



MISASA

Microlight & Light Sport Aeroplane Association of South Africa
Chairman's Report 2016

MISASA – Chairman's Report 2016

I am once again reminded of the demands that being a volunteer requires. So how do we define a "volunteer"? I would think that volunteering is "time" willingly given for the common good (in this case recreational aviation and its very existence) and without financial gain. But volunteering also saps other things besides "time" ... and I only have to think of unseen personal financial costs, clearly a matter to often forgotten when "demanding"... One sincerely cannot be stingy with time, money and own resource utilisation when being part of the wider concept of civic participation.

No sooner had I submitted my 2015 Chairman's report, the need to complete the next one arrived. Normally I have tons to say but when I have to pen to paper, it becomes a totally different matter. Having to reflect on the year, it seems impossible to record everything that has been done and still needs to be done.

It is my second year in the "hot seat" and by all accounts it feels like I am sitting in a "lava pot". To complete this report would be easy doing the proverbial cut & paste thing but that would be cheating.

Housekeeping 2016

We held our AGM on the 14th April 2016 at the Rand Airport Harvard Café. We had initially aligned with the Aeroclub's planned AGM but their date changed and in doing so, scuttling our efforts to be cost effective. Airline tickets had been booked, members notified and nominations were in for the board election. In hindsight, our efforts would have been severely hampered by time constraints when the discussion around the adoption and implementation of the new constitution hit a slight speed bump and rocky ground. A vibrant and at times robust discussion promised to deliver a better solution for the somewhat outdated version we have been governed by. A sub-committee was agreed upon to finalise the document that had already seen countless hours of Skype meetings and to & fro e-mails exchanged to update. Further to this, our financial reporting had been hampered by the slow response from banking institutions to requests by our Treasurer, Brett Hickman. It was then decided to have an SGM at the Kroon Fly-In. The event was well attended and the financials were accepted and the new constitution ushered in. The updated constitution was required for renewal purposes of the ARO.

Transformation & Development

Surely a contentious topic in South Africa with each committee & MISASA member surely having a different opinion on should we, shouldn't we and if we do – HOW? In 2015, a unified request had been submitted for funds to SASREC by AeroclubSA.

MISASA and a couple of other ARO's were successful in being awarded R 50 000. As I mentioned, I suppose we could stand around the braaivleis fire and possibly get into a heated debate or fisticuffs about how to spend the money as appropriately required by SASREC. A decision was made in serious consultation with Daniel Ralefeta that heads up the AeroclubSA T&D portfolio. A "program" was implemented and the initial process agreed to can be found in the T&D Report submitted by Louis Jordaan. The successful student, Jan Moabi, is currently busy with his training.

Goodbye FUNDI

After showing promise, the FUNDI payment system degenerated into a fiasco of non-service delivery and problems. As indicated last year, we were to lodge a vote against FUNDI and seek alternatives. A new system was decided on and many of you have already experienced it first-hand. The BlueboxOnline system gives you

the member easy access to not only maintaining your personal details but also the ability to effect easy payments and download your important membership documentation required for renewing an ATF for your aircraft or operating a microlight or LSA aircraft in SA. Once again, Thelma is there to assist and can be contacted on 071 656 2027 or on e-mail admin@misasa.org

Portfolio Reports

Our respective portfolio reports are printed in our yearly magazine and can also be found on the MISASA website. Remind yourself that the sterling and unselfish commitment to make these portfolios function are filled by volunteers. They are passionate aviators including holders of NPL's, PPL's, CPL's, AP's and Instructors.

Events & Fly-Ins

I was hoping that the EAA Convention that was held down in Mossel Bay and on which we "piggybacked", would have been the start or departure point for more similar events down in the Western Cape. We learned some valuable lessons and were obviously reminded that one should always contend with the weather. We had great support from the chaps from Cape Town, Eastern Cape & KZN. Some serious adventure flying was experienced. Large scale events face major hurdles with regulatory requirements, especially when the public is present.

One of the advantages of "piggy backing" onto an event organised by others is a tantamount of work and effort is already done by others. This may seem ideal in the short term but we tend to lose the MISASA identity. Our Showcase event was hampered by certain procedures, rules and regulations and of course liability. For 2017, the format of events will no doubt take the preferred format of fly-ins and/or competitions.

AeroclubSA Board of Directors

Our nomination for 2016 of Rowena Kraidy to the board was successful. Donald Hicks and I will again do duty on the board. Donald is a corporate man and I am privileged to be able to have him as a sounding board but also the calm voice of reason.

Safety

The 2016 safety campaign "Know Your Spots" assisted me identify certain "spots" that I most definitely will and have addressed ... I sincerely hope that in 2017 the campaign is supported by not only the "converted" but also those that think or believe that they are "immune to disaster"! Here's hoping for a safe 2016-2017 aviation year.

In Closing....

To our valued & esteemed members as well as the unselfish & dedicated MISASA Committee, my sincere appreciation and a big thumb's up from me!

Fly Safe ...

John Boucher