

Minutes of Meeting

VATSIM Executive Committee

26th July 2005 at 2000 UTC

Roll Call

RD VATAME	–	Ilan Jonas	Present
RD VATASIA	–	William Woo	Present
RD VATCAM	–	David Liberman	Present
RD VATEUR	–	Kyprianos Biris	Present
RD VATNA	–	Chris McCarthy	Present
RD VATOCE	–	Terry Scanlan	Present (EC Chair)
RD VATSA	–	VACANT	
VP-Regions	–	Roland Collins	Present

Also present:

Deputy RD VATOCE – Norman Blackburn (minutes)

Executive Committee meeting started at 2015 UTC

AGENDA:

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting
2. Matters arising from previous minutes
3. Other Business
4. Region Reports

Prior to Item 1 on the Agenda EC Chair wished to thank Chris McCarthy, RD VATNA, for all the work he has put into the EC during his term. Family and real world always must come first and we appreciate Chris's time and effort and wish him well for the future. EC Chair also took the opportunity to welcome Norman Blackburn as Deputy RD VATOCE

1 Minutes from Previous Meeting

- 1.1 It was noted that these were previously discussed by email immediately following the meeting on the 10th May 2005, when they were duly accepted and released.

2 Matters arising from Previous Minutes

- 2.1 New members sign up and auto allocation to a Division if none selected.

BOG Response: *BOG agrees that the sign-up should remain as simple as possible and therefore does not propose any change to the current process. Local staff should provide assistance to a new member after sign-up*

RD VATEUR expressed concern that without notification, local staff members will still be unaware of new signups and therefore unable to offer assistance to new signups.

- 2.2 A welcome email sent out to new members directing them to the respective Division websites and resources.

BOG Response: *This was not supported by BOG since it requires regular maintenance and website/email staff would have to monitor the accuracy and chase for updates since it is hidden from others. However, BOG will consider changes to the common sign-up email so that it directs a new member to the Division links already on the main VATSIM web site.*

RD VATEUR Felt that contrary to the BoG response, updates to the database would not be as frequent as suggested. Suggested that flat files in local languages could be inserted into the CERT server

RD VATAME questioned why those responsible for the database did not recruit a competent team to assist in such tasks, thus enabling changes much quicker than at present.

RD OCEANIA welcomed any changes that could be made to make the signup more transparent for all.

- 2.3 Member transfers to other Regions.

BOG Response: *The link on the transfer form has already been completed. A second automatic notification to the OLD (leaving) RD would require considerable work. In view of the poor cost/benefit and the low priority, this part of the request has been put on hold.*

RD VATEUR questioned what considerable work would be required to also include the old RD in the transfer emails.

- 2.4 A new more friendly logon message.

BOG Response: *This was not supported since BOG specifically wishes to keep the log-on formal in order to reinforce user responsibility. BOG believes that "friendliness" can be best demonstrated elsewhere.*

RD VATEUR feels that the EC's collective opinion is at a grass roots level and should not be dismissed out of hand and further commented that the legal requirements consumes bandwidth and would be better served as part of the initial signup documentation.

- 2.5 Introduction of S2 and C2 ratings

BOG Response: *This was not supported by BOG since the rating structure must be uniform around the world. Any request for a change in rating structure should be agreeable to all regions and have global support. BOG also noted that most divisional training departments currently suffer from extensive backlogs in examinations, and expressed a concern that introducing additional ratings would put even more pressure*

on already scarce resources. The proposal as it stands would therefore introduce local variation and create more problems than it attempts to solve, and cannot be supported

RD VATAME suggested that there was a feeling that the smaller regions are less important. Despite having sent a majority decision in regard to implementing these ratings he felt disappointed that such a proposal was knocked back on the basis of not being unanimous.

RD OCEANIA agreed with RD VATAME and queried where it was written that such a proposal be unanimous since he was unable to find anything in CoR to suggest that this was a requirement. He further commented that occasions such as this serve only to reduce motivation.

After further discussion EC expressed dissatisfaction at the bog decision and agreed to further consider its options in this matter.

Action: EC Chair to advise.

