



**South African Council Experimental Aircraft Association National  
Presidents Report 2023**

<b>EAA of SA National Committee 2023/24</b>	
NATIONAL PRESIDENT:	Paul Lastrucci
NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT:	Sean Cronin
HON TREASURER:	Mark Clulow
HON SECRETARY:	Keaton Perkins
AUDITORIUM CONVENOR:	Marie Reddy
NATIONAL MEDIA/PRO:	Karl Jensen
NATIONAL A/P REPRESENTATIVES:	Peter Lastrucci Andy Lawrence
EAA WEBMASTER:	Dean Fernandez
NEWSLETTER COMPILER	Neil Bowden
NATIONAL SAFETY OFFICER:	Nigel Musgrave
NATIONAL YOUNG EAGLES CONVENER:	Warren Lovell

On Behalf of the EAA Exco and all chapter members I am pleased to present the 2023 Presidents Report for the period 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to 24 May 2024

I would also like to thank our EAA Exco and Chapter Chairpersons for the dedication and contribution they have availed throughout the year.

2023 followed a steady growth for the EAA although there have been many proposal changes in the recreational aviation legislative environment in South Africa and a steady rise in recreational activities ties was evident.

The EAA in South Africa has maintained a solid footing within the recreational aviation environment in South Africa.

**Chapter 322** Johannesburg continued its year with an action packed event year.

Neil Bowden was re-elected in November 2023 and continues as chair until the AGM in November and was unanimously elected as chapter chairperson for the 2023 24 year. Best of luck to Neil and his team for the remainder of 2024.

The monthly meetings were changed in December to a Saturday morning fly in at the EAA Auditorium at Rand Airport that includes a topic speaker on aviation and safety related topics,

Chapter 322 members also provide most of the impetus in arranging the annual 2023 EAA Sun 'n Fun. The A team that consisted of the Brits Flying Club as well as 322's Marie Reddy Eugene Couzyn, Nigel Musgrave, Neil Bowden, Rob Jonkers, Mark Clulow and a host of support folk made the 2023 Sun n Fun a great success. The camaraderie and aviation fellowship that this event brings at the onset of summer is greatly appreciated by all members and visitors. Thanks again 322.

Mark Clulow continued his tenure as treasurer and is instrumental in putting together the EAA Financial position whereby expenditure and membership is managed in an audited and most professional manner keeping the EAA and its chapters in South Africa in a healthy financial position Thank you Mark.

The 2023 EAA Convention in Oshkosh USA, was one of the most successful conventions with more than 650 000 visitors for the week. The annual pilgrimage from South Africa included the First Mach Initiative Oshkosh Winner Capt. (Ret) Karl Jensen who on his return put together a fascinating account of the Convention for all our members to enjoy. Chapter 322 Chairman Neil Bowden also received a prestigious award. Four awards each were made for Chapter Websites and for Chapter newsletters, with a single Major Achievement Award that was presented to Neil Bowden for his contribution to the EAA Movement. Neil's tours have encouraged thousands of South Africans and others to attend Oshkosh since its inception and the MACH initiative mentioned earlier that captured the imagination of the judicators at EAA Headquarters. This Award was most certainly a richly deserved recognition for our Chapter 322 Chairman who is the brainchild behind this to encourage membership and participation of the EAA Activities here in South Africa.

Well done to all Chapter 322 members for fostering and continuing the efforts of this hosting fellow EAA USA members in South Africa and freely parting with their resources and time carrying the EAA banner high every time. 322 is a superbly successful world recognised chapter and grows from strength to strength. A number of kit aircraft took to the skies in 2023, as well.

## **Chapter 1502 Baynesfield KZN**

This Chapter recently located from Grass Roots to Baynesfield in KZN remains vibrant and plays a steady role in providing great aviation experiences in true grass roots style in the greater KZN area. Hangars are being built and the aviation bug is now firmly entrenched at Chapter 1502's home.

The initiative by Alan Lorimer to host a regular breakfast fly-in on the first Sunday of each month has met with good success.

The Minutes of each meeting are displayed on the notice board in the club house.

The Chapter has also built up a stock of equipment and useful tools for the use of members that was begun a few years ago and will continue in the future. Almost all of the Chapter assets are now housed at Baynesfield airfield. The 'asset register' is checked at each monthly committee meeting and their whereabouts noted.

The EAA in South Africa has its roots in this part of the world and it's great to still see the efforts of this chapter of EAA enthusiasts continuing to build grass root and vintage aircraft and foster the camaraderie that they are very well known for. Chapter 1502 has several builds and restorations underway which is great for the EAA in this area. This is a great achievement by the 1502 members.

It was with great sadness the passing past chairperson and long time EAA member Gerald Maddams at the end of August. Gerald spent many years restoring an Auster and it had just received its ATF. He had moved to the UK and visited SA in early August and attended the Chapter 322 meeting. Chapter 1502 hosted their monthly meeting in honour of Gerald on Sunday 4 September at Baynesfield Airfield a tribute to a great enthusiastic guy with monumental aviation passion.

