uX-pa

AIR RALLY

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- PASSAGE AVIATION -

2015 EPOCH PILOT'S VACATION

MASTER PILOT AIR RALLY

Florida, USA

December 5th to December 14th, 2015

Adventure by uXPa/EOCH : Contest Sponsorship by X-Hangar

Welcome to the uX-Pa/EPOCH Alaska Air VA's 4th Annual Vacation!

In true Alaskan tradition, we are heading for warmer climes as usual for your vacation, but instead of places well removed from North America, this year we're flying in the Sunshine State – Florida; in the lower 48!

This vacation is billed as a Rally and comes complete with a contest, sponsored by our VA Partner, X-Hangar.com. They will be providing a free aircraft of the winner's choice from the many in the X-Hangar collection of fine payware aircraft.

Unlike other years, our Vacation this time is not guided by a "daily digest" of 'things-to-do'. This year we have a comprehensive rule set for the Rally that will challenge the pilot in many ways throughout the length of the vacation (9 formal days and 5 wrap-up days). This method of moving the adventure forward should lead to an immersive, educational and hopefully fun-filled journey through Florida as the pilots compete to be their very best, while sharing their 'story' through a few screenshots and short written text. Truly a rally the likes of which only the EPOCH Adventure Team could dream up!

links

We are providing links here to where you can post and read of yours or others adventures and/or 'provings' for the contest. This rally is being offered at both EPOCH Alaska Air's VA website at uX-Pa as well as X-Plane.org, and as such there are links to both.

Follow the Links at EPOCH at the top of the News:
http://www.unex-planedapps.com/

Follow the Links at the Org, starting at the bottom of the First Post of this announcement thread:
http://forums.x-plane.org/index.php?showtopic=90544

The Rally is rather simple in the telling but far more complex when it's time to do it. Here is a point form overview of what you need to do, both to just enjoy the vacation and, if you wish, to participate in the contest.

- Choose an aircraft from your hangars from one of the 9 aircraft categories that are presented.
- Place one hour of fuel in it as well as your weight (plus any other crew and safety gear).
- Start engines, follow procedures and depart the airfield.
- Fly to an airfield along your chosen flight path that uses up to the one hour of fuel only.
- Land and shut down engine(s).
- Post a screenshot of the flight path and aircraft from your Local Map view in the simulator.
- Post your LogTweet for the flight leg.
- Prepare for the next of the 9 legs using the next aircraft in your list.

Seems fairly straight forward, but as usual, the work lies in the details!

Let's look at the "Proofs" you need along the way for the Rally.

You will be flying *9 different aircraft* on *9 different legs* to complete this rally. Each one of the legs will require both a screenshot of the local map (with path and aircraft type showing) as well as a thing we are calling a "LogTweet" (more in the Rules further along in this document).

These posts can be made either at EPOCH or at the Org, using the links provided above to locate the correct threads to post in. We are always pleased to have more than just 'proving posts' as well, so please feel free to add in other screenshots or commentary to the threads/locations indicated at the sites mentioned above.

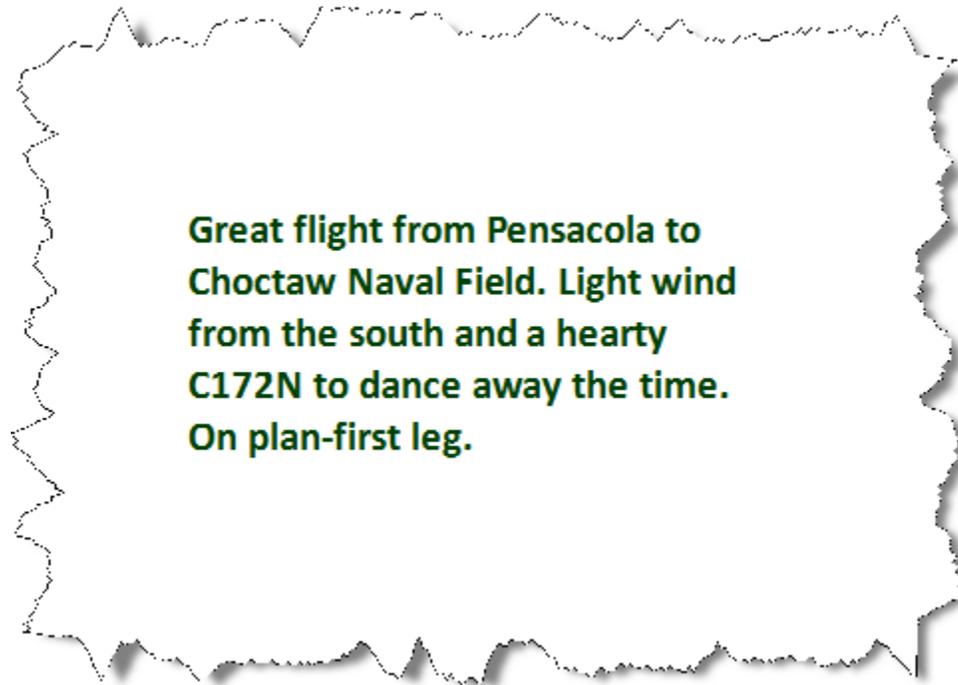There's just nothing like a good action shot for all to enjoy!

