



# Newsletter 2010

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December 2010

## Another year has gone. What has AOPA achieved?

We are proud to tell you that your organisation has had many successes. We started the year with meetings and consultations with CAA and other representative bodies, most notably with Aero Club, South African Powered Flight Association, EAA and CAASA. During a meeting at the farm Paddafontein we formed the General Aviation Co-ordinating Committee (GACC). It was perceived that a need existed for a unified body to negotiate with the authorities. This had mixed success but once again confirmed the need for the strong and independent voice of AOPA, the organisation that stands for the rights of the general aviation pilot and aircraft owner. We hosted a wonderful safety meeting at Wonderboom with one of the top experts on CRM (Crew Resource Management) from the USA, dr Jerry Cockrell, as our keynote speaker.



Left to right: Dr Jerry Cockrell (USA), Jannie Loutzis (Loutzavia) and Koos Marais

Dr Cockrell, a 737 pilot, instructor and aviation psychologist, is a fantastic speaker and entertainer and he had his audience in stitches, yet they all learnt valuable safety lessons.

FIFA, the CAA, SAPS and the SAAF surprised us all with a set of unexpected flight restrictions which we successfully opposed in court and gave us exposure

in the press and radio. The authorities were forced to sit up and take notice of AOPA. There is a more subtle side to this issue. If we had allowed the authorities the luxury of this unbridled abuse of their powers, the next family wedding of a politically notable or other event of some small significance would have brought with it similar restrictions.

On a more mundane level we represented dozens of members with differences of opinion with CAA about matters such as training, airworthiness, safety and licensing. This is not always plain sailing and places heavy demands on our resources. Likewise we attended numerous CARCOM, Industry Liason Forum and NASCOM meetings where we made important contributions to the future of general aviation.

In June we also made a presentation to the World Assembly of the International Council of AOPA held in Israel and won the right to host the next World Assembly right here in SA in 2012! (To be confirmed) This is a most prestigious event. Secretary-general John Sheehan of IAOPA arrives on December 14 for a whistle stop site visit of the country before the final go-ahead will be given. South Africa last hosted this event in 1992 and members from all over the world came for the meeting, some even arriving in their private jets.

AOPA revived the drive for Wonderboom Airport's international status after a two year lull in activities and also slammed the Tshwane Metro Council's lack of transparency with fuel supply which resulted in severe shortages. This made national television news with chairman dr Koos Marais being interviewed by SABC News.

AOPA also noted that the CAA was acting illegally by continuing to be involved with the investigation of aircraft accidents despite the stipulations of the new Aviation Act. The new act came into effect on 1 April 2010, yet the minister had failed to appoint the board of the newly formed Aviation Safety Investigation Board. AOPA has offered to provide the services of their expert members for this Board.

Similarly AOPA has made representations to the minister of transport about the appointment of CAA's new director and board. There had been serious concerns about political appointments which would have serious implications. AOPA is of the view that an ineffective director and or board might endanger the country's ICAO compliance.

The SA Weather Services entered into an unholy alliance with a private commercial firm and started to ask aviators R250 per month for the privilege of visiting the weathersa.co.za website. Our members are justifiably dissatisfied with this situation and we attended a meeting where our unhappiness was expressed. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for January 2011. We also contacted Members of Parliament and questions will be asked. As an emergency measure we established a network of weather observers for the use of our members.

We are very proud to have been instrumental in the creation of the 69th and latest member state of IAOPA, Namibia. In September 2010 Koos Marais and AOPA Botswana president Tony Rees flew to Namibia to attend and address the inaugural meeting of AOPA Namibia and we wish them all the best for the future.



Left to right: Tony Rees (President AOPA Botswana), Reinhardt Gärtner (newly elected President of AOPA Namibia) and Koos Marais.



It is becoming increasingly clear that this kind of cross border co-operation will be the only way forward for general aviation in the sub-continent. Zimbabwean authorities, for instance, are more bound to listen to the input, suggestions and complaints from AOPA South Africa or Namibia than they would be for efforts by individuals from their own country.

On the household front AOPA's membership experienced an explosion in numbers and we were forced to expand our office and staff. Soon our members will be able to visit the office in the east of Pretoria and to meet our staff.

We use this opportunity to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and safe flight during 2011.

Please continue supporting us by renewing your membership today and by urging your friends to join us. As a very important drive for 2012, when we hope to host the World Assembly, it is right and proper to ask our members to upgrade your membership to donor member status at R1000 per year because that also renders you a full member of IAOPA, the international body with 470 000 members, to which we are affiliated. As a donor member you also get the prestigious monthly AOPA Pilot magazine. We want to be a significant member state when we welcome the world to our beautiful skies and shores in 2012. Remember all members get a Crew Card and a monthly copy of our official mouthpiece, World Air News. That alone is worth your annual subscription!

Printed newsletters are extremely expensive. Most of our members receive our regular electronic newsletters. Please ensure that we have your correct e-mail address on record. You can do this as well as update your other details by sending an e-mail to admin@aopa.co.za

<p><b>AIR CREW</b></p> <p><b>Mr GD Leitch</b>  <b>AOPA- 0764</b>  <b>ID# 5801185134083</b>  <b>Expires</b>  <b>31-Dec-10</b></p> <p>Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of South Africa</p>	 	<p><b>Security Identification:</b>          Attention Airport Officials, Police and Security Personnel:          The person identified by this card is a Pilot/Aircraft Owner/Air Crew. Please allow holder to pass freely through check points to gain access to aircraft.</p> <p><b>Hotel, Car Hire and Service Operators:</b>          The holder of this card is engaged in General Aviation. Please allow the normal courtesy discount that is generally given to National and International Air Crews.</p> <p>If found, please return this card to:          AOPA-SA, P O Box 20 Private Bag X30, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040</p> <p>Signed by:          Dr. JT [Koos] Marais          Chairman of AOPA-SA</p> <p>Affiliated with IAOPA:          International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations</p>
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All members receive a Crew Card. Please e-mail your passport photograph (preferably in bitmap format) to admin@aopa.co.za