



VATSIM Board of Governors

Meeting Minutes

2nd October 2010

Old Business

- Pilot Ratings Update (Kyle R)
- Recognizing Staff (Terry)
- Continuity of Operations (Dave)
- VATSIM – State of The Nation Notam including pilot clients(Dave)
- Local Rules (Roland)
- ATC Elitism

New Business

- Regions issues – ASIA and South America(Roland)
- When is an FIR/ARTCC/Division is not viable (General discussion)
- Development progress – Pilot Clients (Wade)
- Supervisors update – (Jeff)

Other Business

The meeting commenced at 1213UTC with the following members present:

David Klain - holding Proxy for Jeff Turner

Florian Harms

Jim Johnson

Kyle Ramsey

Luca Benelli

Mike Evans

Roland Collins – holding proxy for Steven Cullen

Norm Blackburn

Wade Williams

Terry Scanlan – Proxies held for Norm Blackburn and David Klain in the event of absent during a vote.

Apologies:

Jeff Turner

Steven Cullen

Total votes available - 12

The meeting commenced at 1213UTC

Approval of minutes from previous meeting

These were approved by BoG vote following June meeting and were not tabled.

Old Business

a) Pilot Ratings update – Kyle Ramsey

Progressing well with VATEUD awaiting an audit on their P1 application, once that is completed there will be four ATOs, 2 VAs and 2 VATSIM ATCOs. Kyle reported on the high quality of the sights done so far. It would be preferred to have at least five ATOs up and running before declaring the end of the BETA test. P2 and P3 program will be introduced around Thanks Giving time in 2011.

During the Beta phase many refinements have been identified and will be included in the new document that will be released when the P1 rating comes out of Beta before Christmas.

Kyle made the point that it is a great advantage for a member from another region to go to say VATCAN or VATEUD and take the P1 test there as it gives you a different perspective of pilot operations in different countries.

David Klain congratulated Kyle on the work done so far and asked that we get some more information on the website.

b) Recognizing Staff/Members – Terry Scanlan

Terry mentioned the collective work of the working group comprising both BoG and EC members that can be viewed on the forum and summarized as follows:

- Considering recognition or awards for Pilots, ATC, Staff and General Members
- Some awards would be temporary and given out each QTR and others would be permanent. Pilots could be based on hours flown or number of flights completed each QTR and the same for ATC, number of controller positions manned or number of hours logged. Stats for these can easily be obtained each QTR by a special script that would extract this data.
- Staff and General Member's awards would be put forward by Division Directors to their Regional Director for consideration.
- Permanent awards for contributions to VATSIM – it was acknowledged that this can be quite difficult as so many have contributed so much over the life of VATSIM.
- *Jeff Turner* has suggested that Supervisors should not be overlooked and they will be included.

Suggestions that have come from the forum thread include limiting the number in each category to 10, issuing progressive pilot awards such as 500hrs, 1000hrs, 2000hrs etc. A special permanent VATSIM award badge to be given out to the recipients so that they can use it with their signatures on forums etc. Another idea suggested was to issue a special series of CID number so that when logged onto the network they would be recognized by virtue of their CID.

Roland cautioned how the pilots seeking an award based on number of flights may stop doing long haul flights so that they can accumulate numbers in this area. He went on to say that the same could be said for ATC who may login in for

short periods in many different positions. Suggested to stay with number of hours and let the member decide how to accumulate them.

Terry and Dave both agreed with this suggestion.

Florian was concerned that a large number of awards would have little meaning and no quality so keep the awards to a minimum so that they mean more to the member. *Florian* went on to remind the meeting that there were several members out there that had accumulated a large number of hours online that should be immediately recognized.

David suggested special logos for the permanent members and that they could change as more time was accumulated or another level of recognition was given. *David* was also keen to see the Supervisors recognized as they are the unsung heroes of VATSIM and discussed how they could be recognized for their time on line during the QTR.

c) Continuity of Operations – Dave Klain

Dave has had discussions with Mike, Luca, Richard Jenkins and George Marinakis to determine how the operations of VATSIM can continue in the unlikely event of one of the key BoG members becoming unable to continue their duties. This has now been put into place and so the item is closed.

d) VATSIM Update For Members – Dave Klain

Dave will have his report to VATSIM available by the end of the week and will send it out for comment before publishing it.

e) Local Rules – Roland Collins

Entered Executive Session at 1240UTC

Left Executive Session at 1304UTC

Roland reported that the EC was tasked at reporting on local rules, they were also asked to report on training and assessment methods. As there hadn't been an EC meeting these discussions continued by email.

Dave asked *Roland* to clarify where these email discussions were taking place.

Roland said that there was not too many email exchanges and confirmed that the EC were slow in completing this task.

Kyle said that on his investigations he found that none had fully implemented GRP and suggested that this could be checked by a simple audit. He was critical of the EC in that RDs tended to focus too much on their own region and had no knowledge of what was going on in other regions. He went on to say that if the Divisions knew that they would be subject to an audit of their compliance with the GRP then they would most likely have their house in order for an audit.

Roland was happy for the minutes to reflect that there would be random audits of divisions for compliance with GRP.

David requested that *Roland* conduct an audit of divisions to check on compliance and where needed instruct the division to comply with GRP.

Florian was of the opinion that the RDs should do this audit and not *Roland*. *Roland* should issue the directive to audit their respective divisions.

