

MAY 2018

flying & flight training in South Africa

TELSTAR newsletter of PIETERMARITZBURG AERO CLUB



THE PRIVATE PILOT



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Pub Talk

The *TELSTAR* ...what's in the name?

When asking Members what "Telstar" means, I heard answers like "I don't know", and "It's a car, a Ford Telstar" so I asked Martin Hellberg, our Treasurer, who has been around going on 40 years, and he said:

*"The twin prototype satellites, Telstar 1 and 2, were the first satellites able to send a television signal between North **America** and **Europe**.*

*Telstar was launched by NASA on July 10, 1962, from **Cape Canaveral, Fla.**, and was the first privately sponsored space-faring mission. Feb 12, 2013*

[Telstar: Satellites Beamed First TV Signals Across the Ocean](#)

I find this fascinating. Our Newsletter is named after a Communication Satellite. That is pretty awesome, totally kewl, a flipping brilliant name... if you were around in the 60's, and now, sadly, completely irrelevant and meaningless to most of us, pending explanation.

I once read a comment about art, it said that if a work of art needs an explanation beyond that of the expression of the artist, then it is questionable whether it has fulfilled its purpose. This rings true to me in more aspects than Art.

The only constant in life is change. Relevance is vital to interest. It is with this in mind that I have been bold enough to design a cover and a new name for our Newsletter. I have addressed the Telstar name with admiration for its original brilliance, but I truly hope you approve of the new name... "*THE PRIVATE PILOT*". I believe it has more meaning to us all.

Please let me know, either way. YAY or NAY. After all, this is *YOUR* newsletter. Each month will feature a cover relevant to our pretty awesome Aero Club... even though we are 80 years old, we can keep re-inventing ourselves so that we remain relevant to our ever-changing world.

YESTERDAY is history, TODAY is a gift, TOMORROW is a mystery ... that which does not re-invent itself, dies.

I vote LIFE!

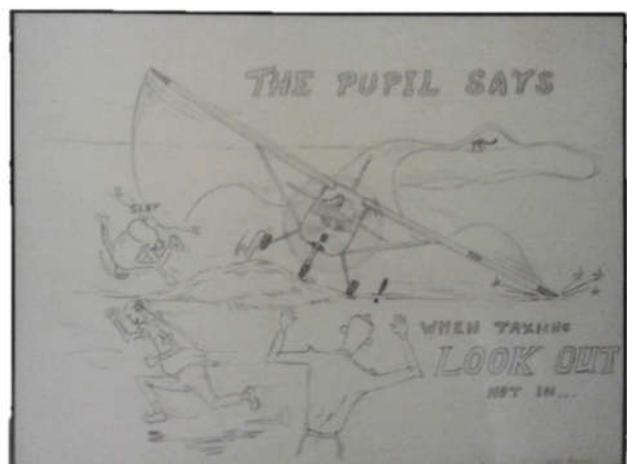
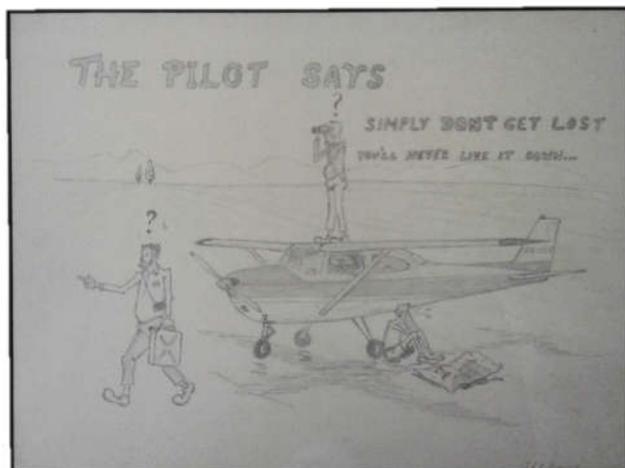
What's your vote?

* * *

What REALLY happened to ZS-EHF?

Source: John Campbell

The fourth of the six pencil drawings by Neil Hulley in the Aero Club Pub is rather an alarming story of cowardice. This is what happened:



ZS-EHF BITES THE DUST...

