

Minutes of Aviation SIG, 29th October 2014 at Royal Meteorological Society Headquarters in Reading



Attendees of the October 29, 2014 meet: (from left to right) Michael de Villiers, Ed Pooley, Jake Kollegger, James Morrison, Bob Lunnon

Society Chief Executive Liz Bentley was present for a discussion on SKYbrary and GASCo.

Apologies: Simon Proud, Anthony Bowles, John Koncz, Matthias Steiner, John Greetham

Jake opened the meet at 09:30 local time.

Ed mentioned an article on "Should Airplanes be Flying themselves" in the Vanity Fair October Issue.

With regards to advance notice of meets, all members noted that at least one month in advance is sufficient, Ed needs 2 months, since others may need 2 months as well; it is considered a goal to have a two month advance notice.

The Met Office is working on a weather decision making seminar, primarily for the general aviation community. It would encompass weather issues and concerns in uncontrolled airspace. The issues regarding the feasibility of such a seminar are interest and motivation on the part of possible attendees and presenters, respectively.

Mention was made about the New Air-Ops regulations and whether or not there are any changes in the laws regarding weather and weather planning. One of the major changes was in applied meteorology, and the notion of "stabilized approaches". With bad weather the "stable" call is made at a higher altitude than for the "stable" call in good weather. Specific details are beyond the scope of the meet.

A mention was then made about the pitch/power issues when confronting thunderstorms or in between them. This was a direct offshoot of the "stable" call discussion as noted in the previous paragraph and the Air France 447 crash.

1. Skybrary

John Barrass of Skybrary had said that "probabtion was ~20 articles".

We have been active for 6 months.

Ed said that applied meteorology articles needed joint reviewing (both Met experts and aviation experts). Ed was to send Jake information about the contact for the Guild of Air Pilots, because that body is tasked with reviewing Meteo articles from a practical basis point of view.

ED said that most articles were accessed directly by Google search rather than via the Skybrary portal.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) would need to be signed in order for the Met Soc logo to be added to those of other participating organisations.

Jake said that there was now more focus on pure meteorology articles since the Skybrary AGM on 17/7/14.

Liz said that there was knowledge of how the Met Soc's website was used.

Once the MoU is signed the Met Soc will be acknowledged as either content source of content control.

There will be a requirement to maintain Skybrary content.

There needs to be an article about the Met Soc on Skybrary. [Liz will do this]

Ed will email Liz a draft MoU. It will have an annex which is flexible (the main part of the document is a standard MoU).

Ed said that the key issues were continuity and content improvement.

James asked whether we can get statistics on the frequency of access of individual pages.

It was noted that the “bookshelf” includes accident reports.

Ed said that in Skybrary the emphasis was on transport aviation, not general aviation.

Ed said that there were guidelines on the length of articles.

Ed said that there was a problem with copyright with images, but it is desirable for there to be more visual material.

“3 articles per month” is not a “set in stone” target.

If articles are considered very bad they can be removed, but hopefully only temporarily.

James asked about editing diagrams.

Liz said that the Society could use Google ad words (because we are a charity) to promote recent articles.

There was a question about acceptable graphical format – this can probably be answered by looking at examples.

Jake had used GIMP to edit pngs.

Copyright is down to authors.

Cloud Atlas is being worked on by a team including SIG member George Anderson.

Liz mentioned embedding video (especially on bookshelf).

Jake explained that he had obtained email addresses of “experts” on met topics from the Society and had asked them for help with articles.

It was necessary to check that links between articles worked correctly.

It was agreed that priority should be given to requested articles e.g. the one requested by FSC on gust fronts.

2. GASCo

Pertaining also to the UK Flight Safety Committee rep, Bob, Jake asked if they reps get adequate guidance and support from Liz Bentley, since they report directly to her. The answer received was yes, but that it is imperative for Liz to be kept in the loop.

James had attended the Met Office/GASCo decision making seminar – he would need volunteers to help run an event.

James was to send contact information for GASCo to Liz.

James suggested 3 speakers were needed for a meeting (SIG member Maurice Crewe could help but only in his own area).

Liz wanted to know about GASCo resources. Mention was also made if "Chirp" should be used instead of a GASCo flyer in order to inform pilots of weather issues and/or refreshers.

Liz raised the idea of streaming a meeting on the web.

3. Other meetings

Ed talked about the European Safety event, and Aviation Forum in Brussels

Jake explained that the ice crystal problem meeting had not happened, but was still under consideration for next year.

The idea of a meeting addressing space weather was discussed, including the need for serviceable satellites before instigating an RNAV approach.

4. Tenure of positions

Positions under this included chair, secretary and reps to GASCo, FSC. Ed proposed that each incumbent was responsible for finding a successor.

The next meet is planned for the beginning of next year. Jake acknowledges that an increased drive to attain more attendees be instigated, which may require a different venue to the RMetS HQ.

At 13:45, Jake closed the meet and thanked everyone for attending.