



# South Coast Fly Anglers



## NEWSLETTER

### February 2019

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**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)

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#### Preparing to cast.

The year got off to a good start, with just less than 100 fish being caught on the first outing to Oasis dam. OK, OK, I know that they were small, but they were none-the-less, fish. 6 members (and a possible new recruit) fished the Umzimkulu mouth, while 3 supporters also put in an attendance. Make sure that you attend the Prize Giving function on the 2nd March at Steve and Olga's and collect your share of the spoils.

#### Events Calendar

| <u>Date</u>                              | <u>Outing</u>         | <u>Venue</u>   | <u>Time</u>     |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> February                | Saltwater outing      | Pumula         | 06h00           |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> February                | Fly tying Workshop    | Steve's home   | 18h30           |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> February                | Grub & travel meeting | Ski Boat Club  | 18h00           |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb | Bass outing           | Lake Glencairn | TBA             |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> February                | Monthly meeting       | Ski Boat Club  | 18h00 for 18h30 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> March                    | Prize giving          | Steve's home   | 18h00           |

#### Coming Events.

The **saltwater outing to Pumula, on Sunday 10th February**, should produce a fish or two, so make sure that you get there.

The **fly tying workshop is at Steve's home on Tuesday 12th**. This gives the 'boys from the south' a chance to put in an appearance. We will be tying the Black and Peacock Spider and a freestyle Blonde. These are the first flies for the 2019 /2020 flytying competition. As always, you should have received the recipes of these. If not give Arthur a buzz.

The **grub and travel meeting for the trip to Lake Glencairn is on Monday 18th February at 18h00 at the Ski Boat Club. We leave for the lake on Friday**. As mentioned last month, the lake holds both bass and trout and the owners want the bass removed. Let's see if we can prove that this is not an impossible task.

Steve and Olga have once again very kindly opened their home for our prize giving function. **This is on Saturday 2nd March at 18h00**. Committee members will supply the salads, but you must bring your own meat and liquid refreshments. The draw for the raffle of flies tied this year will also be done, so let's have a really good turn-out. No excuses will be accepted for non-attendance.

We have a trip to **Wattled Crane on the weekend 22nd to 24th March**. Four or five chaps are interested in going. Full details will be given next month.

The **AGM will be held on Wednesday 27th March**. May I remind you that Dean is not available for re-election, but we have a replacement, thanks to John's arm-twisting technique. (The incumbent has both arms in slings at present.)

An outing to Maclear is planned for the end of April. Full details of this trip will be given when the accommodation and fishing locations have been finalised. Mount Arthur, The Potts, a dam in the Harding area, as well as a salt outing to Mynameni, on the Wild Coast, as well as a Richtersveld trip, will be discussed at a future committee meeting. If you have a preference for dates, give us a hint and we will try and accommodate you.



**Past Events.**

**Bass outing to the Oasis dam. Sunday 13th January.** By Stephen Brand (Alias Mr Plod)

John, Piet, Sean, Werner, Neil, David, Ken, Marian, Steve and Rob made it up to the Oasis dam near Lake Eland. (Mitch also made an appearance.)

All arrived around 06h00. The weather was perfect; sunshine with a slight breeze. All were on the water by 06h15 ish.

The fishing was hard, in that fish were taking short, with a variety of flies tried, but the one with a touch of orange seemed to be the favourite.

**Results:**

Neil 20 bass using a beaded cactus chenille long shank "Something or other with a marabou tail"

Ken 14 bass on a Hamill's Killer and a Red Setter.

Werner 14 bass on a PTN and the White Doll.

Sean 12 Bass on a black Bait Fish pattern and on a Red Fritz.

John 10 bass and 1 tilapia on a Half Chicken.

Piet 10 bass using an Olive Zonker with an orange collar.

Steve 5 bass on a Woolly bugger and an Orange Ant.

Rob 3 bass on a Woolly Bugger and an "orange Jobbie"

Dave 3 bass on a Red setter and a Woolly Bugger

The fish were on average 150 mm to 200 mm long.

After the fishing, we all sat under the trees and in the lapa and enjoyed a braai. The dam was half full (or some say it was half empty.) A lot of bird's nests close to the edge of the dam and there were a lot of bass fry around the edges.

**Monthly Meeting. Wednesday 23rd January.**

**Present:** 15 members.

**Apologies:** Dean, Duval.

**FotM for January:**

**Freshwater: Neil's neutral Density Woolly Bugger:** John, Sakkie, Sakkie, David, David. The Woolly Bugger entries from Arthur, Bill and Sakkie were disqualified by judges, Liam and Justin because the barbs on the hooks had not been squashed.

**Saltwater: Sparkle Shrimp:** Bill, Arthur

**General:**

John congratulated Liam on being selected for the junior Protea squad, at the recent trials. Fishing was tough in the clear waters of the Bushman's River, but Liam still managed to catch 4 fish, using # 20 nymphs. Pieter Stroebel (who we never see at meetings) was selected for the "B" side. Our 3rd junior, Justin, did not manage to catch a fish, despite using all the tricks that he has in his considerable arsenal. You see, even the top chaps blank out on occasions. Well done to all of you for flying the SCFA flag high.

Steve, Captain of the Money Ship, reported that our funds are slowly recovering from the stormy weather that we experienced last year.

**Salt outing to the Umzimkulu mouth. Sunday 27th January.** By Arthur Cary.

The quality fishing magazines all over the world talk about "mature anglers don't have to discuss the numbers of fish caught on an outing, they simply relish the experience of fishing in an ideal setting."

