



NEWSLETTER April 2020

Chairman: John New (0078 203 4549) **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.

Due to the national lockdown, which came into full effect on the 27th March, SCFA have re-scheduled the events calendar. This re-scheduling will of course be subject to the lockdown being lifted on the 16th April. Keep an ear and eye open for news from Steve or myself as to developments on this score. In the meantime, we have a few notes to remind you of last month's events. Stay safe. Arthur

Events Calendar

Altered dates are in heavy type

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
19th April	Saltwater or Scalie outing	Sunwichport or Umzimkulu	06h00 or 08h00
20 th April	Grub & travel meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00
24 th to 27 th April	Trout outing	Mountain Lake	TBA
30 th April	AGM	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
6 th May	Committee meeting	Pieter's home	18h00
10 th May	Bass outing	Oasis dam	06h00
11th May	Grub & travel meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00
12 th May	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
15th to 18th May	Trout outing	Wattled Crane	TBA
28 th May	Monthly meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
31 st May	Saltwater outing	Impenjati	06h00
1 st June	Travel meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00
6 th to 7 th June	Matat Trout Compo	Mountain Lake	TBA
9 th June	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
21 st June	Saltwater outing	Umtentweni	06h00
25 th June	Monthly meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30

Coming Events.

As mentioned above, these events depend on what boss Cyril says, so keep an ear and eye on the news and on word from Steve. We'll do our best to keep you posted.

The venue for the outing on **Sunday 19th April**, depends on the clarity of the Umzimkulu River. Keep an eye on your SMS for a note from Steve. Whatever the venue, we intend to braai afterwards, so bring the necessary.

The **Grub and Travel meeting on Monday 20th April** is in preparation for the trout outing to **Matatiele on the 24th to the 27th.**

The **AGM will be held on the 30th April at the Ski Boat Club at 18h00 for 18h30.** Remember subs (R110.00 per member and R160.00 for family membership) are due. We normally do not have a fly tying competition at the AGM, but this year is not a normal year, so the April competition will still be held. Recipes of the freshwater, Mike's Scalie Killer and the saltwater Tom's Gully Fly have been sent out to members. If you have not received these by the time that you receive the newsletter, give Arthur a shout. Both flies are relatively easy to tie, so lets see if we can have a good entry.

The next **committee meeting will be held at Pieter's home on Wednesday 6th May at 18h00.** If members have any ideas for an outing, that they would like incorporated into the calendar, drop me a line or bring it up at the AGM.



Past Events.

Outing to Trafalgar. Sunday 8th March. By John New.

Arthur and John arrived just after 6 am. Mike K. was already there, then the rest arrived. The tide was on the way out, but the beach was nice and flat, but not easy to walk on; the sand was soft, which held your feet when a wave came along, resulting in a few dumps.

The water was quite cool, maybe too cool, as only 6 fish were caught, with 2 unusual species. Sean caught a Sole and Arthur caught a Russell's Snapper.

The flies used were Surf Puffs of different colours, with a few Clousers and Charlies. Dave used a fly that came from an Aussie book, that is called a Christmas Island Special. (*A crib of a very sparse Crazy Charlie. Ed.*)

Dave caught 2 Wave Garrick, Arthur caught the Snapper, Sean caught the Sole and John caught 2 Wave Garrick. Ken did not fish for as long as he normally does, because his knee gave him hassles in the soft sand.

We did not braai, as there is no place at Trafalgar, so we sat under the shade of a tree, chatting until it was time to head home.

Prize Giving. Saturday 14th March, at the home of Stephen and Olga Brand.

20 Members, accompanied by wives and partners attended the 25th prize-giving at Steve and Olga's home. This, out of a total membership of 26 is probably the best percentage attendance that we have ever had. Well done guys and gals. Those who attended were not disappointed, as it was a really enjoyable affair. The company was of course great and the spread was superb. Thank you to the committee members for the salads. (In most cases their wives probably did the work, so thank you ladies.) Thank you too, to Olga and Belinda for the desserts. Fabulous!

Steve had sourced a large number of really good prizes from various sponsors and the actual prize giving was slickly handled by John and Steve. Our grateful thanks go to: the Port Shepstone and Manaba branches of Luckys Sports and to Explorer for these, also to Belinda and Olga for the jams and pickles and to Mike and Trisha Kirkam for the cakes. To the few who were not there, "Sorry you lost!!!!!!!"
Congratulations to the following prize winners:

Most Meritorious Fish: Neil Scott. 3.5 kg Couta

2nd Most Meritorious Fish: Duane Howell, 3.12 kg rainbow trout.

Most Prolific Angler: Sean Tharrat. 128 fish.

Most Species Caught: Duane Howell 17 species.

Most Improved Angler: Ken Schwartz.

Salt Water Flytyer of the Year: Neil Scott. 25 points out of a possible 40.

Fresh Water Flytyer of the Year: Sean Tharrat. 26 points out of a possible 40.

Chris van Wyk Chairman's Award: The Brand family of Stephen, Olga, Belinda and Shannon.