2.6 EC Website

BOG Response: *BOG has already commenced a review of its main web pages and will be better positioned to consider this EC request when some fundamental decisions have been made in relation to that work.*

RD VATEUR suggested that even with his limited HTML skills he personally could make changes in 10 minutes, if access was available. Currently it takes many emails with the VATSIM webmaster to implement changes.

RD OCEANIA feels that the EC website belongs to the EC and therefore freedom should be given in its creation and design to allow the EC to be portrayed as they feel fit. Access and the ability to change information when required is important and should not be based on any potential changes to the main VATSIM site.

RD VATAME suggested that low priority is no priority. He commented If the task at hand is too much then simply call for help. There are many talented webmasters within VATSIM who could be organised as a team who collectively could produce something that is state of the art.

Action: VP Regions to follow up and seek a formal response from BOG.

2.7 RD Access to the NOTAM Console.

BOG Response: *This was passed by BOG vote and access for Regional Staff, (level 3 users) has already been implemented.*

RD VATEUR congratulated the BoG in the positive move of restoring NOTAM access to Regional Directors, commenting that the restrictions in place are very sensible.

RD VATOCE welcomed the changes to the NOTAM Console and reiterated that he felt none of the current Regional Directors would be likely to abuse the facility.

2.8 The use of free-email address.

BOG Response: *The current Membership policy on email addresses is that there are some that are completely banned, such as Hotmail, Yahoo, etc, and this restriction cannot under any circumstances be removed. All others domain names are classified as acceptable or unacceptable. Acceptable domain names are automatically processed without challenge. The others are filtered out for manual verification by Membership staff who make contact with an individual and apply discretionary power, and most of these are ultimately approved. This discretionary system is working well therefore BOG does not propose any change to the current process.*

RD VATEUR expressed concerns on the method of dealing with such signups. Does the member get a message saying “Failed” or a more detailed explanation?

VP Regions referred EC members to the report forwarded on 18th July detailing the BOG responses to all of these items, and drew attention to the priority system used by VATSIM membership when handling signup email addresses and notifying members of their email status.

VP Regions also provided a brief comment in relation to items 2.1 – 2.7 to assist EC in understanding bog decisions and concerns.

3 Other matters

3.1 URL Aliases, raised by RD VATEUR.

Some of the members in Europe Division have suggested the possibility of having a URL alias for each ARTCC / country, such as <http://germany.vatsim.net> or <http://newyork.vatsim.net>

This would allow new members an easier method of locating their area of choice. It would of course create a considerable workload in the initial setup but once implemented would see very little upkeep. RD VATEUR whilst acknowledging the benefits also highlighted concerns that a member could miss important information further up the chain.

RD VATCAM expressed concern that there would be a great deal of duplication of things that already existed through the menu system currently in place on VATSIM.net

RD VATOCE strengthened the concerns that this would end up being duplication. He suggested that this could be discussed via email in the interim period before the next EC meeting.

3.2 World Flight 2005, raised by RD VATOCE

RD VATOCE recently uploaded two documents to the EC group. The first is a route map and the second an explanatory document setting out the following. It is proposed to get as many people on line during the scheduled week. There are 3 confirmed fixed base sims that will be conducting charity flights in tandem following very similar routings around the world for a continuous 7-day period. A possibility further exists that two further sims from the UK and Canada who have historically been involved will raise this number to 5. This could lead to a mammoth event. If we could get the support of the BoG in recognising these charities we could market this as a week long

charity event across the globe, thus increasing traffic levels. The issues involved are monetary which would need to be thought through in great detail to prevent fraud. One of these is to have the charities that the sim groups support to document this. Individual pilots would be invited to fly alongside any of the routes and get personal local sponsorship, directing the sponsor to the donation web page of the nominated charity.

Operationally, there are issues with providing 24/7 Air Traffic Control.

Historically, World Flight Australia has provided en route ATC for their own flight. Over time there have been a few problems where they have controlled with no authorisation to do so, but was only done because no other ATC was available. In essence, what is being offered is a roaming ATC centre that can cover for the duration of the event for any and all traffic involved.

Through the EC it is hoped to obtain temporary visiting controller status to cover areas that would have no cover otherwise. It is quite possible, and was seen during last year's event, where the sims had a trail of 30 or 40 other aircraft in the air at the same time.

