



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER

June 2018

Chairman: John New (039 681 3459) **Treasurer:** Stephen Brand (082 551 9010) **Liaison:** Pieter vd Merwe (083 543 7005)
Secretary and Records Clerk: Sean Tharratt (079 434 6168) **Scribe:** Arthur Cary (039 681 3274) **Member:** Dean Angove (071 880 2971)

Preparing to cast.

To ensure that members are kept up-to-date with recent goings-on in the club, we have reports on the Matat. Trout Compo and on the saltwater outing to Southbroom, as well as a short note on the monthly meeting held on the 30th May.

The revised and updated Events Calendar will remind you of the meetings and outings that have been planned for the next couple of months. Use it and be there.

Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Outing</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
10 th June	Saltwater outing	Pumula Beach	06h30
12 th June	Fly tying Workshop	Dean's home	18h30
18 th June	Grub & travel meeting	Ski Boat Club	18h00
22 nd to 24 th June	Trout outing	Glen Cairn (Himeville area)	TBA
27 th June	Monthly meeting	Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
8 th July	Saltwater outing	Southbroom Grannie's Pool	06h30
10 th July	Fly tying Workshop	Dean's home	18h30
16 th July	Grub & travel meeting	Ski Boat Club	18h00
20 th to 22 nd July	Trout outing	Wattled Crane	TBA
25 th July	Monthly meeting	Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30

Coming Events.

Pumula is, for many of our members, a new area, so be there at any time from 06h00 on Sunday 10th June for our saltwater outing. Shad should be coming on the bite, so get your Surf Candies, Mylar Sprats and Deceivers ready. Low tide is at 07h16, so we may be able to find a couple of spots off the rocks.

At the **flytying workshop on Tuesday 12th June at Dean's home, we will be tying the Beaded Orange Hot Spot Nymph (freshwater fly) and the (saltwater) Zambezi Killer.** You should have received the recipes and photos of both flies by the time that you read this. If not, please give Arthur a shout.

The trout trip to Glen Cairn, just out of Underberg, on 22nd June promises to be a real humdinger. The property, which is 7km from Underberg has a 38 ha trout lake, 3.5 km of Pholela river frontage as well as a bass dam. Get yourself to the **Ski Boat Club on Monday 18th June at 18h00 for the grub and travel meeting.** As the club is pretty flush at the moment, the tab for food and accommodation will be picked up by Steve and paid out of club funds and you will be reimbursed for fuel. Anglers only have to provide their own liquid refreshments. Doesn't get much better than that, does it?



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Past Events.

Matat Trout Compo. Friday 18th May to Sunday 20th May. By Sean Tharratt.

And so it was the time of the year again for the popular Matat Compo. Friday morning the anglers going up got all their gear loaded up and headed for Matatiele. In total there were 9 SCFA members taking part in the compo. Stan, Sakkie, Sean, Neil, Werner, Dean, Justin, Duane and Bianca. Mike Angove (*Non member. Ed*) was also there to fish the compo.. We all arrived at different times with Duane and Bianca being the early birds. Thank you to Dale Tribe for assisting Dean and his brother Mike to get their gear up the mountain as they drove up to Matatiele in a small car and wouldn't be able to travel up the mountain with that vehicle.

Camps were set up and then we all relaxed a bit and dressed a bit warmer as the cooler night temperature set in. Friday night was an early night for some and for others not so early enjoying the finer taste of whisky to fight off the cold.

Saturday morning we awoke before the scheduled waking up time because of a loud mouth somewhere in the campsite; wonder if it was that early bird just being too excited. Everybody headed down to the water awaiting the buzzer to start fishing. The weather for the morning was very pleasant; some slight mist and very slight breeze making it lovely being on the water.

This year the minimum length for a fish to be eligible to be weighed went up from last year's 45cm to 50 cm. A few fish had been caught in the morning just falling short of the required length and anglers had to keep trying. Stan came to the weigh station later in the morning with a nice fish of 2.26kg which was the biggest fish weighed so far and setting the one to beat. Sean caught a 45 cm rainbow hen shortly after and released it again and kept trying. A few minutes later Sean hooked into another rainbow hen this time a better fish but just falling short at 49cm.

About an hour after that Sean managed to get a nice brown trout of 2.05kg being his first brown. Sean was across the dam from the weigh station and kept the fish in the net and made his way to the side, giving Dale a loud call for assistance by the side for a weigh in and a quick picture so that the fish could be released again and all went well. Shortly after Neil came in with a 2.1kg rainbow trout and Justin with a fish just under 2kg. Throughout the day there were reports of big fish being lost and busting up anglers on a few occasions. The stockies were very active and could be seen eating insects off the surface but not too willing to eat our flies.

