



BVA 7 Years Event Wrap-Up

Evan ('Evanet')

BVA Administration Team

This weekend, Boston Virtual ATC celebrated its 7th year with more than 61 hours of non-stop Air Traffic Control. Beginning at 11am EDT on Friday, November 1, Boston Center was staffed continuously until just before midnight EST on Sunday, November 3 (in typical BVA fashion, pilots were still airborne after the official end of the event).

We are incredibly proud of our results:

- 565 flight plans filed by 147 different pilots
- 1,500 ATC handoffs
- 416 hours, 47 minutes of controlled flight time

During the event, every airborne aircraft that was in contact with at least one controller generated \$2, and a further \$1 for every additional controller involved in handling that pilot's flight.

Leading the charge was 'azreak1' with 34 flight plans and 70 ATC handoffs (\$104)! '135boomer' (\$90) and 'OE1HANS' (\$88) rounded out the top three. A full report showing all of the flight plans and pilots is now available. Click [HERE](#) to see just how much you contributed to the cause.

The other great thing about 61 hours of non-stop ZBW was the opportunity for members to participate in our Pilot Ratings Program. 81 Pilot Ratings Program flights were passed by pilots throughout the event, and 6 members earned their first-ever rating. 4 members ('Cameron32', 'ChrisOlmstead', 'undercoverbros22', and 'cessna4') used the opportunity to finish off the program, joining 'chinoockfixer', 'kaiguy11', 'Wildguy591', and 'Bluewarrior4185' in the selective group of members who have completed all 20 VFR and IFR ratings flights!

The 565 flights flown and 1,500 ATC handoffs in the 2013 60 Hours of ATC event total \$2,065. This year's event was being sponsored by two very special BVA members, both of whom have chosen to remain anonymous. As in previous years, a BVA member who has been with us since the beginning has stepped up to sponsor the event for the fourth time. And for this year's event, a second sponsor—who joined the community just a few months ago—has come forward to sponsor the event in honor of his father, Gary Hock, who passed away at the end of October.

Gary Hock was an active philanthropist and businessman who loved flying, hunting, and charity. Born on October 27, 1944, Gary grew up on a farm outside of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. Despite never attending college, he built his own real estate empire, owning businesses based in Durham, North Carolina that brought in over \$20 million per year. Charity was a big part of Gary's life: he contributed more than \$16.5 million to various causes

since 1999, including \$1.25 million to help build Durham's first inpatient hospice facility, \$2.5 million for the "Hock Family Surgery Professorship" at Duke University, and another \$2.5 million to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. Gary loved flying and travelling. He owned multiple planes during his life including Lear's from 31's to 45's, and Challengers like the 300 and 604/605. He also thoroughly enjoyed big game hunting (including 17 safari trips to Zimbabwe and other locations in Africa, usually on a Concorde!). Gary Hock passed away on Thursday, October 24, 2013 of Stage 4 Cancer, at the age of 69. His son's contribution to 7 Years is made in his honor.

It is with great pride that our two sponsors have donated \$2,065 to each of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Boston Virtual ATC, bringing the total amount raised by our pilots to \$4,130. In honor of Gary's life, an additional donation of \$3,000 and \$1,000 will be made to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Boston Virtual ATC respectfully.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help people across the world lead healthy, productive lives. It is active in developing countries as well as the United States, working to improve people's health and giving people—especially those with the fewest resources—access to the opportunities needed to succeed in school and life (for more information on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, visit www.gatesfoundation.org). The donations to Boston Virtual ATC will be used to support the community, including covering the costs of our server and website.

We are extremely grateful to the sponsors and to everyone who made this event possible. Pilots, controllers, infrastructure vigilantes, website designers, movie makers, troublehooters, members who made time from their busy schedules to participate, and the many people who helped others have a memorable experience. This event, like everything that happens at BVA, was only possible because we have an incredible community of very special people.

Cross-Community Flight Announcement

On Saturday, July 6, members from Boston Virtual ATC, EasternHops, msFlights.net, and realFSX joined a common server for the second Cross-Community Flight. More impressive than the [very cool screenshots of the lineup](#) was the experience of bonding with the many members who enjoy the hobby we all love so much.

We're proud to say that Boston Virtual ATC will be hosting the next Cross-Community Flight right here on our server. Please save the date: Saturday, December 14, from 3-6pm ET. Additional information about the event will be posted shortly!



Regional Circuit

Rc

Wednesday, November 13
(8-11pm ET)

KAGS (Augusta) &
KATL (Atlanta)

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

Thursday, November 22
(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, December 5
(8-10pm ET)

KBWI (Baltimore)

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

Thursday, January 9
(8-11pm ET)

Arizona
(KFLG, KGCN, and KPRC)

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, November 16
(2-5pm ET)

Bad Weather RC
KCOS-KDEN

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

December 1-8

South Florida
(KMIA, KMCO, KPBI, KRSW)

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, BVA's ATC Instructors recognize **Nate ('Cessna_172_KBOI')** as Controller of the Month in October. No longer sounding

like he's talking through a potato (note location in Nate's BVA Username to recognize the clever pun for what it's worth), Nate has recently achieved a Class B Ground Solo rating. It's been a long journey for Nate (who started his training in March). He has spent hours practicing and refining his ability to control, and has established himself as one of our top Ground controllers. ATC Instructors noted Nate's last-minute presence and exceptional performance in a recent Regional Circuit in his nomination.

We look forward to the completion of his final exam on the Class B Ground position, after which he will begin training for Tower!



Flight SimCon 2014 Registration Opens

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FlightSim Con 2014 will be held in Hartford, Connecticut on June 7 and 8, 2014. Like last year, we expect Boston Virtual ATC to have a strong presence at the convention, and encourage our members to register and attend. The event will be held at the New England Air Museum at Bradley International Airport.

