



# South Coast Fly Anglers



## NEWSLETTER June 2023

-----  
**Chairman:** John New (078 203 4549) **Treasurer:** Stephen Brand (082 551 9010) **Secretary:** Dick Plaistowe (082 453 8618)  
**Liaison and Records Clerk:** Pieter vd Merwe (083 543 7005) **Scribe:** Arthur Cary (039 681 3274) **Member:** Neil Scott (083 265 6608)  
-----

### Preparing to cast.

As you can see in the Events Calendar, a feast of outings and meetings is lined up for the next couple of months. (*SCFA Committee members really earned their handsome pay and promised bonus last month! Ed.*) Once again members are spoilt for choices, which is a lot better than having to scratch around for a suitable venue. Attend and enjoy those events that you can.

Despite the Paddock bass trip being washed out, by 30 odd mm of rain, we have reports on a trout outing to Mountain Lake and a salt water outing to TO Strand. Thanks to Neil, Stan and Steve for these.

### Events Calendar.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
7th June	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
11th June	Scalie outing	Umkomaas	TBA
14th June	Film festival	Durban	16h00
25th June	Saltwater outing	Mzamba estuary	07h00
27th June	Committee meeting	Neil's home	18h00
29th June	Monthly Meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
5th July	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
7th July to 10 July	Trout outing	Wattled Crane	TBA
19th July	Film festival	Durban	16h00
27th July	Monthly Meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
30th July	Saltwater outing	Rocky Bay	TBA

### Coming Events.

At the fly-tying workshop, to be held at Neil's home on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June**, we will tie the Irish Blonde and the Bal Byter. We have tied the Blonde many times in the past, but this is a first for the ant pattern. Be there and get some expert advice on tying this must-have yellow fish fly.

As discussed at the May monthly meeting, we will meet at the Southport filling station at **07h00 on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June for the scalie outing to Umkomaas**. Braai facilities are available, so you know the score. Kick boats are not required. Neil recommends a 5-wt. rod floating line and heavily weighted as well as streamer flies.

Those who have made arrangements with Piet regarding the outing to the **Fly-Fishing Film Festival on 14<sup>th</sup> June**, will know where to meet for this outing.

The **saltwater outing to the Mzamba Estuary on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June**, will hopefully produce some fish. Although it is possible to fish from the bank, having a kick boat will give you an advantage. The SMS from Steve will give directions as to how to get there. Bring sarmies and your liquid refreshments for the after-fishing-chat. If this river is unavailable due to rain, you will be notified by SMS.

There is a **Committee meeting at Neil's home on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June**.

The **monthly meeting will be, as usual, at the Umtentweni Tennis Club on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June**.

Liam will give us a talk and film show on his experiences, while guiding up in the Seychelles over the past 5 months or so, which should be most enlightening. He will also have some examples of the flies that are used to temp the brutes that they target. A meeting not to be missed!!!



**Fly-tying at Neil's home on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July.** FotM for the July meeting are the salt water Surf Puff and the very effective Papa Roach, which is Neil's "go-to" still water fly. After fly-tying we will hold a quick "travel and grub" meeting for the up-coming Wattled Crane trip, which is from the 7<sup>th</sup> July to the 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Past Events.

**Bass outing to Voigt's Dam, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May.**

Due to persistent rain, this outing was a no show of members, except for John, who was the only brave soul to pitch up at the dam, where he sat in his car for a while and then headed back home.

**Trout trip to Mountain Lake, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May.** By Neil Scott.

Stan and Neil left Shelly Beach at 05h00 on Monday morning to try and avoid the traffic between Port Shepstone and Kokstad. The road was busy, but we made good time and were in Matatiele by 7h30.

We bought some firewood and ice at the garage, collected the keys at the gate and started the trip up the mountain. The road on the lower section has just been repaired and was a pleasure to drive on. The upper section which is still under repair was a bit bumpy but can still be driven on in a high clearance car. We arrived at the cottage at 08h00, unpacked, setup our kick boats and were fishing by 10h30.

Monday was partly cloudy with light variable wind. Tuesday was partly cloudy with a strong NW wind blowing. On Wednesday we had clear skies but the NW wind was still blowing. Thursday morning had clear skies and no wind.

A total of 35 fish were landed ranging from 1kg to 2.2kg. The fish are in good condition and give a good fight. Both Stan and myself used floating lines and fished the weed beds around the edge of the dam. Stan's Flying Ant accounted for 18 fish and a Papa Roach for 17 fish.

The cottage has new cutlery and new crockery. The gas stove works well, but the gas geyser is out of action. There is a leak in the water supply line up at the tank, so if there is no water at the cottage, the valve must be opened.

**Trout trip to Mountain Lake by Neil and Stan, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May.** By Stan Park.

We left early at 5 on Monday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> May and arrived in Matat at 07h30.

The weather on Monday was perfect for fishing, both Neil and myself fished the top section of the lake and caught some nice fish. The normal fire in the cottage warmed us up.