After a long day of fishing we all relaxed and had a nice spit braai and an early night to rise early the next morning for a last try for a big one. Sunday was another perfect morning weather wise with no wind and not too cold. Anglers were on the water just after 5 am giving it a go. A few stockies were caught and no signs of more big fish and then Werner went on with a nice rainbow cock fish measuring 55 cm and went to get it weighed and it weighed 2.13kg. After that fish weren't too interested in our flies and the wind picked up a bit and we decided to call it quits to have time to pack up camp sites as well before prize giving. Bianca lost a few decent fish over the weekend and managed to get one to get onto the scoreboard to win the ladies section bagging herself an array of goodies. Duane not wanting to hurt the fishes feelings decided not to weigh any of his fish with one measuring 56 cm being a rainbow hen which could have bagged him a top spot. Lets see if we can convince him next year to weigh a fish?

Time came for the prize giving. SCFA did very well this year bagging the top 4 places and Justin getting a respectable 7th place. Justin was fishing with the MANNE this year and not the juniors.

1st place with a 2.26kg rainbow: Stan The MAN.

2nd place with a 2.13kg rainbow: Werner

3rd place with a 2.1kg rainbow: Neil

4th place with a 2.05kg brown: Sean

7th place with a 1.83kg rainbow: Justin

1st place ladies with a 1.54kg rainbow: Bianca.



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All in all it was a great weekend; probably one of our best and we got the cottage back for next year's accommodation thanks to Stan The MAN, he has really lived up to that name now. Well done to all anglers. We will give it a bash next year again.

A variety of flies were used including Olive Fritz Bugger, Buzzers, Papa roach, Mop Fly (this fly actually worked,) Bloodworm, PTN, Squirmies and a few of the guys' own designs.

Salt water outing to Southbroom Granie's Pool. Sunday 27th May. By Arthur Cary.

Those of us who are clever enough to have chosen to work or to retire on the Natal South Coast are indeed blessed. We have good weather throughout the year and in autumn and early winter it is often absolutely perfect. Sunday 27th May was just such a day with the sun rising above the bank of cumulus clouds, that resembled a distant mist-covered mountain range; air temperature was cool, but not a breath of wind, so no need for a jacket.

John, Bill, Sean, Dave, Ken and Arthur tackled up in the Southbroom car park and headed for the bay, south of Grannie's Pool, just after 07h15. (Uncharacteristically Marion was absent, claiming that she had too much packing to do for the up-coming family holiday to the Okavongo.) The tide had an hour to run before it turned and the surf was perfect. There was enough of a push to bring in a lot of water, but not too many really big waves. (*Arthur contests this statement, as he got swamped a number of times! Ed*)

David had landed two wave garrick, before Neil arrived to swell the numbers. After another fish, David and Ken, using local knowledge, headed further south, leaving the northerners on their own.

An hour or so later the duo returned with the news that David had caught 8 wave garrick, while Ken had landed 3. Despite using a huge variety of flies, including Deceivers, Charlies, Mylar Sprats and various Minnow and other imitations, the rest of us scored a perfect zero. The secret weapon of the victors, was a #10 version of the KD Deceiver /Charlie that we tied for the February compo! Gracious in defeat, we all headed for the car park and drowned our sorrows in coffee and rusks, determined to tie a few of the successful pattern, before next month's outing to Pumula.

Sunday Scaley outing to Umzimkulu River.

On Sunday 3rd June, Piet, John, Justin, Pieter Stroebel and Arthur headed up past Lake Eland and fished the Umzimkulu for scalies. What a delightful stretch of water this is. We really do have a magnificent gorge right on our doorstep.

Once again although we emptied our fly boxes in our attempts to hook a real live one all we could manage was a number of hits from assorted King Klippe, Boulder Bass and Rock Fish.

Unfortunately they don't count and only Piet managed to trouble the scorer. He landed one small Natal yellow fish. Our excuses (sorry, reasons) for the lack of success, "Water was a bit chilly, as a result of the snow on the berg."

Oh well, it was great outing, with good sightings of impala, kudu and zebra as well as a super braai and a good chinwag to end the morning.

When the water warms up, we shall try again and this time, we'll get 'em!

Monthly meeting. Wednesday 30th May. Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club.

