

SAAF
ASSOCIATION



SALM
VERENIGING

EAST RAND BRANCH

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EAST RAND BRANCH NEWS LETTER – APRIL 2024

Greetings one and all! Welcome to the latest edition of our quarterly newsletter.

Autumn is upon us, the season when warm summer temperatures gradually decrease to the cold of winter. Nevertheless, I am excited to share with you some updates and news from our Branch.

During 2023/24 significant progress was achieved and I'm proud of the successes over this period, particularly in providing more opportunities for meaningful engagement of our members and friends, introducing innovative projects and topics, and providing outreach opportunities.

We can take pride in the fact that the reliability of the service we provide and the quality of the content we offer define us. We rose, where possible to the challenges, and the work we did helped people to stay connected and we made the difficult times hopefully a little easier.



I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our Branch Executive Committee, Vice Chairman, Dave Taylor, Our Secretary, Marj Malan, with the Treasurer, Devon Cardases for the assistance and support they provided. I am incredibly grateful for their guidance and mentorship. Their wisdom and advice have been invaluable to me.

To the additional Committee Members, Welfare - Marinda Beukes Membership - Joey Rossouw, Webmaster, Hendry Norval I extend my sincerest appreciation for exceptional teamwork. Your collaboration and cooperation have made a significant impact.

I would also like to acknowledge the commendable efforts and commitments shown by our esteemed Members, for their opinions, assistance and support, This is highly appreciated.



Our AGM was held on the 16th of March 2024 at the Cafe@The Range in Kempton Park and was attended by twelve (12) Members.

Nominations had been received for the four elective positions: Chairman - Roelf Rossouw, Vice-Chair - Dave Taylor, Secretary - Marj Malan, Treasurer - Devon Cardases. All were unanimously re-elected. Heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for this awesome team, keep doing your great work. Co-opted members would be appointed by the committee at the next BEC Meeting.

We certainly had a bumper birthday period. Wishing you all a year ahead of good health and many memorable moments – Happy Birthday!

CALL TO HIGHER SERVICE



Ruan Brits – August 2023 – Grandson of Fred and Lydia Brits

Ray Watts – January 2024 – Member

Steve Sutherland – January 2024 – Member

Our most sincere condolences to their loved ones and family. May the Lord guide and pave the way for the love surrounding them to bring comfort and peace.....

*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor do the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

45TH SAAFA ERB ANNIVERSARY 2024.

We will celebrate our 45th birthday this year in September 2024.

During September '78 a questionnaire was circulated amongst the Johannesburg Branch Members, residing on the East Rand, to establish whether members would be prepared to launch a Branch of SAAFA in the East i.e. Benoni, Brakpan, Boksburg, Springs, Dunnottar and Nigel. It was also said that the area could be expanded to the Highveld and Lowveld if needed. The Branch would be named SAAFA E-Tvl.

According to the results of the survey, +- 80% of the E-Tvl resident members gave the OK, with Benoni nominated as the HQ for the area. The gears were in motion but it would be another 10 months before volunteers could be found to drive the new Branch.

The inaugural meeting was held on **27 September 1979** and was celebrated with Fondue evening, being attended by 80 guests. The first meeting was held at the Reveille Club, Benoni and took place on 2nd October '79 and the following Committee were elected and appointed.



Chairman - Dough Maxwell, Secretary - Emma Stevenson, Treasurer - Steve Brown, Scribe - Laurie Short, Q-Master - Sonny Fourie.

Members, R. Wolverson, B. Gerber, J. Anderson, B. Pate, Tom Earnshaw, D. Goldblum and B. Smith.

With this in mind, the SAAFA ERB will celebrate their 45th anniversary in style. The celebration promises to be memorable and will be planned to go hand in hand with our September 2024 Monthly Chairman's Lunch.



Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775: An unfortunate twist of fate for one young redcoat, Charles "Bugeyed" Bingham, was not knowing that the opposing American general had just uttered the historic command, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes."

*** MONTHLY LUNCHEONS ***

As you know, Monthly Luncheons are held every third Friday of the Month from noon till late! The BEC had been working hard to find a suitable venue and The Cafe@The Range in Kempton Park turned out to be the obvious choice.

In the year ahead, we will continue this initiative to build in the opportunity for you to get to know your SAAFA friends better - either during these monthly luncheons or attending happy hour or other social events.

Kindly make your reservations on time as our meals are prepared based on the number of bookings. Marj Malan – Cell No. 073 186 7761



We're looking forward to seeing you at our next get-together! Can't wait to catch up!

