



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER April 2021

Chairman: John New (078 203 4549) **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:** Neil Scott (083 265 6608)

Preparing to cast.

A bumper edition this month with a short Events Calendar, which will be expanded at the next committee meeting. We also have a number of reports on outings, Prize giving and on the AGM. Enjoy.

Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
5 th April	Grub'n travel meeting	TBA	18h00
7 th April	Committee meeting	Piet's home	18h00
9 th to 12 th April	Trout outing	Wattled Crane	TBA
14 th April	Flytying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
25 th April	Saltwater outing	Southbroom	Early
29 th April	Monthly meeting	Tweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
12 th May	Flytying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30

Coming Events.

A grub 'n travel meeting will be held at the Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club on Monday 5th April. This is in preparation for the trout outing to Wattled Crane on the 9th to 12th April. John, Neil, Steve, Stan Sakkie and Sean are the confirmed candidates. (Mitch has had to pull out.) Contact John (078 203 4549) if you would like to be included. The cottage can sleep 8.

The new committee will hold their first meeting at Piet's home on Wednesday 7th April at 18h00. The Events Calendar will be extended for the coming 3 months, so if any member has a preferred venue, drop me a line or contact a committee member before the 7th..

Wednesday 14th April will see us at the Fly Tying Workshop. Neil's home at 18h15 for 18h30. We will be tying the Royal Wulff and the saltwater Sand Crab, which are the flies that will be judged at the monthly meeting on 29th April. Recipes for these two flies have been sent to club members.

The saltwater outing to Southbroom Grannies pool is on Sunday 25th April. Bring your sarmies and liquid refreshments.

The monthly meeting will be at the 'Tweni Tennis Club on Thursday 29th April. Braai afterwards.

Past Events.

Prize Giving, Saturday 6th March. The home of Steve and Olga.

As has been the norm for many years, prize giving was a great success. About 30 members, wives and partners attended the very pleasant braai, hosted by Steve and Olga. Salads were provided by the committee and Olga produced her usual scrumptious pudding. For the few members who did not attend, "Sorry you lost, big time."

Congratulations to the following winners:

Chris van Wyk Chairman's Award: Sean Tharratt

Most Meritorious Fish: Jaco Strauss: 70 cm brown trout.

Most Prolific Angler: Sean Tharratt. 262 fish.

Most Species: Sean Tharratt. 9 (Wave Garrick, Shad, Lesser Sand Shark, Pinky, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Natal Yellow Fish, Bass, Tilapia.)

Saltwater Flytyer of the Year: Sean Tharratt (33 points out of a possible 40 points.)

Freshwater Flytyer of the Year: Sean Tharratt (32 points out of a possible 40 points.)



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2nd Most Meritorious Fish: Liam vd Merwe. 64 cm Small Mouth Yellow Fish.

Most Improved Angler: Jaco Strauss

Other notable catches: Sean Tharratt: 1.9 kg bass and 2.9 kg rainbow trout: Liam vd Merwe, 64 cm small mouth yellow fish: Ian Logie and Liam vd Merwe caught a number of Greenspot Kingfish in the Umzimkulu River mouth (no measurements were taken.)

For once raffle winners stayed within the club, David taking 1st prize followed by Bill and Rob.

Steve had once again begged, borrowed and twisted arms to get a bucketful of prizes and these together with dozens of bottles of marmalade and pickles etc. made by Belinda, were handed out, ensuring that every one received at least one prize. Again a huge vote of thanks goes to the Brand family for all the hard work that was put into the evening. SCFA members really appreciate your efforts.

Saltwater outing to Impenjati. Sunday outing 7th March. By Stephen Brand

Sakkie arrived first followed by Ian and Paula, John and Arthur, Warren, Kevin, Rob, Steve, David, Ken and Marion.

Conditions were overcast with just a breeze to keep the temperature down. The absolutely awesome sea was clean. The lagoon was alive with rises all over, but the mud was a sucker and both John and Sakkie took tumbles.

