South Coast Fly Anglers

NEWSLETTER
August 2025

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 (076 312 0417) **Member:** Neil Scott (083 265 6608)

Preparing to cast.

Not much luck on the fishing front in July, but we had a good fly-tying session and monthly meeting, so all was not lost.
Quite a full calendar coming up. Be there and enjoy all the action.

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Venue	Time
August 10th	Saltwater outing	Mzamba	Early
August 13th	Fly-tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15
August 24th	Scaley outing	Umzimkulu	08h00
August 28th	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
September 3rd	Committee meeting	Neil's home	18h00
September 7th	Saltwater outing	Southbroom	Early
September 10th	Fly-tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15
September 25th	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
September 28th	Bass outing	Voigt's Dam. Paddock	07h00

Coming Events:

We will again try the **Mzamba beach on Sunday 10th August, for our saltwater outing.** Meet at the Casino gates at 6h30. Some of us will be kick-boating the estuary, so come prepared, if you want to join us. "Braai time" after fishing, so bring the necessary.

We will tie the **freshwater Stimulator and the saltwater Tom's Gully Fly at the fly-tying workshop, which will be at Neil's home on Wednesday 13th August at 18h15.** Recipes have been sent to SCFA members.

On **Sunday 24th August, there is a scaley outing to the Umzimkulu River,** if conditions are favourable. (If not, Steve will send out an advisory SMS.) **Meet at the gates to Lake Eland game reserve at 07h30** and "follow my leader" down to the river. Don't be late or you will be left behind and lose your way.

The August monthly meeting will again be at the Umtentweni Tennis Club at 18h00 for 18h30. Braai afterwards.

Neil's home is the venue for the Committee meeting on the 3rd September. Time 1800.

For the outing to **Southbroom on Sunday 7th September, you can either fish the Mbizana estuary from your kick boat or try the surf.** Be there early and braai on the north bank after fishing.

Neil is considering a trip to Cape Vidal in mid-October and if they are suitable, we will stay in the log cabins. Watch this space and if the trip is organised, grab a spot immediately, as accommodation may be limited.

Past Events.

Saltwater outing to Shelly Beach. Sunday 6th July. By Arthur Cary.

Oh well at least we tried! Despite the weather-warning that Sunday was going to be hit by a strong south westerly, the morning dawned bright and clear and we arrived at the Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club to be greeted by the rising sun and a light land breeze. Neil actually stole a march on the rest of us and was already well into it, when John, Pieter C, Steve, Warren, Sakkie and Arthur pitched up from 7 am onwards.

Despite trying various coloured Clousers, Crazy Carlies, as well as bait fish, streamer and crab patterns along the beach, north of the base, John was the only angler to get a touch and even that was only a quick "On-off." A couple of bait anglers reported that they had only had one bite, but had caught zilch.

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No reasons for the lack of fish come to mind, as the surf conditions were actually very good and despite the backline being pretty big, the shore break was acceptable and for once, Arthur did not get dumped by a wave.

We all packed it in after a good two hours of hard work and retired to the Ski Boat Club restaurant for a bite to eat, where we, of course swopped good fishing stories over a hearty breakfast.

Saltwater outing to Pumula. Sunday 20th July. By Arthur Cary.

Only John, Mark and Steve turned out for this outing and they unfortunately all blanked, this time it was Steve who had the "On/off, but no proper hook up. Little consolation that the bait anglers, who were trying their luck, also failed to catch a single fish. The lack of any action may have been due to the fact that sardines were netted that morning behind the backline and consequently the shad may have been feeding on the dregs of the shoal. Surprisingly the rock and surf chaps threw plugs and spoons while the net was being hauled in, also without success. The sardine run has been on the go for two months now and it looks as though we will have to wait until it is well over, before we get any action on fly.

Monthly Meeting. Thursday 31 July. Umtentweni Tennis Club.

Present: 12 members. (It was good to have Ken back in the mix. His knee op seems to have been a great success.) **Apologies:** Dick, Sakkie, Sean, Matt, David S, Mike S. and Toi, Andre and Domenick (Good to hear that you youngsters are concentrating on your school work!!!) as well as Pat, Conner and Liam.

FotM: Judged by Pieter vd Merwe.

Freshwater: Dave's Demon: Sean, David S, Steve, John, Neil, Pieter C, David S, Arthur, David S.

Saltwater: Clacker Clouser: Mitch, Pieter C, John, Neil, Sean, Steve, Arthur.

Freestyle: Sean (Para RAB,) Pieter C. (Red Riding Hood,) Pieter C .(Brown Tail,) Mitch (Bent Back,) David S (Surf Puff.)

Coming Events:

See calendar above.

General:

As mentioned in an earlier e-mail to members, the late John Gibbon donated a number of books and other flyfishing items and these were up for sale on the evening. A total of just over R700.00 was taken, with a further R1300.00 odd to come in. A list of the left-over items is attached to this newsletter and these are available to the earliest taker. A donation towards club funds is all that is required. Give Arthur a shout if you are interested in any particular item.

There was a discussion around the tying of the Surf Candy fly. Mitch said that when tying this fly, one should consider tying in a "keel" to prevent the fly from spinning on the retrieve and the recipe put out by SCFA , should be altered to include this addition. Neil said that he had never had a problem with the fly tied without a "keel". The committee and those attending the fly-tying workshops will consider altering the current recipe.

Steve tabled the latest financial report, which shows that club funds are still in a very healthy position, despite monies being spent on providing fly-tying materials to those attending the fly-tying workshops. (Well done, Steve.)

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.

Sean reports that the Underberg-Himeville Stillwater Festival is from 26th to 28th September. Entries cost R 3300.00 per team of 2 anglers. This event is sponsored by Xpolorer and in addition to the well-stocked goodie bag that each angler receives, there are dozens of very decent prizes up for grabs. Entries are now open. Contact: uhtfc.org.za/stillwater-festival.

Last Cast.

Nothing more to add, except that I hope to see you at many of the up-coming events. Cheers Arthur.

Books and other fly-fishing items for sale.

Books.

Concise book of Fly-Tying. Skip Morris.
Superior Flies. Lenord M. Wright.
The Nedbank Guide to Fly-Fishing Venues in South Africa. Third Edition.
Favoured Flies and Select Techniques of the Experts. Volume 2.
The Connoisseurs Guide to Fly-Fishing. November 2005.
The Complete book of Fly-Fishing for Yellowfish. Various authors.
Trout Fishing in Natal. RS Crass
Fresh and Saltwater flyfishing in Southern Africa, Charles Norman
An introduction to Fly-Tying. Peter Cockwell
Large Mouth Clinic 2012. Chris v d Post and Klaas Viljoen.
Stillwater Trout in South Africa. Dean Riphagen.
A Guide to Fly-Fishing in the Eastern Cape Highlands. Dave Walker.

Other fly-fishing items for sale.

9 ft 2-piece Elbe 9/10 wt rod and tube.
Two Stealth 2/4 spools,
Okuma 4/5 spool.
Medalist 1595 ½ RC spool.
Elbe 5/6 spool.
Xplorer fly fishing jacket.
Pair of Snobee sunglasses.