

## Summary of the SAC AGM weekend

Thank you – to Simon Pierre Dupont for making the arrangements for the meetings. Everything was well organized and ran smoothly. Also thanks to Dave Springford for the organization of the CAS seminars, FTSC for the displays, and to all the volunteers, presenters, and contributors to a very successful weekend.

### Annual General Meeting Summary:

The meeting was called to order with 34 members present. Many others arriving for the seminars joined in as the meeting progressed. A package of reports was available to attendees. Oral reports were presented by Jim McCollum (financial), Dan Cook (safety) and Keith Hay (insurance).

Questions arising from the reports:

1. **Dave Springford** – Should the budget be prepared to show a surplus rather than balanced, why not budget a surplus to fund SAC programs?

Response: **Jim McCollum** – We have had a surplus over many years so in essence we are doing that. In some years there have been deficits. Since 1985, there has been no government funding. If membership income or unusual expenditures occur, the Pioneer Fund earnings are available to ensure fiscal stability and to ensure adequate funds to operate the organization.

2. **Tim Wood** – What would we use the accumulated surplus for?

Response: **Eric Gillespie** – Membership is up for 2007, expenses were lower than budgeted. The board invites anyone to make motions with ideas for use of the surplus.

3. **Tim Wood**: Why don't we spend money on membership Advertising?

Response from the floor: **Pierre Pepin** – A SAC marketing campaign would require big dollars and long term investment for little gain. SAC can't market on its own, clubs need to participate. SAC is quite limited in what we can do we can't commit to spend \$100,000's continuously to support an effective campaign, SAC can't fulfill the needs of members without the members participation and input. (in two languages)

4. Question: **Tim Wood** – Is the board satisfied that what occurred to the SSA cannot occur to SAC.

Response: **Eric Gillespie** – There are 3 levels of protection, the finance committee which is the BOD, an outside audit process, and a CRA (not for profit organization) audit. The board is confident our house is in order.

Response: **Jim McCollum** – Nesbitt Burns has the majority of the funds and supplies regular account statements for these accounts which would show any improprieties immediately.

5. Bill Brian – Thanked the people who put together the new SAC website. Supported enthusiastically!

The three motions previously distributed to clubs were moved, seconded, and passed. The first was acceptance of the minutes of the 2007 AGM, second, the motion to

accept the budget and associated fee schedule, and third, the motion to appoint Adams and Associates as auditor.

Two motions were presented from the floor:

1. Eric Gillespie presented a **motion from SOSA**: *That the Board establish a long term funding for competition flying with a minimum of \$20,000/year to the competitors attending the world contest, and on years when the worlds contest is not held, to fund a junior team.*
2. Motion: **Peter Musters** – *That a national bursary program be implemented by SAC.*

The ruling from the chair on each of these motions was that they be tabled for further consideration. Both involves large expenditures, and require an opportunity for input from clubs. On the second motion, Peter Musters was asked to provide more background information and a written motion.

### **Board of Directors Meetings Summary:**

The Board met the afternoon of Fri Mar 14 to discuss the budget and finances, and prepare for the Annual Meeting.

The board reconvened on Sun Mar15. to deal with a number of issues, including those arising from the AGM. In summary:

1. John Toles was reappointed as **board chair** for 2008.
2. **Insurance** – Keith Hay met with the Board to answer questions and present insurance information. It was discussed as to what to do if a group or individual leaves the SAC plan, has an accident and wants back in to the SAC plan. Proposal – that they will be quoted with the accident premium as part of the quote. Accident free aircraft will come in at par but will not be eligible for the safety benefit. The policy will be reviewed for the long term once all applications have been received.
3. Surplus: The BoD will designate a **Special Purpose Fund** beginning in 2008. \$30 000 from the 2007 surplus will be placed into this fund, to be administered by the BoD. The first recommendation is for the purchase of three soaring flight simulators to be available for the 2008 instructor courses. They will then be available to each of the area clubs (Western, Ontario, Quebec) for loan to be used for training, promotional displays, etc. If successful, money may be made available to assist clubs in building or purchasing their own simulator. Other requests for use of this fund to promote soaring or help grow the sport will be accepted.
4. **AGM Motions**: Eric Gillespie will respond to Peter Musters and work with him on the motion to support YFC through bursaries. The SOSA motion will be referred to clubs for input through the directors. For 2008, the following will occur: all available money from the Wolf Mix Fund will be transferred to the World Contest Fund and made available to the team. From a promotional viewpoint, Eric and Sylvain will prepare and distribute press releases during the event when info supplied by Joerg. For future years, Eric Gillespie will draft a motion by September 30<sup>th</sup> to include a formal structure for funding the world team for review so it can be dealt with at the November meeting of the directors.

