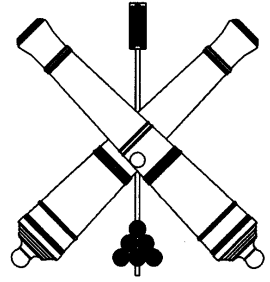


THE CANNON ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Castle, PO Box 1, CAPE TOWN 7441

E-MAIL noongun@mweb.co.za



NEWSLETTER No. 48 June 2013

An informative service to the muzzle loading cannon enthusiast

COMMITTEE EVENTS

The Committee and the Gunner's Board are making good progress on several fronts at the same time.

- a. The Committee / Gunner's Board recently made a submission to the Director of Explosives in Pretoria in response to certain proposals and questions from him. Subsequent direct and indirect communications made it clear that CAOSA is recognised by the SAPS as the holder of the body of knowledge on matters relating to muzzle loading cannon and possibly holds the solution to some problems in this regard. Much of our effort has gone into satisfying requirements set by the SAPS.
- b. REGISTRATION OF CAOSA – Erick Kellerman has had several meetings with the Explosives branch of the SAPS with the aim of getting CAOSA properly registered with the SAPS as a recognised, and possibly accredited, organisation that trains, evaluates and certifies the users of muzzle loading cannon. The reams of specified documentation have been completed, reviewed by the Gunner's Board and submitted under a supportive covering letter from the local Explosives Unit of the SAPS. All that we can do now is wait as patiently as we can.
- c. OFFICIAL COMPETENCY TRAINING – Martin Venter and Rolf Defur have put in many long hours of work in producing a Unit Standard training document for the firing of muzzle loading cannon. CAOSA sponsored Martin's flight to Pretoria where he was accommodated by Rolf and the two merged several documents into the required format for SAPS acceptance. Preliminary feed-back on this document from the SAPS is positive, but the cannon competency will not replace the existing black powder competency, it will be an addition to it. The original BP competency will possibly be a requirement BEFORE the cannon competency can be attained. It is likely that a Gunner will need a normal BP competency certificate, a ML cannon competency certificate, which MAY afford him/her access to a larger quantity of gunpowder, and then still be subject to the development evaluation and grading of CAOSA. It is SO much easier just to be a historian, re-enactor, model maker or recorder than it is to be a gunner – what a schlep!
- d. ON THE FINANCIAL FRONT – Our Treasurer, Barbara, has put CAOSA's house in order by means of employing all of those traits which annoy us bull-in-the-china-shop members. She insists on expenditures being voted on and minuted, she insists on receipts and invoices and all of those things that auditors like to see. CAOSA recently invested in a laminator for the production of membership cards, paid debts outstanding from the previous committee and took in money for books, badges, caps, shirts and several other transactions and they were all done by-the-book! CAOSA's finances are in good hands.

- e. MEMBERSHIP CARDS – Nadine and Martin have been producing the long awaited CAOSA membership cards hand-over-fist. Some will have received their cards in the mail already, those who have not yet sent us their ID numbers are probably still waiting for nothing. These laminated cards are purely an indicator of membership of CAOSA and are issued to all members in good standing regardless of whether they are gunners, historians, re-enactors or pure supporters.
- f. CAOSA PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES – The Gunner’s Board, in an effort to provide a better service over a wider area, has appointed regional representatives in each province. The representatives are all experienced in the aims, norms and activities of CAOSA, they are :-
 - 1. Rolf Defur, an experienced gunner and an adviser to the SAPS in Pretoria.
 - 2. MC Heunis, a member of the Free State Artillery Corps and avid historian in Bloemfontein.
 - 3. Basil Mills, the leader of SA Battle Re-enactments (SABRE) and a keen gunner in Grahamstown.
 - 4. SAM Davies, a retired police forensics technician and a CAOSA qualified gunner in Pietermaritzburg.We are busy working on terms of reference and responsibilities for these reps.
- g. SECRETERIAL MATTERS – Our Swiss clock Secretary, Jurg, has done sterling work in tracing “lost” members and jogging the memories of those who fell behind with their subscriptions. He is also producing cannon proof firing certificates and distributing them either by direct mail or via the regional representatives. He does not allow things to fall between the cracks, he has lists and lists and even lists of what lists he has. One is careful of one’s actions in his presence because anything you say or do will be minuted and used in evidence against you.
- h. THE BOTTOM LINE – Regardless of whether you are a historian, model maker, cannon nut, a qualified gunner or just a supporter – your CAOSA appears to be in good hands.

Errr – um – ah what does the Chairman actually do?

CAOSA WEBSITE

Readers are advised that upcoming events are publicised on our website at www.caosa.org.za

UBIQUE

Gerry de Vries Chairman /Researcher