



MISASA

Microlight & Light Sport Aeroplane Association of South Africa
Chairman's Report 2015

The year 2015 is flying by. Sitting in the "hot-seat" as the chairperson of a fantastic bunch of ladies and gents is truly an honour for me. Our last Chairman, the corporate man, Donald Hicks is a tough act to follow. Donald decided that it was perhaps time for someone else to take the "pressure", and I accepted the challenge at the last AGM.. Being Chairman is a new role, which I am not accustomed to and sincerely hope that I deliver on my promises to myself and to the committee. This magazine, yet again edited by Alan Mackenzie, will surely be another winner, as it has been for a decade. The "new format" coffee table edition has proven to be extremely successful and well received. As always, the challenge that Alan faces in getting the content in, is huge. Year on year it gets more difficult.

This year he has been requesting content since February for this, the July edition. The 2016 deadline is June the 5th. We certainly hope that our flight schools and the suppliers of aircraft and aviation accessories will give thought to sharing the stories of our members that purchase their products and services.

AGM 2015:

We held our AGM at Kitty Hawk this year at the time of the MISASA Showcase. We did this so as to attract a larger attendance due to the meeting being held during our popular yearly flagship event. We will again do this next year so that it is convenient for many to attend. We appreciate the effort made by those that attend our meetings and we invite members that wish to chat to the committee to join us on a Skype meeting. Your input and observations would be much appreciated.

At our last AGM, we bade farewell to the committee for 2014, with special mention going to John Comely (who confirmed his non-availability for 2015 due to overseas business commitments) and to Deon Kraidy. We thank them both for their time and commitment during the past year. The guests were welcomed as were the outgoing committee members. Following the meeting, the elections were held with the following people elected to serve for 2015:

- Chairperson John Boucher
- Vice-Chairman Donald Hicks
- Treasurer & Finances Brett Hickman
- Magazine Editor Alan Mackenzie
- Technical, MOP & ARO Rowena Kraidy
- Competitions Mervyn Reynolds
- Events & Calendar Marius Nel
- Membership Administration Thelma Roberts-Boucher
- PRO Johan Welman
- Safety & Accidents Henri v d Berg
- Training & Licencing Nico Willemse
- Transformation & Development Louis Jordaan

AeroclubSA Board Representation:

Additional to the chairman serving on the Board, Rowena Kraidy was re-elected to serve and by virtue of our membership exceeding the 1000 mark, we have an additional seat. MISASA retains this very important representation. Attending board meetings via Skype relieves the burden on finances. Rowena has done an exemplary job on the board and she has achieved many a win in the interests of microlighters during the past year. Well done Rowena. Your tireless effort and dedication do not pass unnoticed.

Sadly in early August 2015, Johan Welman, had to vacate his position due to health reasons. Alan Mackenzie and I have taken over his tasks and responsibilities.

The FUNDI system:

All indications were that with our input and direct/indirect assistance in the development of the system, it would make membership renewal an effortless and pleasant experience. This was mostly achieved, but regrettably it now does face some challenges. FUNDI has most definitely not kept up with the requirements of AeroclubSA and more so MISASA. We have experienced persistent problems of duplication and failed transactions. The burden of resolving this falls squarely on Thelma's shoulders and then for our Treasurer to refund the affected member. Initially the system got off to a rocky start, improved greatly and has now slipped. FUNDI CRM needs to get their act together, or we shall most definitely lodge a vote of no confidence and seek alternatives. Thelma can be contacted at admin@misasa.org or phone her on 071 656 2027 if you have queries or issues that need to be resolved.

Project 24:

Regulatory changes, flipping, etc. This is a massive project that will, inter alia, redefine the regulatory framework. It is work in progress and we will keep our members posted in the monthly newsletter.

Competitions:

Mervyn has a few competitions lined up and he will post details on our website and on www.microlighters.co.za when he has finalised these.

Fly-aways:

It has been a bumper year and I am sure that you will enjoy the feedback in the MISASA Annual Yearbook "Microflight Africa 2015".

