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JUNE 2008 NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING JUNE TALKS:

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, the 3rd of July 2008**, at 19:00 at the CTH Officers Mess inside the Cape Castle. (Parking inside the grounds behind the Castle off Strand Street). We suggest you come earlier to allow you to register your attendance and to buy some refreshments before the talks start at 19H00.

THE DATE HAD TO BE MOVED AHEAD A WEEK TO ACCOMODATE US OUR GUEST SPEAKER, HELMOED HEITMAN WHO AGREED ON RELATIVE SHORT NOTICE TO SPEAK ON A VERY RELEVANT TOPIC GIVEN THE SOCIO-POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT AREA AND THAT MATTERS MIGHT COME TO A BREAKING POINT WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

TOPIC:

- 1. State of the Zim Army's equipment and battle readiness (training and experience)**
- 2. Political orientation of the Army within the Zim political context**

The actions of today is the history of tomorrow from which originates collectors artefacts. Whilst ignorance might be bliss, an informed collector would be better served!



ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL MATTERS:

Chairman Duties:

Over and beyond ensuring the efficiency of our core functions, it is also vital that we “invest” in future generations in order to ensure our own survival lest it fizzles out in our own lifetime.

Talks at High Schools:

The Chairman has been delivering talks to History Classes at several of the more noted local schools as far afield as George on a wide range of topics to promote history and its artefacts under which firearms and militaria also falls, with the intention to facilitate interest and to solicit student members. Members are invited and reminded to involve their local schools and the Chairman is more than willing to do talks on requests.

SAHRA (South African Heritage Resources Agency)

The Chairman has been accredited by SAHRA to do inspections on requests that firearms be deactivated or destroyed. Numerous Firearm Dealers have contacted SAHRA as they received requests to have firearms deactivated. Equally so the Western Cape CFR DFO Office has done so in events of firearms that was submitted to be destroyed. Initially the response was slow, but that has changed and a general more informed awareness and willingness has evolved on their side. On average 2 to 3 inspections are done weekly. The one area which still requires attention is when firearms are exported, but negotiations are under way to address that. Overall we need to protect and promote our national heritage, whether in private or public care/ownership.

Developmental Work:

This covers such areas to enhance the value our members get from their association AND to facilitate as wide a synergy as possible to promote the underlying mutual interest areas currently organised in small pockets over the spectrum. To be long term feasible and sustainable in deference to the current trend over decades that fantastic works dies with its "driver", these various interests needs to be incorporated under one umbrella to allow as much possible interaction. Such a structure will also allow better application of limited resources and in general offer a more visible platform to the general public attention. Members involved in any related interest group are strongly urged to discuss this with the relevant decision makers and to contact the Chairman who will contact them to discuss possibilities. Strength through unity rather than mini empire egos.

Membership Committee:

We are concerned that a number of members who had to relicence by end March 2008 and for whom we issued "Deferment Letters" to allow them some time with their SAPS DFO's whilst they submit their Private Collectors applications, and despite repeated reminders from us has not submitted their applications. This is sad and seriously compromised their capability to retain their precious collections. Such members are invited to contact the Chairman.

It is rewarding to notice that we are receiving applications from novice collectors interested in becoming private collectors. Without new blood any interest group faces eventual extinction, and every member should act as a collectors ambassador and promote it at root level. The best angle would be to start students in militaria collections with the intent to grow them into firearm collectors. The two complement each other in a strong synergy. Motivate them to join as student members at R100.00 per annum, and remember to include your reference as all applicants have to be vouched by senior members.

Web site:

Part of our web site is to keep you informed of all related activities. Members are reminded to submit information on any such activities and or events to be included on our web site calendar.

Our web site also offers an opportunity for anybody to advertise for free any firearm or general militaria or historical artefacts they wish to sell. See "TRADERS CORNER".

An annual Cape collectors show:

This has been a long ambition that at long last is on the table. We do not have the critical mass of a Gauteng, and thus we need to involve as many complementing interest groups as possible. Think of miniature militaria models, militaria medals, etc. Members are requested to pass to the Chairman any contact details of any such grouping they might be aware of to allow us to enter into negotiations towards a grand event that would serve as an annual calendar event of some note. This will also serve to make the general public more aware of what we do and that we are not a bunch of eccentrics with dangerous hobbies.



FIRE ARM RELICENCING:

31st of MARCH 2009 RE-LICENSES CYCLE applications for those born in the months Oct/Nov/Dec.

You are reminded to start as early as possible to prevent a last minute rush that may result in delays because of the time frame involved around the due diligence that private collectors applications has to meet. It invariably involves serious research to develop a sound Field of Interest and topic motivation.

For those who has not yet submitted their docs before the dead line, but had to relicence this year, contact the Membership Convenor Robert Nothhaft at robert@westernshooters.co.za

Regardless of above, the licences of those who neglected to relicence will remain valid until the 31st of June 2009. That will allow them time to sell or swap their firearms. Based on Classic Arms

Auction prices, the market has firmed on the better quality firearms so all is not doom and gloom.

