



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER June 2026

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.

We once again have a full calendar for the next two months: A trout outing to Wattled Crane in the middle of the month, (Winter woollies and a demijohn of Old brown will definitely be required.) The distinct possibility of shad at the salt water outing later in the month should attract a good bunch of members. We also have the usual fly-tying workshop and monthly meeting at month's end. Be there for all of them.

There are three articles on recent outings: The first was to Mzamba and yielded few fish. Thanks to Sean Steve, Mike S, Warren and Mitch, the scaley outing to Oribi Gorge was very productive and finally Neil had a well-worth-while trip to Rhodes.

Events calendar

Date	Event	Venue	Time
June 10th	Fly-tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15
June 12th to 15th	Trout outing	Wattled crane	TBA
June 25th	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
June 28th	Salt water outing	Shelly beach	07h00
July 1st	Committee meeting	Pieter's home	18h00 for 18h30
July 8th	Fly-tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15
July 8th	Travel and grub meeting	Neil's home	After fly-tying
July 12th	Salt water outing	Granny's Pool Ramsgate	07h00
July 24th to 26th	Trout outing	Mountain Lake	TBA

Coming Events.

At the **fly-tying Workshop at Neil's home on Wednesday 10th June, at 18h15**, we will tie the freshwater Royal Wulff and the saltwater Steve Austin Crazy Charlie. Members should have received the relevant recipes by the time they get this newsletter.

There is a **trout outing to Wattled Crane from Friday 12th June to Monday 15th June**. John, Steve, Neil, Sakkie, Mitch, Dave M and Arthur are bok for this one. The grub and travel meeting was held after the May monthly meeting on Thursday 28th.

Dave M. And Steve will travel together, Sakkie rides with Neil, Mitch will take John and Arthur. Drivers to arrange packing and leaving schedules. If you have not yet paid John, contact him now, (078 203 4549) as he wants to book ASAP.

The menu will be; burgers on Friday, brunch on Saturday and Sunday mornings and Kassler steaks for the Sunday braai. Neil will provide the meat and eggs, Steve will do a spaghetti bolognaise or a curry for the on Saturday; he will also bring the braai, charcoal and firelighters. Arthur and John will buy the rest.

The **Monthly Meeting is at the Umtentweni Tennis Club on Thursday 25th June at 18h00 for 18h30**. Flies that will be judged are the Royal Wulff and the Steve Austin Crazy Charlie.



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There is a **salt water outing to Shelly Beach on Sunday 28th June**. Meet at the Ski Boat Club at any time. No braai facilities, so we will probably have breakfast / brunch at the Ski Boat Club after fishing. Ensure that you have your salt water fishing licence, as the officials may well be around.

The next **Committee Meeting is at Pieter vd M's home on Wednesday 1st July at 18h00**. We once again extend an invitation to members to submit requests for venues to be considered for an outing in the future. (At the last committee meeting, a suggestion by Sakkie of a trip to Dordrecht was discussed. Committee members felt that a trip of this distance would not attract many takers and that we have good trout waters much closer to home.)

A **trout outing to Matatiele (Mountain Lake) has been planned for Friday 24th to Sunday 26th July**. As the cottage up at the lake is unfit for use and the toilets are also US, we will probably stay at a B & B in Matatiele, Cost per night about R700.00 for a two beds-self- catering room. If you want to go on this trip, contact Neil immediately, (083 265 6608) as he needs to book accommodation. The grub and travel meeting will be held at Neil's home after the fly-tying workshop on Wednesday 8th July.

Past events.

Well, once again Mzamba did not live up to expectations. No sardines. No Environmental Officers to give us lip and very nearly, no fish.

Only four of us ventured out on the absolutely perfect morning. The weather predictions were, for once, spot on and we walked onto the beach to a zephyr of a northeaster, which, as predicted, picked up at about 08h30. The surf had been huge all week; a result of the horrific storms that the Cape had been experiencing, but for once, the shore break was totally acceptable. (Even Arthur was able to stay on two feet for the entire time!)

No actual temperatures were taken, but the river felt cold and even though we tried there for at least half an hour, no one even had a touch.

The sea was a lot warmer, and Neil, Steve, Sean and Arthur spread out from close to the river mouth, to way up north, where Sean thought that the rocky area would produce the goods. Although he saw a number of small fish off these ledges, they were not interested in coming to the party.

After a good two and a half hours, all we had to show for our ten thousand casts, were two wave garrrick. One taken by Steve on a purple Charlie, while Neil got one on an orange Charlie. Sean had an on-off, on a similar fly, but could not make him stick.

Back at the car park, (no venturing on to the beach, this time,) Steve soon had his usual braai fire going and after replenishing the energy that we had expended in the pursuit of our elusive quarry, we headed home.

Scaley outing to Oribi Gorge. Sunday May 24th. By Sean Tharratt.

The weather looked good for the morning, however down in the gorge the sun doesn't warm the area up till much later in the morning and it was still nippy, till after 8am.

Warren and Steve were fishing before 8am whilst John and Mitch were still setting up. Sean and Stacey arrived just before 8am and rods were quickly rigged up.

Even though it was still chilly, the fish were active and Sean got into a few tiddlers and then a nice fish of 33cm in the pool in front of the car park. Everyone spread out and fished a few different sections. Steve and Warren went to the weir just above the car park and got some fish there. Steve got a nice fish around the 35cm mark which is a good size for a small river. Mike and Toi popped in as well to try their luck and Mike managed to get 1 fish.

There are a variety of rapids and pools and structure to fish there and that river has lots of potential, even when the water is discoloured you can still catch scaleys. The best flies to use in the dirty water are small black nymphs or black woolly buggers that are weighted to stay near the bottom.

