



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER

April 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 (071 880 2971)

Preparing to cast.

Check the SCFA Calendar and Coming Events and make sure that you get your ducks in a row as far as the up-coming SCFA outings and meetings are concerned. The planned trip to Kokstad was cancelled due to dirty water, following good (bad?) rains in that area, but Mitch and Sakkie managed to squeeze a trout or two from Wattled Crane, as did Neil, but Tweni only produced a couple of small fish on that poorly attended outing.

The AGM went off well and as all members of the committee were available for re-election, there were no changes. At the subsequent Committee meeting, there were also no changes to the portfolios. (See heading of this newsletter.) **Remember: Subs are due.** Cheers. Arthur.

Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Outing</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
9 th April	Grub & travel meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00
10th April	Fly tying Workshop	Dean's home	18h30
13 th to 15 th April	Trout outing	Matatiele Mountain Lake	TBA
22 nd April	Salt water outing	Nash	From 06h00
25 th April	Monthly meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
8th May	Fly tying Workshop	Dean's home	18h30
14 th May	Grub & travel meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00
18 th to 20 th May	Matatiele Trout Compo	Matatiele Mountain Lake	TBA
30 th May	Monthly meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
6 th June	Committee meeting	Pieter's home	18h00
12th June	Fly tying Workshop	Dean's home	18h30

Coming Events.

If you are going to **Mountain Lake on the 13th to 15th April**, ensure that you attend the **Grub & travel meeting on Monday 9th at the Ski Boat Club at 18h00.**

At the **Flytying workshop, being held at Dean's home on Wednesday 10th April**, (Note the **change of date**) we will tie Peddar's Dragon and the Crayfish. (Recipes have already been sent out.)

These are the FotM, that will be judged at the **Monthly meeting on Wednesday 25th April**. Both are a little tricky, so come along and get some tips from Dean, on making the job that much easier.

The salt-water outing to **Nash on Sunday 22nd April**, should produce a few fish. Hope that we get a better turn-out than we did for the "Tweni outing. If not, ah well, as I always say, "The important folk will be there!" Make sure that you are one of those.



Page 2.

Recent outings and events.

Trout trip to Wattled Crane. Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th March. By Mitch Rorich.

By the time we had planned to leave, our party had dwindled to two members. Unfortunately Stan and Rob were unable to make the trip owing to circumstances beyond their control. Sakkie and Mitch however, decided to make the trip.

We arrived quite early on Tuesday 13th in beautiful clear weather to find the cottage in its usual immaculate condition with the lake crystal clear, and full to just below the jetty. Weather ideal with only a slight breeze.

Our morning session produced 9 rainbows between 800 grams and 1,5kg, but a rising westerly wind had us off the water by early afternoon. (We had decided not to take sneaker motors which may have allowed us to continue only for a short while longer.)

The wind persisted on Wednesday until about 3pm, settled and we managed then to get in a reasonable two and a half hour session that produced five rainbows in the same weight range before the wind picked up and forced us off the water.

The wind howled literally until the wee small hours of Thursday morning, but we awoke to a perfect morning and a smooth lake. A short session produced two rainbows of 800 grams before the wind again picked up and with the dry weather looking to hold for a while we decided to call it a day and return home. Access to and from the cottage was bumpy, but reasonably dry considering the good rains East Griqualand had been having days before.

A variety of flies were used, each producing a fish or two.

Thanks to Sakkie for his excellent meals and good company. We thought that if any small party was to visit the lake, it would be wise to take a sneaker and battery and make use of the boat to extend fishing time. 16 fish were caught and released with a few long line releases to boot.

Best wishes to James Raw, from SCFA, for his 40th birthday on 17th March.

Salt water outing to 'Tweni. Saturday 24th March. By Arthur Cary

A very poor turn out of Marion and 4 club members on this really super Saturday morning. There was a slight north-easterly; just enough to keep the fly line safely off the right shoulder and the swell on the out-going tide in Grannies Pool was perfect. Ken tied a trusty Crazy Charlie to his sinking line, headed for the corner of the rocks and was soon into a small Moony. David and Arthur tried the bay and when Ken got another Moony, David joined him. Unfortunately, a couple of bait fishermen had noticed Ken's success and encroached, to the extent that, twice on his back-cast, Ken hooked the one chap and also wrapped his fly line around Mr Boeff's upright rod while he was baiting up.

David managed one Moony on a Rainbow Mowhawk, before he too gave up the unequal push for the rocky corner. (I know a few well-built ex-members of yesteryear who would not have backed out of this situation. "Tie on a #6/0 heavily-weighted Clouser and stick it in his ear.") Ken and David are more mildly tempered and polite fellows. Unfortunately the encroachers will probably never get to read this newsletter and probably consider this situation to be the norm. "How was the fishing, man?" "Sem as yesser day, yu know."

Ken and Arthur headed slowly northwards and although the shore break was not too heavy, the fish were either not there, or were out of range. Ken eventually turned back, when he got to the mouth of the Umtentweni River, without adding to his score.

John, who has been suffering with a bad dose of tendonitis in the hand, could only manage a few casts, before he realised that to continue, would only aggravate the injury. Total score Ken 2; David 1, Arthur zilch. John did not even have to wash his tackle when he got home, well before lunch time. It was, however, a very pleasant outing.



Page 3.

Trout trip to Wattled Crane. Monday 26th March to Wednesday 28th March.