*** SAAFA EAST RAND BRANCH - BOOK AND DVD CLUB ***

*We've put together a collection of interesting books, if you'd like to contribute, donations are always welcome. Sign-out "Fee" is only R20.00 / Book.
It is a fun way to raise much-needed funds!*

Call our Librarian, as the "LIBRARY CATALOGUE" is now available!

Recently, at an Irish wedding reception, the photographer yelled.....
"All the married men please stand next to the one person who
has made your life worth living"

The bartender was nearly crushed to death!

*** SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS 747 FLEET HISTORY ***



ZS-SAN "Lebombo" was SAA's first 747-200 which was delivered in October 1971.

ZS-SPA was SAA's first 747SP which was delivered in March 1976.

SAA changed their livery in 1981 by adding a blue and orange "Cheatline" and adding the "SAA" sign.

SZ-SAS "Helderberg" was the aircraft involved in a crash due to a cargo hold fire.

ZS-SAU was SAA's first 747-300 which was delivered in April 1986

ZS-SAV was SAA's first 747-400 which was delivered in January 1991

South African Airways introduced its current livery in 1997.

ZS-SAN "Lebombo" performed SAA's last 747-200 flight from Johannesburg to Rand Airport to be preserved in a museum on March 5, 2004.

ZS-SAU was SAA's last 747-300

ZS-SPC performed SAA's final 747SP flight from Johannesburg to Rand Airport on September 30, 2006

ZS-SAZ was SA's final 747 to be retired



The new SAAFA "Pan-mate Fedora" Hat
Available from our Quartermaster

*** FLYING IN BENONI ***

April 1933 - Advert in a Newspaper of Benoni Light Plane Club.

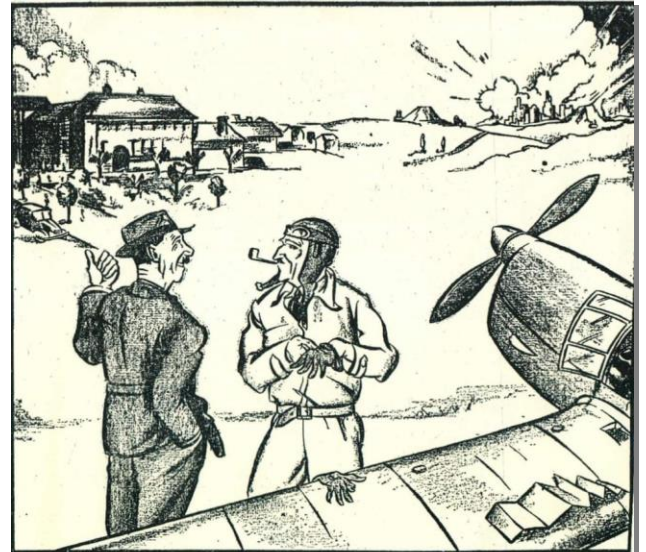


We will take you anywhere at competitive rates.

Travel in comfort in modern Puss Moth Cabin Monoplane

Phone Benoni 780 for quotation

Benoni Light Plane Club



BENONI RESIDENT: "What made you think this was Johannesburg?"
RHODESIAN PILOT: "Well, it seemed to me to be the only large town hereabouts."

June 1937 – The Rand Daily Mail reported that a Rhodesian landed on Tuesday at Benoni Aerodrome after failing to locate the Rand Airport. Mr Nestadt in the Transvaal Provincial Council, same day: That is why there is today only one Town on the Reef compared to Benoni – Johannesburg. (Laughter)

July 1938 – The STAR Newspaper reported on the Flying Tuition at Benoni.

WINGS

October, 1947.

PILOTS

EX-SERVICE TYPES

FLY THE NEW ALL-METAL "GLOBE SWIFT," WITH RETRACTABLE UNDER CARRIAGE AND FLAPS. EXTRA SPEED, MANOEUVREABILITY and COMFORT ENJOYED. CRUISING 130 u.p.h.



