



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER May 2026

Chairman: John New (078 203 4549) **Treasurer:** Stephen Brand (082 551 9010) **Secretary:** Dick Plaistow (082 453 8618)
Liaison and Records Clerk: Pieter vd Merwe (083 543 7005) **Scribe:** Arthur Cary (076 312 0417) **Member:** Neil Scott (083 265 6608)

Preparing to cast.

We have reports on two outings this month, as well as dates for the fly-tying workshop and the monthly meeting at the end of the month. Note the change of date for the fly-tying workshop. (It is now on the 20th of May). Get your monies worth by being there for all of these events.

Events Calendar.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
May 10th	Saltwater outing	Mzamba	Early
May 13th	Committee meeting	John's home	18h00
May 20th	Fly-tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15
May 24th	Scaley outing	Oribi Gorge	08h00
May 28th	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30

Coming Events.

The famed trip to **Mzamba, is on Sunday 10th May**. Meet at the gates to the Casino at 06h00. Kick boats can be launched, if you so wish. Better have your fishing licences available, just in case John's cronies are in attendance! A braai fire will be available, so bring the necessary.

Committee meeting at John's home on Wednesday 13th at 18h00. As you see, the Events Calendar is pretty well depleted, but this will be topped up with various events, which will hopefully be to your liking. If not, give a shout and we can rectify the situation at our next committee meeting.

At the May **fly-tying workshop, to be held at Neil's home, on Wednesday 20th May, (Note the change of date,)** we will tie the Sterkies Hopper and the Free Style Baitfish. Members should have received the recipes by the time that they receive this newsletter. If not, give Arthur a shout (076 312 0417)

On Sunday, 24th May, we have a scaley trip planned for Oribi Gorge. Meet at the car park / picnic site at 08h00. Don't forget the Conservancy Fee of R 20.00 per person, not applicable if you have a Rhino Card. We will braai after fishing and for that you know the drill. If the river is unsuitable, you will be given timely notice of the alternative venue, via Steve's reliable SMS service.

The monthly meeting is, as usual, on the last Thursday of the month i.e. 28th May at the Umtentweni Tennis Club at 18h00 for 18h30. A braai fire will once again be available, so BYO.

Past Events.

Saltwater outing to T.O. Strand. Sunday 12th April. By Sean Tharratt.

The weather was slightly overcast for the morning; at least the wind stayed away. John and Steve were on the beach just before 07h00, followed by Stacey, Sean, Arthur and Dick.

The surf was very fishable, with smaller waves near the shore break and some white water. John had caught 2 wave garrikk already and Sean got 1.



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Shortly after that Steve got a unique catch of an electric ray, also known as a marble ray. Lucky, he didn't get a zap and some friendly surfers, who walked past, used their surfboard to help him get it back into the water.

Matt and Kevin also showed up for a session, followed by Mike and Toi. Toi and Stacey were spectators. A variety of flies was used, like the general Charlie's and a few tried bigger flies like Clousers and Bait Fish patterns. Just after the 9am the fishing went quiet and everyone retired to the car park for a snack and went home.

Arthur, 1 wave garrrick, Matt, 1 wave garrrick, John, 2 wave garrrick, Sean, 6 wave garrrick, Steve, 1 Marbled Electric Ray.

Bass outing to Voigts' dam. Sunday 26th April. By Pieter Claasen.

On Sunday, 26th of April, 11 anglers met at around 6:45 at Voigts' dam in Paddock. It was a clear morning with hardly any wind .

Most anglers set off on tubes and all other floating forms and the rest worked the banks from the side. There was not much surface action on the water and bites were slow. As the morning progressed John managed to catch seven bass and Neil caught one.

After John scared all the fish to the deep, the rest of us were left with no catch for the morning. John used a red tinsel fly and a "magafter" with grey chevron tassel and a green tail. (He promised to reveal the secrecy of the fly at one of our fly-tying evenings.)

The effort was made with anything from poppers, worms, woolly buggers and what not, by the rest of us .

After the battle was declared lost by most of us, a braai was started up by Stephen and things heated up. A great time was spent next to the water discussing all fishing related stories and breakfast was enjoyed. As soon as all the rods were finally stored away the fish started to rise and mock us all.

Alas, from every trip, there is something to be learnt.

Mike learnt that most trailers still cannot hook themselves up to the bakkie and need manual intervention.

All and all a lovely trip spent with angling friends out in nature.

May there be many more!

Monthly meeting. Umtentweni Tennis Club. Thursday 26th February 2026.

Present: 12 members. **Apologies:** David S. Warren, Pieter vd M, Frank, and new member, Danelle Claasen

Visitors: Paul Watson and Lee Baker were welcomed. We hope that you will be joining us again and that this will eventuate into full membership.

Fly of the Month. Judged by John.

Freshwater: Blue Gill Fly: Steve, Arthur, Toi, Dick, Neil, Toi, Sean, Dick.

Saltwater: Organza Shrimp: Neil, Dick, Sean, Dick, Steve, Pieter C, Arthur.

Freestyle: Pieter C. (Red Rib Fly,) Toi, (Green Streamer,) Pieter C. (Spotty,) Mike S. (CDC Dry Fly,) Toi (Ant.)

General:

The date of the fly-tying workshop was moved from 6th May to 20th May to accommodate Toi and Mike.

Arthur mentioned that certain members don't read the first newsletter that is sent to them, so they will be receiving a second edition. This will give them an opportunity to study the Events Calendar and Coming Events in detail.



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Although not present, Pieter's daughter, Donelle, is welcomed into the club. Donelle has fished with us a few times, but has now joined officially. Donelle, we trust that your membership will be mutually beneficial for many years to come.

Pieter and John gave a brief account of Sunday's outing to Voigts' dam. (See Pieter's article above.)

Paul and Lee said that while they have both fished rock and surf and off shore extensively, they are new to the fly-fishing game. We hope that we will see you again next month, together with your membership application forms.

Neil gave a short account of a trip to the van der Kloof Dam. The sluice gates of the Gariep Dam had been opened, which resulted in the lower Orange River running at an extremely high level and fishing was totally out of the question. He opted to fish the Rhodes area instead, where he had a modicum of success, but not great. He still insists that the van der Kloof Dam is worth a visit, when conditions are favourable.

Steve gave a brief financial report, which shows that club funds are still in a very healthy state.

As usual, the braai that followed was most enjoyable and Steve's fire once again stood the test of time, with every one being able to get their worsies and huge steaks cooked to perfection, despite the crowd.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



If you are one of the very few who have not yet renewed your subs, you have only a few days left. Contact Steve immediately (082 551 9010) and save having to pay an extra R 30.00 joining fee.



Following the articles on the AGM and the prize giving, that were published during the month, David Rush, editor of the South Coast Herald, has invited us to submit a monthly report on fly-fishing. He particularly wants pictures of the angler with his catch, so please bear this in mind when you take a pic of your prize. Members can either send a short report, with pics to Dick or to me, or just send the details of the catch and we will jot down a few lines.



Mission Magazine was at one stage looking for articles on unusual catches on fly. An article on Steve's Marbled Electric Ray, caught at T.O. Strand, has been submitted, so keep an eye open and let us know if it does appear at some stage.



Mitch posted an article, which I trust is genuine, that sardines were spotted off Kob Inn at the end of April. Here's hoping that we can, at some stage, repeat the glorious session that we had a couple of years ago, when we caught them on fly at Mzamba.

Last Cast.

No, nothing more from me, except to wish all anglers a good month with many a tight line. Hope to see a good turnout at our scheduled outings, fly tying workshop and the month-end meeting.

Cheers Arthur

