



## LATEST SAC NEWS

January

2010

Compliments of the season to you all and may 2010 be a Gr8 year for all of us and Sport Aerobatics!!!

**DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR DIARIES** for the new season. There have been some minor changes due to conflicts with Air shows. Contest dates are on the Website: [www.aerobatics.co.za](http://www.aerobatics.co.za)

2009 was a bumper year for Aerobatics in S.A. We were blessed with very supportive sponsors in Suzuki and African Outdoor Group and this resulted in good growth for our sport as well as a fantastic T.V production of the Nationals which will hopefully help with future sponsors. I must say a big thank you to the Committee for your huge efforts and to all the volunteers, judges and officials as well as the members for making 2009 a massive success.

The year however ended on a rather tragic and sad note. We lost two up and coming aerobatic pilots in Robbie Nutt and Paul Geng in an accident and we also learned that Suzuki will not be renewing their sponsorship for this year, with it goes the ever popular "Gig-Rig". Both these issues are addressed in the newsletter.

On the positives for this year we have a very strong membership and committee and already we have had African Outdoor Group pledge their support. Many thanks Derick Lategan for your ongoing support of Sport Aerobatics. We have a few others interested and also some good fund raising initiatives, so there is no need for any panic.

There are also new additions to our group, Alan and Marisa Geldenhuys were blessed with a Baby girl "Mia" on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan, Warren and Lindy Haslam are also expecting their 2<sup>nd</sup> "Pilot". Rob Du Plooy has a new toy in a Giles 202 which has arrived in S.A. There is a new MX2 on its way later this year too!

### Suzuki Sponsorship comes to an end

The sponsorship with Suzuki has unfortunately not been renewed. The aim of the relationship with Aerobatics and Suzuki was to increase brand awareness for Suzuki. Our sport was a great way to do this and I can assure you all that we far exceeded all expectations in this regard. So why has it not been renewed? Although we gave a return of nearly 4 times the input cost, the management measure results by car sales and test drives. They feel that the money will be better served in other areas like Airshows. I would personally like to thank Francois van Eeden for his tremendous support during the 2009 season. There is no doubt that the support given by Suzuki has made a significant impact on the positive growth of aerobatics and on the wonderful team spirit in our camp. All is not lost and we hope to continue a friendly relationship with Suzuki and who knows maybe a return to supporting our fantastic Sport.

As received from Francois:

Dear Nigel,

#### **RE: SUZUKI SPONSORSHIP OF SAC**

As per our telephone conversation of this morning, I must regrettably inform you that Suzuki Auto South Africa will unfortunately not be renewing our sponsorship of the Sport Aerobatics Club of SA for 2010. Trading conditions in the SA automotive market is still very tough and we had to re-prioritize our focus areas for the 2010 calendar year.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the SAC for a very productive association during 2009 during which your members put in a lot of hard work to promote the Suzuki brand. The benefit from television exposure

alone made the sponsorship worth our while. We wish you all the best for your future activities and want to ensure you of our continued friendship.

Kind regards.



**Francois van Eeden – National Marketing Manager**

### Extra 300 Accident

Although we had a very safe year of contest aerobatics the accident involving Paul and Robbie in ZU-EXT put a cloud over sport aerobatics. We have extended our sincere condolences to the families of these two fine gentlemen and there is now time to reflect on some of the issues facing us. As it appears, this accident was both avoidable and unnecessary and the story that unfolds is very sobering! Our Sport has very strict safety regulations and we therefore have an excellent safety record as far as contests go. The SAC along with the Aeroclub have gone to great lengths to have an official aerobatic box promulgated at Vereeniging. This provides a safe environment to conduct aerobatics. Flying Aerobatics outside of a controlled environment and at altitudes that are not normally flown at presents many dangers. Larry Beamish is putting together a safety seminar to discuss these matters and I urge you all to attend! Here is the invite:

Dear Fellow Aviators,

Firstly my very best wishes to each one of you for 2010.

Robbie Nutt and Paul Geng tragically, and **avoidably**, lost their lives in our Extra 300 ZU-EXT a few weeks ago. Whilst the findings are not yet official it appears that the accident was the result of a low level manoeuvre gone wrong.

It is felt that to allow such an event to occur without a full and informative de-briefing means that nothing is learnt from this occurrence and that, in itself, would be a tragedy.

