



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER August 2023

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.

A short Events Calendar this month, but never fear, we have a committee meeting on the 13th September, at which the dates till the end of the year, and even into 2024 will be sorted out. As usual, if you have a preferred venue, shout and your wish may be granted.

This newsletter also has a couple of well penned articles on recent outings.

Cheers Arthur.

Events Calendar.

6th August	Saltwater outing	Kid's beach . Leisure Bay	07h00
9th August	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
18th to 25th August	Saltwater outing	St Lucia	Early, early
31st August	Monthly Meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
6th September	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
10th September	Saltwater outing	Mzamba estuary	07h00

Coming Events.

The saltwater outing to Kid's beach at Leisure Bay on Sunday 6th August, will hopefully produce some fish. Bring sarmies and liquid refreshments, as there are no braai facilities.

At the fly-tying workshop, to be held at Neil's home on Wednesday 9th August, the Surf Candy and the Wolf Spider are the flies to be tied. *(This month I have double, triple checked to ensure that the flies are correct. The Editor of this newsletter just cannot be trusted nowadays!! Ed.)*

The salt water outing to St Lucia and Cape Vidal, is, as mentioned last month, fully subscribed. The Grub and travel meeting for this trip will be held after fly tying at Neil's home on the 9th Aug.

The monthly meeting will, as usual, be at the Umtentweni Tennis Club on Thursday 31st August.

Fly tying is again back to Neil's home for Wednesday 6th September, when we tie the Organza Shrimp and the Little Black Stonefly Nymph.

We return to the **Mzamba Estuary and beach for the salt water outing on Sunday 10th September.** Bring your requirements for a braai afterwards. If you fish the estuary, up stream of the mouth, kick boats are required.

A trip to Mountain Lake has been planned for the week-end of 22nd to 25th Sept.

Past Events.

Trout outing to Wattled Crane. Friday 7th July to Sunday 9th July. By Dick Plaistowe.

As I write this note on our weekend at Wattled Crane, originally meant to be from Friday 7th, returning Monday 10th, my first thought is "Thank the good Lord that sanity prevailed and we packed up early and departed at mid-day on Sunday." No need for further explanation.

The travel arrangements were that Neil collected Arthur and John, whilst Dick drove by himself, as he always intended returning on Sunday, (he was the only person to have looked at the weather forecast !!!!). We met for coffee and a leg stretch after the "Pink Church" turning to Karg's Post, after which Arthur provided some company for Dick.



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The dirt road stretches were in excellent condition. The farm road to the cottage has been resurfaced since I was last there, with some sizable rocks in places, and also now sports some fearsome humps in the road for water diversion, which could result in lower vehicles bottoming out at best and requiring a recovery vehicle at worst. We arrived in sunshine and warmish weather, to a beautiful full dam and the prospect of a great weekend's fishing.

We are so blessed to have such an awesome venue which is so close to home- 157 kms from my front door, a bit less for Stephen and a bit more for Arthur.

The boats were quickly assembled and the guys hit the water - except for Dick who realised that he'd left all his still-water fly boxes at home and had to scrounge around in his fly jacket and numerous tackle boxes to find something suitable to fish with - two Papa Roaches that were tied at last week's fly tying, a single Mrs Simpson, a seriously old and battered brown red eyed damsel, and a selection of GRHE's. On any other weekend this would've, or could've, or should've been an adequate armoury to catch fish, but not this particular weekend. Based on Neil, Arthur and John's successes, something basically big and black was required for a respectable catch return - Neil caught 8 fish, John caught 7, Arthur caught 6 (it should be mentioned that he was the only person to fish on Sunday morning,) whilst Dick only caught 3 fish, which I think we can ascribe to his unfortunate fly collection, what other reason could there have been ????

Neil caught on some immaculately tied black Papa Roach's and a black no-name nymph, that he tied at the cottage, John caught mainly on a horrible looking, but very successful black no-name nymph, with a tail and some flash, and Arthur caught on a Speed Cop and a Papa Roach. The catch register in the cottage has many entries of Papa Roaches, Woolly Buggers, and killer style flies being successful, and this weekend was no exception I guess, except tied in black.

Arthur discovered two perfect dragonfly nymphs in one of his catches, one of around 5 cms and the other about 3 cms. It is quite amazing to see these beautiful nymphs and how perfectly the Papa Roach matches them. You may well ask how Arthur "discovered" the nymphs. Truth be known, he abandoned the C & R ethic and executed the fish, and opened the stomach only to find the nymphs, both of which must have been very recently eaten, in addition to some minute midges which were still alive.

