



## NEWSLETTER

### December 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 (062 520 4975)

#### Preparing to cast.

As you see, we do not have a huge list of "Coming Events" in the immediate future, but that is no reason for you not to go out and wet a line with or without a SCFA fishing buddy.

Members have not been idle this past month and we have a couple of reports on recent outings and "club goings-on." Enjoy. Arthur

#### Events Calendar

14 <sup>th</sup> December	Saltwater outing	Kulu mouth	06h00
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Fly tying Workshop	Dean's home	18h30
9 <sup>th</sup> January	Committee meeting	Steve's home	18h00
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Grub & travel meeting	Ski Boat Club	18h00
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Bass outing	Oasis dam	06h00
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Monthly meeting	Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Saltwater outing	Kulu Mouth	From 05h00
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Yellowfish outing	Sterkfontein Dam	TBA

#### Coming Events.

The meetings and outings mentioned above, will be expanded on when the January newsletter goes out, which will be after the Committee meeting, on the 9th January 2019.

To enable you to get your ducks into a row in the meantime, there is an informal outing to the '**Kulu mouth on Friday 14th December**, where we will target the incoming tide. High tide is at 07h39. Park on the north bank under the bridge. We will not braai after the fishing, but bring a mug of coffee along anyway.

**Sterkfontein.** The trip to Sterkfontein Dam, Quantani, on the 28 January to 1st February has been booked by Neil, John, Rob, Sakkie, Mitch and Arthur. Thanks to Neil for once again opening his timeshare for this trip. Grub meeting will be on Monday 21st January. Details will be given in the January newsletter.

**Douglas.** Ex member, Tony Sharples, has invited us to join him on a trip to Douglas. Here is his invite:.

Just a head's up. I recently ran a River Clinic on behalf of the NFFC with Jaques Marais of Hunter Fisher Safaris at Highover Resort on the Mkomazi River. Jaques has offered me a trip from 3 to 8 April to his new camp just outside Douglas. He is giving us an extra day at a discounted price of R7950.00 for the 5 days. Boats are available at the camp to utilise for targeting carp, largies & smallmouth yellows. Everyone will have their own tent, fully furnished with proper beds, etc.

The trip will be limited to 10 persons of which 5 spaces are still free. If you are keen to come along please let me know. Deposits (50%) will be required at the end of January 2019. This is bucket list stuff, as a number of guys who were at the clinic, will testify to AND you will learn all about European nymphing, whilst hooking into some great yellows.

This will be my second trip, as the first was beyond anything else I have ever done in freshwater!

I would appreciate it if anyone who is interested, could let me know ASAP. (076 934 5552)

{SCFA members to contact John (039 681 3549 or 078 203 4549) immediately.}



**Past Events.**

**Outing to Wilsons Wharf Durban Harbour on 4 November 2018.** By Ken Schwartz.

It was an early start. John, Arthur, Neil, Sean, Ken, David and Marion met at Southport at 5 am. We had a leisurely drive to Durban in three vehicles. On the way there Steve went speeding by apparently in a hurry to get to the Ultra City for an urgent call of nature. We arrived at Wilsons Wharf at about 6:15. Steve was already there, as were six members of the Durban Fly Tyers who kindly turned up to show us the ropes. Some of them were already fishing.

We waded in to fish the bay area in front and on the side of the small craft harbour at Wilsons Wharf. It was low tide and the conditions were good for fishing, the water surprisingly clean with clean, firm sand underfoot. There was a fresh breeze blowing from the north, but at the start this was not too much of a hindrance. Advice from Graeme Neary that we should "remember that if we felt some action around our legs, it could be a shark," certainly kept us aware of our surroundings.

There had been a report on the previous Thursday in the Daily News, that the harbour was fishing well, so we all started with great expectations. Some of us were still getting started, when one of the DFT fishermen was into a fish. It looked quite small, but it was still a fish! There was not much action after that. After fishing for about 1,5 hours David suddenly found the right combination; (longer body gold Crazy Charlie.) and over a short period hooked and landed three gurnard, one quite a nice size of about 350mm. He then hooked a large crab as a bonus. Ken also changed to the same Crazy Charlie and caught one gurnard. Sean caught two gurnard; one on a Crazy Charlie and one on a Clouser, both chartreuse. John, Arthur, Neil and Steve had no success. Although Arthur did say that he "nearly had a bite".

The report was that the DFT fishermen caught four fish between them. So if anyone was keeping score (and I am sure that would never be the case!) it would seem as if it was six (and one crab) for SCFA and four for DFT. The wind picked up a bit and that coupled with the incoming tide made fishing more difficult. By about 09:30 we all had packed up and retired to Pirates Restaurant for a pleasant and good value-for-money breakfast.

