

SkyAfrica

Newsletter

January 2009

Hi there flying friends!

We trust that you had a good start into the New Year and wish you all the best for 2009.

In this edition of the SkyAfrica Newsletter we have included our Programme for the next few months, listing fun events, the various Safaris to be flown and the time schedule for our Bush Pilot courses. These are the preliminary dates. Seeing as tailor-made is our middle name, the dates and choice of destinations can be altered to suit ones timetable.

Following the programme, we have included short descriptions on some of the safaris, so as to give you more insight into what can be expected on your trip.

Many have already taken advantage of the flattering South African exchange rate and signed up to come and fly with us. The months April to October are very popular, as this is the dry season for most regions in southern Africa, which makes for fantastic flying weather. Another advantage is that the vegetation in the bush thins out and the animals are drawn to the watering holes, giving you the best change of viewing the Big 5 and more beautiful wildlife on game drives.

Last but not least, we have included a report sporting telltale pictures of a jet-sortie with our SkyAfrica instructor Mike Weingartz for your viewing pleasure. Enjoy the read!

Erika and the SkyAfrica Team

Start	Return Day	Name	Description
January - December 2009		Golden City Flights	Exciting day flights to undertake during your stay in Johannesburg, allowing you to discover the splendours of the City of Gold and its surrounding areas
January 2009		Tiger Moth Flying Day	Tail Dragger Day at SkyAfrica
14. February	19. February	Bush Pilot Course 5 Days	The course is aimed at pilots keen to acquire the skills and confidence needed to safely navigate out into remote areas - be it in Africa or the Outback of Australia
21. February	07. March	Grand Namibia Okavango Pilot Getaway Tour	Johannesburg – Upington – Fish River Canyon – Namib Rand Desert Park – Swakopmund – Skeleton Coast – Etosha Pan – Okavango – Limpopo – Johannesburg
07. March	-	Wakkerstroom Mile High Fly-In	Enjoy some good-natured South African hospitality on the Natal farmlands during the fun filled Fly-In at Wakkerstroom
02. April	05. April	AERO Friedrichs- hafen	Meet us at the SkyAfrica Stand in Hall A4 - Stand No. 110
04. April	Saturday 16h00	SkyAfrica „Eagles“ Get-together in Friedrichshafen	We invite you to spend an evening with the SkyAfrica team and our pilot friends from throughout the whole of Europe. Good conversation, presentations, short video screenings of flying in Africa and just an all round pleasant evening is what awaits you!
25. April	02. May	Bush Pilot Course 8 Days	The course is aimed at pilots keen to acquire the skills and confidence needed to safely navigate out into remote areas - be it in Africa or the Outback of Australia
03. May	-	Jet Flying Day	Join Mike Weingartz for an exhilarating jet sortie in his Impala MK1
09. May	24. May	Self-Pilot Safari <i>Botswana Zambia Malawi Mozam- bique</i>	Fly along the great African Zambezi and Luangwa Rivers!
30. May	10. June	Self-Pilot Safari <i>Best of Namibia</i>	Jo'burg – Kimberley- Upington – Keetmanshoop – Fish River Canyon – Lüderitz – Namib Rand Desert Park – Sossusvlei – Swakopmund – Skeleton Coast – Kunene River – Etosha – Windhoek – Kalahari Desert – Jo'burg

