



NEWSLETTER

August 2019

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Preparing to cast.

It is a relatively simple task to knock up a newsletter article when fish are caught; a totally different story to produce a good one when the fishing is tough and Dick has done a great job on the outing to Crystal Waters, where the fishing was really Tough. (Note the capital "T")

Keep an eye on the "Calendar" so that you do not miss out on the outing to Southbroom, the flytying workshop or the monthly meeting. The trip to St Lucia promises to be a good one. If you have not booked your spot, "Sorry you lost." There may still be a gap if you are a late starter, but no promises. Contact Neil for details.(083 265 6608.)

Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
11 th August	Salt outing	Southbroom Grannie's Pool	06h00
13 th August	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 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
3 rd Sept	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
15 th Sept	Fresh or salt outing	Members to decide	TBD
8 th to 19 th Sept	Yellowfish outing	Richtersveld	04h00
22 nd Sept	Salt outing	Mpenjati	06h00
25 th Sept	Monthly meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30

The Compass Compo is scheduled for 5th to 6th October. See remarks in "Stockie Stories"

Coming Events.

The outing to the **Southbroom Grannies Pool on Sunday 11th August** should produce some fish. Be there any time after 06h00.

At the **fly-tying workshop on 13th August (Neil's home at 18h15 for 18h30)** we will tie the Coch-y Bonddu and the Salty Beady Eye.

The chaps leave for Cape Vidal early on Monday the 19th for their Cape Vidal trip. We wish them fair weather and "tight lines."

The monthly meeting is at the Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club on Thursday 29th August. 18h00 for 18h30.

No specific plans have been made for the week end in September (Sunday 15th,) when the chaps are away on the Richtersveld trip, but if anyone has ideas for an outing, please discuss it at the meeting on the 29th August.

Past Events.

Trout outing to Crystal Waters. 12th to 14th July. By Dick Plaistow.'

My first fresh water trip with the SCFA and it seems that the penalty is the responsibility of writing the article- well, someone has to do it I guess, so here goes.

The forward planning was impressive. Grub meeting on the Monday before departure, travel arrangements sorted- Sakkie and Dick to travel with Neil, and Pat and John travelling with Arthur.



Strict instructions to load the vehicles at 17h00 on Thursday before departure (I'm going to try that one on my wife Teresa before our next trip) and Pat sleeping over at Arthur's on the Thursday evening, presumably so that he arrived on time for the early departure on Friday morning. We left Uvongo promptly at 05h30, met up with Arthur in Paddock, and arrived at Crystal Waters about 09h00 after a smooth, safe journey with Sakkie providing an alternative listening experience to East Coast Radio.

The Drakensberg mountain range is one of my favourite destinations, absolutely world class, with an abundance of options for the outdoor enthusiast, active or inactive, young or old- hiking, climbing, riding, fishing, bird watching, game viewing, painting- the list goes on, and Crystal Waters is right up there with views to die for and a beautiful stretch of water to fish. Whilst I think of it, I should mention that, contrary to our expectations, the weather behaved itself with stunning sunrises, warm sunny days and cool, but not freezing evenings, and no rain.

After unpacking and settling into the rustic, but comfortable cottage, kick boats were assembled and everyone was on the water by 12h00 latest. The lake was "crystal water" and our first impressions were very positive that we'd be in for a great fishing weekend.

I'm going to jump the gun a bit and mention that one particular fisherman, no names, no pack drill, was always first on the water and last off the water. He was also first to rise in the morning, first to make the snacks, first to do the washing up, first to bed (any guesses). This guy was the proverbial "Duracell bunny" in everything he touched. He was exhausting to watch, but nonetheless impressive. He was also the first of four guys, not to catch a fish. Which leaves two guys who did catch, but only a stockie each..... for the whole weekend.

We tried everything that our collective experience could recall doing, reading about, or seeing other blokes do - floaters, intermediate and sinking lines; fishing shallow weed beds, off the bank, looking for the structure, the inflows, the outflow, deep waters, slow drift, trawling; we tried figure of eight retrieves, strip retrieves, and everything in between; we threw the fly-tying handbook at the fish or rather the thought of a fish; we tried blood worms by themselves and as a dropper, midges, damsels, nymphs, streamers, emergers, dry flies. When I got home I pulled out my "go to" book by Tom Sutcliffe, "Hunting Trout" and re-read chapter 5, "Fly Fishing Ponds and Lakes." The only thing I could see that we hadn't tried was a nymph fished on a Leisenring lift- "*&\$? me," who's ever heard of a Leisinring Lift. Well, I'll share it with anyone who buys me a beer at the next meeting.