John 0, Arthur 2 Wave Garrick on white and orange Charlie's, Rob 5 Wave Garrick, Sakkie 0, Ken 2 Wave Garrick and 1 king fish, David 2 Wave Garrick, Warren 1 Wave Garrick, 1 bastard mullet in the surf and 1 Thorn Fish in the estuary, Ian 1 bastard mullet, Paula 0, Steve 1 Wave Garrick, Kevin 2 Wave Garrick. Total 19 fish. Neil popped in for coffee while we were braaing.

Yellowfish outing to Sterkfontein Dam. Monday 15th to Friday 19th March. By Ian Logie

Attending members: Neil, Arthur, Sakkie, Ian as well as Frank Berry and Mick Birkett from Howick.

The long awaited Sterkfontein trip started on a good note with all parties arriving at Quantani safely. Accommodation kindly provided by Neil and the use of two boats provided by Frank and Mick.

Book in time was 3pm so we used the opportunity to launch one boat and hit the water; which was absolutely crystal clear. After our first short outing we met Mick and Frank at our accommodation. On this short first outing Ian hooked his first golden slab weighing in at 1.5 kg. The others unfortunately never got to touch the gold. Monday night after dinner, once all rods had been set up and strategies planned for the next day, we hit the sack.

On Tuesday, we split into two groups, three up on each boat, and headed out on the mighty Sterkfontein Dam. After a hard and gruelling day, catches were as follows;

Neil, 8 golden slabs, 2 fish weighing in at 1.4 kg and the others averaged between 900 gms to 1 kg.

Ian, as a first timer, 8 fish, one whopper of 2 kg, one of 1.8 kg, and one of 1.2 kg, the other fish averaging between 500-600 gm.

Arthur and Sakkie, although having action the whole day, unfortunately never managed to set the hook. With regards to setting the hook, Sakkie had yellows grabbing his fly with exploding aggression left, right and centre. Poor old Sakkie was cursing the poor fish and on closer inspection to his equipment, namely his fly he was using, it was found that it had no hook on it. Somewhere along the line the hook had broken off on a fish or while casting. An estimated 5 fish, if not more, were lost due to this fly.

Thanks to June for Tuesday night's supper of cottage pie. After a few well-deserved drinks we called it a night.

On Wednesday we headed out to the same locations as the previous morning, where we were greeted by a wicked thunder storm, which luckily did not last long. Neil, Arthur and Frank remained at their spot, Ian, Sakkie and Mick travelled to a new spot which was at the dam wall, plus, minus 20 kms from the original spot. For those of you who have never been to Sterkfontein Dam, like myself, this gives you an idea of the sheer size of the dam.

Wednesday's catches as follows;

Neil, 8 fish, averaging plus minus 600 gm to 1.4 kg

Ian, 5 fish, average weight 1 kg

Arthur, broke the ice, catching 2 fish, plus minus 600 gm each.

Sakkie unfortunately again not managing to set the hook and being broken off several times.



Back at the cottage, Neil was asked if he got wet from the morning storm, under his breath he confessed, that he had got wet, not from the storm, but from falling off the boat into the water. Give that man an Old Brown Sherry!

Thursday again saw us heading out to our selected spots which had produced fish previously. Unfortunately, the fish had moved off, causing us to move in different directions as well and use our skills in locating them. Head winds made it difficult for casting, but once the fly hit the water, it was game on. We were also forced to find sheltered bays, which also produced the odd fish or two. This day, being the last day, we all fished extremely hard. With many fish lost and lines broken, the day's catches were as follows;

Neil, 1 fish

Arthur, unfortunately not setting the hook

Sakkie, a big hooray for breaking the ice, landing a slab of gold weighing in at 600 gm.

Ian, an awesome 12 fish, 2 of them weighing a whopping 2.2 kg and 2 kg respectively, the balance of the fish weighed in from a mere 80 gm to 600 gm. Mick totalled 13 fish for the week and Frank totalled 6.

Altogether we landed a total of 55 fish, all released safely.

On Thursday night we visited Quantani Lodge restaurant for dinner and drinks and on Friday we left Sterkfontein Dam and all its jewels in our rear view mirror. We will be back.

A great shout out to Neil for making this week happen, as well as for the great salads from his garden, to Arthur for snacks after a hard days fishing and to Sakkie for a good fishing companion on this trip. Frank and Mick, without your company and the use of your boats, we would definitely not have had the fellowship and the successful fishing that we did. Thank you very much indeed.

Trout outing to Mountain Lake. Saturday 29th March. By Sean Tharratt.

On Saturday 4 of us, myself, Dean, Zane and Beezo went up to Matat. The latter two gents are keen to learn to fly fish for trout. We left at 04h45 and were up at the lake just after 8am. It took a bit longer to get up to the lake as the road has deteriorated quite a lot. A high clearance vehicle is needed, as there are a few deep trenches to go through.

We set up kick boats and were on the water by 9am. Stan had given me a few tips, as he was up at the lake the previous weekend and said the fish were holding along the grassy edges around the perimeter of the lake. This proved to be the correct strategy as Dean got a few hits after only a few throws.

We started working the grass to the left of the cottage and went around the top end of the lake down towards the other end of the lake casting our flies next to every ball of grass we saw. The fish were hungry and very strong. I have never felt Matat trout fight so hard. It was a tussle to keep them away from the grass, but very few fish were lost, as they just swam off at high speed in any direction, even going under the kick boats a few times. They ranged in size from 1.6 kg to 2 kg; but even the smaller fish were feisty. A few of the bigger fish made my 5 wt. feel like a 3 wt. they had it bent so far over. After a few tips from Sean and a fly that Sean had given to Beezo, he managed to land his first trout down on the rocky point next to Sandy Bay, weighing 1.85 kg.

The morning was sunny with a slight breeze, but later just after 2 pm it clouded over with signs of a rain storm approaching, we packed up as we only did a day trip. The cottage isn't available at the moment due to a break in they had recently. *(The cottage was vandalised and gas bottles, cutlery and crockery were stolen. The good news is that repairs to the cottage have commenced and reports are that the road will also be upgraded. Ed)*

Sean 17 rainbows

Dean 11 rainbows

Zane 9 rainbows

Beezo fished from the bank. He landed one and lost a few, due to trying to strike, as is he was fishing for shad.

A variety of flies worked.

Olive Fritz Bugger.

Paparoach.

Filoplume Dragon.

Black Woolly Bugger.



Wattle Crane Weekend 19th to 22nd March. By Stephen Brand

Steve and Mike left at 6 am and picked up the keys at about 8:15. The drive to the cottage was slow and a bit rough in places; took about 45 min. Kevin left Sheppie around mid-day and arrived after 4 pm.

Mike and Steve unpacked and went for a fish around 14:00 as it was very hot. We fished for about 2 hours. I lost one near the pump house; had him or her on the reel and it went straight down and broke me off. We always learn from our mistakes, but that certainly got the adrenaline going and then I caught one near the pipe and another in front of the jetty. The fish were deep. Mike went over to the gully and got one. Kevin arrived later but caught nothing

On Saturday morning, we were on the water early and had a good days fishing. Kevin landed a 50 cm fish off the jetty. It was quite comical, as it went back and forth around the jetty until he finally landed it. It was amazing to see how that rod bent. He was lucky that I was on hand to take a pic. At around 15:00 we had a hail storm for about an hour. The average stone was about pea size with the odd 50c thrown in.

On Sunday morning, being well rested, we were on the water early. What a day! I caught the biggest trout; my first one of 54 cm; was absolutely chuffed. Luckily, this time Kevin was on hand to take a pic. Mike quietly went about catching his fish over the weekend, unlike Kevin and I. A lot of fun was had and personal records broken.

