



# Stick & Throttle

Pretoria Branch  
October 2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings to you one and all.

October has passed us by, and we have once again experienced the wonderful sound of thunderstorms, have watched our city transform itself into its vivid colours and become the “Jacaranda City” once more.

The untimely passing of one of our Branch Executive Members, Caro Duven, and the news thereof came as a huge shock to myself, and I know to all of us who knew her as a close friend, colleague and the wonderful ever smiling young woman she was. I know that a great deal has been said through words, thoughts, pictures and messages been shared on our social media platforms and amongst ourselves. However, I would like to add a sincere “Thank You” to Caro for her unselfish service over the last number of years to SAAFA Pretoria Branch in particular. She was an integral part of previous “Fund Raising” events and always assisted in many ways behind the scenes at other occasions.

One of the most recent memories of Caro was at our last Branch luncheon. For those of us that have attended lately we would have experienced Caro walking up to collect her Raffle Prizes and I emphasise “Prizes”. When Jaap called a number, you could be sure that Caro would have to claim her prize at least twice – or should that be three, four and even five times. Her coy smile and laugh when going to choose something from the Raffle Table will always be remembered.

***“We will Remember Them”***

Once again, I am reminded of how precious life is and that we must be thankful for having the chance to live each day. We need to enjoy life and be ever mindful of those around us who may be less fortunate, who are in ill health or who have fallen upon bad times.

One thing I have learned since taking up the Chairmanship is that we as members of this wonderful Association and Branch, in particular, have empathy for our fellow members who are in need. This has been highlighted by monthly contributions to the “Lunches of Love”, large and small donations of cash and kind over the last months. At our October Lunch we managed to raise some much-needed funds for one of “newest” beneficiaries at the Ad Astra Flats. Needless to say, the support was overwhelming and individuals generously donated household goods, furniture and even personal items to her. Remarkably even some of the members that live at Ad Astra have supported and shared what they could. I admire you all and thank you sincerely for your continued support.

Our “Theme” for the Pretoria Branch Annual Fund-Raising Golf Day next year is indeed appropriate.

[Warm regards and prayers with you all,](#)

[Bill De Pinho](#)

## GENERAL NOTIFICATIONS

### Weal and Woe



Col Alex van Wyk (Ret). It is with great sadness and our deepest sorrow that we must inform you of the call to higher service of Col Alex van Wyk (Ret) Dir Fin SAAF HQ). He succumbed to a heart attack on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. Alex is survived by his wife Annelien, his two son's Alex, Jannie and their respective families.



Col Alex van Wyk



Lt Col Caro Duven.



Lt Col Caro Duven

It is with great shock and sadness that we announce the call to Higher Service of a well-loved aviator, commander, colleague, friend and confidant, Lt Col Caro "Chucky" Duven.

She succumbed to a massive heart attack on Saturday 16 October 2021.

"Chucky" was born on 19 December 1979 and has served the South African Air Force and SAAF Association with passion, dedication and loyalty. She served 28 Squadron for 12 years before been transferred to Directorate Air Transport and Maritime Service during October 2021. "We Salute You".

She leaves behind, her parents, Mom Flo, Dad Theo (Snr), brothers JP, Theo (Sasha) and sister Thania (Spatse) and their respective families.

The upstanding, honourable, and great woman will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her.




WO1 Jacques van Zyl from the Mobile Deployment Wing at Snake Valley was called to higher service on Saturday 23 October 2021. He served many years in the Mobile Radar Group 142 Squadron Tactical Mobile Radar. He leaves behind Ria (wife), Louis (son) and Carina (daughter).



WO1 Jacques van Zyl

“They have slipped the surly bonds on earth  
 They shall mount up with wings as eagles  
 Put out a hand and touch the face of God  
 At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
 We will remember them”

 WO1 Willie Burger from the Mobile Deployment Wing at Snake Valley was called to higher service on Monday 25 October 2021. He served many years in the Mobile Radar Group at 140 Squadron AR3D Radar.




WO1 Willie Burger



 **LEST WE FORGET** 

## Members Recovering from Illness

The following Branch Members are wished a speedy recovery and we hope to see you soon again.



 Rassie Erasmus after a knee operation.

-  Tiaan Botha after an eye operation.
-  Fanie Badenhorst is receiving chemotherapy. He starts with his phase 2 treatment in November.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE



SA Legion

The SA Legion held a memorial service on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 at Dutch Reform Church Raslouw. Banners were placed by several Veteran Organisations in the church in commemoration of those who lost their life in past conflicts.



