

Seafari Escape™

with EfficientSea™ Technology



The Next Generation of Energy Efficient
Reverse Osmosis Desalimators

- 200 to 600 gpd
(758 to 2,271 lpd)
- Quiet
- Small footprint
- The ultimate 12V water maker
with power consumption as
low as 1 amp. per gallon *
- One-touch,
Automatic Operation
- All systems available in 110/220,
50/60 cycles, single phase
- Includes installation kit
- 29 years of R.O. experience

* Seafari Escape 200 gpd

HRO Systems™

Horizon Reverse Osmosis



- South Africa
Business Marine
T: + 27-21-511-1430
- United States
Manufacturer
T: + 1310-631-6300
sales@hrosystems.com
www.hrosystems.com

Knysna's new 12m² Sharpie

by Joop Weddepohl



One of Knysna Yacht Club's 'country' members is John Fowler, who actually lives in England. In January 2001 John and his good lady Toni visited South Africa for their son's wedding at Brenton-on-Sea. They stayed at Knysna and, like so many of us here, fell in love with the place. Not only a keen sailor, but also a keen reader of such epics as the ones from Wilbur Smith, he recognized Knysna straight away as featuring in one of Smith's books.

This love affair resulted in yearly visits and eventually in purchasing a plot on Thesen Island and building a house there - and, of course, in becoming KYC members.

The decorating theme in their house here is decidedly 'maritime', with the walls covered in paintings and sketches of the Norfolk Broads and some old photographs of sailing on the Knysna Lagoon.

In England they sailed Sharpies. The Sharpies there are a bit different from the Sharpies we had here in South Africa in the days of yore. Ours were mostly Bermuda rigged, but the ones in Europe have the original gaff rig. The design is from the late 1800s when they were used as fast fishing boats. Then in the 1920/30s in Holland they became very popular as racing dinghies. The popularity spread to England, Germany and more recently, Portugal.

Last year's 40th European Championships, held in England, had 54 entries - and these are mostly old-

timers/antiques!

The Fowlers had a set of old plans, dating from the 1930s, and they opted for building a new 12 Square Metre Sharpie right here in Knysna, rather than depleting the English fleet by shipping one over.

They got to know Jock McConnachie of Timber Village, Knysna, through their house-building project on Thesen Island, and he introduced them to two brothers, Clive and Kevin Berry, who share a farm on Phantom Pass in Knysna. Clive and Kevin are not regular boat builders, although they have built (in steel). They are more like artists who can do anything with wood if it is a likeable project. And the 12 sqm Sharpie project obviously was likeable. They produced a beautiful boat from African mahogany and oak, planed down to 14mm. The (hollow) mast, boom and gaff are wood, and she is authentic even to the detail of the floorboard fastenings. They started in early October 2003 and *Storm* was launched at KYC on 22 January this year.

What is not 'old' are the fittings to make her sail fast and easy - all Harken gear was used with sails by North in Cape Town.

And she is fast! We started her off on her official Portsmouth rating of 102 and she got a third and a fourth in her first two races. Compare that with a modern Laser's rating of 108! Moreover she is an absolute pleasure to sail - a real gentleman's boat!!

The pictures show what a real classic design looks like! And what an asset for the Knysna Lagoon! ⚓