



BAFSA UPDATE June 2020

1. Covid-19 Restrictions

As many of you will be aware from the Aero Club communiques sent out, much “behind the scenes” work is ongoing in an effort to allow some form of recreational aviation to occur.

We hope to be in a position to share some good news in the not to distant future.

As a result of the current restrictions, all pilots in South Africa are no longer current, currency flights will be required for the categories of sport and commercial operations as required by the CARS and the respective approved operations manuals of the particular commercial operator.

The recent “Ballooning Buzz” from Balloon Workshop contains all the relevant information.

It was announced on Monday that proficiency flights would be permitted following approval from CAA. We are awaiting the official gazette in this regard as well as the CAA process for approval.

Watch this space for updates as well as Aero Club communiques.



Internationally ballooning activities are slowly recommencing in certain countries, amidst many events being cancelled or postponed. The latest casualty being the annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

Numerous of you would have seen Sarah Bauling and family experiencing their first flight in the Hunter Valley in Oz over the past weekendtechnology and social media!!

2. World Hot Air Balloon Championship 2020

Unfortunately, this event that was intended to take place in mid-September 2020 has been cancelled. The 24th World Hot Air Championship will now take place in 2022 at the same venue in Slovenia.

We will need to select a new team, based on revised criteria, if we do not manage to hold a championship event this year.

3. Aero Club Centenary 2020/Launch of Centenary Balloon

We are all awaiting the easing of restrictions to arrange for the official launch function of the new centenary balloon.



Invitations to attend will be distributed to all once we can determine a date.

Please keep an eye on your in-box for details.

4. Battlefields Balloon Fiesta 2020

In our last edition of "BAFSA Update" the idea of this event was mooted. Alan Turner has kindly written the following:

"The current situation around Corvid 19 has led to most aviation events being cancelled. The SA Nationals 2020 were affected by this. All active pilots have been unable to fly regularly, keep hours and skills current and have lost opportunities for social contact with fellow pilots.

It is proposed to stage a Fiesta at Battlefields Lodge, near Dundee, KZN on the long weekend starting 23 September 2020 and ending on Sunday 27 September 2020. The Lodge is well known to power pilots who have staged an annual Fly In there for many years now. The feedback from that event has always been positive. Accommodation is offered on a self-catering basis. Braai facilities and breakfast options are available.

There is a possibility that a small component of light aircraft pilots will join us on the same weekend. The area is suitable for balloon flying. The time of year will be early spring, so daylight hours will be longer and it should be getting warmer. There are good road networks around the lodge for recovery purposes. Afrox have a depot in Dundee and a supply of propane can be arranged. The lodge are able to provide some ground crew to assist with launching procedures. If the weather co-operates, morning and afternoon flights would be the possible. This will assist greatly with getting some airtime and hours achieved so that licencing requirements are met.

In addition to this, there are many historical Voortrekker, Anglo- Zulu and Anglo- Boer War Battlefields in the area. Within close proximity it will be possible to visit Blood River, Talana Museum, Isandlwana, Fugitives Drift and Rorkes Drift. The well-known guide Rob Caskie will be available to lead a guided tour to sites close by. He could also present an evening session giving an overview of the historical impact on the area.

It is obvious that the Fiesta will only be able to proceed if the current restrictions on inter provincial travel, recreational flying and accommodation options have been lifted to a level that would make all of this possible."

In the meantime, it would assist with planning if we could receive an indication from members on levels of interest.

Please diarize the dates of 23/09/20 – 27/09/20. Further details and confirmation will be distributed as soon as possible.

Link to the Battlefields Lodge is as follows:

www.battlefieldslodge.co.za

The Battlefields Lodge hosts an annual Fly In event, unfortunately this years event was cancelled. Link to last years event, thanks to Pilot Post, is:

2019 Fly in <http://www.pilotspost.co.za/arn0001824>

Be safe, keep well.

BAFSA COMMITTEE 2020

