

Call to all helicopter pilots!



Invitation to participate

If you fly a model helicopter, for fun or competition, then this invitation is for **YOU**, so please read on!

Helicopters are one of the most challenging, enjoyable, and rewarding sections of the model aircraft hobby, but due to a number of reasons, it is losing popularity. This must not be allowed to happen, so, a few helicopter pilots, with the urging of the SAMAA SIG Chairman, have decided to take the initiative in a countrywide drive to try to revive this section of the model hobby. After all, a helicopter is special, in that it requires a more skillful pilot, and it can out-fly, out-maneuvre, and out-WOW any fixed-wing model aircraft, except maybe in a straight line!

As most of you will know, the model helicopter enthusiasts form a separate discipline within the SAMAA, and in terms of the SAMAA mandate, is registered as a SIG (Special Interest Group). Its constitutional responsibility is to represent all model helicopter flying classes, and in fact, any rotary wing model qualifies (also quadcopters) and the helicopter SIG recruits and encourages members to join the group.

With the above objective in mind, the proposal for all you helicopter pilots, is very broad-based, and is aimed at encompassing and including all sections of the helicopter fraternity, from the beginner, to the Sunday flier, as well as the competition pilot. The present thinking is that, once interested pilots are identified and their location established, that an e-mail or similar will be sent to each person, outlining the proposed operating philosophy of the group, ie say, having two monthly get-togethers, at venues where all facets of the hobby are practiced, where pilots can be taught to fly, where clinics are held to discuss, present, and demonstrate subjects of interest, where proficiency testing can be done, and where ordinary, fun-fly and competition flying can and will be done, and where any other aspect of interest to the helicopter pilot will be part of the day's events, as will be a convivial braai!

The notice, which contains this write-up, will be the initial communication with you, and once you have done your part by giving us your basic information, we will set up a time and place for a teleconference, at which we will discuss all matters of importance. Once the principles have been agreed, a committee will be elected, and their work will start by establishing dates, times, venues and so on, for the organisation to start in earnest.

OKAY, NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! HELP TO MAKE HISTORY!

All that you, the interested helicopter pilot needs to do to be part of this revolution, is e-mail, or phone one of the two contact names below, and give your name, address, contact details, SAMAA number which section of the hobby your interest lies, **before the end of July 2018**, after which you will be in the loop. You will be contacted early August 2018 to participate in the teleconference.

HELICOPTER PILOTS, LET'S REVIVE THIS VERY SPECTACULAR, CHALLENGING, AND REWARDING FORM OF MODEL FLYING!

The basic information that we require is: your name, SAMAA number, address, cell number, e-mail, specific interest (learning, general flying, competition), type of rotorcraft that you fly, and club that you fly at. Phone either of the numbers below, or send an e-mail to the SAMAA office.

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Don't delay... 'phone today!