

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CIAM SPACE MODELS SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITY FOR 2007

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CIAM Space Models Subcommittee (SM S/C) consists of 18 members from different countries. There was one SM S/C meeting during 11th European SM Championships (Kosice, Slovakia, 12 September, 2007) with the following Agenda: 1) Discussion on the reduction of competition classes in WSMChs and CSMCh from 8 to 5, 2) Preparations of 17th WSMCh2008 in Spain, 3) Future SM development through the SAPHIRE SM Development Program 4) Any other busyness: a) Proposals for the CIAM Meeting in Lausanne and b) Coordination of the SM Wcups.

There were also two other very important meetings in Baikonur during the 1st Open Asian SM Championships. The first held on 1st October was with Mr Sandy Pimenoff, CIAM President and the other of an Ad-hoc group on preparation of general revision of the SM rules held on 5th October. Participants in 1st Open Asian Championships expressed very straight their disappointment with reduction of classes, which in the first season proved as an unsuccessful experiment. The immediate consequences were – three different sets of competition classes in three successive SM championships and open decrease of interest between youngsters, which to estimation of Mr Krasnov, president of Russian SM Federation goes even up to 30%. Representatives of all other 16 countries from 3 continents expressed the same feelings. Therefore, relevant NACs shall submit a proposal to CIAM to cancel this decision and the rule from the SC.

Ad-hoc group meeting was very fruitful. There was considered by top SM experts a proposal for general revision of SM rules prepared by Vladimir Minakov (RUS), known as Minakov Project. It suggests regrouping of classes, deletion of classes which were not flown for years and introduction of new classes based on hi-tech achievements. Optical altitude measurements shall be abandoned soon and electronic altimeters shall become standard. Also most of duration classes instead of trying to achieve longest maximum times shall introduce “target times” within a “working time” and with short “preparation times”. So the duration of competitions shall be shorten and flying shall be in groups with dynamic changes of groups. Rules changes are prepared in two phases: in 2008 shall be changed general elements of the rules and in 2009 technical specifications. This is a very serious work and therefore SM S/C shall ask CIAM for an extraordinary Technical Meeting in 2009.

Major spacemodelling activities in 2006 were:

1. There were two continental championships – 11th European in Kosice (Slovakia) and 1st Open Asian Championships in Baikonur (Kazakhstan). Both of them were very successful, but that in Kazakhstan had a historical importance. It was the first ever SM Championships organized in Asia and presented a great impuls for development of SM in that part of the world. SM is in addition of F3A only modelling category which has continental championships out of Europe.
2. There were held 23 World Cup events in 18 countries with participation of contestants from more then 20 countries. There was organized the first ever SM World Cup in America – Capitol Cup in Mannassas (Virginia – USA). All events were correctly organized. SM World Cups stay the most popular events and they have the greatest contribution to SM popularity in the world. Total participation per classes in 2007 was: S4A- 521/342/(240), +52%, S6A-684/479/(415) +43%, S7-173/112/(101) +55%, S8E/P-217/166/(125)+31% and S9A- 544/335/(311) 62%. Figures in brackets are for 2006 and 2005 respectively and (%) shows an increase of participation in comparison to 2006. Total participants: 2139 /1434/ (1192) or +40%. Total number of competition flights was approximately 6300 in comparison with 4300 last year and 3300 in 2005. There were also several Open Internationals during the season, but with a very limited participation. These figures are only virtually optimistic for in shows results of the top spacemodellers in classes which are regularly flown and at well known locations. However, because of WCh number of classes reduction from 8 to 5, number of youngsters who mostly fly reduces duration classes, decreases rapidly because they loose motivation for work and competitions. This is a very serious warning to all those who work with youngsters in SM in more than 30 countries.
3. There were not world record attempts in 2007.
4. The SM development was oriented mostly in preparing rules which shall approach the FAI activity to the mainstream presented mostly by fun-flyers in most West European countries, USA and Canada. Fortunately this year are reestablished very good connections with these countries. It was organized the first Wcup in USA and Canada shall join SMs at competitions in Europe next year after a very long time. Many new opportunities like electronic altimeters, sophisticated computer programs etc. found the way “overseas” to FAI SM sportsmen.
5. SM S/C had a very intensive communications with non-European countries. A great step forward was unofficial participation of South African team in 11th EuSMCh in Kosice (SVK) there they established two first South African records. South Africa shall be the organizer of the 1st Africa Cup next October and shall enter 17th WSMCh in Spain.

Novi Sad (Serbia)
November 14, 2007

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