The Annual MISASA Showcase held at Kitty Hawk in 2015:

All I can say is - Wow! Our yearly event has grown from strength to strength – Alan Mac's "brainchild" has grown from success to success! Thanks to all that have made the idea happen, this annual event has become an institution. For many it is the best aviation event of the year. It is dedicated to all forms of flight and we include a number of guest stands for those that service the needs of aviators but which are not strictly aviation related. This year we topped 240 visiting aircraft and set the bar for fly-in type events. The weather, thankfully, played along for most of the day. The month of February is a touch and go affair weather wise, and we have been quite lucky in that department. 2014 shall be remembered for the misty conditions till around 09h00 and then Kitty Hawk came alive. 2015, however, did not present the same challenges to our guest ATNS support crew. Here we thank Riaan Olivier. He rose to the occasion early on and in true Oshkosh style, started welcoming the early arrivals. It has been proven that this event cannot take place without the dedicated services of ATNS. We have built up a specific team for this event. Nigel Musgrave is our Safety Officer of choice and is assisted by Paul Sabatier. What would we have done without his expertise? The committee had to jump through some regulatory hoops when trying to provide a single spectacular display by our SA Aerobatics Champion – Nigel Hopkins. Our efforts were hampered by unnecessary red tape and in the end a higher authority exercised the judgement that was needed to allow us to offer a spectacular day. Thank you. Well known aviation journalist, photographer and dear friend – John Miller (RIP) asked – "But what about the crowd line, I want to see the people in photos and it prohibits me from taking photos of the crowd." We decided to do just that and in our "Microflight Africa 2015" magazine we have focussed on the people that attend and who inevitably make the event a success.

Thank you to all that attended & and those that worked tirelessly to make the event the great success it is and in no particular order...

- First and foremost – you the member, aviator, visitor, exhibitor and curious onlooker – for being there!
- The MISASA team: The whole committee for their exceptional effort!
- KITTY HAWK: The Chairman, Trustees, Hangar Owners and Airport Manager
- KITTY HAWK RESTAURANT: Wilma and her team of ladies!
- ATNS: Riaan Olivier and his Special Air Events team and the use of the mobile radio centre.
- CAA: Mary Stephens, Mark Swarts & Piet Fourie
- ARCC: Santjie White for her assistance and arranging the emergency standby Evac helicopter.
- MARSHALLING: Nigel Musgrave, Paul Sabatier and Alex Rudd and young lads.
- DISPLAYS: Nigel Hopkins in the MX-2 and Graham Field - Skydiversity.
- SPONSORS that included: Comet Aviation & Niren for prizes to be used during the year & COMAV Insurance for the marshals High-Viz Vests
- MEDIA: Thank you to the multitude of photographers for adhering to the safety rules!

SPECIAL MENTION: As a volunteer, Alan Hussey for the hard work and unselfish commitment and to Alan MacKenzie that drums up the supplier support for this event.

So what events are planned for 2016? By the time you receive this magazine, the committee would have decided what the venue shall be for the 2016 MISASA Shoot Out/Fly-in. As Kitty Hawk and Tedderfield before that, this is historically planned for the weekend before Valentine's Day.

The committee has agreed to a MISASA Fly-In in the Southern Cape. Initially we hoped to host an event at Wings Park but the events calendar did not allow for that. The idea to "piggy-back" on the envisaged 2016 EAA Convention to be held down in Mossel Bay towards the end of April 2016 was proposed and was accepted. Once this has been finalised with Mossel Bay Aeroclub, EAA and relevant parties, we will report on the details. Certainly, we have shown that sub-sections of the Aero Club working together is a good idea. The aviators from the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Kwa Zulu-Natal can quite easily make the trip. This, in essence would be a "fly-in" without all the bells and whistles of our Shootout/ Fly-in event. Lots of planning, co-ordination and hard work though still lie ahead.

In Conclusion: We are a membership organisation that serves its members. We always welcome constructive suggestions for service delivery improvement. If you have an idea or if you wish to help, in any way, please contact us. If you are one of a select few that demand more, yet help less, we are here to serve and will do more for you with your help than without it.

For my part it has been a pleasure to serve the membership in 2015.

To all, compliments of the season and safe journeys.

John Boucher