South Coast Fly Anglers

NEWSLETTER
November 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.

Once again, a very short events calendar and two articles on our outings that were held during the month.

Despite the club basically going into hibernation over the Christmas season, there will be a December newsletter, which will contain details of the meetings and outings that have been planned for January.

Events Calendar.

November 8th	Fresh water outing.	Dunstone's Dam. Murchison	06h00
November 11th	Fly-tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15
November 26th	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
November 29th	Christmas Bass outing	Steve's dam	07h00

Coming Events.

As the Sterkfontein trip, scheduled for the beginning of November, has been cancelled, we will fish **Trevor Dunstone's Dam in Murchison on Sunday 8th November. Be there at any time that suits you.** Braai after the fishing, so bring the necessary.

The **last fly-tying workshop of 2026 is at Neil's home on Wednesday 11th November,** where we will tie the freshwater Speed Cop Woolly Bugger and the saltwater Mylar Bait Fish. As has been said a thousand times, members should have received the relevant recipes by the time that they receive this newsletter; if not, please give Arthur aa\ shout.

November 26th is the date to diarize for the last **Monthly Meeting of 2026. Usual time of 18h00 for 18h30** and once again Steve will not disappoint us with the braai fire,

Steve's Dam in Trafalgar is the place to be on Sunday 29th November for the Christmas outing and braai afterwards. Hope to see a great turnout for this not-to-be-missed-last official event of the year. Wives, partners and kiddies welcome. Bring your own eats and liquid refreshments and of course a chair.

Past Events.

Bass Outing to Voigts' Dam. Sunday 4th October. By Stephen Brand.

Rob was the first to arrive at 06h10, followed by Arthur, James and June Cary, Bryce, Warren, Conner, friend Kegan, Steve, Sean, Dave, Elisa, Marion, Sakkie and Mark.

Water was glass when we arrived and then a slight breeze came up and around 09h15 the rain chased everyone off the water.

Flies that were used included the Jacaranda, Mrs Simpson, Royal Coachman, Papa Roach, Speed Cop, Muishond, Grey Woolly Bugger with orange legs, Flipper, Olive Fritz Bugger, Black Woolly Bugger, Surf Puff and Dave's Demon. A total of seven bass were caught, mostly small.

All in all, a well-attended outing.

Regards, Steve.



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Trout Outing to Wattled Crane. Friday 16th October to 19th October. By Matt Dickens.

On the 16th of October 2026, a group of 5 seasoned anglers from the SCFA, embarked on a journey to the beautiful hills, surrounding Kokstad. Their destination was the tranquil waters of Wattled Crane dam. Arthur and John were first off the mark, leaving Port Shepstone in the early hours of Friday morning followed a little later by Steve, Sakkie and Matt. The drive went smoothly in Steve's recently serviced Ranger and after opening and closing the last of umpteen farm gates, we arrived at our destination. For those who haven't visited the dam yet, (as was the case with the author,) the dam is set at the base of towering Dolerite capped hills, the remnants of the molten magma, deposited over 180 million years ago. The slopes slide into the depths, on the far side of the dam, opposite to this sits a quaint cottage, in a clump of tall green conifer and oak trees. Behind the cottage and along the near bank, are endless acres of lush green pasture, dotted with fat, happy looking cattle.

Arthur and John had arrived first and were mostly set up by the time the second vehicle arrived. What followed was a mad rush by Matt to get his kick boat up and ready, while Steve enjoyed a well-deserved cigarette and Sakkie took time to settle into his surroundings. Arthur and John were the first on the water followed by Matt. The conditions were far from perfect, recent rains had turned the water brown, with around 50-60 cm of visibility; this meant one could not see where the reed banks were, which made fishing difficult. The air temperature was exceeding 30 degrees and Arthur's trusty thermometer was reading a water temperature of 20 deg. at 2 meters deep. This was combined with a mild down-valley breeze, blowing for the first part of the day, followed by an up-valley breeze in the afternoon. The warm weather had definitely got the bugs hatching, as there were fish porpoising, unfortunately, due to the wind, the bugs were being blown all over the place, resulting in the rises being consistent, but random in their location. John was the first on the board with a feisty trout caught on a brown Mitch's special fly, (similar to a Montana,) fished slowly on a sinking line, at the stream inlet, opposite the cottage. A while later Matt got his first fish, which was a lovely mature cock fish, around 45cm, on an olive Zonker fished slowly on an intermediate line. This was soon followed by a second fish, of around the 35cm mark (stockie,) on the same fly and a third fish, also a Stockie, caught on an olive Woolly Bugger, on the bottom of a washing line, suspended under a strike indicator. As the afternoon wore on, Arthur went tight and put his first fish on board, using an olive Papa Roach. John lost what may have been the fish of the trip, when he was snapped off by a beast, fishing a Spider on a sinking line. After snapping him off the fish proceeded to jump twice trying to shake the fly free, this gave John, Arthur and myself a view of what could have been. Once the sun had set and dark was rapidly approaching, the dam came alive, with trout consistently porpoising in a defined area, Matt eagerly put a large DDD and suspended 2 buzzers about 50cm apart from it. It didn't take long for a good size fish to eat the top buzzer, unfortunately, Matt was unable to keep its head up with his 4wt, as it dived into the reed bed below. He managed to pull the fish out the reeds, but there was a big lump of reeds on the top and bottom fly, that allowed the fish to wriggle free once it got up to the surface. As fast as the action started, so it died and shortly after, there were no more fish rising and that marked the end of the first day.

