



SAMAA LEKKER NEWS

The South African Model Aircraft Association. CAA ARO #10

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Your Monthly Dose of Model Aviation News, the Lekker Way!



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A Hobby That Continues to Inspire

There is something magical about watching an aircraft that you built, restored or carefully assembled lift gracefully into the sky. That first take-off never gets old. Whether it's a scale warbird, an aerobatic machine, a glider, helicopter, drone, EDF jet or vintage trainer, every flight reminds us why model aviation remains one of the world's most rewarding hobbies.

Today, model aviation is more than simply flying. It combines engineering,

craftsmanship, technology, creativity and lifelong friendships. At every SAMAA club across South Africa, members of all ages gather to share knowledge, help newcomers and enjoy a day outdoors doing what they love.

Technology Meets Tradition

Modern radio systems, electric power, GPS technology, flight stabilisation and computer simulators have made the hobby safer and more accessible than ever before. At the same time, many enthusiasts still enjoy traditional glow and petrol engines, balsa building and classic scale aircraft.

There is room for everyone - Whether you enjoy designing aircraft on a computer, 3D printing components, building from plans, flying competition aerobatics or simply relaxing with a Sunday morning flight, model aviation offers endless opportunities.

The Real Value of the Hobby

While flying is exciting, the greatest reward is often found on the ground.

Model aviation teaches:

- Patience
- Problem-solving
- Mechanical skills
- Electronics
- Safety awareness
- Discipline
- Teamwork

Young pilots develop confidence and practical skills, while experienced members pass on decades of knowledge to the next generation.

Every Flight Begins with Safety

Safety has always been the cornerstone of aeromodelling. Conducting a simple pre-flight inspection, checking your aircraft, verifying radio operation, confirming your fail-safe settings and flying within your proficiency level ensures that every flying day ends with smiles rather than repairs. A few extra minutes on the ground can save many hours in the workshop.

A Community Like No Other

One of the greatest strengths of SAMAA is its people. Visit almost any club and you'll find members eager to assist with engine tuning, radio programming, maiden flights, building advice or simply sharing a cup of coffee while talking aeroplanes. Many lifelong friendships have started beside a flightline.

The Future is Bright

South African model aviation continues to grow through club fly-ins, competitions, educational displays, youth development, public airshows and community outreach projects. Every new member who joins strengthens our community and helps preserve this incredible hobby for future generations.

So, dust off that unfinished project, invite a friend to the flying field, mentor a newcomer, or finally complete that aircraft sitting in the workshop.

The sky has plenty of room for everyone.

Tip of the Month

"Fly with confidence, build with passion, learn something new every visit to the field, and always leave the club with more friends than you arrived with."

See you at the flightline!

The Mysterious Migration of Model Aviation Pilots



Scientists have been studying it for years. Family members have witnessed it. Neighbours have reported strange sightings. Yet nobody truly understands the mysterious migration patterns of the model aviation pilot.

It usually starts on a Saturday morning. At 05h30, while normal people are still asleep, a model aviation pilot is already awake, staring at weather apps, checking wind direction, cloud cover, humidity, and somehow convincing himself that a 25 km/h crosswind is **"perfect flying weather."**

By 06h00, the vehicle is packed with enough equipment to survive a small apocalypse:

- Three aircraft
- Five batteries
- Seven propellers
- A toolbox weighing more than the aircraft
- A camping chair
- Two litres of coffee
- And a collection of mysterious screws that "might be needed one day."

Upon arrival at the flying field, the pilot proudly announces, **"Today I'm only flying one battery pack and then going home early."**

Veteran club members immediately recognize this as one of aviation's greatest myths.

The first flight is usually perfect. The second flight is even better. The third flight ends with someone asking, **"Can I just have one more flight?"** Four hours later, the same pilot is still saying, **"Just one more."**

Of course, every club has its characters.

There is the **Scale Pilot**, who spends 18 months building a masterpiece and then nervously taxis it around for six minutes before packing it away.

