



**The Aero Club of South Africa**

*Preserving Free Flight*

## **Aero Club Communique # 8 of 2026**

Good day to all our Aero Club members and the GA Industry.

We have had a busy two weeks and I report on some of the activities.

### **12-Year Engine Overhaul Rule**

The period for public comment on the Appendix 3 of Part 43, the technical standards that will give relief to owners of aircraft with Lycoming and Continental engines that are older than 12 years, expires on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2026. As mentioned in previous Communiques, after the public comment period expires, the proposal is then tabled at the next CARCom meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2026. If no substantive comments have been received, CARCom will be asked to approve the proposal for promulgation. Promulgation normally takes at least many months.

There are possibilities of some interim relief, such as an exemption, while the promulgation process takes its course. In the meantime, such an exemption may be granted by the SACAA.

But I need to stress that we are not at all sure if in fact an exemption may happen or, it does, when it will occur.

The entire process that was followed to get the relief via Appendix 3 was done as quickly as is permitted within the process of the normal regulatory framework.

### **Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre**

The ARCC is a division of the Department of Transport. The ARCC was established as the aeronautical branch of South African Search and Rescue (SASAR), a division in the Department of Transport. We will give more information in future editions.

All aviation-related accidents or incidents should be reported to the ARCC.

Please see the ARCC notice below with the contact information to report any aviation incident or accident.

## ARCC

Aeronautical Rescue  
Coordination Centre

### SEARCH AND RESCUE



+27 63 505 4164 or



+27 63 505 5485



Report **ANY** Aircraft Accident  
Immediately to the ARCC

*This includes Paragliders*



## Airweek 2026

We have been reporting about the planning and preparation for Airweek for many weeks. Airweek 2026 was held this past weekend and here is what happened.

Imagine over 50 WhatsApp messages and photos on the Airweek group sharing information about the weather on Friday morning. And it was not good.

The photo below shows conditions at about 10:00 on Friday morning on a flight approaching Middelburg from Gauteng.



Photo courtesy of Rob Jonkers

The rain was intermittent and with forecasts not being good, messages started coming from pilots who decided not to come to Middelburg. But the true Airweek spirit prevailed and arrivals by plane increased. Many decided to come by car rather than fly, showing a sense of putting safety first, but still making the effort to come to Airweek. Arrivals continued and by Saturday an estimated 60 aircraft had arrived. The total number of flight movements over the weekend is estimated at over 150.

*Camping site and parking filling up.*



Photos by Walter Doubell

Airweek 2026 was very well supported by sponsors and exhibitors. These are the companies and organisations that supply products and services to recreational aviation to make flying easier for our pilots. Their products and services cover a wide spectrum from insurance, new aircraft, engines, avionics, aircraft sales, fuel, tyres, airwear, charter and other aviation services.

Recreational aviation cannot function without our regulator, the SACAA. They were in attendance as were representatives from the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre and Mayday SA.

We thank all the sponsors and exhibitors for their generous support.

*Our valued supporters are:*



Those attending Airweek had difficulty choosing from the large variety of interesting talks and workshops on offer. Here is the program of these interesting topics:

 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>TALKS &amp; WORKSHOPS</b> <b>Saturday 7 March 2026</b></p> </div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-left: 20px;"> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">5 – 8 March 2026 - MIDDELBURG AIRFIELD</p>  </div>	
<p>0900-1000 Hangar Talk</p> 	<p><b>APOSA Update on AP</b> scheme progress by Braam Hechter</p> <p><b>APOSA</b> is a dynamic, inclusive, and <b>independent</b> professional organisation committed to empowering individuals within the NTCA (Non-Type Certified Aircraft) industry. Our mission is to support and develop the skills, knowledge, and professional growth of those involved in NTCA operations.</p>
<p>1000-1045 Hangar Talk</p> 	<p><b>The Pilots' Guide to Tyre Care and Basic Tyre Principles</b> by David-Lee De Welzim, Goodyear Aviation Tyres, Southern Africa.</p>
<p>1100-1200 Boardroom, Main Hangar</p>	<p><b>Crash Site Investigation Panel Discussion</b> This discussion is not intended to focus on any specific accident / incident but rather on an overall understanding of what should happen, in what order, how are reports compiled and interpreted to explain the accident officially. Guests on the panel include ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Albert Morudi: SACAA Senior Manager, Accident Investigation</li> <li>• Mr Greg Critchley: Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (Search and Rescue)</li> <li>• Wouter Botes: Cold Case Aviation Investigation</li> <li>• Chaired by Bruce Harrison: Chairman of RAFOC</li> </ul>
<p>1345-1445 Hangar Talk</p>  	<p><b>Demonstration by Niren Chotoki</b> <b>Comet ROTAX 912/914 Gearbox Functions and Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gearbox Components Explanation</li> <li>• Importance of the Gearbox Friction Torque Adjustment</li> <li>• How to carry out the inspection</li> </ul>
<p>1445-1530 Hangar Talk</p> 	<p><b>An overview of the Current Aircraft Sales Market</b> by Bertus Janse Van Rensburg, Absolute Aviation</p>