We woke up to a beautiful still morning on the Saturday; early on there were quite a few fish porpoising along the dam wall side of the dam, eating the left-overs from the previous day's hatch, that had been blown to that side of the dam. However, as the sun hit the water, the fish moved deeper and the morning session was slow. For most, the main excitement of the morning was Sakkie, capsizing his kick boat, till now, I am not entirely sure how it transpired, but luckily Sakkie made it to the side in one piece, with the help of Steve and John. *(A combination of underinflated pontoons and Sakkie not having connected his sneaker motor to the battery before leaving the shallows. This meant he had to finish off the job in deep water. Not the easiest of tasks. Ed.)* His pontoon was not as lucky; while he was thrashing about, with his fly line wrapped up in his legs, he managed to drive a fly hook deep into the pontoon and worked open a decent size hole. I now believe there is a free battery for anyone willing to spend a bit of time to locate it and dive it out.



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On the fishing front John seemed to have the best success on a small brown streamer, with lots of gold flash. He managed an impressive haul of 2 fish that morning and a couple of lost fish. After Brunch the wind started to blow down the valley with a bit of gusto, the sun was out and the temperature was into the 30's again. The afternoon session started with more boating excitement as a patch on Matt's kick boat had come loose in the heat and he rapidly started sinking, as he tried to kick through the waves, to the far bank. Luckily, he noticed early and with some handy weight shifting, he managed to get back to the cottage just in time. We proceeded to patch up the tubes, thanks to Steves repair kit. Unfortunately, the remainder of the day was tough with no other fish coming to net. The rains came through later in the evening.

Sunday morning, we woke up to strong winds, mist and light rain. Matt was the first on the water, he managed 2 fish on an olive Zonker quite quickly, while fighting the wind in the kick boat. After that, things went a bit quiet, but just before brunch the fish came on the bite on the far bank, where Matt managed to land the biggest fish of the trip, a respectable 54 cm female. Due to the wind and the difficulty it was causing to fish the area effectively on the kick boat, he decided to go to shore and fish the area from the bank. This decision was well rewarded, as he managed to catch another 2 fish, both over 40 cm and lost another 2 close to shore. The fish were caught by fishing two Zonkers; an olive one with yellow flash as the belly, as the top fly and a brown one with gold flash as the second fly. The bites then disappeared with another wave of rain, as we headed in for brunch. After brunch the wind continued to blow, it was constantly changing direction, as the afternoon went by. John and Arthur managed to each get a fish. As the day progressed the wind and mist started to break up a bit and Steve ventured out onto the water. He managed to land a nice size trout, which he promptly dropped before we could take any photos. This brought an end to the days fishing and we retreated to the comfort of the cabin, where we indulged in Arthur's famous snacks and our drinks of choice.

Monday morning started with intermittent up-valley wind and rain. A couple of fish were porpoising now and then near the dam wall. With patience and persistence Matt managed to intercept one of these fish with a small CDC Emerger. The fish was a respectable 47cm. Shortly after that, the wind started to howl, as a storm front hit and chased everyone off the water. There was just time for us to pack up and make our way home. The final fish tally was a respectable 16 fish over the weekend.

Big thank you to all the Gentleman that came along on the trip, special thanks to Steve and Arthur for doing the catering.

Monthly meeting. Umtentweni Tennis Club. Thursday 29th October.

Present: 17 members. **Apologies:** Warren, Dave S and Elisa, Matt.

Flies of the Month. Judged by Neil.
Freshwater: Bal Byter: Sean, Dick, Sean, Bryce, Pieter C., Arthur, Pieter C.
Saltwater: Crazy Charlie: Arthur, Dick, John, Sean, Sean, Pieter C., Bryce.
Freestyle: Pieter C. (Orange Surprise.)

General:

Sakkie gave a report on the Wattled Crane trip (see article by Matt above) and a detailed account of his kick-boat-capsize.

Pieter C. described a water-proof holder that he has fashioned out of a plastic drain pipe, which he uses to keep his cell phone and car keys safe, when he ventures out on his kick-boat.

Mike S. described his frustration in trying to cast a 13ft double-handle Spey rod on a recent trip to Scotland. This, when the Scottish owner made it look so easy.

Dave M. mentioned that the new Marine Resources Act has been published, but he has not yet studied it to see if it affects fly angling at all.



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Neil gave a brief report on his recent fishing trip to Mozambique. This was not specifically a fly-fishing trip, he did take his trusty 7 wt rod and managed to land one of the many Snapper species that inhabit that part of the world.

As he had promised Pieter vd M had brought the 2027 Raffle Sheets, which Steve handed out. Those members who have not received a sheet, are asked to contact Steve, so that they too can sell these and help with club funds. The prizes are the flies that have been tied for the FotM during 2026/27 and will be drawn at prize giving in March 2027.

Steve reported that he had fished his dam during the week and had landed 7 small bass on fly. Anglers using bass lures had however landed a number of big bass and a monster tilapia. All fish were safely returned to the water.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



If anyone knows of someone who is looking to get rid of fly-tying material, Cathy Raw, of Wattled Crane, would be grateful of any donations. Her boys are getting into the fly-fishing game and want to start tying their own flies. Cathy is willing to pay for any excess or unwanted material. Contact her directly or give me a shout, if you can help.



It is once again, that time of year, when we should start thinking of what flies we would like to tie for the 2027/2028 Fly of the Month competition, which kicks off in April. We need 10 salt water and 10 freshwater recipes of flies that: 1. Catch fish. 2 Require materials that are relatively easy to acquire.
Drop a line with your proposals to Dick, who will be doing the flies for 2027 and beyond, or to any one of the committee members, listed at the head of this newsletter.

Last Cast.

Nothing for me to add, except to say hope to see you at the two outings and meetings that we have this month.

Cheers Arthur.

