



Sport Aerobatic Club of South Africa

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LATEST SAC NEWS

MAY

2009

Judges Trophy

Or Mothers day for some!! Irrespective, the clash in dates never deterred the 17 entries for this year's Judges Trophy. The Suzuki Gig-rig was once again a hit with the Pilots and families. A Huge thanks to the team from African Outdoor Group for their hard work and making us very comfortable. Thanks also to the Judges who not only spent the day in the sun but also arranged a very successful contest. Well done Q and your team! It is really good to see the spirit of our members. Elton and Simon were both grounded by technical defects on their planes, or so they thought! Both still made an effort to be there in support and were rewarded with a "saddle" to able them to compete. Once again Larry stepped up and the two North West extra's were offered, safety Pilots and all! Congratulations to Glen on a super performance, just remember, that will be your last Intermediate contest!!! A Big thanks also to Pierre, John, Graham and Robbie for gracing us with their Harvards and allowing Pierre, Larry and I the opportunity to fly the lunch time display. What a treat!

From the Contest Director: by Quintin Hawthorne

Despite the gloomy weather leading up to the contest, and the fact that it was also Mothers Day, the Judges Trophy contest turned out just fine. The day started out with clear blue skies, and the Suzuki team had been up since 3am to get the rig set up in time for briefing, and to be ready with a hot cup of coffee. And we had a good turnout of pilots, most of whom endured the wrath of their families to put aerobatics ahead of family

commitments. Rob du Plooy came up with the perfect solution – he brought the family along.

With sufficient numbers of competitors who regularly compete in each class, it was decided to award prizes in each category in addition to the best percentage overall achiever who would win the Judges Trophy. A true contest unfolded amongst the 17 entrants, with Elton Bondi making some uncharacteristic errors in his known sequence, letting Barrie ahead. Annie started her known sequence with some excellent scores, until she omitted a humpty. She had flown Mike Beresford's Yak 52 on the day, and despite her zero, managed to beat him. There were a few more zeroes before the lunch break, making things really interesting for the Free program.

The afternoon session provided some really good flying, with good scores posted by Helm, Glen Warden and Barrie in Intermediate, while Jason, Annie and Pierre du Plooy took each other on in Sportsman. Nigel made the Unlimited Free look easy and Johnnie Smith enjoyed being the lone entrant in the Advanced class.

The scene had been set for the awarding of the spoils;

Sportsman: Jason Beamish, ahead of Annie Boon and Mike Beresford.

Intermediate: Glen Warden ahead of Helm Ludwig and Barrie Eeles.

Overall: Glen Warden ahead of Helm Ludwig and Barrie Eeles.

Glen Warden retained his title by the narrowest of margins, but triumphed deservedly. Congratulations to all!

A huge amount of work goes into preparing for the contest, so a great big thank you to everyone concerned. Special mention must be made of;

- The Brits Flying Club for hosting us
- The Suzuki team for their rig and facilities – it really makes a difference!
- John and Jenny for helping mark the box
- Kathy and her mom for the scoring
- The judges for their long-suffering dedication
- The pilots for their discipline and for keeping things safe.

So, after a rather civilized contest, the contest pilots took off together with the Harvards and performed a spectacular formation flypast as a fitting tribute to the Brits Flying Club and everyone who was part of the Judges Trophy. The pictures and results are on the website www.aerobatics.co.za. See u all at the next one.

PS. JASON BEAT HIS DAD!



The showdown was held in conjunction with the Airforce Museum Open Day at Swartkops Airforce base on Saturday the 16th of May. What started off as a fairly lousy day from a weather perspective turned out to be a thrilling day of aerobatics! It was great to see the Hive of Activity around the Suzuki Gig-Rig. As we are now becoming accustomed to, the Guys and Girls from African Outdoor Group made us feel at home. This has to be a record attendance in terms of spectators at an SAC event! A big thank you to the SAAF Museum for arranging all the necessary permissions and hosting us, Col Clive Sheperd, Col Nel and Col Glen Warden pulled some strings and made this all possible.

From my side thank you to:

- Suzuki for your sponsorship of the day's events and your enthusiasm and commitment to growing our sport.
- All the members of the SAC that braved the weather to come out and support us.
- To the Pilots for your enthusiasm and safe flying.
- To our Judging panel, John, Q, Laz and Annie.
- Kathy "Ma Aerobatics", it wasn't a long taxi but the scores were in our hands before we got out the Cockpit, Eish!! What efficiency.

From the Judges Viewpoint: by John Gaillard

This event was really a pleasure as it involved two periods of intense activity, followed by a lot of time socialising and looking at interesting aircraft, this is in contrast to normal judging, which can involve many hours away from the central point of activity. Judging the sequences themselves was straightforward as the sequences were not too difficult to follow and we had plenty of assistance with calling.

The use of smoke when judging Aresti type aerobatics is also interesting, as it gives away or confirms some errors from a judging point of view. Examples are a difference between the smoke pattern between aileron rolls and flick rolls, on a couple of occasions where I might have given the benefit of doubt to the pilot, the smoke pattern led to a soft zero, maybe this could be used for training judges in the future. Also the roundness of tight looping figures and the variation in lines especially 45s after a roll, all very educational.

