



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER

August 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.

A full newsletter this month and a lot on the go for the up-coming couple of months. As it is difficult to select only a few items, why stress as to which of these you really want to attend? Just attend them all and we all win.

Enjoy.

Events calendar

Date	Event	Venue	Time
August 9 th	Salt water outing	Mzamba	06h30
August 12 th	Fly-tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15
August 12 th	Travel and grub meeting	Neil's home	After fly-tying
August 16 th to 21 st	Salt water outing	St Lucia & Cape Vidal	TBA
August 27 th	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 16h30
September 2 nd	Committee meeting	Neil's home	18h15
September 6 th	Casting clinic	Sunwich Port	07h00
September 9 th	Fly-tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15
September 9 th	Travel and grub meeting	Neil's home	After fly-tying
September 18 th to 21 st	Trout outing	Crystal Waters	TBA
September 24 th	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30

Coming Events.

We will once again try **Mzamba on Sunday 9th August for a salt water outing.** If the sards have brought the shad along with them, we may have some action, which has been sadly missing for the last few saltwater outings. Meet at the gate to the Wild Coast Casino entrance gate at 06h30. Braai afterwards. Don't forget your fishing licences.

At the **fly-tying Workshop being held at Neil's home on Wednesday 12th August, at 18h15,** we will tie the freshwater Simulid Nymph and the saltwater Pink Clouser Minnow. Members should have received the relevant recipes by the time they receive this newsletter.

The grub and travel meeting for the trip to St Lucia and Cape Vidal will be held after the fly-tying workshop on the 12th.

The chaps going to St Lucia and Vidal will leave around 11ish on Sunday 16th August, in order to arrive in St Lucia after lunch. Once again fishing licences are mandatory, as you may well be asked to produce yours.

The Monthly Meeting is at the Umtentweni Tennis Club on Thursday 27th August at 18h00 for 18h30. Flies that will be judged are the Simulid Nymph and the Pink Clouser Minnow.

The Committee Meeting is at Neil's home on Wednesday 2nd September.



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As requested by Sean at the June meeting, **a casting clinic has been arranged for Sunday, September 6th at Sunwich Port.** Park in front of Orcas Restaurant and Sean will give us some tips on improving our casting in the bay to the right. Bring a floating or intermediate line, as this bay is fairly rocky. Braai after the clinic and fishing, so BYO.

Costs for the trout outing to **Crystal Waters from 18th to 21st September** will vary according to the number of members who are going, but will be between R1600.00 and R1800.00. Steve will send out details soon. (Note the club will pick up the tab for about half the accommodation costs.) Steve says there are still spots available, so if you want to go, give him a shout now. (082 551 9010.) A rod fee of R 150.00 per day is also charged. The dam reportedly holds big fish and was stocked when Frank was there six weeks ago. contact Steve immediately

Past events.

Saltwater outing to Ramsgate Granny Pool. Sunday 12th July. By Arthur Cary.

For once, very few anglers turned up for this outing. Whether it was the threat of rain (that was predicted by Wind Guru, but did not materialise) or whether it was the fact that Steve did not send out a reminder SMS, (checking to see who reads the newsletter) or just a plain lack of interest on the part of club members, I do not know. Sorry you lost, because it was a super morning, albeit very disappointing from a catch point of view.

The fact of the matter is that only John and Arthur fished the Southbroom Granny Pool area, while Steve tried a stone's throw further south at Shad Beach. Robyn and Sakkie came for a look see, saw nothing, and had a bit of a chat on the beach and in the car park instead. More productive than the fishing was.

Steve managed one Wave Garrick on a lime-green Surf Puff at his spot, while Arthur caught a very small one, on an orange Crazy Charlie. The surf north of Port Shepstone had been huge for the last few days, but the water down south was very presentable indeed.

Lots of white water, with waves measuring less than half a metre in height and no vicious backwash, was obviously not to the liking of the resident fish; that is if there were any residents at home!! Oh well, we will just have to try some other venue, possibly when the sardines have come and gone. Mzamba is the place to be on the 9th August. Diarise the date now and be there.

Private trip to Mountain Lake. Friday 10th July to Sunday 12th July. By Dick Plaistowe.

Neil, Frank and myself braved a fishing trip to Mountain Lake in the middle of winter, leaving very early, for me at least, at 06.00, when I'm normally still sound asleep. The temperature was down to 5 degrees Celsius, whilst driving near Kokstad, so we were somewhat apprehensive as to what it would be up on the mountain, at Mountain Lake.

As it turned out there was no need to worry, it was cold at the lake, but tolerable for fishing, wearing warm clothing and gloves. The water temperature was the biggest challenge, at 11 degrees on Neil's thermometer, and 4 on mine, which we decided must be faulty, numbingly, cold even through 5 mm neoprene socks, after about two hours on the water.