To this end we have decided to run a pilots briefing specifically aimed at those of us involved in aerobatic and display events however any other aviators interested in aerobatics or display flying are most welcome to attend.

The briefing is being planned for 9am Sunday morning 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 at the Henley Helicopters briefing room. A final decision on the venue will be made once we have received RSVP's from all of you.

The speakers who have generously agreed to address us are;

- Professor Johann Coetzee
- General Des Barker
- Captain Pierre Gouws
- Captain Glen Warden
- Captain Scully Levin
- Elton Bondi
- Vaughan Russel-Smith

The subjects to be discussed will include Psychological factors, Accident Analysis (low level flight), Air Law, Aircraft Performance, Lessons Learnt and a few words on the effect our actions have on others. Each speaker will address us for approximately 30 minutes and we expect to be done by 12:30 or so after which you are all invited to the Toystore Hangar for some snacks and refreshments.

Should you have any input on any pertinent topic please email me and I will ask one of the speakers to address the issue.

Excellent food for thought prior to the new air show and aerobatic season.

If I had the powers to make your attendance compulsory I would so please view your attendance at this briefing seriously.

Remember that we all play a very important role in aviation and if we save just one life by caring then we have done a good job!

Kindly RSVP me via email ASAP so that the necessary logistical arrangements can be attended to.

Lastly, please forward this mail to any affected pilot not seen on the list, thank you.

Happy landings,

Larry  
083-700-3333  
[lbeamish@pnp.co.za](mailto:lbeamish@pnp.co.za)

### Ace of Base 2009

The final contest of the year was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, report by Annie Boon:

What an awesome day! The mood was festive, the Suzuki Gig Rig was in place, the judges were smiling, the pilots were happy, and kept the flying safe, and the weather was kind! What more could one ask for?

Ace of Base is always a particularly fun contest. It is the last one for the year, and with it comes a spirit of fun and festivity. A nice surprise came in the form of two newcomers, who both competed for the first time, and managed some excellent results. Stuart Sward came first in the Graduate Category, and Robbie Nutt came second in the Sportsman category. It was also great to see some faces that have not competed for a while, namely Stan Oliver, Mark Shepherd, Tony Nourse and Brad Bennets. Welcome back boys! A number of pilots also just flew in for the day to observe, and assist where they could, adding to the spirit of the day.

During the lunch break, the heavens started to grumble and groan, but Mother Nature was kind, and held off the mega showers until everyone was safely back at their respective airfields!

After an incredible day of flying, the contest was won by Nigel Hopkins, who managed to retain his title of Ace of Base. The rest of the results were as follows:

Graduate:

1st - Stuart Saward

2nd - Dave King

Classic:

1st - Cliff Lotter

2nd - Andrew Fletcher

Sportsman:

1st - Mark Shepherd

2nd - Robbie Nutt

3rd - Tony Nourse

Intermediate:

1st - Donovan Waite

2nd - Graham Kew

3rd - Jason Beamish

Advanced:

1st - Nigel Hopkins

2nd - Barrie Eeles

3rd - Glen Warden

Overall results for Ace of Base:

1st - Nigel Hopkins

2nd - Mark Shepherd

3rd - Barrie Eeles

Full results with all the scores can be viewed on our website at

[www.aerobatics.co.za](http://www.aerobatics.co.za)

Thanks again to everyone who participated, assisted or simply arrived to be a part of the fun.

Cheers,  
Annie

### Gauteng Regional Champs

The first contest of the year will be the Gauteng Regional Champs which will be held at Vereeniging on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> February. Your contest directors are Warren Haslam and Alan Geldenhuys. All classes will be flown! You will have received your invite and entry forms, so get entered and Flying!! These boys promise a super day out for all!

Sport Aerobatic Club of South Africa



You are hereby invited to participate in the  
**2010 Gauteng Regional Competition**

Airport Venue: Vereeniging

Date: 20th February 2010

Registration: 08H00

Briefing: 09H00

Fuel will be available for the day

Lunch to be provided to all competing pilots and Judges

Please complete attached Entry form as soon as possible

Fax to (086 620 6734)

Please indicate your shirt size

RSVP: Alan Geldenhuys

alan@stratosat.co.za

0824190207

Warren Haslam

Warren.Haslam@neotel.co.za

0832126463

Please send your suggestions for the coming year!

"Happy and Safe Flying!"

**Nigel**

**0832265854**