There is the **Aerobatic Pilot**, who believes every flight should contain at least three knife-edge passes and one manoeuvre that nobody can pronounce.

There is the **Helicopter Pilot**, who somehow makes a machine with thousands of moving parts perform impossible feats while the fixed-wing pilots stand nearby pretending they could do the same thing.

And then there is the **New Pilot**, whose aircraft has more stickers than covering film and whose biggest concern is whether the wings are attached the right way around.

The most fascinating species, however, is the **Workshop Pilot**. - This rare creature can spend an entire weekend building, repairing, modifying, adjusting, balancing, programming, charging, cleaning, polishing, and upgrading an aircraft... only to arrive at the field and forget the transmitter.

Aeromodelling has also created its own unique language:

"Minor repair" means at least two evenings in the

workshop.

"Quick flight" means the entire day.

"Almost finished" means another three months, and

"I don't need another aeroplane" usually means a delivery is arriving next week.

Despite all the jokes, there is something special about our hobby.

Few things compare to the sight of a perfectly executed landing, a successful maiden flight, a youngster flying solo for the first time, or a group of friends sharing stories around the pits while helping each other solve problems that only model pilots understand.

Whether you fly trainers, jets, helicopters, gliders, warbirds, scale models, or foamies held together by hope and epoxy, we all share the same passion.

So, here's to early mornings, full batteries, smooth landings, good friends, and that magical phrase heard at every club around the country: **"Who brought the coffee?"**

Safe flying and may all your landings be smoother than your excuses for buying another model aircraft!

You Do The Math!!!

	-		+		+		28
-		×		-		-	
	÷		+		+	12	17
-		-		-		×	
7	×		-		-	11	-19
+		-		+		+	
5	+		-		-	6	-9
8		9		8			-113

Fill in the missing numbers

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 16.

Each number is only used once.

Each row is a math equation.

Each column is a math equation.

Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.



RMAC *Scale Day*

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026

If you own a scale aircraft, please join us for a fun fly at RMAC on Sunday 11 October 2026.

The pilots briefing will be at 9:00am and catering will be provided for breakfast and lunch.

If you have any queries, please contact Anthony Brown 084 555 5777

or email the RMAC secretary at secretary@rmac.co.za.

RMAC is located on the corner of Swartkoppies and Klipriver Drive, Alberton. Across from the Mall of the South Shopping Centre.

NEW ARRIVALS!



X11.1V2200-60
(ManiaX Batteries)
R458



X22.2V5000-60
(ManiaX Batteries)
R1 699



XN7.4V800
(ManiaX Batteries)
R178



SCAN HERE FOR
MANIA X
BATTERIES



SHS385 (Seagull & VQ)
R15 880



SHS398 (Seagull & VQ)
R9 980



SHS27 (Seagull & VQ)
R2 930



SCAN HERE FOR
SEAGULL KITS



RM16S (Radio Master)
R6 890



SRCC170DG (RC Era)
R2 550



SRCC190R (RC Era)
R3 730



SCAN HERE FOR
RADIO MASTER



SYF09H (Yuxiang)
R8 550



SYF11S (Yuxiang)
R9 450



SYF09S (Yuxiang)
R7 995



SCAN HERE FOR
YUXIANG



SCAN HERE FOR
RC ERA

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE !

SOME OF OUR SUPPLIERS



Why Staying Connected to SAMAA Matters — Even When Times Are Tough

If paying your **SAMAA membership fee** is a little difficult at the moment, please don't let that stand in the way of remaining part of the SAMAA family. Membership is far more than an annual payment — it's your link to a national community that protects, supports, and grows model aviation across South Africa.

Financial pressure happens to all of us, and SAMAA understands that. That's why **flexible payment options** are available for any member who needs a bit of breathing room.

Whether you require a split payment, or simply want to discuss what's possible, the SAMAA Office is ready to help.