It was the late 1960's and Zulu Sierra Echo Hotel Foxtrot was an immaculate RED C172 OWNED BY Colonel Jack Guy. Jack Guy, incidentally, served in the British army in India.

Well, this gentleman was talked into hiring ZS-EHF out privately. At the time, the runway only started at the top of the present taxiway where you can still see the original turning circle. That turning circle is now determinedly sprouting grass whiskers.

The pilot, who shall not be named, who was hiring the aircraft, landed short of 16 as depicted in the pic, abandoned ZS-EHF right there, and ran off. In his haste to escape the wrath of the Colonel, he did not pay for the excess insurance for the damage to the aircraft, and to add insult to injury, he did not pay for the aircraft hire either!!

These days, the Pmb Aero Club has made provision for excess insurance for Club Members flying Club Aircraft, namely ZS-JKK; ZS-KNI; ZS-KVW & ZU-WES. But remember folks, light aircraft usually have an excess amount on Insurance of between R20,000 and R30,000, which must be taken out by the Pilot/Student. As a Student Pilot at any other Flight School, you would be required to have this insurance in place before you would be allowed to fly the school's aeries! This is a super-duper Pmb Aero Club perk!



Getting back to the story, the Pmb Aero Club bought ZS-EHF, and the Colonel bought a brand-new Piper Arrow ZS-FMY, with which his two sons learned to fly. * * *

Recent Events

100's CLUB WINNER!



CONGRATULATIONS
TO
TREVOR GARDEN
WHO WON THE 100'S
CLUB TAKE ON
FRIDAY 4 MAY 2018

NEXT 100'S CLUB:
FRIDAY 1 JUNE
BE THERE TO WIN !



SOLO PARTY SUCCESS

On Friday 4 May, as well as the 100's Club, we celebrated the FIRST SOLO flights of one African, one - Afro-Italian, and one Swiss-Italian:

Trevor Garden – SOLO on 31-12-2018 in ZS-KVW C172.

We are pretty sure he had an Old Years Eve bash of note!)



L to R: Gianmarco Zorloni; Lucio Santoro; Trevor Garden



Lucio Santoro – SOLO on 24-11-2017 in ZU-WES, and Gianmarco Zorloni – SOLO on 20-04-2018 also in the Sling 2, ZU-WES

As is customary, the new terrors of the skies had to take the prescribed oath, on the CARs and CATs of course, to abide by the Airmen’s Code of Conduct. They were also each presented with a Certificate, Tie, and Wings... anticipating the completion of their licenses.



Gianmarco went on to COMPLETE his PPL in 7 (yes, SEVEN) WEEKS ! I suspect that Carlos was happy to see him go, as

Gianmarco enjoyed taking over Carlos’s kitchen and produced delicious Italian Pasta’s, (as it turns out... my mother was right... I always overcook the pasta... it must be chewy, which is a 5 to max 10 min cooking time... who knew?!), and on SOLO PARTY NIGHT produced very yummy thick meaty braied burger patties on toasted buns, which



were served after the bruschetta starters.

Folk were picked at random to wield knives to chop the tomato and onions.



Jason & Mitch

Julie, Martin and Cheryl

The "Traditional "Propeller Drink" must have been quite something, judging by the look on Martin's face (below)



YUMMY!

Mitch Spall Spit and booze mix...



Wings & Things



The Three SOLO Students, enjoying the Prop Brew



ATC, Braai, Planes & Pilots

Marvin

Adam

Pub Talk

Johan

Brad



Wings & Things

EAA National Convention & Fly-in

Two of our Club Members came out TOPS at this year's EAA National Convention & Fly in, which took place from 27 to 29 April in Vryheid.

Congratulations!

to Dr. Kenny O'Connor who WON the lucky draw trip to OSHKOSH 2018. OSHKOSH is the World's BIGGEST Aviation Event, and is held in America!!



* * *

Our Cover photo is of Cameron McKenzie's Cub Crafters Carbon Cub EX.

The Cub Crafters Carbon Cub EX is an American amateur-built aircraft, designed and produced by Cub Crafters of Yakima, Washington. The aircraft is supplied as a kit for amateur construction.