PILOTS

LEARNERS

INSTRUCTION GIVEN ON PIPER CUBS, PIPER CRUISERS AND GLOBE SWIFT AIRCRAFT TO YOUR "A" LICENCE AND PASSENGER ENDORSEMENT. CONVERSION AVAILABLE TO LICENCED PILOTS

Seven Aircraft Available at a Moments Notice for CHARTER or HIRE and FLY YOURSELF			
(1) PIPER CUB	Dual	£2 10 0	an hour
	Solo	£2 0 0	an hour
(2) PIPER CRUISER	Dual	£3 0 0	an hour
	Solo	£2 10 0	an hour
(3) SWIFT	Dual	£3 0 0	an hour
	Solo	£3 0 0	an hour

Come to **SKY TAXIS LIMITED**
BENONI AERODROME
P.O. BOX 575. — TELEPHONE 54-3193.

Four-engined Halton Aircraft 18 pass., or 14,000 lbs. freight available charter—10s. per mile.

The Benoni branch of the Rand Flying Club is soon to have its own machines and a permanent instructor. Mr F B Haswell, secretary of the Rand Flying Club, said yesterday in an interview.

The Benoni Town Council has been negotiating with Kleinfontein Estates for the exchange of the present aerodrome site (belonging to the Council) for a bigger site farther north. Mr Haswell said he understood the arrangements for the exchange were nearly completed. He thought the new aerodrome would be opened in September.

The new site is twice the size of the present one and is stated to be eminently suitable for flying purposes. Probably some of the training of Government pupils who live on the East Rand will be done there. Hitherto the Benoni club has had to borrow planes from the parent body in Germiston. The new instructor, according to Mr Haswell, will be Mr E M Lipkin, who has the British Air Ministry's B licence.



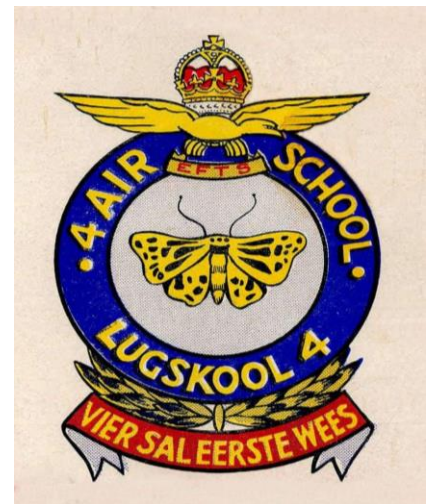


Role: Elementary Flying Training
 Location: Benoni
 Originally planned as 4 EFTS, it was formed as 4 AS on 11 November 1940 but personnel only started arriving at Benoni in June 1941. The first four Tiger Moths were delivered from 15 AD on 6 August, the school opened on 1 September and by 30 September there were 33 Tiger Moths on strength.

On 21 April 1942, 104 Reserve Sqn was formed and equipped with Tiger Moths as light bombers, ready to be mobilized in an emergency.

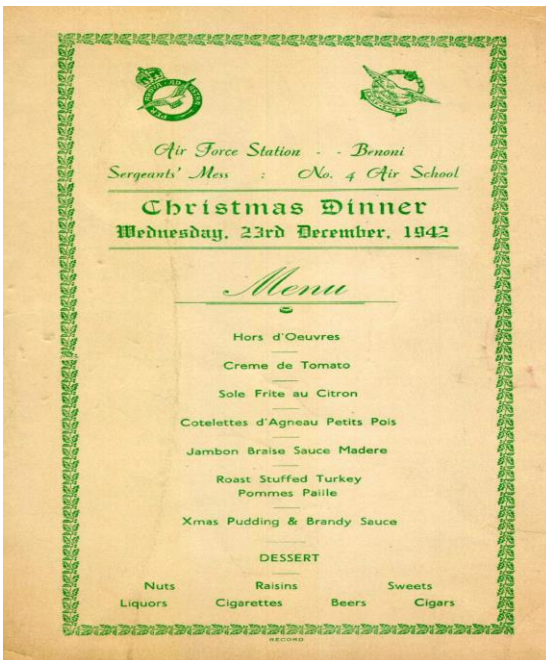
One famous personality at 4 AS was Lt A D “Bobby” Locke the world-famous golfer. Another was Lt Col Allister M Miller DSO, OBE, one of the OCs of the unit, is one of the most famous names in South African aviation history. He had the pleasure of presenting “Wings” to his son Allister, later killed in a Mosquito of 60 Sqn on operations.

In 1945 it was decided to amalgamate 4 and 6 AS and accordingly, 6 AS absorbed the 4 AS pupil population on 25 June 1945.



