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WILD GOOSE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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ITEM. West Coast Loran C Conference, Portland, Oregon, 3 December 1975. Ed Condon, Sea Grant Extension Oceanographer, Oregon State University, summarized the meeting in a letter to the attendees dated 15 December 1975. In his general statements, Ed said that his impressions were that the West Coast user community awaits Loran C with anticipation. He was impressed with the geographical (3 countries and 12 states) and industrial representation, as well as diversity of the user community present (fisheries, Merchant Marine, harbor-river pilots, Masters of NOAA vessels, airlines, navigation school interests, recreational boaters and government personnel from many different agencies). Ed detects overwhelming support for the new Loran C system coming on line Jan 1977 provided the "five" marine community concerns are properly responded to by the various government and industrial leaders:

1. Overlap time (Loran C on air Jan 77 - Loran A off air Jul 79) is a concern because of a doubtful ability of equipment manufacturers to fulfill receiver needs, the virtually impossible task for fishermen to convert Loran A data to Loran C data (i.e., hang /snag/black book and towing lane data), time required to refine and chart real world vs predicted time differences, time for users to gain confidence and the amortization of existing Loran A receivers and purchase of Loran C receivers. Recommendation: DOT and OMB re-examine with view toward extending overlap period to as much as five years.

2. Strong user concern about National Ocean Survey plans to issue first West Coast charts with Loran A rates on one side and Loran C on the other side. Recommendation: NOS survey user needs before printing charts, investigate feasibility of both Loran A - Loran C data on same side of chart and issue early sample of such a chart to West Coast Coast Guard and Sea Grant Offices for comment and to send any comments you may have on the subject to Director, National Ocean Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

3. Tax Aspects. Recommend IRS promulgate and widely distribute favorable tax treatment guidelines for obsolete Loran A receivers and new Loran C receivers.

4. Loran C receiver confusion. With the numerous manufacturers, different approaches, wide range of prices and varied user needs, how is a user to know how to wisely invest. Recommendation: (1) Shop carefully and attempt to match needs in navigational accuracy, reliability and range to an appropriate receiver; (2) That the WGA promulgate and widely distribute

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the pros and cons of the various Loran C receiver types as they apply to different needs of accuracy, range and modes of operation. Put in layman's terms it can provide an evaluation tool for the user.

5. General recommendation: that vessels conducting Search and Rescue operations be equipped with Loran receivers, charts and trained personnel.

Editor's Note: The WGA would like to join Ed Condon in congratulating Dan Panshin, Oregon State University and Cmdr Bob Dugan, US Coast Guard, in organizing and conducting a very fine, informative and diverse conference.

ITEM. WGA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board met in Washington DC on 10 February 1976. The following actions were taken:

1. WGA Convention will be held in the Wash DC area in the October time period. Bill Reveille and Norm Dickerson will repeat as Convention Chairman and Paper Chairman respectively. Ed McGann will be convention Publicity Chairman. Theme of the 1976 convention will be "Law of the Sea".

2. Walt Dean - Nominations and Election Committee Chairman.

3. Leo Fehlner accepted Chairmanship of a Government liaison committee to interface with the appropriate personnel and agencies who are preparing for the 1979 World Administrative Conference of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The WGA objective is to reduce interference between Loran C and other radio services in the 90-110 khz band. Particularly in regions 1 and 3.

4. Ed Durbin accepted Chairmanship of a committee to prepare (in layman language) a description of the different types of Loran receivers and to define certain tests and conditions to assess their performance to assist the user community in their selection process.

5. Sometime in the Spring of 1977 (after West Coast Loran C goes on the air) the WGA is planning a Loran C Workshop/Convention on the West Coast. Honker John Hopkins has been asked to determine appropriate locale/agenda.

6. The Board agreed that the recommendations of the Portland Conference be taken seriously by the WGA. They have expressed caution on overlap time and we need to develop acceptable rationale as first order of business. Tax relief should and will be supported and we need, through appropriate correspondence, show the user community that the WGA shares their concerns.

ITEM - Message from Walt Dean. A new WGA president and four (4) directors will be elected this year. Jim Van Etten has served as President for two years and will replace Lloyd Higginbotham on the Board of Directors as the "Immediate Past President." The three-year terms of directors Tom Daniels, Dave Haislip, Joe Parini and Claude Pasquier also expires this year. The Nomination and Election Committee is seeking candidates for these offices. Prior to the 30th of March, please send nominations (specify office for which nominated) along with a brief biographical sketch to Walt Dean, 7340 Blackhawk Lane, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805.

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ITEM. From the Commandants Bulletin -

"Tok, Alaska, is about to replace Sallisaw, Oklahoma, as the country's least likely location for a Coast Guard Station. Tok is located in the state's interior at Mile 1314 on the Alaskan Highway. That's at least 200 miles and three mountain ranges from the Gulf of Alaska and the nearest ocean-going shipping.

Coast Guard officials insist, however, that there are good reasons to be in both places. Sallisaw is homeport to a cutter that tends navigation aids on the Arkansas River. Surprising to most, the Arkansas carries ocean-going traffic into the heart of Oklahoma from the Mississippi.

The Coast Guard in Tok is another story though. The station, now being readied for bid solicitation, won't even have a boat. But, despite its land-locked location, the Tok station will be a key in a precise radio-navigation system for Pacific coast mariners.

With Tok and 7 other LORAN-C stations -- two of them also in Alaska -- vessels will travel from southern California to Nome, Alaska, knowing their positions within several hundred feet at all time, in any weather."

