



SAMAA LEKKER NEWS

The South African Model Aircraft Association. CAA ARO #10
Shop2, Parkdene Shopping Centre, 30 Lancaster Road, Parkdene, Boksburg, 1459
Telephone 010-824-8343 e-mail admin@samaa.org.za www.samaa.org.za and www.samaa.co.za:89

#81

Your Monthly Dose of Model Aviation News, the Lekker Way! – 23 March 2026

Meet your 2026-2027 Management Committee!

The SAMAA is proud to announce the new **SAMAA Management Committee (SMC)** members for the 2026–2027 term. In **August 2025**, nominations opened for the SMC elections, and we received **two nominations** from members eager to serve: **Malan Moolman, and Dirk Meyer.**

Following the process, the new committee was inaugurated on **19 March 2026**:

- **Malan Moolman** – Chairperson
- **Dirk Meyer** – Vice-Chairperson
- **Linda Dold** – Secretary
- **Rui Martins** – Special Interest Groups Chair (SIGs)
- **Juanita Smith** – SAMAA Treasurer
- **Bob Skinner** – Independent Contractor

We extend our sincere appreciation to **Alec Groenewald** for his six years of dedicated service as a committee member. Your commitment, contribution, and active involvement have played a significant role within SAMAA and have been truly invaluable. We thank you for your efforts and wish you every success in your future endeavours.

Our sincere thanks go to **Charl Jooste Jnr** as he steps down from his role as Chair of the Special Interest Groups. Charl, we are grateful for the time and effort you have given. We wish you all the very best going forward.

The new SMC is committed to fostering the growth, safety, and enjoyment of recreational model aviation across South Africa and looks forward to an exciting year ahead with all our members.

Fly safe, have fun, and keep it lekker!

Aerial Concepts proud sponsor of the 2026 Aerial Concepts SAMAA Combined Power Nationals



Aerial Concepts - Flown With Passion



Aviation Recreation Organisation no. 010 of the SA Civil Aviation Authority
Associate member of the Aero Club of South Africa. Affiliated to the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale.
The SAMAA is a public-benefit organisation, PBO Reg. No. 930030082.
2025 Committee: Alec Groenewald, Dirk Meyer, Charl Jooste Jnr, Linda Dold, Juanita Smith, Bob Skinner, Malan Moolman



NOTICE TO ALL South African Model Aircraft Association MEMBERS

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure that we share a message from your newly appointed Chairman,
Malan Moolman:

Dear Members of the South African Model Aircraft Association,



I am honoured to greet each of you as your newly appointed Chairman. My journey in the RC fraternity began 40 years ago, and it has grown steadily, leading me to this moment where I have the privilege of serving you.

I would like to take a moment to express deep gratitude to the previous leadership for their excellent contributions, which have built a strong foundation for us all.

I also want to start by emphasising that your membership and importance in SAMAA is not based on the size or speed of your model. Your value in SAMAA is and always will be rooted in the passion you share with us for the hobby and your involvement in our shared goals within SAMAA meaning, it will always be your passion that truly counts.

Looking ahead, our guiding theme for the year is excellence—excellence in flying, safety, building, teaching, and growing this community we all love. I believe that when we aim for excellence in each of these areas, we elevate not only our skills but also our shared experiences.

In the spirit of excellence, I aim to strengthen our events, foster meaningful partnerships, and ensure to the best of my ability every member feels engaged—reflecting the best of what we can achieve. I invite each of you to join “Project Excellence”—a journey of personal, club, and community excellence. Together, we will grow and set new benchmarks.

I am committed to serving with the SMC in dedication and I am excited for what lies ahead. My door is always open, and I look forward to striving for excellence with all of you.

Yours sincerely,

Malan Moolman

Chairman, South African Model Aircraft Association

Let us all support this vision and continue building a strong, passionate, and united SAMAA community.

SAMAA – Where Passion Meets Excellence 

We wish you were here

25 JANUARY
WARF

TYPICAL SUMMERS DAY

After what seemed like quite some time since we had all been together for a competition, seven pilots entered League 1 for the season opener.

Jacques had once again prepared the venue, which was looking brown and dry, as is normal for this time of year. The forecast predicted hot and dry conditions, with the wind expected to pick up later in the morning – and that’s exactly what happened. In fact, the wind became strong enough that many pilots chose not to fly the third and fourth rounds.

As this was the first league of the year, and both the Advanced and Masters classes have new schedules, some pilots decided it was wiser to save their aircraft for the rest of the season.

With new schedules introduced for this and next year in both Advanced and Masters, it showed in the scores which were lower than we have become accustomed to, and it was clear that more practice will be needed to get back to previous performance levels.

Keeping Martin company in the judges’ box were pilots Stuart and André, who also competed in their designated classes.

