# May




# THE PACIFIC JOURNAL

May 2024 Pacific Airways Virtual Airline

Welcome to the May issue of the Pacific Journal. Anybody can contribute to the Journal. We are looking for stories, jokes, cartoons, anything newsworthy for the airline. We have opened the Journal to the public, so make sure your submissions can be seen by anybody. Send anything you have to

**ceo@pacificairways.net**

**NEWS:** Pacific Airways welcomes Michael Klein to the PAY staff. Mike will hold a new position called Director of Tours and Routes. As some of you remember, we used to have a Charter Center where pilots could make special made-up flights. This will work the same way. On your dashboard, the left side navigation pane, you will see Events/Tours which are separate pages now. Norm Tipton will continue to manage the Events like our Vatsim Sunday- Monthly flight assignments, group flights with other airlines, memorial, anniversary flights etc. Mike will manage the Tours page and be the contact person for adding, deleting, and editing our Regular Scheduled Flights. On the Tours side, Mike will make up flights (Tours) that might follow real word events like delivering cargo to disaster areas, following sports teams around the country, flights around the world, that kind of thing. All tours will be open to all pilots. Some will be time sensitive, some open all year. Like the Events, Pilots will have to navigate to the tours page and dispatch (Book) the flight from there for it to count towards the Tour. Completing tours will earn awards and XP points just like Events. Thank you, Mike, for your future work. It will be interesting to see what you come up with for Tours.



**New Website Changes:** We have added some new features to our website. Serenity has added a request LOA, Request resignation and a Donation page to the mix. On your dashboard, top right corner, click your icon or Avatar (same way you view your profile). On the dropdown menu, there is a new link for requesting an LOA. On the Leave of Absence page, you enter the beginning and ending date of your proposed LOA. Once approved, you still show Active on the roster, but the system will ignore you for not flying during your LOA period. Once the date runs out, you will be put back on Active and will again have to fly once every 30 days. LOA's for up to 6 months are granted without question. Longer than 6 months can be approved on a case-by-case basis.

On the profile dropdown under "Settings" there is a new selection to resign from the airline. When resigning, it goes through instantly notifying us that you have resigned. There is a selection to save your hours and logbook in case you want to come back. Pilots who resign in good standing are eligible to get all their hours back if they return.

There is a new donation page that is accessible from your dashboard on the left side navigation page. When you donate, you will receive the Pacific Donator award. Thank you in advance for helping the airline financially.

On your dashboard, the alert flag for news articles will now disappear once you have read the article. The flag on the Notems will remain until the Notem is removed. Notems are a higher priority message than News articles.

**From the IT Department:** First of all, I would like to say thank you to everyone over the last few months while i have been transitioning pacific airways over to our new system, it has taken many, many hours to redesign and create complex custom systems for our pilots.

I am glad to say we are now 100% fully operational and all our systems appear to be running without any issues, which is great to see after the various issues that have plagued the airline.

Over the coming weeks our team will be creating custom tours for our members to enjoy and earn awards & rewards.

Also, another big thanks to our testers over the last few months reporting issues and giving me great ideas to bring new features to the airline and making our pilots' experience in using our web systems as easy and straightforward as possible.

See you all in the skies,

*Serenity PAY2981* -Vice President of I.T.

**Simbrief Partnership:** Pacific Airways is now a proud member of Simbrief Virtual Airlines – Partner list. A bit of information for you, The Simbrief program was originally written by a Pacific Airways pilot who flew for us, was an IT staff member and fleet painter. When we contacted Simbrief to join the partners list, the programmer/pilot still works there and remembered us. Thank you, Derek.

**New Award policies:** Starting this month, General Aviation, Silverjet and "Other" aircraft are no longer eligible to receive the "Best Landing of the Month" Award. Your landing will have to be with an aircraft which is in our main categorized fleet.

Staff Members are no longer eligible for the Pilot of the Month award.

**From the Paintshop:** I have painted the follow me car for XP11 and XP12. The follow me car is a good alternative now that the SAM program isn't supported anymore. The follow me car is available in the .org store at:

FollowMe Car for X-Plane -JARDesign-FollowMeCar

Follow me car available in the Downloads Center



Pacific Airways will no longer paint new aircraft for FSX. We have a complete fleet for FSX, nothing is being taken out of the downloads, we will just not be painting anything new for that sim. Not many people are using FSX anymore and the sim will soon not be supported by Microsoft.



When this comes out, we will probably paint it, but that will be the only exception…

**Experience Points:** I was asked to explain how the Experience Point system works.

On your Dashboard, left side navigation under Statistics, choose Statistics, then Rank Structure. The Experience Points are new for Pacific with the vaBase program. Ranks are earned now with a minimum number of hours and Experience Points. (see ranks page). Each flight with ACARS is rated with a performance score. Each flight has a maximum of 10 experience points earned with a 100% performance score. 50% score earns 5 points etc. For instance, a pilot promoting from First Officer to Captain needs 20 hours and 50 experience points. With 100% performance score earning 10 points per flight, it would take 5 flights to earn 50XP for that promotion. If there were some bad landings or errors and didn't earn 100%, then it will take more flights to earn the 50XP. This keeps a brand-new pilot from making a single or couple long flights to promote. Requirements go up as you reach higher ranks.

