSim on it. I go over to help and within 20 minutes, I find myself starting to put this huge contraption together. With the same combined effort it takes to

Regional Circuit

Rc

Thursday, May 1
(8-11pm ET)

KBTV (Burlington) &
KPWM (Portland)

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

Pack the Pattern

Pp

Tuesday, June 24
(8-11pm ET)

KIAH (Houston)

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!)

Challenge

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Sunday, May 25
(3-6pm ET)

Expressway Visual Approach
KLGA (LaGuardia)

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.

Domestic Journey

Dj

Saturday, May 31
(3-6pm ET)

KPHX (Phoenix) &
KABQ (Albuquerque)

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.

Fly-In

Fi

Saturday, May 3
(3-6pm ET)

Oregon
(KEUG, KOTH, and KSLE)

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.

Getaway

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July 12-27

Alaska
(PANC, PAFA, PADQ, PAVD)

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 frontline service providers, controllers play the most important role in ensuring the satisfaction and enjoyment of our membership.

One year after his first nomination for this award, the ATC Instructors are pleased to recognize **Josh ('TheNavyReapers')** as Controller of the Month for the second time.

As BVA's official liaison with the United Kingdom (not a real position), Josh has regularly been online at all hours of his night in order to provide ATC during our peak hours. Pilots have come to know him from the unmistakable accent, while other controllers can rely on Josh to be there whenever help is needed. Josh was recently noted by our Instructors for volunteering to control (or replace controllers) during events, and for making ATC at BVA a priority despite a busy personal schedule and working multiple jobs.

It's always a pleasure to control and fly when Josh is around. Continue the cracking work. Tah!

figure out one of Josh's questions about an obscure NGX FMS function, the machine was put together in just under three hours. As we were working, other BVA members were configuring their various electronics and the room really started to take shape.

I checked my phone again and gasped. It's 2:00am, and I have eight missed calls from my mom. Kill me now. After settling her down with a nicely executed phone call, I have time to catch my breath from everything that has transpired in the past five hours. After teaching Dan, Alex, and Brad the correct pronunciation of the word *chutzpah* during a quick game of Cards Against Humanity, I finally accepted that I needed at least a little sleep before the inevitably long Saturday ahead.

The conference hasn't technically started but it's already been one of the most memorable weekends I've had. It's incredible to be able to spend time with so many similarly-minded people. There are few moments that compare to meeting these people I've known for so long, yet never met in person. For that reason, there are few things I have looked forward to as much as the return to SimCon in 2014.

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Evan ('Evanet')
BVA Administration Team

On Sunday, April 27, BVA's pilots weathered the marginal VMC at Nantucket Airport (KACK) to participate in a VFR Landing Competition Challenge. Flying the default C172, each pilot flew at least 2 VFR traffic patterns at KACK, with the objective of landing directly on the numbers of Runway 30. After a 20-minute weather delay, it took almost 2.5 hours to crown the pilot of callsign ZS-FPI as champion!

Over the course of the event, 43 landings were recorded by the judges. Out of the many first-round participants, 8 pilots were advanced to the elimination rounds. The results:

Quarterfinalists: CGBKO, N209K, N21202, N21219, N3113P, N364GW, RP-C31, ZS-FPI

Semifinalists: N209K, N21219, RP-C31, ZS-FPI
Finalists: N209K, ZS-FPI
Winner: ZS-FPI

The judges were very impressed with the quality of the landings performed by pilots of the required default C172 aircraft. 6 pilots touched down before the first centerline marking (almost right on the numbers), while about 8 landings were "dead center".

Please let us know your feedback about the event by voting on our homepage poll!

Thank you to all of the judges and controllers that helped to make this event a reality, along with the pilots who braved the weather and audience pressure to compete.

Pilot Tip of the Month

Critical Phases of Flight

Given the recent release of BVA's Member TeamSpeak, this month's Pilot Tip is focused on focus! Aviators face a myriad of distractions during every flight: passengers, air traffic control, navigation needs, aircraft equipment, and mobile devices can all distract pilots from their core responsibilities of safely operating the airplane. For online aviators, the 'distraction factor' is multiplied by FlightDesk private messages, add-on programs, and the fact that the internet at large is just an ALT+TAB away. For pilots who choose to login to BVA's Member TeamSpeak while flying in ATC airspace, that server can pose an additional source of distraction.

The three primary responsibilities of a pilot are flying the plane ("aviate"), getting to the right place ("navigate") and talking to air traffic control or other pilots ("communicate") – in that order. While the Member TeamSpeak is great for social purposes, it's important to ensure that TeamSpeak doesn't distract pilots from these three important responsibilities.

To help eliminate distractions, many pilots identify "critical phases of flight" during which times they don't respond to private messages, "mute" distractions like TeamSpeak, and use other applications only for flight purposes. Critical flight phases include taxi, takeoff, landing, and any other flight below 10,000' AGL (for flights that cruise below 10,000' AGL, everything but the cruise portion is considered critical).

Regardless of the strategy you use to focus on your flight, if you are flying with ATC while connected to the Member TeamSpeak, use the "In the Air" channels. In these channels, pilots are still able to talk, but should respect the priority of communication with ATC. During critical flight phases, use the "Sterile Cockpit" channel (where nobody is permitted to speak) so that you can be focused on aviating, navigating, and communicating.