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February 2016

BRAKES ON ... THROTTLE SET... CONTACT!



Karl Jensen's eye-catching Cessna 170B on the way to the Mabalingwe fly-in.

Whassup!

Wed 03 February
Chapter 322 Meeting
Dickie Fritz MOTH Hall, Edenvale

Thurs 11 February
EAA Flying Legends Talk Show
EAA Auditorium, Rand Airport

Fri 29 April - 01 May
EAA National Convention 2016
Mossel Bay

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Chapter 322 - Mabalingwe Fly-away



- Karl Jensen, Chapter 322, January 2016

It has become a tradition to have our first fly-away of the year to Mabalingwe as guests of member Clive King while he is enjoying his time-share at this enormous bushveld game reserve which nestles in the foothills of the Waterberg. Mabalingwe has a 1,200m tarred runway that doubles as the entry road to the park. It is always necessary to advise your arrival in advance and with a fly-over so that the road can be closed for road traffic for arrivals and departures of aircraft.

On the appointed day at 06h00, Clive sent out a weather report to our WhatsApp group that had been set up for the participants. A thunderstorm was raging at the time with strong winds and Clive called off the event. The nearby Zebula Estate 6nm distant had severe flooding with 3 luxury homes burnt to the ground after lightning strikes. About an hour after Clive's call, with much weather radar info as well as calls to local aviators, some of us decided we would attempt the flight with plenty of available diversion fields. The flight from Gauteng to Mabalingwe was uneventful with a $\pm 2500'$ agl cloud base. The countryside approaching Mabalingwe had evidence of the heavy rains with many farmlands under water - what a fabulous sight after the severe drought and heatwave that reigned earlier.

The drought had ensured that the parking area adjacent to the Mabalingwe runway was grazed clear, compared to the veritable jungle with hidden pitfalls last year. With the unfortunate bad weather start to the day and the time constraints of a 'breakfast fly-in', only 11 aircraft arrived with a total of 32 visitors. After landing, we were all whisked off to the restaurant 4km distant in game viewing vehicles. There was a fair amount of game to see on the way.

Instead of the regular buffet, we were seated at a very large table and served à la carte efficiently with a most delicious breakfast, juices and coffee. Shortly before midday, after much chatter and laughter, we were transported back to our planes. The wind had almost completely died down with a pleasant temperature around 25°C. Some of us stopped at Brits on the way home for fuel and more chatting - what a lovely day it turned out to be, with thanks to those who took part and to the friendly staff of Mabalingwe and to Clive King for arranging the event. I will be back next year if we are fortunate enough to be invited by Clive!



Chapter 322 Meeting

Brilliant debut by the 'Flying Doctor' Mike Brown at the January meeting - Gordon Dyne

Some 100 members and friends of EAA Chapter 322 came together last Wednesday 13 January for the inaugural meeting of the Chapter's new Chairman, Dr Mike Brown.

What a scintillating debut by this true professional! A medical doctor for more than 40 years and an even longer period as a pilot, mainly private, sometime commercial and always recreational. A smooth talk show host, in the same league as Larry King, and now the crowd-pleasing and crowd-pulling Chairman of South Africa's biggest EAA Chapter. I wonder if the Dickie Fritz MOTH Hall will be large enough to accommodate the audience which is sure to swell as the news of Mike's successful Chairmanship spreads. Maybe the committee should start thinking of the Linder Auditorium in the near future!

Due to heavy traffic, I was late arriving at the Hall and thus did not have time to partake of the culinary delights on offer. However, I am reliably informed that the refreshments provided by Ann Ferreira and her team plus the rapid response duo in the bar made sure that everyone was fully satiated by the time the meeting began.

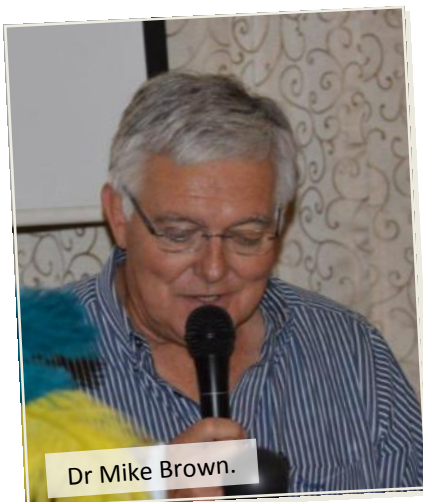
So by the time I arrived, Chairman Mike was in full swing and running through the formalities with his usual easygoing manner. Treasurer Mark Clulow was explaining in simple terms how members could pay their annual EAA and Aero Club subscriptions.

The safety feature showed a short video of the dangers of 'swinging a prop by hand'. In this demonstration the 'swinger', not realising the 'mags were live', almost lost his arm when the engine fired. The moral is to always 'treat a prop as live'!

Jeremy Woods, the auditorium co-ordinator, advised the meeting that we may have a Royal Air Force (RAF) Tornado pilot as our next talk show guest. Now, with the RAF bombing Syria, that will be a fascinating talk. Bring him on Jeremy! Another job for Mike Brown as Talk Show host!

