

TO: IGC Delegates
FROM: FAI RTCA Representative, Bernald S. Smith
DATE: 31Jan16
SUBJ: Feb16 IGC Meeting RTCA report

Acronyms in Appendix I

RTCA – Essentially no changes: Involvement continues mainly with SC-186 (ADS-B), SC-159 (GPS), SC-228 (UAS/UAVs), SC-234 (PEDs), and to a much lesser extent with other SCs. RTCA meetings conducted with WebEx/telcon continue, relieving much travel time/personal expense.

I attended most of a 5-day SC-228 meeting with NASA at Moffett Field in Mountain View, California. You no doubt are aware of some of what's coming out of those kind of meetings: e.g. recommendation that FAA set a requirement for ownership registration of UAVs over 0.55lbs weight. Not too well received by all AMA folks. More being worked on is the issue of whether to require pilot monitoring, whether autonomous or not, regardless or not of size, maybe starting at 55lbs. In the USA, sites for studying UAS are actively involved and expanding into sub sites, like the one we have at Reno-Stead just over the hill from our AirSailing Gliderport.

The UAV situation is overwhelming beyond my ability to keep track of everything that's going on. Folks no doubt know more locally/regionally/worldwide than I. Contests are being held, such as a recent one with small UAVs, with owners wearing special glasses to view what their drone is seeing with it's TV, flying very, very low altitude courses with many obstacles to avoid, with first prize being USD25K. I've heard there's an offer for a major contest with USD1M in prize money. Organizations have been formed to oversee such activity. I don't know what FAI is doing. The civil use of big aircraft (e.g. MQ-9 Reaper (Predator) by security/enforcement authorities) are doing everything and anything for surveillance, to the point that folks are very worried about privacy matters – one operation finds lovers fully engaged in supposedly private activity (read: sex) in backyards, cars, beaches, you name it! No, I won't reveal any more info on it!

It should be noted that many RTCA meetings include intensive EUROCAE participation. ION and CGSIC meetings (which I plan to attend in Portland, Oregon in the fall of this year are extremely important, and thus on my list of meetings attended because of their pertinence to GNSS.

GNSS constellations are getting updated with latest launchings.

FLIGHT RECORDERS - IGC's GFAC continues their work approving new FRs. Recently two more were approved so that currently there are 53 IGC-approved from 20 manufacturers. FR spec and other amendments have been recently approved/published.

OSTIV, under the guidance of SSA's OSTIV rep, Mark Maughmer has arranged a speaker track, including some Europeans, and an evening speaker for the Greenville SSA Convention. *Technical Soaring* is now online only.

UNOOSA ICG - The meeting I attended 02-06Nov15 in Boulder, Colorado extended its usual looksee at GNSS compatibility, interference (including that from nearby spectrum users) and jamming as well as the growing UAS threat to airspace users. I hope the meeting this fall in Moscow can include attendance by someone from the FAI office.

FAI General Conference - I did attend Rotterdam, The Netherlands, for the GC 22-28Sep15, and plan to attend the next one in Bali, Indonesia on 14/15October2016.

s/Bernald

- end of report -

Appendix I
ACRONYMS & DEFINITIONS
(a very short list)

ADS-B	Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast
AMA	Academy of Model Aeronautics
CGSIC	Civil GNSS Service Interface Committee
EUROCAE	European Organization for Civil Aviation Equipment
FAI	Federation Aeronautique Internationale
GC	General Conference
GFAC	GNSS Flight Recorder Approval Committee
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System
GPS	Global Positioning System (USA)
ICG	International Committee on GNSS (United Nations)
IGC	International Gliding Commission
ION	Institute of Navigation
OSTIV	Organization Scientifique et Technique Internationale de Vol a Voile
PED	Personal Electronic Device
RTCA	no separate meaning, a private non-profit corporation addressing aviation requirements and technical concepts to advance the art and science of aviation and aviation electronic systems for the benefit of the public, with nearly 300 volunteer organizations, more than 25% of which are non-US, from the entire worldwide aviation community, functioning as a Federal Advisory Committee, to develop consensus-based recommendations on contemporary aviation issues, whose documents are most often used as the basis of government-issued TSOs
SC	Special Committee
TS	Technical Soaring
TSO	Technical Standards Order
UAS	Unmanned Aeronautical System
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UNOOSA	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs