



CAPE SAAACA SAMCA



NEWSLETTER NO 6, JUNE/JULY 2006

MAY TALK at the Cape Town Highlanders NCO's & EM's Mess at the Castle

Our Speaker on the 25th of May, 2006, was the scribe, **Johan van den Berg**. Johan spoke about the history and development of the AK-47 in 7,62X39mm calibre. His well-illustrated talk profiled the AK-47 through the various variants and phases of its career as the most prolific rifle ever produced – approximately over 70 million copies! Johan also drew a definite link to the ancestor of the AK-47 – the German *Sturmgewehr* (MP44) which made such an impact on the Russians that they copied the concept – but originally introduced it as a sub-machine gun! It was only the unreliability and failure of the Siminov SKS-45 semi-automatic rifle which belatedly led them to adopt (and understand the doctrine and philosophy of the assault rifle) the AK-47 as a true assault rifle, a role in which it became infamous as the weapon of choice of Communist expansionism and “liberation” movements worldwide for over four decades. Johan explained the differences between the some 14 variants of the AK-47 introduced by not only the various Communist countries and satellites worldwide, but also by western-orientated countries, amongst others South Africa, albeit it in the 5,56mm NATO calibre.

Not only did Johan give a technical analysis of the various variants, but he also shared his personal viewpoints of some of the variants, most of which he was fortunate enough to handle, shoot and disassemble during his military career which spanned some fourteen years at the time when South Africa's border war was at its height. Johan also spoke about some of the weapons from the drawing board of weapons designer Mikhael Kalashnikov that were introduced into military service, such as the RPK Light Machine (in 7,62X39mm calibre), the PK/PKM/PKS/PKB/PKBM & PKT series Medium Machine Guns, as well as the Dragunov (SVD) Sniper Rifle, all in 7,62X54mm R calibre.

Our thanks to Johan for an interesting and enlightening talk.

The evening, however, did not end with Johan's talk. One of our members from Hermanus, **Chris Taylor**, who owns a Dragunov SVD Sniper Rifle, enlightened us about the characteristics of the rifle and how it came about that he was able to own a copy. Also to Chris our sincere thanks for his contribution.



The next meeting of SAMCA will be held on Thursday, 27 July, at 19:30 at the CTH NCO's & EM's Mess at the Castle. The speaker will be ex-Selous Scout WOII DENNIS CROUKAMP, whose book on his experiences with the Selous Scouts – *Only My Friends Call Me "Crouks"*, was recently published, and is well worth a read. Dennis will talk about the events that led to him being awarded the Rhodesian Bronze Cross for bravery – the first instance that this highly prestigious decoration was awarded to a

soldier with junior rank – a high and rare honour indeed. For anyone wishing to acquire a copy of his book, Dennis will make ample copies available and will also be willing to sign copies of his book after the meeting in the CTH EM/NCO's Mess.

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE JUNE/JULY HOLIDAY RECESS, NO MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 29TH OF JUNE, 2006.



PROVISIONAL TALKS FOR 2006 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE & IN RANDOM ORDER):

- ***Samurai Swords*** – Gary Morris/André Olivier
- ***Schutztruppe Edged Weapons & Medals*** – Andy Shoredits
- ***Boxer Rebellion Medals*** – Andy Shoredits
- ***German Railway Guns - A Historical Perspective*** – Johan van den Berg
- ***The Tale of Two Skirmishes, 17th September, 1901 (Gen Louis Botha at Blood River Poort and Gen Jan Smuts at Elands River Poort)*** - Johan van den Berg
- ***German Political Daggers*** – Andy Shoredits
- ***German Fallschirmjäger in World War Two: A Historical Perspective*** – Johan van den Berg
- ***Gen Smuts' Campaign in the Northern Cape/Namaqualand during the Anglo-Boer War*** – Glenn von Zeil



SAMCA Membership

CAPE SAAACA structured its talks and events under the Southern African Militaria Association (SAMCA) as a fully incorporated part of CAPE SAAACA with the aim to promote and facilitate the following;

1. To hold talks on various topics over the full spectrum of firearms collecting, general militaria and historical subjects.
2. To act as an inclusive broad based organisation to allow complementing collectors' interest groups to network and thus promote their interest at large during a time frame not conducive to such interest groups.
3. To develop and maintain archives on research material available to members.
4. To hold an annual Militaria/Arms Collectors' Fair ("Under construction")
5. To act as a regular communication forum to keep members informed on relevant topics.

CAPE SAAACA Firearm collector membership	R450 per annum
SAMCA/CSWSA/SAHA membership (Secretariats)	R250 per annum

These interests will only stay alive if each and every one of us become actively involved and committed, and canvas as many new members to allow the underlying hobby to grow and add value to us. Please activate those acquaintances that has become dormant, as our passion are a truly colourfull and vibrant affair if alive, and if all become dormant our collections will only end up in some dusty auction room to be neglected and so history be forgotten and become boring! We are the true custodians of history as a living science.

ADMISSION COSTS TO TALKS

Unfortunately Xmas has to end some time!

To accommodate all the various interest groups to join, we allowed a moratorium on admission costs to our talks till the end of July 2006. Please note that as from the August talk the following arrangement will apply.

CAPE SAAACA and SAMCA members @ R10

Non members @ R20

We believe that is still very affordable for an evening's entertainment of the highest order, and that everyone that truly has an interest in firearm and militaria subject will "invest" that tippance with enthusiasm to allow us to cover the costs of these events.

Members will be required to "sign in" the register to comply with our fiduciary compliancy in terms of the FCA. To that end you will be required to present your membership card which we are in the process to print and post out.

We are working on an electronic identification system, but till then, if you forget your membership card you WILL pay the non member charge and not be able to sign into the attendance register!



COLLECTORS' FAIR

One of our stated aims is to organise a **Militaria/Arms Collectors' Fair** on an annual basis to promote our respective hobbies and to provide a broad-based platform to rub shoulders with collectors, related trade organisations & dealers on a regional and national level. If we want to host a fair in 2007, we need to start planning and organise without delay, as it involves a lot of brain and brawn. We are therefore inviting all and sundry to come forward with ideas, suggestions, support, and above all, volunteer to become involved in the organising. **Yes, we need YOU!!!**



IMPORTANT! We need:

- **Proposals for lectures** and more importantly;
- **Speakers**, especially on firearm/ammunition-related subjects!
- **To know about fellow collectors or enthusiasts whom we could invite – please let us have their names and contact details ASAP.**



FIREARM COMPLIANCY IN TERMS OF THE FCA 2000

In terms of above Act, which are retained in the proposes FCAB of 2006, an accredited collectors association are required to annually submit records of their membership to the SAPS CFR to indicate which members remained “in good standing”. Firearm collector status will only be available to members who retain that status.

To secure your “good standing” status you need to attend to four “events”, which currently are deemed to be any of the following;

1. Attend any scheduled shoot
2. Attend any scheduled talk
3. Attend the AGM
4. Serve on the committee
5. Submit research articles, (which includes submissions requested towards the FCAB 2006)
6. Act as mentor or convener on membership matters as mandated by the EXCO.

As events develop and opportunities allow, we will consider valid additions to above. Suggestions welcomed.

IT IS CRITICAL TO YOUR CONTINUED FIREARM COLLECTORS STATUS THAT YOU ENSURE THAT YOU MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS!



NB NB FIREARM COLLECTORS CATEGORISATION NB NB

This is a very important reminder to all collectors out there!

In terms of the FCA 2000, its Regulations and our Constitution we are required to categorise all our firearm collectors by due process in either an A/B/C collector category BEFORE we can issue them a COLLECTORS CERTIFICATE.

Category A: Prohibited firearms (Automatic military type rifles)
Category B: Restricted firearms (Semi automatic rifles)
Category C: Approved firearms (basically the rest..)

This supersedes all applications previously submitted as none of them complied with the criteria in terms of the new dispensation. (If in doubt, contact Hannes Willers who will confirm whether you are compliant)

To that end we snail-mailed duly required instructions and guidelines some months ago to all “full members” (firearm collectors).

Those of you who have not yet complied are required to do so before we can issue your approved collectors certificate.

The process will involve your application being screened/advised by a committee member duly appointed to that function (cat appl prep), and once it is complete, that committee member will present it to the Membership Committee for consideration and approval. Once they have approved it, they will submit it to the full EXCO for ratification, and then your certificate will be printed and posted to you. This is the crucial document that you will need in order to apply as a collector to the SAPS CFR.

Contact the following Membership Committee Prep member who will guide you through that preparation process;

Hannes Willers: hanswillers@mweb.co.za or 083 377 0036

Make sure your documentation is very complete as incomplete applications will simply be returned. We have included a checklist to help you ensure that.

In the future we will issue the following;

1. An annual membership card with your photo on which will also indicate your collectors status, and which will be valid for the calendar year.
2. A ONCE OFF issued Firearm Collectors Certificate, stating your collecting category and attached your approved collecting "Field of interest" with its sub themes. This certificate can be amended on request if a member's collection changes. Conditions apply.

SAMCA COMMITTEE:

- **Stephan Fourie** (CAPE SAAACA/SAMCA Chairperson – capesaaaca@sfa.co.za)
- **Andy Shoredits** (SAMCA Secretary/Co Opted CAPE SAAACA Executive member – 083-656-5936 & felsnest@global.co.za)
- **Johan van den Berg** (SAMCA Scribe – 082-579-0386 & warbooks@mweb.co.za)

CAPE SAAACA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Stephan Fourie (Chairman) capesaaaca@sfa.co.za (w) 021-946 1712 (f) 021-949 0045

Hannes Willers (Appl Prep) hanswillers@mweb.co.za © 083 377 0036

Cobus Venter

Graeme Smith (Co opted Membership Committee Convenor) graeme03@telkomsa.net

Andre Pieterse (Mem Comm)

Andre Olivier (Mem Comm)

Peter Voight (Mem Comm)

Robert Nothaft (Co opted CSWSA Convenor) roronoma@telkomsa.net

Henk Mulder (Web master and electronic communications) henk@supplier.co.za

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Only duly elected EXCO members may vote.