Neil and his newly-promoted photographer wife, Yvonne, took a quick trip to Wattled Crane for a couple of days. Weather was a bit breezy at times, but mainly good; the dam is brim-full of perfectly clean water. Wattled Crane certainly does have a very well managed catchment area!

He caught about a dozen fish, all in the range of 800 grams to 1 kg. *(Not bad, as he did not put in the hours on the water, that a fishing trip normally demands. Ed)*

Note: The rates for the Cottage have gone up as follows: The cottage cannot be booked for only one night. A minimum charge of R600.00 will apply. If you go alone for 2 nights, you pay the full rate. Daily rate per person: R220.00 and an additional R150.00 "cleaning fee." This is a one-off payment for the duration of your stay, irrespective of the number of anglers or the duration of the stay.

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 28th March. Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club.

Present: 12 members.

Apologies: Jaco, Jerome, Sakkie, Dean and Pat.

Minutes of 2017 AGM. Read by Sean.

Chairman's report.

John thanked the club for the Honorary Membership awarded to him at the Prize Giving.

He also thanked the out-going committee for the work put in by members during the year.

He said that the youngsters in the club, *(Justin Liam and Peter. Ed)* had done the club proud with their efforts in the field of competition fishing.

Membership of the club had grown nicely, but as we will be losing some members this year, we must again focus on increasing our membership, especially among the younger fraternity.

Although the club is strong in numbers, *(membership currently stands at 32. Ed.)* we do not get full attendance at meetings and outings. Efforts to improve on this aspect must be continued.

Treasurer's report.

Steve gave his financial report, which shows that the club's funds were in a very healthy state.

Election of Committee.

As all members of the 2017/2018 committee were prepared to stand for re-election and there were no volunteers from the floor to join the committee, John, Steve, Pieter, Sean, Dean and Arthur were re-elected. *(Office-bearers, as shown in the heading to this newsletter, and below under "Committee Meeting" were elected at the committee meeting, which was held on the 4th of April.)*

Master-at Arms:

Although there were only 12 contributors to the fines-basket, a total of nearly R850.00 was collected. Those members who were not present, will not get away scott-free; your indiscretions during the year are written in indelible ink and will not be forgotten. Just make sure that you have, what John calls, "folding money" when you next attend a meeting or an outing.

Leader and tippet construction for competition fishing by Justine Ashington.

Justine gave us a brief talk on how the competition anglers construct their tippets and leaders. On occasions, leaders are up to 20ft long and tippets down to 7X are used. Because the lighting at the Ski Boat Club was not ideal, he will again demonstrate the knots that are used, when we have a local outing.

General.

After a short discussion, it was decided that SCFA would take no further action in the on-going attempt by the DEA to declare trout an "Alien and Invasive Species," but would leave this fight to FOSAF, whose members were far better qualified to tackle this issue.



Cont'd on Page 4.

Page 4.

A proposal was made and accepted that SCFA join FOSAF. Pieter undertook to enrol the club as a member.

Rob thanked the committee for their work during the year.

The meeting ended with the usual very social braai.

Committee meeting. Held at John's home on 4th April.

The committee members retain the same portfolios as last year. There is a saying "Don't change a winning formula" and "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." With John and Steve at the helm and the other committee members rowing hard, we certainly do have a winning formula! They deserve your support.

At the AGM, you may remember that Steve announced that he was unable to balance the books. Between he and Piet, they discovered that Piet had not handed in his raffle money. (Steve did not say if he was going to charge Piet for the interest that the club has lost, but knowing our Treasurer, you had better start saving, Piet.)

The fly tying workshops will in future be held on Tuesday evenings at Dean's home. Discussion took place regarding holding monthly meetings on a day other than a Wednesday, in order to accommodate ALL club members. It was eventually decided that despite the last Wednesday of the month not being suitable for everyone, it seemed to be the most suitable for the majority of the members, so meetings will continue to be held on this date.

Dates and venues for outings up to the middle of July were sorted out.. These include a planned trip to the Sani Pass and Injasutu areas and also to the Umzimkulu for yellowfish. **Watch this space.**

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.

 Anglers who intend fishing the Matat Compo in May, but have not yet contacted Shane, are urged to do so immediately. If you do not register now, the club may not have the correct size of jacket for you on the day of the Compo. Shane can be contacted on 083 299 49996 or 039 737 3181 or email: shane@sondelastore.co.za

 Sean has a contact for Mouché barbless hooks at the good price of R50.00 for 25 hooks. He is busy knocking a bulk order into shape, so if you want to be part of the action, contact him immediately on 079 434 6168. Check out the Mouchè website to get an idea of what hooks are available.

 Read the latest on the "Trout; Alien and Invasive" saga on the FOSAF website.

 Remember that Sheena Carnie of the Flyfishing magazine is always looking for articles on your exploits, fishing exploits, that is!! Drop her a line if you have an interesting story. Get her address from the Flyfishing website.

Last Cast.

Well folks, I'm afraid that you are stuck with me as the editor of the newsletter for a while longer. Members, you have only yourselves to blame; you could easily have volunteered your services at the AGM!

There is however an alternative: if each member commits to writing half an article in the coming 12 months, you will not have to read so much of my mistake-ridden blurb. If you do write, Noah had better start building another Ark; if you don't, suffer on.

On a serious note, thank you to all those members who contributed an article or two when asked to do so last year, it certainly makes for a more informative and interesting newsletter.

Cheers and hope to see you at many of the workshops, outings and meetings.

Arthur.