



APRIL 2017 EDITION

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Pub Talk

Buying a Stolen Aircraft

It was 1983 and I was nine. It was my first trip in a light aircraft. We flew from Louis Trichardt to Pietermaritzburg, Philip, my Dad, my Mom and myself, to fetch Phillips two daughters who were at school in Pietermaritzburg. The girls were both older than me.



Me and Phillips V-tailed Bonnie at Louis Trichardt Airfield, 1983. ↗

The trip to Pmb was my first in a light aircraft. It was bumpy, and was more an endurance test than a joyride as I struggled to contain my nausea. My mom, sitting behind the pilot seat, did not quite succeed, it seems having been an Air Hostess doesn't quite prepare one for the back seat of a long trip in a V-tailed Bonanza on a bumpy day with a freshly trained pilot.

Phillip had come down from Zambia, in order to do his PPL and Night Rating at Louis Trichardt Airport, and buy an aircraft to fly back home in. He did this all in under six weeks. Yep, there was a time when was the norm, and a PPL was more about the flying than the exams...

Phillip was a man who worked hard and played hard, and I still remember him sitting in our kitchen at the Ben Lavin Nature Reserve that my folks managed under the umbrella of the Wildlife Society, checkered blue table cloth wrapped around his neck like an oversized napkin, an eaten mielie cob upright in an empty white wine glass and a goofy grin on his face. The celebration was in honour of completing everything he had come to do, within the planned timeframe. Oh, did I mention the first aircraft he bought turned out to be stolen? Did I mention that he suffered from malaria during this time too? As I said, the man knew how to work hard and play hard.

The V-tailed Bonanza was Philips SECOND aircraft. His first aircraft was a red and white Piper Saratoga.

He had seen the red and white Saratoga advertised in a magazine. He decided this was the right aerie to buy. A friend of his was coming to South Africa, and he have him cash for a 50% deposit on the aircraft, the balance of which he would pay when he got to SA.

The deposit was paid, the aircraft purchase was secured. Soon after, my dad and Phillip drove to Lanseria to pay the balance for the Saratoga, also in cash. The aircraft was not at the airfield that day, and the Salesman promised to deliver it to Louis Trichardt that evening, so my dad and Phillip drove the five-hour trip back up north.

That evening, they went to the Louis Trichardt airfield and found the Saratoga sitting pretty. The Salesman was nowhere to be found.

On their return the next day, they found the Saratoga hobbled, her tyre chained and padlocked. They also had an unexpected welcoming party. The Police were there, waiting for them to show up. It was then that they learned they had purchased an aircraft that had not been for sale, not by the owner anyway, and that he was enroute to reclaim his stolen property.

My dad is ex SAS and was a Professional Hunter in the Luangwa Valley for many years. Phillip, also a Professional Hunter and a Rhodesian farmer, was not a man to take being conned lying down. They raced back to Jo'burg. The Salesman was not at the Airport. They managed to locate his house, and went there, intent on getting justice and Phillip's money back. They were met by the Salesman's teary wife and three snotty-nosed kids. She invited them in for tea and a sob story. So the two tough men went back home, without teaching the Salesman a lesson, feeling sorry for the struggling family. The aircraft deposit was long since spent, but they did get back the 50% balance Phillip had just paid. They did not press charges. Big softies.

Phillip then bought the V-tail Bonnie, in which I had my first light aircraft flight, and in which, quite a few years' later, he and his wife met their final end.

Events

[Diarise this please – Spot Landing Challenge](#)

Event: Spot Landing Challenge

Date: Sunday 21 May 2017

Alternate date: Sunday 28 May 2017 (should weather or something else mess with the 21st)

Time: 08h30LMT

Venue: Pmb Aero Club

[Diarise this too please – Club AGM](#)

Event: AGM

Date: Wednesday 31 May 2017

Time: 18h00 LMT

Venue: Pmb Aero Club

Food & Drink: Pub and Grub will be OPEN.

