



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER March 2024

Chairman: John New (078 203 4549) **Treasurer:** Stephen Brand (082 551 9010) **Secretary:** Dick Plaistow (082 453 8618)
Liaison and Records Clerk: Pieter vd Merwe (083 543 7005) **Scribe:** Arthur Cary (039 681 3274) **Member:** Neil Scott (083 265 6608)

Preparing to cast.

In this month's newsletter, we have the usual Events Calendar, followed by two short articles on salt water outings, a report on the monthly meeting, where Protea angler, Sean Dickson, from Xplorer, demonstrated tying a very versatile fly. The newsletter closes with a report on the very successful Annual Prize Giving evening, held at the home of Steve and Olga Brand. Those few members who missed it, really lost out on a fabulous evening. A big thank you to the Brand family. Cheers Arthur

Events Calendar.

13th March	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
17th March	Saltwater outing	Umtentweni Grannies Pool	06h00
28th March	Annual General Meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
3rd April	Committee meeting	John's home	18h00
10th April	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
10th April	Grub 'n travel Meeting	Neil's home	After fly trying
12th to 14th April	Trout trip	Silver Streams	TBD

Coming Events.

Our fly-tying workshop, on Wednesday 13th March is as usual at Neil's home at 18h15. As we do not have a FotM for March we will be tying the Improved Wolf Spider and Sean's Bass Fly. Recipes of these two flies will be sent out to members shortly.

We have a **salt water outing to the 'Tweni Granny's Pool on Sunday 17th March**; be there at any time from 5 am! No braai facilities, so bring your sarmies and a chair for the post-fishing-car-park natter.

The **AGM once again rears its pretty head on Thursday 28th March**. Be there; unlike many an AGM, those run by SCFA are pretty slick affairs. We get through the business of the evening, a short Chairman's and Treasurer's Report and the Election of Committee is over smartly. The collection by the Master at Arms takes a little while, before we get on to the usual braai. If they have not already been sent out, the Notice of the Meeting and Agenda will go out shortly.

If you are interested in the **Silver Streams trip, being undertaken from 12th to 14th April**, contact Pieter now on 083 543 7005.

Past Events.

The salt water outing to Southbroom Granny's Pool. Sunday 18th February. By Arthur Cary.

The weather forecast for the Sunday did not look too bad, with a light south westerly accompanied by a spit and a spot of rain. While waiting for my lift at 5 am, I was glad that I had packed a rain jacket, as the predicted spit and a spot slowly began to wet the road. The south wind had also started to make its presence felt, but by the time that we reached Southbroom, the rain had dried up and the wind had dropped to merely a zephyr. Surf also looked very promising indeed; no major discolouration and a very low shore break.

Unfortunately, apart from 3 Wave Garrick, (caught by Steve) and one Mooney, (landed at the 11th hour by Arthur,) the promised bounty of fish did not materialise. Marion's fish-carrying services were surprisingly not even required by Ken and David, as they too blanked out. John has in the past few outings, always contributed a few to the total, as has Neil, but they too could not tempt the fish.



Past Events cont'd on Page 2.

To give John his due, he did not give it too much of a thrash, as he had a sore right shoulder. I won't disclose how he received the injury, suffice to say that the Master of Arms fines-book has its first entry for 2024. Kevin too, went home with a sore casting arm, (muscle soreness from a lack of practice) but will unfortunately not add to his tally in the Catch Record book. Dick, for an unknown reason, could not find his casting rhythm and even his local knowledge did not help him add to his blank score. It was good to see Toi and Mike refreshed after their long trip to Ozzi. Mark Rose (being a first-timer in the surf) went home to a lunch of steak and chips (being a Pommie, he had bought his newspaper in which to wrap his catch.) Hopefully, the boss of his establishment will allow him out more often, now that the house is gradually assuming a sort-of-state-of-completion.