The wind created some tough fishing conditions on Friday and Saturday. Sunday morning was cold with a wet mist and Neil, John and Dick deciding not to fish. Arthur was up to the conditions however and with five layers of clothing set out to fish, until around 11.00, when the wind picked up and the temperature dropped.

All in all, another fabulous weekend at Watted Crane, with great company and food.

Trout trip to Matat. 12th to 14th July. By Stan Park.

I arrived at Mountain Lake at 11 am, to find that Faan, a local farmer, who looks after the area, was just about to burn the grass around the camping area, so I could only set up camp later in the afternoon and I only started fishing at around 3 pm.

I tried the spawning area at the top of the lake, but never hooked any fish and then tried the island where I caught 5 nice fish.

The next morning, I again fished the top of the dam and caught another 12 nice rainbows. There were again no fish in the usually productive spawning area, up in the western section of the dam.

On the final morning the wind blew from the west and I only managed one fish.

It was an enjoyable trip, despite the cold; first night, -5 deg. C. On the second night, the car was covered in ice, -8 deg. C.

Total catch: 18 fish, all between 1 kg and 2kg.

Monthly Meeting. Umtentweni Tennis Club. Thursday 27th July.

Members present: 13 members, including new member Mark Rose. Mark, recently retired from Johannesburg to Uvongo, has extensive river and still water experience, but has yet to try the salt, to any great extent.

Welcome to the club, Mark. We trust that you will partake in as many opportunities to fish the salt and fresh water with us, as you can.

Apologies: Jaco, Pieter, Kevin, Mike K, Dick, Matt, Toi and Mike S.

Outings and meetings: Apart from those mentioned in the Events Calendar, check out the additional notes regarding outings, in the "Fry, Fingerling and Stockie" section below.



Flies of the Month: Judged by Ken.

Salt water: Surf Puff: Sean, Sean, Arthur Mitch, Mitch.

Fresh water: Papa Roach: Arthur, Sean, Sean, John.

General:

Sean gave an account of his recent outings to Kid's Beach in Leisure Bay, where he has managed to catch Wave Garrick on every outing. He also mentioned that there are numerous sand sharks cruising in the area and he has also nailed a few of these. He spoke briefly on the Underberg Still Water Festival and the launch of the Gordon vd Spey book "The Feather Mechanic". (See report under "Fry, Fingerling and Stockie" section.)

Stan reported on his trip to Matat. (See report above.)

Neil gave a short account of a three-day trip to Wattled Crane recently.

The weather was absolutely perfect, (well, mostly perfect) and he managed to catch 16 rainbows, including a few of the recently stocked small fish. These seem to have adjusted well and are not cruising in schools any longer, but have dispersed all over the dam.

Surprisingly, he only got two fish on his trusted Papa Roach, the rest being taken on small #10 and #12 nymphs, including the traditional Invicta fly.

Steve said that club funds have changed little from last month and are still in a very healthy state.

He and Kevin recently spent a few days up at Whispering Waters, where he got 5 fish and Kevin managed 6. Fishing was tough and all fish were right on the bottom. They also popped in to Wild Fly in Notties, where he was disappointed at the small amount of fly-tying material that was on display, as well as totally shocked at the prices of their rods and reels. To keep the family peace, he did not get himself any new tackle!!!!

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Here is a note from Pieter. "The Underberg and Himeville 2023 Still-Water-Festival is being held from 22nd to 24th Sept. (*Note: This is the same week-end as the Mountain Lake trip.*)

The cost per team member is R 1500.00 (R 3000.00 per team of two anglers.) The price includes snacks on Friday evening as well as lunch and supper on both Saturday and Sunday. There is only space for 20 teams of 2. Registration takes place from 4 pm on Friday 22nd and prize giving will be held on Sunday evening. Contact 082 636 3985 for further details.



Another scoop from Pieter: "Gordon vd Spuy will be launching his book "The Feather Mechanic" on 5th Aug in Durban at Explorer." Contact Pieter (083 543 7005) for travel details.



The Port Shepstone Post Office (opposite Shoprite) has fishing licence forms. These are also available from Margate and Manaba post offices. Cost for an annual licence is R76.00

Last Cast.

Those not in the know, may wonder why there is no report on the proposed salt water outing to Rocky Bay. Simple answer, is that there was no outing to Rocky Bay. Wind Guru and all other weather apps. predicted a healthy dose of high wind to come through on Sunday morning, and come through it did, in a big way. So just as well that the trip was cancelled.

Members, however have another chance to fish the salt. As you saw in the "Events Calendar" we have an outing to Leisure Bay (Kid's Beach) planned for Sunday 6th August. Be there to catch Wave Garrick and maybe even a sand shark or two.

Cheers Arthur.

