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### **IAOPA Renews SESAR Contract**

The contract between IAOPA and SESAR has been renewed, allowing IAOPA to ensure that general aviation's interests are protected as Europe maps out its future air traffic management system. SESAR is the research project which will lead to European Sky and its deliberations affect everything from airspace designations to satellites, ground infrastructure, communication equipment and pilot training. IAOPA has been involved in what became SESAR for more than seven years and has devoted significant resources to ensuring that GA has equitable access to the airspace of the future. Airlines, aircraft manufacturers, equipment makers and air navigation service providers are allocating huge resources to SESAR, and when the big boys Airbus and Thales are in the driving seat, GA could easily be left behind. In fact, SESAR began with the airlines questioning whether there is any need for uncontrolled airspace at all; IAOPA was instrumental in gaining acceptance of the fact that it is absolutely vital to the health of all aviation. Ben Stanley of AOPA-UK and Michael Erb of AOPA-Germany are looking after IAOPA's interests at SESAR and sit on several of its working groups. Thanks to them, IAOPA has become an integral part of SESAR. In conjunction with AOPA-US, IAOPA-Europe also plays a major part in the difficult process of harmonizing America's future airspace system, NextGen, with SESAR. (Courtesy IAOPA Europe Monthly E-news, Oct. 2012).

### **IAOPA Regional Meeting in Cyprus**

Representatives from 16 European affiliates met recently in Larnaca, Cyprus for the 127th IAOPA European regional meeting. They received updates on a number of initiatives currently underway within the European Union and IAOPA's regional involvement. The successes of IAOPA Europe in affecting changes that will benefit GA are evident in the positive developments that are taking place on several fronts as representatives from IAOPA participate on committees ranging from maintenance, to licensing and training. For a full list of topics covered and the impact that IAOPA is making in the European region, check out the latest E-news for the region at <http://www.iaopa.eu/contentServlet/iaopa-europe-news-november-2012>.

### **Athens Flying Week**

Despite the difficult economic situation of the country, more than 20,000 spectators appeared at Tatoi Military airfield for the first Athens Flying Week (AFW). It was organized by PC PODIMATAS AUDIOVISUAL SA a private company, owned by a pilot and member of AOPA. It was an outright success. A spectacular air show, a small aviation expo and an excellent organization made it a real European event that happens to take place in Athens. A total of 85 light aircraft were gathered. They came from all countries of South East Europe and Eastern Mediterranean, including Bulgaria, Romania, Israel, Italy and Turkey. AOPA -Greece supported the organization in every way. Two members of the AOPA Board participated full time in the organizing committee. But the real winner was General Aviation as a whole, because of the high publicity of the event. We look forward to see it becoming a yearly event.

### **Seaplanes in Greece**

With more than 2,000 small islands, Greece is an ideal country for seaplane operations. Nevertheless, the present situation is exactly the opposite. Today there are no seaplanes at all in the country. This is because of the existing old and over-regulated legal system. Just recently, the Government decided to have a fresh look at the situation. A new law is now being prepared. Good news, of course, but at the same time this is a situation of great concern since we know that no public servants have the experience on seaplanes, do they have the ability to draft a correct new law? AOPA-Greece is following closely the developments, trying to educate civil servants. To do so, AOPA-Greece has requested the assistance of AOPA's of other countries with practical experience on seaplane operations. We feel proud to report here that we have received substantial support from other AOPA's.

## **Craig Spence Named Secretary General**

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) made Craig Spence the permanent secretary general of the International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Association (IAOPA). He was named acting secretary general in May. Spence is currently AOPA's vice president of operations and international affairs, where he leads advocacy efforts on safety and security and operational issues affecting pilots, aircraft, airspace, air traffic control and future modernization issues. He joined AOPA in June 2008 as the organization's first vice president of the newly created Aviation Security Department, located within the U.S. Government Affairs Division.

## **Summit**

Representatives from several IAOPA affiliates from around the world gathered at AOPA's Summit in Palm Springs, California. They had the opportunity to sit down for a lunch with IAOPA President Craig Fuller. IAOPA affiliates from Canada, UK, Germany, Cyprus, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden and Switzerland were represented at Summit and discussed the future of aviation as well as the challenges they are facing. The representatives received updates on a number of IAOPA initiatives and assisted in staffing the IAOPA booth in the main conference center. Planning efforts are already underway for 2013 when the AOPA Summit takes place in Dallas/Ft. Worth. The goal is to offer items of interest to international attendees so any suggestions may have on ways to improve or possible topics for discussion should be forwarded to Ruth Moser for possible inclusion in next year's events.