Steve: 5 fish of 54 cm, 36 cm, 48 cm, 40 cm and 36 cm respectively

Kevin 6 fish measuring 50 cm, 48 cm, 41 cm, 46 cm, 42 cm and 38 cm respectively.

Mike 6 fish, all in the 40 cm range.

We kept two fish that had been wounded, probably by birds.

Thanks to James and Cathy for an awesome place.

26th Annual General Meeting. Tweni Tennis Club. 25th March.

In the absence of John, the meeting was chaired by Arthur.

Present: 17 members as well as visitor Dillon Rorich attended. It was good to have the company of long-time absentees, Mitch, Dean, Dick and Pat.

Apologies: John, Bill, Paula, Ken, David, Kevin, Pieter and Liam.

Well done to all, as I think that this is the first time that we have had a full representation of members and apologies at any meeting, let alone at an AGM.

Sean read the minutes from the previous AGM and Arthur read John's Chairman's Report, in which he thanked members and the committee for their commitment during the year.

He mentioned that fishing in the salt now normally produces a few fish, however members, by and large, still lacked the skills to catch the bigger fish. Catching Yellow Fish on a regular basis also produces its problems. His report concluded in wishing all members good fishing in the coming year.

Steve gave his Financial Report, as comprehensive as ever in which he reported that the club finances are slightly up on those of last year. Well done Steve, on the tight rein that you keep on the purse strings.

The election of a committee was a simple matter; Mitch proposed that John, Steve, Neil, Pieter and Arthur remain on, while Dick agreed to fill the vacancy created by Sean's departure. Portfolios will be decided at the first committee meeting, which is being held at Pieter's home on Wednesday 7th April.

The Master-at-Arms did not do a very good job this time around, as Steve reported that we were a tad short on last year's takings. (*Does this mean that those members who have not yet paid their fines, will have to cough up a bit more? Ed.*)

Under general, Neil gave a detailed report on the trip to Sterkfontein Dam (*See Ian's report above. Ed.*)

Dick agreed that Sterkfontein Dam is a world class venue and added that a trip to the Rhodes area should be on every fly angler's bucket list.

Mitch suggested that an outing to Lake Eland be scheduled for this year. All in attendance agreed. The committee will take note and schedule a visit at some stage.

Steve had once again produced a great fire under the veranda and the evening concluded with a very social braai. Stan was kept well clear of the grid, so "accidental wors-dropping incidents" were prevented.

Saltwater outing to Impenjati. Sunday 28th March. By Stephen Brand.

Steve arrived first 6:45 followed by Arthur, Sakkie, Neil, Ken, Mitch and Dillon. Steve's green crazy Charlie Neil's white crazy Charlie and Dillon got 1 wave Garrick each early on in the morning. Dillon also picked up a small kingy in the estuary. Sakkie, Neil, Arthur and Steve had a braai after.



Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Stan had a quick day and a half trip to Mountain Lake in the 3rd week of the month. He reports that the road from Matat to the lake, is in a shocking state. "Never seen it so bad." It was however worth while and he got at least one Rainbow of 2.5 kg and the other 17 in the region of 1.5 kg.



Membership fees are once again due. R110.00 for singles and R160.00 for family membership. I know that many of you paid up at the AGM, but for those that missed that opportunity, please endeavour to get your moolah to Steve as soon as convenient, so that he can get his books up to date and I can update and circulate the membership list for 2021.

Last Cast.

As this is my last newsletter of the 2020/2021 year, I must once again thank all those members who added their bit to the newsletters that were produced over the last 12 months. Thanks to you, we managed to get one out every month, even if a couple of them were on the scrawny side. My fault, not yours. I trust that members will again be as generous at wielding the pen next year.
Cheers Arthur.