Merit Awards:

Liam vd Merwe: Protea colours.

Sean Tharratt: 58 cm Lesser Sandshark and a 2.46 kg Brown Trout.

Jaco Strauss: 2 kg bass.

Duanne Howell: 64 cm Barbel, 56 cm Pickhandle Barracuda, 42 cm Gurnard, 38 cm Wave Garrick

The raffle of last year's fly-tying-competition-flies brought in a total of R3000.00. Again well done to Pieter and Steve for your organisation and also to all who bought and sold tickets.

Prize winners were: 1st Dick Plaistowe, 2nd Dale Tribe, 3rd Amber Rorich.

The 2020 Rhodes Flyfishing Festival. 18th to 21st March. By Dick Plaistowe.

The Wild Trout Association (WTA) is based in Rhodes in the Eastern Cape and, by the good grace of the riparian owners, has access to some 200 kms of fishable waters with wild spawned trout and the indigenous small mouth yellowfish being the targets for flyfisherman.

The Rhodes Flyfishing Festival is an annual event held over 4 days around the middle of March and attracts 40 odd flyfishermen supported by 5-8 guides being professional flyfishermen or guys with Rhodes experience.



This year's event was held from 18-21 March. The weather was exceptional and the waters the best I've experienced over the past 5 years. The itinerary kicks off with a welcoming dinner on the evening before the first day, a tackle demonstration and a casting clinic on the first fishing morning, after which we headed for our beat for the day, and thereafter, 3 full days of fishing. The beats can be anything up to an hour's drive from Rhodes, not necessarily too distant, but slow, because of the terrain and the farm-style roads. Beats and guides are allocated the previous evening.

This year's guides included Peter Brigg (Flyfishing fundi and author of some fabulous books, particularly dealing with small streams,) Jan Korrubel (manages Maritzburg Flyfishing shop, PhD in environmental sciences and an enlightening guy,) Mark Yelland (probably one of SA's best known flyfishermen, having guided worldwide,) Tony Kietzman (Rhodes resident, fishing guide and authority on everything piscatorial, fauna and flora, and if you can drink it, character extraordinaire,) Mike McKeown (Frontier Flyfishing from Joburg, fabulous casting instructor,) and Rhodes fishing fundis, Miles Divett and Craig Stone.

Now I've got to rate myself as one of the consistently kakkist stream fishermen, but wild horses couldn't keep me away from this event, which is the highlight of my fishing year. I've made it clear to my wife, Teresa, that I'll be attending every year until I'm dead, barring major infirmity and Corona virus I suppose, although God forbid that it'll still be around next year.

I won't divulge how many fish I caught, but I did catch seven one day, with the largest being thirteen inches, not bad on a one weight rod. To illustrate my lack of fishing ability, I should mention that some of the guys caught forty a day. Anyhow I'm not bothered, as it is just so much fun.

It's stream and river fly fishing in one of the most beautiful parts of SA, plus it's the camaraderie, being with so many like minded and knowledgeable people - it's absolutely world-class in my opinion (not that I've fished widely elsewhere, but I've recently returned from Tasmania, where I fished for two days in the rain, in places that were no match for the spectacular Rhodes scenery, but being such a kak fisherman, I only caught one 5 pound beautiful Brown trout there.) The WTA waters range from the upper reaches of the likes of the Bell, Bok, Rifle and Sterkspruit, with thin-pocket waters, to downstream and their fuller, lower reaches and ultimately to the Kraai River, which can be a serious river.

The cost was about R 6000.00 this year, which includes rod fees, 5 dinners, 4 lunches, guides and a goodie bag, which has sponsors bits and pieces, normally a cap, fleece jacket, tippet, flies etc. Accommodation and breakfasts and of course fuel are for your own account, so the total comes to around R 10 000.00.

Come and join us next year, you won't regret it, - unless of course there's been a drought or a flood, or if the fish haven't spawned or they're dead, or whatever, in which case it's still worth it for the scenery and the company!!! Such is fishing.

Wattled crane Trout trip.

The proposed trout outing to Wattled Crane, scheduled for Friday 27th to Monday 29th had to be cancelled, so I suggest that you just imagine what Sean would have written if this had taken place.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Jaco was quick to snap up the second of the books donated by Eddie and Sally Fann. Thank you once again to these non-members for the very welcome addition to our coffers. Armed with the knowledge gained from his purchase, we will undoubtedly also welcome Jaco to the ranks of our fly tying competitions in the near future.

Last Cast.

There is little for me to add, except to say "Stay safe and obey the instructions to go out as little as possible." Lockdown is better than locked up. For our own safety and for that of our family and friends, we need to stick to the rules.

On the bright side, remember that while we are on lockdown, the fish and their food items are not. The fish will be growing bigger and stronger by the day and they will be forgetting, to a large extent, the dangers that are present in a Woolly Bugger, PTN or Crazy Charlie. On our next outing, we'll hopefully catch a bucketful. Till then "Cheers."

Arthur

