

IAOPA eNews August 2008

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Phil Boyer to Retire

AOPA-US President Phil Boyer will retire at the end of this year after 18 years in that position. The AOPA-US board of directors has selected Craig L. Fuller to succeed Boyer. Since Boyer also serves as IAOPA president, elections to seek his replacement will be held prior to year-end (see below).

Fuller served on the staffs of President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George H. W. Bush in the 1980s. He subsequently served in a series of public affairs service companies and as head of a major national association. He has been a pilot for 40 years and currently flies an A36 Bonanza.

"I have often mentioned that this day would come, on schedule, as planned with my family and the AOPA Board of Trustees," said Boyer. "Now, it's official. I am delighted Craig will captain AOPA on the 'next leg' of this remarkable journey to preserve and advance general aviation."

For more information see <http://www.aopa.org/about/articles/2008/080630fuller.html>

IAOPA Quadrennial Elections to be Held

Every four years an election is held among IAOPA affiliate organizations to select officers who will lead the organization for the subsequent term of office. All of the current officers' terms of office will expire on 31 December 2008.

In accordance with the IAOPA Constitution and Bylaws a nominations committee will be appointed by the president to develop a slate of candidates for selection by the board. Elective offices include a president and six regional vice presidents. The slate will be presented to the board for a vote not later than 1 October 2008.

AOPA- Botswana Update

Bill Scott, vice chairman of AOPA- Botswana and the Kalahari Flying Club (the same organization) reports that their organization is healthy and growing, now numbering 140 members. The association operates in two cities with three aircraft and maintains airport facilities including a clubhouse and swimming pool. Botswana is the same size as Texas, land locked, with 85 percent taken up by the great Kalahari Desert. Population is about 1.7 million with approximately 400 licensed pilots. There are 122 registered landing areas, five of them paved, and 172 registered aircraft. Weather is "severe clear" 92% of the time. There are currently 24 ab initio flight students within the country.

Relations with the government are good. The country is in the process to transitioning from a Department of Civil Aviation to a full-fledged Civil Aviation Authority, seen to be a positive move in terms of attracting additional aviation professionals to the government. The newly elected president of Botswana is an active fixed- and rotary-wing pilot and is a long-standing patron of the Kalahari Flying Club.

Scott says, "Botswana is a super place to fly and we are doing well."

AOPA-UK Addresses Spectrum Issues

AOPA-UK CEO, Martin Robinson is concerned about issues relating to the value of radio frequency spectrum. He notes that, "Ofcom (UK Office of Communications), like the CAA is an independent regulator. It is responsible under the Wireless Telegraphy Act for authorising the civil use of radio spectrum. One of several actions it has is to increase the efficiency and income from the use of Spectrum. Each megahertz has been valued by Ofcom at £610,000. Therefore the aviation communications frequencies 118-137 MHz are valued at approx £12 million, which could be charged to aircraft owners at a cost of £1,000 to £1,200 per annum depending on the number of aircraft on the register, but not before 2012.

"We are working with NATS (UK air traffic services) and British Air Transport Association on this issue. The main issue is the Department of Transportation would become licensed to trade in spectrum which, due to international agreements would make it very difficult therefore we may just end up paying more - another revenue raising exercise."

COPA Opposes ELT Proposals

Transport Canada (the Canadian CAA) will soon issue a proposal to install 406 MHz emergency locator transmitters (ELT) in Canadian registered aircraft for most domestic operations.

Kevin Psutka, COPA President, says, "Our goal is to permit aircraft owners to choose an alerting option, including 406 ELTs that best suits the type of flying they do and the terrain over which they fly. We are opposed to a regulation that forces everyone, at considerable cost, to equip with one technology that is not suitable for all operations.

"Unfortunately, the bureaucrats have failed to recognize the need for practical, cost-effective solutions. If we are going to stop this damaging regulation from proceeding, we need members to be politically active on this issue."

See the COPA website for more information www.copanational.org/non-members/index.htm

ICAO Medical Proposals

In a May proposal to change airman medical standards and recommended practices, ICAO is continuing its previous trend to use available research data and mitigating factors to create a more user friendly set of standards. The current proposal acknowledges that certain conditions involving depression, diabetes, HIV, and gynecological issues are not all black-and-white. Various factors in each of these conditions make them either more or less hazardous for pilot operations, and therefore require a more thorough assessment rather than just a blanket rejection.

In comments to the proposal IAOPA wrote, "We are especially pleased to note the proposals regarding depression, insulin-treated diabetes, HIV, and gynecological issues. The insertion of provisions that will permit an airman to fly when certain mitigating conditions are present is a welcome relief to the existing absolute ban on operations with these basic conditions. ICAO and the medical committees that have submitted these proposals are to be commended for their research and acknowledgement of factors that will permit pilot operations under certain circumstances.

"ICAO's focus on mental fitness and health education is also a very positive step in ensuring worldwide civil aviation safety and effectiveness."

Affiliates must reinforce and support this ICAO trend with their national regulatory authorities on a thorough evaluation of medical conditions prior to passing judgment on a pilot's fitness to fly.

How Good is your CAA?

The great majority of ICAO Member States are audited under the organization's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP). These assessments measure a State's compliance with ICAO standards and recommended practices. All States have now given their consent for ICAO to release the results of audits conducted in their territory. The information is accessible on ICAO's Flight Safety Information Exchange (FSIX) website www.icao.int/fsix/safety.cfm. The FSIX contains two lists, one of States audited during the initial cycle of the USOAP, between 1999 and 2004, and the other of States audited since 2005 under a more comprehensive systems approach.

Ernst Hauff in Memoriam

One of AOPA-Belgium's longstanding Board members, delegate to the IAOPA (EUR) Regional Meetings and IAOPA World Assemblies and experienced pilot with home bases in Belgium and Switzerland has passed away on 22nd July 2008. Ernst Georg Heinrich Hauff, born on 1st April 1933, joined the Eurocontrol Agency in September 1964, spent his entire career at the Headquarters and retired in September 1996.

Ernst, a passionate private pilot who hardly missed Annual Meetings, World Assemblies, or Regional Meetings, was a very active and successful representative defending the interests of general aviation. His brilliant technical advice was respected; his interventions on the national or the European level were effective and his keen humour always opened the door for many long evenings in the bright light of general aviation. The values he preserved, his openness and his desire for adventures are encouraging qualities showing us the way to think far beyond the horizon where he took off for the last leg.

The International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations represents the interests of more than 470,000 pilots and aircraft owners in 66 countries. Formed in 1962, IAOPA is dedicated to promoting the peaceful uses of general aviation and aerial work worldwide.

IAOPA eNews is published monthly by the International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations for the use of its affiliate members in representing and advocating general aviation and aerial work interests worldwide.