



Stick & Throttle

Pretoria Branch
Third Quarter – September 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Sunny Pretoria Greetings to one and all. Trust this finds each and every one as well as can be expected.

Here we are in the third quarter of the year and experiencing the change in season – warmer, more green, more colour and unfortunately more load shedding [time for repairs they say].

What I have noticed, however, is that there tends to be more courteousness at the traffic lights during our load shedding frustrating times, which when we all use it as a four way stop, it works and the traffic flows a little easier – okay maybe not all the vehicles as the taxis seem to be a law unto themselves.

The Branch managed to eventually arrange a lunch back at an Air Force Mess, which was the first since March 2020. Our July Luncheon was held at AFB Waterkloof Officers Mess and proved to be a hit. Regrettably we have not been able to host a luncheon again as our proposed Friday dates clashed with other SAAF activities and utilisation by CAF, which is understandable.

August and September lunches were once again held at the Groenkloof Bowls Club – with our annual Spring Bowls Day preceding the September lunch.

At the beginning of July a number of members attended the Official “Roof Wetting” of the Spitfire Restoration Project Hangar at the Museum at Swartkop Airfield [Mobile Deployment Wing] – roof soaked by the newly acquired SAAF Fire Vehicle. This was indeed a wonderful occasion and great to see after all the hard work by the Team involved, as well as, with thanks to generous donations over the last few years, both big and small. This is heritage at its best and is made possible by the donations, as stated, and by enthusiastic work by all concerned.

Members from the Branch – the “Varkie Span” were involved in preparing and selling of Chicken Prego and Boerie Rolls at this year’s Chopper Reunion held on 25 and 26 August at the Museum. The profits from the day have been donated to the Branch for benevolence – we thank the Chopper guys and girls for their continued support. Celebrating 75 years of helicopter operations – well done and always, as they say, “Service before Self”.

It was indeed an honour and a privilege to be involved with and attend [with our SAAFA President] “The Children’s Flight” that took place at Orient Airfield [close to Magaliesburg] on Spring Day, 1st September 2023. The day was arranged and managed by Felix Gosher and his wonderful team, accompanied by the different aircrews with their aircraft, which included both fixed wing and helicopters. This was also made possible by all the associated sponsors. The same incredible team that arranged and partook in “The Elder’s Flight” on 22nd April this year – as per previous S&T.

In true SAAFA support to Air Force heritage, the Spitfire Restoration Project shared our gazebo at the above event. The SAAF had a Tent next to us and they prepared it as a career display for the youngsters to see, and even the Impala simulator was also brought through for the day.

We are currently affected by “Springbok Fever” and obviously most of us would like to see them win the World Cup once again – a record fourth time would be fantastic. Let’s not forget the Protea’s Cricket.

I trust you will enjoy this newsletter, and stay healthy, wealthy, wise, and please be safe out there.

Warm regards and my prayers are with you all.
Bill De Pinho

GENERAL NOTIFICATIONS

Called to Higher Service

It is with regret that we inform you of the passing away of the following members. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and may they RIP.

- ✚ Johan van der Veen (SAAFA)
- ✚ Jan Pohl (SAAFA)
- ✚ Gordon Struthers (SAAF)



The Health of Members

The following Branch Members are unwell and/or are recuperating from illness or operations and we wish them a swift recovery.

- ✚ Lt Gen (Ret) Mike Muller and Katie
- ✚ Henry van Reenen
- ✚ Piet Claasens

MEMORIAL SERVICES

A number of Memorial Services were attended over the past three months and some of them are pictured below. *WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.*



Renier Feldtmann and Bill de Pinho attended the Delville Wood Memorial Service in Thaba Tshwane on 16 July

DELVILLE WOOD MEMORIAL SERVICE

“Chaplain (Col) Pieter Roos, said this was a fitting opportunity and venue to pay tribute to soldiers who were willing to lay down their lives on the battlefield. These were brave men who were willing to stand their ground; they displayed selfless devotion because of a commitment towards their country and they paid the highest price.”

“The Commonwealth plot contains 293 war graves from the Second World War 272 South African, 21 from the United Kingdom, one Greek, one Belgian, and 1 non-war grave. It is maintained by the South African Branch of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.”

