Spirit of the International Aerobatic Club, Inc. SEPTEMBER 1997

AWAC '97 REPORT CARD

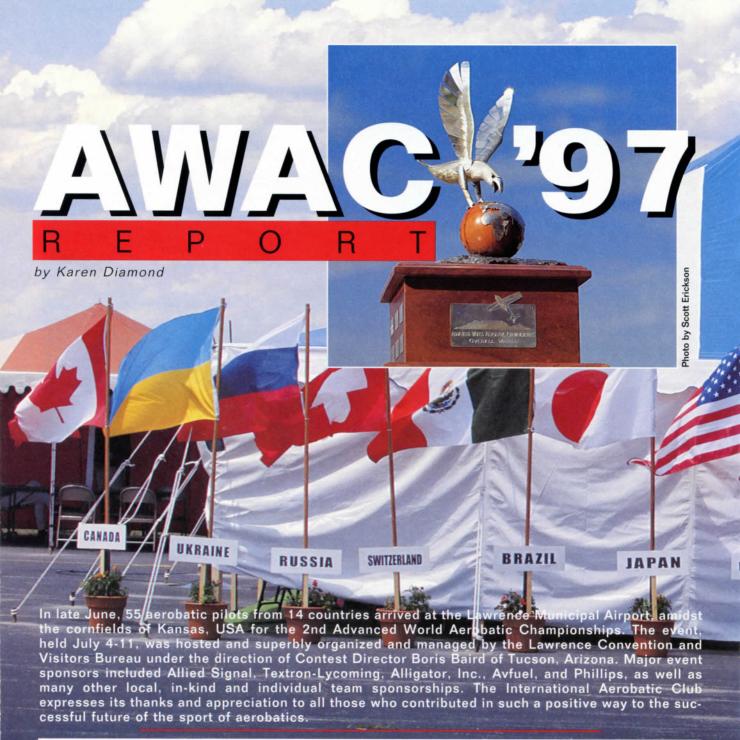
Inside This Issue: Postcards from Oshkosh '97

01

Technical Safety is Back!

Human Factors: The Wobblies Reviewed

1997 AWAC Champion Janusz Kasperek



raditionally, on the 4th of July in the heartland of America, all that matters is Independence Day. In contrast, amid the glory of the fireworks on the river front of Lawrence, Kansas, the city welcomed aerobatic pilots and officials from around-the-world during opening ceremonies of the 2nd Advanced World Aerobatic Championships.

Now that it's over, who won?

Janusz Kasperek of Poland played the game to perfection and stole the show by taking three gold medals and claiming the title of Advanced World Aerobatic Champion. The 36-year-old airline pilot with LOT, the Polish national airline, prevailed by dominating all three programme flights—the Freestyle and both completed Unknown flights.

"It can happen sometimes; I don't do anything special," Kasperek shrugged.

It was special enough for the nine CIVA judges from all corners of the globe who declared him the winner after marking a total of 213 flights during the week-long international competition. Kasperek flew to victory in an Extra 230, owned by American



Under CIVA rules, aircraft types allowed in AWAC are restricted. The restrictions are not definitive about horsepower, but do exclude aircraft considered competitive in the Unlimited category; for instance, Sukhois, Cap 231 and the Extra 300 series aircraft. Aircraft approvals are made individually. This makes AWAC a little nostalgic, because many of the approved ones were once competitive at the Unlimited level and often seen in world competitions back in the late



Extra 230 (Damon Wack, USA; Janusz Kasperek, Poland)

WAC Airplanes

1970's and early 1980's.

At AWAC '97, the Yak 55 was the aircraft of choice—used by nearly half the pilots. The Czechs, and the Slovakian team, flew their native-born Zlin 50 models. Other than one Extra 230 copy, the United States and Japanese teams both clearly favored the American Pitts types.

Two of those are highly modified-Chris Panzl's six-cylinder Haigh Special with retractable gear, and the new experimental Pitts S-1-11B, flown by Americans Matt Morrissey and his father, John Morrissey. The elder Morrissey has flown a Pitts S-2A in U.S. Advanced competitions for many years-and is reputed for his superb management of power and perfectly executed, yet graceful, flying. His switch to the S-1-11B for the AWAC didn't hin-

der him a bit-he flew the highest percentage possible of all pilots in Programme O and ranked 4th in the finals. "This is the first time I've had the horsepower to really work with; the airplane flew great," said Morrissey.

