



*PO Box 11865
Silver Lakes
0054*

*Tel: 082 377 6493
Fax: 086 677 7343
Mail: mp@cointech.co.za
Web: www.sajets.co.za*

SAMJA Chairman's Report for November 2013 to October 2014

The year was again but a mere flash and we find ourselves again at the end of a year. To me it seems as if we have less time and all of us just become more and more busy and have less time to enjoy our hobby.

As usual, we did not have smooth sailing with regards to our arrangements at the Museum this year and I have brought it to your attention before that it was not due to a lack of trying on the part of the Museum Management, but rather as a result of compliance issues introduced by the Base management. Towards the second half of the year, formal approval was obtained and we could relax a bit. It is now time to start negotiating our next twelve months.

I would like to make it very clear that it was not the SAMJA Committee's intention at any time during the last year to change agreed dates, but that we are at the mercy of the Museum Management who in turn is at the mercy of higher forces. The Committee made only one change this year and that was not to have an open flying day on the same day as the RMAC Air Show.

In the next few days, the new SAMJA Committee will table an offer to the museum for the next twelve months of open flying. I am sure that they will succeed as we are all aware of the difficulty the museum has to keep its doors open. I also do believe that a new payment model should be developed as the Sundays have become extremely busy and popular.

We had an unfortunate incident recently when one of our members flew his aircraft into the ground and it bounced and ended up on one of the hanger roofs. This was most probably one of the most serious incidents we have had in the last three years and I believe that it was a legitimate accident. I hope that everybody took note of how quickly and easily it happened and will exercise Best Safety Practises when we fly at Zwartkop in future.

The equipment we use has become far more reliable over the last couple of years and as a result we see very little equipment failure and therefore far fewer fatalities and therefore also the growth in interest in our discipline.

Recently, three of our members participated in the AAD 2014 Air Show at Waterkloof Air Force Base. I would like to thank Chris van Rensburg and Boet and Wesley Denyssen for their participation and they really did us proud with their performance. It is rather taxing to arrive at 6h00 in the morning, sit the entire day in the sun to do one 10 minute slot. Also, I must mention Lt.Col. "Hose" Hanekom who always recognises and invites SAMJA to participate. We appreciate it.

One of the issues raised last year at the AGM was the approval of a budget to develop an online membership portal and website. I can report that that has taken place and that we now run one of the most advanced systems within SAMAA. Not only can every member login and manipulate their details, but we can also send bulk mail and with it being linked to the SAMAA database, we can keep an eye on the validity of SAMAA membership as well.

The financial module has just been completed and simply by entering the few payments we do every year we can actually produce our organisation's financial statements at the push of a button. The main advantage of this is that the system is not resident on any member's private machine, but hosted on a dedicated server that everyone has access to. The cost of this hosting including our website is R750.00 per annum. The hosting cost is offset against the sale of one single advertising banner on our site for R3600.00 per annum. The total spent on developing our portal was R9200.00 to the developer and there will most probably be another R2500.00 to be spent on completion of the financial system as that has not been paid yet.

A big "thank you" to Dean Grobbelaar of Aerial Concepts who made use of the opportunity to buy the advertising space. One outstanding issue will be to purchase a good quality membership card printer. It is very difficult to print decent cards at a bureau as every time a new member joins, you actually have to go to the bureau and print the card. It also takes them the best part of half an hour and two or three incorrect cards before the setup is acceptable to our format. The membership card printer would be web based and the printer can be situated at the secretary's home.

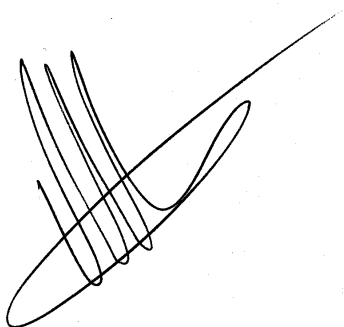
Competition flying seems to have moved to the back burner on most pilots' list of priorities. Due to a lack of interest this year no Masters or Nationals were hosted. However, the third qualifier for the 2015 Jet World Masters was hosted earlier during one of our open flying days and today one pilot will attempt to complete his qualifying round. I can report that the SAMAA SIG committee is busy evaluating the possibility of hosting in 2015 a joined Power Nationals as in years before. I hope the latter will attract more interest in competition flying. Rumour has it that the 2017 World Jet Masters might take place in Thailand and I am sure that that will attract renewed interest.

Pierre Fouche, Anton van Wyk and some other enthusiastic members recently hosted a F3A, F3S and Large Scale competition in the Free State. This event was reported on in the SAMAA news and I want to thank all the members involved in this initiative for promoting our sport. On the weekend of 16 May, I travelled to Himeville in KZN to attend the “Jets over Himeville” event. The latter was mostly supported by KZN pilots and proved to be very popular and will definitely be on next year’s calendar. This was also reported on in the SAMAA news. The aim during 2015 is to host a SAMJA event in Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban.

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 and refrain from unfounded criticism and negative rumour mongering as it has no place in our organisation. Try to accommodate each other, support each other and promote our discipline and association.

As most of our members will be aware, I was elected the Chairman of SAMAA in May this year. I accepted the nomination as I believe that I can make a positive contribution to our mother organisation. The latter constitutes a possible conflict of interests. During July this year, I stepped down as the SAMAA Sig Chairman and today will be my last official engagement as SAMJA Chairman. I thoroughly enjoyed the four years that I have served this community and I believe that the committee serving with me did make a positive difference to our organisation. It is time for new blood to take our organisation to the next level of excellence and I will be available to serve on the new committee, but not as chairman.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long, sweeping line extending upwards and to the right.

Marthinus JF Potgieter
Chairman
19 October 2014