



## NEWSLETTER

### November 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.

This edition of the newsletter contains two articles on the yellowfish outing to the 'Kulu and one on the salt water outing to St Lucia and Cape Vidal. Details of up-coming events are also given. Check them out and book your spot, as space at some of the venues is limited.

At the Committee Meeting held on October 3rd, the calendar, up to the end of January 2019 was prepared; see the results below. I suggest that you make full use of the meetings and outings that have been arranged.

Remember, if any member has any suggestion for an alternate outing or would like to see a change in the format of the monthly meeting, please have a chat to a committee member. Cheers Arthur.

#### Events Calendar

4 <sup>th</sup> November	Saltwater outing	Durban Bay	05h00
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Grub & travel meeting	Ski Boat Club	18h00
9 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Trout trip	Wattled Crane	TBA
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Fly tying Workshop	Dean's home	18h30
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Monthly meeting	Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas outing	Steve's dam	06h00
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Fly tying Workshop	Dean's home	18h30
9 <sup>th</sup> January	Committee meeting	Steve's home	18h00
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Bass outing	Oasis dam	06h00
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Saltwater outing	Kulu mouth	05h00
30 <sup>th</sup> January	Monthly meeting	Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30

#### Coming Events.

The first outing in November is on **Sunday the 4th. We will be visiting Durban Bay** for, hopefully, some of their famed saltwater species. Meet at the Southport filling station at 05h00 to travel in convoy. If you wish to travel on your own, contact John (078 203 4549) to find out where we will be fishing.

The **Grub & travel meeting for the trip to Wattled Crane is on Monday 5th November.** We will fish this dam from **Friday 9th to Sunday 11th.** Steve, John, Sakkie, Neil and Arthur are going on the Friday and will be joined by Dick on the Sunday. He and Sakkie will probably stay on till the Tuesday.

At the **fly tying workshop, being held at Dean's home on Tuesday, 13 November,** we will be tying the Two Tone Hot Spot Caddis and Raymond's Minnow, which are the FotM for the November meeting. If you have not received the recipes and photos by the time that you read this, give Arthur a call.

The **monthly meeting, the last for this year, is as usual, at the Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club on Wednesday 28th November. 18h00 for 18h30.**

Note that the **Christmas bass outing to Steve's dam is on Saturday 1st December.** This is to give those who can normally not make the Sunday outings, a chance to participate. A fire will be available, but bring your own meat, salad and liquid refreshments. Anglers will meet at the dam from 06h00 and spouses and family can join the party later. Braai fires will be lit towards mid-day.

#### Past Events.

##### Flytying workshop on Tuesday 9th October.

Dean had once again set up the projector, which showed his demo of the Surf Puff and the Two Tone Hot Spot Emerger in fine detail.



**Freshwater Yellowfish outing to the Umzimkulu River. Sunday 14th October.** By Pieter vd Merwe.

We all met at the Gibraltar turnoff on the Oribi flats road. Steve and Sean were running a tad late. The ever trusting Marius was at the gate as we came down the hill. The weather was improving as the day progressed, and soon the jerseys came off as we descended onto the river.

The anglers, a total of nine of us, spread out along the river, each in the spot that he thought was holding the best fish. The three juniors did not hang around for long as they worked their way down the river, only to return once the braai fire was lit.

Sean managed to lure a small fish into taking his fly, as the rest of us were just holding poles. The river is very low and still a bit cool, not quite cold, just cool.

Ballies, John and Piet, proceeded down river to the braai area and prepared the braai fires. The smell of the fire soon lured all the anglers to the picnic spot, where we all had a lekker braai.

Liam managed two small Scalies and lost a big one. Justin lost a big one. No other fish were seen or heard of. The best part was the braai and the chatter around the fire. Another good sign was that there are lots of small fish in the shallows. Not sure if they were Scalies or Carp.

**Freshwater Yellowfish outing to the Umzimkulu River. Sunday 14th October.** By John New.

Nine guys turned up for the 'Kulu river outing. We arrived at the turnoff at 8 a.m. and had coffee while we waited for Steve and Sean. Steve had forgotten his wallet and had to go back home to fetch it.

We moved down to the gate so that Marius could let us in, while Justin's dad waited for Steve. Steve arrived as we were putting our rods together and got onto the water. The river was not flowing too strongly, but we did not know if the flies were on the bottom or not.

A lot of casting got under way, Liam, his mate and Justin moved downstream, as they had not caught anything. Neil, Sean, Rob, Steve, Piet and myself fished, but only Sean caught a small fish.

We then decided to move down river to some pools and heard that Liam had caught 2, but lost a bus and Justin also lost a bus. By the time we got to the pools the wind had started to blow stronger up stream, making casting difficult and with no bites, a braai seemed a better idea. After lunch it became unpleasant, so the boys went looking for butterflies, while the rest of us guys enjoyed the venue

We left at about 1 p.m. after a good morning's fishing, but again very few fish caught.

**Saltwater Outing to St Lucia and Cape Vidal. 26th October to 30th October.** By Sean Tharratt.

Friday morning we were all up early, excited for the much anticipated trip to St Lucia and Cape Vidal. We met up at Arthur's house and left at around 7 a.m. We arrived in St Lucia close to midday and headed for the nearest post office first, so that Dick could get a fishing licence. After that we went to the ski boat club for some lunch and headed down to the beach to have a look, while we waited to book into our accommodation.