Another U.S. experimental-a One Design-also made its international debut. It is owned and flown by Doug Jardine, who finished 14th flying for

Canada.

For the home team at any sporting event, there are always advantages and luxuries not attainable for visiting teams. Besides geographic convenience, the



Zlin 50-LS Czech Aerobatic Team



Pitts S-1-11B (Matt and John Morrissey, USA)



Yak 55 Flown by pilots from fourcountries



Haigh Special (Chris Panzl, USA)



Pitts S-1S (Ray Gill, USA)

key perk for the U.S. team, was that each pilot got to fly his own airplane.

This isn't often feasible for visiting competitors. Instead, international competitions impel pilots to borrow—and share—aircraft, because the logistics, risks and high cost of shipping overseas can be prohibitive.

Nevertheless, the Czechs, the defending AWAC Team Champions, brought their own Zlin 50-LS. Much of what can go wrong DID. First, their airplane didn't arrive in Lawrence until a week after they did. It had been shipped by freighter to Houston, then brought by rail to Kansas City, and finally trucked to Lawrence. After that, it still had to be assembled.

To make matters worse, after a week of training flights, a failure in the tail section attachment occurred and things looked pretty grim—if not impossible—for having it fixed in time for the contest. Finally, after extensive phoning and faxing back home for permission and approval to repair the certificated aircraft, they got it back in the air.

Uncertainties exist even with borrowed aircraft. When tools for one of the Yaks didn't arrive, the Russians had a few uneasy moments, until they managed to borrow a Russian tool set from an accommodating U.S. Yak dealer. The awaited shipment eventually arrived, but, ten days late.

Contest Director Boris Baird said, that initially, locating airplanes for competitors wasn't easy. Ultimately, aircraft were located and most arrangements turned out as planned. Aircraft were provided by: Tom Adams, Klein Gilhousen, Randy Gagne, Yak America and Northwest Aerobatic Center.



U.S. Team member Damon Wack also provided an airplane to a visiting competitor—under unplanned circumstances. The Polish team arrived in Lawrence to learn that the arrangements they made to fly an Extra 200 had fallen through. Each of the four Polish pilots set out to find alternative airplanes. Janusz Kasperek found Damon Wack and his Extra 230. Although he'd never flown an Extra 230, he had time in the Extra 300. A deal was made and the rest is now aerobatic history—after only five practice flights, Kasperek made a clean sweep and won the championship in Damon's 230!

Picture a contest site with a hundred or so pilots, officials and support staff who all speak different languages. AWAC pilots came from Argentina, Austria,



CD Boris Baird

Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Great Britain, Japan, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, and the Ukraine. Could have been chaos, but to start things off, registration was capably handled by veteran international competitor and former U.S. Unlimited Team member, Linda Meyers-Morrissey, who recently retired from competition.

Most of the pilots arrived a week early to practice in the box and get settled in. The few days before a competition are extra-critical for vis-

iting teams. The first order of business is rest for the travel-weary and to shrug off jet lag, then to acclimate to new terrain, a "foreign" competition box, and regain G-tolerance after not flying for several days.

A group of Russian pilots and their crew spent four tiring days traveling from Moscow. After obtaining



Registrar Linda Meyers-Morrissey

credentials to fly in the U.S. from the Kansas City FSDO, they headed north 200 miles to a waivered box in Seward, Nebraska for four days of training, assuring three practice flights daily for each pilot, without



The busiest person at AWAC—Judy Billings of the Lawrence Convention and Visitors Bureau



Carole Holyk, International Jury member from Canada and Chief Judge John Gaillard of South Africa

"waiting in line" for time in the box.

During the days before a contest, practice time "in

Photo by Karen Diamond



THE box" is precious. At AWAC, shared airplanes (one flown by seven different pilots) created a real challenge for managing order of flight. It was soon evident that Contest Director Boris Baird's superb management skills were the reason *be* was running the show. For the most part, it went

repeated, a pilot would be asked to depart the contest site.