The outing was really an enjoyable experience. The general clean water conditions and easy fishing access was certainly a pleasant surprise. Fishing with all the harbour action around was also different. Despite the positive Daily News report, the fishing was unfortunately not up to expectations. I guess as is always the case, the Daily News was reporting on the fishing during the elusive "last week".

Thanks to the Durban Fly Tyers for the organization and the good company.

**Wattled Crane outing 9-11 November 2018.** By Stephen Brand (alias Mr Plod.)

Friday 9 November we left around 6 a.m. Neil, Arthur, John, Mitch, Sakkie arrived at 8:30 and Steve arrived as they were setting up. The dam was like a mirror when we arrived and then the easterly arrived and eventually blew the guys off the water at around 12:45. Neil 5, John 4, Mitch and Arthur 2 each, Steve and Sakkie 0, then the beers started. The wind was freezing as the cold weather set in and no further fishing took place. John found wood and started the fire. Most of us were not prepared for the cold spell.

Arthur whipped up some lovely snacks and Steve, John and Mitch braaied. Sakkie made Sudza and Nqush gravy. (He had another name for it.) Peaches and custard for pud.

Saturday morning, Arthur was 1st on the water at 5:15 a.m followed by the rest of us, while Sakkie chopped wood and nursed his "morning after" and eventually around 9, decided to wet his tippet, to no avail. Neil 7, Arthur 5, Mitch 4, Steve 2 and John 1.

Arthur whipped up a traditional SCFA breakfast. A well earned snooze ensued. After 2 p.m. three went out while three stalled until 3 p. m. Neil got 5, Mitch 4, John 3, Arthur 2, Steve and Sakkie got one tap each. We braaied and had waffles with ice cream for dessert.

On Sunday the water was like a mirror; all out early, while Sakkie went off mumbling that he had to go and fetch his kick boat off the wall, saying he is never leaving his motor and battery behind again. Around 9:30 (maybe earlier) the wind said "Hello" again and we all got blown back to the cottage. Sakkie managed to dock safely this time. Neil, Mitch and Arthur 4 each, John 2, Steve 1 while Sakkie sadly blanked. (*Arthur struck gold, when using two flies in tandem, he had a "double-up" with two stockies of between 500g and 700 g. The first one took the Red Setter and the second fish took the Woolly Bugger tail fly. Ed.*)

Around 10 we all packed up and totalled 62 fish all in all, ranging from small stockies to one fish of 1,8 kg or there-a-bouts. If the weather had played ball, I think we would have maybe tripled the total. Sadly, 3 fish took very deep hooks and we were not able to release them.



Neil 21. Papa Roach, Mop-a-Roach, brown Woolly Bugger.

Mitch 14. Brown Soft Hackle and a large grey Montana Nymph.

Arthur 13. Papa Roach, brown, black and olive Woolley Buggers, Red Setter.

John 11. Green Woolly Bugger, Flash Back Nymph, Montana Nymph.

Steve 3. Black Woolly Bugger (Speed Cop)

Sakkie 0.

Total 62 for the weekend.

**Flytying workshop on Tuesday 13th November.**

We once again only had 4 members at the workshop, where Dean showed us a few neat ideas to give the Caddis a perfectly tapered body and also how to "bulk-up" Raymond's Minnow into the correct shape.

**Quick trip to the 'Kulu Mouth on Wednesday 14th November.**

At Ken's suggestion a few members fished the 'Kulu Mouth on an absolutely perfect morning; this after many days (weeks) of howling wind. Although no one took the temperature of the water in the estuary, it seemed decidedly on the cool side; probably due to the consistent blow from the north-east over the past preceding days.

We fished around the reeds, up-stream from the bridge on the north bank, right down to the bridge at the mouth, again using a variety of colours and patterns.

For once Marion was not present to do her duties as "Carrier-of-the-Catch." This, when her expertise was sorely needed. David, using a red and black (sort-of) Surf Puff, (called a Viper in native Australia) landed a beauty of a Green Spotted Kingfish, which pulled the scale at 1,4 kg. John, (who had a number of tugs from small Thorn Fish,) Ken, Rob and Arthur, blanked.

Once again a really pleasant morning was had, and for once the Schwartz family did not have to eat steak for the whole week. Kingfish was definately on the menu for one or two evenings! Well done David.

