



SAMAA *communiqué* #50

The South African Model Aircraft Association. CAA ARO #10
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To: All SAMAA members.

Date: 28 August 2023

One Day or Day One!

History of the South African Model Aircraft Association (SAMAA)



August 1937 - The SAMAA - South African Model Aeronautic Association - was formed on initiation of Viv Gracie of Cape Town, Phil Dalgety of Durban, and Alf Yardley of Johannesburg. Viv Gracie was a brilliant engineer, Phil Dalgety was South Africa's top Wakefield competitor of the early years, and Alf Yardley was one of the country's most prominent hobby dealers.

29 June 1938 - First Annual General Meeting/Conference of delegates of the SAMAA held in Port Elizabeth, chaired by GE Marriott. Capt Roy Makepiece was the first chairman/president of the SAMAA.

13 June 1939 - Howard Endean elected as SAMAA chairman, at meeting in Corner House, 77 Commissioner Street in Johannesburg.

April 1950 - First radio-control Nationals, in Johannesburg. Won by Cliff Culverwell.

April 1951 - Second South African radio-control Nationals, in Pretoria, won by Monte Malherbe.

1952 – 1957 - Several National championships: East London, Johannesburg, Palmietfontein (Germiston), Koedoespoort (Pretoria).

April 1957 - On invitation/sponsorship from Monte Malherbe, Bob Palmer (Control Line) and Howard Bonner (RC) visited South Africa. Bonner demonstrated reliable radio control. Several major centres included in visit. Huge interest sparked in radio control, as a result. Commercial equipment also available.

May 1958 - The radio-control fliers, under leadership of Monte Malherbe and Beau Pautz, with Reg Lee of Bloemfontein as the Orange Free State representative, effectively broke away from the SAMAA, and established their own association, the Southern Territories Amateur Radio Society (STARS). Unpleasantness surrounded this separation, since the free flight and control line aeromodellers, at the time, felt the radio control fliers were snobbish.

March 1962 - Realising that they needed affiliation to the FAI, the STARS approached the SA Aero Club. Temporary Aero Club/FAI membership was granted to Monte Malherbe, which enabled him to compete in the 1962 RC World Championship in Kenley, England. He was the only South African participant.

Continue next page.....



October 1962 - Full Aero Club and FAI affiliation/membership was granted to STARS and its members in October of 1962.

August 1963 - This affiliation enabled a full, three-man South African team to participate at the 1963 Radio Control World Championship in Genk, Belgium.

August 1965 - A South African aerobatic team, with team manager Monte Malherbe, travelled to Sweden to compete in the 4th RC Aerobatic World Championships. The Aero Club funded this excursion, and it left the Aero Club in huge debt. The STARS was disbanded, and Monte Malherbe was asked to sign a commitment of future non-involvement.

8-10 April 1966 - South African Nationals for RC Aerobatics at Grand Central Airport. Several discussions regarding the future of South African participation at 1967 World Championships and beyond.

Comment in August 1966 newsletter of South African Model Aeronautic Association, editor Basil Moore: *Arising from an article in "Flysheet" of June 1966, it became necessary for SAMAA to approach the Aero Club of SA so that the needs and wishes of R/C modellers would continue to be made known at Aero Club meetings. I hasten to add that this step was only taken after we had obtained confirmation that Monte Malherbe had definitely stepped down.*

June 1966 - Representation was made to SAMAA, and after a submission, a decision was taken for SAMAA to continue looking after the affairs of the radio control fliers. Dries Welgemoed (Bambi Hobby Shop in Pretoria) was tasked to either revive STARS, or to establish a new group. In the short space of three months, Dries drafted a constitution (in an exercise book) and circulated this to all the active centres of the country. He received help in this process from Jack Immelmann (Johannesburg), Nigel Harrison (Durban), and Chips Wannenburg (Cape Town). The regional clubs added their comments in the exercise book, and the draft constitution was accepted in September.

September 1966 - The South African Association of Radio Flyers (SAARF) was established and constituted, with Dries Welgemoed elected as the first general secretary of the SAARF.

October 1966 - First issue of SAARF News, published in the Cape Radio Flyers newsletter, Flysheet.

April 1967 - SA Nationals held in Welkom. At the AGM of the SAARF, Carl Harlen was elected as the SAARF chairman.

April 1968 - SA Nationals staged in Klerksdorp. At the SAARF AGM, Hein Venter was elected as the SAARF chairman.

April 1986 - The SAARF committee wished for all the aeromodelling disciplines to be united under a single body, and an enabling resolution was passed at the AGM in Welkom, and the name SAMAA was adopted once more, with Ian Fraser as the SAMAA chairman.

