

LETTER TO ALL MEMBER CLUBS OF FISA

I would like to thank you for your support to continue FISA, but now is the time to really show your support and get behind FISA for the next six months so that we can all meet in San Francisco at Westpex in 2013 for the next FISA Congress.

That is correct the next Congress is still in the process of being organised but before the end of the year we need to have information from you so that we can place it on the website and possibly create an e-newsletter to all of you on what is happening throughout all of our member clubs.

The first thing I would like you to do is to look under Members on the FISA website and check that all your details are current and correct for your club. This information must be sent to the Secretary General Wolfgang Porges and the Webmaster (Vice-President) Stefan Bruylants and a copy to myself. This would be a good start as I believe that a lot of the information is incorrect and only you know this. This will ensure that should any other Member Club wish to contact you that they will get the right person.

Secondly as the majority of you produce a publication I would like you to send a copy of one article in your publication that must be in (preferably PDF format) or Word so that it can be either published on the FISA website or be part of the e-newsletter to be sent out quarterly. This would allow all Members of FISA to be aware of your publication and the research that your members are engaged in and may allow you to attract new members.

Thirdly I would like you to provide Secretary General Wolfgang Porges and the Webmaster (Vice-President) Stefan Bruylants and a copy to myself any forthcoming events that your club is involved in or has been involved in recently. This may allow you to sell more souvenirs, copies of publications and attract more people to your events. It does not matter how insignificant you may think your show is, there possibly is someone out there that is interested, may live nearby and wish to attend. There is room on the website but as we are all volunteers all information must be provided in PDF format or Word.

That is what I require from you and to help you one of the Board Members or a Member of the Presidium must be reminding you of my requirements. That is why it is important that you provide the information requested as my very first requirement. I will be reviewing the number of Board Members that FISA has to ensure that each member club is being regularly encouraged to support FISA. If you believe that FISA needs more Board Members then please provide me with full details of a person that you believe would wish to not only keep FISA alive but allow it to grow as well. Obviously new Board Members cannot be officially appointed until the next Congress but they can get an idea of how FISA runs needs to be promoted.

When FISA was originally set up in 1960 there was a big push for exhibitions and separate classes for Aerophilately and later Astrophilately at FIP. Though it is important that we keep close ties with FIP to ensure that our classes remain relevant and are promoted at that level and all levels leading up to World Exhibitions we must also look to support the majority of your members,

members. By that I mean the majority of your members are not interested in exhibiting at any level. Hopefully one day this may change as they become more involved, but I know that this will not come to reality. Therefore more emphasis on what is shown on the FISA Website and in the e-newsletters should relate to the collecting and obtaining material, research on the material that you have or are interested in and the publication of your findings, the attending of re-enactments, the nostalgia associated with old and new aircraft and the flights that they have made or are intending to make. This means that we could get more interest from people that are not members of aero related clubs and you should benefit by increased participation in your clubs.

FISA actively supports research and publication of information and have funds available to promote publications that are beyond the scope of some of our member clubs. Should you wish to apply for a grant or a loan to get something published, then although FISA does not have a lot of money we would look at supporting such a venture. Some Member clubs do not need this support and though in 2011 we will not be requiring a capitation payment I am sure that our Treasurer would be willing to accept any donations to FISA should you wish to make them.

Finally though I have only been part of FISA for two and a half years I met Kuno Sollors in Vienna Austria at a board meeting in September 2008. We then had a couple of beers and looked at the aero/astro exhibits and introduced me to some of the Member Clubs that were there. It is in the memory of Kuno that I need your support to make FISA strong again as you indicated by your support at the Congress in Graz.

Ross Wood

PRESIDENT