“Holding the wood became the most costly action the South Africans saw on the Western Front. When the Brigade was finally relieved, after six days and five nights of ferocious fighting, only 780 remained of the complement of 3 152 soldiers around 1 700 had been wounded, 763 had been killed and of these 186 were reported missing in action, presumed dead.”
Reference to input from SABC News.

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE MEMORIAL SERVICE

This Service was held in Raslouw, South West of Pretoria on 17th September.



SAAFA President, Mike Louw, and Renier Feldtmann attended the UN International Day of Peace Memorial Service

THE CHILDRENS FLIGHT



All the different sponsors and supporters of the day. Proudly supported by the SAAF and SAAFA – made possible by all the volunteers, the pilots [and their aircraft] and wonderful support of families and friends.



Chairman Col (Ret) Bill de Pinho, Maj Gen Mathebula, President Col(Ret) Mike Louw, and Kathryn Share [daughter of Ian Share – Spitfire Restoration Project]



A view of the children relaxing after flying and the set-up behind them of the main “tent” and food stalls.



Felix together with a few kid's and Emergency Crew members in front of the Huey [courtesy of Menno Parsons]

This was the 8th year that The Children's Flight had been held and it was a truly remarkable event that saw children from all walks of life [some good and some bad] join in the day's activities.

The flights were in all sorts of aircraft, the most popular seemed to be the AN-2 [Anushka], the Huey, and the smaller display aircraft – such as the RV's, Tiger Moth, and various 4-6 seater aircraft.

Thanks to the sponsors the kids were also well fed and entertained [Spur, Roman's Pizza, MacDonald's, Sausage Saloon, to name just a few].

To see the joy on the children's faces is what makes it all worthwhile. Comments from the Pilot's included; "privilege to give of our time" and "we are blessed to be here".

The following poem was recited by Felix during an interview and I felt that it needed to be shared.

POEM READ BY FELIX

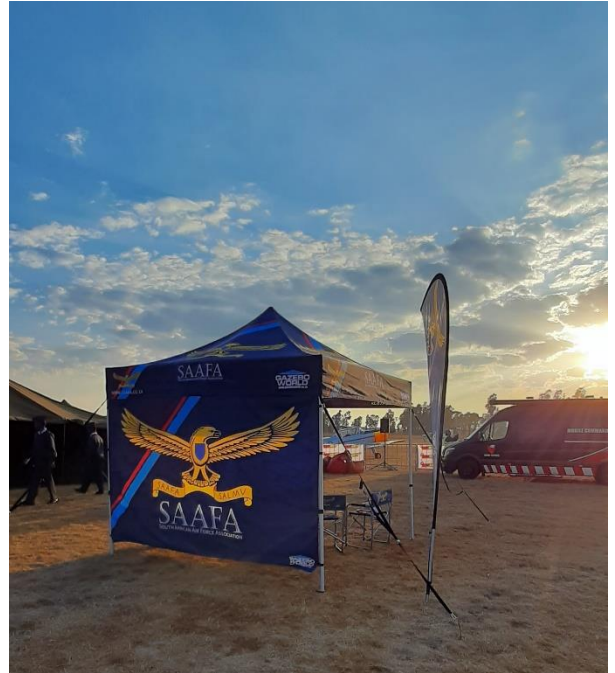
[Interview on Video – Capital Sounds]

*South Africa my land, my blood, my home,
As a boy I longed in this air to roam,
I'd stare at the sky deep and beyond,
Of those majestic machines I was utterly fond,
Diving and banking, dancing the heavens,
Recovering from spins through sixes and sevens.*

*I would see myself one day there,
In a sky so smooth so vast, so fair,
And from there African plains of Rivers and
streams,
From there appear patterns of patches and seams,
Flying in service for a peaceful land.*

*Precision in my duty been worth every rand,
Was for me the ultimate honour in life,
South Africa my land,
Through peace – Through Strife.*

FLY, FEED, LOVE, INSPIRE



SAAFA Gazebo set bright and early – Spring Day



Maj Gen Lance Mathebula and Mike Louw in deep conversation, while a little admirer asks for signatures on her T-Shirt and/or Cap.....

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

Our July Luncheon was held at the Officers Mess at AFB Waterkloof, however thereafter our Monthly Luncheons were once again held at the Groenkloof Bowls Club – unavailability of the Mess on our planned or even adjusted dates.

