

Newsletter August 2008

"Kenya Open for Business" Campaign

In the July issue of our local Travel News East Africa magazine, an extraordinary photo shoot took place in Kenya's Masai Mara where representatives of the British Business Association of Kenya (BBA), the American Chamber of Commerce and the East African Association got together 250 of its members and associates of the three organizations in a dramatic public gesture of support for Kenya's beleaguered tourism in a US\$ 200 million reclaim campaign. Their support was shown in a photo shoot in the Masai Mara, with images of the event shown around the world to promote tourism to Kenya. The event was supported by 650 companies that make up the three associations to ensure that Kenya's tourism is revived.

Black Marlin and Sailfish

Earlier in August saw a good number of black marlin off the Watamu Banks with the boat, *Tarka* scoring over 16 blacks so far along with *Alley Cat* following close behind.

Mtwapa boats fishing north of Mombasa Island, have had some lucky strikes sailfish.

Further south in the Pemba/Shimoni areas are seeing barracuda, yellow fin and smaller game fish until the marlin reach the southern seas.

Herbie Paul's Memorial

Saturday, 9th August saw a large gathering of family and friends at the Malindi Sea Fishing Club to pay their respects to Herbie Paul who passed away earlier in the year. Herbie has been at the forefront of his family fishing business, *Kingfisher*, based in Malindi and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

IGFA World Records

The International Game Fish Association has granted 98 world records listed in the May/June 2008 *International Angler*. Records listed include nine all-tackle records, 49 line class (34 SW and 15 FW) and 40 on fly (20SW and 20FW). It is pleasing to note that Kenya features with Line Class records for Queenfish, Doublespotted for line classes W-04 kg (8 lb); W-06 kg (12 lb); W-08 kg (16 lb) and W-10 kg (20 lb), off Manda Bay by Theda C. Little.

Beijing 2008 – Kenya Goes For Gold!

Kenya swimmer, Jason Dunford made history by becoming the first East African to reach an Olympic swimming final. Jason finished 5th overall having competed against the world's best which was an incredibly amazing effort on his part having broken the Olympic world record for the 100m butterfly race, a record he held for all of 7 minutes until Milorad Cavic from Serbia clocked a new Olympic record of 50.76 second.

Kenya sports men and women made their mark to appear in the Olympic news for the track and field races winning 5 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze medals giving the Ethiopian and Moroccan runners "a run for their money"! Congratulations to the gold medalists Brimin Kipruto – Steeplechase winner; Pamela Jelimo – 800 m winner; Nancy Jebet Lagat 1,500 m; Wilfred Bungei – 800 m and Samuel Wanjiru – Marathon and all of the Kenya teams who put their heart and soles into competing with the best of the best from around the world. Kenya ranked 15th overall on the medals table and first of all the African countries.

Kenya Association of Sea Anglers Annual Dinner – 23rd August as Reported by the KASA Scribe, David Slater:

"A fun evening at the Mombasa Club was the result of the Kenya Association of Sea Anglers, KASA, deciding to return to Mombasa for this annual event. Traditionally the dinner was held at this venue for many years, till it was decided to migrate the party to the different fishing areas, and recently it has been held at Malindi, Watamu and Kilifi, with the local fishing club officials organising things, so it seemed appropriate to return to 'roots'.

The dinner was a great success, thanks to generous sponsorship from Liason Insurance Group, whose Coast Divisional Manager Andrew Kachila Mwanyoko and his wife, Hope, attended the function. Thanks also to 'Wines of the World' whose gifts of copious quantities of the fruit of the grape help to create that atmosphere of conviviality that makes such a good party!

Chairman Dr Simon Hemphill gave his report, and Andy Thomas of Capt Andy's Fishing Supply acted as MC for the draw of the raffle tickets, with splendid prizes of days fishing on most of our major boats, lodge and hotel stays, air tickets, restaurant meals, etc kindly donated by supporters.

The occasion also saw the launch of the beautifully laid out, full colour Rainbow Runner magazine with the up-to-date Kenya Fishing Records, a range of interesting articles and an account of the 'Tag and Release' programme – particularly notable was a striped marlin that swam from Kenya to near Perth in Australia, 5250 miles in 195 days, while a sailfish tagged off Lamu went almost to Antarctica, almost 4000 miles in under 40 days!

Interesting also to see the oldest record, a 34 kg barracuda caught off Watamu in 1961, still standing – while the biggest fish in the listings, a 450 kg tiger shark, was caught by a lady, putting the men to shame!

The magazine was put together with a lot of hard work by Samantha Wright, KASA Secretary.

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Live music and a disco followed and we must record all thanks to Mombasa Club for an excellent meal, and to Anne Taylor, Sue Lawrence-Brown, Bob Brenneisen and Samantha again for organising it all, a most enjoyable evening."