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## LATEST SAC NEWS August/September 2009

Well they say that as time passes the days get shorter and there is never enough time to get things done. I have been meaning to send out the latest news for a while now but never really managed to get down to finishing it off. Anyway here it is! Spring is here and it has started to warm up, thank goodness! So hopefully we can get the social gatherings at the toy store up and running again!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Nationals Oudtshoorn

The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage Nationals proved to be exactly what we were hoping for when we decided to split the Nationals. Unlimited aerobatics has been revived and there were new faces in the advanced class. The Cape Regionals which were held in conjunction with the Nationals were well attended by the Gauteng clan but it was disappointing to see the small turnout from the Capetonians. Once again the spirit amongst our Pilots was tremendous. It's amazing to see how we all assist in each others' preparation for the event. It is almost a shame that we have to spoil it with a contest! Also, the way that the MX owners and Ian made their planes available for Larry, Jason and myself to fly after ours broke down, was truly in line with the new spirit in the club. Thanks Guys! Well done to all the Pilots, the standard was very high, and there was plenty time for good humour -thanks Larry! A special thanks to Lloyd Lester, contest director, Kathy Billing, registrar extraordinaire, the Judges and Assistants, the Oudtshoorn Flying Club for their super hospitality, all the volunteers, Kulula Airlines for assisting with discount airfares for the judges. Once again Suzuki and African Outdoor Group were there in force, the friendly hostesses and hosts took great care of us all in their usual charming way. Congratulations to Mark Hensman in winning the National title with a superb

performance at unlimited level and to Patrick Davidson for his World Class effort in winning the Advanced Class.

### Awards Dinner and Prize Giving

What an amazing evening. Huge thanks to Annie for putting this superb event together. It really was a spectacular awards dinner, the décor was fantastic and I am sure I speak for everyone there that it was certainly the best awards evening to date. Also a word of thanks to Margaret, Jennifer and Francois for your assistance in planning and co-ordinating with Annie. To Suzuki once again thank you for the financial assistance with the event and organizing the very talented Band!

The following awards were handed out:

#### **National Champions all classes:**

Unlimited	Mark Hensman
Advanced	Patrick Davidson
Intermediate	Elton Bondi
Sportsman	Donovan Waite
RV	Trevor Warner
Classic	Andrew Fletcher

#### **Brian Zeederberg Trophy for the best newcomer:**

This was awarded to Donovan Waite for his outstanding performances in his first year of competition aerobatics. Donovan won the Sportsman class at the first stage Nationals, won the winter contest at Sportsman and also won the Cape Regional's at Intermediate level.

#### **Suzuki Trophy for the Most Improved Aerobatic Pilot:**

This was awarded to Mark Sampson for his "Dramatic" rise to "Fame" In 2009. Mark flew his first contest in January in a borrowed plane and achieved 75% at sportsman. He placed third at the first stage Nationals at Intermediate level and a superb 2<sup>nd</sup> in Advanced at the second stage Nationals with 76%.

#### **Recognition of service to the SAC:**

Two awards were presented to Pete Nutt and Bill Holden for their many years of service on the judging line. Thank you to these two Gentlemen for the dedication shown to the SAC.

Certificates were presented to the Contest Directors of the 2009 contests to date:

Elton Bondi, Nigel Hopkins, Barrie Eeles and Quintin Hawthorne.

A special award of thanks was presented by Francois Van Eeden of Suzuki to Derick Lategan and the team at African Outdoor Group.

Elton and Annie also presented the traditional “Fun” awards which had us in hysterics. Annie also put together a very amusing slide show which must have taken ages to do.

Finally a training squad of 12 Pilots for AWAC 2010 was selected. The final 8 Pilots will be chosen next year. Congratulations to:

Mark Hensman  
Nigel Hopkins  
Patrick Davidson  
Mark Sampson  
Johnie Smith  
Bertus Du Preez  
Glen Warden  
Ian Billing  
Warren Haslam  
Charles Urban  
Barrie Eeles  
Larry Beamish

Two managers for the training squad in Annie Boon and Kathy Billing were selected. Final team management will be chosen once we have the final team. Harry De Villiers has also been selected as team assistant. Well done Ladies and Gent. “Yes that’s you Harry”

### Harvard Aerobatics

Following the success of the RV class, we are planning to start a Harvard class of Classic Aerobatics. Anyone interested please contact me with suggestions.

### Aerobatic Extravaganza and AGM

The Klerksdorp flying club will once again be hosting this event on the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup>-20th October. A big thanks to Cliff Lotter for getting the Club involved. This will be a formal competition on the Saturday but also be an opportunity for new Aerobatic Pilots to fly with some of the “old hats”, get some coaching and to have a chance to fly in front of the judges in an aerobatic box. Please advise Annie/Kathy if you intend participating. The AGM is also planned to be held at this event, however if the attendance is not big enough we will have to have a special AGM elsewhere.

## Awac 2010

Hold on to your hats Ladies and Gentleman.....! At the recent Committee meeting we decided to bid for next year's Advanced World Aerobatic Champs to be in S.A...!!!!!!  
The bid will be presented to CIVA on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, so soon after that we should have an answer. An event like this will require a great deal of work from all of us, but handled well could be a huge boost for our club both financially and for the development of Aerobatics in S.A. One of the biggest immediate challenges to the bid is the financial guarantee that we need to give to CIVA. I am very pleased to announce that within 30 minutes of me phoning Francois Van Eeden, the marketing manager of Suzuki, this guarantee was pledged by him. Wow... Thanks Francois. We will also need our members to please assist in making their aircraft available for hire. I know that this is always a difficult subject but the Hire rates will be excellent. We need the following aircraft:

Extra 300 and 300L and 200  
Sukhoi  
Zlin 50  
Yak 55  
Pitts S1 and S2  
Slick 360  
MX2  
Giles

All owners- please contact me regarding this, if not I will contact you.....Be afraid, be very afraid.

## 2010 Committee

The new Committee to take us into 2010 will be selected at the Extravaganza in Klerksdorp on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 4-5pm. Please make an effort to attend. As it stands the present Committee with the exception of Mark Sheperd is available for re-election. Please send your proxies to Annie if you are unable to attend. 2010 promises to be the biggest year ever for Aerobatics in South Africa so please be there to support the club and the Committee.

PLEASE KEEP A CHECK ON THE WEBSITE: [www.aerobatics.co.za](http://www.aerobatics.co.za)

If there is anything that you, the members would like to see, hear or discuss please feel free to contact me.

"Happy and Safe Flying!"

**Nigel 0832265854**