



## South Coast Fly Anglers



# NEWSLETTER September 2022

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**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)

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### Preparing to cast.

This month we have a very short list of coming events, but the committee will rectify this at the up-coming committee meeting. If you have any ideas on a new venue for an outing, contact a committee member and a plan will be made to get there.

As usual, there are a couple of articles on recent outings, as well as a report on the last monthly meeting and a few snippets under the Fry, Fingerling and Stockies section. Cheers.

### Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Grub 'n travel meeting	Neil's home	After flytying
23 <sup>rd</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Trout outing	Silver Streams	TBD
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30

### Coming Events.

At the **Fly tying workshop, to be held at Neil's home on Wednesday 14th Sept. 18h15 for 18h30, we will tie the Saltwater Whistler and the Freshwater Zak.** As per normal, photos and recipes have been sent out to members.

It is surprising that so few members attend these workshops, which are both beneficial, from a fly tying aspect and enjoyable, from the camaraderie that is received. Oh well, to each his own, I suppose, but it would be good to see more members at the workshops and especially more members entering the monthly fly tying competition. Numbers of members entering, have dropped off dramatically in the last year. Looking on the bright side, it makes it easier to win if there are only a few entrants and losers can honestly say "I came 3rd" without admitting that there were only 3 entries!!!!!!!!!!!!!!.

The **Grub and Travel meeting for the week-end trip to Silver Streams, on the 23rd to 26th Sept. will be held after the workshop on Wednesday 14th.** If you were not at the monthly meeting on 1st Sept, but want to go to Silver Streams, contact Steve now on 082 551 9010.

**Monthly meeting at 'Tweni Tennis Club on Thursday 29th September at 18h00 for 18h30.** As usual our pyromaniac will ensure that we have the normal perfect braai fire.

### Past Events.

**Trout trip to Mountain Lake. Sakkie and Stan. Wed. 3rd Aug. to Sat. 6th Aug..** By Sakkie McKay.

Whilst having a cup of coffee, with Stan, we hurriedly decided to brave the elements and make a trip to Mountain Lake.

Fortunately the natives were not restless, so there was no blocking of the road, with burning tyres and rocks, on the way up.

Having set up camp, Stan and I hit the water and apart from the wind blowing at times, we had a most enjoyable trip with some quality fish being caught over the 3 days.

Stan landed several of 2 kg and 2.5 kg and I hit the jackpot with a 2 kg, 2.5 kg and 3 kg, all in a morning session. The stockies were around and gave one a good fight. All in all we landed some 40 odd fish. A most enjoyable trip.



**Saltwater outing to Umtentweni. Sunday 7th August.** By Arthur Cary.

Despite Wind Guru predicting scattered showers and rain from Saturday evening until Sunday afternoon, eight SCFA members turned up for this outing, which started out as a heavily overcast morning, with low, heavy, dark cloud hanging over the south south west, which is the rain quarter for this part of the world. The slight SW breeze did not hamper casting for the right handers, and most anglers opted to first try Grannie's Pool, both from the beach and from the rocks. An unlucky omen was that there were no bait anglers fishing from the rocks. Fly anglers often have no chance, when there are fish around, as we get crowded out by those who are out to plunder the black tail and karanteen.

Nothing doing there, so we headed north where the shore break was strong enough to fill Steve's fishing shorts with a bucket full of sand, making him look and feel like a baby with a dirty nappy.

David managed to hook Marion with a well directed back cast, while Arthur pinned himself with a # 6 Crazy Charlie. The resulting wound was deep enough to draw sufficient blood to chum a fair patch of water, but even this did not attract any fish. Thank heavens for the SCFA rule, "Hooks must be barbless."

John saw a number of fish jumping; he thought that most of these were mullet, but at least one showed an iridescent green sheen, possibly a wrasse; fish seen but no takes. One wonders what was chasing the jumpers and why did the pursuer not take any of the multitude of flies that were thrown at the him/her/them.?

Kevin, who caught a Ghost Crab fair and square, and Mitch were the sensible ones, as they did a duck for home before the threatening black cloud finally dropped it's load. Ken, Steve and Warren, who persisted slightly longer than the others, received a solid drenching, whereas the rest of us only got soaked, but by the time that we had had a chat and a cup of coffee in the car park, we were all equally wet through.

Question cropped up. Where do we try next, in order to get a bite, never mind, catch a fish????

**Saltwater trip to St Lucia - Cape Vidal. 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August.** By Sakkie McKay.

Neil once again kindly offered the use of his time share, La Rochelle, in St Lucia and Dick and I were the only takers. Neil and I departed on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> and it rained most of the way. Having settled in on our arrival we tackled up ready for action on the next day.