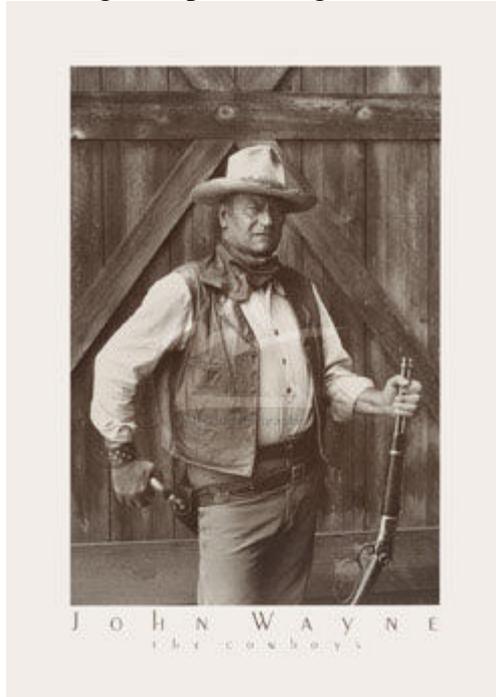


SECRETARIATS NEWS:

This is where we keep you up to date with what happened at our various secretariats. Come on chaps, let us have your monthly news reports!

CAPE SAAACA WESTERN SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION:

Cape SAAACA's Western Shooter's Association is known today as Cowboy Action Shooting, the fastest growing shooting sport in the world. It is a non-professional sport created and designed for the whole family to shoot. It is great fun and there's nothing like being armed with Guns of the Old West and shooting like the heroes we grew up watching on television.



THE COWBOY'S GUIDE TO LIFE

... and good advice for every man!

- Don't interfere with something that ain't botherin' you none.
- Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
- The easiest way to eat humble pie is while it's still warm. The colder it gets, the harder it is to swallow.
- If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
- If it don't seem like it's worth the effort. It probably ain't.
- It don't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.
- The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you shave his face in the mirror every morning.

- Never ask a barber if you need a haircut.
- If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
- Don't worry about bitin' off more'n you can chew, your mouth is probably a whole lot bigger'n you think.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- Generally, you ain't learnin' nothing when your mouth's a-jawin'.
- Tellin' a man to git lost and makin' him do it are two entirely different propositions.
- If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there with ya.
- Good judgment comes from experience - and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- When you give a personal lesson in meanness to a critter or to a person, don't be surprised if they learn their lesson.
- When you're throwin' your weight around, be ready to have it thrown around by somebody else.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin'it back.
- Always take a good look at what you're about to eat. It's not so important to know what it is, but it's sure crucial to know what it was.
- The quickest way 'to double your money is to fold it over and put it back into your pocket.
- Never miss a good chance to shut up.
and finally...
- Never squat with your spurs on.



MONTHLY TALK AT THE CTH OFFICERS MESS CAPE CASTLE.

Thursday the 29th of May we met in the hallowed chambers of the CTH Officers Club at the Cape Castle for our monthly talk.

PAUL BROWNE brought along a .50 spotter/tracer round from his collection of cartridges. This round is also known as the .50BAT and the 12.7x77. The cartridge made its first appearance in 1953 and is used as a spotter round for the US 106-mm M40-series recoilless rifle. The idea behind this combination is that, because the trajectory of the small round matches the trajectory of the giant round, the target can be effectively and cheaply “ranged” before the 106mm operator “lets ’em have it”. It is sometimes said that the “ping” alerts the target to the “pong”. The projectile, upon striking a target, is activated by either friction, or compression, depending on the angle of arrival, and produces a puff of smoke.

But, the real point of Paul’s show-and-tell was to warn members of a hidden danger which lies in this particular cartridge. It is common practice for collectors – and those who like ornaments in their home bars – to drill a hole into the casings of their larger calibres (those from around 12.7mm to 20mm). This can be done reasonably safely, provided that the drilling is done under water, using a pedestal-drill turning at very slow speed, with the drill’s depth-gauge stop nuts properly locked. The cartridge’s propellant is shaken out of the hole and discarded.

However, American manufactured versions of the .50 spotter/tracer are fitted with a **percussion tube**, rather than the usual percussion cap. This device extends to about halfway up the inside of

the casing. If a drill bit is accidentally driven into this tube, **disaster will surely follow.**

There may well be other cartridges fitted with this kind of priming device and it will be wise to regard all ammunition in this range of calibres as potential suspects.

If you must drill your cartridges, do it high up on the casing rather than near to the base. Of course, it goes without saying that you should be very sure that you are not about to drill into the projectile.

