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GENERAL

INSTRUCTORS SEMINAR REPORT - GAUTENG 07 MARCH

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JOHANNESBURG. - The Gauteng Instructors' Safety Seminar held at the Recreation Aviation Administration's (RAASA) offices on 7 March 2014 was attended by 85 instructors who conduct training in terms of Part(s) 62, 68 and 69.

The seminar focused on the awareness, decision making and understanding the student during the training process. Other items discussed were the progress of Part 62 and Part 68: Aircraft Training Organisations (ATOs) audits, updating of the RAASA exam system, the Aero Club-safety-first campaign and the Mayday South Africa initiative, a newly formed organisation which offers a peer group support service to pilots in distress.

The program was supported by expert role-players in the industry.

Recap - Positive approach to competency

Chris Badenhorst, George Flight Training College, Grade 2 Instructor and Grade Instructor on WCM, CCM, LSA and TMG, Approved Person and with more than 2 000 hours is also the Chief Executive of Part 135 managing operations.

Chris gave four presentations. The first presentation looked back at what was discussed at the seminar held in 2012 and provided a point of departure from which to continue the rest of the presentations.

The second presentation looked at the situational awareness which should be practiced by the instructor and student and the third presentation looked at threat recognition and the accompanying decision making process. These processes have a pronounced effect in the general training environment for both student and instructor.

The fourth presentation related to the updating of the RAASA exam system. Chris is appointed by RAASA to manage this project. Meetings were held with representatives from the Aero Club sections to assist in the process. The system is expected to go online during the second half of the year.

Student motivation and styles in the training environment

Dr. Johan Erasmus, Clinical Psychologist and associated member of the European Aviation Psychology Association, Aero Medical Committee Civil Aviation Authority South Africa, Traumatic Incident Reduction Association and qualified Grade 3 airplane instructor, was the next speaker. Dr. Erasmus' first presentation focused on the instructors' responsibilities when in the training environment and how to obtain the most out of their students. Dr. Erasmus' second presentation focused on the personal confrontational styles which are at play during the training sessions. He indicated that accidents in later years can, more often than not, be traced back to the student's training and attitude he or she developed during the training phase. "I do not think we understand how much we touch peoples' lives and skills when we communicate with them," Dr. Erasmus concluded.

Theory and practical: Are they linked?

Captain Walter Waldeck, an instructor on the Airbus A330 and A340, a SACAA designated examiner (Grade 1), George Flight Training College: Chief Executive with 24 000 flying hours, presented statistics on aircraft accidents and the role instructors play in forming students' life-long

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attitudes towards responsible flying. His focus was on the 'primacy' element and indicated that many accidents come down to inadequate basic training. "Teach your student to keep record of lessons learned and experiences. This will enable them to identify shortcomings," he advised.

Current issues managed by RAASA and SACAA

Neil de Lange, RAASA's Chief Executive, gave an overview of current activities including proposed amendments to the CAR's (Civil Aviation Regulations) as it may affect pilot training.

Part 62 and Part 68 (Aircraft Training Organisations)

Pierre Laubscher, RAASA's Manager Operations, discussed the progress RAASA has been making with inspections on Part 62 ATO's since taking over this function. Pierre stressed that ATO's that provide Part 61 training in combination with Part 62 training, will still be audited by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), as the higher requirements would still apply.

Accident statistics

Willem Grobbelaar, RAASA's Internal Operations' Manager gave an overview on the Accidents, Licensing and ATF (Authority To Fly) statistics. Willem placed emphasis on the number of aircraft hours flown per occurrence, fatalities and fatal accidents. These hours are only the hours as collected by RAASA when an aircraft's ATF is renewed. These statistics are supported by the information obtained from the occurrence reports as supplied by the Accident and Incident Investigation Division (AIID).

The next events.

Two more seminars are planned for 2014.

Western Cape – Friday 9 May.

Kwazulu-Natal – Friday, 06 June

Contact RAASA on 011 082 1000 for more information about this seminar and other planned events.

RAASA is designated and dedicated to serve the recreational flyer!

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