We fished St Lucia beach and Neil got 4 wave Garrick, whilst I was surrounded by the Chinese Invasion. Kids jumping next to me, in front of me, whilst Mommy posed for pictures taken by Daddy on his video. They did not understand English, Afrikaans or Zulu for "Please go and play somewhere else. Please." so thus I drew a blank. *(His actual words were slightly more harsh than that, but as this is a family publication, we don't want to offend our more sensitive readers Ed.)*

We went back the next day, but the wind was blowing so we both blanked. The following morning we tried Vidal but strong wind again so no fish. Dick arrived later that afternoon.

Much better day, no wind and we had better fishing. Dick got a Mooney, Blacktail and Wave Garrick. I landed two Wave Garrick, a Mooney and a Shad, whilst Neil pulled a lovely Stone Bream and Wave Garrick, Shad and a smaller W/Garrick.

The following day the wind blew again and Dick and Neil got a W/Garrick and Shad respectively. On the last day only Neil managed a W/Garrick. The winds were so strong that in casting, the line took a ninety degree turn and virtually ended up on the beach.

Lessons learned from the trip, is that in future, take a conventional spinning rod, so that in the event of windy days, one can still fish. The bait casters were pulling out the shad on a regular basis, even though they were mainly small ones.

Secondly wear some form of footwear, as the amount of hooks and grappling sinkers lying in the sand was very worrying.

A most enjoyable trip all round and although Peaky Blinders and Black and White Ballantines were sitting on the bar counters, they behaved in an orderly manner.

**Monthly meeting. Thursday 1st September. Umtentweni Tennis Club.**

In the absence of John, who is in Oz for a short holiday, the meeting was chaired by Arthur

**Present:** 14 members. **Apologies:** John, Connor, Mike Kirkham, Kevin, (New member Mike Skellern)

Welcome Mike. We hope that your association with SCFA will be long and mutually beneficial.



**Flies of the Month:** Judged by Sakkie

**Freshwater:** **Stimulator:** Neil, Neil, Sean, Sean, Steve, Arthur.

**Saltwater:** **Tom's Gully Fly:** Neil, Neil, Steve, Steve, Sean, Sean, Arthur, John, Liam, Liam.

In his summary after judging, Sakkie said that the general standard of the flies that were presented, was very good. A number of the salt water flies lost marks, because the dumbbell eyes were not positioned mid-way along the shank as was required in the recipe.

### **Coming Events:**

Events planned for the coming month are listed at the top of page 1. The calendar for the next few months will be sorted out at the committee meeting, which is being held at Dick's home on Wednesday 7th Sept.

### **General.**

News from Bill, is that he and Sharon are gradually settling down to live in their retirement village in Pretoria.

Dick, Sakkie and Neil gave a combined report on their recent trip to St Lucia and Cape Vidal, ( See report by Sakkie above.) They mentioned that a couple of years ago, the wooden chalets at Vidal were in a very poor state, but they now seem to be in fairly good nick.

Jaco said that he had joined the Kokstad Fly Fishing club and on a recent trip to Dorset dam, he caught 17 fish, a number of which were over 55 cm in length.

Neil suggested that a trip to Mountain Lake be put on the cards for October. The committee will sort out a date at their meeting on Wednesday. Watch this space.

### **Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.**



Just a reminder; Arthur still has the Dabbie Float tube that Bill donated to the club, before he left for colder climes. This tube will be sold for club funds. If you are a seeker or know of a seeker, contact Arthur on 076 312 0417 or caryaj@xsinet.co.za



Regarding the stocking of Mountain Lake and of the Wattled Crane dams: SCFA will sponsor stocking of brown trout when Matat Fishing Club let us know their stocking schedule. John contacted Cathy re Wattled Crane and she suggested that the money be used to a sponsor trip to the dam instead. That way, both parties benefit. Watch this space for developments on this front.



Congratulations to Jaco and to Sean, who have been invited to fish the 'B Nationals' in Underberg in October. Thanks to Steve's good book keeping, club funds are strong enough to enable SCFA to sponsor Jaco and Sean to a small extent. Keep the flag flying guys.



Ex member John Gibbon, has kindly donated dozens of copies of Complete Fly Fisherman magazines to the club. They are all in excellent condition and are available to club members for a small donation. Come to the monthly meeting and take your pick or contact Chairman John, (078 203 4549) who is also the club librarian.

### **Last Cast.**

Two months ago, the SCFA newsletter predicted that "Things will actually improve, when load shedding slows down and when we get a guaranteed supply of municipal water." Well, things have improved, as we have not had too much load shedding of late and the water supply has also improved, (for some of that is.)

The second prediction was that the shad will return and our catch rate per outing will improve. I did say that this appeared at the time to be a distant dream and I'm afraid that this still holds true for fly anglers, although a few fish have come out to the bait anglers, a week or so ago. As has been said before "Just keep thinking positive waves."

Cheers Arthur.

