

Soaring Association of Canada
Board of Directors' Meeting
November 5-6, 2005
Ottawa, Ontario

Attending

Full meeting

Phil Stade, President and Director - Alberta Zone

John Toles, VP and Director - Prairie Zone

Sylvain Bourque, Director - Eastern Zone

Doug Scott - Director - Ontario Zone

Kevin Bennett - Director - Pacific Zone

Jim McCollum - Executive Director

November 5 only - part day, regarding safety issues

Ian Oldaker - Chairman of the Flight Training and Safety Committee - part day, November 5

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the March 20, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved, as amended.

2. Administrative issues

2.1. Meetings: Preparations for the March, 2006 AGM in Vancouver are underway and an announcement has appeared in "free flight".

2.2. Board elections or re-confirmations for 2006: Alberta and Pacific Zones. The Alberta Zone Director has indicated his intention to step down and the Alberta clubs have been informed that a replacement will be sought.

2.3. Committee Positions:

2.3.1. A replacement for Glenn Lockhard for the Technical Committee is being sought, as well as an additional volunteer. Sylvain Bourque will contact the Chairman of the Committee regarding a potential volunteer in his zone.

2.3.2. A volunteer is also needed for the Safety Review and Appeal Board.

2.3.3. The Historian position remains vacant and has proved difficult to fill.

2.3.4. Phil Stade agreed to look after the trophy awards for an additional year.

2.4. The three year schedule of events was reviewed. AGM schedule: 2006 Vancouver, 2007 Ontario, 2008 Prairies. Fall board meetings: 2006 - 2008 Ottawa, early November. Nationals: 2006 SOSA.

3. Flight Training and Safety Issues

3.1. The Chairman of the Flight Training and Safety Committee, Ian Oldaker, presented a series of documents to the board relating to the new safety initiative. These were reviewed in detail. The purpose of the initiative is to make soaring safer, reduce accidents and contain and/or reduce insurance premiums.

3.2. Ian Oldaker remarked that while a club can depart from the SAC standards, it must provide a rationale to SAC of why it is doing so.

3.3. It was remarked that while a full French version of the Instructors' course manual is yet to be made available in French, much of the material is so available. The possibilities of translation assistance will be explored with Transport Canada as well as another department. Sylvain Bourque will investigate whether someone in his zone can provide assistance.

3.3. John Toles and Ian Oldaker will revise the cover document of the Safety and Training Standard for Clubs.

3.4. Motions related to the safety initiative:

Motion 1. That the board of directors will appoint or reappoint annually a Director of Operations with the responsibility for oversight of safety and training.

Moved by Kevin Bennett, seconded by Sylvain Bourque. Carried.

Motion 2. That Ian Oldaker be appointed the Director of Operations effective immediately.

Moved by Phil Stade, seconded by John Toles. Carried, with one abstention.

Motion 3. That the *Safety and Training Standard for Clubs* and the *SAC Safety Management Program* be approved, subject to revisions by the Director of Operations to be confirmed by the board of directors.

Moved by Kevin Bennett, seconded by Doug Scott. Carried.

Motion 4. That the *Club Safety Program Standard* be approved, subject to revisions by the Director of Operations to be confirmed by the board of directors.

Moved by Sylvain Bourque, seconded by John Toles. Carried.

Motion 5. That the *Recommended Standard for Glider Pilot Licence* be approved.

Moved by Doug Scott, seconded by John Toles. Carried.

4. Free Flight

In view of the importance of the safety initiative and the board of directors commitment to it, Ian Oldaker will write the *Priorities* column for the next issue of *free flight*.

5. Membership data

The membership data for 2005 were reviewed. Taking late reporters into account membership will likely finish the year at approximately 1080, down some 50-60 members from the year before. The decline is less marked than in 2004; however, this is masked to some degree by an increase in Air Cadet members. It was remarked that late reporting of membership by clubs causes a number of problems. It delays and unnecessarily complicates the issuing of tax receipts for membership fees. It also leads to a reduction in members (flying and non-flying), since SAC tries to contact members from the previous year who did not join in the current season. This effort is undermined if membership information is received excessively late.

6. Air Cadets

Jim will be meeting with officials from the Air Cadet League of Canada later in November to discuss various initiatives with them. Given that the pilot training by the Cadets and in SAC clubs is not fully congruent, the Flight Training and Safety Committee will produce some guidelines for check-out procedures for Air Cadets at clubs. It was noted that there were over 90 Air Cadet members at clubs in 2005.

7. Insurance

The Insurance Committee will be asked to explore the possibility of moving the insurance year back to a fiscal year beginning April 1st and ending March 31st of the following year, from the current calendar year approach. It is recognized that while the calendar year approach had certain advantages, it resulted in a cash flow problem for many clubs. Additionally, the calendar year approach appears to be placing an administrative burden on the insurance company with the late submission of premiums.

8. Accidents

The accident data and claims record for the year-to-date were reviewed. To date, there have been a total of 15 accidents, accident reports have not been received for some of these and the non-reporters have been contacted. It was noted that accidents involving conversion to a new type of glider appeared to be down noticeably. To date, payments and reserves for payments, while significant, are well below total premiums.

9. Awards and trophies

Phil Stade reported that there had been significant progress in integrating the Online Contest with a number of the SAC flying trophies, although some details remained to be dealt with.

Walter Weir has signaled that badge claims are down for 2005.

10. SAC Website

It was remarked that while a number of volunteers work on the site, there is a need for a webmaster to take overall responsibility for it. Phil Stade will contact a potential volunteer. It was noted that there have been a several dead links on the site and that there is a need to ensure that information remains current. Patrice Audet has done an excellent job in updating the French side, but there is a need to keep the English and French sides of the site synchronized. While the site had undergone a major overhaul two years ago, it is recognized that some adjustments in how the site is organized could be helpful.

11. Financial

There will be a sizeable shortfall in membership fee revenue relative to budget and relative to last year; this is due to a decline in membership and some change in its composition. The decline also impacts in a number of other areas, for example sales are down. At this point it appears that a deficit can be avoided as a result of an increase in investment income and cutbacks on the expenditure side.