Additional information about Flight SimCon 2014, as well as the exhibits that will feature BVA, will be released in the next few months. For now, we encourage our members to read a bit more about last year's event in the [April 2013 Logan Informer](#), and [register now for 2014!](#) (Please be reminded that Flight SimCon is an external organization and the Flight SimCon website, along with any information you provide through that website, is beyond the scope of Boston Virtual ATC's Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.)

Boston Virtual ATC Adopts FAA Equipment Suffix Changes

Evan ('Evanet')

BVA Administration Team

Effective October 27, 2013 at 1600Z, Boston Virtual ATC adopted the FAA's recent changes to Equipment Suffixes. Almost all of the common suffixes that we are used to have been modified to align with the changes. As always, **all real-world equipment type suffixes are accepted on the server**, provided your aircraft has the capabilities of the suffix. There are also 7 fictional suffixes that are available for FSX-specific purposes and

can be filed on our server. **Please note that the "/Q" suffix has been removed by the FAA and should no longer be filed.**

You can use our [Equipment Suffix Selector](#) to determine the appropriate suffix for your aircraft type, or select your suffix from the lists available on our [Equipment Suffixes](#) page.

Please view [this forum post](#) for more information about the changes, and to ask any questions you may have about the use of the new suffixes.

FS Thunderbirds to Perform for Boston Virtual ATC

Evan ('Evanet')

BVA Administration Team

Boston Virtual ATC is pleased to announce that the FS Thunderbirds, a demonstration squadron, will be performing for us on Sunday, November 10 at 9pm ET. The show will take place via an online stream (the link will be posted on the day of).

Since the first practice in December 2012, the FS Thunderbirds have worked together to demonstrate the power of the F-16 and develop skilled pilots to demonstrate the abilities of this aircraft. The Flight Simulator Thunderbirds are a group of aviation enthusiasts who share a love of formation flying and working together as a team. One of their primary goals in the flight sim



community is to encompass the professionalism and formation flying techniques as demonstrated by the United States Air Force Thunderbirds Demonstration Squadron. The FS Thunderbirds hope to represent America's "Ambassadors in Blue" to the best of our abilities with our dedication and teamwork and instill our passion in future generations.

Precision flying is a skill that takes pride, precision, and professionalism. Nothing will test your precision flying abilities more than flying just inches away from another aircraft while performing aerobatic maneuvers. It is that adrenaline rush that drives us to do what we love, and to do it for the enjoyment of the public. Join us November 10 at 9pm ET to watch the ultimate demonstration of precision flying performed by the Flight Simulator Thunderbirds.

Pilot Tip of the Month

Top of Descent

Often times when flying STARs into various airports, air traffic control will give aircraft a discretionary descent. For example, you might hear a controller say "Cross Providence at and maintain one one thousand" or "Descend pilot's discretion and maintain one one thousand". When this happens, it is necessary to report leaving your previously-assigned altitude, since air traffic control does not know exactly when you will begin descending. This simple, yet important courtesy call ensures that you don't end up descending into another aircraft, and sounds like: "Boston Center, American 225 is beginning descent" or "Boston Center, American 225 is out of flight level 230 for 11,000."

A report to ATC is required any time you vacate any altitude for another assigned altitude (AIM 5-3-3-a-1-a), and is a test standard as part of PRP IFR 5.



Screenshot of the Month

Max ('Ameri767300')

BVA Administration Team

Congratulations to **Jimmy ('Hotshot Jimmy')** for winning BVA's October Screenshot of the Month contest! Displayed below, his shot is Boeing B-17 parked on the ramp at

St. Barts in the Caribbean. Click [HERE](#) to see the forum thread containing all of the competition's entrants.

If you missed this month's competition and are interested in submitting a screenshot next month, stay tuned to BVA's forums for the November Screenshot Contest announcement.



6 New Flights Added to the Pilot Ratings Program

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On October 6, we added 6 new flights to the Pilot Ratings Program. PRP VFR 4-6 will help pilots gain additional familiarity with airspace, learn the cross country planning process, and fly the KBOS Class B airspace transition (helicopter) routes. PRP IFR 12-14 will allow pilots to gain additional practice with advanced IFR procedures and introduce Charted Visual Approach Procedures (CVFPs) to the program.

To date, 211 members have passed at least one ratings flight as part of the program, and almost 1,250 ratings flights have been completed since the program was launched. Over 100 PRP flights were flown in the month of October alone.

For those who had previously completed the original 14 PRP flights, flying the new ones will be required in order to re-gain your status as a graduate of the program.

We'd like to thank Jason ('AviatorX60'), Jeremy ('jrvalent'), and Zac ('zploch'), as well as several of our most active controllers, for their help in developing and reviewing these new flights.

Boston Virtual ATC's Pilot Ratings Program is a self-study training program designed to help members learn how to fly within the ATC system. The program is structured as a series of training flights, each of which contains in-depth reference material. Starting from the first flight, VFR closed traffic at KACK, the program layers skills on flight by flight, and builds up to a series of challenging IFR procedures in PRP IFR 11. Pilot Ratings Program flights can be attempted any time the relevant controllers are online for the flight you wish to attempt. Click [HERE](#) to access the Pilot Ratings Program portal and find out more information about getting started!

Cape Air Virtual Admin Position Available!

Cape Air Virtual, a Boston Virtual ATC virtual airline, is currently seeking applicants for a position on the Cape Air Virtual Administration Team. All Cape Air Virtual pilots are welcome to apply. For more information, please review the [administration position job description](#) and follow the instructions contained with that document to to apply. We look forward to reviewing your application!