Class winners Jacques (Advanced) and Ernie (Masters) were only slightly ahead on points, showing that this season is shaping up to be a very close battle for “Top Gun” honours.

At this point, I must add that we are missing two regulars, Pieter and Charlie, who are both recovering from back issues. We all miss you and wish you a speedy recovery.





| | round 1 | round 2 | round 3 | round 4 | FINAL |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| | % | % | % | % | % / Norm |
| ADVANCED | | | | | |
| Jacques | 56.90 | 59.50 | 58.00 | 0 | 58.20 |
| Jonathan | 46.60 | 49.30 | 52.00 | 0 | 50.60 |
| André | 36.40 | 35.60 | 33.40 | 0 | 36.00 |
| MASTERS | | | | | |
| Ernie | 65.80 | 56.60 | 60.50 | 0 | 63.20 |
| Rodney | 58.40 | 64.10 | 54.20 | 0 | 59.10 |
| Stuart | 57.30 | 52.80 | 0 | 0 | 55.10 |
| Rory | 59.90 | 40.10 | 0 | 0 | 45.00 |



WESTERN PROVINCE AEROBATICS - 2026 LEAGUE 2

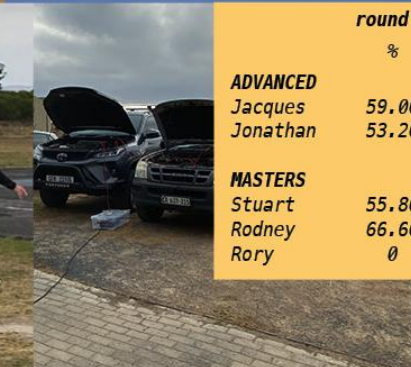
When Eight Became Four

22 FEBRUARY
TMFC

*TRICKY DARK
AND OVERCAST
CONDITIONS DIDN'T
SPOIL THE FUN*



6



After what was expected to be a strong field of eight entries, only four pilots managed to compete.

Due to other commitments, Kobus and Ernie were unable to attend, and André decided to judge rather than fly. Rory and Eugene were present, but unfortunately Rory experienced battery connection issues on take-off during his first flight and had to abort the rest of the event. Eugene once again encountered engine problems during practice prior to the competition – perhaps it's time to go electric!

That left us with two Advanced and two Masters pilots – and three judges.

In the Advanced class, Jacques narrowly edged out Jonathan to take the win. It was a very close contest, with each pilot winning two of the four rounds. This is exactly how competition should be: close battles in the air, and friends on the ground.

In the Masters class, Rodney flew his "Epilogue" in competition for the first time. It showed great promise for high scores and future class wins, earning an impressive high 50% in its debut event. Stuart took the class win with his trusted "Epic," posting strong scores throughout, despite low battery power forcing him to abort his final round.

Despite the overcast and challenging conditions, we enjoyed a great competition, some excellent flying, solid scores, and good company.

A big thank you to Martin, Kas, and André for judging, and to Rory for scorekeeping.

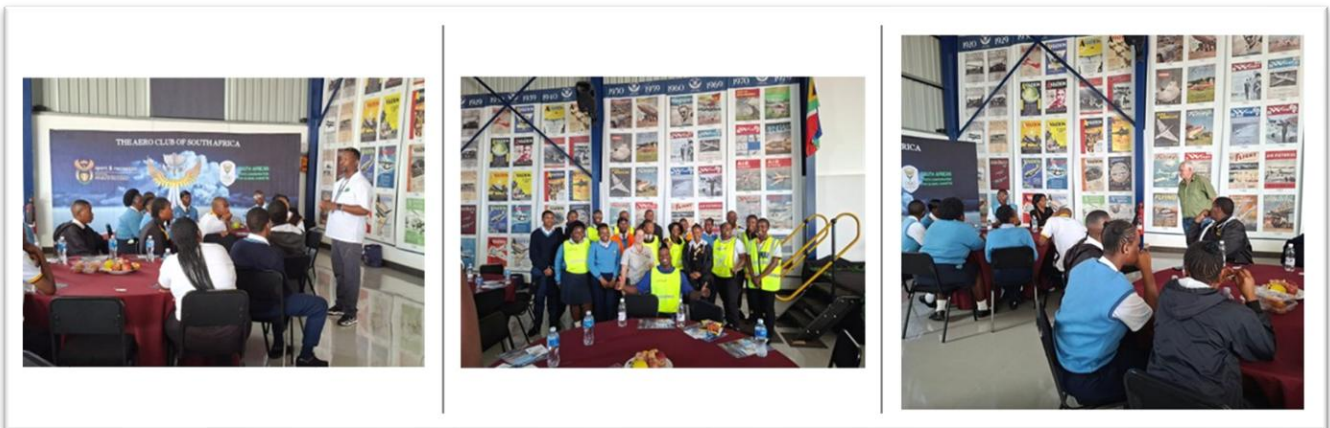
Looking forward to the next one in March.