On a more serious note though, and after another read of chapter 5, I think slow and small is the way to go, fished from bottom to top and over structure.

So the fishing wasn't good- but the venue must have potential. It's a most beautiful location, the lake was full and had crystal clear water with good structure, and I have no doubts in recommending that we organize another crack at it, maybe November is what Sakkie and I thought, but anytime I'd be keen on a return trip.

So the fishing wasn't good- but we don't go fishing just for the fishing do we?? The grub was great thanks to the enthusiastic cooks that we have, and the booze went down well, except that Sakkie missed Stan and Mitch. From what I've heard this meant that everyone slept better than usual though. We also had some good laughs, on occasions at a certain member with his peculiar grunts and groans, mostly when he couldn't find his kit or get his boots off.

To conclude, I thought it was a great week-end away, I'd definitely like to spend an extra day there in warmer weather, maybe take the cottage next door as well, if we can get 8 or 9 guys together (assuming the smaller cottage is a genuine 4 sleeper and not have a double bed). Many thanks to all and looking forward to the next trip.

Outing to Oslo Beach on 14 July 2019. Report by Ken Schwartz,

Many of the members who usually attend salt water outings were at Crystal Waters and as a result only Sean, Ken, David and Marion turned up at Oslo Beach. When Ken, David and Marion arrived at about 06h30, Sean was already there, having walked from his home!



The weather was good, with the sea a bit on the rough side; however fishing along the very rocky shoreline was difficult with few decent spots being accessible. The main problem was that within the gullies the sea was quite rough with a shore break and the water generally sandy and shallow within casting distance. Not long after we started David landed a very small Bream like fish that really had no right to be interfering with his Surf Puff.

Sean headed both North and South in search of decent spots to fish. Ken and David continued to persevere in the few gullies close to the parking area. No further fish were taken. At about 08h30 we decided that maybe we would be better off moving on to Nash. At Nash the water looked promising and the three of us tried without success to about 10h00 before calling it a day.

The general consensus was that we would not recommend that the Oslo Beach venue be included on a list of favoured salt water spots.

Monthly Meeting. Thursday 25th July.

Present: 12 members

Apologies: Piet, Liam, Duane, Bianca, Arthur, Werner, Mike and Dick

Flies of the Month: Judged by Steve.

Freshwater: 3 Picos: Neil, Neil, John, Arthur.

Saltwater: Mylar Sprat: Neil, Neil, Arthur, David, David, John.

General:

John gave a report on the outing to Crystal Waters in Underberg. (See article by Dick.) The fishing was very tough and only 2 stockies were caught. The water was very clean and a variety of flies was used. with a black Woolly Bugger being the successful fly. A few other anglers also came to fish there, but also didn't manage to catch any fish.

Steve also spent a weekend away at Whispering Waters near Notties and also said that fishing was tough and didn't manage to get a fish either.

Stan is going up to Mt Lake we wish him luck and hope he can give a positive report on that trip.

Mitch asked about the fly tying demos that used to be held on a few occasions during meetings. John said that lighting was the main issue with that. Neil said that he has a projector that he can possibly try and use for that. The plan is in the works to try and sort that out.

Sean mentioned that the Matat guys want to have their Compo soon and it was proposed to them that we have the Compass Compo and Matat Compo on the same weekend, as that's sort of the only available weekend that most of the usual entrants would be able to attend the Compo. So far everyone is in agreement on that proposal.

Fry, fingerling and stockie stories.



Liam is over in the Czech Republic at present and has been catching a lot of fish in the lead-up to the World Championships. The serious stuff starts next week and we wish him the best of luck.



A proposal will be put to the Matatiele club, that the Compass Compo and the annual Matat compo be held jointly on the 1st week end of October. As usual the Matat compo will be judged on a weight basis, while the Compass compo will be judged on an length of fish basis. For the team prize in the Compass Compo, the total length of the longest fish of the 5 top anglers for each competing team will be added together. A team with less than 5 anglers, will be at a distinct disadvantage of course. There will also be a prize for the angler who catches the longest fish. No extra charge will be levied to enter the Compass Compo. Details will be given as soon as we receive feed-back fro Matat.

Last Cast.

Thanks to Sean for the notes on the monthly meeting, which he passed on, as I was again "Walking about."

Fortunately, there is again little space for more of my blurb, so "Fluit, fluit, my storie is uit."

Cheers, Arthur.

