



**Michael R. Heuer**  
**President of CIVA**  
4547 W. Woodlawn Circle  
Collierville, TN 38017 USA  
Tel: +1 (901) 850-1301  
Mobile : +1 (901) 230-9006  
Fax: +1 (440) 220 9006  
E-mail: [mike@mheuer.com](mailto:mike@mheuer.com)

14 September 2009

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 103<sup>rd</sup> FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE**

### **Incheon, Korea**

The FAI Aerobatics Commission continues its work in promoting, administering, and improving the sport of aerobatics worldwide. This is only possible because we are all a part of a larger air sports movement and members of the FAI through our national organizations.

Achieving our goal of promoting our air sports discipline is successful because of the extensive and dedicated work of volunteers around the world who are deeply committed to the sport. As I do every year, I pay tribute to them in this report. The purpose of this report is to provide you with updated information on this work as it is noteworthy and deserving of your recognition.

### **The 2009 Calendar**

This year, CIVA had the busiest Championships calendar in its history which kept our officials very busy with several serving at more than one competition. This year our schedule included:

World Air Games: Turin, Italy – 6-13 June 2009  
World YAK52 Aerobatic Championships: Rojūnai, Lithuania – 25 June – 5 July 2009  
World Glider Aerobatic Championships: Hosin, Czech Republic – 10-19 July 2009  
European Advanced Aerobatic Championships: Radom, Poland – 6-16 August 2009  
World Aerobatic Championships: Silverstone, United Kingdom – 19-29 August 2009

CIVA selected and provided FAI international officials for all of these events. Judges were selected under new procedures which take into account judging performance. This performance is now measured by a new software program that was in use at all five Championships this year called ACRO. It was developed in the United Kingdom. ACRO is also the scoring program for all FAI Aerobatic Championships.

### **World Air Games**

From CIVA's point of view, the World Air Games were quite successful. Though communications was an issue in the early stages and we had some conflicts regarding the availability of adequate time slots for our competitions, ultimately these problems were solved and the event went through as planned. Seven power and nine glider aerobatic pilots flew in the event. There were several cancellations at the last moment which made the utilization of reserves impossible and more strict procedures and controls on this should be implemented at future Games, so we have enough pilots to make the event credible. That said, the "best pilots" ended up flying in the WAG and Champions were **Renaud Ecalle** of France in power and **Pietro Filippini** of Italy in gliders.

Chief Judge was John Gaillard of South Africa and President of the International Jury was Osmo Jalovaara of Finland. They will be reporting to CIVA at its plenary meeting in Oshkosh, USA with recommendations for rules changes.

The flight programmes flown at WAG, which in some cases were new, worked out well. I anticipate minor adjustments to the rules to make them better for the next WAG. I think they were satisfactory for our judges, pilots, media, and spectators and the lengthy rules-making process we went through to adapt aerobatics for the Games should be considered a success.

## World YAK52 Aerobatic Championships



The 2<sup>nd</sup> YAK52 Aerobatic Championships was held in Lithuania. The first event had been held in Novosibirsk, Russia last year. These events are quite new to CIVA and the only “single type” event we currently have. The Lithuanians organized a superb Championships, as they always do, though it was lightly attended. 20 pilots from 6 nations participated. World Champion in this category is **Alexander Myakishev** of Russia.

## World Glider Aerobatic Championships

After France’s cancellation of their bid to organize the WGAC after the CIVA plenary meeting in Salzburg last year, our friends from the Czech Republic took on the assignment of organizing this event with just a few months time available to organize and plan it.

My thanks to the Aero Club of the Czech Republic for being such strong supporters of aerobatics and for organizing so many events in their country over the years and many at the last moment, when no other organizers come forward. They have helped promote the sport of aerobatics enormously over the years.

34 pilots from 11 countries participated in the WGAC. World Glider Aerobatic Champion is **Georgiy Kaminskiy** of Russia. This was Georgiy’s third consecutive win of the world title. He also flew in the World Air Games.



## European Advanced Aerobatic Championships



Aside from the Czechs and Lithuanians, the Aero Club of Poland can also be counted on to organize excellent events and have done so on many occasions over the last two decades. These events have often been held in Radom and this was the site of the EAAC this year.

47 pilots from 17 countries flew in this event which is an outstanding level of participation for a Continental Championships. New European Advanced Aerobatic Champion is **Daniel Ryfa** of Sweden. This is the first time a Swedish pilot has won a major FAI Aerobatic Championships title. He flew the YAK- 55M defeating other pilots who flew aircraft of considerably greater performance.

## World Aerobatic Championships

The 25<sup>th</sup> WAC was held in Silverstone, UK – the home of British motorsports – in August. It was the most well organized competition I have ever attended and great credit must be given to the British Aerobatic Association and its Chairman, Alan Cassidy, for spearheading this event. Contest Director was Steve Green who worked full-time for the last several months in preparation. Flying Aces also partnered with the BAeA in organizing the event which insured very good media



coverage. The last two days of WAC were featured live on the internet on the Flying Aces website.

Unfortunately, WAC also suffered the first fatal accident since 1960 with the loss of USA Team pilot Vicki Cruse in the Known programme. The accident is under investigation. While this cast a pall over the event, everyone agreed to continue flying after a 48 hour break and competition flying resumed on 24 August. Due to bad weather, delays, and cancellations of time slots by Silverstone, only two flight programmes were ultimately flown (Known and Free). This was sufficient to name World Champions. The Final Freestyle event was also flown as a part of the public airshow on Saturday, 29 August.