The difference in the pilots currently active at an advanced level in competitions to those not so current was also noticeable by concentrating a series of flights in a short period of time all flying the same sequence, the differences are very apparent, which I am sure reflected in the scores. Especially difficult seemed to be positioning, I think my scores for this important factor varied between 4 & 9, a couple of pilots probably made driving on the motorway quite interesting.

In summary a good exercise enjoyed by the Judges and the spectators as well, similar events will no doubt please our sponsors and their presence is certainly appreciated.

Some Comments:

Warren Haslam: What an exciting new event to bring to competitions, a future real crowd puller and thriller. It's great to see where aerobatics is going in SA!

Larry Beamish: Not sure about the judges eyesight, ha ha, but great fun, ground a little closer than normal!

Bertus Du Preez: The weather wasn't that great but still some nice flying. Definitely a good idea, with lots of potential.

Rand Airshow

What a Show! Well done to the SAC members that performed with distinction at the Show. I heard a few comments from some of the display pilots that their participation in competition aerobatics has certainly had a very positive impact on their display flying!

Suzuki, our sponsor

I also had an opportunity to spend some time with Francois Van Eeden, Marketing Manager at Suzuki Auto at the Suzuki Gig-Rig on Sunday and he is very excited about the future with Suzuki and the SAC! There are some exciting ideas planned for next year. The focus for this year from the Committee and Suzuki is twofold. The first is to continue the fantastic growth and the second to raise the awareness of our sport with the public. It seems that we are on track and Suzuki's involvement has certainly made a huge impact. In the past few months we have had incredible support and coverage from the aviation press. The auto industry press has covered a fair amount of the launch at Potch and there has also been extensive newspaper coverage. This is mutually beneficial for our sponsors as well as the SAC members as it will hopefully aid in individual sponsorships for pilots and planes! Together with Suzuki we are now working on initiatives to assist in this regard. If you have any ideas or comments, please forward them to me!



Winter Contest



It seems the bar is going to be raised once more! Contest Director Barrie Eeles has all but closed down his plumbing business to make this one to remember! Barrie has also undertaken to move the Aerobatic Box at Vereeniging to be more in the centre of the airfield and bring the "Showcase" closer to the spectators! This is no small task and involves him bringing in earth moving equipment and some 300M2 of paving, all sponsored by Shad Plumbing. Thanks Barrie we really appreciate the huge effort you are putting in to arranging this contest. And guess what, we have done it again, it's Fathers Day!! Well atleast I will get a "voucher" to be there! We are also supporting the Lions Club who will be having a fund raising day as part of the day's events.

Barrie is also arranging a sweet drop and jumping castle for the kids and Teazers girls for the Dads! Check out this mean flyer that Barrie has had made, a few thousand were handed out at the Rand show and you have all been sent a copy to mail out! Its gonna be Beeeeeeg!



The flyer is a rectangular poster with a white background and a black border. At the top left is the Lions Club logo, a gold lion's head with a blue 'L' on its chest. To its right is the Suzuki logo, a red 'S' with 'SUZUKI' below it, and a dark blue box with 'Way of Life!' in white. Further right is the Sport Aerobatic Club of South Africa logo, featuring a red winged figure. The main title 'SA AEROBATICS SHOW' is in bold black, with 'WINTER CONTEST 2009' in blue below it. To the left of the main text is the 'SIGHTFIRST' logo, which includes a sun icon and the text 'SIGHT FIRST' and 'LIONS CHARITY DAY FOR LIONS SIGHT RELATED PROJECTS'. The date 'SUNDAY - June 21st' is in large black font, followed by 'Flying starts at 09h00 @ Vereeniging Airfield' and the GPS coordinates 'GPS Co-ords S26 34' 18.7" / E27 57' 51.5"'. Below this is 'Various Displays & Top Aerobatic Pilots'. To the right of the text is a vertical strip of six small images: a blue and white aerobatic plane, a white and red aerobatic plane, a pilot in a blue helmet, a red and white aerobatic plane, a white aerobatic plane, and a white aerobatic plane performing a loop. Below the main text is 'Market Stalls', 'Food Stalls', 'Helicopter flips', and 'Lucky draw for aerobatic flip'. At the bottom left is a small image of a helicopter. At the bottom right is a small image of a white aerobatic plane. At the very bottom is a photo of a Suzuki car and a Suzuki aerobatic plane on a tarmac, with the Suzuki logo and 'Way of Life!' to the right.

SA AEROBATICS SHOW
WINTER CONTEST 2009

LIONS CHARITY DAY
FOR
LIONS SIGHT RELATED PROJECTS

SUNDAY – June 21st
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GPS Co-ords S26 34' 18.7" / E27 57' 51.5"

Various Displays &
Top Aerobatic Pilots

Market Stalls
Food Stalls
Helicopter flips
Lucky draw for
aerobatic flip

SUZUKI Way of Life!

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

"Happy and Safe Flying!"

Nigel
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