Apart from the talks and workshops mentioned above, the sections of the Aero Club presented other informative activities and attended and flew in to Airweek.

The S A Power Flying Association (SAPFA) held a successful Air Navigation Rally over a 25 nautical mile course where the aim is to stay inside a corridor that is 0.4nm wide, over a short but difficult course. To do this takes good piloting and navigating skills as well as teamwork between the pilot and navigator. The rally was won by Devan van der Westhuizen and Bernard Wenhold in a Sling TSI. It is not only the pilot and navigator that need skill. The planning of the route and how it needs to be flown is also an advanced skill. Here the SAPFA members spend time to plan the rally course, considering the terrain, obstacles, and other features of the planned course.

*SAPFA stand*



The Microlight and Sport Aeroplane Association of South Africa (MISASA) were present and a large number of the aircraft that flew to Airweek were our MISASA members. These are some of our intrepid flyers who came from Limpopo and other provinces.

*Light Sport Planes*



The South African Hang and Paragliding Association (SAHPA) were in attendance. One has to admire someone who flies a motorised paraglider. All that is between you and the elements is a flight suit. These pilots also came from quite a distance to attend Airweek.

*Motorised Paragliders Landing at FAMB*



SAMAA is the South African Model Aircraft Association, one of our larger Aero Club sections. SAMAA organised an information session that was attended by learners from two schools in Middelburg. During the session information was given about the functions of the SACAA, the Aero Club and careers in aviation. The learners then proceeded to paint model aircraft and attend an inspection of an aircraft.

Then came the big attraction of the day for our young aviators: a flight in an airplane. This was jointly facilitated by SAMAA and the Experimental Aircraft Association as part of the EAA Young Eagles program. It is difficult to describe the wonder and fascination experienced by these young people.

This way of introducing school learners to aviation is, I believe, one of the essential duties of our recreational aviation community.

*The SAMAA stand*



Some of the Young Eagles





Photos courtesy of Charlie Hugo – *wildaviation*

In addition to the activities, workshops, presentations and the Young Eagles flights, other attractions were offered by Airweek 2026.

There were raffles for: a custom-made aircraft cockpit cover from LSA Covers, a portable braai from the Bateleurs and Spitfire Industries and one night's accommodation at Roaring Sky Lodge for two persons.

Attendees could also have their caps embroidered with their aircraft registration number.

Something that has been a standout feature of Airweek for many years is the judging of the best aircraft in specific categories. It needs to be mentioned that the aircraft that are judged are the result of many hours of demanding work, sometimes years of dedicated time is spent to rebuild an old aircraft or to build a new aircraft from scratch.

The awards for the best aircraft in the categories were handed to the recipients at the dinner on Saturday evening. Despite the weather and less than expected attendance we had a full house of 150 people at the dinner.


The pictures of the winners below with their certificates, receiving their prizes, tells the story of these dedicated pilots and their beautiful aircraft.

5 – 8 March 2026 - MIDDELBURG AIRFIELD

**AEROCLUB AIRWEEK**  
*Aviation For the Aviation Enthusiast*

Well done to **Graham Richardson**

**ZU-RFT** Magni Gyro M24 Orion  
Won Best Rotorcraft



[www.wildaviation.com](http://www.wildaviation.com)

Charlie Hugo © 2026

AWARDED BY EAA 322,  
PAUL LASTRUCCI AND  
MARIE REDDY  
ACCEPTED BY  
GRAHAM RICHARDSON

5 – 8 March 2026 - MIDDELBURG AIRFIELD

# AEROCUB AIRWEEK

*Aviation For the Aviation Enthusiast*



Well done to **Mike Puzey**

**ZU-1KX** RV 10

awarded Best Homebuilt Aircraft



Chandise Hago  
© 2026

Awarded by EAA 322,  
Paul Lastrucci and  
Marie Reddy  
To be handed to Mike  
Puzey at a later stage