On arrival in Matatiele we checked out our accommodation at Resthaven BnB, which Neil had booked before heading to the Lake. The dirt road to the Lake is in good condition and we were on the water around 10h30, at least Neil was and then Frank a bit later and I maintained my reputation, by being a bit slower, but was on the water by shortly after 11h00. The wind was off the Berg and cold, a bit strong when gusting, but generally fishable. The water was clear and cold. We had been informed by the Security guard at the Reserve entrance gate, that we had to be out by 16h00, which dictated that we could only fish until 15h00. Frankly, this was fine, as by then our feet needed to thaw out.

Neil and I both landed a single solid 48-50cm fish on Friday, Neil on one of his superior Papa Roach dragon fly nymphs, his go-to fly, and I caught on a green Red Eyed Damsel, which was my go-to fly for the whole weekend. The weather on Saturday had improved, still cold, but minimal wind. Each of us landed a fish of round 30 cm which, we assume was from the 2024 stocking, we understand that the Lake was not stocked in 2025, and I also landed a beautiful 56 cm Rainbow hen, which was fat with eggs. I witnessed multiple fish spawning on the shallow sandstone edges at the southern end of the Lake, which may explain the slow fishing.



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Final fish caught was Neil and Frank 2 each and Dick 4. Not great, but was definitely an enjoyable weekend outing and to be repeated.

A final thought. Municipal employees were seen on two occasions, visiting the cottage for maintenance and claim that the cottage is now habitable. However, there is still no running water, which means having to collect water from the Lake to flush the toilet and boil water for the shower, which is a bit of a shlep, but doable. The Resthaven BnB provided comfortable beds and linen, a well-appointed bathroom with a shower, bath and toilet and more importantly, with abundant hot water and the kitchen was adequately equipped. Nonetheless, my personal preference would always be to stay at the cottage on the Lake - no need to disassemble the kick boats, earlier on the water, great view and ambience, and no need to do the daily up and down to Matat.

Club trip to Mountain Lake. Friday 24th July to Monday 27th July. By Arthur Cary.

For the benefit of the few readers of our newsletter, who reckon that the important statistic of a fishing trip is, "How many fish did you chaps catch?" let me get that out of the way. Neil, John and Arthur landed 5 trout. Correction to that statement: Neil and John landed 5 trout. Arthur had a total blank.

The trio got away a few minutes before the appointed 05h30 departure time on Friday morning, and made good progress, in spite of having to negotiate the 52 speed humps between Kokstad and Matat. (Yup, I counted them!) A quick stop to get 3 bags of firewood and then the climb up to the lake. The road is actually not in bad condition at present. Don't try it in your Porsche, but it is fine in a company owned 4x4!!

We found the cottage to be in pretty good shape as well. It is equipped with a relatively new gas operated fridge and freezer and a 4-plate gas stove, in which the oven worked like a charm. The two bedrooms are still fitted with a single and a bunk bed each, mattresses are in good nick, even if the one bunk bed is 60 cm shorter than the mattress. ??? As a precaution we gave the mattresses a good going over with Doom, but no one suffered the itches in the morning, so all was good.

A quick snack of pies, Cup o' Soup and sarmies saw us launch and we headed off in different directions. An occasional zephyr from the west would cause a slight ripple to the glass-like surface, but apart from that, the water was dead calm. The sun occasionally hid briefly behind a cloud floating around, which caused an immediate drop in temperature, but as soon as that moved off, it warmed up considerably.

Neil headed east, towards the dam wall, while Arthur and John had a look-see in the western shallows. We met back at the cottage some 4 hours later. Arthur had not had a touch. John had landed two stockies and missed four others, using a black Woolly Bugger. Neil had of course started with his famed Papa Roach and then changed to a sort-of Cactus Chenille Blob Fly with an orange tail, that he had tied on a # 8 hook. He landed one stockie near the toilet on the bend to the bay, opposite the wall of the lake. His next take was one of a life-time. He felt the bite, struck and instinctively knew that this was a good fish. When the lady realized that her progress was being somewhat impeded, she took off at a rate of knots, Neil managed to free the tangle of line in his basket and got her onto the reel. She then turned and came rushing back towards him like a homed-in torpedo. Skill and a wee spot of luck ensured that she did not throw the hook and he finally landed his biggest trout to date: a monster that measured 65 cm. According to the Conversion Factor for trout that means that she was getting on for at least 4 kg. With that under his belt, he packed it in and headed for home.

A few celebratory cold ones, a hearty meal and a good night's sleep saw us awake to the same dead calm conditions. Not a cloud in the sky and the temperature climbing nicely as the sun warmed us up, before we again headed west. Conditions were such that Neil had hardly used his motor the day before, so he discarded it, whereas John and Arthur did not even have theirs. Back for brunch after 3 hours and not a touch to show for our collective efforts. Back on the water after a short kip and a return to the cottage after another fruitless 3 hours for John and Arthur. Neil managed one stockie on his Blob.

