VATSIM Board of Governors

Meeting Minutes

25th June 2011

Present:-

David Klain [DK]
Terry Scanlan [TS]
Peter Nielsen [PN]
Florian Harms [FH]
Luca Benelli [LB]
Wade Williams [WW]
Christoph Neukirch [CN]
Roger Curtiss [RC]
Jim Johnson [JJ]
Kyle Ramsey [KR]

Apologies:-

Norm Blackburn – Proxy to Terry Scanlan
Jeff Turner – Proxy to Terry Scanlan
Steven Cullen – Proxy to Florian Harms

Agenda:-

Old Business

- Pilot Ratings Update (Kyle R)

New Business
- VATSIM 10th Anniversary planning – Terry
- VATSIM Recognition Program – Terry
- Update on Pilot and ATC Clients – Wade
- Update to Cert – Christoph
- New User Survey – Roger
- VA Sponsored Events – Roger
- Multiplayer Injection – Steven
- Report from EC – Terry (GRP2 amendment and RD Europe replacement)

Other Business

- Forum – Kyle

Meeting commenced at 2103z with 10 Governors present and a Quorum formed.

DK welcomed Christoph Neukirch and Peter Nielsen, the two new VPs to the BoG and wished them well in their new positions.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

  Pilot Ratings – Kyle Ramsey
  KR reported that the Pilot Training and Rating document was still in draft form and should be finalized soon. It appeared that the program would follow a traditional IFR/VFR type program although there were other considerations to be taken into account such as Helo operations. There were considerations of multiple kinds of ratings rather than a straight 'linear' model. The team was in the process of pulling the IFR/VFR documents together with the view of progressing to the P2 and P3 ratings.
  Discussion ensured with regard to implications with the cert server and how it could handle a 'non-linear' model for Pilot Ratings. DK went on to explain how this could happen.

  TS asked how many ATOs were on board.

  KR reported that there were three that he has applications for and another two that he is confident will make it.

  KR referred to VATEUR situation where it was difficult to implement due to the many FIR, vACCs etc.

  PN recognized a bottleneck in VATEUR where one person was responsible to report to KR, he was keen for the vACCs to be responsible for their own training and to report to KR.

  PN asked what the ultimate aim of the Pilot Rating program was.

  KR replied that the ultimate aim was to make better pilots and to give the pilots a goal to work for and to ensure that they remain on the network.

  DK advised that the Founders were not in favor of a structured system for pilots similar to the ATC ratings where you had limited access depending on your rating. The Pilot Rating program is meant to be a learning environment for those pilots that want to improve their skills. The P1 is just the basics and teaching new pilots how to log on and accept the airways clearance.

  Executive Session entered 2121z and left at 2123z

RC asked if there was any consideration of having a two tiered system where pilot access to the more detailed areas of ATC would be limited to those that had the higher rating.

DK advised that this would never happen and would not be considered.

KR pointed out that the Pilot Training and rating system was a strain on resources and was conscious of the strain on the personnel involved in ATC training having to divert some of their resources to Pilot Training. KR was in favor of relying on outside contractors to provide the training against the standards that we have developed.

DK made the observation that it was mainly the VAs that were providing the training and some to exceptionally high standards.

ACTION ITEMS:-
KR to liaise with EUROPEAN ATO folks to see how they are implementing their Pilot Ratings.
KR to determine how the structure will look, Linear or other so that the infrastructure require can be put in place.
KR to report back to the email list with plans for what the rating structure will look like.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

Tenth Anniversary Planning – Terry Scanlan
TS summarized the 10th Anniversary Planning as follows

EC will coordinate all the events for the weekend

The date for the celebration will be the weekend of July 30th and 31st.

VATSIM Staff fly around for all Staff- Steven to organize this.
Sponsors approached and confirmed as donors of either software or hardware are Flight 1, Flight Deck Solutions, Project Magenta, Captain Sim, Air Traffic Atlanta. How these prizes are awarded is yet to be determined.

Press Release – Joel Lesser(a Founder) will arrange this with Steven Cullen providing statistical data to be included.

Greetings to be sent from various 3rd party organizations.

All administrative arrangements should be in place by June 30th if possible.

FH advised that there will be extra pages on the VATSIM.net website for the 10th Anniversary material. Marketing of the project to commence July 1st and reminded the meeting that it was during the major holiday season in Europe.

TS recognized the need to acknowledge in some way the VAs that supported the event.

KR would discuss with RC the possibility of a competition between VAs that would see members flying to a given destination with set parameters.

Recognition Program – Terry Scanlan

TS said that all the plans were in place as per previous discussion and that all we had to do now was to implement it on the anniversary date. He reaffirmed the meeting that the Pilot and ATC recognitions would be in two parts. One award to be made for total hours online and the other would be more quarterly awards similar to an Iron MIC award. These would be limited to the top 10 Pilots and ATC each Quarter.

TS sought advice on how to pull the data and have an automated email go to the members that qualify.

DK said that was quite easy and went on to explain how this could be done.

Update on ATC and Pilot Clients – Wade Williams

WW Advised that there were two Pilot Clients for Windows in development, one would be in beta within 3 months and release candidate a few months after that. The second one has just started and no status available at this time.

WW Advised that there were three ATC Clients in development, Ross Carlson's V-Stars, the RADAIR client and a MAC client that he was developing himself.