[Prayers for SA led by Angus Buchan](#)

Five aircraft from Pmb went to Bloem for the Prayer Meeting on Saturday 22 April. One of the aircraft, piloted by one of our Flight Instructors, Simon Dinkleman, transported a Guest of Honour, Michael Cassidy.

Michael Cassidy is a Christian leader, and the Founder of African Enterprise. He is an evangelist, teacher, preacher, and author.

They had to land at Bram Fischer International, (Bloem), and were ferried across to the site by helicopter, both skipping the queue. Simon got to watch the proceedings from the third row. Being the Pilot of such an esteemed guest has its perks!

Everyone I have talked to about the event says it was incredible. The whole thing was planned in six weeks and the crowds were far larger than anticipated. The vibe was peaceful, courteous and I believe there was not even one traffic incident. The prayers were for our Country as a whole, and although our leading party representatives were invited, and were the only guests with reserved seating, it was by no means a political meeting.

To my knowledge, no other African country has experienced this type, or the recent peaceful protest type, of support from its people. We care. I have hope.





Fuel Price

Avgas R19.50

Jet A1- R11.20

Fleet Hours

March 2017 figures:

C150 - 2.4

C172's - 49.2

New Members

A hearty welcome to Luwaine Wildey, who has started his PPL training with us, and welcome back to Rolf Deutch.

Club Comms

One of my two fathers always said “ A goeie verstand het a halwe word nodig”. I don’t think I entirely agree with him. As it turns out, people don’t seem to be able to read my mind. That’s probably a good thing!

So... we use FOUR lines of modern communication:

WhatsApp: PAC Pilots Group

PAC Student Pilots Group

Facebook page: Pietermaritzburg Aero Club (PAC)

This is a CLOSED GROUP – Members only

Emails: Sent by Julie

SMS’s: Sent by Julie

The Committee and Staff would love for you to know what is happening at the Aero Club. If you are not already on FB or WA, please help us communicate with you by doing one of the following *right now*, (since you will probably forget if you leave it for later):

1. Please search for us and request to be added to the Facebook Group. It is called:
Pietermaritzburg Aero Club (PAC).
2. Send me a WhatsApp message asking to join the appropriate Group. My WhatsApp number is: 082 490 1654. Please note I use this number for WhatsApp only.

No action is needed for email and SMS’s, but if you know of a Member who mentions we don’t contact him / her, please ask them to update these details with us.

We will be using Facebook more and more as it has a very nice “Events” feature with built-in reminders. Information posted on this page is always aviation related, and won’t overload you. Promise.

If you are on the wrong WhatsApp group, please let me know, and I will take the appropriate action.

If you are already on either the WhatsApp Group or Facebook Group, then ignore the above, and thank you for your participation!

Aero Club Shop

✓ Pmb Aero Club Golf Shirts	R 230
✓ Pmb Aero Club Peak Caps	R 70
✓ Pmb Aero Club ties	R 35
✓ Pmb Aero Club Wings	R 220
✓ Pmb Aero Club Jersey	R 260
✓ Pilot Logbook	R 300
✓ Fuel Tester	R 178
✓ Kneeboard	R 385
✓ Epaulettes	R 290
✓ Headsets	R2,736
✓ Headset bag	R 364
✓ Durban Maps – laminated one side for easy folding: 1:500 000 & 1:1 000 000	R 45

Books:

✓ PPL – by Jim Davis	R 130
✓ The Air Pilot's Manual – by	R 700

Avex Study Notes for PPL:

✓ Principles of Flight	R 171
✓ Navigation	R 176
✓ Meteorology	R 210
✓ Human Performance	R 166
✓ Flight Performance	R 148
✓ Aircraft General	R 214
✓ Airlaw	R 166
✓ Radio Handbook – Dietlend Lemp	R 200
✓ Aero Club PPL Bag	R 250
✓ Ruler	R 195
✓ Square Protractor	R 190

✓ E6B Whizz Wheel	R 250
✓ CX2 Pathfinder	R1,400
✓ Aircraft Checklist	R 30
✓ First Lesson Brief	R 30
✓ Bumper Stickers	R 10

Club Bumper stickers available at R10 each. The stickers are especially useful if you struggle to remember the key code to enter the Club's big black gate, as the code is the year the Club was established, and appears on at least one of them.

