



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER February 2022

Chairman: John New (078 203 4549) **Treasurer:** Stephen Brand (082 551 9010) **Secretary:** Dick Plaistowe (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.

As usual, we kick off the newsletter with a full calendar and finish with a number of important notices in the "Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories" section. Take note and take the necessary action.

Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
9 th February	Fly tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
13 th February	Salt water outing	Rocky Bay	06h00
24 th February	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
27 th February	Freshwater outing	Houtsen's Dam. Bongwana	06h00
2 nd March	Committee meeting	John's home	18h00
5 th March	Prize giving	Steve's home	18h00
14 th March	Grub 'n Travel meeting	TBA	!8h00
18 th to 21 st March	Trout outing	Wattled Crane	TBA
24 nd March	AGM	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30

Coming Events.

At the **fly tying workshop, to be held at Neil's home on Wednesday 9th February**, we will tie the freshwater Shuttlecock and an Orange or White Ruffy. The Ruffy, tied in either orange or white is a very popular fly for wave garrick, moonies and other small inshore fish. These flies are the first flies for the 2022/23 year, so come along and get a head start for the new competition.

The saltwater outing to **Rocky Bay in Park Rynie on Sunday 13th February**, should be a productive one, as we have heard that this area always produces something.

Meet at the Southport Filling Station at 06h00 (or after the Hibberdene off ramp for those coming on the N2.) Keep in touch with John (078 203 4549) to co-ordinate meeting up

As usual the **'Tweni Tennis Club is the venue for the next monthly meeting on Thursday 24th February**. As mentioned above, the FotM are the Shuttlecock and the Ruffy. Braai afterwards.

We have a bass outing to Houtsen's Dam in the Bongwana area, (near Harding) on Sunday 27th February. Braai afterwards. If you need directions as to how to get there, give John or Arthur a shout or discuss it at the meeting on the 24th.

At the **committee meeting to be held at John's home on Wednesday 2nd March**, events for the next few months will be planned. Drop me a line if you have any particular venue that you think is worth visiting. We will also decide on the flies for the remainder of 2022/23, but for this we require input from members. Please send me a list of your preferences.

Prize giving is at Steve's home on Saturday 5th March, any time after 17h00. An urgent request from Steve is that raffle sheets are returned to him (with the money of course) by the **February Monthly Meeting on the 24th**. Any lists returned after the 24th will incur a penalty of R100.00 plus the R125.00 for the list. Steve says that it is extremely difficult to be dealing with lists and money, 5 minutes before the draw is to take place.



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Past Events.

Outing to Mtwalume on 16 January 2022. Report by Ken Schwartz.

For this outing there were some concerns about the weather and this generated a lot of discussion on the fishing group on Saturday evening. The weather looked OK in the early morning, so the Schwartz family decided to give Mtwalume a try. We were the first to arrive at about 06:30. Neil arrived soon after followed by Warren. It was overcast, but with no threat of rain. The wind was moderate north easterly.

The river mouth on the north side of the parking area was flowing strongly into the sea with some evidence that the river had only recently broken through. As a result, the sea was quite discoloured.

The beach to the north of the parking area looked promising, so Ken and David decided to cross the strongly flowing river at the mouth. This proved to be quite difficult, with David taking an unplanned swim. Ken would have as well, if it was not for assistance from David. After watching the difficulties experienced in crossing the river, Neil and Warren decided to fish the rocky area and gullies in front of and to the south of the parking area.

Ken and David fished for about an hour with no luck. Surf conditions were good, with a flat beach and no shore break and although the wind had picked up a bit, it was also not a problem. The discoloured water was blamed for the lack of fish. Although the estuary was brown, Ken decided to try with a few casts. Any enthusiasm for fishing the estuary soon disappeared, when he came across a pile of used discarded nappies on the bank and in the water.

After about an hour Neil and Warren also decided that the discoloured water was a problem in the rocky area and gullies to the north of the parking area. We all met up in the parking area for some coffee and a chat before heading home.

The distance, uncertain weather conditions and Covid 19 must take the blame for the low turnout for the first outing of 2022. Although no fish were caught, the general feeling of those of us who were there is that Mtwalume is probably worth another visit. The estuary seems to be badly polluted, but the beach to the north looks promising for wave garrick and shad.

Monthly meeting. Thursday 27th January. Umtentweni Tennis Club.

Present: 7 members. **Apologies:** Bill, Dick, Neil, Conner, Sakkie, Stan, Kevin, Mike, Liam and Piet

Flies of the Month: Judged by Jaco. *(Well done Jaco, this time there were no disparaging remarks from the entrants, except for a small chirp from John, but pay no attention to him, he is only the Chairman!!!)*

Freshwater: **Sean's Bass Fly:** Sean, Arthur, Mitch, John.

Saltwater: **Raymond's Minnow:** Arthur, Sean.

General.

Items discussed under "General" are covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

Bass outing top oasis Dam. Sunday 30th January. By John New.

There was a bit of a bugger up with the starting time, when I changed it from 6 am to 7 am, but did not get the message through to Arthur, so when he arrived at my place at the pre-arranged 04h45, to load my gear, I had only just woken up, so there was a bit of a rush.

We got to the meeting place at 6 am (again pre-arranged) and made arrangements for the other members to get to the dam. Sakkie, Stan and Warren had water problems, so decided not to come.

Art and I were on the water as the other guys arrived.

Fishing was hard; it was overcast with a breeze blowing, but the fish were not biting like Bass normally do. There were hundreds of small fish swimming around, but were also not biting.

The results were Arthur 1, Mitch 0, Steve 1, John 2, Kevin 1, David 2 Bass +2 Tilapia, Ken 4 and Neil 6 Bass +2 Tilapia + some so small that he did not count them. The flies used were a Red Tag, Red Setter, Walkers Red Tag and a Midnight Express.

We stopped for a braai and used the excellent facilities that Oasis has.

Although we did not catch a lot of fish it was a good outing.



Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



It was decided that the club should donate R2000.00 to the Matatiele Angling Club, to assist with the stocking of brown trout in Mountain Lake. This will be paid when the Matat. club notifies us that they are ready to stock.



The Paddock Bass Competition is from 25th to 27th March. Keep an eye on the local press for entry details.



The Underberg/Himeville Trout Festival is being held on 1st May. I have requested full details from the UHTFC secretary and as soon as I receive these, I will distribute them to SCFA members.



At the monthly meeting on the 27th, members were of the opinion that Dragon Nymphs would be a good choice for the Wattled Crane outing in March.



Neil reports that he and Dick had a really tough time hunting yellows at Sterkfontein Dam in the 3rd week of January. The dam is very full at present, resulting in a shoreline which has totally changed the character of the dam. The wave action is causing very turbid conditions around the perimeter and the resultant dirty water has put fish off the spawn and they are therefore spread over a far wider area than is normally the case. Areas that are productive at present are the main and secondary dam walls and The Quarry, but as you know, these are all a long haul from Qwantani and a sea worthy craft is an absolute necessity.



Sean reported that there are a number of excellent rivers and dams in the berg area that we should explore at some stage. He will get details and report back at a future monthly meeting.

Last Cast.

Once again, I must thank the contributors for the articles and the information in this month's newsletter. I really makes the job of scribe a whole lot easier, than having to suck info from my thumb all the time.

Hope to see you at the workshop and at the various outings this month.

Cheers Arthur.

