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Herewith minutes of the 121st meeting of the ILA BOD.

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INTERNATIONAL LORAN ASSOCIATION

121ST MEETING OF THE ILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 121st meeting of the ILA Board of Directors was held by teleconference at 1330 EST on 18 February, 1997.

1. Directors Present

Directors attending the teleconference were;

Bill Brogdon, President
Walter Dean, Secretary
Dale Johnson, Past President
Jim Alexander
Carl Andren
John Beukers
Bob Lilley
David Last
Bill Polhemus
Marty Poppe
Ellena Roland
Linn Roth
David Waters
Bob Wenzel

2. Agenda and Quorum

Bob Lilley had e-mailed Bill Brogdon's agenda to all board members.

John Beukers had proxies for Linn Roth and Bill Roland

The secretary determined that a quorum was established when eight board members were present at the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded that minutes of the 119th and 120th meetings be accepted. They were approved without modification.

4. Resolutions sent to Coast Guard and FAA

Copies of the resolutions resulting from the last convention were sent to the Coast Guard and FAA. As expected, there has been no response from either.

5. Audit and Financial Report

The audit has been completed except for one minor detail. Lilley reports that the results from San Diego are not yet complete, but they are positive and will improve the cash balance, by more than the 10K minimum. The results from Westfields are almost resolved and they will also give a positive result. Andren reports a current balance of \$4178.48, which will be increased by the results from San Diego and Westfields.

6. Response to BoatUS

Brogdon thanked everyone for the quick response to BoatUS, expecting a good writeup. Power Motor Yacht has also received good information. Bill has invited Recreational Fishing Alliance, which lobbies for recreational fishermen, to join us.

7. 1997 Convention

David Waters reported that October 6-9 is the selected date for the convention, with an icebreaker on the 5th. He assured all that the only ice in Ottawa at that date would be in glasses. The preferred hotel, the Radisson is charging \$106 Canadian, which is \$79 US, per room. One hitch is they want to charge \$600 (\$444 US) per day for the meeting room. A smaller hotel can handle only 100 people in the meeting room, but the rooms are cheaper and there is no charge for the meeting room.

There was discussion of possibility of negotiation to bring down some of the costs, particularly the meeting rooms.

Both hotels are downtown, close to all attractions. Other, deluxe hotels, are much higher in room rates, and all charge for meeting rooms.

The head of the Canadian Coast Guard is the Commissioner, a deputy Minister, the equivalent of the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. He plans to attend. Waters hopes that the Minister will also be there.

Lilley reported that the Commandant had replied to a written invitation saying he would send a representative to the convention, but that he was not sure of his own schedule.

8. IALA Membership

The general feeling was that the ILA was contributing at least as much as it received from IALA, and that the rather steep membership fee was not justified. Beukers feels that we should remain close and participate. He will work with Brogdon to draft a letter suggesting a different class of membership for the ILA, or a way to swap memberships.

9. Response to Kruesi Letter

Linn Roth received a copy of a letter from Frank Kruesi proposing that the effects of solar activity on GPS be countered by removing Selective Availability, and if that didn't work, to depend on differential GPS. The criticism of this has gotten into the Feb. 12 issue of Aviation Daily, quoting a "source" saying essentially that SA and differential will have little effect on the effects of solar activity. The Air Force, in a paper delivered at ION GPS-96, described the problems. It was commented that the DOT can be seen as a poor source of information on technical matters.

10 Technical Seminar in April

NELS has pulled together a meeting in April of European loran users. They had to limit the speakers to about 50, although there could have been a hundred or so. David and Delft will be participating, Mike Braasch will be representing Ohio U and ILA. Beukers will make a presentation. The meeting will be in the Netherlands, location unknown at present. The situation in Ireland is still uncertain.

David met with Durk last week, saw a demo of Eurofix. Promotion of loran in Europe could be as a DGPS source, since the coverage is much more extensive than radiobeacons. The Germans are promoting an LF DGPS system out of Mainflingen, with which Loran-C is competitive. An approach is to design a Eurofix receiver the size of a credit card, which would be 2/3 the way to a full Loran-C receiver.

Brogdon noted that the USCG radiobeacons are good only 94% of the time, based on data taken from the CG bulletin board and worked into statistical form. Poppe remarked that Coastwatch is helping put radiobeacons in Argentina, and they expect to learn and avoid the mistakes of the Coast Guard. Brogdon commented that radiobeacons are the least reliable of the radionavigation facilities, for a variety of reasons.

It was also commented that use of loran provides good overlap, and the possibility of wide area corrections by reception of a number of stations.

11. Commandant's Interview

In an interview in Navy Times, the Commandant said, in effect, "this new technology is great, but if you're taking a fix, you really need to use loran along with GPS". Andren suggested that in tomorrow's budget meeting, this interview should be mentioned.

12. FAA's WAAS and NAS Timetables

The FAA has received recommendation from the Gore commission that the effort for WAAS and NAS be accelerated, but nobody seems to know what will occur. It all seems to be a political situation, and it all depends on what Congress does. FAA has a lot of money problems, and

The FAA report required by Congress appears to be in limbo, and may be out when the new FRP comes out. The DOT report which was going to Booz Allen is so far going nowhere. The FRP is still held up by a number of issues, according to Andren. Alexander has suggested revising the format of the FRP, to highlight the changes, but nobody concerned with its preparation was interested. It was felt that the subject needs further study.

13. Nominations

Ellena Roland has the ballot nearly complete, but is trying to get in touch with John Butler to see if he will allow his name to be put up for President (against Bill Brogdon). Waters promised to get in touch with him. There seems to be a problem sending e-mail to Butler, which Waters will try to resolve. Butler's office number is reported as 709-772-5159.

The proposed slate for directors includes Carl Andren, Marty Shuey, Bill Roland, Bob Lilley, Durk van Willigen, Bill Polhemus, Linn Roth and Walt Dean. Johnson moved and Lilley seconded a motion that the slate be approved, passed unanimously.

Beukers brought up the fact that the name "loran" is non grata. It was suggested that it be called synchronized low frequency augmentation of GPS, marketing loran on a different basis. The Europeans have formed a new company, called EUGEN to form a baseline for navigation development. Beukers calls it the "Wally Blanchard Company", designed to tap the technical expertise of the various countries.

Lilley will be going to Japan as visiting professor at an Institute, during the months of April, May and June. He will be available by e-mail, but may miss some BOD meetings. It will be a good opportunity to be in touch with the FERNS organization.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm EST.