The following are a few photos from the different luncheons held over the last quarter.

July Luncheon



Presentation of the SAAFA Certificate of Merit for dedicated service to Barry Gildenhuis. Well Done!

August Luncheon

Back at the Groenkloof Bowls Club and thank you to our host Nico Venter for once again making us feel so welcome and for a great meal too.

Below are a few photos from the day and I am sure you recognise as few familiar faces....



September Luncheon

The September Luncheon was preceded by the Annual Bowls Day and although hot and humid a great day was had. Jaap won the day [again], but did miss his partner from last year [Stacy Stanton].



Jaap showing those of us which side to "bowl the wood"



How to address the wood after bowling



How close can you get – Pat Schultz playing Bowls for the first time and showing how it's done.



The young[er] and the old[er] checking how things are?



How it's done – Well done Jaap on winning [again].

After the Bowls, we all enjoyed a braai prepared by Nico and a few refreshments of course.

28 Squadron members were once again in their numbers and a group photo was taken of both serving and ex-serving members of the Squadron which also included two of the previous OC's.



Aviation Snippets

Roof Wetting of the Spitfire Restoration Project Hangar

The Spitfire Restoration Project has been collecting funds over the last number of years and one part of the Project is to have its own space to restore the spitfire and associated equipment. The generous donations made ensured that they were able to build a Hangar for the Project.



Chopper Reunion

Our SAAFA Branch was once again in attendance at this year's Chopper Reunion and we really cooked up a storm with Chicken Prego and Boerie Rolls. This was all prepared, cooked and served by the "Varkie Span", family and friends. Well Done



The "Varkie Span" together with friends and family that helped prepare the food for the members attending the Reunion – how great it was too.

What's going on Puzzle?

In each Edition, we will pose a problem or provide a puzzle to be “solved” by our esteemed members. This is for fun and the answer/s will be in the next Edition of the Stick and Throttle. Enjoy and we know you will laugh when we reveal the answer!!

June S&T Puzzle – Answer below.....

A little bit of “maths” in the following:



27kg is the answer.

Explanation

Let us assume:

a = Hammer;

b = Saw

c = Toolbox

Now the first image becomes:

$$a + b = 10 \rightarrow \text{equation 1}$$

The second image becomes:

$$b + c = 20 \rightarrow \text{equation 2}$$

The third image becomes:

$$a + c = 24 \rightarrow \text{equation 3}$$

Now let us subtract equation 2 & 3

$$\Rightarrow (b + c) - (a + c) = 20 - 24$$

$$\Rightarrow b + c - a - c = -4$$

$$\Rightarrow b - a = -4$$

$$\Rightarrow a - b = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow a = 4 + b \rightarrow \text{equation 4}$$

Now let us solve equation 1:

$$(4 + b) + b = 10 \quad (\text{We replaced } a \text{ with } (4 + b))$$

$$\Rightarrow 4 + 2b = 10$$

$$\Rightarrow b = 3$$

Now let us solve equation 2:

$$3 + c = 20$$

$$\Rightarrow c = 17$$

Now let us solve equation 3:

$$a + 17 = 24$$

$$\Rightarrow a = 7$$

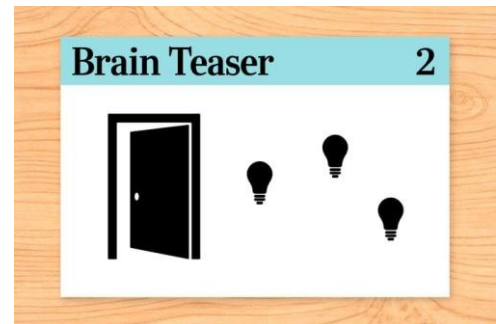
Therefore the fourth image (a + b + c) becomes:

$$\Rightarrow 7 + 3 + 17$$

$$\Rightarrow 27 \text{ kg}$$

September S&T Puzzle

Enjoy and the answer will appear in the next S&T.



You are in a room that has three switches and a closed door. The switches control three light bulbs on the other side of the door. Once you open the door, you may never touch the switches again. How can you definitively tell which switch is connected to each of the light bulbs?

Editor:	Note:
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