Dampen the sticker before applying to vehicle as you can then adjust the position and smooth out creases. It will stick good and proper within 30 minutes.

Breakfast fly-away destination from FAPM

We will be highlighting one breakfast fly-away destination in this and following Telstar's to act as reminders of the variety of spots there are to visit in KZN.

Last month: Himeville

This month: **Battlefields Country Lodge & Sports Resort**

Distance from FAPM : 92nm

FACILITIES : Restaurant, Accommodation, Tourism.

They are in close proximity to the famous battle sites Isandlwana, Rorke's Drift, Blood River monument and Talana Museum, rated as one of the best in South Africa. .

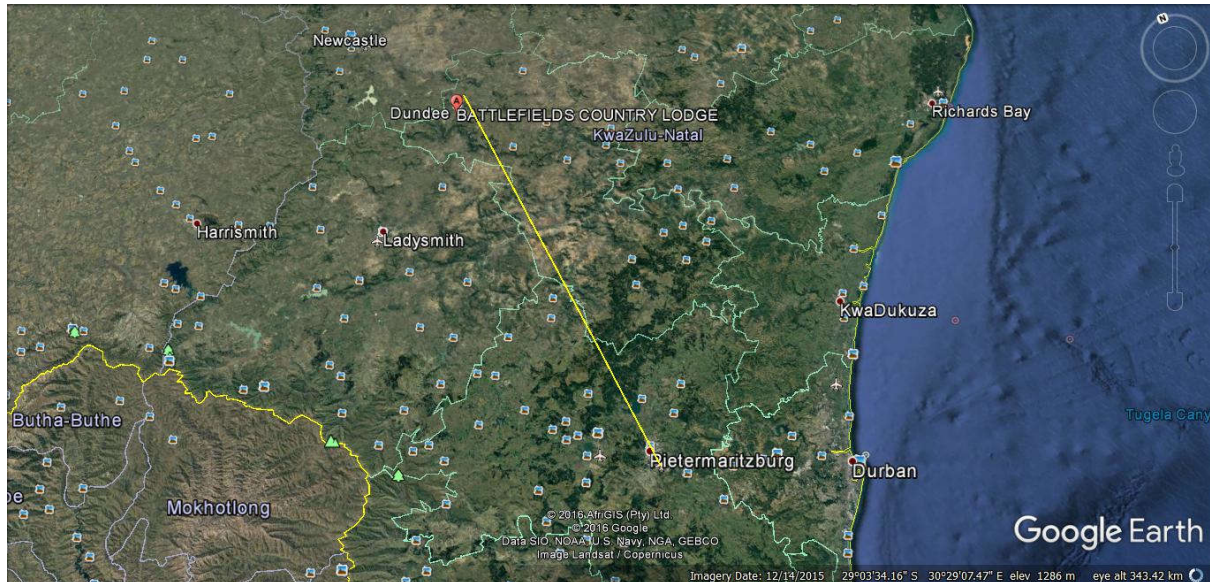
WWW: <http://battlefieldslodge.co.za/>



DISTANCE FROM THE AIRFIELD: Co-located

CONTACT: Reception - 034-218 1641

Dave - 079 496 5286



ELEVATION: 4040ft.

CO-ORDINATES: LAT 28° 7' 53" S 030° 17' 22" E

RUNWAYS: 11/29

1000m long

Grass

17TH BATTLEFIELDS FLY-IN

5th – 7th May 2017



FRIDAY:
Chinese Braai @ R95.00
"Alla Battlefields Aero"
Get together with all pilots
Families and local enthusiasts.