ITEM. WASHINGTON, D.C., December 19, 1975: New Minimum Performance Standards for Airborne Low-Range Radar Altimeters are set forth in a new Document by the Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics (RTCA). They supersede Minimum Performance Standards published as Document DO-92 dated November 18, 1958. The new recommended standards were coordinated with the European Organization for Civil Aviation Electronics (EUROCAE) by RTCA International Coordination Group 12 under the Chairmanship of Richard A. Pasciuti of EDO Commercial Corporation.

Copies of DO-150 are available at \$16.00 per copy (Members of RTCA receive a 50% discount on this price) from the RTCA Secretariat, Suite 655, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

(X)

ITEM. Recent Paper - "Medium Accuracy, Low-Cost Navigation: Loran C versus the Alternatives" is the title of a paper delivered to the 30th Technical Meeting of the Avionics Panel of the Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development in Sandefjord, Norway, September 1975 by fellow honker Jim Van Etten, IIT Avionics Division, 390 Washington Avenue, Nutley, New Jersey 07110.

ITEM. "Loran C - Who Really Wants It." - is the title of an article by [unclear] in the December 75 issue of MOTORBOAT

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ITEM. "Navigation System Will Pinpoint Ships and Cars" is the one-inch high headline that appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Jan 18, 1976. The first paragraph reads "One of the most sophisticated navigation systems in the world will start humming on the West Coast this summer, eventually helping nearly everyone from oil tanker Captains to bus drivers." (Ed. No mention of motor-boaters). The last two paragraphs read "Bus drivers and even police officers may not welcome the idea that anyone in headquarters can follow their exact movements. They will say that Big Brother is watching them" said one navigation expert. "And there will be resistance. There always is to new technology." The article was quite lengthy and covered the subject extremely well. If it had mentioned the WGA and/or the new FPN 44A transmitters, it would have been even better. This is an example of the kind of publicity we need and members of the WGA are encouraged to initiate this kind of exposure to the public. Ed.

ITEM. Concerned WGA member. - I received a letter from fellow honker Bill Wentz along with a clipping from the classified ad section of "Soldier of Fortune" magazine. Three ads were in the clipping by the World Wild Geese Association seeking mercenaries. Bill wrote the publisher and the WGA expressing his concern over an apparent travesty of our name. I received another clipping from an unknown magazine which said the Wild Geese were gathering in the bistros of the world. It said the word was out that fighting men were needed in Angola. It also explained that Wild Geese was a name given to the Irish soldiers of fortune in the eighteenth century and adopted as a term of honor by contemporary mercenaries. Thanks, Bill! Both for your concern and for speaking out about it.

ITEM. "DOCK"umentary, Gaggle de Gook or Overheard in the Bar! For lack of complete thoughts, I declined to use the title "Tales of a Wayside Inn," and I know H.W.L. wouldn't mind. "Loran is a World War II Technology." "Omega is a letter of the Greek alphabet." "Over here grid!--ahah---I mean girl." "GPS is a panacea." "Oh, Yeah! Wait til they force that on the fishermen and it will become a "sea of panic."" "Doppler navigation is the answer." "Omega is too as accurate as Loran A." "Every system needs a champion." "I know a fighter pilot who's been lost all his life. Do you think Loran can help him?" "Why do "sophisticated" people need a "common" grid?" "Take a Gander at that, wudja!" "I think I'll have another bubble dourbon." Don't you wish that WGA Newsletter editor was an elective office?

ONCE AGAIN IT'S TIME FOR your 1976 WGA membership dues. Anyone who joined the organization since the 1st of October 1975 is paid up through 1976 as well as some who have already voluntarily submitted. The vast majority of us have not. Please cut out the form below, fill in the pertinent info and return it.

ITEM. Personal Items. Capt Ernest Roland "Chief of the Electronics Engineering Division, Hq USCG" retired at the end of January and was replaced by Capt Jim Culbertson. Good luck to both. - Congratulations to Claude Pasquier who was recently promoted to Vice President in charge of Programs Management at Amecom - Bob Singer formerly of ITT, now works for Lear Siegler in Grand Rapids, Mich - Hank Hilbun has joined the staff of Analytical Systems Engineering Corp., in Burlington, Mass - Majors Don Johnston and Ken Sourke are working Loran in Germany. Don is the TRN-21 Chain Commander and Ken is the Loran Staff Officer for USAFE.

ITEM. STORMY WEATHER. One of the strongest winds to strike Northern Germany in 35 years took out the Loran Tower at Hohes Moor in December. Winds in excess of 100 knots were experienced and the top sections were lost. Due to prevailing winds/weather, they are not expected to be back on the air until late March.

ITEM. The IRONY OF IT ALL - "Yankee come back to Viet Nam" is the title of an article appearing in the 15 January issue of Forbes Magazine. Ed. Comments: Doing one of the fastest turnarounds in history, a former adversary is encouraging the western business world to return. Mention was made of the vast resources located in off-shore oil deposits which, during the conflict, were covered by Loran C.- not anymore! Ideas anyone?

ITEM. Navigation Journal "76". Journal editors Bill Roland and Bahar Uttam are looking for a colored photograph of significance to Loran to use on the back cover of the 76 edition. Bill also tells me that letters have gone out to those potential advertisers which could be identified. If others wish to advertise and have not received such a letter, please notify Cmdr W.F. Roland, 36 Ober Street, Beverly, MA 01915 ASAP to reserve space which is going fast!


LLOYD D. HIGGINBOTHAM
WGA NEWSLETTER EDITOR