Staying part of SAMAA keeps you connected to:

- **National representation** — ensuring model aviation remains recognised and protected.
- **Insurance cover** — third-party and member-to-member protection when flying under SAMAA guidelines.
- **Approved flying sites** — safe, regulated places to enjoy the hobby.
- **Events and competitions** — fly-ins, special interest groups, and national gatherings.
- **Skills development** — proficiency ratings and guidance for pilots at every level.

Most importantly, your membership strengthens the entire model aviation community. Every active member helps SAMAA maintain a strong voice with regulators, clubs, and national bodies — ensuring the skies remain open for future generations of flyers.

If you're facing a tight month or an unexpected expense, reach out to the SAMAA Office. We'd love to keep you flying with us, and we're here to make sure you stay part of the community you help build.



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Advertise in the SAMAA Lekker News!

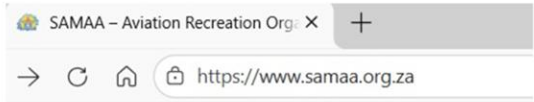
Boost your brand visibility within the model aviation community!

Whether you're a SAMAA member, business owner, or know someone eager to support our initiatives, this is the perfect opportunity.

Advert pricing per edition.
Adverts must be in JPEG format and sent to admin@samaa.org.za

A4 Advert: R200 A5 Advert: R100





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
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The Workbench – “The Story”

All of these lines across my face ,Tell you the story of who I am.
 So many stories of where I've been, And how I got to where I am
 But these stories don't mean anything, When you've got no one to tell them to
 It's true, I was made for you — Brandi Carlile

FLAK BAIT

One of my favourite YouTube haunts is Adam Savage’s channel. In a recent video, he wandered into the restoration hangar of the Martin B-26 Marauder — “Flak Bait.” Now this old girl isn’t just any bomber; she holds the record for surviving more missions than any other U.S. Army Air Forces aircraft in World War II. That’s not just history, that’s grit.

What blows me away is how the restoration team isn’t trying to make her look showroom-fresh. Nope — they’re letting the scars show. The dents, the patches, the flak holes. Each one whispers, “I’ve been there, I’ve seen things.”



Photos **Air & Space Magazine** - 207 Flights, Hundreds of Holes - The conservation of a record-setting B-26 bomber will preserve every battle scar.

Let's be honest: something brand-new and pristine, with no scratches or blemishes, has no soul. Over time, every ding and scrape builds a story. It's like wrinkles on a face — proof of a life lived.

Now, I might be stepping on toes here, so forgive me if I ruffle feathers. This is just my two cents, and I'm no guru. Feel free to smack me across the knuckles if you think I'm talking nonsense.

There are plenty of gorgeous scale aircraft out there, but sometimes they miss the spark. They're modelled after battle-tested ladies, yet they look like they've just rolled off the factory floor. No scars, no grit, no story behind those markings.

Why Weathering Matters

Weathering isn't just about making a model look "dirty." It's about giving it life.

Key Reasons We Weather Models:

- **Adds realism:** Without weathering, a model can look more like a toy than a warbird. A bit of exhaust stain or chipped paint tricks the eye into believing it's the real deal.
- **Enhances depth:** A wash in the panel lines makes details pop. Without it, everything blends together like a flat comic strip.
- **Tells a story:** Oil streaks, faded paint, gun smoke stains — they all shout, "This bird has seen action."

Think of it this way: a spotless Spitfire looks like it's waiting for a museum ribbon-cutting. A weathered one looks like it's just limped back from a dogfight. Which one makes your heart race?

Photo on REDIT



The Storytellers Among Us

Every airfield has that one senior modeller — the guy with hands stained from paint and glue, and a face lined with stories. He's built more planes than you've had hot dinners, and probably crashed a few too.

Chatting with him is like dipping into a river of knowledge. And just like a river, it's never the same twice. One day he's telling you how to fix a warped wing, the next he's reminiscing about the first time he saw a Harvard roar overhead.

These folks are treasures. Their knowhow, their stories, their passion — it all needs to be preserved. Because just like the aircraft we model, their scars and experiences are what give them soul.

