



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER September 2023

Chairman: John New (078 203 4549) **Treasurer:** Stephen Brand (082 551 9010) **Secretary:** Dick Plaistowe (082 453 8618)
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Preparing to cast.

We again have a lengthy newsletter, with the Events Calendar extending into October. There is the usual section on details of these Coming Events, as well as a couple of reports on recent outings. Remember an outing does not have to be an official club event to qualify for inclusion in the newsletter. If you had a successful (or even an unsuccessful outing,) drop me a line.

Events Calendar.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
6th September	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
10th September	Saltwater outing	Mzamba estuary	07h00
13th September	Committee meeting	Dick's home	18h00
22nd to 25th Sept	Trout outing	Mountain Lake	Early
28th September	Monthly Meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	!8h00 for 18h30
11th October	Fly tying Workshop	Dick's home	18h15
26th October	Monthly Meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	!8h00 for 18h30

Coming Events.

We have the **fly-tying workshop on the 6th September at Neil's home**. Bring materials for the Organza Shrimp and Lee's Little Black. Members should have received the recipes by now.

On **Sunday September 10th**, we have a **second outing to the Mzamba estuary**. If you want to fish the river, bring your kick boat, otherwise you can fish the beach. Braai afterwards, so bring the necessary for this. Meet at the gate to the Casino at 07h00

The **Committee meeting, on Wednesday 13th September, is at Dick's home**, where dates and venues for the next few months will be sorted out.

Mountain Lake is the venue for the trout outing from Friday 22nd to Monday 25th. The grub and travel meeting was held after the monthly meeting on Thursday 31st August. Seven members are going on this trip.

The **monthly meeting will again be at the Umtentweni Tennis Club on Thursday 28th September**. As usual, Steve will have a roaring braai fire going, so bring your cheap pattie and bun or your 1 kg rump steak.

Past Events.

Outing to Leisure Bay. Kidd's Beach. Sunday 6th August 2023. By John New.

Sunday's outing got off to a bad start, as I over slept and got to pick up Arthur after 6 and it was nearly 7 when we got to the beach.

Steve was already fishing with Ken, David and Marion arriving at the same time as us. Warren arrived a bit later.

The tide was still in, with the water a good temperature and the wind was not blowing too hard.

Fishing was slow with only Wave Garrick being caught, John got 4, Steve got 3 and Warren got 2. Ken David and Art did not get a touch unfortunately.

Salt water outing to St Lucia and Cape Vidal. Friday 18th August to Friday 25th August. By Arthur Cary.

It was at least 6 months ago, when Neil announced that he was planning a trip to St Lucia and Cape Vidal. The remaining four available places were immediately snatched up by John, Sakkie, Sean and Arthur.

Although no one was allocated a particular portfolio, as happens on these away trips, we all accepted the positions and resultant jobs that we selected.



Past Events cont'd on Page 2.

Neil was of course the Commander in Chief and as always, everything slotted into place, from the planning of the menu and getting prices of the essential food items, down to the purchasing, preparation of meals and being chauffeur.

John was there as Two IC, the washer-of-dishes and to keep Sakkie in check, a job which he achieved admirably. Proof of this is that it took John, Sakkie and Sean, three days to completely disrobe a bottle of Highland Queen whisky. An un-restrained Sakkie and accomplice would normally have accomplished this in one session!

Sakkie came along to regale us with his countless amusing stories, both old and new. One evening he had Sean crying with laughter, as he told of his trying to fathom out how a duvet should be used. He landed up crawling into it, as one does in a sleeping bag. He was also our tail gunner, when we trudged along the beach, ensuring that we were not attacked from the far rear. According to Neil's fancy watch, we walked a total of 36 kms on our wanderings to and from our selected fishing sites; no mean feat in the very soft sand.

Sean's job was to contact Professor Google on umpteen issues that required an explanation; he was also there to ensure that the team returned home with a decent score of fish caught. He excelled on both counts.

Arthur went along as snack maker and to make sure that the sink and table tops were clear of dishes, plates and glasses before we left for each fishing session.

August is renowned as the windy month in all provinces of South Africa, and this year was no exception on the Zululand coast. It certainly did blow; so much so that even the Windy and Wind Guru weather apps, could not keep an accurate check on the direction and strength of the blustery conditions. Despite the relatively unfavourable conditions most of the time, the team caught 10 species. Because of the difficulty in identifying the different species of juvenile Kingfish, we decided to lump them altogether simply as "Kingies," much to Sean's disgust!!!!

John came out No 1 in the "Species-Caught-Race" with 8, which included Kingfish, Wave Garrick, Toby, Russel's Snapper, Shad, Perch, Thorn Fish and Moonie. Incidentally, the Moonies only came on the bite on our last day at Vidal and at times there were huge shoals of them. Under those conditions, they were reluctant to take a fly and it was only those on the outer fringes of the actual shoal, that would feed.

Neil got 7 species and for the first time ever, and he has been to St Lucia and Vidal many times, he could not get a Wave Garrick to take his offerings. He did however get a Sand Shark (albeit foul hooked) and a Grunter apart from Kingfish, Bastard Mullet, Shad, Thorn Fish and Moonie.