ZU-MCC WON the EAA Grand Champion 2018 for home built aircraft.



Here is how it all came about:

It was an idle Tuesday, (possibly a Friday, drink in hand), when Cameron decided on an epic project to build his own aircraft. With great enthusiasm, he chose and purchased a kit plane, the Cub Crafters Carbon Cub EX, and it arrived at James Bentley's EVA's Field, (a stunning 750m grass runway on the Hilton Ridge with hangars, aeroplane workshops, and views into forever), in July 2015.

Cameron and Gary Keyser started building the fuselage, and James started on the Wings in August of 2015. The plan was to orchestrate perfect symmetry with the Wings and Fuselage being completed simultaneously. As it turns out, building a full-scale aircraft is not quite the same thing as model building, and is rather a full-time occupation if you plan to progress with any speed.

In two months, the Wings were for covering...

... the progress on the Fuselage however, somewhat behind schedule... well okay, the floorboards were in, and the strings. That's about it.

At this point, Cameron, being practical and logical man that he projected that this project was

to take him years, and so, in his wisdom, handed over the entire job to James.



ready

was,

the

is,

going



James continued building the Cub. He had a morning's instruction on fabric covering from Gerald Maddams at Grass Roots. Turns out he has a knack for it. Then Engine in, a Titan O-340 168hp, low compression. It will run on Mogas, but the first 30 hrs are being run in on AVGAS. These 168 horses give the Cub a lot of grunt and impressive short-field capabilities.

The toughest part of the job, was fitting the bungs to the suspension, which James was unable to do, even after consulting youtube.com : <https://youtu.be/tWZpmu30h94> The manual requires you to visit your local piper dealer to assist with the job, however the local Piper approved AMO couldn't get it right

either. James even called in the biggest, tallest, strongest Aviation Enthusiast he could find (Dr Kenny), who did not succeed in attaching the bungies, but did manage, somewhat to his dismay, to bend a shock!



After exhausting all options, they ended up sending the shocks and the bungies to America where they were fitted. This exercise cost just on R21,000!

Eventually the Cub was completed in Jan 2017, after a further 13 months of James working predominantly on his own. Then the Cub was painted by Matthew Greef, at Eva's Field, in one of the hangars that was re-purposed for this task. The colour scheme is a modified version of the original yellow and Silver cub colours using authentic Piper paint colours.



James (left) and Cameron (right) with the completed Cub Crafters Carbon Cub EX.

The guy with the parachute is Elton Bondi who did the first test flight in the Cub. Elton is one of the country's top aerobatic pilots. "What a fantastic guy", says James Bentley, "he flew down from Rand in his Extra 300, flew the Cub for 3 hrs, gave us the most amazing display in the Extra, took us for rides and flew back in the evening. All it cost us was the fuel 👍👍👍 Was one of the greatest days of my life".

* * *

Upcoming Events

Spot Landing Competition

Look out for details on this year's SPOT LANDING COMPETITION which will be happening SOON! (Some time in June or July). We get to stand at the runway and watch pilots demonstrate their precision landing skills. Even if not perfect, it's great fun and a great opportunity to hone one's skills.

Safety Meeting

When: **Friday 22 June 2018**

Where: **Pmb Aero Club**

Topic: **14 Lessons every Pilot must learn**

**COMPULSORY
ATTENDANCE FOR
STUDENT PILOTS**

Aloe Festival Fly-In looming



They have done a lot of work on the two strips and will have them nicely prepped.

They will be running it in conjunction with the Aloe Festival. (steam trains, hot air balloons and festival) so will be a fun filled weekend.

When: **7 & 8 July**

Where: **Creighton Airstrip**

* * *

Fuel Price

incl VAT	Previous Rate	Current Rate
AVGAS	R20.10	R20.50
JET A1	R13.20	R13.80



Calendar

Although not all dates are confirmed, here is a rough idea of when things will be happening around here in 2018:

January	February	March	April	May	June
gone	done and dusted	finito	skadoosh!	kaput	Fri 1 st 100's Club Fri 22 nd Safety Meeting – Compulsory for Students Spot Landing Competition at FAPM Fly away or Nav Rally, maybe
July	August	September	October	November	December
Fri 6 th 100's Club Flour Bombing Competition Aloe Festival	Fri 3 rd 100's Club	Fri 7 th 100's Club Safety Meeting – Compulsory for Students	Fri 5 th 100's Club Halloween Party	Fri 2 nd 100's Club Christmas Wings Party & Trophy giving	Fri 7 th 100's Club

Fleet Hours & Hire Rates

All prices are VAT inclusive.