The ATC centre would be staffed only by highly qualified controllers since such traffic levels require a first class service.

To reiterate: To make this a global, VATSIM wide charity week with the support of the BoG. To provide ATC as we pass through or to allow the ATC Centre a temporary dispensation for visiting controller status through the EC.

RD VATEUR has said that they will support the event as they have done in the past.

RD VATAME commented that he sees no problem in the visiting controller status, but said that no matter the time of day controllers in Israel for example would be happy to support and offer ATC.

4 Region Reports

RD VATCAM Commented that a lot is going on in his region with some changes in Division Director.

RD VATEUR mentioned the One Sky event that sadly caused issues on the network and hoped that the network staff are working on this since it showed once again that large scale Region wide events don't have a potential for success. He went on to highlight the lack of available staff for DCRM/RCRP roles since these are typically filled by senior members.

RD VATASIA highlighted a coming event within his Region on the 6th August. It was anticipated that traffic levels will not be as great as One Sky for example.

RD VATOCE offered to support the VATASIA event through advertising since the regions are neighbours.

RD VATAME Spoke of EI Al who are wishing to get involved with the Region and using the services of VATAME on an "as available" basis in conjunction with their training.

There being no other business, the meeting finished at 2146 UTC on 26th July 2005.

APPENDIX A – FULL REGION REPORTS

NORTH AMERICA

22 July 2005

This is a brief region report for the North America Region.

1. VATUSA has been in flux for some time, and changes are forthcoming in upper management, as well as some key training positions. Too many of the ARTCC Chiefs have complained too often, and something will be done. VATUSA needs to right the ship, and get itself back on track.
2. VATCAN, as always, has very little problems. The Division continues to run smoothly, and its leadership is solid.
3. There were quite a few new supervisors added to the North America region, and not without some controversy. One new Canadian supervisor suspended an ARTCC Chief from VATUSA for observing. Even though the Chief was using a callsign to identify him as a Chief. The supervisor only gave him 5 minutes to respond to his call, and then killed him off the network. After a few emails, things have been straightened out. Which brings me to my point. It is imperative that all new supervisors read their job requirements.
4. Many fly-ins are scheduled for the rest of the summer, including another Boston ARTCC Tea Party where all controllers are in the same building. This fly-in will be followed with a tour of the real Boston Center and TRACON.
5. Finally, as of this morning, I have sent Roland my resignation from the VATNA1 position. Real world commitments and the fun waning from VATSIM for me have led to this decision. It has been a pleasure serving on the EC with you gentlemen, and I know we have done some good things, and have forwarded good ideas to the BoG. If my replacement is not ready to go by Tuesday, then I will be in attendance.

Chris McCarthy
VATNA1

EUROPE

20 July 2005

Division Reports.

VATEUD

>> 2. Staff Changes within Divisions

VATEUD6 Events Coordinator, Krzysztof Szerszen left position
Donato Torrese took over VATEUD6.
No other changes

>> 3. Upcoming Events or Events just held

Well, nothing held except OneSky 4, which was discussed widely. VATEUD division is preparing a new concept of "events" called "division tours", something that our competition does with quite some success for some time now. It means that members can sign up to fly a tour of lets say 30 legs, and have these legs accounted on the VATEUD website. Upon completion of the tour they are awarded with a document and a honourable mention on the tour website. To assist in registering the legs, BoG has agreed to allow simple automatic leg verification with the central VATSIM database, where all flight information is stored. We are planning at least 2 tours, one named the "capital tour", visiting all capital airports. The other one would be named "spectacular approaches" and would contain airports with dangerous, challenging or visually special approaches (think of Innsbruck, London City, Reggio Calabria etc.).

However, don't expect the tours to go live during summer, it will be at least September or October ...

>> 4. Issues affecting the Region both positive and negative

VATUK

Membership numbers (entries on divdb.txt) stand at 4444

Adrian Smith now UK Training Director with Martin Leat as his Deputy/Mentoring Manager

Gordon Pownall now UK Military Ops Director

Tom George replaced as webmaster, Chris Phillips appointed as Web Manager, Mark Wilson returned to staff as Deputy Webmaster

We have had the UK sector event covering all Upper level areas, a VFR event across the Midlands and the recent attendance at IFC in Blackpool.