**Monthly meeting.** Wednesday 28th November. Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club.

**Present:** 16

**Apologies:** Piet, Bianca, Duane, Dean and Logan.

**Flies of the Month for November:** Judged by Liam.

**Freshwater: Two Tone Hot Spot Caddis:** John, Werner, Dick, Arthur, Bill.

**Saltwater: Raymond's Minnow:** Sean, Arthur, Dean, David, David, Bill.

After the final whistle, Bill pointed out that the recipe and photos called for Raymond's Minnow to be tied "hook up." His entry was the only one tied to that style. Bill you are quite correct and the rest of us boobed, however the score board is never wrong. A lesson to us all "Read the instructions." Maybe the fly should be named the "Agnus Gardner Minnow!!!!"

**General:**

John reminded members that the Flies of the Month will be selected at the Committee meeting in January. To date very few (if any) suggestions have been received.

The Committee will also be planning the outings for early 2019, so if any member has a preference, drop me a line. We have Maclear, Mount Arthur, Potts, and Mnyanemi in mind. Dean will be organising the Compass Compo at Mountain Lake in October!

Sean and Werner have explored the 'Kulu River above the pump station, with a view to fishing that stretch of water, but accessibility seems to be a problem. They will keep looking and report back.

Garlick's Dam is available for bass, but permission has to be obtained.

**Christmas outing to Steve's Dam. Saturday 1st December.** By Arthur Cary ..

This, as far as I can remember, was one of our more successful outings to Steve's dam. A total of 24 fish were landed, among them two very nice ones.

The ten anglers started arriving from around 05h00 and were joined later for the braai by seven others .

(Noticeable absentees were Jaco and Jerome; this after the date was changed in order to accommodate them. You two had better take up a second collection in order to pay your fine at the AGM. Bill and Dick will be appointed as Master at Arms when your turn comes around, as they could not make the Saturday, but was available for the Sunday.)



Steve had done a super job of preparing the dam, having cleared all the reeds from the banks and removed much of the weed. Water level is however down about two metres, due to the lack of rain and water temperatures ranged from 22 deg. C in the deeper water, to 24 deg. C in the shallows. Steve, Sakkie and visitors Greg and Ian had no problem in fishing the edges for three quarters around the dam.

The fish did not seem to be too fussy, as far as pattern was concerned, but did favour the olive green colour.

Visitor Ian Logie was the first one into a fish, (at about 06h00) caught on a Deer Hair Frog and John struck a purple patch, right at the end of our fishing session, when he opened the door to the teenager's room and caught 5 in quick succession.

He was a bit miffed when, as Chairman, he had to abandon his possie in order to play host to the other chaps and ladies, who had gathered under the trees for the braai. A couple of cold ones however, soon had him smiling again. "You can't keep a good chap down, you know."

Steve again prepared a perfect braai fire and we spent an hour or so chatting under the trees. A suuper end to a really pleasant morning. Thank you Steve for all your hard work.

**Steve:** Did not fish for long as he played the role of the perfect host.

**John:** 6. caught on a "something or other" chenille body with root beer wings..

**Ken:** 2. ( the smaller of the two was about 500 g) Red Setter

**Dave:** 1. Olive Woolly Bugger.

**Werner:** 2 bass. 2 tilapia. Olive Red Eye Damsel. Walker's Killer.

**Sean:** 2. Flipper and PTN.

**Sakkie:** 1. Cockroach.

**Arthur:** 3. Brown Woolly Bugger.

**Visitors: Ian** 2. (One a very nice one) Deer hair Frog.

**Greg** 3. Red Eyed Damsel. (Greg is from the Clarens area and guides regularly for yellows on the As river in the eastern Free State.

Pat dropped in for a quick visit to show off his newly acquired skodont bakkie. Says the Mercedes cannot cross over ploughed fields as well as it used to. He could not stay as he had a sick dog that needed attention. Mitch and Rob did not fish, but stayed for the braai.

It was great to be joined by Valerie and Paula (the better halves of Ian and Greg respectively) as well as by Marion, Lyn and June.

Once again Steve, "Thank you for all that you do for the club."

### **Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.**



I have some good news and some bad news. Good news is that a couple of DAFF officers came up from the Cape in November and nabbed a number of shad poachers fishing at the Sandspit. The bad news (for those that were caught) is that hefty fines were dished out.

More good news is that the shad season is now open and there are still many spots that are producing well.

### **Last Cast.**

Well, we are into December, so it is appropriate for me to wish all readers and their families, a Very Happy, Holy and a Blessed Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

May your wildest dreams of health, wealth, happiness and many big fish in 2019, be exceeded.

Cheers Arthur