WW said that the FSD was being further enhanced with the OCEANIA server now back online. Other developments he was working on were 'upper wind layers' being fed in to the network but this was stalled at the moment due to other more important issues.

Update to CERT – Christoph Neukirch

CN advised that he had done a detailed investigation into the CERT and was now working on different projects, one being a new sign up page. He was of the opinion that the current sign up process was quite daunting to new members and so is making it easier to follow. He is also proposing some major changes to the data base and advised this was difficult and a long term project.

PN suggested introducing an IT ticket system so that the BoG can track progress on updates being worked upon at any given time by CH and his team

CN would like to build up a team to work under him and would follow up on this.

New User Survey – Roger Curtiss

RC recognized the need for a new user survey to be written as it is now 5yrs since the previous survey.

DK Agreed and advised that this had been discussed in the mailing list but it was important to keep the questions in the same format in order to compare with the previous survey. It would be necessary to acquire some survey software to accomplish this. Luca, Christoph and Dave would get the survey up on the web and called for a team to be formed to manage the survey.

RC, KR and FH were appointed to the team to look at the questions and also to ensure that the Pilots were included in the survey.

ACTION ITEM:
The survey team to look at the format of the survey and to start considering the questions.

VA Sponsored Events – Roger Curtiss

RC Said that to add value to VA Partnerships that VATSIM should only support and sponsor approved VA Partners for their events.

FH Had some concerns as he was finding it difficult to accommodate all other requests for publicity on the website but that he would give it some thought and report back.

DK commented that a lot of the VAs gets their events publicized by the local ARTCC, FIR or Division level and that it may be as simple as having them liaise with FH or to even grant them access to inject the information via the CMS to the website. DK suggested that FH work with the EC through PN to discuss this.

ACTION ITEM:
FH, PN and RC to discuss and find out the best way to go about this. They are to liaise with the VAs and Divisions to seek assistance in getting publicity for the VA events that are currently not publicized on the VATSIM.net website.

EC Proposed Amendments to GRP2 – Terry Scanlan

TS briefed the BoG on the proposed amendments to the GRP2. The proposed amendments have been suggested to reduce training delays and also to enable students to gain some experience online before undertaking their TWR practical assessment. TS referred the BoG to the GRP2 amendment document and summarized it as follows:

> (1) S1 and S2 Competencies combined, DEL & GND merged with TWR.
> (2) S1 becomes a Tower Trainee.

(3) The S1 Tower Trainee must have completed the written test for both S1 and S2.

(4) The S1 Trainee Tower Controller is permitted to perform a full TWR service of DEL, GND and TWR.

(5) This proposed change is optional as many training departments combine the S1 and S2 ratings

(6) Solo training would be allowed whereby an S2 TWR Controller could operate as a TMA controller for a fixed period of time yet to be determined but presumed to be around 21 to 30 days. Similarly an S3 controller could operate an Enroute service for a fixed period of time.

Some amendments to CERT are required and the EC have notified to CN and he is looking into how the changes can be made.

PN agrees that we should have a Solo Controller agreement so that the student seeking a higher rating can get some experience before undertaking his exam. He is of the opinion that agreed time for this opportunity to train up should be limited.

TS asked CN is it a possibility to amend CERT to allow the Training Department to select an option to allow the student to access the higher rating of S3 for a limited number of days.

CN said that it was possible but would have to wait till the upgrade to CERT was complete.

PN asked how SUPS would be able to determine who was approved to do SOLO Training.

TS said perhaps their CERT record could have a notation on it to say that they are approved.

DK was of the opinion that the SUPS should not have to police it and that it was up to the EC to find a way to make it work.

DK tasked PN to advise the EC that the BoG had no issues with the proposed amendments however it was up to the EC to devise a way to implement the changes.

- **OTHER BUSINESS**

Forum Problems – Kyle Ramsey

KR raised the issue with the ongoing problems with the VATSIM.net forums being slow and giving error messages when search functions were used.

CN said that he and LB had identified the problem and it was in the process of being rectified.

Server Issues

DK advised the meeting that the donor for the server that the STATS are currently running would be unable to continue supporting it after the end of July. CERT has to be moved from the server it is currently hosted on and as a result of this two new servers would have to be found. Ideally two new servers would need to be found, one in Europe and the other in North America with one becoming the Master CERT server and the other being the STATS server.

Election of VATSIM President:

DK advised that his two year term is coming to an end in July and that an internal BoG election would be called in the next five to six weeks.

New RD for Europe Region:

DK advised that Kyprianos Biris, the current RD for Europe would be retiring on July 12th and therefore we need to find a new RD for Europe. A NOTAM advertising the position would be sent out after the meeting.

TS suggested that the whole BoG see all the applications and offered to tabulate the applications and prepare them for the BoG to review.

DK offered thanks to Kyp Biris for his service to the VATSIM community over a period of 10 years.

Confidentiality and the Board Of Governors

DK took the opportunity with new Governors present to reinforce the need for confidentiality within the BoG. He asked that all discussions on the mail list and other media be kept confidential and not to disclose or discuss issues that were being worked on within the BoG.

Meeting Closure

DK moved that the meeting close at 2213z

TS seconded the motion.

The meeting closed at 2213z