*R/L SAAFA Nasional President Col Mike Louw (Ret) and Pretoria Branch Heritage Representative Renier Feldtman*



*Military Veteran Organisations with banners who attended the memorial service at Raslow*

## MEMORIAL SERVICES (November 2021)

The following memorial services are planned for November 2021:

- ❖ 6 November 2021: Poppy Day, Military Cemeteries, Pretoria, 09h00
- ❖ 7 November 2021: Italian Prisoners of War Memorial Service, Italian Military Cemetery, Zonderwater, 09h30
- ❖ 11 November 2021: Cornwall Hill Service, Cornwall Hill, 17h30 for 18h00
- ❖ 14 November 2021: Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service, Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria, 11H00
- ❖ 14 November 2021: Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service, Johannesburg 11h00

## GOLF DAY 2021/22

Planning of the Pretoria Branch annual golf day at the Services Club on 18 February 2022 is progressing well. It is expected to have 20 x 4 ball teams to participate the day. Your full support and a sponsorship in whatever form will be highly appreciated.

## MONTHLY LUNCHEON

As usual the Branch Members started to gather early to catch up on the monthly “skinder” news before the luncheon. General discussions varied between the “Oohs” and “Ahs” at the golf games and the impact of the latest relaxed COVID restrictions have on our “new” freedom.

After welcoming the SAAFA National Col Mike Louw (Ret), Pretoria Branch Members and honoured guests, Mr Chair conducted the traditional ritual before declaring the gathering opened and provided his Branch feedback.



*Col Bill De Pinho (Ret) giving feedback on Branch activities*

A thank you to Marian Mostert and Caro Duvan (R.I.P.) who decorated the tables for this occasion. Jaap was also thanked for his effort to arrange and assist a Branch member to settle down in Ad Astra.

Mossie Mostert was welcomed to the Pretoria Branch and his Membership Card presented by the Chair.



*New Membership Card handed to Mossie Mostert by Col Bill De Pinho (Ret)*

Something extraordinary happened during the raffle draws. Apparently similar luck took place in September. Caro Duvan (R.I.P.) had four winning tickets out of the 10 lucky draws. Here she is “teased” by Bill de Pinho.



*Caro and Col Bill de Pinho  
(She did it again – for the last time – we miss you dearly)*

The next Luncheon is the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 at the same venue and starts at 12H00. The planned bowls day is postponed until further notice. Notices will be published on the web in time with the necessary details.

Please note that the Christmas Lunch is planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December at the Groenkloof Bowling Club. Details will follow soon.

## Aviation Snippets

### That Hole in the Window

Have you ever noticed that small hole in the bottom of the passenger aircraft window? If you have noticed it before, you might have wondered whether it should be there and whether it was safe or not. The hole is actually an important component of the window, and contrary to what you might have thought it did, the hole actually helps the safety of the window.

To understand why the hole is there, we must first know about the difference in air pressure between the cabin of the airplane and outside of the plane. The higher up in the atmosphere, the thinner and less pressurised the air is.



Since humans need to be in more pressurised air with tolerable levels of oxygen, the cabins of airplanes need to be pressurised. This creates a high-pressure difference between the inside of a plane and the outside world. The difference in air pressure creates stress on the windows of a plane, and that's where the holes are involved.



An airplane window consists of 3 different layers of panes. The most inner layer is the one exposed to the passengers and prevents damage to the other panes. The middle pane is where the hole is located, and the outer pane is the layer of glass that endures most of the air pressure. The hole in the middle pane is called

a “bleed hole”, and it is what allows the air to flow to the third pane. There is an air gap between the middle and outer glass panes, and the bleed hole allows the air pressure to balance out or reach an equilibrium between this gap and the cabin. The hole diverts much of the air pressure onto the outer panel of glass and allows the middle pane to function as a fail-safe pane in case the outer pane breaks. Essentially, the purpose of the hole is to ensure that there is a second layer of protection if one of the panes breaks from the air pressure stress.

Next time you see one of the tiny holes when flying, know that it plays a crucial role in keeping you safe.

### **The Purpose of Jet Engine Spirals (Credit: Boeing Aero)**

You may have noticed those spinning white spirals in a jet engine at one point or another. But have you ever stopped to think about why they're there? As cute and as comical as they look, those spirals on the spinner cones are more than just for aesthetics – they are an important safety measure for ground crew and even for birds. This article will attempt to enlighten you on this matter!