#### **Advocacy and Regulations:**

The AP scheme has made steady progress through the representation from all the sections of which the EAA has two representatives namely Peter Lastrucci and Andy Lawrence who attended several meetings convened by the SA CAA. The Aero Club Rob Jonkers as Aero Club Chairman has tirelessly been involved pioneering advocacy matters along with EAA member Walter Doubell who has done tremendous work representing recreational aviation at all the required forums and interactions with the SA CAA

In terms of the Aviation regulations Part 149 Aviation Recreational Organisations (ARO) the EAA in South Africa had no findings for the 2023 interim audit and was renewed in February for the duration of the 2023 year.

The Exco team were required to include a host of requirements by the SA CAA in the form of an updated MOP as well as a minimum standard quality assurance manual that was presented to the SA CAA for perusal and was accepted A stellar effort by Marie Reddy assisted by Mark Clulow and myself ensured that we remain compliant for the ensuing year.

Initial discussions regarding Part 103 have been tabled with the regulator and Aero Club and will update once a definitive direction has been established.

The EAA is represented by myself on the AeroClub board for the year

Thanks go to Dr Robert Clark for his safety contributions throughout the year in the Contact Magazine and at meeting platforms where possible.

### **EAA of South Africa's National Convention 2023:**

Held at Middelburg for the second time we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation once again to the sponsors for their generous donations of prizes and other assistance, which went a long way towards making the convention a huge success. Special thanks to Richardt Lovett and the Aero Club team for making the convention a great success. .

A superbly well organised fun rally around the environs of the Middelburg area was provided by Rob Jonkers and his team. Rob and the Sapfa team contributed huge time and effort with the fun rally, enhancing pilot skill and camaraderie and safe flying amongst the pilots.

Certificates were awarded for the various categories of aircraft that were judged on the day. Special gratitude to the judges and the entrants alike that went to great lengths to ensure our standard of build in this country ranks with the best if not better than any experimental and amateur built aircraft in the world

A special thanks to our safety officer Nigel Musgrave who nails the safety requirements of the Convention and the various Fly Inns held throughout the year. Nigel is pivotal in ensuring our safety and is hugely appreciated.

### **The EAA Auditorium and Talk Show Legends:**

The Auditorium has been revamped where there was considerable flood damage. Many Thanks to the volunteer team that coordinated and did the work to get it sorted.

### **Aero Club Awards 2023:**

Numerous EAA members received recognition from the Aero Club of South Africa in 2023.

The James Gilliland Trophy for the Most Meritorious Feat over the Past Year had two recipients this year. EAA members Mike Blythe and James Pitman for the Slings to Oshkosh adventure.

Don Tilley Trophy for significant contribution to safety was awarded to Nigel Musgrave our EAA National Safety Officer, Nigel always ensures that all Flight Safety paperwork required by the CAA in preparation for events is timeously submitted and has shown no fear or favour when there are deviances from approved practices.

PGS Trophy for outstanding manufacture or design in South African Recreational Aviation went to EAA member Kevin Hopper for his recent flying prototype Orion Aircraft that took to the sky for the first time.

Special Recognition to EAA Chapter 322 Chairperson Neil Bowden for his efforts around arranging the annual pilgrimage to the EAA USA Convention.

Silver Wings: EAA Chapter 322 member John Illsley for putting together the Aero Clubs Centenary book.

Gold Wings: was awarded to Walter Doubell and Paul Lastrucci for 10 years' service to the Aero Club.

### **Young Eagles:**

Chapter 322 is actively involved in promoting the youth, through the leadership of newly appointed EAA Co coordinator Warren Lovell a very successful EAA Young Eagles Day was arranged at Brakpan Airfield which was a great success in providing a flight for the youngsters to foster an interest in aviation going forward. This is set to continue throughout 2023.

### **EAA Contact:**

The EAA newsletter Contact continues to cover the events that take place literally every week end. Huge thanks to the firm hand of Neil Bowden and his team as well as all the contributors. Contact which is read internationally is a valuable communication tool that keeps the EAA in South Africa as one of the most successful recreational aviation organisations vibrant and interesting and up to date on point. Flipping through the pages encourages one to become involved, It can be viewed on the EAA Website and is also aired on Pilots Post with worldwide coverage.

### **Conclusion:**

As we review the results of a year, where the EAA has recovered quite well from the fierce lockdowns of the previous years and are back on track to where the EAA continues to provide a platform where aviation enthusiasts can continue to contribute and also reap the benefits of teamwork, camaraderie and sharing of experiences and expertise. Many thanks to the Aero Club and SACAA, the various flying clubs that host the EAA events for their input and assistance over the year and our to all our EAA members that continually avail themselves and their resources to all kinds of aviation initiatives as a worthy effort of giving back and promoting aviation to all in SA.

The sterling efforts of media guys namely African Pilot Athol Franz and team, Pilots Post's Willie Bodenstein as well as Flightline Weekly Garth Calitz for the up to date coverage and hordes of pictures and real time videos of all the events throughout the year is simply spectacular.

Also reciprocal thanks to the aviation suppliers that support the EAA in South Africa as well as the EAA chapters in the USA that also contribute to the overall success of the EAA in South Africa.

It was a busy year for the EAA made possible by many of its members, through a cross section of youthful flyers right through to guys that have soloed 60 years ago and are still flying. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone within EAA National and all the Chapters for their continued involvement as without it we would not be able to achieve and promote many facets of Experimental and Amateur built aviation in South Africa.

EAA National President Paul Lastrucci