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