screenshot proof example

Local Map – click on aircraft icon for the popup and then grab a screenshot of this.

"logtweet" proof example

This is a plain text file, directly into your post. The key is that it *must not exceed* 140 characters.

Great flight from Pensacola to
Choctaw Naval Field. Light wind
from the south and a hearty
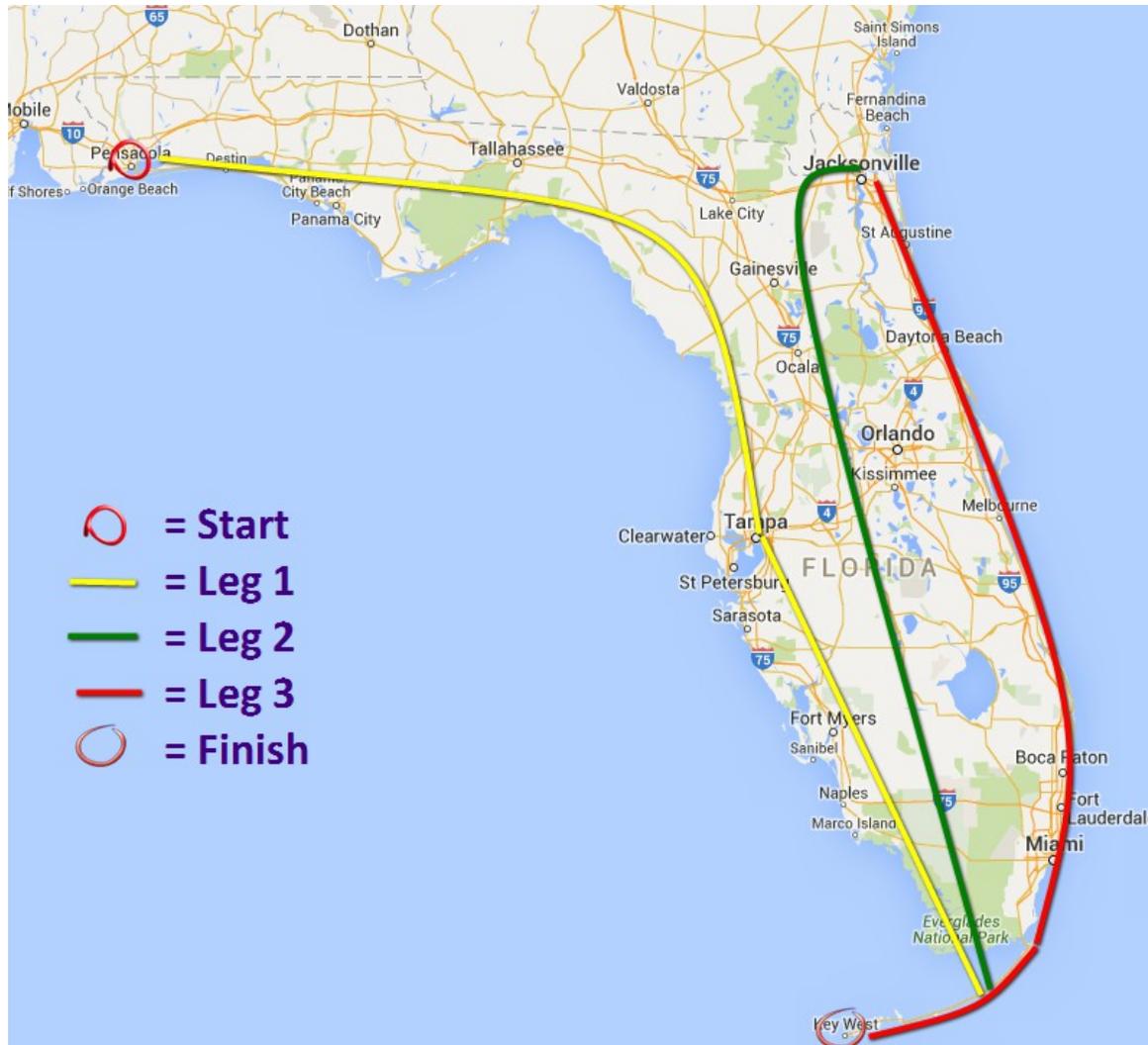C172N to dance away the time.
On plan-first leg.

This text example, including spaces and punctuation, is 139 characters in length. The key to a win is making your text post as appealing as possible – some tech details perhaps, something of the weather – something of the scenery and adventure. If it stands out and is enjoyable to the judge, then it has the best chance of winning along with the required local map screenshot and completion of the entire rally with all 9 posts having been made within the total time of the vacation.

Please note that the text file does not have to be formatted. Also, the example provided in the screenshot example above is obviously 'flawed', only in that the aircraft icon is not at the airport and I crossed the water where I wasn't allowed (see rules further in this document). The screenie was done in 2 parts and blended together just to get an example for this description.

The Rally shall loosely follow the map shown below. You, as the pilot, have the opportunity to map out your own route, keeping in mind the performance of the various aircraft used with one hour of fuel in each, the need to make it from the start to finish, and the inviolable rules of the flight as discussed further down.

The first leg takes you from Pensacola all the way down to Marathon. Your flight path will not mirror this simple route diagram, as the rules will not allow you to be that far away from the Gulf Coast over the length of the leg.

The second leg more or less keeps you in the very middle of Florida proper and has a few rules of its own. You end up leaving Marathon and finishing the leg on the outskirts of Jacksonville.

From there, the third leg takes you down the eastern seaboard of the state with some fairly restrictive rules that must be adhered to. Once you get down past Miami, you will pick up the Florida Keys and proceed west all the way to KEYW, Key West, at the end of the road.

All in all, about 1,400 nm. give or take!

One of the endearing aspects of this Rally is that the Master Pilot must plan for 9, maximum-one-hour flights to make it from start to finish. The real challenge though is that each of the 9 flights must be conducted in a different aircraft. Not just different, but from different classifications!

You are free to use any aircraft in your inventory that meets the standard classifications (if not sure you can Google your craft to see the category). The aircraft must be one that is available to the general public via free or payware though – no one-off custom designs of your own that have never been published. We're trying to keep this as close to 'real' as we can.

You can use the craft in any order as well. In other words, you could start out with an airliner and then switch to an ultralight for the next leg. No worries. Key factors though: Maximum one hour fuel and an ICAO-identified (in X-P) airfield that is available in the default apt.dat (airport list), using V10.42 as the baseline, although one can feel free to fly in any version of X-Plane that they wish. So the airfields that you choose in your overall Rally Planning will have to be able to accommodate the aircraft that you choose for the leg!

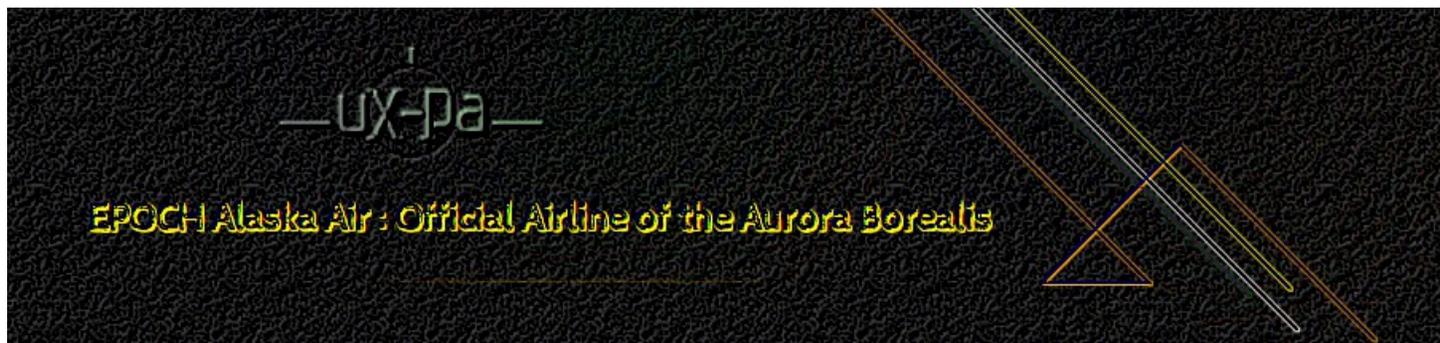Here's the list of aircraft categories that you may choose 1 only aircraft from.

