



Local Radio Controlled Model Aircraft Aerobatics enthusiast Arthur Eggar on the Polo field on the Sami Pass road where the championships will be held on 24 - 27 April. On 13 April at a regional competition held in Howick Arthur came first in the advanced class, we look forward to him winning on his home ground.



Watercolour by Serena Shaw

Art in the open at Pucketty Farm 19 April

Yes! We are all ready to have our Art in the Avenue again! Although the "avenue" is not what it used to be, we have made the

S.A. Champs 2014 Radio Controlled Model Aircraft Aerobatics 24th - 27th April

Himeville: The 2014 Radio Controlled Model Aerobatics Championship takes place over the last weekend of April at the Underberg Polo Fields, presented by the Model Aerobatic Association of South Africa (MAASA), under the auspices of the South African Model Aircraft Association (SAMAA), all affiliated to the international body (FAI).

It is with appreciation that the Underberg Polo Club be thanked for allowing this annual event to be staged at their facility.

Thanks also to the Underberg Farmers Association for the use of their club house for the weekend.

Competitive Radio controlled model aircraft aerobatics has a long history worldwide and the first world championship was staged in Switzerland in 1960. The world championships are staged every two years in different countries, with South Africa participating at most of the Championships over the years.

We will have three of last year's (2013) RSA team members present at this event, this team having fared the best that South Africa has over the years, with a final 8th placing out of 29 countries competing for the team prize, 24th out of 90 in the individual placings and the coveted World Champion in the junior category. We are truly proud of their performance. The South African Championship is held every year and this year's event will again be the first round in the best of three team selection events for next year's World Championship, ironically to be held in Switzerland, where it all started so long ago.

There are five classes flown in this form of competitive aerobatics, Sportsman, Intermediate, Advanced, Masters and F3a, catering for the new participants through to the highly experienced and competent pilots, only the top class (F3a) being eligible for selection to the South African team. In each class, the pilots fly a sequence of 17 known manoeuvres, in an imaginary box in the sky.

That box is 600 m long, 200 m high and 150m out from where the pilot stands. The sequence is a continuous and flowing one, with manoeuvres being executed in the centre of the box and at each end, to constitute a turn around procedure until all 17 are completed, all to be completed within an 8 minute time frame, from take-off to last manoeuvre. A panel of judges score each manoeuvre out of a possible 10 points, scoring being for precision, gracefulness and presentation. Penalties incurred for being off line, out of the box, exceeding the time allocation and poor execution of manoeuvres.

All the pilots fly state of the art equipment, the aircraft now all electrically powered. Physical properties for the aircraft are enforced for uniformity and fairness, those being a 2X2 metre dimensional parameter (wing width X length), 5 kg (+ 1%) maximum weight limit and 42 volts of electrical power. Aircraft are of a composite construction, using carbon fibre, special filler materials, glass fibre cloths and epoxy resins. Finishes are unbelievable and the painted surfaces are done in the mould at the time of construction.

Official practice will be held on Thursday the 24th, with the competition being contested over Friday 25th through to Sunday 27th, starting at 08h00 every day.

Each pilot will have 4 flights over the duration of the competition weekend, with the best three being counted towards the final tally of highest score to determine the South African champion in each class. Full catering will be available over the weekend, so bring your chairs, umbrella and come enjoy the spectacle of RC model Aerobatics. See you there. Arthur Eggar Chairman - MAASA.