

F7A (Lighter Than Air)

ACTIVITY REPORT 2006

1-SC MEMBERS

- Marcel PREVOTAT (Chairman, France, NAC = FFAM)
- Hartmut NEUFFER (Germany, NAC= DAC e.V)
- Experts:
 - Andy BOOTH (Project Manager, Cameroon Balloons, UK)
 - Patrick DECOCK (RC Balloonist, Belgium)
 - Olaf SCHNEIDER (RC Balloonist, DMFV, Germany)
 - Patrick DIEUZY (TC Balloonist, FFAM, France)

Despite several requests to several NACs, we did not succeed obtaining five official members. Further action and sensitization is needed.

2-CIAM ACTIVITIES:

- Participation to Plenary meeting (Lausanne, March 2006) with presentation of activities to Mr. President and diaporama during the Plenary meeting. Most of the attendees discovered "Lighter than Air"
- Amendments to the F7A rules submitted and accepted.
- Bulletin in CIAM Flyer (July 2006)
- Refinement of the RC Balloons survey: Around 400 pilots listed. Estimation of 700-800 balloons worldwide with 2 key countries (Germany, France). Limited information on USA but maybe a top country (around 200 balloons).

3-COMPETITIONS AND MEETINGS:

- French Championship: Champion = Jérôme BILQUEY
- French Montgolfier Challenge (best in the year) = Bernard BILQUEY
- 2 competitions in France (Châtellerauld, Vesoul)
- Several meetings in France (Les Saisies, Annonay, Reims by FFAM), Germany (Brigachtal, Leipzig by DMFV), Belgium, Switzerland and Austria.
- On several meetings, accent was made toward contact with Youth (meeting in Health centers).
- A first International competition to be held in France (Chinon, 1-2 November). Need to obtain one International Judge (from Germany, Belgium or Switzerland preferably)

4-KEY POINTS:

- "Lighter than Air" to be changed to "Aerostats" to fit the FAI definitions.
- Several changes to the F7A rules to be submitted by November 2007.
- Except France (around 50 % RC Balloonists at French NAC = FFAM), most of the RC Balloonists are not licensed in NACs. In Germany, DMFV is pretty active.
- Excellent relationship with pilots of size balloons. The participation of the RC Balloons enlarges the interest of balloons public meetings.
- Huge interest of Youth and other RC pilots and huge communication support of the Balloons. M. PREVOTAT (SC current chairman) is planning to build a new balloon at the CIAM colors= Olympic rings, CIAM logo).