I am unable to explain the lack of fish, as between the 11 of us, we probably threw every conceivable pattern and colour of fly and we covered ground from Granny's pool to the bay about 1 km south of this. Most of the water looked perfect, with long gaps between the waves, which were only half to three quarters of a metre high; not gin clear, but certainly not as muddy as we have had it up in the north. Ken did say that in the southern bay the surf was pretty heavy, a fact to which David can attest, as he was drenched by an unexpected "bigger one." Despite not depleting the ocean of all the fish resources, it turned out to be a really pleasant outing, which we finished off with a good long natter in the car park, where Barry (future member?) joined us. Oh well, as we always say " We'll get them on our next outing."

Salt water outing to Mzamba. Sunday 25th February. By John New.

A good bunch of guys arrived at the gate at 6 am. We shot down as soon as everyone arrived, as the weather looked ominous again. A gate has been installed at the turn off to the river, but it was not locked; we found out after trying another road; don't know if there will be problems later.

We all got on the beach then, found out that one vehicle only had diff lock, so there was a problem getting that out later. We put rods together and hit the water. The tide was going out, as low tide was about 10am. The wind made it difficult, as it was from the south, but we still managed to throw a line

Steve was the top fisherman again with 3 fish Wave Garrick and a Mooney, Neil caught 1 and Ken got 2, the rest of us got zip. The tide was going out with a sand bank 20 meters off shore which may have had something to do with the poor results, but it is still a good spot. Some of us stopped early for coffee and something to eat. The weather was not on our side so we did not hang around.

We had to drop the tyre pressure on Mark's vehicle, so that he could drive out. Thanks to Ken who had a pump to inflate them again, so that they did not get damaged on the way home.

Cheers John.

Monthly Meting at Umtentweni Tennis Club. Thursday 29th February.

Present: 15 Members. **Apologies:** Mark Rose, Dick, Kevin, Mike K, Jaco, Warren, Liam (Lucky son-of-a-gun,) Pat (not so lucky in Cape town.) **Visitors:** Sean Dickson and Chris Shuttleworth from Xplorer and Graeme Neary from Fort Nottingham.

Fly of the Month Competition. Judged by Sean Dickson.

Salt water: Organza Shrimp: John, Sean, Sean, Steve, Arthur.

Freshwater: Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear: Sean, Matt, Sean, John, Mike S., Neil, Neil, Arthur, Steve.

General:

Sean T. reported that he has access to Garlick's Old dam, (at the back of St. Mike's.) We must let him know when we want to fish there. *(The committee will plan a trip when we have our next committee meeting. Ed)*

Matt recently fished the Umzimkulwana river and although the water was murky, he managed to winkle out 5 small scalies with heavily weighted nymphs; no action on the surface.



Neil announced that a trip to the Lower Orange River is being planned for early October. The area that he has selected is roughly 130 km NW of Pofadder, where camp will be set up. The river is accessible from the river bank, which can also be traversed by a vehicle. Costs and other logistics have yet to be calculated, but if you are interested, now is the time to contact him, (083 265 6608) as numbers will be limited.

Steve reported that although he had not yet added in the 2024 raffle money or subs paid, finances are looking very healthy. He thanked members for handing in their raffle sheets on time.

Protea angler, Sean Dickson then demonstrated the tying of a “No Name” shrouded, deer hair, purple zonker fly suitable for bass or in the salt water. Neil was the only member who was brave enough to tie along with Sean. While a bit of a mission to tie, with many stages in the process. it is a really great looking fly with a lot of movement, which should attract the attention of bass, large-mouth yellow fish, barbel and the larger predatory salt water species. A recipe and method of tying will be circulated to members when this has been worked out. The evening finished off with a large slice of cake to celebrate Stan’s birthday. Being a Leap Year boy, he has at last achieved the ripe young age of 22.

Prize giving at the home of Steve and Olga Brand. Saturday 2nd March.

Prize Giving was, as usual, fairly well supported, with 22 members and family rocking up to the home of Steve and Olga.

As he did last year, Sean, once again, topped the list of prize winners. He scooped a total of four awards, winning both the Fresh and Saltwater Fly Tyer of the Year trophies, as well as catching the most fish (223) and also landing the most species of fish (13.) In the latter category, he was chased all the way by Neil, who recorded a total of 12 species. Neil was only pipped, because he was unable to catch a single wave Garrick on the 5-day Cape Vidal trip. (*We normally catch dozens of these every day!! Ed.*)

Sean was also a close contender for the Foul Hook award, for a really botched job of filleting a few trout on the Silver Streams trip in November. Chairman John, was awarded this, relatively recent award, for losing both soles of his boots at Silver Streams and for claiming to have caught a bass of 500 mm, (20 odd inches,) it was in fact only 50 mm long, (approx. 2 inches.)

