



NEWSLETTER

May 2019

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: Neil Scott (083 265 6608)

Preparing to cast.

We have a couple of reports on outings, thanks to John and to Dick (who jotted down a line or two on his outing to the Rhodes Festival.) Unfortunately the planned trip to Maclear was cancelled due to swollen rivers and dirty dams, thanks to the copious rains that they have had in the North Eastern Cape.

As you see from the Events Calendar, we have a full box for May and the same is on the cards for June, when the committee gets together again. As always, if you have a venue that you would like to include, drop a line to a committee member. Your wish is our command!!!!!!!!!!!!

Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
7 th May	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h30
12 th May	Yellowfish outing	Umzimkulu River	08h30
26 th May	Saltwater outing	Nash	06h30
30 th May	Monthly meeting	Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
2nd June	Saltwater outing	Umzumbe Flats	06h30

Coming Events.

At the **fly tying workshop, being held at Neil's home, on Tuesday 7th May**, we will tie a yellow Red Eyed Damsel and a Surf Candy. These are the two Flies of the Month for May.

We have a **yellow fish outing planned on the Umzimkulu for Sunday 12th May**, depending of course on the condition of the river. At the moment, this does not look good! Keep an eye on your phones, as Steve will send out a directive on the Friday or Saturday to notify you of developments.

Sunday 26th May sees us fishing Nash, again this is dependent on the condition of the sea and there is the usual monthly meeting at the **Ski Boat Club on Thursday 30th May**.

The Umzumbe Flats is the venue for the saltwater outing on **Sunday 2nd June**. I know that it is a bit of a trek for you chaps from down south, but us northerners decided that we must try and instil a wee bit of culture into the club. Park off the road, a hundred metres north of the Umzumbe Bridge. The fruit sellers there will keep an eye on our vehicles, if we pay them a bob or two. This outing is also dependent on the condition of the sea. Keep an ear open for a message from Steve.

Past Events.

Salt outing to Shelly Beach. Sunday 7th April. By John New

The club planned an outing to the Ski Boat beach for Sunday the 7th. Guys started arriving just after 6 am, when the tide was still quite full, resulting in a good scrubbing for those caught by the odd wave.

The beach in front of the club is flattish, with some flat rocks resulting in some hook ups. David had to swim to unhook his fly, while Dean got a friend to unhook his fly, nice friend.

Steve caught 3 fish, a Kingfish, a Blacktail and a Stonebream. Dean caught a Blacktail and Kingfish and John landed a Wave Garrick, all the fish were small, and caught on Charlies and Surf Puffs. Ken and David did not catch, but tried hard.

The beach to the left of the club is sandy, but south of the pool is very rocky, with small bays, and with the swirling waves, fishing was difficult, as you did not want to hook a rock.

We did not braai for breakfast, as we were at the club, but tried their breakfast instead, which was worth it. Hope to see you the next time . John.



A note re the 2019 Rhodes Festival. From Dick Plaistowe

I fished the Rhodes Wild Trout Association Fly Fishing Festival from 16th to 21st March, my fourth festival and by far the best fishing. 2016 was a disaster following drought where 90% of the wild spawned fish stocks were wiped out, 2017 was recovering from the drought, 2018 was rained out for the best part. To give you an idea of the impact of the drought, a total of 93 fish were caught by around 40 fisherman in 2016 and this year I think it was 1243 fish.

The Festival was attended by some top South African fly fishermen who guided (off the top of my head and apologies to those I've forgotten) Mark Yelland, Mike McKeown, Peter Briggs, Tony Kietzman, Miles Divett and Jan Korrubel were there and together with the stunning scenery and the camaraderie made it a great few days. I will always plan on attending the Festival.

I must say that it was nice to catch some fish for a change- this year 14 fish, plenty under 10 inches and the biggest 16 inches, with which I was very happy. However, I was reminded how much room there is for improvement in my fishing, when I was told that the top guys were catching 30-40 fish daily !

I can really recommend the Festival to the SCFA members. The cost this year was R 5400.00 for 4 days which included rod fees, guiding, lunch and dinner. I'm keen to fish there again this year, maybe we can canvas interest for a Club trip later in the year or next year if the calendar is already full.

I also briefly fished the river and surf whilst staying at Umngazi River Bungalows in early April. No luck for me although I'm told some of the bait fisherman caught small kob and grunter. Cheers. Dick

Monthly Meeting. Thursday 25th April.

Present: 17 members.

Apologies: Pat, Stan and Jerome.

New member: We welcome Mike Kirkam to the fold. Mike is a local lad and has only just been introduced to fly fishing by Steve. As we always say, Mike, "We trust that your stay with us will be a long and mutually beneficial one."

FotM for April:

Freshwater: Papa Roach: Sean, Sean, Arthur.

Saltwater: Freestyle Blonde: Sean, Dean, Dean, Sean, Sakkie, Mitch, Mitch, Arthur, David, David, David.

General:

Neil gave a short account of his trip to Douglas, where the target species were yellows and mud fish. He stayed at a camp on the river bank and travelled to various spots every day. Fishing was productive as there were a lot of fish in all the selected areas, but takes were very soft and anglers had to be aware of the slightest sign of a bite, in order to get a hook-up.

Even though Neil is pretty sure-footed and used a wading stick all the time, he took a couple of unplanned swims, when he lost his footing on the slippery boulders, which form the bed of the Vaal River in this area. Dick gave us a run-down on his trip to the Rhodes Festival (see article above.) Steve reported that finances are once again looking healthy, due to the payment of subs, fines and donations.

A few hefty fines were dished out by the Master-at-Arms, which added to Steve's coffers in a small way. Many thanks to those who coughed up.

Fry, fingerling and stockie stories.



As you well know, sea, river and dam conditions at present (end of April) are terrible, due to the rains over the Easter week-end and our planned outings may well be changed or cancelled altogether, so keep an ear and eye on your cell phones, for an update from Steve.



As mentioned last month, subs were due at the end of March. If you have not yet paid, please contact Steve now, (082 551 9010) so that he can dot the I's and cross the tees in his books. An up-dated membership list will be sent out when matters are finalised.

Last Cast.

I will be going walk-about towards the end of May, but the June newsletter will be in the capable hands of Pieter, so please send your articles to him at < sapdeepsea@telkomsa.net >. Cheers Arthur.