It was very windy, but around 5 p.m. we went for a short session and Sean managed to get a bastard mullet on a chartreuse Charlie and Arthur got a moonie. Ken, Marion and David went up to camp at Cape Vidal from Wednesday and managed to get a few species on the Friday.

Saturday we could only go through the gate to Cape Vidal at 6 a.m. and there was already a queue building at the reception office to pay for entry. We got to Cape Vidal around 7 a.m. and after rigging up tackle we hit the beach. There was a very light breeze which dropped later in the morning and the sun was out and very hot. We met the Schwartz family on the beach and had a quick chat and started fishing. Dick and David were onto a few shad very quickly, which only wanted their flies. After the shad went off the bite, we all decided to walk along the beach looking for gullies and channels to find the fish.

Cape Vidal has very flat sandy beaches and wading was easy, except for certain spots with holes, and one had to be careful when stepping back-wards. We put in the hours, everyone caught fish and we headed back for a braai.

Everyone was knackered from the first day and we headed home for a rest and watched the rugby. On Sunday we went to Cape Vidal again and the surf looked good, a short distance to the left of the entrance to the beach and we all decided to wade in a bit and cast into deeper water. After getting a few bites and figuring out how to read the water and when to cast, we caught a few moonies and shad. After that spot went quiet, we headed south again and fished a few bays looking for the white working water. John found a spot with very rough water and pulled out a few bastard mullet of decent size. The bastard mullet seemed to like John's fly and he managed to get 7 of them. Rob managed to somehow hook a lesser sand shark which came to investigate his fly and gave him a very decent fight. Well done Rob a special catch indeed!



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We did a lot of walking and fishing, which paid off, as we picked up the odd wave garrick here and there. We headed back at midday for a rest and a nice braai. The wind again picked up, making it difficult to cast and we ended our afternoon session.

On Monday the wind picked up early, but we gave it a go, being our last day at Cape Vidal. The sea was a bit more choppy and the fish weren't biting in the usual spots. We did a bit of walking and got the odd moonie or wave garrick here and there. Neil and David each got a banana fish, which is a new species to the list, similar in shape to a bonefish with a light brown goldish back. (*More commonly known as a silver silago. Ed*) The wind got really strong later in the morning making casting challenging, especially for Dick who is a left hander, but that didn't deter him and he still put in the effort and caught fish. We had another great lunch and went for a game drive on the way home.

We were planning on a short morning session in St Lucia on Tuesday morning, but the wind was blowing very strong from early morning, so we packed up and headed back south and so ended a great trip. Ken and David stayed a bit longer and also went home on Tuesday.

We caught shad, moonies, wave garrick and bastard mullet which made up most of the catches. Rob says he also caught what he thought was a blacktip kingy. Ken landed a 38 cm wave garrick. David had a decent fish on that he lost unfortunately. The shad didn't bite us off a lot and there were a few hits and misses in between. Neil mentioned that he had rod butt against his shoulder while stripping line and he got a hard hit which gave him a shock into the shoulder, but unlucky not to hook up.

A variety of flies were used: Orange, chartreuse, white, gold, silver and olive Crazy Charlies, red and orange Surf Puffs, Mylar Sprat, white Salty Bugger, Maxi's Dog's Breakfast and small Mohawk flies were the most successful.

A huge "Thank you" goes to Neil for inviting us to share his La Rochelle residence and also to Neil and Dick for the transport provided. A really memorable trip. Thanks guys.

**Monthly meeting.** Wednesday 31st October. Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club.

**Present:** 11 members.

**Apologies:** Neil, Logan, Stan, Duval.

**Flies of the Month for October:** Judged by Rob, who had a really difficult task in grading the 13 excellent examples of Surf Puff flies. Well done dick, on getting the top spot in this category

**Freshwater: Two Tone Hot Spot Emerger:** Arthur, Sean, Dean, John, Werner, Bill.

**Saltwater: Surf Puff:** Dick, Werner, Steve, David, Arthur, David, David, Sean, John, Steve, Dean, Sean, Bill.

**General:**

Although not a fly fishing trip, Sakkie reported on his annual jaunt up to the Zambezi River. Unseasonal cold weather resulted in poor fishing and due to on-going political problems the economy is really depressed, but all in all, it was still an enjoyable trip. Uncontrolled netting of the river is taking it's toll, while a shortage of currency, fuel and worst of all, the chronic shortage of beer, are not good signs for the future.

Rob failed to adequately explain how he caught his sand shark at Cape Vidal, merely stating that he cast his line in the "general direction of the water and pulled out the fish." He did however mention that it gave him a really good tussle and stripped quite a few metres of line off the reel, before he managed to get it under control.

John and Ken gave short reports on the Cape Vidal trip (See Sean's report above.) Despite warnings that the Vidal chalets and camp site were in a poor state, Ken said that they found conditions to be totally acceptable. The monkeys were, as usual, a bit of a problem, but retreated quickly when confronted.

Ken is of the opinion (and all those present, agreed with him) that more time spent in local salt-water outings, would result in a far better catch rate than is currently being achieved in home-waters.

Steve reported that his dam recently produced a bass of 1,6 kg, which is a good omen for our Christmas outing there on 1st December. He also reported that club funds have stabilised and remain healthy.

**Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.**



.Dean has a kick boat made by Feral Inflatables, a sneaker motor and battery for sale at the reasonable price of R5000.00. Contact him on (062 520 4975)

**Last Cast.** No last cast this month, as I am still removing the wind knots from my leader! Cheers Arthur.