5. **Trust Funds:** The legal opinion concerning the trust funds will be filed for reference. Jim will prepare a summary of all trust funds for the website.
6. **Bylaws:** These need to be reviewed and updated. Jim McCollum will send what we have now to the lawyer and provide an annotated document to the lawyer within 30 days. Eric will follow up with the lawyer working on the bylaws.
7. **Policy and Procedures Manual:** A number of attempts have been made to establish a current manual. This has proven to be a huge task. Currently, the website can be used to provide information, display trust fund information, and current trends in lieu of a written manual. Once the bylaws are updated, another attempt may be made.
8. **Zone realignment:** Eastern Zone clubs are agreeable, but some affected Ontario Zone clubs were concerned about the change. The suggestion to distribute membership more equally will be dropped for now.
9. Discussion continued concerning the future of the **SAC office** and the executive director position. Requirements for staffing are under review. The Sports Information Research Council may have member groups interested in sharing our space. The group must be not-for-profit to protect our tax status with the condo. Jim will prepare an ad for a suitable organization to share our office. Jim has found and will train a suitable individual to staff the office on a temporary basis to allow him some vacation time.
10. **Aero club of Canada:** Phil Hilton has agreed to be the SAC representative to the Aero Club. There are grants available through the Aero Club up to \$150,000. Eric Gillespie will follow up on the grant possibilities.
11. **Committee updates:** Sean Colton has agreed to consider being the SAC historian. Real LeGeoff will be approached as a potential French medical committee representative.
12. **Life memberships:** These were introduced at the time the Pioneer Fund was established. Originally \$1000 and increased to \$1500 about ten years ago, they were mostly taken by mature members who considered them mostly as a donation. Very few have been issued in recent years. There are currently, 44, but the majority are no longer flying. The problem now is that for insurance purposes, a SAC member must be associated with a club, and this was not a requirement originally. We will no longer be offering life memberships for sale.
13. **Free Flight:** The future format of FreeFlight was discussed. The proposal is to move to a quarterly publication, new printing method, recommended colour cover for every issue, and more content per issue. Current news can now be available on the website. Arrangements will be made between the editor, Tony Burton, and the SAC office. More articles by members are requested. An invitation for Air Cadet news and features will be forwarded. Simon-Pierre Dupont has agreed to assist with providing French content. A separate COPA insert will not be prepared this year. COPA will accept soaring related articles. Submissions are encouraged. Jim McCollum will arrange for a regular soaring advertisement in the COPA newsletter. A *COPA Guide to Soaring* has been prepared by Dan Cook and is available to COPA members.
14. **Safety Management System:** Work is proceeding following a review of SMS documents to ensure an effective safety program with a minimum risk of liability to the organization and member clubs. The feeling is that the program to date has been beneficial, and has the full support of the Board. Final documents will be available this season. In the meantime, the interim publications are a valuable tool for clubs

implementing safety programs at the club level. Questions or concerns should be directed to Dan Cook, chair, FTSC.

15. **World Contest support and Soaring Promotion:** As follow-up on a member suggestion for funding the national team, John Mulder is organizing and promoting a National SAC event where clubs are being asked to assist through a promotional weekend. On a designated weekend to be determined, a *Canadian Team World Contest Promotion* will be encouraged by each club. Introductory flights will be featured, with proceeds donated to the World Contest Fund. Media will be provided with the team profiles via the website, along with information on gliding and soaring. The model provides an opportunity for club promotion as well as team support. A draft press release will be provided on the SAC website for clubs to use or modify. The Alberta Soaring Council has endorsed the plan for Alberta clubs. Silver Star (Vernon) has also committed. Questions may be directed to John Mulder, Alberta Zone director.

16. **Future meetings:** The next formal BOD meeting will be at the SAC office in Ottawa November 8 and 9. On-line and telephone discussions and meetings may be used as required. The 2009 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for London, Ontario the weekend of March 21-22.