5 – 8 March 2026 - MIDDELBURG AIRFIELD

# AEROCUB AIRWEEK

*Aviation For the Aviation Enthusiast*



Well done to **Eugene Couzyn**  
**ZU-FRT** 1947 Piper P12 Super Cruiser  
awarded Best Vintage Aircraft  
and  
**ZU-DFO** 1952 Poper PA20 Pacer  
awarded Best Vintage Restoration

Prize includes a gift voucher from

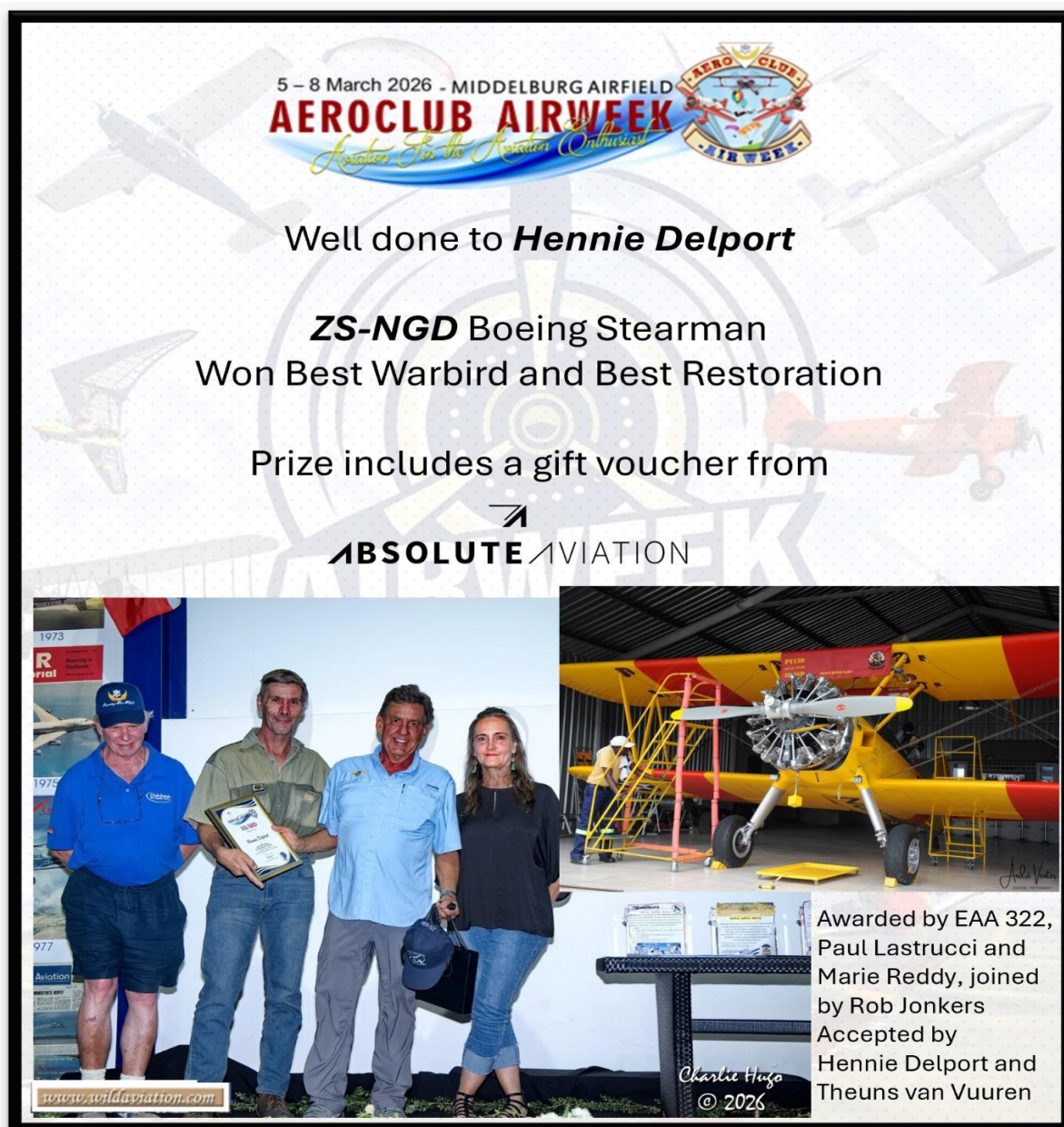
  
**ABSOLUTE AVIATION**



Awarded by EAA 322,  
Paul Lastrucci and  
Marie Reddy  
Accepted by  
Eugene Couzyn

