



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER November 2022

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Preparing to cast.

As always, members have been top-of-the-pops as far as articles on outings are concerned. Thanks guys. In addition to these contributions, there is a short up-to-date calendar, taking us to the end of 2022, as well as a couple of snippets in the Fry, Fingerling and Stockie section. Enjoy and hope to see you all at the up-coming functions. Cheers Arthur.

Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
11 th to 14 th November	Trout outing	Silver Streams	TBA
16 th November	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
24 th November	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
27 th November	Christmas Bass outing	Steve's Dam	07h00
11th December	Bass Outing	Voight's Dam	07h00

Coming Events.

The trip to Silver Streams is fully booked, with Neil, Dick, Steve, John, Kevin, Mike Kirkham, Sean and Arthur going to camp for the week-end.

It will be great to have a good turn-out for the fly-tying workshop at **Neil's home on Wednesday 16th**. We will be tying the saltwater Sand Crab and the freshwater Peacock Zulu. If you don't have the materials, come along anyway and cadge from one of the others. Recipes have been circulated to members.

The **monthly meeting at the Umtentweni Tennis Club on Thursday 24th**, is the last for this year, so come along. Bring your pattie or slab of steak and be part of the action.

The **Christmas outing is planned for Steve's Dam on Sunday 27th November**. If that the dam is too muddy, we will fish Impenjati instead. Enter at the South Bank gate. R15.00 entry fee per person. Gates open before 06h30 and the ladies will join us at any time after 10 am or so. As always, the braai fire will be available, but bring your own drinks, meat and salads.

Voight's Dam in Paddock is the place to be on December 11th if you want some bass action.

Past Events.

Scaly outing to Oribi Gorge Sunday 9th October. By Stephen Brand.

Warren and Connor were the early birds followed by Steve, Arthur, John, Mike and Toi, Sean, Stracey and Dick. We all tackled up and went out separate ways; some up the the river, some down.

Weather was nice and sunny. The wind picked up at about 10:30. Around 11:00 Steve, Arthur, Mike and Toi gave up and stopped to have their snacks and drinks.

Sean and Stacey came back around 11:30; boosting his catches to 14 in all. Most were on the small side, but he did get one of 29cm and another of 28cm.

Dick came in limping just after Sean, moaning that he only caught under-growth and had a couple of scratches as proof thereof. For the rest of us there were a couple of knocks and that was it.



Fishing for Wild Rainbows on the Karnmelkspruit. By Ken Schwartz.

On the return from a family wedding in Hermanus, the Schwartz family took a scenic route detour and in the late afternoon on Thursday 13 October arrived at the Karnmelkspruit River Resort near Lady Grey. The turn off to the resort is 18 km from Lady Grey on the road to Barkley East. From the turn, off you travel on a dirt track for about 2 km into the scenic Karnmelkspruit valley, before arriving at a small camping site. There is also a rustic cottage for hire. The site is pretty isolated and there is no electricity or cell phone reception. The ablutions are adequate with solar power and gas geysers. Camping is R100.00 per person per night and the rod fee R100.00 per day.

There is a total of about a kilometre of river to fish, some areas with difficult access. Around the camp site there is about 300m of river that is easily accessible. The river is about 10m wide and was flowing strongly, it was relatively shallow, but with plenty of small pools, shallow runs and fast flowing water over rocky areas.

Ken and David fished on the Friday and caught a total of 15 small, but highly energetic wild rainbow trout, about as many were hooked and lost. There was no one else at the resort, so fishing was in splendid isolation. The size of the fish ranged from 150mm to 250mm. The fishing was at its best in the early morning and around midday. Although there was a lot of fish activity in the late afternoon, only three fish were caught. Fish were caught on Red Setter, Walkers Killer and Zulu wet fly patterns, all fished with an intermediate line. The Red Setter was by far the most successful. Relatively small hooks, size 10 and 12, were the order of the day.

The intention was to stay until the Sunday, which would have allowed for another days fishing. Unfortunately the weather forecast predicted heavy rain from the Saturday afternoon, so a decision was made to pack up on Saturday morning and head for home.

If you are looking for complete solitude in scenic surroundings with a small, rustic but comfortable camp site and the opportunity to catch some small wild rainbows, then it is worth a visit.

B National Trials. Underberg area. Thursday 20th October to Saturday 29thOctober. By Sean Tharratt

B Nationals started on Thursday morning with 2 sessions of 3 hours each. Five groups of 8 anglers were chosen from the different provinces and fishing sectors were chosen at random. There was a boat session on Goxhill dam, a bank session from Isabella dam and three rivers sectors on the Umzimkulu river marked as upper, middle and lower 'Kulu.

During the morning sessions the weather played along, but towards the afternoon, with the hot weather, berg storms came along with rain, thunder and lightning, during which the sessions were paused while the storm hopefully blew over.