Fellow-member Joe Kieser brought along a sword, which from all appearances, could be naval and of American manufacture. The pommel, guard, grip, quillons and shell guard are all made out of brass, while the blade is of the long diamond or square sectioned type. The leather scabbard is still very well preserved and better preserved than the weapon's blade itself. The sword shape is reminiscent of the type known as the "Small Sword", that replaced the rapier towards the end of the seventeenth century and which was a popular form of side-arm up to the thirties of the eighteenth century, where after it fell into disuse, except in France and a few other countries, such as the USA, where it remained in use until the late eighteenth century. The blade shape is very reminiscent of German, Austrian and Hungarian officers' swords of the period, and need not necessarily be naval. Unfortunately nobody with sufficient experience of swords and sword types were present to be able to provide closer identification.

The main speaker for the evening was Trevor Botha, an ammunition fitter with the SANDF. Trevor is assistant manager of naval ordnance, and he provided us with some interesting details of his training, military background and what his job actually entails - which from the sound of it is definitely not a boring eight-to-five desk job! Trevor's topic of the evening actually revolved around land mines, of which he brought three samples along: the J69 anti-personnel mine, known as the "jumping jack"; the FG1 general purpose mine, and the No 8 Mk 1 anti-tank mine. The latter two were made of non-metallic compounds so as to render it impervious to mine detectors. The "jumping jack" is about as big as a large fist, and resembles an upturned cast iron pot normally used for "potjiekos" - the legs forming the prongs that trigger the mine. The nickname comes from the fact that the explosive part of the mine, when activated is blown into the air to explode at about chest level so as to render the greatest harm on the enemy personnel. Lastly Trevor spoke about bomb-demolition and the continuous clashes with the environmentally-minded NGOs as well as the Department of Environment Affairs regarding the methods they use to render explosives safe. This led to ongoing research to find means and ways to be more environmentally sensitive. One of the methods evolved, entail using a very high-pressure spray of water to dissolve explosives and even to cut through metal. He brought along a 100mm disk neatly separated from a mild steel bar to demonstrate the awesome power of the water pressure. Not only is it safer and cleaner, but also up to four times faster than trying perform the same task with a conventional angle-grinder!

Everybody was duly impressed with Trevor's presentation and he had to field the customary barrage of questions afterwards. Trevor promised that he would return with further talks on his fascinating job.



CAPE SAAACA SHOOTING DISCIPLINES:

While we as collectors learn a lot from historical records about our collections, shooting them teaches us what was possible and how they performed. That certainly opens new insights around our interest fields.

FEEDBACK ON THE 7TH OF JUNE SHOOT:

What looked like a rainy miserable day at home turned out to be a beautiful sunny winter's day at Atlantis, but unfortunately less members came presumably because of the rainy weather in Cape Town.

We shot the first format under the new 2 gun shooting details and Gerhard Brits was the winner of the Revolver/bolt action detail. These scores will be recorded towards an annual overall score with the first three top scores winning medals and certificates issued to the rest.

FUTURE SHOOTS: To be arranged quarterly in advance.

VENUE: At the NSADF Range at ATLANTIS on Range C in front of Club House. (If in doubt, enquire at Clubhouse)

DATES: THE NEXT 4 MONTHS DATES WILL ONLY BE DETERMINED ON THE NSADF MEETING ON 08/07/2008, AND WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEB SITE AND OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER.

Under real conditions one was under pressure to shoot as you were and normally enemy contacts happened at short distances. Our shooting details are designed to emulate that for the various firearm types, although we have the "enemy's"(paper targets)permission to allow a somewhat more relaxed time span to allow all the "old soldiers" to get their breath and to get our shaky watery eyes on target. So for those who believe in reincarnation for firearms, I dare you to dust off your old pieces and give them a second wind to show what they did when they were young, bold and in uniform!



WEBSITE:

www.capesaaaca.co.za (This site soon to be revamped)

Check our calendar for events, and if you know of any interesting forthcoming event, let our webmaster know in advance to allow him to post it. webmaster@capesaaaca.co.za

Download **application forms**, refer to popular links, keep abreast of affairs as it unfolds, etc.

TRADERS CORNER:

All and anybody who wishes to sell or trade anything (related to our mutual interest) may post ads here for FREE. Contact our webmaster with the necessary information, price and contact details. webmaster@capesaaaca.co.za

We suggest you refer anyone who decided to get rid of their firearms to place a free add on our web site and or to contact Andrew to have it put on auction rather than hand it in to the SAPS for destruction.

DEALERS CORNER:

Visit our web site to support our accredited dealers.

Classic Arms Auction dates:

Auction 28; 7th of June Voortrekker Monument Pretoria

Auction 29; 2nd of August War Museum Johannesburg.

(W) 013-656 2923

andrew@classicarms.co.za

www.classicarms.co.za

Warbooks:

General militaria specialist books and special orders on request.

Johan van den Berg at warbooks@mweb.co.za

FEES PAYABLE:

Joining fee	R150.00
Annual subs for firearm collectors	R450.00
Categorisation and Field of Interest applications/reviews.	R250.00
Subsequent Collectibility applications	R100.00
Annual subs for all other secretariat collector categories	R250.00
Student membership subs	R100.00

Greetings,

Stephan Fourie

Chairman

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"If firearms cause crime, then pencils cause illiteracy"