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LATEST SAC NEWS

JUNE

2009

Well winter is here in full force but the heat is certainly on. The Airshow circuit is in full swing and the second stage Nationals is just around the corner. The winter trophy was a huge success and there is another Sukhoi 29 in the country. Congrats to Warren and Alan (dad to be....!) on finally getting your new wings and we wish you many happy flying hours. Bertus has also finally got his Slick ready. All he needs is the CAA to play along!!

Winter "Yank & Bank" Trophy

Or Fathers day for some!! Our planning department needs some checking.....! What a great event and another leap forward for our sport. Despite the copious amounts of red tape presented by the Sedibeng Town Council Barrie Eeles and his team set up a memorable event which was enjoyed by the fantastic number of entries, families and spectators. See Barrie's Contest Director Report! It was really satisfying to see some of the new guys performing really well. Congrats to Donovan Waite on a sterling performance and we look forward to following your progress at Intermediate level. Jason Beamish flew his first Intermediate contest and performed superbly with a 3rd place in the class. It was very good to see Barry flying his first Advanced contest and Ian flying his first contest of the season! Welcome back! A notable mention also for Rob Du Plooy flying the Sportsman class in his RV 4 and achieving 2nd overall with nearly 80%, great stuff! I must thank Barry, Vaughn, Mike, Kathy, Grant, the Judges and all the volunteers for making this such a success. To Barry and Shad Plumbing for donating the magnificent "Yank & Bank" trophy and for the huge effort, time and cost in moving the aerobatic box to the central point on the airfield. What a difference it makes to have all the action in front of the apron!

Of course our events would not be complete without the Suzuki Gig-Rig. A huge thanks once again to Margaret and the team. They worked through the night moving from the Heidelberg Airshow to Vereeniging. It was also great to see Francois Van Eeden from Suzuki there with his family.

From the Contest Director: by Barrie Eeles

Wow!! what a great day, I had every emotion you can think of in the run up to the contest, most of all I wanted it to really be a properly organized & well run event to make all the pilots feel relaxed and put the fun back into aerobatics. Boy was I ever rewarded for effort, I felt really proud to have such a great event.

Well I feel the contest was a great success, from the point of view that everyone was close to the action (Moved Box), we now have a decent trophy to compete for, and we had another safe event. The fund raising portion was actually a bit of a flop (In pilots terms crash & burn), due the local council putting huge stumbling blocks in our way, instead of viewing it as an opportunity to raise awareness to their airfield, never mind better luck next time.

Thanks to all the guys, for keeping it safe and actively assisting the starter, at one stage we had 3 aircraft in the hold. We had some notable performances from the pilots, from Elton's "Fire on Go" to an absolutely awe inspiring display of aerobatics most of us only dream of doing thanks to (Nigel). Johnny also put in a good display late in the afternoon which was also appreciated.

I was disappointed that some pilots registered, could not make it for various reasons, but a couple of guys / gals really went out of their way to apologize which was great, otherwise this was supposed to be the biggest contest second only to nationals, overall I was very happy with the attendance.

I also think our members (Pilots) must each work on a sponsorship of some sort for our 6 – 8 competitions annually, such as fuel, oil, drinks, food, shirts, caps, medals, emergency services and many more things. No matter how small the contribution, either financially to SAC or via direct such as delivering oil. This was a huge financial burden for one person to create something presentable. This must go on the agenda for the AGM I think.

I have a few people I must single out with special thanks,

- Kathy Billing, your efficiency astounds me, even in the face of adversity – you are a star thanks.
- To my Commercial Director Vaughan and my staff at Shad Plumbing– thanks for the Yank & Bank Trophy, Financial, Material & time sponsorship without you I could not have done it.
- Zack – our land surveyor who spent his entire Saturday giving co-ordinates and bundu bashing with me to get the box right – This is now International standard – Thanks a ton.

- Rob Beaumont – For assisting me with use of his hangar while constructing the Box Markers – much appreciated.
- Grant Timms – Thanks for your commitment and sticking to it – he arranged some fine young ladies to help with all the remedial stuff which was appreciated by the pilots – (Scores at the aircraft & shade in the Sun).
- Suzuki for an awesome Rig – and a mammoth effort in getting set up in time – they are forever helpful & nothing is ever too much Trouble, special thanks to Margaret.
- Sarie – Thanks for organizing the Emergency services & use of the council facilities – (One criticism, was the fuel ran dangerously low which concerned me from a safety point of view) however turned out well.
- To the Henley Lions Club – Kathy, Norma & Geoff – Many thanks for the great food and sticking with us even though you did achieve what we had hoped for.
- Stuart from Henley Modelers – Thanks for your display – we can only wish for aircraft that can do that stuff - especially “Nigel”.
- Nigel – Your trust in me to actually get this done and your unwavering support, all the phone calls (He never shouted at me once – Cool man this!!!), your awesome display, and again your absolute unselfish commitment to the betterment of every pilot and aerobatics in general – is inspiring to say the very least. Many thanks you are a great chairman, hope you will stay on another term.
- To my Wife Karen and son Tristan, who had to put up with all my up’s and downs for a month and sacrificed their time in support of my crazy ideals. Words cannot express my thanks to you, time can never be regained.

If there is anyone else I have left out, I sincerely apologize.

From Your Contest Director – “Yank & Bank boys

Kind Regards
Barrie Eeles

“From the Pilots View” By Elton Bondi

Sunday’s winter contest was the most well organized and smoothest running competition that I have ever flown at. Every detail was attended to from the immaculately laid out box which was very noticeable on arrival, through to the super model ‘ramp angels’ that kindly held umbrellas over your head whilst you were strapping in. Although one must confess that they were a little bit of a distraction and did lead to one or two pilots ‘over-priming’ a little causing a few flames on start-up. (for all you SAC pilots that were not there, I am not joking about the pretty models, competitions now have as much glamour as Red Bull Air Races). And to top it all one was handed their scores seconds after having shut down whilst still sitting in the cockpit. All in all it was a brilliant day that ticked over at a pleasant pace, well done to Barrie and his team.

 **SUZUKI** Nationals - Oudtshoorn

By now you should all have received your personal invites. Please enter online by the end of this week so that we can finalize all the arrangements! Remember the contest starts on Thursday 16 July with the Cape Regional Contest on Saturday 18 July!

Grand Aero Challenge - Hungary - July 1-2

It is an honour to be invited to this inaugural event which is essentially an “aerobic triathlon”. I am still not sure exactly how it works but check out the website www.grandaerochallenge.com. It is a privilege to fly with some of these aerobic legends like Zoltan Veres and Jurgis Kayris and I hope to learn as much as possible from these aces.

Awards Gala Dinner

The awards dinner will take place on the 1st August. This will be the awards for both Nationals as well as some new annual awards! Join us for a really fun evening! Please contact Annie to book your place asap! 0829028614

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

“Happy and Safe Flying!”

Nigel
0832265854