Sean managed 6 species, with numerous Wave Garrick, Shad, Perch, Moonie, Kingfish and Thorn Fish.

Arthur and Sakkie only got one species each with the Moonie and Kingfish respectively. Sakkie, lost the fight with a big Kingfish in the estuary, much to his disgust, and the blue-language-expletives followed for a long time afterwards. Two days later, he repeated the process twice and used the same language on both occasions!

Sean was definitely top dog when it came to numbers of fish caught. Of the 55 that were landed, he got 30, John 11, Neil 10, Sakkie 3, while Arthur only managed one Kingfish that had an exceptionally small head; obviously no brains in there at all! Flies used by the team: **all of them!!!** Colours used: **all of them as well.**

At Cape Vidal, which we visited on the Saturday, Monday and Thursday, we mainly fished the launch-site-bay and the beaches to the north and south of this. John and Neil braved the rocks on the low tide, where they saw hundreds of fish in the clear water, but only Russel's Snapper showed any interest in John's Organza Shrimp, while Neil got a very nice Mooney off the rocks. He also pulled a single Bastard Mullet down near the lighthouse, where we have caught dozens on our previous visits to this area. Most of the bigger holes at Vidal have been sanded up and we could only find one decent one to the north of the launch site and even this did not produce as many fish as we expected.

On the Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday, we fished the St Lucia beach and estuary, which is open at the moment. As a group, we did very well here, despite the efforts of the south westerly wind and at times even the strong north easter made casting a real chore. Every one pinned himself a few times, but there were no serious injuries. (John suffered for a day or so with a sore thumb, when he attempted to remove his hook from the mouth of an angry Perch.) We were warned about the presence of crocs in the murky waters on the out-going tide, but they luckily did not bother us and in fact we did not see one!

All in all, a very successful trip, despite the fact that Sakkie converted his 7 wt. rod into a 7.25 wt. when he snapped the tip. The moral of the story is, if a section of your rod does not slide easily into the rod tube, remove it and slip it in carefully, don't give it a healthy bash with your fist!



Fortunately, craftsman Neil, effected a successful repair, which held up under the strain of the big kingy that Sakkie hooked and subsequently lost, when the hook pulled.

Thanks to all for the camaraderie, the good-natured leg-pulling, the many laughs, the good grub and everything that goes to make a trip as enjoyable as this one was.

Monthly Meeting. Thursday 31st August 2023. Umtentweni Tennis Club.

Present: 15 members. **Apologies:** Mike K, Kevin, Jaco, Warren, David, Dick and of course new member Bruce Black and Pat. (Bruce is resident in Hillcrest and Pat in Cape Town)

Flies of the Month: Judged by Liam

Freshwater: Neil's Wolf Spider: Sean, Matt, Neil, Sean, Arthur.

Saltwater: Surf Candy: Neil, Sean, John, Arthur, Sean.

Finances: Steve reported that the clubs finances are still in a very healthy state, despite him paying the funds for the use of the tennis club for our monthly meetings.

General.

Liam and Matt reported on numerous successful scalie outings to the Umzimkulu and Umzimkulwana Rivers. The fish are very skittish in the gin-clear water of both rivers and 7x tippets and #18 and #20 flies were the order of the day. Tungsten beads are a no-no, as the splash caused by the heavier head immediately spooked the fish, which are mainly in the large pools, with very few sitting in the rapids.

Sean gave a report on the St Lucia/Cape Vidal trip, while Sakkie, Neil, John and Arthur added their tuppence worth. (See article above.)

Some-how we got onto hippo stories and most folk chipped in with a tale or two.

Liam has some very fancy 3D printed crab bodies that he obtained from Ireland. He will tie up a few flies (lures??) with these and show us at the next meeting. They are apparently very effective in the Seychelles.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



We welcome new member, Bruce Black into the fold. Bruce needs little introduction as he is an experienced fly-angler and is the author of the very readable "Saltwater Fly-fishing in South Africa," as well as "Fly-fishing South Africa's Rivers, Lakes and Surf." Bruce hails from Hillcrest, so will unfortunately not be able to come down too often for meetings and fly-tying workshops. He does however plan to join us for the Mzamba outing on Sunday 10th September.

Bruce, we hope that your association with South Coast Fly Anglers will be a long and mutually beneficial one. We can certainly learn more from you, than you can from us.



A recent edition of the South Coast Herald carried two separate articles on the danger of pollution in numerous rivers on the KZN South Coast. The Umzimkulu River and the Mbango River in Port Shepstone, the Little Billy River and the Inkongweni River in Margate, as well as the Mpenjati River further south, were mentioned as being extremely toxic with raw sewage.

I am sure that there are many other rivers that are also unsafe. It is probably best not to fish these at all and to be extremely careful when fishing the sea in the vicinity of them.



Issue 40 (July /August) of The Mission magazine carries a short report on all the fly-fishing clubs in the country. (SCFA gets a generous, if somewhat exaggerated mention.) It also lists many of the fly-fishing festivals that are held by a number of these clubs during the year. Many of these are well worth attending.

Last Cast

I have said enough and there is fortunately no space for anything else other than "Cheers."

Arthur.

