



FRIENDS OF THE SAAF MUSEUM

PRETORIA



INTRODUCTION

Welcome! You have joined a community of people with a shared passion for the aviation heritage of the South African Air Force and your enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

Your voluntary time will be utilised to enhance the standard of the SAAF Museum and its exhibits and we trust that you will benefit from the knowledge and experience you will gain as a Member of the Friends.

CONTACT US

CONTACT DETAILS AS FOLLOWS:

Pretoria Branch Committee Members:

Chairman -

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Spitfire Restoration Project - Friends of the SAAF Museum

MUSEUM LAYOUT

The Museum buildings are laid out roughly north to south, relative 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 which is accessible to outdoor aircraft displays. 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 Transformation 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 members duty and work carried out for the day . These hours are logged in the Duty Log Book which is kept in the Friends' clubhouse.

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 to assist the Museum in that year, particularly in respect of a major project.

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

The Friends Smuts Award for exceptional work on a single project.



ACTIVITIES

In addition to regular Museum Duty as described below, Friends may elect to become involved in various projects in order to 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 cooldrinks 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 be credited to the individual concerned.

DUTIES

These involve officially representing the Friends and the SAAF Museum at AFBSwartkop on nominated days when the Museum is open to the public. A duty roster is published monthly and Members are required to honour their commitments to ensure that the Museum is 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 further action.
- With suitable training, Members may be requested to answer questions from the public concerning the Base history, brief details of

DUTIES CONTINUED

aircraft or other displays, directions to various display areas, amenities, etc.

- Monitoring the Museum site for unsafe areas and any obvious recent damage, which should be noted and reported, via the incident register. Litter should be immediately 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 appearance and have your Friends badge visible;
- DO always be safety conscious to minimise any potential threats to Member or visitor well-being;
- DO always ask visitors to carry out your instruction or heed your warning, with reasons, in a polite manner, 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 Members 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 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.



Above is the interactive Liberator display which has been refurbished by the Members of the Radio Shack. They supplied & installed the video projector and screen for this display.

The display starts up once it is entered and a Video of the Liberator is played until the visitor exits the display.

PROJECTS CONTINUED

For many years the old petrol bowser moved around the AFB Zwartkop until finally a resting place was found in the scrap yard near the 'Friends Radio Room' building.



There it languished until a member of the Friend's of the SAAF Museum 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 of the Friends to manage the restoration on behalf of the Museum. The project is commencing in 2016 and is expected to take at least ten years. The current rebuild will retain her original serial of 5518, and have the two shades of grey camouflage scheme which she had in the SAAF in the early 1950s.