It was tough fishing and even the more experienced anglers struggled. Both the stillwaters and the rivers were clean on the first day and had a slight bit of colour on the second day, but still fishable until another storm came along and the water turned either a chocolate or red muddy colour. Fortunately, the storms didn't continue too late into the evening, so the rivers cleaned up a bit overnight.

The last session on Saturday morning the weather was chilly and drizzled just as the session started. We stayed positive and tried our best. My sector was the middle Umzimkulu by Tretower farm, which is managed by UHTFC. My beat was just a long stretch of river with trees and bush on the bank, so I had to wade. My first flick against the side I hooked a fish, which came off after a few seconds. After that it was quiet for most of my session and I fished from a small opening of a few metres on the bank and got a bump and the fish jumped and threw the hook. I kept trying and after a few drifts managed to land a fish. My marshall was on the other side of the river so I had to wade across. The other side had soft mud, that I had to manouvre through. I thought I had lots of time, but I had 24 minutes left in my session and I just stood in the middle of the river and the action turned. On every first or second drift, in a spot I hooked a fish. In the end with getting stuck in the mud and time running out I managed to get 4 fish and lost one at the net, just before the hooter blew to end the session and with that last few fish, I managed to win my session and secure the gold medal for team KZN.

That evening we had prize giving and fantastic supper at the Underberg country club and headed home the next day. Murphies law on Sunday the river was crystal clean again.

Saltwater outing to Impenjati. Sunday 30th October. By Arthur Cary.

The weather app, Wind Guru, unfortunately proved to be as accurate as ever on this Sunday. It predicted a glorious morning with a steady, but fishable north easter, gradually strengthening. Spot-on. A drop in wind speed around nine thirty was predicted, to be followed by a lull and then a 180-degree change of wind direction.



Again spot-on. This saw the southpaw anglers in a lot of trouble and we soon gave up the unequal fight and headed to the car park, for a cup of coffee, a chat and a quick braai.

Ken, who had a field morning, finished with eight Wave Garrick, all caught on a #8 Chartreuse and White Crazy Charlie. While the majority were small fish, a couple were of a quite decent size. This is, incidentally, the same fly, with which he caught four Wavies at Ramsgate a couple of days ago.

Dave caught two Wave Garrick on a Charlie and one on a Surf Puff, while Arthur only managed one on an Orange Charlie. Toi and Mike did, unfortunately not break their ducks. They actually had a better chance than did Steve and Dick, who did not even bring their rods! The Master-at-Arms notes that Steve had an early lunch date and Dick brought his dog for a run on the beach, so no further action is being considered!

Two bait anglers caught a couple of Grunter in the estuary, close to the car park and one chap had his line bitten off, but we could not entice anything on fly and it was in the cool and rather murky surf where we caught our fish.

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

Present: 16 members, including Ken and Dave, who had not attended a meeting for ages.

Apologies: Conner, Sakkie, Kevin, Mike, Matt and Liam.

Visitor: Pem Reyeneke, who came to demo the Pices Predator kick boat.

Flies of the Month: Judged by Steve.

Freshwater: **Hi Viz Midge:** Neil, Neil, Sean, Arthur, Dick, Sean, Sean.

Saltwater: **Prince of Tide:** Mitch, Arthur, Neil, Arthur, Sean.

General.

Pem, who operates out of Margate and has been making the Pices Predator for the past 12 years, gave a demo and explained the features of the kick boat. (Copies of his pamphlet and price list have been sent to club members.)

Sean and Jaco gave accounts of their fishing the B National trials over the past weekend. (See report by Sean.) There were 8 teams, each consisting of 5 anglers and the KZN team was awarded the gold medal, having beaten the other 7 teams by a healthy margin. Sean was placed 23rd and Jaco 24th. Not at all dusty, as these two do not have a lot of competition experience and they are on a very steep learning curve.

Steve gave a very brief financial report, announcing that the club funds are in a very healthy position. Well done, Steve!!!

He, once again showed that he is not only a great Keeper of the Books, but is also a Braai-Fire Master of note. His braai-fire was again tip-top, despite the meeting running over time by the kick boat demo and by the reports from Sean and Jaco.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Reporting on the annual salmon run up Lake Michigan, Joe Barrett had this to say in the Wall Street Journal in October:

“Chicago is known for many things—innovative architecture, deep-dish pizza and biting winters—but for many locals it is also fishing heaven from October through December. That is when stocked salmon follow their spawning instincts and return to two inlets along Du Sable Lake Shore Drive, where they were originally released.

The Illinois Department of Health recommends eating no more than one meal a month of Chinook salmon from Lake Michigan, because of concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs. Coho salmon under 24 inches can be eaten once a week; those over 24 inches can be eaten only once a month.”

Natalians are not the only people in the world who should be careful when eating fish, which has been caught locally.



The Dabbie Float Master float tube, donated to the club by Bill, has, I’m afraid had its chips and is in fact irreparable. If any club member wants the material, give Arthur a shout, before it is ditched.

Last Cast. Insufficient space for a back cast, even with an ought-ought wt. rod, so Cheers. Arthur.