The beautiful crest of Benoni’s No. 4 Air School (1940 – 1946) The Motto in English was, “Four will be First”

To the left, we have a No.4 Air School – Benoni Sergeants Mess Christmas Dinner Menu for Wednesday 23 December 1942



Benoni was later used as a demobilization centre, after which it reverted to a civil airfield. Civil flying was transferred to the current Benoni-Brakpan Airfield when Jan Smuts Airport was established and today the buildings house an SA Police College while the airfield is now covered by the houses of Northmead Ext. 4

PAN-PAN: ALL HELICOPTER PILOTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT!

*** INTERESTING HISTORY – SEPTEMBER 1752 ***

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Imagine you sleep one day and wake up the next morning and notice that you have slept for 11 days straight. Sounds like a movie, isn't it? Well, it happened in the past back in 1752. Eager to know how? Let's dig into the details to figure out the story of the missing 11 days where a month was over in 19 days instead of 30.

Before finding out the truth about this impenetrable event from the past, let me tell you about the Julian calendar that was used back then. Julian calendar proposed by Julius Caesar also consisted of 12 months like the Gregorian calendar established in October 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII that is used today then why the need for a new calendar? What was wrong with the old one? Well, this is where our answer lies.

According to the Julian calendar, a year consists of 365 days and 6 hours while it should have been 365 days 5 hours and 49 minutes according to the solar year which shows a gap of 11 minutes every day and hence reducing one day after every 128 days. This error in the Julian calendar resulted in switching to the Gregorian calendar which was going 11 days ahead of it. Most of the countries like Norway, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and France readily implemented the new calendar while there were still some like England who did not accept the change or were reluctant since they were powerful and could not easily bend to get synced with the rest of the states and hence causing troubles of events and trades among the nations.

When the situation became totally out of control, the governments of the countries with the Julian calendar finally felt the need to relinquish and get themselves aligned with the world. This hotchpotch led to the shift from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in 1752.

When the people of England slept, the calendar showed September 2nd and when they opened their eyes the next day, it was September 14th instead of September 3rd. This sudden skipping of 11 days caused chaos among the people. They started showing disagreement and demanded their lost 11 days. The government made sure to take the necessary measures to settle the condition like paying the employees for those 11 days which brought the concept of "**paid leave**" into the world.

Even after shifting to the Gregorian calendar, many people refused to give up old traditions and continued celebrating 1st April as New Year's Day. When simple orders didn't work, the King finally issued a royal dictum, which stated that those who celebrate 1st April as New Year's Day would be called fools.

From then on, 1st April became April Fool's Day!
History is really interesting.

East Rand Branch – Banking Details
ABSA Savings: Branch Code - 632005
ABSA Account No: 9059711295
Reference: You're Name

***** MAINTENANCE AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY *****

On 9th March 2024, a group of SAAFA Members met at the SA National Museum of Military History (Ditsong) in Johannesburg to assist with the clean-up of static air assets on display.

The Museum, unfortunately, does not have the staff or the budget to carry out the much-needed Maintenance as required on a day-to-day basis. The Museum is grateful for the continued support provided by the SAAF Association and all military veterans. The work

undertaken, and still to be undertaken, by the SAAF Association is, to say the least, invaluable and I am proud to be associated with such people who have the well-being of the Museum at heart said Allan Sinclair, Acting Director at the Museum.



Afterwards, the Team was treated to a magnificent spit braai sponsored by Colin Bowring, one of our own. Even though we were a small group, the camaraderie was very much evident. A satisfying and rewarding morning indeed.

L to R: Trevor Slade, Mike Louw - National President, Nick Cardases, Devon Cardases, Gwyneth Slade, Vanessa Louw, Roelf Rossouw, Lisa Grobelaar, Carl Bollweg, Colin Bowring, Jeff Osborn with Allan Sinclair.



***** HONOUR OUR LIVING LEGENDS *****

Please! Send your memories to the Editor.....
Tell us about yourself, your days in the Air Force, and your successes at the SAA.
Service records with photographs will be welcomed!

These articles will also be earmarked for our "Coffee Table Book" in the making.
The planned published date of the CTB is end-2024.



The Pro Patria Museum Military Fair - Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria, took place on May 1st with stunning tales to tell. See you there.....

***** FINAL APPROACH AND SHUT DOWN *****

A Big Thank you goes to you for sharing your stories and photos from yesteryear.

Brakes on! Throttle Set! Focus! Wishing you a safe and joyful journey ahead, until next time...

The Editor...

*** Social Media Groups ***
SAAFA ERB W-App Group – 060 583 8618
Bakkies-Boek
<https://web.facebook.com/saafa.eastrandbranch/>



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