

TO: SSA Directors 24Jan16
SUBJ: Feb16 SSA Directors' Meeting RTCA report
FROM: RTCA Representative, Bernald S. Smith

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 w/NASA at Moffett Field in Mountain View, CA. 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. The UAS sites for studying UAS are actively involved and expanding into sub sites. Maybe you know of such near your glider flying, like the one we have at Reno, Stead just over the hill from our AirSailing Gliderport.

It should be noted that many RTCA meetings include intensive EUROCAE participation. ION and CGSIC meetings (which I plan to attend in Portland, OR 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, of which SSA Member Marc Ramsey is a member, 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 and evening speaker for this Greenville SSA Convention. Membership dues for 2016 payable in USD will be \$27; TS is now on-line only.

UNOOSA ICG - The meeting I attended 02-06Nov15 in Boulder, CO 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 for the FAI office.

IGC - Rick Sheppe's domain but I notice much discussion about FLARM, GNSS protocol and code-breaking.

EGU - I don't know whether anyone from SSA will attend the EGU meeting which coincides with the SSA Convention.

FAI Environmental Commission – I'm no longer involved, but their next meeting is Mar16 in Moscow. I haven't heard whether NAA or IGC have appointed new delegates thereto.

FAI General Conference - I did attend Rotterdam, The Netherlands, for the GC 22-28Sep15, and plan to attend the next one this fall in Bali, Indonesia.

s/Bernald

- end of report -

Appendix I

ACRONYMS & DEFINITIONS

(a very short list)

ADS-B - Automatic Dependent Surveillance - Broadcast
CGSIC - Civil GNSS Service Interface Committee
EGU - European Gliding Union
EnvCom - FAI's Environmental Commission
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
NAA - National Aeronautic Association
OSTIV - Organization Scientifique et Technique
Internationale du Val 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
UAS - Unmanned Aeronautical System
UAV - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UNOOSA - United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs