



FEDERACION AERONAUTICA INTERNACIONAL

VICEPRESIDENTE

PRESIDENTE DE LA
COMISION INTERNACIONAL DE RECORDS ASTRONAUTICOS (ICARE)

REPORT FROM ICARE PRESIDENT **101st FAI General Conference, Rhodes, Greece, October 2007**

1.- General Activities of ICARE Committee 2005/2006

The ICARE Committee held its annual meeting on April 27, 2007, at the FAI Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland. The President was also present at the joint Air Sport Commission Presidents / Executive Board Members held at the Olympic Museum, Lausanne on May / June 2007.

Besides the normal business, in both meetings came out matters that may be of interest for the General Assembly. I detail them separately.

2.- Gold Space Medal

The Commission was informed that, at the FAI General Conference in Santiago, Chile, it was decided to unify the procedures for the awarding of both, the Gold Space Medal and the Gold Air Medal as the highest awards to be presented by FAI. Consequently the Gold Space Medal awarding will require always, from now on, the favourable vote of the majority of the Vice Presidents of FAI, and the ICARE Commission will no longer present as such Commission a candidate for the award as it was done in the past.

The Commission thanks the Statutes Working Group for the implementation of this modification.

2.- The 100 Km altitude (Karman line) separating Aero & Astronautics

Meetings with the Presidents of Aeronautical Sports Commissions demonstrated those Commissions are unwilling to limit Aeronautical Records to flights never surpassing the Karman line. So they may, as they have done in the past, award Aeronautic records for flights surpassing at some point that 100 Km altitude line.

ICARE, by our own rules (that we are unwilling to change) is only awarding records for Space flights, i.e. flights surpassing at some point the 100 Km altitude boundary between Aeronautics and Astronautics, as defined in our Sporting Code.

Most Space flights have a part of it under the Karman line (both for take off and re entry). This was not very important in the past, when that part of the flight was insignificant compared with the total flight. However, the current interest for sub orbital missions (interest opened by the flight of SpaceShipOne), with a significant part of the flight in Aeronautical (atmospheric) conditions, has opened a way for the same flight and the same performance being candidate to both, an Aeronautic and an Astronautic Record. Our Commission considers this is not the best way to go ahead.

Consequently, our Commission is moving towards the objective of limiting our records to just the part of the performance above the Karman line at least when the atmospheric part of the flight may significantly change the record.



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As an example, distance records for Astronautic sub orbital flights, was up to now measured between the place of take off and land on Earth's surface. This was sensible when sub orbital flights were basically parabolic. Nowadays, there may be a significant part of that distance covered by gliding in atmospheric conditions. Thus we are changing the record to the distance travelled outside the Karman line, leaving the rest to possible Aeronautic records.

We are moving carefully, to make sure that significant performances are not left unrecognised just because aeronautics and astronautics are starting to get closer and not so well separated as they were in the past. But we think this is the way to go ahead if we want to keep our prestige as a sound record registering authority.

Dr. S. Sanz Fernández de Córdoba
ICARE President