



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER July 2019

Chairman: John New (039 681 3459) **Treasurer:** Stephen Brand (082 551 9010) **Liaison:** Pieter vd Merwe (083 543 7005)
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Preparing to cast.

Let me start this newsletter by thanking Pieter for taking over the rein's while I had a quick trip away last month. It is good to know that a capable body is prepared to man the pumps when the need arises. Thanks Piet.

This month we again have a full book of coming events for the next two months, as well as a couple of reports on outings.

Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
8 th July	Grub 'n travel meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00
9 th July	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h30
12 th to 14 th July	Trout outing	Crystal Waters	TBA
14 th July	Salt outing	Oslo beach	06h00
25 th July	Monthly meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
7 th August	Committee meeting	Neil's home	18h00
11 th August	Salt outing	Southbroom Grannie's Pool	06h00
12 th August	Grub 'n travel meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00
13 th August	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h30
19 th to 23 rd August	Salt outing	St Lucia	TBA
29 th August	Monthly meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
2 nd Sept	Grub 'n travel meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00
8 th to 19 th Sept	Yellowfish outing	Richtersveld	TBA
22 nd Sept	Salt outing	Mpenjati	06h00

The Compass Compo is scheduled for 5th to 6th October

Coming Events.

The grub 'n travel meeting on Monday 8th July at 18h00 is in preparation for the trout trip to **Crystal Waters on 12th to 14th July.**

The freshwater 3 Picos Fly and the Mylar Sprat are on the menu for the **Fly tying workshop at Neil's home on Tuesday 9th July.** Although we have tied both flies in the past, come along and learn a new trick or two, which could make these great flies even more effective.

For those members who will not be going to Crystal Waters, we have a **salt water outing to Oslo Beach on Sunday 14th.** (A line or two for the newsletter on this outing will be much appreciated.)

The **July monthly meeting is on Thursday 25th.** Hope to see a good crowd there.

Past Events.

Wattled Crane Outing. 14 to 17th June. By Sakkie McKay.

8 Members departed at sparrow on the 14th to our venue. Sean and Werner departed a tad earlier than the rest, as they believed that the early bird catches the fish. Neil, John and Sakkie travelled together, as did Mitch, Dean and Steve a little later.



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On our arrival, Sean and Werner were about to hit the water and a short while later, while we were still assembling the boats, they were both into the trout. Some while later the rest were tackled up and hit the water. Dean, not having a boat decided to fish from the bank
In all my years of fishing I have never heard music on the water, but in a show of bravado John donned his musical earphones given to him by his daughter and the sounds of “We are the Champions” sung by Queen, filtered across the water. I think that the fish got such a fright that they ducked for cover.

However the weather was great, sunny skies with a slight breeze blowing and the fishing was great. Once again the meals were excellent and Neil was his usual Jamie Oliver with the Bofas and evening Salads. Steve decided that he would be the braai master and who were we to argue. As for the snacks, well Arthur has been known as the king of the snacks, but he will have to up his game if he wants to retain that title. Overall, a total of 148 trout were caught with 3 being taken due to injuries.

Breakdown is as follows: Dean 50, Werner 29, Neil 21, John 15, Sean 13, Mitch 13, Steve 4 and Sakkie sucking the hind tit with 3 (Quality fish to be sure.)

Werner and Sean departed on the Sunday so I'm sure that had they stayed a day longer, then their catches may have been better. Dean was given the option of using the boat and he certainly put it to good use.

A great time had by all and of course just to keep the guys on their toes Sakkie and Mitch had their usual “O” Group over a bottle or two and sorted out the world's problems well after midnight.
Thanks guys for a great trip.

Fishing the Raba River in Southern Poland. by Arthur Cary

While on a short trip to Poland, in June, I was lucky enough to be given an early birthday present by my grand kids. They had organised a trip to the legendary Raba River near the village of Gódw (pronounced G doeff.) A section of this river was recently used for the Polish regional trout championships and what a great stretch of water it is.

I had been advised to take my tackle and the lads borrowed some from a local tackle dealer in Krakow. Vision is a huge shop, with the best of everything in fly fishing. The owners, Ewa and Piotr are really super guys and were most obliging in supplying rods, reels, line and a landing net.

The Raba is a large river; fast flowing, 30 metres wide and for the most part, very deep where we fished. The approaches to the water consist of small flat pebbles, which make for very easy fishing, even for someone as unsteady as myself.

Although the river flows through the little village and was frequented by many of the locals, either fishing, walking their dogs or having a family outing along the banks, there were few signs of pollution.

There is sufficient algae growth to give the noonoos something on which to feed, but insufficient to make wading a problem, even without the use of a wading stick. If only some of our waters were as pleasant to use!!!

Fishing in Poland is strictly controlled by the Polish Angling Association and residents require both a licence and a permit for a particular area. This exam is in line with other European countries. The applicant has to pass an exam before the rod licence is issued. This exam covers subjects such as breeding cycles and size limits for the different species. (Overseas visitors need only purchase a temporary permit.) Certain sections of river are exclusively for fly fishing and our section of the Raba falls into this category.