A Flying display at Sywell on 14th July 2005 and the North of Scotland Flyin to come on 31st July 2005.

A VFR LARS (Lower Airspace Radar Service) event still to be held.

The UK website has maliciously attacked by Rob Jones and Liam Down working on vulnerabilities brought to their attention by Tom George whilst he was webmaster. Jones admitted liability for this and was suspended. The security on the RTS system is now being improved, but is taking longer than expected.

Discussions are underway for the improvement of the Capital and South East RTS (Regional Training Schemes).

VATRUS

2. Staff Changes within Divisions

No changes

> 3. Upcoming Events or Events just held

a. As you know, the recent Europe One Sky fly-in was hardly a success due to network problem. However, VATRUS luckily started its own fly in as part of One Sky some 6 hours earlier. Our fly-in was dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the Victory in World War II and was a total success, gaining an overall traffic activity of over astonishing 350 flights. Even though it was interrupted by network problems, everyone was too tired and excited to complain.

b. Summer is always a dead season in VATRUS with little ATC and pilots online, we're rarely seen in ServInfo. However, VATRUS' events planning is not standing still. Just a week ago we successfully conducted a VFR fly-in in ULLL, St-Petersburg region. VFR fly-ins are becoming more and more attractive to our flight simmers, as new VFR-suitable sceneries emerge, so we will see more VFR events in the future. A new VATRUS events calendar for this autumn is undergoing its final stages of revision and approval process. Some innovative events that VATSUS has never seen before are being carefully scheduled and planned for this oncoming autumn. They include: "Traffic Jam" (ATC 'puzzle' as they will require a lot of skills to resolve 'planned and scheduled' traffic conflicts), "VFR Holidays" (a test of ATC ability to work in no-radar conditions- ASRC closed and VFR traffic in squawk standby mode), "The right of way" (Ground position is for students? You bet! How about every parking space occupied, every taxiway blocked and lots of arriving traffic? A nightmare? We'll see how they do it). Other events are also being planned, such as our successfully tested events "Real Schedule" and "Window to Europe".

c. VATRUS will also participate in famous Russian air show in Moscow- MAKS 2005 (<http://www.airshow.ru/exhibition/1/ex.htm>). We will have a separate stand with a few computers linked to the Internet, running ASRC and a new, highly sophisticated model of Tu-154 from Project Tupolev, all showing on an overhead projector.

> 4. Issues affecting the Region both positive and negative

Lets start from positive ones

- We have a lot of new pilots both newbies and returning (attracted by SB3)
- A lot of new air traffic controllers are undergoing their training and 'certification' in our Training Department.
- A new VA- Eastline Express (ESL) is gaining momentum, growing in numbers of pilots and administrative base, attracting more people.

Negatives

- People are getting annoyed with slow rate of software updates compared to IVAO, but our staff is doing everything to convince them that it's all temporary slowdown; ASRC 1.11 is oncoming; etc.
- Software developers have made some negative comments on VATSIM policies

that are turned against them. They can't begin working on new Russian ATC-client (as far as you know, since ProController no ATC-client is supporting meters, that's why we need one of our own :-/). And they also can't release voice-ATIS clients, because no one has approved it, despite several attempts to contact staff.

Kyprianos Biris
VATEUR1
<http://vateur.org>

OCEANIA

22 July 2005

1. Membership Numbers

OCEANIA has 2412 members with 1035 attached VATPAC (the only division).

2. Staff Changes within Divisions

Regional Level:

Norman Blackburn – Deputy Director of Region

Division (VATPAC) Level:

Jackson Harding - Deputy Director of Division

Steve Ollis – Director of Information Technology

John Keech - Director of Australian Airspace

VATPAC have also launched a new training initiative involving the designation of a Training Staff corp. This organisational model broadens the organisational structure and makes services more accessible to general membership. All staff are highly motivated and the volume of work getting done is unprecedented.

3. Events

VATPAC continues to organise several popular regular events. VATPAC VAs continue to introduce new, innovative events including many international long haul initiatives.

4. VATUSA-Oakland / VATPAC Oceanic Alliance

OCEANIC negotiations continue OAKLAND and amalgamation of resources and website is progressing well. Norman Blackburn has joined the resource assessment team as we move to complete phase two of the common rating introduction.