1. Ultralight / AULA

2. Light Sport (LSA)

3. Single Engine GA Piston

4. Twin Engine GA Piston

5. Single or Twin Turboprop GA (General Aviation)

6. Single Engine Helicopter / Gyrocopter

7. Prop Airliner (piston or turbine) with >20 seating capacity.

8. STOL-capable BushPlane on wheels

9. Military Single Engine Prop Aircraft from pre-1946 era.

Those are the categories you are working with Pilots. Enjoy!

There are two sets of rules for this Rally. This first group, the overall rules, covers all aspects of the entire rally which consists of 3 primary legs and has you doing these in a total of 9 hops, using no more than 1 hour of fuel for the chosen aircraft per hop. The second group of rules, described next, covers specifics of each of the legs of the flight. Here then are the overall rules to be adhered to, in no particular order:

- **Cold and Dark Starts only (or reduce fuel load by 5 minutes).**
- **Start on airport ramp or default load position, not runway end (or reduce fuel load by 5 minutes).**
- **Maximum Fuel load – any aircraft – equals 1 hour before startup (minus penalties listed above).**
- **Real Date. Real Weather (or reduce fuel load by 15 minutes).**
- **Stay Over Land (see specific exceptions in Leg Rules). Maximum deviation from this = 1 nm.**
- **Operations at ICAO-identified/X-Plane default airports (from V10.42 apt.dat listing).**
- **You may only use each of the nine aircraft that you have selected ONCE.**
- **VTOL, Balloons/Dirigibles, Rockets or powered chutes etc. are not in categories.**

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The following rule sets are split out for each of the three legs of the rally. The rues contained herein supersede any conflicting Overall Rules but do not replace other Overall Rules that are not re-defined within this set of Specific Rules.

Leg One: "Down The Gulf Coast"
General Track: East and then South
- – Start at KPNS Pensacola, Florida
- – End at KMTH Marathon, Florida
- – Must stay within 15 (Fifteen) nautical miles of the coast of the Gulf of Mexico (except over Florida Bay).

Leg Two: "Up The Middle"
General Track: North and then a hint East
- – Start at KMTH Marathon, Florida
- – End at KCRG Jacksonville, Florida
- – Must stay within 10 (Ten) nautical miles of the centre of Florida (defined as seen in the general map above and doesn't take the panhandle into consideration when calculating the centre of the landmass).
- – Must turn from Northbound to Eastbound over the Taylor VOR station (112.9 – Tay), 19 nm. North of KLCQ Lake City, Florida.
- – You may cross water bodies on this leg.

Leg Three: "Down the Atlantic Seaboard"
General Track: South and then West
- – Start at KMTH Marathon, Florida
- – End at KEYW Key West, Florida
- – Must stay within 10 (Ten) nautical miles of the Atlantic Ocean.
- – Must stay over land (or the highway on the way to Key West).

The call to participating pilots has already been made at EPOCH's VA website as well as at the Org. All have been instructed to make their way down to Pensacola Florida for the beginning of the Rally.

The rally thus begins when you are prepared to go. As you can see, there is a great need to do some advance planning to ensure that you make it all the way to Key West following the allowable routing.

The entire Vacation lasts from today, the 5th of December 2015, until the 14th of December. There are 9 formal Rally Days and 5 additional days for pilots to wrap up, which may include finishing the Rally (which will consume somewhere around 15 hours of your time over the next 2 weeks, including planning, flying and posting) and wrapping up the paperwork!

The Contest will be judged starting on the night of the 14th and is expected to take a couple of days, so we can assume that no matter what, the final winner will be announced well before Christmas Day, in time for them to collect their Prize/Christmas Present!

But everyone is a winner with this Rally, as this may be the first time you have attempted something like this. On behalf of all of us at EPOCH Alaska Air, including our members, freeware and payware developers, site moderators and admin and the EPOCH Passage Aviation team, we wish you luck and good flying!

Cheers,
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