20. June	05. July	Self-Pilot Safari <i>Incredible Africa</i>	Johannesburg – Springbok Flats – Bushveld – Waterberg Biosphere – Kruger National Park – Lowveld – Lake Pongola – Lake Sibaya – Indian Ocean – Johannesburg
11. July	30. July	Self-Pilot Safari <i>African Dream</i>	Johannesburg – Limpopo – Tuli Block – Lake Kariba – Zambezi River – Luangwa Zambia – Lake Malawi – Bazaruto Archipelago – Indian Ocean Coral Reefs – Mozambique Lowlands – Johannesburg
08. August	18. August	Self-Pilot Safari <i>Kalahari Bushmen</i>	Johannesburg – Highveld – Central Kalahari – Tsodilo Hills – Okavango Delta – Magadigadi Pans – Limpopo – Johannesburg
22. August	29. August	Bush Pilot Course 8 Days	The course is aimed at pilots keen to acquire the skills and confidence needed to safely navigate out into remote areas - be it in Africa or the Outback of Australia
05. September	13. September	Self-Pilot Safari <i>Zulu Dawn</i>	Johannesburg – Springbok Flats – Waterberg – Limpopo River – Mapungubwe – Kruger National Park – Eastern Transvaal Escarpment – Blyde River Canyon – Highveld – Johannesburg
10. October	17. October	Bush Pilot Course 8 Days	The course is aimed at pilots keen to acquire the skills and confidence needed to safely navigate out into remote areas - be it in Africa or the Outback of Australia
20. October	-	SkyAfrica Fun Day	Formation flying: Albatross, Impala Jet sortie, Tiger Moth, Chipmunk, Yak 52

African Dream



Enjoy a birds-eye-view of some of Nature's greatest gifts. This safari provides you with insights into the history, culture, geography and biodiversity of the eastern regions of southern Africa. Far away from overcrowded tourist attractions, individualists are in for an unforgettable experience. The journey begins and ends in Johannesburg and will lead you to Limpopo, Tuli Block, Lake Kariba, Zambezi River, Luangwa Zambia, Lake Malawi, Bazaruto Archipelago, Indian Ocean Coral Reefs and the Mozambique Lowlands.

Best of Namibia



Romantic deserts, the world's highest sand dunes, breathtaking fauna and flora, a fascinating history and heart-warming hospitality – all this describes Namibia. The journey begins and ends in Johannesburg and will take you to the diamond mining town of Kimberley, Upington, Keetmanshoop, the famous Fish River Canyon, die founding city of Lüderitz, the seemingly untouched Namib Rand Desert Park and onwards to the mighty sand dunes of the Sossusvlei, the much loved seaside resort town Swakopmund, the Skeleton Coast

feared by many a sailor, up to the land of the Himbas at the Kunene River, the infinite reaches of the Etosha-Pan, the historic capital of Windhoek, returning to Johannesburg by flying over the boundless Kalahari Desert. A trip not to be missed!

Zulu Dawn



Discover the land of the Zulu Kings in the stunningly striking northeast region of South Africa. The site of many bloody battles between Zulu warriors and British soldiers during colonial times, this region is a fiery mix of fascinating history and unbelievable beauty. Admire the snow-covered peaks of the majestic Drakensberg Mountain range in winter-time, visit the historic Anglo-Zulu battlefields, view the Big 5 and more whilst in the midst of the abundance of

national parks in the area, experience village life and enjoy the flights leading you over one of the most gorgeous places the world has to offer! An absolute must for all South Africa lovers! Your itinerary: Johannesburg – Drakensberg – Indian Ocean – Zululand Battlefields – Johannesburg

Come Fly with us... **SKY AFRICA**

Incredible Africa



South Africa's nature reserves are justly renowned for the incredible natural heritage they conserve, which is why this safari is guaranteed to leave you with unforgettable encounters and everlasting impressions. Your trip will take you to exquisite areas such as the Madikwe Game Reserve, the Waterberg Biosphere and the archaeological hotspot Mapungubwe. A panoramic jewel is the flight through the Blyde River Canyon in the Kruger National Park, as well as the scenes of the unspoilt Maputaland, Lake Sibaya in the heart of

rural Zululand and - to top it all off - the pearly white beaches and colourful coral reefs of the inviting Indian Ocean.

