

The Flight Simulator Poems

General Thoughts on the Open Source Simulator FlightGear

FlightGear
is the hip and
happening sim
of choice,

For those who,
while tinkering,
prefer to thin
a nerve or two,

Rather than
spare a dime
for commercial
sims dim, cluttered
and down,

Endless
factories of
upgrade packs
and user frowns;

Instead, rejoice
my FG* friends;
breathe easy
and fly jovially,

Secure in the
thought that your

fuel, whether
high octane or
Avgas**, blue
(or red) or green,

Is readily
accessible
and always
—free.

(* FlightGear.)

(** Aviation gasoline.)

Contemplation of Flap Effect Accuracy on the Cessna 172 in FlightGear

After
a good glass of
tasty schnapps,

One forgets
about the effects
of flaps;

Whether
positioned
high or low,

Or even
with glider
locked in tow.

And so
to keep
things simple,

Here enters
the World War
One pilot,

Flying
on hope and
wooden wing,

Nicely glued,
wrapped in shawl
and linen;

It's an elegant
sight and quite
the thing.

Rhymes After Tweaking a Charlière in FlightGear*

One fine day
in 1900
two identical twins
went for an
aerial excursion,
a short hop they
called it or pleasant
diversion;

They wished
that skimming of
mountain slopes
and gentle pruning
above tree tops
would suffice
to avoid mention at
the Saturday fête,
or in the local
gazette;

But never
were they found
after chancing to
float across a remote
and cloudy lake,
not learning of
buoyancy or what
was at stake;

Rumor has it
that one was named

Sam and the other
likely Jim, but for
certes it is that
neither knew about
the oddities
—of JSBSim.**

(* Coal gas balloon, popular from the 1830s to about 1900, when replaced by pure hydrogen gas ballooning; hot air balloons do not become significant until the 1960s.)

(** Open source, object-oriented flight dynamics model; more complicated to modify to correct specifications and results than the simpler, parameter-oriented flight model YASim that is also available in FlightGear.)