Thank you for reading. Let us keep the spirit of building alive. If you or someone you know is working on an interesting project, please reach out. Together, we can keep telling these stories.

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MG HOBBYS





www.mghobbys.co.za

Project Excellence – Building a Stronger Future for SAMAA

Project Excellence continues to strengthen SAMAA through improved systems, better processes and a renewed focus on member service.

The project aims to create a more efficient, professional and sustainable organisation for the future. By working together, SAMAA members, and clubs can help drive positive and lasting improvements.

Every improvement, big or small, contributes to a stronger foundation for our sport.

Project Excellence is about working smarter today to build a better SAMAA for tomorrow.



It is time again for us to look at how you as a SAMA A member can be excellent. In this month's edition of the Lekker News, we are having a look at **Scale** building and flying, and we hope this will whet your appetite to try your hand at Scale, to achieve **Excellence**!

Scale can be very exciting, but it is not for everyone. A few years ago, it was still a requirement to present your model with a folder of documentation to a panel of judges, to assess the qualities of the model that you have entered for a competition; subjects like outline accuracy, colour and markings, craftsmanship, surface texture, originality, and detail. Today, we have **NASA Sport Scale** as one of the classes, where there are minimum requirements to have your model statically judged for the qualities as mentioned before. The accent of Sport Scale is **FLYING**. You may enter any model of your choice in a competition, and it must be accompanied with a simple folder of A4 size, with a clear photo of the prototype and a published 3-view drawing. This allows a choice of an extremely wide range of aircraft, from the beginnings of flight, with civil and military types, types flown in both World Wars, to contemporary civil, military, and commercial types. The documentation folder must be presented to the panel of judges before your first flight. You are not even required to be the builder of the model, and an Almost-Ready-to-Fly (ARF) model that is commercially available, may be entered and flown in NASA Sport Scale, but will not score as highly as a model that has had work done on the model to improve its quality.

The flying of your favourite Sport Scale model starts with a take-off (or a taxi, if you wish). The object is to fly your model for ten manoeuvres as scale-like as possible, smooth, stable, at a speed that is realistic. Flying a small size Fokker DVII World War 1 replica at 100km/h, is not realistic. Conversely, if you are going to attempt to fly a quarter scale MiG 21 at 40km/h, it will most certainly stall and fall back to earth. Choose a subject that falls within your skill set; if you are a skilled flier with plenty of experience, you have a wide choice of subjects. Maybe you are simply a Solo-rated pilot who enjoys flying, and you would like to try Sport Scale, maybe a model with large wing area, and a low wing loading is more appropriate for you. Maybe a high-wing or shoulder wing model, or a stable-flying bi-plane that is simple and not too complicated.

But learn to fly your model with confidence. There are a few compulsory manoeuvres, and five manoeuvres that you may choose from a list of at least 20 manoeuvres. The judges will assess the quality of your flying, and independently assign a score for each manoeuvre, based on the presentation, accuracy, smoothness, size, and placement of the manoeuvres.

As you become more skilled, you may gravitate towards the **NASA Stand-off-Scale** class, where the model is carefully researched, well documented, expertly built, and flown with a higher degree of precision. Choose a subject that is maybe accessible to you, for simulating the finest of details that you may wish to replicate.

This process takes time and may be very rewarding for a pilot who is interested in building his own scale model aircraft.

This article is not intended to be detailed, but merely to create an awareness of a discipline of model aviation that could potentially be exciting. If this branch of our hobby appeals to you, contact the officers of NASA (National Association of Scale Aeromodellers: **Koos Pretorius** (jadriaan9b@gmail.com) or **Jasper van Eden** (willebrak@gmail.com). Or, as a teaser, view the **NASA Rulebook** at https://www.sanasa.co.za/images/2026_NASA_Scale_Rules_V3.pdf

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MORE INFO TO FOLLOW



LSA SA – LARGE SCALE AEROBATICS SOUTH AFRICA



Safe Flying!

Until Next Time...

“Take-offs are optional... but learning from every landing is essential.”