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Aviation and Safety

The 'Cover to Cover' magazine

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AVIATION SNIPPETS

Contributed by *Mike Wright*

1. I was very kindly invited by senior training captain of **1time airlines** Kevin Curry to sample the front office of 1 times newest machine, the magnificent MD87 in Avis colours. It is quiet, comfortable, and has a very high climb rate. We routed from Durban to Cape Town and back (see separate report). This machine is registered at ZS-TRH and the sister ship which is in for its C check with Aeronexus will be registered as ZS-TRG. They now have 12 aircraft and are looking at two more MD87s to possibly replace the DC9s. The 87 carries 130 passengers compared to 157 on the MD 82/3 and 100 on the DC9.

2. The **airshow program** is hotting up with the first major show this year being Margate on 21 and 22 March. Vicky Erasmus is very busy organizing and Brian Emmenis has already been down from Welkom to assist her. It's going to be a great show and will include SAAF involvement.

3. **Kulula's** solution to load shedding – Kulula launched its "flight for light" in September and painted an aircraft (a B737 200) in the special livery. They suggest that Daylight Saving Time be introduced in SA from October to March each year. The campaign was introduced two years ago with a view to not only saving scarce electricity but also adding an hour of evening leisure time to the lives of South Africans. The clocks are turned forward by one hour during the long summer days and this has resulted in significant power savings in over 70 countries around the world that have summertime daylight saving in place. Kulula had a very busy holiday season and is making use of a leased Transavia B737 800 at present, which seats 186 passengers.

4. The **Red Bull** 2008 season kicks off on 10/11 April at Abu Dhabi. This year will be particularly special as our very own Glen Dell gets into the action. Glen of course is a legend here in SA and a man who has for many years now given us stunning aerobatic displays at many SA airshows in the Extra 300, SU28, Trojan 28E and others. He is a former World Aerobatic champion and as he says you can't learn this sort of flying, which is most demanding, in a simulator. It requires absolute 100% concentration and the machines enter the course and sustain speeds of more than 400kph. The aircraft used at present are the Extra 300 and Edge 540, both highly capable and nimble machines that can stand very high levels of g forces through the very tight turns. For information on race dates see www.redbullairraces.com. Klaus Schrodt and Frans Versteegh have retired, it has been announced.

5. **IATA** reports that as at 31/01 highlights for the 2007 year as regards passenger traffic were as follows: International passenger traffic demand grew 7,4% for the full year from the 5,9% increase recorded in 2006. December passenger traffic demand rose 6,7%, down from the 9,3% jump recorded in November. Average international load factors reached an industry record of 77% in 07, up from 76% in 2006 and 75,1% in 2005. This trend will likely end in 2008 as demand growth is forecast to slow to 5% while capacity rises 5,2%. Middle Eastern carriers recorded an 18,1% increase in passenger demand – much higher than other regions. International freight traffic grew by 4,3% in 2007 down from 4,6% seen 2006.

6. News from **Linden Birns** is that Airbus has recently completed the first test flight with alternative fuel on a civil aircraft using none other than the giant A380. The A380 successfully used a liquid fuel processed from gas in the first stage of a test program to evaluate the environmental impact of alternative fuels in the airline market. The route was from Filton (UK) to Toulouse France.

7. The following is the latest news from **Boeing**; there are still some delays on the new B787. They have begun major assembly of the new B777 freighter. The new B747-800, which will fill the gap between the B747-400 and the A380 is also going very well. Seat mile costs will be much lower than with the 400 and Cathay Pacific have taken delivery of more B777 300ers. Qatar Airways also recently got their first one.

8. I paid a visit to the **Solo Wings** Factory in Pinetown during January – Aidan is doing very well and even has export orders from Indonesia for his popular range of Windlass and Aquilla Trikes. See www.solowings.co.za for more info.

9. **Dave Jackson** of Ballito reports that he did well over 1000 microlight flips over the Christmas / New Year period. See www.microlights.co.za for more information, and if you would like to take a flip (or be trained) further inland at Light flight farm at Cato Ridge I suggest Geoff Dyer – see www.lightlight.co.za

10. 4th Feb **Ballito Microlight Club** were invited to visits ATNS

Durban. Thank you to Wally Lake for organising and Ron Van Breda for co-ordinating and of course to ATNS under Kevin O'Brien for their hospitality.

11. **Scully Levin**, is to lead the new **Gabriel Wings** Aerobatic Flight Team 2008 along with his son Ellis Levin (left wingman) and Arnie Meneghelli (right wingman). There 1st appearance was on the 3rd Feb at the "Round the Island Yacht Race at Deneysville on the Vaal Dam. The team's forthcoming displays for the year is yet to be finalised but will definitely be at the Margate Airshow between 21-22 March.



Forthcoming Airshow Events :



Visit **ASSA - Airshow SA** website: www.airshowsa.org.za
E-mail: airshowsa@icon.co.za or Lee Holmes: leeholmes@icon.co.za
Tel: (011) 326 1550 or Fax: (011) 326 1552

▶ 21 - 22 March - Margate Airshow & Carnival. Contact: Vicky Erasmus (039) 316 8137 or via E-mail vicky@wozaniafrica.co.za

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