This contest also featured electro-optical tracking (radar) provided by QinetiQ, a British company that many caters to the defense industry. Their system, which was adapted to the contest environment by BAeA member Stephen Madle, provided the most accurate penalty assessment we have ever seen. Accuracy was within centimeters. I hope this system can be used again as it makes the Championships incredibly objective and fair and with the proper result.

Overall World Aerobatic Champion is Renaud Ecalte of France flying the Extra 330SC. Renaud is a French Air Force pilot (several of the French Team are military). He also won the Final Freestyle making him one of the few aerobatic competition pilots in history to win Gold Medals in all the programmes.

## Making Use of Technology

While I was in Silverstone, Thierry Montigneaux circulated an e-mail to the IGC Bureau, point out how we were using existing technology in improving communications internally at the competition and the outside world. I encourage all Commissions to adapt some of our ideas to your Championships.

The entire contest site was covered by a strong, reliable WiFi network.

A software program was used to send mass SMS (text) messages to all of the mobile phones that were issued by the organizers. These phones were given to all Team Managers in addition to contest officials. Weather observations and announcements of all kinds were transmitted this way and everyone knew what was occurring during the Championships. The mobiles were “disposable” types and only cost £10,00 each with a £5,00 charge in each phone which proved to be sufficient for most.

Twitter was used to publish all of the SMS (text) messages that were sent out so they could be accessed via the internet.



2009	Forthcoming Championships	Results available ...
June 3 - 13	The World Air Games, Torino, Italy	✓
June 25 - July 7	The World YAK 52 Aerobatic Championship, Rojunai, Lithuania	✓
July 11 - 18	The World Glider Aerobatic Championship, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic	✓
August 6 - 16	The European Advanced Aerobatic Championship, Radom Piastow Airfield, Poland	✓
August 19 - 29	The World Aerobatic Championships, Silverstone, UK	✓

  

2008	Past Events ...	
June 6 - 8	The World Aerobatic Cup, Airfield Roudnice, Czech Republic	✓
July 5 - 13	The European Aerobatic Championships, Hradec Kralové, Czech Republic	✓
July 26 - Aug 3	The European Advanced Glider Aerobatic Contest, Rothenburg, Germany	✓
August 1 - 10	The World Advanced Aerobatic Championship, Pendleton, Oregon, USA	✓
August 7 - 17	The European Glider Aerobatics Championship, Piastow Airfield, Radom, Poland	✓
August 17 - 24	The World Yak-52 Aerobatic Championship, Novosibirsk, Russia	✓

Contest Data File Archive and scoring software

web by exploit-design

Contest scores were uploaded throughout the day to [www.civa-results.com](http://www.civa-results.com) (see above) by the Scoring Director on site at Silverstone. This website was created last year to permit anyone to view overall results and standings as well as individual pilots' scores. It makes the entire scoring process open and transparent.

I blogged every day and sometimes several times a day with brief articles on contest development with photos. There were also the official contest site websites (two) and a blog the Contest Director maintained as well.

Finally, the last two days of the WAC were broadcast on the internet by Flying Aces (see <http://www.airsports.tv/worldaerobaticchampionshipslive.asp>). This banner was featured on the WAC website and others:



This is the first Championships in my experience that involved the partnership of an national aerobatic organization with a media company. A lot was learned along the way and I think might be the subject of some future discussion on how we make air sports technical specialists work with media people as they could not be more different.

Though it was an event we will never forget because of the tragedy of the accident, it was also a stellar example of how a Championships can be so well run. The British were organized, efficient, strong, tireless, and compassionate and I am proud to call them my friends.

## Conclusions

In summary, all of us in CIVA continue to learn from our events and come up with new ways to improve them. I am proud we are not too rigid to try new ideas but at the same time, we hold fast to our rules to give the pilots stable and predictable events in which to compete.

Some of the things I learned this year which are worth reporting:

- There is well established and easy-to-use technology out there to improve communications at our Championships, to keep people well informed throughout the world, and to make competition organization more efficient. Commissions should take advantage of all of them. Sometimes it is a matter of just knowing what is out there.
- It is very important to have emergency response and accident procedures in place. FAI provides an excellent document and this was the basis of WAC's procedures which, unfortunately, were needed. All Commissions should examine and implement such procedures.
- WAG was well received by CIVA officials and pilots. It is a viable concept and our people look forward to the next event and are anxious to receive news.
- I endorse the report of Brian Spreckley on the International Air Sports Board (IASB) at WAG. I recommend the adoption of his recommendations. There should not be any interference with the functioning of this Board in adjudicating protests.
- Websites are only useful if they are up-to-date and contain useful, recent information. "Blogging" on the CIVA website proved to be easy, thanks to Thierry Montigneaux's help, and response was very good. I would recommend all Commissions to adopt this method of communicating. Otherwise, websites will not be visited by our constituents as they will be regarded as "old news". Photos must be included.

My best wishes to everyone at the FAI General Conference. My apologies for not attending. I will be organizing the plenary meeting of CIVA in Oshkosh which is to take place shortly after the Conference and cannot take the time to attend.

Special thanks to Max Bishop, Jean-Marc Badan, Thierry Montigneaux, and Christine Rousson – the FAI staff with whom I had the most contact over the last year. It is wonderful to work with efficient and dedicated people.



Michael R. Heuer  
President  
FAI Aerobatics Commission (CIVA)