Future fly-aways included the weekend's breakfast at Mabalingwe. I went last year and the morning was excellent. Clive King proved to be a most amiable 'host in the bush'.

Mike had interspersed the formalities with some excellent clips from his laptop. Amongst these was a video of a tandem skydive made by our senior member, Claus Keuchel. Claus, now well into his 80s, explained that this was a bucket list activity that he finally managed to tick off recently. From the expression of pure excitement and obvious joy, I suspect this will become a regular activity! We were all rolling around with mirth. Half-time was called and the glasses were recharged. Mike then called the rowdy troops to order and the Chapter's gorgeous secretary Marie (Amelia Earhart) Reddy regaled in



detail, with some great pictures and maps, her ground-breaking seven-day trip to Mossel Bay in her delightful little two-seater Ikarus ZU-EEE. What a plucky young lady is our Marie. With less than 100 hours in her log book and never having flown outside Johannesburg, off our intrepid adventurer goes into darkest Africa completely on her own. Marie, in her usual modest fashion, did not wish for her trip to be compared with those of Tracey Curtis Taylor in her Boeing Stearman, but for such an inexperienced pilot as Marie, her trip was 'the stuff from which legends are made'! The whole audience rose 'to a man' to salute her. Well done, Marie. A magnificent feat!



I sat, for the entire meeting, with the Chapter's previous Chairman Captain Karl Jensen who held the mantle for nearly a decade. Near the end of the meeting Karl turned to me and said, "Mike has done a brilliant job." Praise from the Master is praise indeed. Karl knows his 'baby' is in good hands.

That concluded the inaugural meeting for our new Chairman. Fabulous, Mike. You deserved all those plaudits you received and the beers we consumed after the meeting. On my way out I reversed into a pole in the car park of the MOTH hall! Your fault, Mike!

Thank you very much.

Gordon Dyne addressing the Chapter 322 meeting.



EAA Flying Legends

This month's Flying Legends Talk Show features Charlie Marais, a true Legend's Legend

- Eugene Couzyn, Chapter 322

Any attempt to describe this dynamic aviator can only fall very short of the fact behind his life, but suffice it to say that he is a DFE-1 for both fixed wing and helicopter, with thousands of hours in every field of aviation, both civilian and military, including his role as a test and display pilot for the Legendary Rooivalk Attack Helicopter.

He has in depth experience of the Angolan Bush War, having served 36 months on active duty in this fascinating chapter of South African history, and will no doubt regale us with humorous anecdotes of his time on the border.

His personality and experience guarantee an informative and entertaining evening for anyone fortunate enough to secure a booking for 'A date with Charlie'.

Charlie will be under the interrogation of our own Dr Mike Brown, on Thursday 11 February at the EAA Auditorium from 19:30 until 10:15 or thereabouts.



Charlie Marais.

EAA Auditorium, Rand Airport.



Energising EAA in the Western Cape

– Karl Jensen, Chapter 322

On Wednesday 27 January Horace Blok and I travelled to Cape Town from Mossel Bay and JHB respectively at the behest of the EAA of SA Council to sow the seeds to revitalise the dormant Cape Town EAA Chapter 592 and also promote our 2016 EAA Convention at Mossel Bay.

We did presentations at Morning Star and Stellenbosch Flying Club in the evenings on Wednesday and Thursday. We were graciously received by both clubs and their many hospitable members. We were delighted with the warm responses and especially the enthusiasm for getting the EAA Chapter on its feet again.

There are a lot of NTC aircraft in the area and an enormous recreational flying community who will benefit hugely from EAA involvement that would complement the flying club activities. Both Morning Star and Stellenbosch Flying Club are very active and the envy of so many of us up-country enthusiasts. EAA of SA will also benefit from additional membership to strengthen our elbows at the various negotiating tables.

There is much work to be done and communications to follow. Hopefully there will be swarms of visitors from the Western Cape who will attend the 2016 EAA Convention at Mossel Bay.



Meeting at Morning Star.



Meeting of Stellenbosch Flying Club.

EAA Airmail



Photo by Peter Westmoreland of wingman Mike Brissenden doing a loop in their RV-8s near Stellenbosch.





Chapter 322 brekkie fly-in to Mongena Lodge in the Dinokeng Conservancy.

