



**South African Council Experimental Aircraft Association National  
Presidents Report 2025**

| <b>EAA of SA National Committee 2024 /25</b> |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| NATIONAL PRESIDENT:                          | Paul Lastrucci                |
| NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT:                     | Sean Cronin                   |
| HON TREASURER:                               | Mark Clulow                   |
| HON SECRETARY:                               | Ronell Myburgh                |
| AUDITORIUM CONVENOR:                         | Dean Nicolau                  |
| NATIONAL MEDIA/PRO:                          | Karl Jensen                   |
| NATIONAL A/P REPRESENTATIVES:                | Peter Lastrucci Andy Lawrence |
| EAA WEBMASTER:                               | Laura McDermid                |
| NEWSLETTER COMPILER                          | Neil Bowden                   |
| NATIONAL SAFETY OFFICER:                     | Nigel Musgrave                |
| NATIONAL YOUNG EAGLES<br>CONVENER:           | Warren Lovell                 |

On Behalf of the EAA Exco and all chapter members I am pleased to present the 2024 25 National Presidents Report for the period 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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

2024 Year has been a significant a stable year within the EAA in South Africa when compared to the previous period

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

Neil Bowden continued as chair until the AGM in November and was again unanimously elected as chapter chairperson for the 2024 25 year. Best of luck to Neil and his team for 2025. Great to see a vibrant new committee elected at the 322 AGM.

The EAA and its members enjoyed many fly away breakfasts flying clubs for members to fly and socialise on the weekends.

Chapter 322 along with the EAA Young Aviators held the Young Eagles day earlier in June at ExecuJet Lanseria airport. ExecuJet hosted a spectacular day at their facility where many young folk took to the skies for the first time. At the Lowveld Air show Marie Reddy was instrumental in the success of a Young Eagles flight organised in conjunction with SAMAA.

The 2024 EAA Convention in Oshkosh USA, was one of the most successful conventions ever it topped out at 677 000 visitors from all over the world for the week. Those that took the trip thoroughly enjoyed the convention. The South Africans is one of the largest contingents of the Airventure Airweek urged on by Neil Bowden and his team make this a highlight on the South African calendar for our EAA members that make the trip. .

Well done to all Chapter 322 members for 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. Chapter 322 is a superbly successful world recognised chapter and grows from strength to strength. The monthly meetings held at the auditorium are very well represented and include interesting talks on aviation and safety by the members. A highlight was the safety seminar week end held at Airspan regarding formation flying presented by SAAF Col (Ret) Jeff Earle to heighten the dangers and bring a perspective to ensure that if anyone wants to do formation flying they need to get the required representation and training from a recognised environment.

## **Chapter 1502 Baynesfield KZN**

This Chapter at 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.

In May this year 7 aircraft flew to Baynes field for the week end and to attend Chapter 1502's monthly meeting. With the current re structure of the EAA National to comply with EAA USA Chapter guidelines and requirements

The EAA in South Africa has its roots in this part of the world and it's great to still see the efforts of Jason van Schalkwyk Alan Lorimer, Chris Hicks, Jan Jefferies to name a few and many of the 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. The members that flew in also detoured past Jan Jefferies beautiful home in Balgowan to view his spectacular Steen Skybolt build he is busy with.

## **Advocacy and Regulations:**

In terms of the Aviation regulations Part 149 Aviation Recreational Organisations (ARO) the EAA in South Africa had no findings for the 2024/25 year in Feb 2025 when it was renewed without any non-conformances. . The Exco team were required to include an annually updated MOP as well as a minimum standard quality assurance manual, that is presented to the SA CAA for perusal and was accepted, A stellar effort by Marie Reddy assisted by Mark Clulow, Sean Cronin and myself ensured that EAA Chapters remain compliant for the ensuing year. Many thanks to the SA CAA team that assist with the audits and provide guidance where necessary.

The AP scheme that had 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. This has picked up momentum again with numerous meetings this year to this is on track.

The Aero Club through past EAA vice president and member Walter Doubell presides over the advocacy matters and provides updates to all sections of the Aero Club representing recreational aviation at all the required forums and interactions with the SA CAA. The latest project is the SA CAA is in the process of considering devolution of powers initiative that has been on the cards for some time whereby certain ARO's provide oversight within the Part 149 environment.

## **EAA of South Africa's National Convention 2025**

Held at Middelburg in March in conjunction with the Aero Club Air week once again This year an air show was organised for the first time by the Aero Club of SA which was well represented, the EAA 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 Chapter 322 Neil Bowden and Laura Mc Dermid who were key to organising sponsorship, interesting forums and event planning success. Richardt Lovett and the Middelburg Aero Club team are paramount to the success of this event and pull out all the stops to make it one of the pinnacle events on our calendar.

A superbly well organised fun rally around the environs of the Middelburg area was provided by the SAPFA team. A highlight was the Stol Landing skills that were honed and enjoyed by pilots and spectators alike. Many thanks for the efforts of the members that entered their aircraft for the judging there were some really excellent examples on display.

Great appreciation goes to Nigel Musgrave national safety offices and his team for keeping the skies safe during the withdrawal of the ATC help at our events for the efforts and contributions made to finding the alternative method of compliance until this is resolved.

Chapter 322 members also provided most of the impetus in arranging the annual 2024 and EAA Sun 'n Fun that was held at Airspan in October. A successful safe event in conjunction with the Airspan team hosted a great week end of Flying and camaraderie amongst members and friends

#### **EAA Contact:**

The EAA newsletter Contact provides an insight worldwide and huge thanks to the firm hand of Neil Bowden and his team and our members that contribute to the newsletter. 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. Many thanks to all contributors that keep the publication alive.

#### **Conclusion:**

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 and safety. The EAA Young Aviators is the latest initiative that will ensure we are leading on the introduction of the youth into aviation.

Many thanks to the Aero Club SA Rob Jonkers and SACAA, and the various flying clubs that host EAA event, fly in breakfasts and safety seminars and for their input and assistance over the year. Huge thanks 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, Pilots Post's Willie Bodenstein as well as Flightline Weekly, Garth Calitz and all the aviation photographers for the up to date coverage and hordes of pictures and real time videos of all the events throughout the year as always, is simply spectacular.

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 been flying for over sixty years who still provide guidance and assistance as mentors. 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 the many facets of Experimental and Amateur built aviation in South Africa.

Most of all many thanks to each and every member for your participation and involvement in all we do.

EAA National president Paul Lastrucci