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LATEST SAC NEWS

JULY 1ST Edition

2009

Virginia Showdown

This is a real showcase event for the SAC and an opportunity to display our sport. Big thanks to the Durban Wings Club for allowing us to participate in one of the premier Air Show events on the calendar. We have been given a 20min slot on Saturday at the Virginia Show. Originally they only gave us a slot for 4 pilots but fortunately I have managed to negotiate for 5. Thanks to Suzuki for backing this event and we are sure it will be a success. The following pilots have been chosen based on their support of the SAC and their availability at the show. It made financial sense to use the SAC pilots already participating at the Air Show. Ian Billing, Warren Haslam, Johnny Smith, Larry Beamish and Nigel Hopkins will do battle in front of 20000 spectators! No pressure Larry! Thanks to Laszlo who will be trekking down to Judge. Kevin Woolacott will be commentating and Kathy the ever reliable scorer. The sequence has been tweaked slightly from the last one to allow for the short time slot but with it being at sea level will be starting from ground level. So all in all it should be a great event.

SUZUKI Nationals - Oudtshoorn

From Thursday 16 July with the Cape Regional Contest on Saturday 18 July!

The training is in full swing at Oudtshoorn already. That is for those with no jobs and lotsa money! Valentina is arriving to raise the stakes yet again!

Well we already have over 20 confirmed entries for the Oudtshoorn event. This is another great turnout. I speak under correction but we probably have the highest number of Advanced/Unlimited Pilots ever entered at National level. That number now stands at 14 Pilots. And that's without Ian! Unfortunately the Cape Pilots entries are very low so we hope that these numbers will increase further.

Grand Aero Challenge - Hungary - July 1-2

It's Hot, It's Humid, and It's Hungary!

Wow!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Without a doubt the most fun I have had in a plane and one of the highlights of my flying career. I arrived in Budapest after numerous delays and then ferried Zoltan's Extra 300S down to Lake Balaton, which is about 20mins flying west of Budapest. It is the Vaal Dam of Hungary only much bigger. They don't have a Sea so it is the biggest holiday resort around! I flew in formation with his new MXS! What a machine!

I was hoping for a practice flight or two but we were greeted by some Highveld like thunderstorms so I was left feeling seriously underdone and rather apprehensive. For two reasons, flying a new plane and also having to fly over water, which in itself poses many dangers!

The morning's briefing was precise, professional and helped calm me down. This is in fact Grand Aero Challenge 0! A test bed for next year's Grand Aero Challenge 1! So a fun event rather than a serious competition, GREAT! There were over 5000 spectators lining the shore, which for a first event in this small resort area was a huge success!

So what is it all about?

It's a triathlon in the sky:

Task 1: Synchronized Aerobatic racing! Two aircraft start the course over water. The course is parallel to the shore line of the lake marked by rubber ducks! That's boats for you blondes, not little yellow bath toys! The lead pilot flies about 100m "seawards" of the shore and the second pilot 300m further seaward. The leader flies the pair over the start gate. Then each pilot flies the aerobatic sequence in the shortest time. If the figure is flown incorrectly (less than a 5) then a time penalty is incurred! There is an Air Marshall stationed on a boat to ensure there is no convergence of aircraft during the sequence.

Task 2: The Balloon Kill! Each pilot has 3 balloons of 60 cm diameter to kill, and two attempts to hit it. The kill has to be done in a 20 degree cone. 10 degrees either side of vertical. Sounds easy, NOT! The pilot is responsible for calling the release of the balloon. You then dive down from 1000' through the gate and then attempt to kill the balloon. It is unbelievably exciting! If you hit the balloon on your first attempt there is a 10second reduction in your race time! If you miss but hit it on the second attempt the time won is 5 seconds. After any kill you get to fly a "Victory" figure!

Task 3: The 4 minute freestyle to music! This is my first go at it and its awesome fun. They even play your music over the radio so it's kind of vibie up there! Your score is also linked by time to your race time. Unfortunately the judges were not what we are accustomed to here in S.A but hey it was all in the name of fun and experience!

I truly believe that this will be a super format and there are already plans to bring it to S.A!

S.A Judges World Class

John Gaillard and Quintin Hawthorne are off to Judge at Jurgis Kairys's international Aerobatic event in Europe this week. They will then be jetting back to judge the S.A National event and then jetting off again to judge the World Aerobatic Championships in England later this month. On top of that Laszlo is now also an international judge at the Yak 52 World Champs. We really do have top international judges and that is reflected by how close the scores are at our contests. I can assure you that this is not the case in other contests around the world. Well done to all of you, make us proud!

Don't forget to check out the Website: www.aerobatics.co.za

"Happy and Safe Flying!"

Nigel
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