



FRIENDS OF THE SAAF MUSEUM

2019

PRETORIA



INTRODUCTION

Welcome! You have joined a community of people who share a passion for aviation heritage. The Friends' role is to support the Museum in this area. We also hold monthly meetings at which information is shared, talks are presented and a spirit of camaraderie is developed amongst people with this interest. The Friends have branches in Pretoria, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, as well as affiliations with many other like minded heritage associations.

CONTACT US

CONTACT DETAILS AS FOLLOWS:

Pretoria Branch Committee

Members: Chairman -

Robert Cathro rccathro@yahoo.uk 0832310324

Vice Chairman -

Bazil Kriel brenda.anne@yahoo.com 0828725738

Treasurer -

Phil Scallan pmscal@iafrica.com 0826546854

Secretary -

Dave Evans daveevans@gmail.com 0825548633

Spitfire Restoration Project leader -

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Clubhouse Manager -

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Website: <https://www.fsaafm.com>

Facebook: Friends of the S.A.A.F. Museum

Spitfire Restoration Project –

<https://www.spitfire-restoration.co.za>

Collaboration with Ford High Performance Centre:

www.warriorsofthesky.co.za

MUSEUM LAYOUT

The Museum buildings are laid out roughly north to south, parallel to the runway which is 02/20. The Museum extends from the north access gate down to the control tower and is limited by the flight line fence to the east.



From the north, various brick, prefab and metal buildings are sited together with designated storage areas, which are not usually accessible to the Friends or visitors.

There are undercover aircraft displays adjacent to the Friends clubhouse as well as south of the Friends workshop. On the west side of the clubhouse is the Museum auditorium where Friends meetings are held.

MUSEUM LAYOUT CONT.

South of the clubhouse, on the flight line, are Hangars 1, 2, 3 and 4, which house various public exhibits, mainly aircraft.

East of the hangars is the area with outdoor aircraft displays, accessible to visitors. Between Hangar 2 and 3 is the cafeteria which is usually open during visiting hours.

West of Hangar 1 is the display hall which contains the Collective Heritage display.

Between hangars 1 and 2 are a set of Men's and Women's toilets.

RESTRICTED AREAS

- All outside storage areas and buildings to the north of the clubhouse, usually fenced.
- All areas outside the flight line fences, including the access roads to Snake Valley.
- All areas south of the Control Tower from the main gate, except by appointment.

FRIENDS' AWARDS

Gold Awards are issued annually at the Annual General Meeting, at the discretion of the Friends Committee, to all individual members who log a minimum of 100 hours of service to the Friends during the preceding membership year.

Members' hours are to be logged on completion of the member's duty and work carried out for the day. These hours are logged in the Duty Log Book which is kept in the Friends' club house.

The Branch Chairman's Award: these awards are given annually to members of the Friends who in the opinion of the Chairman have gone beyond the call of duty to assist the Museum in that year, particularly in respect of a major project.

The Van Ryneveld Award: for exceptional service to the Friends over an extended period of years.

The Smuts Award for exceptional work on a single project.



ACTIVITIES

In addition to the regular Museum Duties described below, members may elect to become involved in projects which enhance the quality of the Museum site and its displays.

Potential projects include:

- Maintenance of existing displays including exhibits of memorabilia and aircraft.
- Construction of new exhibits.
- Restoration and preservation of airframes to acceptable display standards.
- Fundraising activities to provide finance or sponsorship for projects.
- Providing catering such as boerewors rolls and cool drinks for the paying public during flying days and air shows.
- Maintenance of infrastructure to enhance the appearance of the Museum in general.

Note that time logged on projects, on- or off-site, will also be credited to the individual concerned.

DUTIES

These involve officially representing the Friends and the SAAF Museum at AFB Swartkop on nominated days when the Museum is open to the public. A duty roster is published monthly and Members are expected to honour their commitments to ensure that the Museum is manned and secure during nominated opening times. Duty shifts are normally of three hours' duration on Saturdays and public holidays: morning 09h00-12h00 and afternoon 12h00-14h45. The Museum closes promptly at 15h00.

Duty includes the following:

- Monitoring the movements of visitors to ensure that no vandalism, unsafe or unlawful acts occur with regard to displays, artefacts and prohibited areas. Should such acts be witnessed, these should be reported to Base Security for appropriate action.
- With suitable training, Members may answer questions from the public concerning the Base history, brief details of aircraft or other displays, directions to various display areas, amenities, etc.

DUTIES CONTINUED

- Monitoring the Museum site for unsafe areas and any obvious recent damage, which should be noted and reported via the incident register. Any litter should be disposed of in the bins provided.

Members doing a Duty should familiarise themselves with the layout of the Base and cover the entire area of the Museum section at least once during their shift.

- DO always be on time for your scheduled duty;
- DO always be of neat and tidy in appearance and have your Friends badge visible;
- DO always be safety conscious to minimise any potential risks to Member or visitor well-being;
- DO always ask visitors to carry out your instructions or heed your warning in a polite manner, with reasons, rather than becoming aggressive;
- DO remember that a visit to the Museum is an exciting experience for many visitors, young and old, so be tolerant of minor transgressions, so as not to spoil their visit with unnecessary tension;

DUTIES CONTINUED

- DO offer to follow up on queries which you cannot address immediately, either by asking other Friends present, or later via E-mail etc.
Many visitors are from other countries;
- DO record any negative observations or incidents in the register, so that they may be followed up by the Museum;
- DO NOT dress in a manner unbecoming to the Friends or the SAAF Museum;
- DO NOT drink alcohol soon before, or during your duty period;
- DO NOT become aggressive or abusive towards the visiting public or the Base staff or security;
- Do NOT venture into restricted areas on the base without official authorisation;
- DO NOT venture onto the flight side or perimeter roads without permission;
- DO NOT attempt to gain access to the interior of any aircraft without permission;
- DO NOT remove any artefacts from exhibits or the base without official authorisation;
- DO NOT remain on site after official closing time.

PROJECTS

These are run under the guidance of a designated project manager who will provide the necessary training, advice and assistance. Equipment is provided by the Friends and/or SAAF Museum as required.

An example is that in 2019, Montagu Thorne and Matthew Olivier undertook to refurbish the Sabre in hangar 2. Most of the skin had become dull from oxidation, and some of the panels were bent. The Friends provided equipment such as polishers, and the specialised polish which is needed. Monty and Matthew have provided most of the labour for what is a very significant amount of work.



Monty hard at work on the Sabre

PROJECTS CONTINUED

For many years this old petrol bowser moved around AFB Swartkop until finally a resting place was found in the scrap yard near the



Friends Radio Room building.

There it languished until a member decided to restore it to its former glory.

The Bowser has been completed and now rests in the display hall. The restoration of this project took almost two years and the end result is that probably the oldest petrol bowser (certainly in military use) has been saved!



PROJECTS CONTINUED

The Spitfire Restoration Project

The SAAF's restored Spitfire 5518 graced the skies at air shows for several years in the late 1990s in the colours of AX-K. Sadly, she suffered a serious crash in 2000, and spent the next 15 years in a container.

After presentations to the SAAF Museum Council, the go-ahead was given to the Pretoria Branch to manage the restoration on behalf of the Museum. The project commenced in 2016 and is expected to take at least ten years. The current rebuild will retain her original serial of 5518 and DB-H: her 2 squadron code. The colour scheme will be similar to AX-K but with a blue spinner.

