

2015 SAMJA SIG Chairman's Report

Welcome

As the Chairman of SAMJA, I would like to welcome all in attendance and to the committee for giving up their time to support our SIG during 2015.

Administration

We are pleased with the efforts that have gone into the SAMJA website and that the administration is made much simpler by the interactivity. There are still some challenges that members forget their passwords and register as a new member instead of requesting a new password.

All paid up members should have received their membership cards for 2015.

I have had a challenge trying to find some of the proficiency documentation but I am trying to get it sorted. I may request some members to resign their applications if I cannot trace them. There has been many changes in the Chairmanship so not all the documentation is readily available. I am just trying to clean it up.

Activities

SAMJA enjoyed five opportunities to fly at Swartkop during the year. Many events were held around the country where jet were featured. We are by now all well informed of the cancellation of our monthly dedicated jet flying day at Swartkop due to the demise of the SAAF Museum structure. This facility is still open to SAMJA members but under the control and approval of the Defence Force RC club.

Myself and Marthinus have visited a few of the regions to encourage and assist jet pilots to become aware of SAMJA and encourage them to become proficient.

Nationals

A combined Nationals was held in Klerksdorp from 13 – 16 June 2015. Two classes run, F4J and Sport Jet. There were 2 entrants in F4J and 5 in Sport Jet. F4J did not constitute a competition as a minimum of 3 entrants are required. Both pilots agreed to proceed with static and flying judging. The Sport Jet class was very competitive and scores close.

Another combined nationals is planned for 2016 at PC Pelsers Airport in Klerksdorp, the dates still need to be confirmed but tentatively 23 to 27 April 2016. Feedback from the people who took part in the 2015 Nationals was positive and requested the dates to be moved to April but not the Easter weekend.

Jet Proficiencies

We have seen a constant request for Jet Proficiencies around the country and the Western Cape has seen a marked improvement in proficiency tests. Some additional jet proficiencies were done in Nelspruit. I would like to thank Boet Denysschen for pushing this proficiency testing and doing many of the tests for us.

We have also put systems in place in most regions for the proficiency testing in the regions.

Currently the Jet Proficiency is basically a Jet Solo rating. I want to investigate the implication and support for further ratings like bronze, silver and gold?

Jet World Masters

The Jet World Masters was held in Germany in August 2015. Unfortunately no representation from South Africa. In the 20kg class, Vitaly Roberts the trophy with his YAK 130, Stephen Volker, second with his Aero L39 and Thomas Gleisner third with a F104 Starfighter. The static and flying scores were In a 13.5kg class, Pavel Lapshov took first place with a YAK 130, Philip Avons second with a Fouga Magister and Federico Masino third with a Fiat 91.

The IJMC is looking into ways of bringing back the competitiveness of this championship beyond a chequebook.

The qualifying for 2017 JWM has been published and the first event is the 2016 Combined Nationals in Klerksdorp. Two further qualifiers will need to be held.

Closure

Please remember that we are all ambassadors for SAMJA and should encourage membership and participation in jet events. Again, Boet Denysschen regularly organises events that accommodate jets, thank you Boet. To all the new members who joined over the last twelve months, I would like to extend a very warm welcome. I have seen many new faces at the flying fields and many new friendships being made. Please keep SAMJA the friendly and supportive organisation I believe it has become. Try to accommodate each other, support each other and promote our discipline and association.

I would like to thank each and every member for their loyalty and support during this period and it goes without saying that it was an absolute pleasure to serve this organisation. May you all have a wonderful festive season and may you and your families travel and return safely so we can enjoy another year of jet flying.

Zane Mannell