

VATSIM Board of Governors

Q2 2015 Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2015 2000z

Open Meeting, Record Attendance and Proxies

New Business

- Open meeting, record ad hoc votes – KR
- Boston Virtual ATC Merge – JF
- Regions Report and GRP – PN
- Pilot Training Update – DP
- Supervisor Coverage – GL
- Membership Update - DG
- Membership Intake Page Improvements - PN
- Close meeting – KR

Attendees:

Norman Blackburn (NB)

Peter Nielsen (PN)

Kyle Ramsey (KR)

Roger Curtiss (RC)

Luca Benelli (LB)

Justin Friedland (JF)

Gunnar Lindahl (GL)

Kieran Hardern (KH)

Daniel Gomes (DG)

Divya Patel (DP)

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 2004z by KR and attendance taken. SC sent apologies with his proxy to NB.

KR recorded there were four BoG votes since the Quarter 1 2015 BoG meeting:

- To approve the minutes of the BoG quarterly meeting of May 9, 2015 @ 2000z, as emailed to all BoG members, for general release and publishing on the VATSIM website, Passed 9-0
- To approve the amended version of the VATSIM Code of Regulations as emailed to the BoG at 1203Z 2015-06-21. Passed 8-0
- To submit a request to the relevant Founder(s) for an additional CoC clause delineating the permitted network activities. Such an amendment would address the restrictions of non-civilian activities and direct members to the Special Operations Policy that details these restrictions. Also, to insert language limiting pilot connections to aircraft only. Passed 8-3
- To appoint <redacted> as a VATSIM Supervisor. Failed 4-7

Boston Virtual ATC Merge – JF

- JF reports Boston Virtual ATC has decided to join VATSIM, conversations started at FlightSimCon and details passed to Don Desfosse in USA to work out details. They bring hundreds of new members including well trained ATC and pilots.
- We are trusting the folks in USA to sort out the details and will wait to provide any assistance they request of us.
- Working out how to transfer ratings and skills testing to get people in the right seats quickly.
- PN asks what we can learn from them. JF replied they are very strong in VFR flights in busy class airspace and will bring a wealth of information and skill in handling these aircraft, plus their pilots enjoy GA flying in busy airspace so a nice mesh of these cultures and talents.
- DP indicates he has made contact with them to leverage their skills and resources in VFR to help build up our current offering for Pilot Training ratings.
- Executive session 2008z; Out of executive session at 2023

Regions and GRP Report – PN

- PN reports on Africa/Middle East with Amir Paz's resignation. Thomas Mathieu has reconnected with this team as interim (3-4 months) RD drawing on his past experience. Middle East groups are talking about ways to increase their traffic and member intake working more closely together.
- No major issues in other regions reported.
- PN suggests GRP is the EC's tool and we lack the analysis to suggest a specific problem based mostly on a few emails about delays in training progress of controllers worldwide is the fault of GRP. As BoG rep to the EC, PN will continue to encourage the RDs to examine and improve their programs providing our support to their decisions on experimenting with ideas like the focus on Major Airports/Airspace to make them efficient to the training process balanced with pilot expectations of experience.
- In Executive Session 2032z; out of Executive Session 2055z

Pilot Training Update – DP

- DP reports gone through entire list of ATOs that were pending. Several new ATOs, 8-9 in the pipeline and several others upgrading to P4 and P5 rating.

- Work to complete the P9 Flight Instructor rating ready by the end of the year being driven by Max Lye.
- Forming an audit team to help audit existing ATOs to ensure compliance with VATSIM rating standards, get feedback on places to improve and to also discover best methods that can be shared with other ATOs.
- P6 to P8 ratings forming a team to build the criteria for these ratings, with expect to take 4-6 months per rating to develop and integrate into the first ATOs. These will be a focus for 2016.
- _CFI callsign and pilot rating display for pilots still important to recognize these individuals.

Supervisor Coverage – GL

- GL reports 16 new supervisors taken on board with 4 in the pipeline. Please help make them feel welcome.
- Still struggling to find qualified supervisor applicants in Africa and Middle East specifically, to help cover those time zones, help locate and encourage people you know to apply.
- Supervisor Operations manual has been circulated and asks everyone finish their review and any feedback so we can go to final version.

Membership Update – DG

- DG reports the automated tool for tracking suspended members is working well.
- New ticket system going live, will hang on to the old one for a short while until everything is moved to the new system.

NB and GL leave meeting at 2104z

Membership Signup Page Improvements – PN

- PN suggests we need to improve the membership signup web page, it stops at region level and may be a barrier to non-English speakers. We see many transfer requests from people who found themselves in the wrong region or think they did.
- Many sign up without ever trying to control or fly.
- DG gets emails from people asking about pilot training specifically, maybe tailored to their region.
- Discussion about how to better engage pilots and connect them to the resources within their local area and customs. Pilot training and ratings are still optional which takes away the stick, so how do we find the right carrot?
- PN asks KH to help design the web site and DG to help organize the resources by area to help pilots find their way.
- KH states upcoming changes to CERT will modify the current signup process so now is a good time to make suggestions. He plans to end the signup process with ‘sign-posts’ to inform new members where they are and the options in front of them clearly.
- DG asks that the system be able to help pilots find their proper home relative to the part of the world they are from. DP wants to be able to plug in new members with ATO CFIs as they request, by area.

- KH suggests we get out of the practice of ‘contact someone’ vs having lists of resources to allow the member to solve problems for themselves in minutes instead of days. We can also have a page specifically for pilots with emphasis on new pilots to help them find VATSIM approved resources, ATOs, VA and VSOA Partners, etc.
- The question on how to direct members who are from an area without an ATO? The ability to focus members on internal VATSIM resources like the Pilot Academy is a strategic advantage.
- PN points out Boston Virtual ATC has thrived with mandatory pilot ratings, what we can learn from them? DG points out they started with that as the expectation but we didn’t so not such an easy course to change. PN counters we have changed the rules before, like GRP, but he also doubts we will ever have mandatory pilot training.
- DP will contact Boston Virtual ATC representatives to collect their point of view on the pilot training issue and bring back their comments for further discussion.
- KH suggests Boston Virtual ATC could be successful due to the local area they served whereas VATSIM has to provide an equivalent service worldwide which is not trivial and we’re not prepared to do that anytime soon.
- KH has suggestions to be able to take referrals from local sites to perform the intake process then they are delivered back to the referring site (a local vACC) so they are back ‘home’ after going through our centralized process.

Motion to close meeting by KR, seconded by PN, motion carried. Meeting closed at 2133z.