Following the example of a couple of the local anglers, we all tried the faster water for a long while and then sought out a quiet back-water section. It was here that my grandson, Adrian, picked up a good take from a rainbow of over 1 kg. Action on the water was not hectic, with only the occasional rise or large splash as a healthy specimen took some unfortunate bug from the surface.

In addition to my tackle, I had also packed a healthy share of my normal fishing luck and could not buy a bite. I might add that the 6 or 7 local chaps who fished the evening and morning sessions did not fare any better and probably had to eat pasta, cabbage and the obligatory gherkins for dinner. (Even the locals cannot afford steak over there!!!!!!!!!!) We at least had wors and chicken on our braai. All in all a really memorable trip, despite the lack of fish. Thanks boys.



Monthly Meeting, Thursday 27th June.

Present: 14 members, which on a cold blustery evening is pretty good I think.

Apologies: Werner, Pieter, Liam, Bianca, Duane and Mike.

Fly of the Month competition results, judged by Dean:

Freshwater: Plewman's Killer: Sean, Neil, Mike, John, Arthur, David, Steve and Dick.

Saltwater: Whistler: Neil, Arthur, Sean, Mitch and Mitch.

Dean earned the wrath of a couple of entrants by marking down those flies that had been tied on hooks with the barbs intact or semi-intact, depending on your point of view.

General:

John gave a short verbal report on the Wattled Crane outing. (See attached report from Sakkie.)

Sean reported that the Mountain Lake road is finally receiving some attention. Good news indeed. He also reported that Bianca and Duane had some excellent fishing over a 5 day period there recently. 60 odd fish, including a whopper rainbow of over 4 kg and a brown of over 3.5 kg.

Ken and David have been trying the surf in the Southbroom area with some success, catching a few small wave garrick in the surf. Nothing in the estuary.

Jaco has fished a dam in the Gamalake area with a few decent bass coming to the net. Fish in the region of 1 kg at this time of year is great news. A very good fish of more than 3 kg was taken by a lure angler.

Dean reports that both DAFF and Natal Parks Board officials have been active of late and a number of illegal fishermen have been brought to book. Make sure that you carry your licence at all times when on a trip.

Steve reported that the SCFA bank balance has recovered very nicely. Not yet good enough to send the committee on a trip to the Zambezi, but getting there!!!!!!!

He also reported that the recent sewage spill into the Impenjati River, caused extensive pollution and we may have to reconsider the proposed September outing to this venue.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Here is an extract from a note recently received from ex member Gwyn Russell:

Hi all,

Great news the Club is still going well. I can't believe that Matat is simply not accessible. I hope they fix the road soon.

We've been going ahead as usual. Business had been pretty good lately, long may it last.

Laney is doing performing Arts in College, Ivor is doing sixth form performing arts, film studies and graphic design. Eryn is in her first year of GCSE's. They all seem to be doing well so we hope that continues.

Ivor had just signed up to try to do some modelling and commercials, so we hope he gets some jobs and makes some money.

Candi is still working at the Nursery School although they've had a change of ownership. It seems the new owners are more go ahead than the previous owners which is good news.

Our Fly Tying Guild club has been going well lately too. We've had a drive to get more members and it seems to have worked. We are probably slightly smaller than SCFA. I think we have about 20 members. I'm on the committee, so have to do some work for that too, but it's fun.

I also take part in the River Fly Monitoring program. It's a program where a bunch of volunteers each select or are given a stretch of river and we have to do a kick sample every month. That entails shuffling your feet around for a minute in three types of river bottom, gravel, silt and weeds, while holding a regulation sized net downstream of you. This hopefully dislodges a bunch of bugs. We then empty them into bucket and tip them bit by bit into a white tray. We have to count the different types of bugs that they consider to be indicators of the river's health. There are benchmarks that show if there's been any pollution in that stretch of river as certain of the bugs are sensitive to certain types of pollution. We then submit the results to a central point and they collate them and communicate with the environment authority and pressure them if need be to make the right decision.



We've already been successful in changing various decisions about where they divert water from and to and how they extract water for people's use.

I've been to a few fishing outings with the Guild lately. They've been mostly still water outings which is not my favourite but they've been good fun. I even caught some fish, and are keeping my Mum and Dad in trout too.

All our love, Gwyn and the Gang.



As SCFA members know, the club is affiliated to FOSAF. To keep yourself up to date with all the activities being pursued by this body, may I suggest that you pop along to the FOSAF website every now and then, to catch up on the news,

Last Cast.

Shad on bait and spoon are coming out at all the favourite spots, so there is no reason for a well placed fly not to get you a positive result as well. Sardine news is, as always patchy and probably incorrect, but keep an eye open and if something happens in your part of the world, please spread the news to fellow members.

Tight lines and "Cheers for now."

Arthur.