	Sept 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	May 2018
C150	1.0	0	0	0	0.9	1.1	0	0.8	6.8
per hr hire rate	R1480	R1180	R1180	R1180	R1180	R1180	R1180	R1190	R1190
C172	10.4	8.6	26.9	12.7	41	13.4	28	35.6	46.3
per hr hire rate	R1850	R1850	R1850	R1850	R1850	R1850	R1850	R1870	R1870
Sling 2	65.7	24.5	38.3	37.2	6.5	30.2	43.9	51.6	60.6
per hr hire rate	R1400	R1400 → R1000	R1000	R1000	R1000	R1000	R1000	R1010	R1010
Arrow (dual ph only)	R3580	R3580	R3580	R3580	R3580	R3580	R3580	R3580	R3519
Instructor rate	R402.50 per hour flying R273.70 per hour briefing								

New Members

A warm welcome to:

Gianmarco Zorloni, from Switzerland; Haden Jacobs; Clyde Israel, and Henry Keith from England.

Club Comms



CoNgRaTuLaTiOnS to Haden Jacobs who flew SOLO in ZU-WES on 19 May 2018

Aircraft news...

ZS-KVW - C172

There is a problem with the impulse couplings in the mags for KVW which was picked up in the MPI. This is what is causing the delay in KVW's return to service. All going smoothly, she should be back in service in the 2nd week in June, and the Club will be a little poorer than expected. That's Aviation folks.

ZS-KNI – C172

The Committee is aware of the various instrument-related issues with KNI. Hobbs, radio, VOR and DI. This will be addressed as soon as possible. Remember, for VFR flight the minimum required nav instruments are: ASI, Altimeter, Magnetic Compass, and an accurate timepiece. KNI's MAUW remains 2300lbs even after the engine change.

ZS-JKK – C150

Available for Flight Training and Hire & Fly.

ZU-WES – X333

Available for Flight Training and Hire & Fly.

Don Carlos Restaurant

This Portuguese style restaurant has been opened at the Club with Member interests at heart. Friday night Pub Menu always available. Due to limited interest, other open times are by arrangement.

Carlos cell: 079-784-2056



Don Carlos is available for private & corporate functions too!

The AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 30th, the Pmb Aero Club's 80th Birthday. As is customary, the President, Michele Cameron, chaired the meeting. The Chairman, Anthony Grant, and the Treasurer, Martin Hellberg, gave their reports on the last year. There was some discussion on the Club fleet, flying prices and the cost of fuel for Members, suggestions of how the Flight School should support itself financially, the free hours allocated to the Treasurer and Chairman, and comments on the new engine in KNI. Jason Everard will be leaving on 1 July to fly for Comair, and Telani Lithgow will become the CFI. Puma is taking over refuelling Airlink from Shell from 1 July, and the Committee is in



negotiations to continue dispensing the fuel, which has been the Club's major source of income for some years.

There have been some changes to the Committee, please see the table below, and they will soon be addressing the Members concerns.

The NEW Committee:

President:

Anthony Grant



Chairman:

Steve Svendsen



Treasurer:

Martin Hellberg

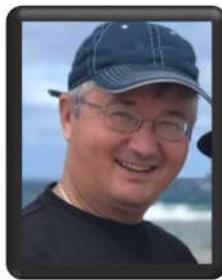


Committee Members:

Gary Hughes



Brian Hawksworth



Lucio Santoro



Johan Riekert



John Arkley



Luke Volans



FOR SALE

We are expanding our "For Sale" section. If you have anything you want to sell, please contact the office for inclusion in the next Newsletter under this section.