SATURDAY:
Battlefields by Air
Game spotting
Leisure flying
19:00 Country-style Buffet @ R150
"Gemsbok" initiation of new pilots

SUNDAY:
Leisure Flying

FLY-IN ACCOMMODATION SPECIALS
(rates per room)
Budget @ R500, Standard R600
Idube @ R700, D'View @ R800
Breakfast - Cafe Tagati - R85

HELIPAD GRID REFERENCE:
Lat 280 17' 25.5" e 300 17' 25.5" W
EL +4040 ft 980m runway 11/29

BOOKING ESSENTIAL
Battlefields Country Lodge
& Sports Resort
034 218 1641 or 079 496 5286
reservations1@battlefieldslodge.co.za
www.battlefieldslodge.co.za



Aero Club “Don Carlos” Restaurant



The Pietermaritzburg Aero Club “Don Carlos” Restaurant is open at the Club from Wednesday to Sunday from approximately 10am to whenever the last person leaves in the evening or late afternoon.

This last Sunday I enjoyed a Salad and Roll, followed by Portuguese Curried Chicken, followed by Roast Pork, Portuguese Rice, and vegetables, followed by ice-cream and chocolate sauce. I am not quite sure how I fitted it all in! It cost R100 for non-members, and R85 for members. Great food, unbelievable value!

Monday and Tuesday normal toasted sarmies are available at the Club for R15: Cheese, tomato, ham

(or any combo thereof); or chicken mayo, on white or brown bread.

Wednesday to Sunday, please order from “Don Carlos”.

We would like to be able to continue to offer this service at the Flying Club, and your support will make this possible.

Committee Corner

To make flying and training more financially accessible to Members, the Committee is in the process of sourcing and hiring a Sling 2 for a trial period.

If the Sling proves to be popular, purchasing one for our Fleet will be considered. Watch this space for exciting updates!



Instructors Input

As part of your PPL Competency Check you are expected to know the difference between a METAR and a TAF, and be able to read them.

FAPM

METAR FAPM 011300Z AUTO 07005KT /// // ///// 27/12 Q1023=

FAPM

TAF FAPM 010900Z 0110/0118 04008KT CAVOK FM011700 VRB03KT 9999 SCT025 TX27/0112ZTN16/0118Z=

A Metar is actual weather at an aerodrome, and is updated hourly.

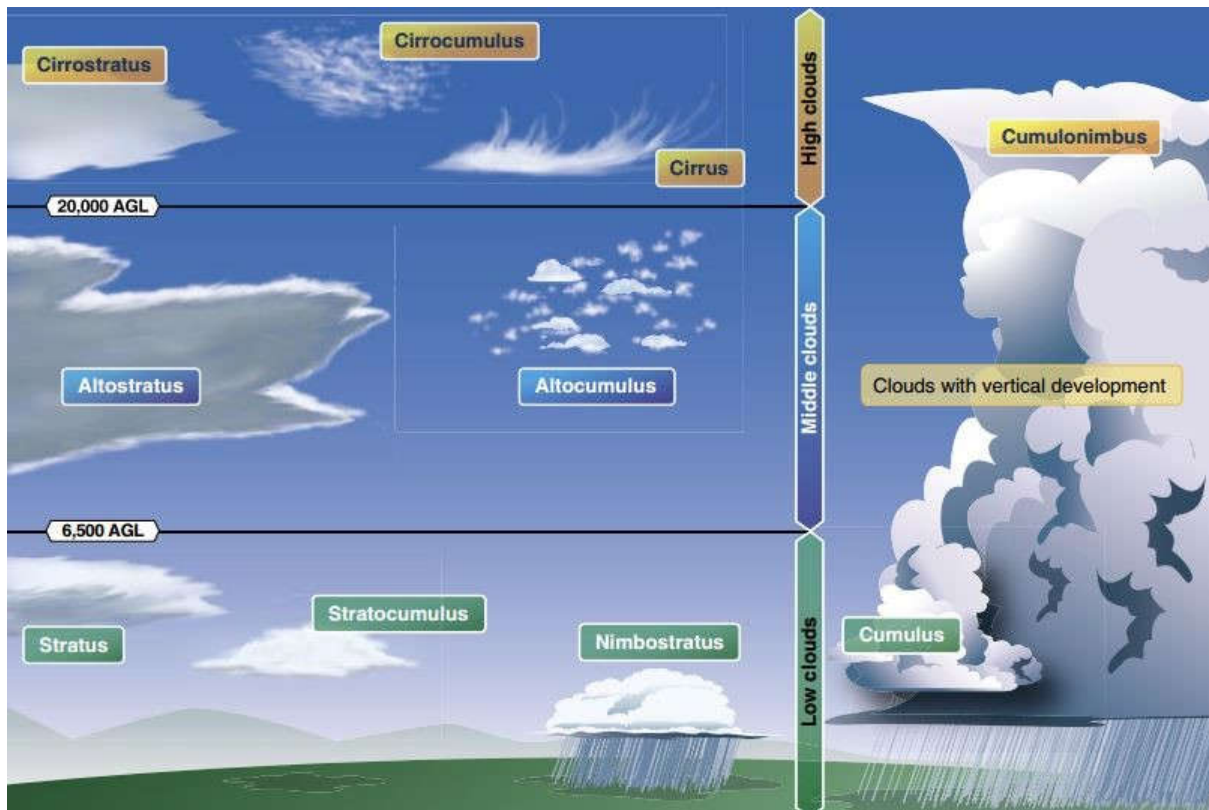
A TAF is a forecast of weather over a few hours, which is noted in the TAF, at an aerodrome.

