

1. Re-registration of aircraft

CAA has slipped an item onto the next CARCOM meeting's agenda. They want us to re-register our aircraft every three years or even every year. This would attract the very nice fee of R500 or something per aircraft, filling their coffers with an additional R5million. We will oppose this with all our resources, including the courts, if necessary. The reason they give is that pilots fail to give notice of change ownership, which is utter nonsense of course. Every aircraft has to get a certificate of airworthiness every year, which requires all the details of the aircraft and owner. CAA has no basis for this new proposed revenue stream. We have given instructions for our representatives to prepare a comprehensive objection for the meeting. If they dare ignore our objection, we will immediately issue a summons, including a few other relevant and outstanding issues.

2. CRM for the single pilot crew - the AOPA SA project

We have compiled a project which would ultimately consist of a book, DVD, road show and voluntary participation by our members. This is an effort to do something about the poor accident rate of general aviation. We believe that it is possible to cut our accident rate in half if we can encourage our members to embrace this program. The idea is to get our members to pass an additional check ride with one of our officially appointed grey heads, old and not bold pilots. We are doing this in co-operation with CAA who have agreed to be a major sponsor. We presented CAA with the first copy of the book on Monday as well as the script of the DVD video.

3. World Assembly - Toyota joins as sponsor.

Toyota is the latest company to join us as a sponsor for the World Assembly at Spier from 10-15 April 2012. They have donated R10 000 joining CAA (R10 000) and the Department of Transport (R100 000). We still require R280 000 to ensure the successful hosting of this prestigious event. Please spread the word. We don't want to entertain our international celebrities with egg on our faces. Full details can be found on www.iaopa2012.co.za

4. Air space issue

Vice-president Chris Martinus, a long time champion of free air space, has attended several NASCOM meetings recently, and he has shown the different parties on the error of their ways. Air space has become a turf battle between various government departments and bodies with the general aviation pilots as the victims. Chris is of the opinion that the draconian environmental affairs regulation pertaining to the Cradle of Mankind might be repealed. It is a complex issue with several parties, each with their own vested interests (read Lanseria, Krugersdorp Flying Club, Orient, Pelindaba and others). We believe that by consultation we will eventually reach an acceptable outcome but it needs constant monitoring.