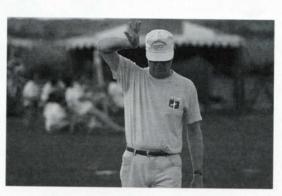
Contest administration was complemented by the expertise of Chief Judge John Gaillard from South Africa and CIVA President Mike Heuer, who served as president of the contest's international jury. The professionalism of the officials and the blessing of perfect

of one Judy Billings. She and a local organizing committee worked many months preparing for AWAC. Their hard work and enthusiasm spelled success, with competitors, officials and spectators all duly impressed by the outstanding hospitality of the organizers and the Lawrence locals.

The spirit of international fellowship was soon apparent too, as evi-

> denced by the nightly congregation of pilots in the U.S. Team hangar for a cold beer and hangar talk, "international-style".

AWAC '97 drew around 5,000 polite and attentive spectators, who seemed





Top left: Matt Morrissey, USA, gets his send off from team captain, Gerry Molidor. Above: John Morrissey, USA To the Left: Mike Riley, (center) judge from Great Britain Right: Georgi Kaminisky, Russia Bottom Left: Stanislav "Slava" Lebedev, Russia Bottom right: Gary Henry, USA, hand-flying the Unknown.





like clock-work. When a few infractions to the procedures occurred—mostly minor, one, not-so-minor—Baird made it known, in no uncertain terms, that if procedures weren't followed, pilots would be denied practice time, and if undisciplined behavior was

weather shaped a smooth-running operation.

The groundwork for this picture-perfect contest scenario was laid by the local organizer, the Lawrence Convention and Visitors Bureau, under the direction



Photos by Karen Diamon

well-briefed on competition aerobatics by advance press announcements. This was further supplemented by well-written program notes and a contest announcer who provided appropriate information on pilots, the aircraft and the aerobatic maneuvers being flown. Public support of the event was emphasized by a visit from Kansas Governor Bill Graves late in the week.

The event was accurately well-covered by the area media, except for the occasional tendency to call the airplanes "stunt planes"—a practice U.S. journalists can't seem to avoid

Only one local resident was unhappy, and she fussed about the airplane noise. The woman, who resides in a rented house on the northeast side of the box. made dozens of irate calls to anyone and everyone who would listen, including the media. When she finally got to FAA officials and threatened to sue, they said, 'go right ahead!'

Unfortunately, one thing that was lacking was attendance by very many IAC members, who, for some reason, chose not to attend the event. This caused a shortage of experienced volunteers to assist on the judges' line and man the boundaries, but Judy Billings managed to recruit local volunteers-many of whom are pilots-to fill the positions.

Under new CIVA rules. "Program Q" is flown first, after pilots draw from a hat for their order of flight. "Q" is actually the Known compulsory, now used as a qualification flight at international competitions. Rules prescribe that pilots attain 60% of total points possible, or they may not continue in the competition-at the discretion of the International Jury.

Janusz Kasperek began flying competition aerobatics at age 16. Flying in the Unlimited category, he has won the Polish championship 14 times. Despite that, in 20 years of competition flying, he never placed in an international competition until now. Employed as an airline pilot, he arrived in Kansas to discover that the airplane he intended to fly wasn't available. After arranging to fly a U.S. team member's Extra 230, a model he'd never flown before, he won the

championship hands down after only five practice flights.

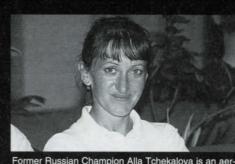
There are equally interesting stories behind every competitor. They come from all walks of life. Many, like Kasperek, are affiliated with aviation airline pilots, mechanics, flight instructors, airshow pilots, aerospace engineers and retired military pilots. Other occupations range from physicians and bankers to computer programmers and office workers.

