

## Remarks from the President

This column contains an obituary written by Prof. Dr. Justyn Sandauer honoring the life and work of the late Dr. Wieslaw Stafiej. It also contains remarks giving special recognition to the retiring OSTIV Editor, Cedric O. Vernon and the new OSTIV Editor, Ladislav Smrcek, Jr.

### In Memoriam - Dr. Ing. Wieslaw Stafiej



*Dr. Ing. Wieslaw Stafiej*

by Dr. Ing. Justyn Sandauer, Associate Professor at the Institute of Aviation in Warsaw

OSTIV Board Member, Dr. Ing. Wieslaw Stafiej, died on September 13, 1995, and as a good friend, I honor his work by remembering main stations of his life. Dr. Ing. Wieslaw Stafiej was born on January 3, 1933, at Rzeszów, Poland.

He studied aeronautical sciences at the Technical University of Wrocław, graduating with the degree of M.Sc. Eng. in 1957. After his studies, he started a career with the Polish Experimental Establishment for Sailplanes (SZD) at Bielsko Biala, where he remained as a scientist and engineer throughout all his working life.

Soon after joining SZD, working in the field of sailplane construction, his special ability for analyzing and calculating complex technical problems in aerodynamics, loads and structures was recognized. As a leading scientist and as Head of the Design and Calculation Department, nearly 30 sailplane prototypes and modified versions were born under the company's SZD trademark. He developed numerous methods for calculation and analysis in aviation research, including:

- Program for static and dynamic load tests of sailplane structures;
- Influence of aeroelastic effects on high performance sailplanes; and
- Evaluation, analysis and interpretation of flight test results.

Dr. Stafiej's special interest focused on a major problem in airplane design and construction, namely the step leading from complex design calculations to appropriate algorithmic formulas allowing easier com-

puter application and handling of parameters.

Manifesting his special knowledge in a scriptum "Optimal Algorithmic Design of High Performance Sailplanes", he received his PhD in Technical Sciences.

The scientific-technical work of Dr. Stafiej soon found international recognition through presentations and publications in congresses and literature. His paper, "Alleviating Capabilities of the Sailplane Structure", presented at the XV OSTIV Congress in 1976 at Rääskälä, Finland, and published in OSTIV Publication XIV was awarded an OSTIV Diploma as best technical paper of the congress. As sailplane designer and engineer he was invited to join the OSTIV Sailplane Development Panel, and the OSTIV Board; in both, he was a highly respected colleague for all the years of his membership, gaining great admiration from the panel members for his work.

Dr. Stafiej's enthusiasm for aviation was not only restricted to design and construction of sailplanes, he was also a long-time glider pilot. Having received the basic gliding instructions and certificates as a youngster, he became a member of the Aeroklub Bielsko in 1951. Rooted strongly in the tradition and activities of this club, he became a highly respected and valued gliding instructor. Most of his spare time was devoted to instructing young pilots, and giving advanced education courses to instructor squads, or presenting new results in numerous seminars.

All of us who had the privilege to spend time near him, to work with him, to visit with him, to listen to him, or to fly with him, were impressed by his modest, friendly, and open-minded personality, and his willingness to offer his assistance, advice and knowledge to anyone who asked for his opinion and help. We will not forget him!

– Dr. Justyn Sandauer

#### Change in OSTIV-Editorship.

A change in OSTIV Editorship from Cedric O. Vernon to Ladislav Smrcek, Jr. is currently taking place in a very important part of OSTIV's activities, the editing of OSTIV publications.

A review of the beginnings of the publication work for OSTIV shows that after World War II the wide interest in all different fields connected with gliding – techniques regarding design, construction, material, loads, fatigue, and in atmospheric sciences regarding boundary layer characteristics, thermals, clouds, waves – called for fast distribution of these results. Publishing was done through various gliding magazines in different countries. Soon recognizing the need for a concentrated and collected information source for all important scientific-technical news, OSTIV established the "OSTIV Publications", a series of reports containing all papers given at various OSTIV congresses, reviewed for publication,



Cedric O. Vernon

but not necessarily restricted to congress presentations alone.

In 1950, "OSTIV Publication I" reported the results of presentations given at the second OSTIV Congress 1950, held in Örebro, Sweden. (The first OSTIV Congress at Samedan, Switzerland, 1948, was an institutional one without documented papers, so the number for each "OSTIV Publication" is one number behind the respective OSTIV Congress.)

Another seventeen publications followed I, and the series ended with "OSTIV Publication XVIII", Rieti, Italy, 1985. Further congress papers, starting with the XX OSTIV Congress 1987 at Benalla, Australia, have been published in *Technical Soaring*, which became OSTIV's official magazine, beginning with Volume 10, No. 1, January 1986. The current number, at the end of the year 1995, was Volume 19, No. 4, Oct. 1995.

During a long period of this time - from 1965 to 1995 - Cedric O. Vernon was acting as editor of all OSTIV manuscripts handed in to OSTIV for publication, either originating from Congress papers or submitted through other



Ladislav Smrcek, Jr.

publication procedures. He spontaneously and voluntarily took over the editing activity starting with the OSTIV papers of the X OSTIV Congress at South Cerney, England. The editor's post was vacant at the time and L.A. de Lange, former OSTIV President, was very happy securing a person like Cedric Vernon, who modestly proposed, "...someone of the London Gliding Club thought, that I was sufficiently technical to cope initially for the completion of the South Cerney (1965) congress papers".

This lasted for a long 30 years! The "ad interim" editing of South Cerney papers was extended and - citing the OSTIV President de Lange in a letter to Cedric Vernon again - "I cherish a small hope it gets your love in such a way that you will continue to work on it for a much longer period. OSTIV is convinced that the work is in very good hands again!"

Yes, it was! On behalf of the readers, the authors, the OSTIV members and the Board : "Thank you very very much, Cedric!"

And now OSTIV is proud to announce that Mr. Ladislav Smrcek Jr., will succeed Cedric Vernon, and take over the post as OSTIV Chief Editor as of January 1, 1996. Smrcek comes from a family with a history of aeronautical engineering. His father is a well known designer of many Czech post war powered aircraft and some gliders.

Ladislav Smrcek, Jr. was born in 1952 in the Czech Republic. He studied at the Technical University and the Military Academy in Brno. After graduation, he worked at LET Aircraft Ltd. as an aerodynamicist in the stability and control group.

In 1982, he moved to Great Britain to work for METAIR Aircraft LTD., now Hunting Aviation, as a design engineer for the design and manufacture of aircraft interiors and systems along JAR- and FAR-Standards. Since 1984, he has worked in the Department of Aerospace Engineering, University of Glasgow, currently serving as a senior lecturer on aircraft design.

As a member of OSTIV, R.Ae.S. and A.I.A.A., he is publishing regularly in conferences, in journals and popular magazines.

Ladislav Smrcek is also a pilot, currently holding a powered glider pilot licence and also a private pilot licence for aircraft.

On behalf of the future readers, the potential authors, the present OSTIV Members and the acting Board: "Good Start!" and "Thank you for your willingness to help OSTIV in our technical and scientific efforts to the betterment of our sport of gliding!"

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- Dr. M. E. Reinhardt, OSTIV President