***VATSIM Sunday Highlighted Airport for May***

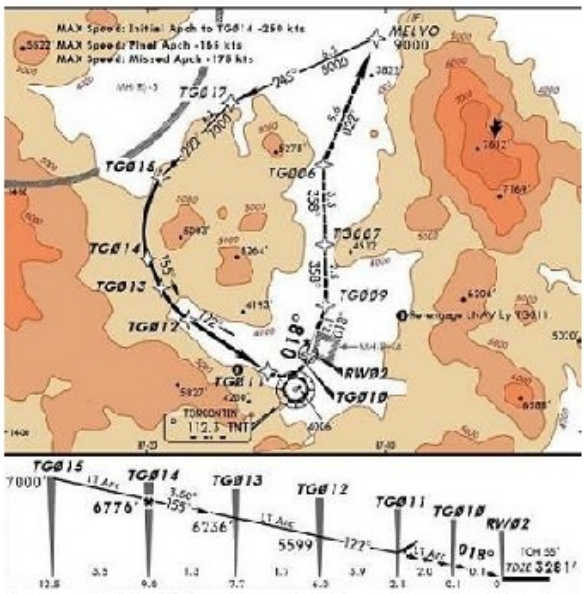
By Norm Tipton/President and Director of Events




I was recently asked when we were going to go to some exciting airports for VATSIM Sunday. Although the purpose of these Sunday fly ins is mainly for fun and comradery, I agree that sometimes we need a little challenge for the Pacific pilots who attend. In fairness, we do have our share of more exciting and challenging airports. For example, recently Telluride, Juneau and St. Maarten come to mind. All these and other challenging airports have their share of excitement. But every now and then we need to fly into an airport that is listed on the Top 10 Most Dangerous. Toncontin International Airport in



Tegucigalpa, Honduras is ranked as the 2nd most extreme airport in the world on The History Channel's Most Extreme Airports. The approach to the airport is considered to be one of the most difficult in the world for all aircraft, especially in inclement weather conditions. Why is Toncontin so difficult? Mainly because it is surrounded by mountainous terrain on all sides and is only 6,631 feet in length. Additionally, the approach to Runway 02 usually requires either a straight-in approach over tall mountains or a circular approach from the north of the airport as shown in the below chart airports list.




Boeing 737-200s are the largest aircraft that normally land at Toncontín. Even with its recent runway extension, Toncontín's runway is still significantly shorter than that of most international airports. It is so short, in fact, that many aircraft seen by plane spotters are seen to be touching down on the displaced threshold of the runway, which by aviation law is not allowed to be landed on.

Historically, larger aircraft have occasionally landed at Toncontín, such as a Douglas DC-8 in 1987, a C-17 Globemaster in 2008, 2009 and 2011, and Boeing 757s operated by American Airlines, which in 2015 replaced them with Airbus A319s. In the 1980s and early 1990s, SAHSA operated Boeing 727s and Boeing 737s from its hub at Toncontín.

So, it's time on Sunday, May 12th to pilot-up and test your skills and maybe even impress your fellow pilots a little bit. Leave the really big iron at home folks for this one but, if you're feeling adventurous, the skies the limit. One of the great joys of virtual aviation is that the FAA is not watching. 😊 See you in Honduras!



**Landing Rate Rules:** We are experimenting with the settings on landing rate rules. Most all VA's have rules for hard landings and crashes. We had the same when we were with phpVMS. The old system denied pireps above -600fpm. With all the issues we have had with our website, we have not been enforcing any of the flying rules. Now that we are whole again, the rules will again apply.

<u>The rules for Pacific will be:</u>

Landings up to -800 – Acars deducts XP and there are no other penalties

Landings above -800 are hard landings. Your pirep, income, and XP will be accepted, but a $1000 fee will be deducted from your bank to simulate checking and repairing damage to the aircraft.

Landings above -1000 are crashes. Your pirep, income and XP will be denied along with the $1000 fee .

If you feel your landing rate is an error, please contact staff so we can review the flight. Remember that on some occasions when you are running another airlines ACARS along with ours, incorrect readings can occur. We do not recommend doing this, so it's at your own risk.




**From the CEO's Desk**
**Airline Stats and Awards.**

Pacific Airways did very well in April. Out of 100 active airlines with vaBase, Pacific ranked #4 overall with 477 flights and 1329 hours logged with a 90.4% useage of ACARS. Last month, we were #5. Again, we scored the highest hours with the fewest amount of pilots compaired to the top 3. Great job everybody, keep up the good work. We be flyin…




**Airline Statistics**

| | |
|---|---|
| Unique Pilot Flights | 37 |
| Pilots on Leave | 14 |
| Total Flight Hours | 1,420h 35m |
| Total Flights | 506 |
| Total Distance | 496,112 nm |
| Total Fuel Consumed | 10,476,517 lb |
| Total Passengers | 12,582 |
| Total Cargo | 11,561,248 lb |




In April, we had a record number of 6 pilots completing the events and earning the Perfect Attendance Award.

Congratulations to

Tom/PAY6256 – Matt/PAY6660 – Rich/PAY1192

Norm/PAY6132 – Tayo/PAY3526 – Serinity/PAY2981




**Best Landing Award**

<u>Michael Klein</u>

Landing rate of -1 fpm

A320 at LPMA




**Pilot of the Month April 2024**

<u>Glen Clason PAY1996</u>

Glen flew 187.25 hours in 70 flights for 64,557miles – Congratulations.

Just a reminder, effective this month, the best landing award must be with a Commercial Aircraft from our main categorized fleet. GA, Silverjet and Special aircraft are no longer eligible. Staff members are no longer eligible to receive the Pilot of the Month award. The POM is determined by three factors. The most hours flown, the most flights and the longest distance.

*Isn't the World a Small Place*

# Vatsim Sundays

Redding 4/7/24





Burbank 4/14/24





General Screenshots

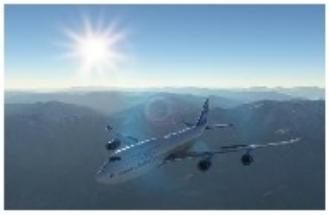












Keep posting your screenshots in Discord or send them in for the newsletter. These are my favorites. See you next month - Rich



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