There is one thing they all have in common. Each makes huge personal sacrifices in terms of time. money, family and friends to pursue competition aerobatics. Contest Director Boris Baird estimates that each registered pilot spent at least \$3,000 financing his own participa-

Despite the popular belief that Eastern European teams are statesupported and therefore have no money worries, Russian team pilots worked hard seeking sponsors to finance their AWAC excursion. Expenses are high, and sometimes unexpected. When a Russian team member became ill near the end of the contest, emergency room fees and medication totaled well over a thousand dollars.

One pilot admitted he had maxed out his credit cards, and consequently, could not participate in any more contests for the rest the season. Some financial relief comes from the generous support of companies like Champion Aviation, who, for instance, provided spark plugs and ignition harnesses for all U.S. Team aircraft. Hetrick Aviation, Lawrence FBO, and their supplier, AvFuel, donated an estimated 1200 gallons of fuel to AWAC pilots.

So go the stories. An individual sport, but a team effort makes it happen.



Former Russian Champion Alla Tchekalova is an aerobatic instructor who recently returned to competition after a three-year hiatus to care for her new-born son.

AWAC Pilots



Chris Panzl, USA, is a banker from Michigan.



British pilot Alan Cassidy prepares to fly with assistance of team mate Nick Buckenham.



Josef Cech of the Czech Republic.



U.S. Team member Glenn Frick is a retired Air Force pilot from Godley, Texas.



Several pilots had flights below the minimum, but the jury elected to allow them to fly the Programme 1 freestyle regardless, maintaining that none were unsafe or not qualified for Advanced level flying.

All flights were video-taped, as prescribed by the rules, and the only break in the proceedings was when judges conferenced under the chief judge's tent to review video and settle scoring discrepancies—usually a question of 'was it a zero, or not?'

Programme 2 is an Unknown sequence. Again, under new rules, the order of flight is determined by the standings from the first programme, with pilots flying in the exact reverse order of rank. In other words, the top-placing pilots fly last. The idea is to have similarly-capable pilots flying in comparable conditions. Some have suggested this new formula may prejudice judges to favor pilots who ranked highest in the previous programme flight. One judge who was interviewed agreed, and stated that the new system could be improved by shuffling the order within ranked groups of 10 or 15 pilots instead of using an exact reverse order.

For Programme 3, the second Unknown, the jury cut the field of competitors to 49; the bottom six pilots who did not achieve 60% in programme 2 were not retained. Per the rules, the jury is allowed to do this with a minimum of only 25 pilots required to continue.

Due to low clouds and thundershowers on Friday, programme 4 was not completed. Call it a contest—a noticeably successful one.

The class 2 championship is a relatively new medium for international competition. The first AWAC, held two years ago in Cape Town, South Africa, drew 45 pilots from 13 nations. The turnout at Lawrence is a good indication that the AWAC will grow in popularity.

This is likely for several reasons. First, there is a larger pool of pilots to draw from. Advanced-level aerobatics is not so physically and financially demanding, or as time-consuming, as flying Unlimited aerobatics. There are more airplane options, at a lesser cost, to choose from. The weeklong contest format versus the two-week stint for WAC is more feasible in terms of the time commitment and financial capabilities of both individuals and teams.

For the growth and future success of any event in its infancy, the most important ingredient is the success of the individual event itself. IAC member Don Peterson, who flew his Stampe from Texas to observe AWAC '97, said, "The mix of languages did not confuse the meaning of smiles and sunburned faces." Enough said. There is no conference needed on this one—AWAC '97 at Lawrence, Kansas scored a "10".



