



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER July 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.

Thanks to the contributors, we again have a full newsletter, that contains a list of Coming Events for the next month or so as well as a couple of reports on Past Events. The latter includes a note on the trip to the Mzamba estuary and beach, where most of those who fished, caught sardines on fly. A real bonanza of a morning.

Events Calendar.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
5th July	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
7th July to 10 July	Trout outing	Wattled Crane	TBA
19th July	Film festival	Durban	16h00
27th July	Monthly Meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
30th July	Saltwater outing	Rocky Bay	TBA
9th Aug	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's or Arthur's home	18h15
18th to 25th Aug	Saltwater outing	St Lucia	TBA
31st Aug	Monthly Meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30

Coming Events.

On **Wednesday 5th July**, we have the **fly-tying workshop at Neil's home**, where we will tie the Surf Puff and the Papa Roach. The Papa Roach is Neil's "Go-To" very successful trout fly for still waters and he ties a very neat one, so come along and get advice and guidance from the expert on how to tie a winning recipe. The Wattled Crane "grub and travel meeting" will be held after fly-tying.

The trip to Wattled Crane takes place from **7th July to 10th July**.

There is another trip to **Durban for the 2nd of a two-part film session on "Trout Fishing in the World," on Wednesday 19th July**. Pieter is organising this one, so if you would like to go, contact him now on 083 543 7005.

The **saltwater outing to Rocky Bay, on Sunday 30th July** will hopefully produce more than our last few local outings have done. Meet at the Southport Total filling station at 06h30. We will pop in to a local restaurant for a bite to eat after the fishing, so bring some dosh for this.

Make sure that you have a fishing licence, as the northern authorities may be more vigilant than they are down here, where they are actually non-existent.

Although it is still a long way coming, there is a trip to **St Lucia from 18th to 25th August**. We will fish St Lucia and Cape Vidal. This trip is fully booked, so those of you who waited, "Sorry you lost."

Past Events.

Scaley outing on the Umkomaas River, Sunday 11th June. By Sean Tharratt.

We met up at the Total garage in Southport and at 7am we were off to the Ingulube Bush Camp to target the elusive Natal Scaley. We were 9 anglers that were up for the task.

The river was nice and clean to our surprise as two weeks earlier there was some heavy rains that made the water a ginger beer colour. The water was on the cool side but not bad at all. Anglers set out trying all types of methods and flies to find a fish.

Sean was first into a fat 30 cm scaley caught on a black Jig Bugger. Conditions were good with slower pools, some of which were deeper than 2 meters and other shallow sections with small rapids.



Past Events cont'd on Page 2.

There is a section, a short walk above the campsite with a slower rapid, from which Liam, Renier and Sean managed to get some fish and got 6 fish each. The others were unlucky for the day and we definitely have to go back again as it is a good venue with lots of potential. Flies used were small nymphs with tungsten beads on. PTN variations. G.R.H.E and Jig Bugger, which is a black Woolly Bugger tied on a jig hook.

Saltwater outing to Kids Beach. Leisure Bay. By Sean Tharratt.

I did a quick 2-hour session at Kids beach in Leisure Bay, about 2 hours after low tide, with the water pushing in. Very nice bay there, which is comfortable for fly fishing.

I managed to get 5 Wave Garrick and lost 2 and got a few bumps from the smaller fish. Saw decent sized Lesser Sand sharks in the shallows near me, again in the range of about 45 cm to 50 cm, so might need a heavier fly to stay on the bottom for longer, to give them a chance to eat it. Flies used were Chartreuse and Orange Charlies.

Salt water outing to the Mzamba Estuary. Sunday 25th June. By Arthur Cary.

Steve, Neil, Sean, John, Arthur, Ken, David and Marion, met at the main gate to the Casino and proceeded to the Mzamba Beach shortly after 07h00 and quickly rigged their rods. The Casino normally charges a R 20.00 entry fee per vehicle, but this apparently does not apply to anglers, so we did not even have to pay to get in. Bonus No 1.

It had been decided to fish the estuary and beach, rather than launch kick-boats and fish the river. Both the river and the sea looked a picture; clean water and surf not too heavy, so Sean, Neil, John and Arthur tried the river to start with. The water was decidedly cooler than the sea and no one got a touch. We migrated to the sea, where Sean caught a mullet and Neil landed a Toby.

