

# EAA NATIONAL CONVENTION MARGATE 2015

By Willie Bodenstein

Margate is an extremely popular holiday destination that offers a choice of accommodation to suit all pockets and requirements, restaurants and all the facilities to make for a pleasant breakaway. Every second year it is also the venue for the National Convention of the Experimental Aircraft Association of South Africa. Various chapters host the convention in alternate years.



Margate is also the base of the Margate Light Plane who graciously makes their facilities available to the EAA for use during the event and the field with its tarred runway, fuel and other facilities makes it the ideal venue for the convention. However, Margate like most other coastal towns, is notorious for its unpredictable weather and this year, like in the past it turned nasty on the Sunday forcing more than half of the estimated 70 visitors to scurry home. Flying over the Drakensberg, especially in less than ideal conditions, also contribute to a large number of potential visitors opting to rather than take the change to remain at home.

The weather was perfect when we landed on Friday afternoon. Initially arrivals were slow until the 'Red Brigade' of Chapter 1262 from Wings Park, East London arrived. Dressed in their red T-shirts with their names or nicknames on the back the passion for aviation and the EAA of this Chapter was evident for all to see.

The weather was superb on Saturday when the presentation and aircraft judging took place. Sunday was reserved for fly-outs down the stunning South Coast but would the weather Gods intervened and the day was decidedly unpleasant and so was Monday. Some flew home and manage to get through whilst we turned around and stayed another day and joined the 'Live Cowards Club'.

Twenty aircraft were entered in the various categories for judging. A number unfortunately did not arrive by the time judging started. Judging was undertaken by two teams and the general consensus was that the standard of build of the entrants was extremely high. The results were announced during a lavish dinner held on the Saturday.

#### The winners in the various categories were:

EAA Grand Champion Homebuilt Award Lancair Super ESX ZU-LNC Leon Joubert Chapter 322 – Johannesburg.

EAA Concourse d' Elegance Award Onex ZU-ONX Jonathan Low Chapter 1502 - East Coast.

EAA Best Professionally Built NTCA Savannah S Taildragger ZU-ICP John Waterson Chapter 1262 - East London.

Pertec Shield for Best Homebuilt All Metal Construction Vans RV-7 ZU-IDP John Herbert Chapter 322 – Johannesburg.

Best Composite Aircraft Lancair Super ESX ZU-LNC Leon Joubert Chapter 322 – Johannesburg.

EAA Trophy for Best Rotorcraft Award Gazelle ZU-HHP Eugene Couzyn Chapter 322 – Johannesburg.

EAA Best Warbird Award Gazelle ZU-HHP Eugene Couzyn 322 – Johannesburg.

Piper Concours d' Elegance Award Piper PA-12 Cruiser ZS-BIG James Wardle 1262 - East London.

Best Restoration Award Taylorcraft BC-12-D ZS-BLD Claus Keuchel 322 – Johannesburg.

Best Tube and Fabric Aircraft Bearhawk Patrol ZU-BHP Wayne Giles 322 – Johannesburg.



*This Savannah S was judged the 'Best Professionally Built NTCA'*

EAA Trophy for Best Plans Built Aircraft Hatz CB-1  
ZU-FWO Niels Andersen 1262 - East London.

**Meritorious Awards were awarded to:**

Contribution to Safety and Promotion of Recreational Aviation  
Mike Visagie EAA National Vice-President

Best Chapter Contribution and best attendance to the 2015  
EAA National Convention. Chapter 322, Johannesburg

Dave Smith Memorial Cup Award - most Enthusiastic Member  
Marie Reddy EAA National and Chapter 322 Secretary

Most Enthusiastic Lady Member Trixie Heron EAA Chapter  
322, Johannesburg

Youngest EAA Pilot Flying to the 2015 Convention Greg  
Clegg ZS-UEK Chapter 322, Johannesburg

EAA Award for Furthest Distance Flown to attend 2105  
Convention Hartog (Horace) Blok ZU-EAA (from Mossel  
Bay) Chapter 322, Johannesburg

Captain Karl Jensen the Chairman of Chapter 322 kept the  
visitors entertained with his unique style of commentary whilst  
Gary Joubert, a stalwart at most KZN events, and Russel Knott  
expertly handled ground control and marshalling.

Marie Reddy is truly a star! A events planner, pilot, EAA  
Member and dedicated member of the Teddy Build Team she  
organised the Convention that went without a hitch or any  
serious incidents. Although only about arrived and despite the  
weather the convention was none the less a success. The 2016  
Convention will be held in Mossel Bay. ✈️



*James Wardle's Piper PA-12 Cruiser ZS-BIG won  
the Piper Concours d' Elegance Award*

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