| | round 1 | round 2 | round 3 | round 4 | FINAL |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
| | % | % | % | % | % / Norm |
| ADVANCED | | | | | |
| Jacques | 59.00 | 58.70 | 60.20 | 62.00 | 60.40 / 2997 |
| Jonathan | 53.20 | 64.10 | 60.30 | 60.40 | 61.60 / 2973 |
| MASTERS | | | | | |
| Stuart | 55.80 | 60.90 | 57.80 | 57.90 | 58.90 / 3000 |
| Rodney | 66.60 | 62.50 | 58.00 | 55.00 | 62.40 / 2971 |
| Rory | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Young Students Experience the Magic of Aviation at Aero Club Airweek 2026



Fifteen enthusiastic students from two local schools were given the opportunity to experience the exciting world of aviation during the 2026 Aero Club Airweek, hosted at the Middelburg Airfield.



The students, from **Sozama Secondary School** and **Sofunda Secondary School**, attended the event as part of the **Young Eagles initiative supported by SAMAA, EAA and the Aero Club of South Africa**, aimed at inspiring youth and exposing them to opportunities within aviation.

For many of the learners, this was their first time visiting an active airfield and seeing aircraft up close. The students spent the day interacting with aviation enthusiasts, learning about different aspects of flying, and experiencing the vibrant atmosphere of the Airweek event.

The visit formed part of a broader effort to introduce young people from diverse communities to aviation and aeromodelling, opening their eyes to possible future careers in aviation, engineering, and technology.

Throughout the day, the learners were able to observe aircraft operations, speak with pilots and volunteers, and gain a deeper appreciation of the aviation community that supports initiatives



such as **Young Eagles**. The excitement and curiosity displayed by the students highlighted the importance of outreach programs that nurture the next generation of aviation enthusiasts.

According to organisers and volunteers present on the day, the students **enjoyed the experience tremendously**, showing great interest and enthusiasm while exploring the airfield environment.

SAMAA remains committed to supporting youth development and aviation education through partnerships with initiatives like Young Eagles and events such as the Aero Club Airweek.



Exposure to aviation at a young age can spark dreams that last a lifetime, and for these fifteen learners, the day at Middelburg Airfield may well have been the beginning of an exciting journey into the world of flight. ✈️

2026 SAMAA INTERPROVINCIAL COMBINED FLY-IN!

Saturday 21 February 2026

On **21 February 2026**, the **South African Model Aircraft Association (SAMAA)** proudly hosted the **2nd SAMAA Interprovincial Combined Fly-in**, and what an incredible day it turned out to be! This year's event was **bigger, better, and even more awesome**, with the fly-in taking place simultaneously at **four clubs across four provinces**, bringing aeromodelling enthusiasts together from around the country.

The events were hosted as follows:

- ✈️ **Fly North** – hosted by **Wolwefontein Flyers** in Mpumalanga
- ✈️ **Fly South** – hosted by **Riversdale Radio Flyers (RRF)** in the Western Cape
- ✈️ **Fly East** – hosted by **Durban Model Aircraft Club (DMAC)** in KwaZulu-Natal
- ✈️ **Fly Central** – hosted by **Central Radio Flyers (CRF)** in the Free State

Pilots and spectators enjoyed a fantastic day of flying, fellowship, and the true spirit of aeromodelling. Events like these continue to strengthen the bonds between clubs across the provinces and showcase the passion that exists within the SAMAA community.

Richard Fleming – Durban Model Aircraft Club



Stoffel Giliomee – Riversdale Radio Flyers



Roelof Schutte – Central Radio Flyers




Wayne Urquhart – Wolwefontein Flyers



A **huge shout-out** and heartfelt thank you to the **club chairpersons, club members, and everyone who participated and supported the event.** Your enthusiasm, camaraderie, and dedication made the day a great success.

We look forward to seeing **even more pilots and clubs joining the fun at the next SAMAA Interprovincial Combined Fly-in!** ✈️



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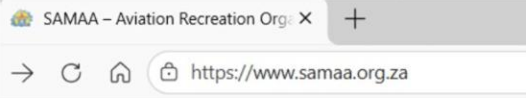


Invitation to Advertise Your Business on the SAMAA Website

We are pleased to invite you to advertise your business on the South African Model Aircraft Association (SAMAA) website. With a dedicated aeromodelling audience, this is a fantastic opportunity to connect with enthusiasts across the country.

We offer a **business card-style advertisement** with the following options:

R400 for a 6-month listing **R600** for a 12-month listing



Safe Flying!

The SAMAA Management Committee.

Until Next Time...

"Every flight begins with a dream,
and every landing is a testament
to your determination."