

NEWSLETTER: CLUB SKYAFRICA

Dec 2003

HOWZIT from AFRICA

Again another year draws to its close, what can we say, it was a good one.

We flew safely, no incidents or problems with aircraft and again we have won new friends from all over the world.

It is such a pleasure for us, to see the smiles and excitement on the faces of people when they first discover the wonders of Africa, the smells of the pristine Bushveld, the wide open Country, the magnificent wildlife and the hustle and sometimes chaotic bustle that makes up our continent.

There are certainly more regulated and better-organized places in this world but this also has its price

Usually this price is curtailment of personal space and freedom, things we have come to enjoy here in Africa in abundance and this feeling is quite contagious at times.

The long Northern Hemisphere Winters with their long dark days, sleet and unusable airfields make pilots suffer from withdrawal symptoms.

We seem to get many calls at this time of the year and we can certainly brighten up an Aviators life by offering blue skies, warm days and neat airplanes glistening in the sun.

So from all of us in the words of John Edmond Rhodesian Bushpilot and Singer the following Lyrics that say it all:

**It's Christmas in the bushveld, but there's no the mistletoe
No holly and no Reindeer, no robin in the snow
But bless our red-point setia, and bright flamingos too
And gentle-eyed Impala, to see dear Santa through
It's Christmas in the thornbush, and Christmas beetles sing
Through the hills and koppies I hear their carols ring
It's Christmas in the savannah, the sky is all-alight
Peace on Earth and goodwill, to all Man on this night
Around a glowing campfire, come join our barbeque
And may the joys of Christmas, forever be with you**



Gamba Kahle a good Festive Season and Safe Flying for 2004

Erika

And the Sky Africa Team

A WORLD FIRST NEW in 2004

SKYAFRICA

AFRICAN BUSHPILOTS TRAINING COURSE

Fly Africa the Bushpilot's way, experience the Life of a Bushpilot. After practicing various flying techniques on tarmac we will fly into a Bush camp that will serve as our Base for the next days. The Bush camp is comfortably furnished, sumptuous food is served and there will be ample opportunity to enjoy the bushveld or simply to relax on the poolside.

You will fly with experienced Bushpilots and Instructors to and from various airstrips and you will learn how to handle an Aircraft both on rough surfaces as well as in the air.

We return to camp in the afternoons and you will be taken out into the veldt by qualified bushrangers that will teach you the basic skills needed to move safely in wild.

Basic survival techniques and the handling of various tools and gadgetry necessary in the bush will be demonstrated.

Bush walks; night and day Safari game drives will bring you in touch with the abundant fauna and flora Africa's. Antelope, Giraffe, Zebras and other Game roam freely and you will get good photo opportunities.

Some nights we may camp out under the wing of our Aircraft watch the red African sun set, build a camp and sit around the campfire taking in the sounds of nature around us.

This is an all-round bush experience for people with a zest for life, nature and flying.

You will graduate from this course with a **Bushpilot's Certificate** of competency.

BUSHPILOTS COURSE SYLLABUS 8 Day

- * PREPARATION FOR FLYING INTO THE WILD
- * SOFT FIELD TECHNIQUES
- * SHORT FIELD TECHNIQUES
- * GROUND HANDLING OF AIRCRAFT
- * SECURING OF AIRCRAFT
- * 20 HOURS BUSH FLYING
- * BUSHPILOTS NAVIGATING SKILLS
- * BASIC BUSHCRAFT AND SURVIVAL
- * FAUNA AND FLORA OF AFRICA
- * FLYING AND NATURE CONSERVATION
- * AIRMANSHIP



FLYING NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

To the SKYAFRICA Team of Paul and Karl who won the Club Navigation rally in FIF against heavy airline opposition with zero penalty points and a “wheels on ground time” accuracy of within 7 seconds. Showed them how its done, boys.



HAIA SAFARI

Corinna, Martin and Ralf from Austria were introduced to their first Bushplane as well as Elephant rides and promised to come back to do their PPL



THE LIGHTER SIDE OF HOURBUILDING

Logan and Karl sat on a bench near the swimming pool at our airfield to watch a SKYAFRICA C-150 piloted by a young German Lady, doing circuits.

Beautiful sunny day and she was supposed to practice “touch and goes” but something just didn’t seem right.

Every one of her approaches was high and fast, she got to about ten meters off the ground and then initiated a go- around.