FOR SALE - C150M ZS-JKK

Total time AF: 12 188
Prop Total time since O/H: 1246
Engine 2497
Engine since O/H: 968 TBO (2000)
Airframe: 8/10 - Interior: 7/10
Sold with fresh MPI: R320,000 ex VAT ono



Contact Julie at Pmb Aero Club - 033-386-3952 - pmb-aero@mweb.co.za

FOR SALE - C172N Engine



Lycoming 0-320 H2AD Timex complete Engine,
in good running and all round condition.
All maintenance schedules & Blow by's available.
R50,000 ono

Contact Julie at the Pmb Aero Club
033-386-3952
pmb-aero@mweb.co.za



Aero Club Shop



Soft, comfortable

100% Cotton Polo shirts

&

Peak caps



Branded Clothes:

Pmb Aero Club Golf Shirts	R 252	In stock
Pmb Aero Club Peak Caps	R 76	In stock
Pmb Aero Club ties	R 35	In stock
Pmb Aero Club Jersey	R 260	Out of stock
Pilot Logbook (large)	R 318	In stock
Fuel Tester	R 177	In stock
Pmb Aero Club Wings	R 222	In stock
Epaulettes	R 290	Out of stock
Headsets	R2,760	In stock
Headset bag	R 364	Out of stock
Durban Maps – laminated one side for easy folding: 1:500 000 & 1:1 000 000	R 50	In stock

Books:

PPL – by Jim Davis	R 130	In stock
The Air Pilot's Manual – by	R 705	In stock

Avex Study Notes for PPL:

Principles of Flight	R 209	In stock
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Navigation	R 216	In stock
Meteorology	R 250	In stock
Human Performance	R 200	In stock
Flight Performance	R 186	In stock
Aircraft General	R 256	In stock
Airlaw	R 172	In stock
Radio Handbook – Dietlend Lemp	R 232	In stock
Aero Club PPL Bag	R 272	In stock

Nav Tools:

Square Protractor	R 217	In stock
Ruler	R 202	In stock
E6B Whizz Wheel	R 323	In stock
CX2 Pathfinder	R1,412	In stock
Aircraft Checklist	R 35	In stock
Kneeboard	R 383	In stock
First Lesson Brief	R 35	In stock
Bumper Stickers	R 10	In stock

There are rules and there are laws:

The rules are made by men who think that they know how to fly your airplane better than you. The laws (of physics) were ordained by God. You can and sometimes should suspend the rules, but you can never suspend the laws.

About Rules:

- a. The rules are a good place to hide if you don't have a better idea and the talent to execute it.
- b. If you deviate from a rule, it must be a flawless performance (e.g., if you fly under a bridge, don't hit the bridge.)



Safety Culture

Do you remember the Virginia Flight School, C172 ZS-SHV that did a forced landing on the beach that made an appearance in an earlier Club Newsletter? Well a little birdie told me that it looks like it was something to do with fuel not getting through from the right tank. Perhaps we should heed Warnings and check our fuel flow as a precaution in our C172's as part of our run-ups!



* * *

The Madiba School of flight had a Sling end up “in the drink”. The 19 year old pilot, who had a 21 year old helicopter pilot as a passenger, says he experienced turbulence, which is why they ended up in the salt pans.

As a Flight Instructor and a woman with a dash of experience behind me, my best guess is that this was more likely than not an accident due to testosterone poisoning. Two young men, rivals regarding fixed wing vs helicopter, water-skiing Lions... If it walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck...

chances are it is a duck.

The part that these young men didn't take into consideration is the cost of not only the repairs, but the loss of income to the Flight School.

There are some folk close to home who understand the allure of waterskiing aeroplanes. If you have dreamed of doing this, please consider not only the consequences if it goes wrong, but also the aircraft's C of G, the drag created by the water, the size of the tyres, the power available from the

engine... and rather go arrange this excitement with someone who knows the ropes. It's usually much cheaper and far less embarrassing than learning about the pitfalls first hand.



Members Submissions

This hot air balloon landed just above Eva's Field on Saturday 26 May. What a beautiful sight! Pictures by James Bentley.



That 30m tall balloon fits into this bag



Please feel free to contribute if you see or 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 time, happy flying!



Telani Lithgow

Editor of the Telstar / The Private Pilot

Senior Flight Instructor

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