Neil took the award for the Most Meritorious Fish. His 80 cm Queenfish, landed off Dubai, was adjudged to be marginally more worthy than Liam’s 44 cm Chiselmouth, caught in the Umzimkulu River.

Steve, deservedly received the award for the Most Improved Angler of the Year. He rarely scores a blank on our outings.

The Chris van Wyk Chairman’s award was given to Belinda Brand, who although not a member, probably does more for the club than the rest of us members put together.

Besides preparing the scrumptious meal for the prize giving and for the committee meetings at Steves’s home, she is responsible for many of the prizes handed out at the Prize Giving evening.

The evening closed with the aforesaid meal, prepared by Belinda, Olga and of course , Steve. Members really appreciate the effort put into the evening by the Brand family, who fortunately don’t trust us to do all the washing up, so we members, just pitch up, have a good time and then leave the family to clear up afterwards. Home was never like that!

Thanks for the successful evening go to SCFA for paying for the supper, (venison pie, breyani and salads as well as a granadilla tart,) to Olga, Belinda and Steve for the hosting us and for obtaining the huge number of prizes from the following local and out of town, sponsors: Doug’s Hardware, The Lawn Mower Place for the Stihl products, XPlorer Fly Fishing, Coastals, Busy Bee Apiary, Coast and Country Agri, Belinda for the pickles, M7F Tractor Supply, Industrial Supply Port Shepstone, Battery Tech, Graceland, Pharmacy, Luckys Manaba, Luckys Port Shepstone.

The raffle of flies entered by members, in the Fly of the Month competitions was won by Warren Booth, who took 1st and 2nd prize, followed by Steven Brand, who won the 3rd prize.



The full list of Awards.

Fly tyer of the year: Saltwater: Sean Tharratt

Fresh water: Sean Tharratt

Most Fish Caught: Sean Tharratt (223)

Most Species Caught: Sean Tharratt(13) Large Spot Pompano (Wave Garrick), Scaley, Mullet, Flagtail, Peacock Rock Cod, Bass, Shad, Perch, Thorn fish, Mooney, Giant Kingfish, Big Eye Kingfish, Rainbow Trout.

2nd Most Species Caught: Neil Scott. (12) Rainbow Trout, Queenfish, Toby, Sardine, Bastard Mullet, Shad, Thorn fish, Spotted Grunter, Sand Shark, Kingfish, Mooney, Scaley.

Most Meritorious Fish: Neil Scott. 80 cm Queenfish

2nd Most Meritorious Fish: Liam vd Merwe. 44 cm Chiselmouth

Most improved angler: Stephen Brand.

Chairman's award: Belinda Brand.

Foul hook award. John New.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Subs are due and should be paid before the AGM on the 28th March. These have not been increased for a number of years and remain at R 110.00 for a single member and R 160.00 for a family. You won't find better value than that anywhere in the country, in fact I would venture to say you won't better find value anywhere in the world.

John did ask at the last meeting, if there were any volunteers for nomination on to the committee to help push the SCFA wagon through the water for the next couple of years. The list is still open.



Stan Park has two home-made aluminium kick boats for sale. (*Home-made to Stan's exacting standards. Ed*) They come complete with pontoons, (1,5-metre-long x 30 cm diam.), a removable seat for easy packing, rod holders, stripping and tackle baskets and a transom for a sneaker motor. Cost R5000.00 each. (*A set of pontoons will cost you upwards of R3000.00 today and equivalent kick-boats from a supplier will cost you a lot more than R5000,00. Ed*) Contact Stan now on 072 182 7216 to secure yours.

Last Cast.

Nothing more from me. Will hopefully see you at the fly-tying workshop, at 'Tweni on the 17th and at the AGM on the 28th.

Cheers, Arthur.