Getting worried after a while the instructor goes on the radio and calls her “EGP Brakpan ground” .No answer.

But her radio call comes in unabated; “EGP RH downwind 36”, “EGP final 36” and she goes around again and again.

Radio calls coming from her, but nothing received obviously point to some Radio failure.

And out there a pilot that has obviously lost the ability to land an airplane.

The beginning of the proverbial chain of disaster?

Worried faces all round, what’s her problem, weather is good almost no crosswind and she flew so well the day before.

What will happen when the tanks run empty, how will she deadstick this plane onto the ground in one piece when she cannot land it with the engine running.

“I checked her out and validated her German License, it will be on my conscience if she wipes herself out herself “; says Logan

Other planes in the sky are also trying to reach her with no luck and there she goes round and round again, 700 foot high on final approach and way too fast.

Enough is enough we have to assist her somehow and that we cannot do from the ground

We jump into the Cessna parked closest to the hangar door and take off.

The idea is to fly in close formation and to lead her onto an approach path that will make her reach the ground safely.

We clear the airspace over Brakpan, planes obligingly getting out of the way and soon we are in her 2 o’clock position in a perfect glidepath earthbound.

There she has finally caught on and follows us in, lands perfectly.
Heavy relief, a catastrophe averted by decisive action.

Next our turn to land and we taxi to the apron awaiting hero status and eternal gratefulness for saving a damsel in distress.

There she walks up to our plane all smiles as cool and collected as anything does.

The conversation went as follows;

“How are you guys, I see you went flying”

“Yes we went to rescue you”

“Who me, why? I’m alright”

“You did not land and we were worried that you had panicked on the controls and you didn’t answer the radio either”

“Well that easy to explain”

“Well then explain”

“I experienced a radio failure but since this is a uncontrolled airfield, I just watched the other traffic, carried on flying and when planes started coming at me from all over the sky I came in and landed.”

“But why didn’t you do the touch, in the touch and goes?”

“Well firstly I came here to build hours towards my COM, not landings and secondly, in **Germany landing fees are so exorbitant that we only land on every third approach that we make**”.

Perfectly logical, isn’t it

We now call her “Go around Sue” and have stopped complaining about cost of landing fees in South Africa.

2004 SEASON

Our 2004 Safari schedule
Book early to ensure a seat

SKYAFRICA SAFARIS		START DATE	START DATE	START DATE	START DATE	START DATE	START DATE	DAYS on Trip
SAFARIS 2004		TRIP 1	TRIP 2	TRIP 3	TRIP 4	TRIP 5	TRIP 6	
STARBURST SAFARI	ORANGE FREESTATE – DRAKENSBERGMOUNTAINS-INDIAN OCEAN-ZULULAND MAPUTALAND	18 Jan	22 Feb.	21 Mar	23 May	20 Nov.		10
ELEPHANT and DOLPHIN FLIGHT	MPHUMALANGA-BLYDE RIVER CANYON-KRUGERPARK - MOCAMIQUE- INDIAN OCEAN	18 Jan	08 Feb.	07 Mar	11 Apr	17 Oct.	07 Nov	11
KALAHARI BUSHMEN EXPEDITION	JOBURG-KALAHARI-TSODILO HILLS O’KAVANGO	09 May	06 Jun	19 Sept				11
O’KAMBEZI WILDLIFE SAFARI	JO-BURGMAGADIGADICHOBE ZAMBEZI RIVER -VIC FALLS- O’KAVANGO DELTA	06 July	03 Oct.					12
DIAMOND AND DESERT LION SAFARI	JOBURG-FISHRIVER-LUDERITZ- SOSSUSVLEI-SWAKOPMUND- ETOSHA-WINDHOEK-ORANGE RIVER-UPINGTON-KIMBERLEY	15 Aug						16
AFRICAN DREAM SAFARI	JOBURG-VICFALLS-LUANGWA ZAMBIA-LAKE MALAWI-INDIAN OCEAN ISLES	25 Apr	20 Jun	05 Sept				13
TIP OF AFRICA SUNRISE	JOBURG-KRUGER NATIONAL PARK- MAPUTALAND-INDIAN OCEAN- WILD Coast-SUNSHINE COAST- CAPE AGHULAS-CAPE TOWN-KLEIN KAROO-KIMBERLEY	05 Dec.						19