In keeping with this train of thought, I am not going to bore you common plebs with bragging talk of the numbers and sizes of the fish that were caught at the "Kulu mouth on our last outing. Enough to say that John, Ken, David, Sakkie, and Arthur had an absolutely fantastic time casting perfect tight loops into the blue-green waters of the Umzimkulu River on the in-coming tide. The serenity of the setting was somewhat disturbed by an elderly chap, (well let's admit it, he's actually quite old) who got his "street-racing" bakkie well and truly stuck in the sand near the parking area. After Stan had extricated Pat from his embarrassing position, these two also joined the group near the mouth. The water was really pushing in hard and the resultant scum line held a myriad of fish. One could not quite see them, but they were none-the-less there.



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Non-member, Craig Saunders joined the group and e-mail addresses and phone numbers were swapped in the hope of him joining the club in the near future.

Sakkie had brought along a braai grid, fitted with very natty clip-on-legs and after the anglers had cast their lot, the pyromaniacs soon had a fire going and out came an assortment of woks and the ragging started.

Bill and Rob popped in to see that we were safe. Both being mature fly anglers, no reference was made as to the numerical success of the outing. Number and size are of no consequence to anglers of their status.

When it came to the task of separating the legs and the grid, Sakkie realised why they are called "clip-on legs" and not "clip-off legs." We also realised the importance of having Marion in attendance. Her presence kept Sakkie from using all the profanities in his considerable vocabulary, as he battled to extricate the legs from the grid. The job was eventually successfully completed, thanks in no small part to the advice given by the watchers and we all retired to watch the Australian Open Men's Final and the cricket.

Ok, I presume that you commoners want to know how many fish we caught? In a nutshell, John hooked a small "something" but it fell off, Ken had a "good bump."

**The Yellow fish slaying expedition to Quantani (Sterkfontein dam).**

**Monday 28th January to Friday 1st February.** By Rob Nicholas.

Early on Monday morning (05h00) I picked up Mitch and Sakkie, then John and lastly Arthur. We were mobile; roll on Sterkies.

A pleasant ride via Umbululu to Maritzburg, where we hit mist and had to take the first comfort break near Hilton. From there to the Mooi River biltong shop to stock up and on to the top of Oliviers Hoek Pass for breakfast.

Arrived at Quantani about lunch time and thereafter headed out to fish, with Neil, Sakkie, Arthur and John taking the serious, route while Mitch and I did some sightseeing; no fish, with wind being a problem. Sakkie had one good take that smashed him up.

Snacks, hamburgers and chips and a party that night, good vibe.

Come Tuesday morning, we kitted ourselves with all the necessary to slay the yellow fish, but they had other ideas and would not co-operate, neither did the wind, which increased in strength as the day progressed. We could see fish in the water, but they would not take the fly. Neil in particular, was very frustrated with this lack of co-operation.

The afternoon session consisted of Neil, Sakkie, John and Arthur taking a hike in search of a stretch of water that was protected from the wind, while Mitch and I explored the complex, taking a special interest in the bar. Snack, braai and party to end the day.

Wednesday dawned; a magic morning with very little wind and we were soon all out at our favourite spots. We could again see the fish, but struggled to catch any. Neil was broken off 3 times and finally caught one fish. (*Using a 7X tippet!!! Ed.*) I had exactly the same experience. Sakkie, Mitch, John and Arthur had no luck.

After lunch we all, with the exception of Mitch, were back fishing, only to have a real 'Berg downpour catch us all. When the rain came down, the temperature, which had been rather high, dropped dramatically and being sopping wet, the light breeze chilled us all. No fish unfortunately, but a real stout effort on our part. Back home to snacks, braai and party. The party proved that our spirits were not at all dampened by the lack of fish.

Thursday morning dawned to very similar condition to that of Wednesday, but unfortunately the same result as far as the fishing went. In the afternoon we had another real downpour, and a thunder and lightning storm of note. Supper at the complex restaurant was enjoyed by all, even though Sakkie took a tumble on the veranda of the chalet. It rained heavily during the night.

It was still raining on Friday morning with Neil, John and Arthur electing to go fishing, while Sakkie, Mitch and I took the more sensible option of sleeping in.

John eventually came trudging back, sopping wet and cold; he was now gatvol. Neil's efforts paid off, with one break-off and one nice fish of +- 1.5 kg. Arthur maintained his consistent record!

We then packed up and started home, with some excitement for the first couple of kilos as the road had been re-surfaced, which the rain had turned into "snot" (John's apt description.)



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For the whole week: Neil two fish on a Wulff Spider, Rob one fish on a Crazy Charlie. Everyone else zero, but that did not detract from the enjoyment of the trip. A very big "Thank you" goes to Neil for the accommodation and transport of our fishing tackle.

A very nice venue, with stunning Eastern Free State sand-stone scenery. The two rondawels are reminiscent of the three in the Blyde River canyon near Nelspruit.

A boat would definitely offer more fishing options and increase the chances of catching fish.

**Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.**



Members are reminded that the SCFA 2018 / 2019 year ended at the end of January. Fish caught up to then qualify, but they must be recorded in the Catch Register Book. Get hold of Sean right now and do it.

**Last Cast.**

Having just returned from a super trip to Sterkies, I am at a loss for words, save to say that fishing from the banks of the dam is extremely taxing.

Taxing on the nerves, as one spots an approaching fish, sees it slow down to inspect the fly, before it slowly moves away, but wait, it comes back for a second look, glances up at the angler, gives him a middle fin and backs away.

It is also taxing on one's rear end, as the prime fishing spot is selected by inspecting the surrounding rocks. This often did not help much, as the best water, had the most uncomfortable rocks along the bank.

If John could have sewn straps on to one of the chalet cushions, he would have back-packed that along to ease his aching posterior.

Well at least we all had a great time and we all definitely "Nearly had a bite."

Till the next time.

Cheers Arthur