The next day the wind blew from the west, gusting strong at times, making for difficult fishing.

The next day the weather was the same, strong westerly; we managed to fish and landed some nice sized fish, Neil with a 2.3 kg and myself with a 2.0 kg and a 2.1 kg fish.

On Thursday the water was like glass, only one fish landed.

We finished off with 35 nice sized fish.

**Monthly Meeting, Umtentweni Tennis Club, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Members present:** 14 members, including Liam, who is back from his "holiday" in the Seychelles. It was also good to see Matt, who has been absent for a while.

**Apologies:** Dick, Mitch, Sakkie, David and Conner, who will be overseas for an extended period.

**Outings and meetings:**

The Events Calendar, as given on Page 1 was discussed.

Sean is co-ordinating the trip to Umkomaas on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

Names are required for those interested in the Wattled Crane trip, from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July. Arthur is the contact guy for this one. An order for good weather has been placed with the registered authorities, who have promised to "see what they can do." R900. 00 for accommodation for the 3 nights and R150.00 cleaning fee, shared between the anglers.

**Flies of the Month:**

**Fresh water:** Parachute Adams: Neil, Sean, Sean, Arthur.

**Salt water:** Alphexo Crab. Neil, Sean, Sean, Arthur. (Arthur was soundly criticized for his entry, as the hook had not been de-barbed. *(Inexcusable!!!!. Ed)*



**General:**

John gave a report on the Voigt's outing which did not take place. (See report above.)

Arthur donned his Master at Arms cap and fined Matt for saying that he would never fish a barbless top hook again. This after having lost a fish, using a barbless hook. (*Ironic, when the MAA, himself submitted a barbed hook in the FotM competition. Ed*)

Arthur also said that, following a request from The Mission fly fishing magazine, he had submitted a short account of SCFA activities and included photos of fish generously donated by members. The Mission intend publishing reports from various fly-fishing clubs in up-coming editions. Those who read this mag are asked to keep an eye open and let Steve know when this appears in a future edition of Mission. Steve will notify members by SMS.

Sean and Jaco gave reports on their respective outings to Underberg and Kokstad. (See reports in last month's newsletter.) Congratulations to Jaco's wife, Annetjie; her 45 cm rainbow, earned her second place in the ladies section. This was her first fly fishing competition.

Liam gave a short account of his experiences while on a five-month guiding trip in the Seychelles. Target fish included, GTs, Permit, Bonfish, Milkfish, Triggerfish and others. The GT's follow rays, Lemon sharks and Guitarfish into the shallows, and as they disturb crustations and shoaling sprats, the GT's dart in and grab the spoils.

10 wt. and larger rods are used for the GTs, while 9 wts. are the preferred rods for the other species. He will have his laptop and photos, as well as a selection of the flies that are used, at the June monthly meeting. This is a show not to be missed!

Stan and Neil gave short accounts of their trip to Mountain Lake. (See reports above.) The committee will discuss a trip to this venue, at their end-of-month meeting. Costs are R550.00 per day for the cottage and R138.00 per-day-rod fee for non-members.

Neil also gave a short account of his trip to Dubai. (See report in last month's newsletter.)

Steve reported that club funds are in a very healthy state and that we can afford a sponsored trip to Mountain Lake or some other venue in the near future.

SCFA has sponsored the Matatiele Fishing Club to the tune of R 2000.00 for the purchase of brown trout, with which Mountain Lake can be stocked. John also chipped in with a generous donation.

The meeting ended with the usual very sociable braai.

**Sundays outing to TO Strand. 28/5/2023.** By Stephen Brand.

Steve arrived first at 6:40am followed by Neil at 6:55am and Sean, Arthur, John and Ken shortly thereafter. Steve walked left along the beach to the rocks and fished there while the others followed stopping along the way. Conditions were pleasant with a gentle breeze from the north east which felt as if it was from the south. Ken quickly caught 2 wave Garrick followed by Neil with a bastard mullet about 3/4 of the way down the beach. Sean then moved over to the next bay where the sea was a bit calmer with the increasing tide. Steve followed a short while later and upon his second cast caught a small wave Garrick and about an hour later a second which was slightly bigger. Sean lost one but was determined to still get one and settled for two later while Ken caught another. After a hard mornings fishing the tide became full and the sets came in fast one after the other we decided to give it a break and ended up in the parking lot for coffee and snacks. All in all we got 7 wave Garrick and 1 bastard mullet.

**Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.**



We have unfortunately lost a few members. Bill has moved to Pretoria, Ian and Paula are planning to relocate to the Cape and Dean has decided not to renew his membership.

This means that membership has now dropped to below 25. If you know of anyone who would be an asset to the club, bring him or her along. While there is absolutely nothing wrong with the blood of the present members, we could always do with some fresh ideas.

**Last Cast.**

There is once again no space to flex a line, so I'll just say cheers and hope to see you all on the water. Arthur.