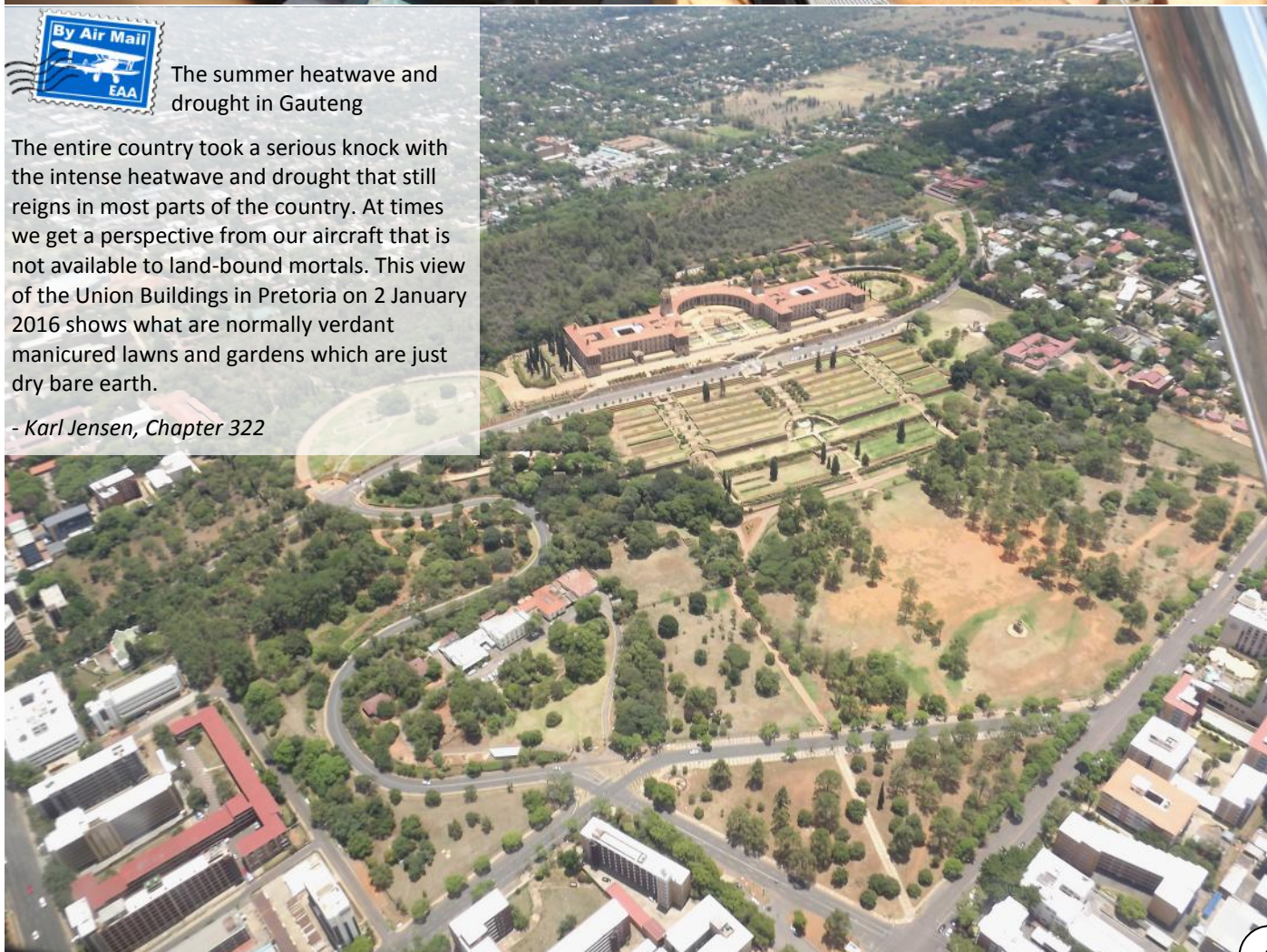
Dr Mike Brown (right) with Wayne Powell and Bianca Rudolph in Mike's snazzy Saab 91 Safir ZU-DES.



The summer heatwave and drought in Gauteng

The entire country took a serious knock with the intense heatwave and drought that still reigns in most parts of the country. At times we get a perspective from our aircraft that is not available to land-bound mortals. This view of the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 2 January 2016 shows what are normally verdant manicured lawns and gardens which are just dry bare earth.

- Karl Jensen, Chapter 322



EAA Airmail



Dear All,

Just look how wonderful Anton and I started the year, with one of the 'senior boys' from EAA, Rob Jonkers, taking Anton with us to Brits for breakfast from Wonderboom Airfield.

Wonderboom had fuel supply problems, so Rob had to ask his cousin, Martin, to fly a jerry can of fuel over from the airfield where 'cousin' hangars, so that Rob could have enough fuel to take my son flying, and to fill the aircraft with fuel at Brits. I ask you, the trouble some people will not go through just to do something for other people is just amazing.

Anton wanted to know what plane we are flying in (the Reims Rocket ZS-KEZ) and he went onto the internet and found the 172 equivalent and did some simulator flying before we went.

So 2016 started with the biggest treat a mother could have, and Anton said to Rob how privileged he was to sit in a plane on a Saturday and what a marvellous experience it was.

Thank you so much, Rob!

Regards,
Irene

EAA 322 members on the brekkie fly-in to Brits on 02 January.

(L-R): Irene Naude, Trixie Heron, Anton Mock, Eugene Couzyn, Rodney Frohwein, Stephen Theron, Karl Jensen, Rob Jonkers.



CONTACT! Is the official newsletter of EAA of SA. This edition was compiled by Gus and edited with love and kisses by Trixie Heron. All material is gratefully received from Chapters, members and non-members alike. Remember that this is your newsletter, so please submit material as it happens to Gus (news@eaa.org.za) or Trixie (editor@afskies.co.za). Our grateful thanks to all those who regularly support our newsletter and our EAA organisation.