EAA CHAPTER 973 – 2026 AGM

A year of rebuilding, camaraderie and achievement!



EAA Chapter 973's homely Homebase at Krugersdorp

There was plenty to celebrate when EAA Chapter 973 held its 2026 Annual General Meeting this Saturday at its home base, Jack Taylor Airfield, Krugersdorp. It was a particularly special occasion – the first AGM since the chapter's revival just twelve months ago, and a wonderful opportunity to reflect on a year packed with activity, achievement and renewed enthusiasm for aviation.

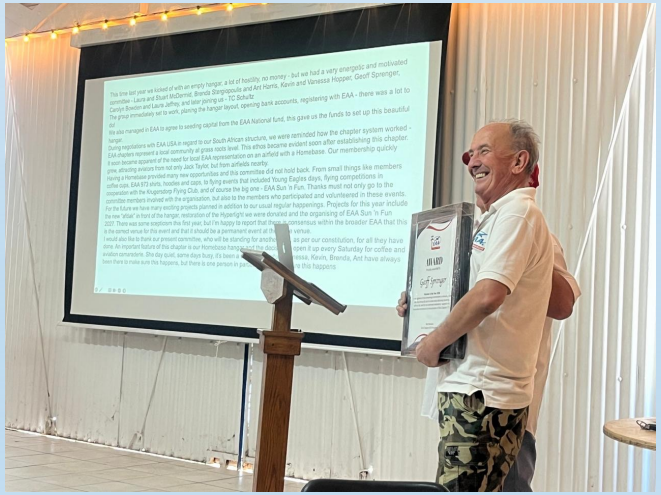
True to the spirit of EAA, the morning started on a suitably social note. Fires were lit early, complimentary breakfast was laid on, and burgers with all the trimmings were available for those attending. After all, what's an aviation gathering without good food and even better company!

The formal proceedings kicked off at 09h00, with a healthy quorum of members in attendance.

A healthy chapter, on and off the books

Treasurer Kevin Hopper presented the financial report, revealing a healthy financial position and membership numbers that exceeded expectations. A very encouraging result for a chapter that was effectively starting from scratch just a year ago!

It is also a wonderful endorsement of the EAA philosophy that *chapters represent their local aviation communities at grassroots level*.



973 Member of the Year – Geoff Sprenger

A year worth celebrating

President Neil Bowden followed with his report, taking the opportunity to thank the energetic and highly motivated committee for the tremendous amount of work accomplished during the past year. He also extended his appreciation to the members and volunteers whose enthusiasm, participation and support made it all possible. As he rightly pointed out, without them, none of this would have happened!

A presentation then took members on a trip down memory lane, highlighting the many activities organised by the revitalised chapter over the past year, culminating in the hugely successful **Sun 'n Fun 2026**.

Special thanks were also extended to the Krugersdorp Flying Club (KFC) for its continued involvement, encouragement and support, not only during Sun 'n Fun but throughout the year.

A cup of coffee, a slice of banana bread and a whole lot of aviation camaraderie!

Perhaps one of the chapter's proudest achievements has been the transformation of its home base, affectionately known as **@ Jack's**, into a welcoming Saturday morning meeting place for EAA members and fellow aviators.

Every Saturday morning, the doors are open for a cup of coffee, a slice of banana bread or a freshly baked scone, and, most importantly, a healthy dose of aviation conversation and camaraderie.

Recognising the person who has made this happen, committee member **Geoff Sprenger** was deservedly

awarded **Member of the Year 2026** for ensuring, without fail, that @ Jack's is open every Saturday morning and for his unwavering support of chapter activities.
A thoroughly deserved award!

And there's plenty more to come!
Looking ahead, members were given a glimpse of what lies in store. Plans include the construction of an *afdak* (covered patio) in front of the hangar, completing the Sorrel SNS-8 Hyperlight aircraft project and, of course, getting serious about preparations for **Sun 'n Fun 2027**.
If the past year is anything to go by, there certainly won't be much time for sitting around!
No elections were required this year, as the chapter has adopted the EAA USA-recommended constitution and bylaws, which provide for committee members to serve a two-year term.

An AGM with wings!
The meeting wrapped up at approximately 10h15, leaving plenty of time for those who had flown in to head home before the afternoon thunderstorms began making their presence felt.
All in all, a very positive AGM and a fitting celebration of a chapter that, in just twelve months, has gone from resurrection to real momentum.



Chapter 973's first birthday cake presented by Brenda Stergiopoulis

Here's to another year of building friendships, supporting aviation, getting projects airborne and keeping the fires burning at Jack Taylor Airfield!
EAA Chapter 973 – More than a chapter, it's a community.