DECODE:

METAR – FAPM (Pietermaritzburg) 011300Z (01 = day : 1300 = time in Z) AUTO 07005KT (the wind is an automatic reading from the station, and is 070 degrees at 5 knots) ///// (no info) 27/12 (temperature / dewpoint – if in 3 degrees of each other, visible moisture is very likely to form) Q1023 (QNH is 1023)

TAF FAPM (Pietermaritzburg) 010900Z (this TAF was published on the 1st at 0900 Zulu time) 0110/0118 (this TAF is valid on the 1st from 10 o clock Zulu still on the 1st until 18h00 Zulu, ie for 8 hours) 04008KT (the wind direction is 040 degrees at 8 knots) CAVOK (the cloud ceiling is not below 5000ft AGL and visibility better than 10km, ie. it is good for VFR flight) FM011700 (from the 1st at 17h00 Zulu time the following conditions will set in:) VRB03KT (the wind will be from variable directions at 3 knots) 9999 (the visibility will be better than 10km) SCT 025 (there will be scattered cloud developing at 2500 ft AGL) TX27/0112ZTN16/0118Z (TX = Temperature Maximum 27/0112Z = for the time period of the TAF will be 27 degrees on the 1st at 12h00 Zulu, and TN = Temperature Minimum 16/0118Z = for the time period of the TAF will be 16 degrees on the 1st at 18h00 Zulu ie 8pm local time).

Below find a refresher on the different types of clouds, and at what levels they form:



Remember, it is illegal to fly above more than 3/8 of cloud in SA, and you have to be in sight of the ground at all times. Flying into cloud is NOT VFR, since these rules dictate a pilot has to be able to see where (s)he is going. The average life expectancy of a VFR pilot flying into cloud is 90 seconds.

Safety Culture

ALL Safety Meetings are COMPULSORY for Student Pilots, and PPL's are required to attend at least ONE per annum.



be tripped up, and what exactly the insurance wording covers and means. It was an interesting and informative meeting.

April's Safety meeting was very poorly attended. Our Guest Speaker, Paul Vine of ARC (Aviation Risk Company), flew in from Johannesburg especially for the meeting. ARC is now the biggest Aviation Insurance Company, bigger than Dennis Jankelow and Associates.

It was an unusual topic for a Safety Meeting, which usually covers directly related safety matters, however, Insurance covers the consequences of getting things wrong, where we could

Members Submissions

This month there were no article submissions from Members. Please feel free to contribute if you find something interesting, an article, a joke, a recommended book, or, even better, a personal experience.



Please also feel free to contribute flying related content on the Members Only Facebook Group: Pietermaritzburg Aero Club (PAC).

Until next month, happy flying!

Telani