Program Q Advanced Known Compulsory Qualifying Flight Results

Pilot	Country	%рр
John Morrissey	USA	80.48
Janusz Kasparek	POL	78.90
Georgi Kaminski	RUS	78.71
Matt Morrissey	USA	78.50
Doug Jardine	CAN	78.17
Alla Tchekalova	RUS	78.16
Gerry Mojidor	USA	78.05
Sergey Prolagayev Dusan Samko	UKR	77.87
Alan Cassidy	SLO BRI	77.73
Gary Henry	USA	77.53
Ray Gill	USA	76.73 76.71
Karl Machacka	CZE	76.71
Pavol Cico	SLO	76.11
Vladimir Popov	RUS	75.65
Damon Wack	USA	75.62
Josef Cech	CZE	75.46
Mario Della Rossa	ARG	74.83
Oleg Fedorov	RUS	74.76
Daniel Tucek	CZE	74.43
Victor Birjukov	RUS	73.95
Peter Gafner	SWI	73.95
Azat Zaidoullin	UKR	73.88
Valentin Barabanov	RUS	73.44
Mark Oostingh	RSA	72.53
Glenn Frick	USA	72.38
Leandro Giovanni	BRA	72.35
Irenusz Jesionek	POL	71.72
Chris Panzl	USA	71.21
PeterWalker	RSA	71.20
Tauana Nesterova Hem Botha	RUS	70.67
Frantisek Pytlik	RSA	70.44
Keishi lwata	SLO	69.34
Alexei Kirkin	JPN RUS	69.27
Valadimir Radomsky	UKR	68.82 68.12
Piotr Janas	POL	67.27
Nick Buckenham	BRI	67.06
Marco Schrenker	SWI	66.90
Peter Baca	SLO	66.56
Stanislav Lebedev	ND	66.09
Patrick Williams	BRI	65.89
Dave Kaberry	BRI	64.57
Chris Noon	BRI	64.53
Yuri Gulin	UKR	64.24
Takehisa Ueno	JPN	64.15
Pavol Serbin	SLO	62.44
Gilbert Zimmerman	AUS	61.60
Helmut Anderegg	SW	61.44
Josef Pivard	SLO	61.15
Mike Paans	RSA	60.68
Yoshihide Muroya	JPN	59.95
Robert Kowalik	SLO	56.01
Robert Kowalik Motoaki kamikwara	POL	55.26
Wiotoaki karilikwara	JPN	44.96

Final Team Standings

1.	USA	6.	Great Britain
2.	Russia		Poland
3.	Czech Republic	8.	South Africa
	Ukraine	9.	Japan
5.	Slovakia		Switzerland
5.	Slovakia	10.	Switzerland

Contest - AWAC 1997

Lawrence, Kansas, USA Contest Director - Boris Baird

Official Results and Final Standings

Friday 7/11/1997 9:04

CIVA Scoring System - Version 4.7

(Results calculated using TBLP w/ min.weight threshold at 1.2 std.deviation)

