

Savannah Dispatches



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The New Year is moving along faster than the editor can write so here is another summary of what Savannah Shellhole has been getting up to during the last few months. Last year 2019 saw the Shellhole very active and very busy with our usual Shellhole meetings, parades, raids and all we do on a regular basis. The New Year usually has a slow start but this was not to be the case. Our February meeting included a live Magicians show arranged by Moth Patrick.



It seemed pretty easy to get the blokes to do as he pleased, the question is do they remember what they did? Some photos just cant be published here. The magician attempting to wake Moth Greg! Not easy, we have all been trying for some time.



We won't even mention the shoe and it wasn't wet after it was used for beer. Moth Andy thought he was looking at the new MOTH dress proposals. It just had to degenerate didn't it? It was a very entertaining show, thanks to Moth Patrick for arranging it.

Still in February we went along to support Field Marshal Shellhole with their fete held at Evenden House. We took along our draft but weren't to sure how well it would go down on that side of the Boerewors curtain or if in fact they even new about beer?



The usual suspects waiting, for what we wonder? The draft stall open and the crowds rush in, Moth Craig is there in a supervisory capacity only.



These photos have been published very small, so some of the detail will thus not be too clear. Not too sure what is happening here. Mrs Old Bill, Fiona seems in a very friendly mood. There we have Old Bill Gavin making an exit, wonder why?



We just cant take Moth Trevor anywhere now. Moth Mike with his usual guilty look."It wasnt me..." having lunch before the crime. The Adj's cap was stolen, his true Scottish relic. Once Mrs Adj. Ellen found out and raised the Clans, things became a little tense. Quick intervention by Old Bill Gavin prevented another Jacobite Rebellion, he hasnt been the same.....

All in all, it was a successful day and Field Marshal Shellhole were very grateful for the donation we gave them. They are having another fete next year. "We will be back."



Good to see the Savannah Members out in force doing what they do best. You can guess what that is?

Our March meeting saw the induction of our recruit Jeff Gaitskill. The meeting was well attended and Moth Jeff was introduced into the Shellhole in true MOTH tradition.



Recruit Jeff Gaitskill facing the floor with Moth Chris smiling, he knows what's coming. Moth Richard on the right not smiling, he is afraid of what's to come. Old Bill Gavin pinning on Moth Jeff's Tin Hat, he is also smiling, doesn't know what's to come. Welcome to Savannah Shellhole Moth Jeff.

One thing we are always sure of, is that we are all getting older. This year some of our members officially became old. The first was Moth Goat who turned 60. Your work is now cut out Debbie, he is an old man

and they need constant supervision. Moth Robins 60th was celebrated in fine style at the Ridgeback with family, friends and of course Savannah Shellhole attending.



The Old Bill, Moth Gavin, presenting birthday wishes. The book? Study material for Moth Goat. Even on his birthday, he couldn't escape the SM. There we have Beauty and the Beast. You are in our thoughts Debbie.



It seems that all were enjoying themselves, even those who have crossed the 60 barrier. Smile Moth Andy your turn soon. A really great day, congratulations Moth Robin.



He might be Moth Goat, but he is our Moth Goat.

April was another busy month for us. It started with a raid on Field Marshal Shellhole in Irene. Another trip across the Boerwors Curtain. It was a Sunday Raid during day time. We will have to watch ourselves. It was our first raid which Piper Eric from the SA Irish joined us.



The Recce Party getting supplied at the Ridgeback before setting out. Irene is a long way off so adequate supplies were needed. Piper Eric doing what he does best, the Field Marshal blokes seemed to be enjoying it.



Mopping up operations lasted well into the afternoon and Piper Eric continued to entertain us. The food was good and all seemed to be well fed after the raid.



We left Field Marshal Shellhole in harmony, some more harmonious than others. For some unknown reason Moth Colin was navigating and we ended up in a scrapyard, but they sold beers and we were thirsty, so decided to stay.



Getting settled in and waiting for the beers. All still seemed happy but judging by the Adj's expression, he must be thinking..... "This can't end well." It didn't, but at least the Adj. got his cap back.

Some of the Savannah members were fortunate enough to attend the opening of Long Tom Shellhole in Tzaneen. It was a very interesting event, very well supported and very well organized. The opening was on a farm only a few 100 meters from where the last Long Tom was destroyed by the Boers near the end of the Boer War.



Old Bill of Platinum Province, Moth Dave Berry, conducted the proceedings. Savannah Shellhole, Moth Andy addressing the Shellhole. Old Bill of the Order, Moth Eddie Penzhorn, giving the keynote address. Little did Moth Eddie know that he would, in the future, feature on these pages again.



Long Tom Shellholes members and the Shellhole Top table ready for their installation. Old Bill of the Order, Moth Eddie Penzhorn, pinning the Tin Hat onto Long Tom's Old Bill, Moth Alan Odendaal's blazer.



Old Bill Moth Alan Odendaal addresses his Shellhole for the first time. Momentos were handed over. Savannah Shellhole presented Long Tom Shellhole with a replica model of the Long Tom Gun to commemorate their opening.



The first two suspect we all know, all the way from Minefields Shellhole in Palaborwa, to support the opening. We even made the newspaper, the photo which appeared in Tzanneens daily newspaper, can we ever go back? Lastly our leaders.

As per the Savannah traditions the annual dance took place at St. Benedicts. It was a very good dance and enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Moth Richard for all his hard work organising it.



The St Benedicts Pipe band put on an outstanding performance for us. The tables were full as were the stomachs after such a good dinner.



Once the dancing started the folks really started to enjoy themselves. They are all there and you know who you are. Moth Richard seems to be having a good time? Who is the lady?



Moth Chris being shown the ropes, Gail be careful he is getting old. What could Moth Jimmy and Ellen be talking about? Maybe the Adj's cap? We all know about that smile Moth Goat, we have got your back Debbie.



A special thanks to Moth Mike who did most of the heavy lifting in our bar. Is that the blue cooler box we all know so well? The blokes getting ready for the group photo, we hope Moth Colin is only wipping his mouth. There we are all ready, Moth Colin featuring again.



Moth Goat trying to get the blokes in line, at last a group photo.... Moth Colin !!!!!

This is a good time to sign off this edition of Savannah Dispatches the next edition will not be far off.