### **Ground Crew Warning**

The reason for painting designs on engine spinners is for the safety of ground personnel. Working near a running jet engine is extraordinarily dangerous. A Boeing 737 engine, running at idle power, has a hazard zone of 9 feet to the front and sides of the engine. This means that, even at idle thrust, a human that walks in the hazard area runs the risk of being sucked inside and consumed by the engine. When the engine is above idle thrust, the hazard zone increases to 14 feet or more. Engines on larger jets, like the 777 have much larger hazard zones. It is absolutely critical that ground crews can identify a running engine and stay away from it.

Just like the blades on a window fan, engine fan blades become translucent when they are spinning, especially in the dark. Aircraft engine spirals make it easy to identify a running engine. A quick glance is all it takes.

### **Effect on Birds**

Bird ingestion and impacts cause expensive damage to engines. For years, it has been speculated that spinner spirals might startle or frighten birds away from engines during taxi, take-off, and landing.

Bird strikes severely damage an engine's components and repair costs are extremely expensive.

However, the spinning spiral effect on birds is highly controversial. A few studies on the effectiveness of spinner spirals for deterring bird impacts have been done. None of them come to a conclusion one way or the other. One study, by the University of Oslo, was conducted on a

very small scale with inconclusive results. Some examples of spirals can be seen below.



There you have it! Regardless of their value as a safety enhancement or bird repellent, the spinning swirls are nonetheless a part of aviation history and tradition among Avgeeks alike.

## GIGGLES

### Prokureur versus Polisieman

Twee boere gaan jag in Ellisras. Hulle klits 3 bokke. Toe hulle die bokke in die ligte vliegtuig will laai sê die vlieënier “Hulle is te swaar. Ons sal nie genoeg krag hê om op te styg nie. Julle kan net 1 bok oplaai”

Die boere is hoog ontstoke en sê vir die vlieënier.

“Kyk boet... ons het laas jaar 3 bokke geklits, en ons vorige pilot het met dieselfde soort vliegtuig vir ons opgelaa”

Die vlieënier stem toe na ‘n groot gestryery in en laai al drie bokke in. Met die opstyg kan die vliegtuig nie hoogte kry nie en stort ‘n ent verder tussun die bosse neer.

Die twee boere klim uit die wrak en die een vra vir die ander een: “Waar is ons”? Die ander boer kyk ronde n sê: “Lyk my ons het omtrent op dieselfde plek geval as laas jaar”?

## Hangar Safety Signs



## Final Thought

The donkey told the tiger, "The grass is blue."

The tiger replied, "No, the grass is green."

The discussion became heated, and the two decided to submit the issue to arbitration, so they approached the lion.

As they approached the lion on his throne, the donkey started screaming: "Your Highness, isn't it true that the grass is blue?"

The lion replied: "If you believe it is true, the grass is blue."

The donkey rushed forward and continued: "The tiger disagrees with me, contradicts me, and annoys me. Please punish him."

The lion king then declared: "The tiger will be punished with 3 days of silence."

The donkey jumped with joy and went on his way, content and repeating "The grass is blue, the grass is blue..."

The tiger asked the lion, "Your Majesty, why have you punished me, after all, the grass is green?"

The lion replied, "You've known and seen the grass is green."

The tiger asked, "So why do you punish me?"

The lion replied, "That has nothing to do with the question of whether the grass is blue or green. The punishment is because it is degrading for a brave, intelligent creature like you to waste time arguing with an ass, and on top of that, you came and bothered me with that question just to validate something you already knew was true!"

The biggest waste of time is arguing with the fool and fanatic who doesn't care about truth or reality, but only the victory of his beliefs and illusions. Never waste time on discussions that make no sense. There are people who, for all the evidence presented to them, do not have the ability to understand. Others who are blinded by ego, hatred and resentment, and the only thing that they want is to be right even if they aren't.

When IGNORANCE SCREAMS, intelligence moves on.

<p><b>Editor:</b> Please send your contributions to: <a href="mailto:pta@saafa.co.za">pta@saafa.co.za</a> We're on the web! See us at: <a href="http://www.saafa.co.za">www.saafa.co.za</a></p>	<p><b>Note:</b> The editor extends his thanks for all contributions. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or Branch Executive Committee. The Editor reserves the right to amend or reject any editorial matter submitted for publication.</p>
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