8-day Bush Pilot Course



This training syllabus is targeted at mastering the intricacies of bush flying. Daily sorties are undertaken by landing and taking off from selected bush strips, which greatly vary in size and ground conditions. From grass, gravel, short, narrow, uphill, downhill, one-way to landing on wide tarred international airports - everything is on the menu! Experienced bush pilots and instructors will assist you in learning how to handle your aircraft safely

and proficiently in the air as well as on the ground. About twenty hours airtime, well over thirty landings on over 25 different fields - all within an 8-day timeframe. Upon returning to camp in the afternoons you will be taken out into the Veldt by qualified bush rangers who will teach you the basic skills needed to operate in the wild. Courses are held all year round and can be arranged on request should our scheduled courses not suit your timetable.

Come Fly with us... **SKY AFRICA**

Impala MK1

ZU-IMP



Most people have seen this movie at least once in their lives – *Top Gun* with Tom Cruise in the lead role-playing the young jet-jockey *Maverick* flying the F14 Tomcat for the United States Navy! However, most people have not had the opportunity of sitting in a live jet flying at close to mach 1 and sniffing some of that *Top Gun* air up close and personal.

That all changed for a few lucky participants of the 27. Bush Pilot Course and some of the members of the German film crew shooting the event in September of last year.

They had the chance to fly with one of the most experienced jet pilots South Africa has to offer - Mike Weingartz: call sign „Wizard“

With around 10.000 hours (1.500 of those super sonic) Mike's flying career is nothing to sneeze at. He was a fighter pilot for the South African Air Force, spending 12 years in active duty against the Cuban and East German flown MIGs in Angola. His training started in 1969 straight on the AERO Macchi MB 326 Impala, Mirage 1 and Mirage 3, as well as the South Africa built Cheetah Supersonic Interceptor.

Reinhold ready to roll!



With over 5000 hours, mostly as instructor, he is undoubtedly the most experienced Impala pilot in the world. He was part of the Silver Falcon Elite Aerobatic Squadron in the South African Air Force and ended his military career as highly decorated Colonel after 22 years. Today he is still active as the chief test pilot on Grippen and Hawks. His ratings include:

- ✓ PAI Pilot Attack Instructor
- ✓ SL Strike leader (Day and Night)
- ✓ A1 Flying instructor
- ✓ IRE Instrument Rating Examiner
- ✓ MTP Maintenance Test Pilot
- ✓ Commercial Flying Licence

- ✓ Civilian Instructors Rating II
- ✓ OFT Operational Flight Trainer Instructor
- ✓ Civilian Flight Test Rating II
- ✓ Designated Flight Examiner II

For the past two years, Mike has also functioned as CFI at SkyAfrica and has kindly shared his love for „fast flying“ with us and quite a number of our guests.

The aircraft flown is the before mentioned Impala MK1 (ZU-IMP), now privately owned by Dawid Laas, who attentively takes care of his baby to make sure that the aerie is always in top condition.

Accumulating evidence



The Macchi MB 326 is a two-seater aircraft designed by the Italian manufacturer Aermacchi, who in the 1960's developed the MB 326M for the South African Air Force. Quite a few of the aircraft were shipped to South Africa, whilst many were license-produced by the South African company Atlas Aircraft Corporation under the Impala MK name.

In 2005, after over 40 years of service, the last of the Impalas were phased out of the South African Air Force,

out of the South African Air Force, having been replaced by the Hawks. Countless Impalas have been sold to the Brazilian Air Force, but also numerous private persons, who apparently had some pocket money to spare, bought up many of these nostalgic jewels.

So here are some pictures showing our SkyAfrica Top Guns taking off into the African skies at Wonderboom Airport!

Highway to the Danger Zone...



Markus looking pretty relaxed



Mike busy with his safety briefing before the flight



Don't pull the yellow one!





The competent and always friendly ATC's of Wonderboom Airport



Inspecting the oxygen mask



Corinna strapped in tight



Thumbs up,
ready to roll!



Rolling



Take-Off





What comes up must
come down!



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