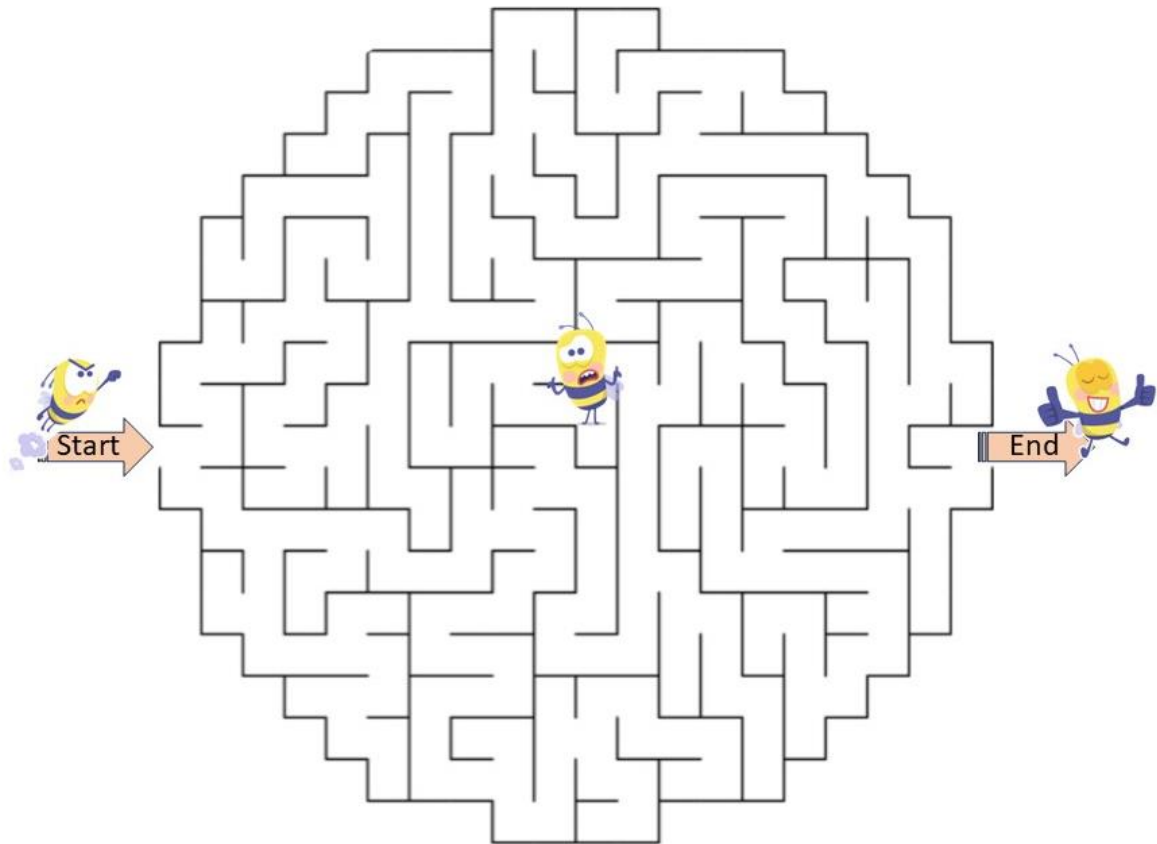
Competition Time....



Competition Time!!

Stand a chance to win R200.

Submit your answers on the template to admin@samaa.org.za before 12pm on Monday 04th September, to have your name put into the draw.



Winner of R200 (Communique 49 – Word Search). Congratulations to Bradley Davies!!!



Day at the Field



Join the theme – “Day at the Field beats a Day at the Office” – Inviting SAMAA Clubs/members to submit their videos [taken in portrait format].

Send your videos to admin@samaa.org.za. We will edit and publish your club’s content.

SAMAA displaying a typical day at LOMAC [Lowveld model aircraft club] near Mbombela [Nelspruit].

This is the 1st video on the theme of "Day at the Field beats a Day at the Office"

<https://youtu.be/m8i8rHwY8Zg>



2024 SAMAA Combined Nationals



Would you like to showcase your flying ingenuity and show other SAMAA members what you are capable of, then diarise the dates, 27 April – 01 May 2024, and enter the 2024 SAMAA Combined Nationals.

The South African Model Aircraft Association invites all its members to participate in the 2024 SAMAA Combined Nationals, hosted at the Middelburg Airfield in Mpumalanga. Entry form will be published in the near future. Head on over to our SAMAA YouTube Channel - [South African Model Aircraft Association SAMAA - YouTube](#) - to watch the previous year’s SAMAA Nationals.

SAMPE

**SAMPE Spring Day
Regional Competition 2023
Saturday the 2nd of September
Irene Radio Flyers**

Competition Entry Mechanics:

- Valid and paid up SAMAA. Please present number on arrival
- Paid up SAMPE annual fees
- Registration fee of R 250, payable on arrival or into SAMPE account. Ref: Surname -2/09/2023
- Pilots briefing: 08h00
- Competition: 08h30 – 13h00
- Dress up for Spring Day!
- Please enter via SAMPE what’s app or contact Leonie – 083 584 4968

Details for the Day:

- There are braai facilities (Charcoal and blitz will be provided)
- Please bring your own table for parachute packing
- Jump Pilots and Judges will be re-imbursed

Sponsorship for Communique.

We thank RC WINGMAN for sponsoring this edition of the SAMAA Communique.



Here is a great opportunity for prospective sponsors to build your brand. If you as a SAMAA member, or your business, or if you know of someone who would be interested to be a sponsor for the SAMAA Communique, please consider making use of this opportunity... for more information contact the SAMAA office staff admin@samaa.org.za.

Safe flying!

The SAMAA Management Committee.