[www.wildaviation.com](http://www.wildaviation.com)

Charlie Hugo  
© 2026



Photos courtesy of Charlie Hugo

Despite the challenging weather conditions, the event was safe with no incidents or accidents, a testimony to the safety consciousness of those who attended. There are just too many people who contributed in so many ways to thank everyone who was part of Airweek 2026. Airweek 2026 is a prime outstanding example of teamwork and selfless dedication by a group of individuals that share a common cause. This cause is the preservation of free recreational flight for all in South Africa. Thanks to everyone for a superb Airweek. Till next week.

Regards,  
 Walter Doubell, Acting Chairman, Aero club of SA, [walter@aeroclub.org.za](mailto:walter@aeroclub.org.za)

*Dinner*



Photo by Walter Doubell

*A Plane and a Moon*



Photo by Charlie Hugo

*Reflections on a Hangar Floor*

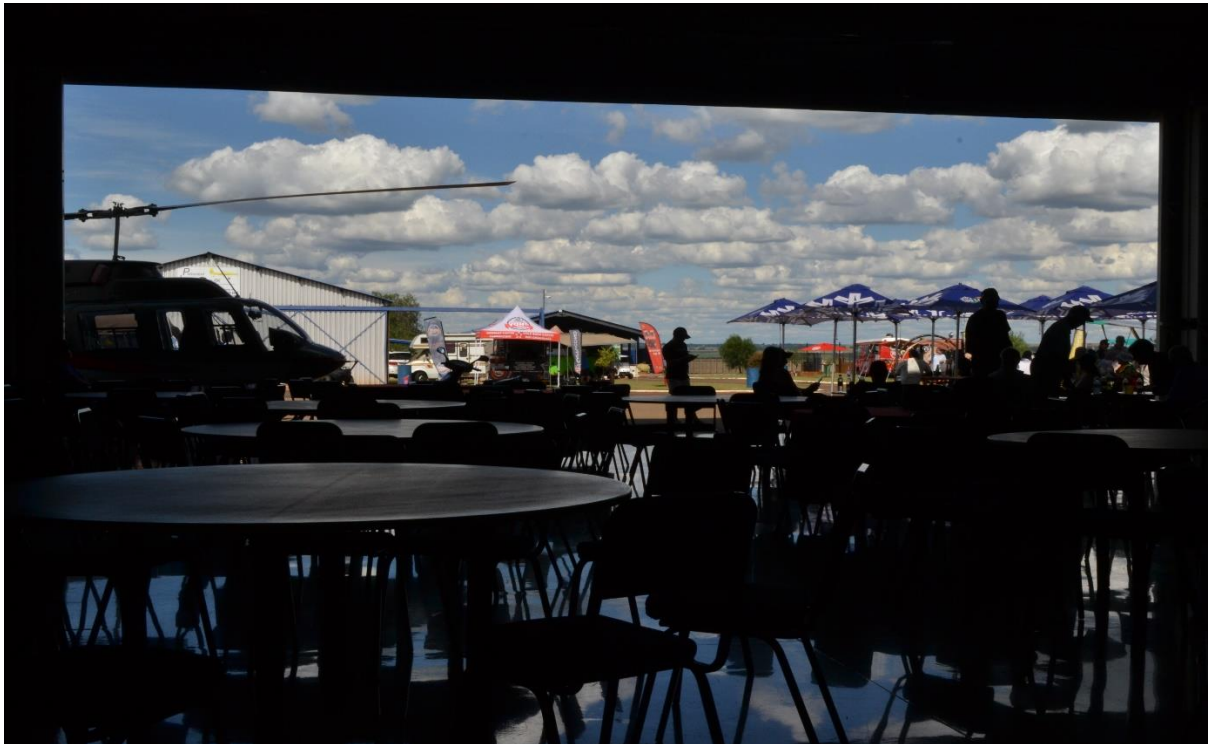


Photo by Walter Doubell

*Iconic Aircraft, iconic sky*



Photo courtesy of Charlie Hugo