A large flock of terns was seen swooping over the water behind the backline and a number of them were actually diving, which is uncharacteristic of these birds, as they normally swoop and collect scraps, prawns or fish fry. No Cape Gannets were to be seen, which is again unusual, when sardines are shoaling.

At one stage the flock moved 50 metres or so up the river, before returning to just behind the backline. Steve landed a small Wave Garrick, as did Dave, while Sean managed to get 3 of these. The birds, in the meantime had moved a lot closer to the beach and we saw that they were actually diving for sardines, which had split into small isolated pockets, at times not more than 10 metres from the shore-break.

A lone fellow with a cast net arrived and waited for the shoals to move closer, before he started to fill his bucket. A number of fly rods were rigged with larger flies, hoping for “the bigger fish that must be with the sards.” No such luck, until Sean hooked a sardine, fair and square in the mouth. Action time and we all rigged small flies and cast into and over the shoals.

By this time word of the bonanza had spread, and dozens of folks started arriving, armed with cast nets, crates, baskets and packets of all shapes and sizes. The crew of a seine netting boat had spotted a huge shoal, which was fortunately about a kilometre north of our action and they headed up that way and launched, leaving our section of beach uncluttered, except for the sardine gatherers. All in all, they were uncharacteristically very well behaved, with each cast netter waiting his turn to throw.

A total of 23 sardines was landed, using #8 and #10 Surf Puff, Surf Candy and Crazy Charlie and other streamer-type flies. All the fish were hooked in or around the mouth, showing that these fish were actively feeding. This is most unusual, as being filter feeders, their diet consists of microscopic plankton, they do not usually go for any other form of food. Sabiki or Jazzuri rigs, using 6 to 8 small “flies” are used to catch bait fish from boats and jetties, but it is most unusual for so many sardines to be caught on conventional fly-fishing tackle.

Apart from the sard action, this is an area well worth visiting again, especially when the river warms up. A passing angler informed me that the kingfish “go wild” during the summer months. Watch this space, we will be back.

Monthly Meeting. Thursday 29th June 2023. Umtentweni Tennis Club.

Present: 12 members. **Apologies:** Sakkie, Mitch, Kevin, Mike K, Ken and David.

Flies of the Month: Judged by Liam.

Freshwater: Matt, Neil, Dick, Dick, John, Arthur and Sean.

Saltwater: Sean, Matt, Arthur, John and Neil.



Finances: Steve reported that the club finances were still in a very healthy state. (Not quite enough to stand the committee to a week's fishing trip to the Seychelles, but getting there!)

General.

Arthur gave a short account of the outing to Mzamba.(See article above.)

Liam was requested to boost the club coffers, as instead of partaking in the club outing to Mzamba, he opted to fish the near-by Umtamvuna River. To add insult to injury, he caught two respectable perch.

Sean reported that a friend of his, based in St Lucia uses a small hook (#8 or #10) (dressed with a short red or green clump of marabou,) to catch Stone Bream. This imitates drifting sea weed, which is the preferred diet of these fish.

Matt reported that he recently fished the Dargle area and landed a few very nice rainbows.

Pieter confirmed Liam's transgressions on the Umtamvuna, as he was an accomplice in the crime. (Fine will be issued at the AGM in March.)

Stan gave a short account of a trip that he, Neil and Sakkie had taken to Mountain Lake. The order for good weather had somehow not been delivered and they only managed to get in 3 hours on the water in 3 days, due to a terrific wind storm that lashed the area for a couple of days. Wave height on the lake reached $\frac{3}{4}$ of a metre at times. Not much fun on a kick boat. They still managed to get 8 nice, but not trophy, rainbows.

Liam showed us a vast number of excellent quality slides and videos of his guiding experiences in the Seychelles during the past 5 months. GT's and a multitude of other kingfish, Trigger Fish and Bone Fish galore. He also had a selection of some of the flies that are used to catch these monsters. A most enjoyable ending to the meeting, before we retired to the braai fire for the usual natter.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Our sincere condolences are extended to John and his family on the passing of his partner, Smokey.



An article on our sardine experience at Mzamba has been sent to The Mission magazine, as they were looking for articles on "Unusual catches on fly" Not sure whether they will print it or not, but those of you who read this mag, keep an eye open.

Last Cast.

Once again, my thanks go out to the contributors of articles and information on fishing matters., These make the newsletters the informative bulletins that they are. Keep it coming. Thanks too, to the committee for the thought and planning that goes into selecting the various venues for our outings. Long may they be well supported.
Cheers Arthur