Dave disagreed and reaffirmed that *Roland* should do it. He should do spot audits perhaps on a one division a month basis.

Norman also agreed that the checks should be on a random basis.

Roland requested that the minutes reflect that the RDs were tasked with this and that he would now make random checks to ensure compliance.

f) ATC Elitism

Terry summarized what had transpired from the previous meeting and it came down to adding some wording to the "About VATSIM" section on the website.

Florian gave an undertaking that the committee formed to review this situation would have some recommendations before the end of October.

New Business

a) Regions Issues – Asia and South America

Roland reported that there were three applications for the position of RD-Asia of which two were worthy of consideration. *Roland* offered to send the committee's recommendation to the BoG and then to call for a vote.

Roland reported that in South America the newly appointed RD was very quiet and didn't seem to be performing as expected. He went on to say that it might be a good idea to have a meeting with a newly appointed RD in which Founders, BoG members and possibly division directors to attend that meeting and to spell out the expectations of the newly appointed RD.

Dave requested a report on the problems in Korea.

Roland noted that he had written to members that had lodged complaints about training in Korea and that he had also asked that the current acting RD , Alfred Tang take steps to resolve it.

Dave advised that it would appear that nothing has happened as he is still receiving complaints as recently as 48hrs ago. *Roland* was keen to get the new RD in place so that he can effectively deal with it.

Jim asked if anyone had heard from the Korean division director, *Roland* said no as he is not known for his response to emails.

Dave suggested that we turn off his access to cert until he responds. *Dave* also suggested that Alfred Tang be given a time line to resolve the problem or remove him as Deputy RD Asia. He would suspend all the staff of VATKOR if these problems were not resolved.

Norman suggested the use of CoC A1

b) When is an FIR/ARTCC/Division not viable

Dave referred to VATEUD's approach to this problem. They are taking a very proactive approach to the problem of inactive FIR/ARTCC and it requires minimal work. If the FIR/ARTCC are not supporting the airspace they are responsible for then they declare it 'open' and any appropriately rated controller can control there and the FIR/ARTCC affectively ceases to exist. This discussion is about whether this should become a VATSIM wide policy. In VATEUD a FIR/ARTCC should have a minimum of 10hrs of activity a month and if less than 10hrs a month then that area is declared open skies. There is no requirement to vote on this at this meeting but he would like it considered to be made a VATSIM wide policy.

Florian agreed that this idea in Europe was very good however any small ARTCC must have support or it would fail and in that event then it would be declared 'open' *Norman* agreed and thought it a good idea for qualified controllers to step in and control areas that are inactive. He likened it to the *Hit Squad* in getting traffic to areas that are not functioning. However he cautioned against members taking it upon themselves to establish an unauthorized FIR such as what happened recently in North Korea whereby several members were suspended for establishing an unauthorized FIR.

Dave suggested that airspace is open until an FIR or ARTCC is set up in cooperation with the local Division Director (1:25:21)

Florian said that the Division Director must liaise with local vACC and others before declaring part of their airspace to be "Open Skies".

Dave asked that *Florian* and *Norm* find out exactly how this has been implemented in Europe and report back to the BoG to consider adapting it as a model to be used VATSIM wide.

c) Development progress – Pilot Clients

Wade reported that there has been quite a lot of development happening including;

- All the source code consolidated to one repository
- A development mailing list established which has created considerable exchange of information amongst the developers.
- A Developer WIKI which should be up in the next few months
- A Roger Wilco sanitized version of AVS compiled and out to Luca and Mike for distribution.
- A modification of AVS to show who the speaker is and this has been sent to Luca for testing.
- Additional logins for FSD and modifications to allow upper winds to be received.
- Pilot Clients- three windows clients in development,
- Radar Clients - four MAC radar clients and one rewrite of TWR Trainer and ATCSim underway. A TMA application is also being developed.

Wade went on to say that whilst there was enthusiasm from the developers, some may not make it for release

Florian mentioned that there was a development in Germany of an "Aloft Winds" client and that he would monitor its progress.

Luca advised that the AVS server has been sent to all server owners and that it just needed to be installed.

Dave suggested that a generalized announcement be made on VATSIM website to keep the membership apprised of developments.

Luca will send an email to BoG members to advise which servers had responded and installed the new software.

d) Supervisor Update.

As Jeff Turner was unable to attend the meeting he submitted a written report as below:

The SAS system is not functioning correctly and that he, the author of the software and Mike Evans are working towards a solution to resolve the problem. He is currently processing SUP applications manually.

All 5 teams of Supervisors have been audited and several SUPS have had warnings issued as they haven't met their online requirement for several months.

Jeff is looking at ways in which to recognize Supervisors for what they do in their online duties.

There are teams that need additional Supervisors but he would like to see the SAS system running again before going forward.

Mike advised he is waiting on contact from Anthony, the author of the SAS system

Other Business

Two New Items Of Business (not on agenda)

e) Software Updates on Cert Server

Entered Executive Session at 1353UTC

Left Executive Session at 1356UTC

f) FSS and GRP

Discussions were held as to whether the use of FSS should be included in designated airspace and require special endorsement so that the EC could be given guidance as to how this was to be treated.

Both Dave and Norman had to leave the meeting due to personal commitments.

g) VATGOV9 Vacancy

Kyle advised that many were asking when this position would be advertised and that it should be addressed ASAP.

The meeting closed at 1422UTC