Ra	ink/Pilot	Country	Aircraft	Free	Unkwn1	Unkwn2	TBLP Tot	0/
1	Janusz Kasperek	POL	Extra 230	2627.4296				
2	Gerry Molidor	USA	Pitts S-2B	2578.9126				
3	Matt Morrissey	USA	Pitts S1-11B					
4	John Morrissey	USA	Pitts S1-11B					
5	Alla Tchekalova	RUS	YAK 55M	2491.6672				
6	Chris Panzl	USA	Haigh Specia					
7	Alan Cassidy	UK	YAK 55M	2462.5324				
8	Pavol Cico	SLO	Zlin 50-LS	2426.1753				
9	Josef Cech	CZE	Zlin 50-LS	2406.7567				
10	Stanislav Lebedev	IND	YAK 55M	2410.8590				
11	Georgi Kaminsky	RUS	YAK 55M	2400.3219				
12	Karel Machacka	CZE	Zlin 50-LS	2454.3903		1667.2980		
13	Vladimir Popov	RUS	YAK 55M	2444.9752				
14	Doug Jardine	CAN	One Design	2454.3965		1661.7860		
15	Ray Gill	USA	Pitts S-1S	2451.3714			5694.3952	
16	Dusan Samko	SLO	Zlin 50-LS	2376.9332				
17	Damon Wack	USA	Extra 230	2492.7444	1461.7114	1705.6429	5660.0987	
18	Daniel Tucek	CZE	Zlin 50-LS	2423.0237	1570.9118	1657.5541	5651.4896	
19	Sergey Prolagayev	UKR	YAK 55M	2389.6191	1605.3641	1606.4148	5601.3980	
20	Gary Henry	USA	Pitts S-1S	2423.8883	1521.6125	1654.6766	5600.1774	
21	Oleg Fedorov	RUS	YAK 55M	2357.9068	1611.9651	1624.0996	5593.9715	
22	Azat Zaidoullin	UKR	YAK 55M	2399.4636	1479.8350	1655.1388	5534.4374	75.40
23	Tatjana Nesterova	RUS	YAK 55M	2367.8784	1592.9691	1541.1744	5502.0219	74.96
24	Yuri Gulin	UKR	YAK 55M	2320.8690	1559.2360	1611.9950	5492.1000	74.82
25	Peter Gafner	SWI	YAK 55M	2322.2869	1548.8545	1580.3996	5451.5410	74.27
26	Mario Della Rossa	ARG	Pitts S-2B	2355.8194	1467.4985	1622.9149	5446.2328	74.20
27	Leandro Giovanni	BRZ	Pitts S-2S	2269.3428	1535.9584	1612.8956	5418.1968	73.82
	Patrick Williams	UK	YAK 55M	2324.7062	1472.5238	1566.1609	5363.3909	73.07
29	Alexei Kirkin	RUS	YAK 55M	2221.6857	1559.8190	1548.0472	5329.5519	72.61
	Mike Paans	RSA	YAK 55M	2173.9977	1533.3667	1595.0442	5302.4086	72.24
	Nick Buckenham	UK	YAK 55M	2298.0364	1493.8326	1491.6185	5283.4875	71.98
	Glenn Frick	USA	Pitts S-1T	2363.9076	1270.7608	1627.0041	5261.6725	71.68
	Dave Kaberry	UK	Zlin 50-L	2300.8433	1477.8917	1443.9152	5222.6502	71.15
	Keishi lwata	JPN	Pitts S-2B	2196.6849	1545.5114	1470.2658	5212.4621	71.01
	Mark Oostingh	RSA	Zlin 50	2252.2587	1466.1393	1463.8749	5182.2729	70.60
	Peter Walker	RSA	YAK 55M	2253.8036	1394.4885	1508.5416	5156.8337	70.26
	Robert Kowalik	POL	Pitts S-2B	2250.6537	1399.1776	1484.3191	5134.1504	69.95
	Piotr Janas	POL	Pitts S-2B	2148.7995	1492.6384	1490.8767	5132.3146	69.92
	Takehisa Ueno	JPN	Pitts S-2B	2168.1925	1463.3006	1439.8399	5071.3330	69.09
	Frantisek Pytlik	SLO	Zlin 50-LS	2165.0105	1473.3455	1413.8981	5052.2541	68.83
	Peter Baca	SLO	Zlin 50-LS	2133.1063	1396.9292	1497.7511	5027.7866	68.50
	Hein Botha	RSA	Yak 55M	2258.3465	1473.2442	1285.2722	5016.8629	68.35
	renusz Jesionek	POL		2162.7000	1319.9660	1489.3274	4971.9934	67.74
	/ladimir Radomsky	UKR	YAK 55M	2148.6095	1318.5155	1412.5711	4879.6961	66.48
	Josef Pivarci	SLO	Zlin 50-LS	2049.2721	1450.9585	1373.8900	4874.1206	66.40
	Marco Schenker	SWI		2207.8240	1275.0138	1334.0185	4816.8563	65.62
	Pavol Serbin	SLO	Zlin 50-LS	2008.2555	1287.3897	1422.3296	4717.9748	64.28
	Gilbert Zimmermann			2014.3782	1120.7147	1149.7104	4284.8033	58.38
	/alentin Barabanov	RUS	YAK 55M	2443.6129	1563.6598	0.0000	4007.2727	54.59
	/ictor Birjukov	RUS		2004.1776	1105.0645		3109.2421	42.36
	Chris Noon	UK		1977.9444	1112.2100		3090.1544	42.10
	oshihide Muroya	JPN	Pitts S-2B	1735.5709	1179.0542	0.0000	2914.6251	39.71
	Robert Tupta	SLO		1688.1320	934.3523		2622.4843	35.73
	lelmut Anderegg	SWI	YAK 55M	1226.5139	1241.4257	0.0000	2467.9396	33.62
55 N	Motoaki Kamikawara	JPN	Pitts S-2B	1358.3848	662.9186	0.0000	2021.3034	27.54
				1000.0040	002.9100	0.0000	2021.3034	-