



# PRETORIA ROUNDEL



1<sup>st</sup> South African Branch, Pretoria.

## January 2013

### A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

#### **Norman Veitch:**

We start the year with the happy occasion of the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of our oldest member. Many congratulations Norman and look forward to your continued health and happiness for many years to come.

#### **Area Conference 2013**

The Area Conference this year is to be hosted by Cape Town Branch and will take place in Cape Town on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Andy will attend as representative for our branch. The branch is liable for half the airfare and accommodation so to save a bit of branch funds Andy will stay with his daughter in Cape Town – better than sleeping on the beach! Any resolutions from our branch must be submitted by February so they must be discussed and confirmed at the January meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at the usual venue. We are due to play hosts again in 2016.

#### **Membership 2013**

For those of you who have a memory like mine subs are due for the current year. The fees were upgraded at the 2012 AGM and now stand at R100 full membership and R80 Associate membership. For those who are in dire straits financially please give us a call, e mail or homing pigeon and “we shall make a plan”.

#### **AGM 2013**

Please take this as official notice of the AGM for 2013 which will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at “Coal Box” Mk11 shellhole, Magazine Hill, Pretoria. The meeting will take place from 12.30hrs followed by a braai, weather permitting. Kindly note that only fully paid up members are eligible to vote.

#### **Events for 2013**

To date we do not have the calendar from PMSC and as soon as it is available we shall let you all know what is happening and where.

#### **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the branch**

The Pretoria Branch was formed in November 1943 and to celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday we plan a top notch “DO”. The plan is to have a dinner dance/party just prior to the official date i.e. October to facilitate venue and catering arrangements. The theme will be 1943 fashions, music and food as per rationing at that time. We encourage all members to really make an extra effort for this occasion and brush up on your dance moves. We already have a booking for a full table of 10 visitors so start spreading the word.

### **Fund Raising**

As you can understand we really do need to raise funds if we are to produce a party in October. For those of you who recall the Area Conference last year we promise to outdo that performance! With assistance of Mike Russell we have acquired a wonderful gift from Comair of two return flights to any Comair destination in South Africa. Negotiations are underway to support this with accommodation and car hire as well which will make a splendid prize. Raffle tickets will be available shortly and with such a wonderful prize we can expect a good response. This will be an attraction for all and not just aviation enthusiasts so sales should be not just good but excellent. Please take tickets and make the effort to sell as many as possible to everyone you know. The tickets will probably go on sale at R10 each and with a prize of such value should be very easy to move. What we don't really want is members taking a couple of sheets of tickets and at the death just buying the lot themselves. We need to get the word about that the RAFA is alive and well and quite a capable bunch. Further fund raising ideas are always welcome and we will give as much assistance as we can.

### **Xmas party**

We had a bit of a hiccup with a sit down lunch in December as prices and venue costs have escalated out of all proportion so we all got together for a braai at Bonaero Park on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We ended up with about 22 people and a good time was had by all, some a bit better than others! Thank you for your support.

### **Newsletters 2013**

As most of you know I had a bit of a health problem from July last year which resulted in no news letters from that date. I do apologize for this but unfortunately no volunteers came forward to take over. I shall endeavor to do better this year but must add that any contributions will be gratefully accepted.

### **36 Spitfires**

For those who watch the overseas news on TV you will be aware that two fellows from UK are off to Burma to confirm or otherwise that 36 Mark XIV Spitfires are buried at Yargon Airport near Rangoon where they have lain since 1945. Preliminary exploration via radar etc show positive feedback at the site so hopefully this is not just a myth. They plan to lift the aircraft, packed in waterproof boxes, and bring them back to UK for assembly and full restoration. From over 21000 Spitfires produced during the war only about 35 are left still flying so how marvelous it would be to add another 36 to the flying legends.

### **Flying Trivia**

According to aerodynamics the area of a bee's wings is insufficient to enable the bee to fly. The bee, however, not knowing aerodynamics theory, just goes on flying!

That's all folks! See you all on the 27<sup>th</sup> on The Hill. Braai to follow the meeting weather permitting.

Liz

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Please remember your problems are halved when shared! Call if you need help.