Present: 12 members

Apologies: Jaco, Jerome, Pat, Werner, David, Ken, Rob, Ian and Keagan.

Flies of the Month for May: Justin had a particularly tough time in deciding on the winners as there were a good number of entries, in both the salt and freshwater categories this month and the standard of the flies was also extremely high. Well done to all participants and particularly to the winners.



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Freshwater: Vaalie Nymph: Duane, Dean, John, Sean, Neil, Mitch, Dean, Dean, Sean, Arthur, Bill.

Saltwater: Karl's Lion Mane Crazy: Duane, Neil, Mitch, Dean, Arthur, Dean, Bill, David, David.

General:

John gave a short report on his trip to Oz, where he managed to get a couple of fish on fly. (*As was decided at a meeting some time ago, all fish caught on fly are eligible for entry into the Catch Record book. Ed.*)

Neil had the full attention of the Master at Arms with some delightful stories of various faux paux that were committed at the Matat Compo. Justin also added a note or two on Bianca's love affair with a warthog, this while fishing for scalies. (*Better start saving now for some hefty up-coming fines. Ed*)

Dean mentioned that he nearly had some success with tailing grunter at Impenjati, using a deerhair shrimp pattern. A couple of large fish mouthed his fly on a few occasions, but would not take a good chomp at it. They were also very skittish and would dart off as soon as they saw movement on the bank. The most successful method was to cast a few metres in front of an approaching fish and allow the fly to drift into its line of sight.

Steve gave his normal upbeat report on the finances of the club. He also mentioned that there are a few members who have not yet paid their subs for 2018. (*Folks, if your subs are not received soon, this will be the last newsletter that you receive. Ed*)

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Readers may be aware that at least one research vessel, the Ramform Sovereign, has been operating off the east coast of South Africa for a couple of months. At the time of going to print it seems to have disappeared from our radar, but has been working about 85 km east of Port Shepstone. The objective is to establish the viability of Sasol Africa Ltd and ENI South Africa BV, drilling for oil in an area designated block ER 236. This block stretches from north of St Lucia to south of Port Shepstone.

The findings of a draft Environmental Impact Assessment on this research, will be discussed at a public meeting, scheduled for Friday 15 June, at the Venture Inn in Umtentweni at 15h00. A similar meeting will be held at the Gooderson Tropicana Hotel, in Durban on Thursday 14th June, at 16h00.

Keep an ear open and check the press or contact The South Coast Herald newspaper for confirmation of this, as meetings scheduled in the past have been cancelled at the last minute.

Members of SCFA and in fact any one who has an interest in preserving what little oceanic resources are left, should make an effort to attend. Imagine what will happen to our piece of paradise if Port Shepstone becomes an oil port!!! Check out the ENI website and read up on the scope of the exercise. Scary.

If the oil exploration gets the go-ahead, two exploratory holes will be drilled off Richards Bay and one off Port Shepstone. These are planned for 2019. This drilling will require industrial water. Lots of it.

We, on the South Coast may be spared our hole, because at the time of writing many areas have been without water for more than a week and there is no positive sign of a solution on the horizon!!!! Hurray for UGU. Their ineptitude may have saved the day after all!!!!!!!!!!!!



The Matatiele Fishing club claim that the clean sweep by SCFA in their recent compo was a fluke and further claim that members of "The West clubs", (Matat, Kokstad and Underberg) are better fly fishers than those of "The East" (SCFA and DFT).

They have thrown down the gauntlet and to settle this debate, a compo between interested parties, will be fished in Mountain Lake on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th August.



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This promises to be an outright war, so we need our group to be at full strength. Guys and dolls, you have been given enough time to sort out your calendars. Be there. Once again, SCFA will pick up the tab for our members. More about this event in next month's newsletter.

Last Cast.

I trust that SCFA members have received and had a quick glance at the DFT June "Bobbin" that was sent out earlier this week. May I suggest that members have another long, slow read of Ian Cox's letter on "Why." While the disease of apathy that Ian discusses, is not at epidemic levels in SCFA circles, there is, on occasions, a hint of a sniffle or two here and there. Being a member of the club, entitles you to various benefits, but this membership comes with responsibilities.

Are you pulling your weight in attending the meetings and outings that are arranged? Do you share your knowledge at these? Please don't just "mine the eyes."

Why not have an inward glance at your personal health and assess if you need a swig of the antibiotic "Akshun", before the raging flu takes hold.

Cheers Arthur