5. World Flight 2005

VATPAC wishes to bring to the EC's attention that World Flight will be going ahead this year spanning the seven days commencing Monday 7th November. It is anticipated that there will

be FOUR fixed-base simulators participating. At this stage we anticipate that this four will include our English World Flight brothers flying a common route alongside the Irish, Scottish and Australian contingents. We expect this to be the biggest yet and anticipate a *substantial* following from members tagging along from home on each of the legs.

This brings us to the issue of ATC. World Flight has the capability to provide continuous 24/7 ATC from dedicated "ATC centres" for official WF fixed-base sims and the substantial number of tag-alongs. Since our preference is always to receive local ATC from the controllers of the divisions currently flying, we will be approaching each division to solicit a commitment to provide ATC for world flights within their airspace. Where such a commitment cannot be secured either due to the absurd local hour at which we will be arriving, or otherwise, we will be seeking temporary visiting controller amnesty for the purpose of covering our flights where no alternative local ATC is available. Such an amnesty would only be sought for select official world flight controllers operating out of the world flight control centre that each hold senior VATSIM ATC ratings have many years experience online as supervisors and ATC assessors, and in over 80% of cases hold/held real world pilot/ATC licences. In all cases our intention would be to stand down in the presence of any local ATC.

We will be seeking understanding and compassion here for a massive charity event and request that at this time that the respective RDs pre-empt our contact by engaging their Division Directors in discussion now.

6. S2/C2 Rating

Whilst VATPAC/VATOCE respects the decision of the VATSIM BoG to turn down the recent EC S2/C2 proposal, it is our wish that our disappointment in this outcome be recorded and relayed to the VATSIM BoG via the VP Regions. The justification given for this decision makes us "less populated divisions" feel like a second-rate divisions where we were only seeking a bit of flexibility for our members where we felt it would be beneficial.

Terry Scanlan
OCEANIA - RD

ASIA
17 July 2005

The Asia Region officially appointed Kar-lok Wong as the webmaster and the new VATASIA website is now launched. The url is <http://www.vatasia.net/> It serves as a portal for ATC and pilots who want to explore this area. It is still developing and more and more information like charts and flightplans will be uploaded. We also try to work out a booking system, similar to the Eurobook system to let pilots or ATC to know when will there be traffics.

There are few applications for the post of Deputy Regional Director but after careful consideration, no suitable candidate is identified. The post remains vacant and it will open for another round of application soon.

There is no other major personnel change within the region and the divisions.

We are planning for another regional fly-in event, the second one since the formation of VATASIA. The initial schedule date is 6th August, 2005 1200Z to 1700Z subjected to final confirmation. Most of the airspace within the existing divisions will be covered with ATCs. In addition, individual FIR outside the current division, like Hong Kong and Philippines, will also open with ATC coverage.

Asia also works on establishment of new division. Group of ATCs from Philippines, some are members of previous SATCO, expresses the wish of providing service and forming its own division. Progress is now going on and we are looking forward to see new division setup soon.

AFRICA MIDDLE EAST

26 July 2005

Vatil – Membership stands at 366 members – rising as always. No staff changes. EI-AI and Vatil cooperation continues very well. Starting this October, vatil will be an integral part of EI-AI new pilots' training, in 767, 742 and 737 fleets.

Rest of the region: Gulf_fss started its activity. This station will cover the Persian gulf area, including Syria and Yemen. Many events were held successfully throughout the region. Anyway, more to tell next month!

Total Region membership count stands now at 1244 members.

Happy holidays,

VATAME1

CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO AND CARRIBEAN

RD VATCAM reported that Dan Liberman has resigned as Director VATMEX, and been replaced by Javier Casarin, who has already appointed all his staff. It is now under the new directive of increasing activity. For that purpose it started with the first event of a series (Tequila Fly In) to be held basic on Sundays local time. VATCA, under the same directive has continued with local activity, specially activating CENAMER control more often. As far as VATCAR is concerned, with the help of Terry and Roland, a procedure has been established to conduct elections in the Area. As soon as this election takes place, VATCAM will inform who the new Caribbean Director will be.

David Liberman

VATCAM

SOUTH AMERICA

Not available at this time