## **PBN Presentation**

IAOPA Secretary General Craig Spence attended the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Performance Based Navigation (PBN) Conference held in Montreal, October 16-18th and provided IAOPA's concerns with airspace modernization presentation to the delegation. Participating in the panel entitled "Stakeholder Concerns, Putting the Pieces of the Puzzle Together", Spence stressed the need for a comprehensive approach that takes into account the needs of all airspace users and that a strong benefits driven approach should be used. Additionally, that minimizing the cost for general aviation users to design and operate in a global Air Traffic Management (ATM) system should be an integral part of a PBN implementation plan and that a global ATM system must be capable of providing equal or better levels of service without expensive avionics upgrades, training and that any future system should result in improved safety, access, and efficiency without costly equipment and regulatory mandates.

## **IAOPA Nominating Committee Meets at Summit**

The Nominations Committee for the process of electing new IAOPA officers for the term January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 has been appointed. This committee consists of the following persons: John Yodice, IAOPA Legal Counsel and Communications Chairman; Craig Spence, IAOPA Secretary General; Stuart Clumpas, AOPA-New Zealand; Kevin Psutka, COPA; Lena Persson, AOPA-Sweden; and Michael Erb, AOPA-Germany.

For your reference, Article XXIII states—The Nominations Committee shall select not more than (2) two candidates for each position to be filled. A candidate for regional vice president must be a pilot member of one of the organizations affiliated with IAOPA and must be put forth to the Nominations Committee by his or her national organization in the region.

If you are interested in nominating someone to serve within your region now is your opportunity to provide input. Please submit nominations for qualified individuals to serve directly to the IAOPA Nominations Committee, c/o Ruth Moser, 421 Aviation Boulevard, Frederick, Maryland 21701, U.S.A or by e-mail to [ruth.moser@aopa.org](mailto:ruth.moser@aopa.org) with subject line: Nominations Committee.

All suggestions should reach IAOPA Headquarters no later than November 15, 2012, to allow the Nominations Committee to complete its work.



Welles Murphey, Jr., a generous supporter of AOPA Foundation and a member of the AOPA President's Council and the Ambassadors Society, is the recipient of the Achievement in Public Service Award. He has flown hundreds of missions for disaster relief flights and other humanitarian organizations. He holds a commercial pilot certificate with an instrument rating for single-engine land.

Dana Siewert, director of Aviation Safety at the University of North Dakota, has been honored with the Achievement in Aviation Safety Award. He is a designated FAA pilot examiner for private through airline transport pilot and flight instructor certificates. He was on the FAA's designated pilot examiner "Honor Roll" three times. With more than 11,000 accident-free flight hours, he is the holder of an airline transport pilot certificate in both single- and multiengine aircraft and commercial privileges in single-engine aircraft and helicopters.

Jerry Gregoire, founder and Chairman of Redbird Flight Simulations Inc., has won the Achievement in Aviation Education Award. He has turned Redbird into the world's largest manufacturer of full-motion flight simulators for universities and flight schools. He is a pilot holding an airline transport pilot certificate for airplanes and helicopters and a single-pilot type rating for Cessna twins. The AOPA Foundation relies on donations to preserve the freedom to fly. For more information go to [www.aopafoundation.org](http://www.aopafoundation.org).

***Pass on This Newsletter to Your Members*** - Nothing can keep existing members, and attract new members by reminding them of the great work that IAOPA affiliates are doing on national, regional, and international levels to keep them flying. Great work is being done in all parts of the globe to advance the interests of general aviation and the best way to share the message is to ensure that this newsletter gets to as many members and non-members alike. So I encourage you to publish this on your website, send on via email to your members, do what you can to help spread the word.

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The International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations represent the interests of more than 450,000 pilots and aircraft owners in over 100 countries. Formed in 1962, IAOPA is dedicated to promoting the peaceful uses of general aviation and aerial work worldwide.

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