Totals for the day: Steve 1, Mike S 1, Warren 1, Mitch 1, Sean 14, John 0.

Spur of the moment trip to Rhodes. Sunday 24th May to Wednesday 27th May. By Nneil Scott.

Walkerbouts was running a special, i.e. stay for 3 nights, but only pay for 2. I phoned Tony Kietzman (a local guide in Rhodes) and was informed that the rivers are in the best condition they have been in for the past 6 months.



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I made a booking at Walkerbouts and set off to Rhodes on Sunday 24th May. On Monday morning, I booked the Bernam beat, on the Bokspruit at the Rhodes info centre. Vehicles still had to be sprayed as the Foot and Mouth disease regulations are still in place. The Bernam beat is 30km from Rhodes and takes almost an hour to get there. The river was in the best condition I have seen it in. I caught lots of trout around the 6 inch mark and got 4 of 12 inches. The total for the day was 23 fish. On Tuesday, I fished the Bothwell beat, which is on the next farm up river from Birnam. The fish caught were all in the 4 to 8 inch range, apart from 1 fish of 12 inches. The total for the day was 32. Almost all the fish were caught on Craig's Sterkies Hopper and a Stimulator.

I suggest contacting Tony before making a trip to Rhodes to avoid disappointment.

(Contact Neil on 083 265 6608 for Tony's cell number. Ed)

Monthly Meeting. Umtentweni Tennis Club. Thursday 28th May.

Present: 14 members. **Apologies:** Dick, Dave M, Dave S. and Elisa, Rob, Reagan, Warren,

Fly of the Month. Judged by Liam.

Freshwater: Craig's Sterkies Hopper: Sean, Stever, Tou, John, Arthur, Pieter C. Dave M.

Saltwater: Freestyle Baitfish: Sean, Dave M, Pieter C., Arthur, Steve, John.

Freestyle: Pieter C., (Hairy Fellow,) Toi, (Parachute RAB), Pieter C., (Split Wing Fly.)

General:

John announced that fish posters are available for any lucky takers for a nominal donation.

Arthur mentioned that he had submitted articles and photos of Liam's and Steve's recent catches of scalies on the Umzimkulu and Umzimkulwana Rivers to the South Coast Herald, as David Rush had requested a monthly report on local fly-fishing.

He also said that the saltwater FotM for July would be Maxi's Dog's breakfast and not the Popper.

The book by Peter Brigg, "Call of the Stream," which had been donated to the club, was bought by Pieter C.

Frank said that he had heard that Stoney Hall farm, near Bushman's Nek had a well-stocked trout dam and cottages. He asked if the club had ever had an outing to the venue. Matt checked the web site and there are cottages available at roughly R 800.00 per night for a self-catering-two- bed cottage. It is unclear if a daily rod fee is charged and if the dam also holds bass. It was decided to shelve this location for the time being.

Matt has been having considerable success in the surf, estuaries and the Umzimkulwana River of late. He has recently fitted a length of poly leader to his surf line and says that this has made casting much easier. Green Spot Kingfish, Wave Garrick, Shad, and Stone Bream have been taken in the surf, while he got four Green Spot on a Chartreuse over white Clouser in Impenjati, when fishing upstream of the highway. Scalies, on small nymphs attached to a light tippet have been the order of the day in Oribi Gorge. These were caught in extremely dirty water one day.

Pieter and Liam gave a glowing report on Pieter's recent trip to the Seychelles. We look forward to Pieter's report in next month's newsletter.

Liam reported that he had recently had great success in the Umzimkulu, using small nymphs and ultra-light (7X) tippets. He had taken a number of scalies, (missed a huge one when it snapped him off) and had caught on chisel mouth. He also gave a report on his guiding experiences in the Seychelles over the past few months. *(How I wish that I had not messed up making my first million bucks. Ed)*

Sean gave a report on Sunday's outing to the Oribi Gorge area. (See report above.)

Neil gave a report on his trip to Rhodes. (see report above.)

Steve reported that he had recently lost a couple of shad, when fishing at Trafalgar using a too-small a hook. A massive tilapia was recently caught in his farm dam (not on fly.) the fish was safely released. FOSAF subs have been paid and club funds remain healthy.



Trout trip to Crystal Waters. By Mark Rose

On Friday afternoon (29th May,) we got back from Chrystal Waters, outside Underberg. Weather was wonderful, but cold at night. Fishing was good, I landed 7 trout; smallest 1 Kg biggest, 2.5 Kg, all in full spawning colours. We had a wonderful time.

As we were leaving on Friday, they stocked 900 fish, it's all they could get from the fish farm.

Fry, Fngerling and Stocky stories.



Movie time again. The RAUFFFF (Raw African Unfiltered Fly-Fishing Film Festival) will be shown in Durban on Tuesday 18th August. Tickets cost R330.00. Pieter vd M. may be, once again, be co-ordinating transport. Check out the Mission website >themissionflymag.com< for more details.



Sad news to report that DFT member, Derek Salzmann has passed away, after a short illness. He came down and fished Rocky bay with us a couple of times. He was very good at sending our newsletter out to the DFT members, and will be sorely missed by that club. MHDSRIP.

Last Cast.

It certainly seems as though the fish are on the bite, especially down on the Lower South Coast. North of Port Shepstone is still very quiet. On a recent trip past Umtwalume, the hawkers were selling loads of crayfish, but I did not see any shad for sale, which is indicative of poor catches up there. Even the Umzimkulu and Umzimkulwana rivers are producing the goods, so members, get off what ever you are sitting on and go out and get your share.

Cheers, Arthur.