Sunday was another mostly absolutely calm day. The morning session was again without a single touch, even though we tried a variety of flies.

In the afternoon John headed west and was rewarded with a good hit from a monster, but this fish had been pricked many times before and managed to shake the fly with some acrobatic leaps. He also hooked a stockie, but this one also somehow discarded the hook.



Both fish responded to his offering of a Walker's Killer.

Neil and Arthur went hunting along the eastern shores. There were two locals who wanted to catch a few fish in order to strip the females of their eggs and fertilize these with sperm from the males. Their strategy was to chum the area with fish pellets and roe and cast their egg pattern flies (using a karenteen type multi hook rig) a short distance over the chum. This method worked like a charm and they caught a number of fish. How successful their breeding will be, I'm not sure, because this was not being done under very hygienic or controlled conditions, but good luck to them.

Once again using conventional flyfishing tactics, proved totally worthless for Neil and myself, as we did not have a single knock all afternoon.

Despite the lack of abundant fish, we had a really good trip, Good company, good food and weather that would have been perfect if we had been on holiday, but a shade on the calm side for fishing. SCFA members have been visiting Mountain Lake since the mid-nineties, when the club started and I'm sure that no one has ever experienced the calm conditions for three days in succession, that we had. It was only on Monday morning that we had sufficient wind to rattle the loose sheet of roofing on the north-west corner of the cottage. Regular visitors know that sound only too well!!

Mountain Lake, we will be back.

Monthly Meeting. Umtentweni Tennis Club. Thursday 30th July.

Present: 14 members.

Apologies: Rob, Dick, Mitch, Toi, Mike S.

Visitors: Bright Mellors, Alun Soloman.

Fly of the Month. Judged by Frank.

Freshwater: **Timberline Emerger:** Neil, Pieter C. Arthur, Sean, Sean.

Saltwater: **Maxi's Dog's Breakfast:** Neil, StevE, Sean, Pieter C. John, Arthur, Sean.

Freestyle: Sean, (Crazy Craw,) Pieter C. (Brown Tail,) Pieter C. (Original Maxi's Dog's Breakfast.)

General:

John asked if anyone had a spare floating line for a youngster who was looking for one. Sean offered one of his and will make arrangement to get it to mike K. Thanks Sean.

Arthur thanked everyone for their good wishes on the occasion of his and June's recent anniversary.

Frank gave an account of his recent trip to Mountain Lake (See article by Dick above.)

Dave offered a weak excuse about pulling a calf muscle while undergoing a medical exam, as the reason for not bringing his flies for the competition. This was unanimously rejected by all present.

Sean mentioned that the authorities have erected signs at Impenjati warning visitors of the dangers of pollution in the estuary. It is claimed that the situation is being monitored, but who knows what this actually means?

Pieter C. gave an account of how well a group of youngsters had done in recent offshore fishing compos.

Visitor Bright Mellors said that he has done a fair bit of fly fishing, but wants to really get into it. (*Welcome Bright. We trust that you will complete the entry form, forward it to Secretary Dick and pay the boodle to Steve. Hope to see you at the up-coming events and meetings. Ed*)

Ex member, Alun Soloman, left the south coast for the UK, eight years ago, decide that there is no place like home and has recently returned to Uvongo. (*Welcome back Alun. Good to have you in our midst again and hope to see you at events as soon as your tackle arrives. Ed.*)

Neil gave a report on the recent club trip to mountain Lake. (See Arthur's article above.)

As usual, Steve tabled his up-to-date financial report, which shows that finances are slightly above last years total. Sponsorship for the Crystal Waters trip in September will only make a slight dent in these, so all is still good.



Fry Fingerling and Stocky stories.



Don't forget the RAUFFFF, (Raw African Unfiltered Fly-Fishing Film Festival) being screened at the Rhumbelow Theatre in Durban on Monday 18 August. Contact Piet (083 543 7005) to arrange transport, if you want to go.

Films covering tigerfish, yellowfish, trout, garrick, tarpon and more - on the big screen.

Doors open at 5:30pm. Casting demonstration before the screening. Films at 7:00pm. Prize giving at close.

Prizes include a week for one at Alphonse Island in the Seychelles (value R250,000.00,) a four-night stay for two at Ichingo Chobe River Lodge on the Zambezi and guided trips to the Eastern Cape, Garden Route and elsewhere. Tickets are R330 per person and include entry into the prize draw.

Rhumbelow Theatre Northlands Bowling Club. Contact number 082 499 8636

50a Margaret Maytom Ave, Durban North, Durban, 4051.

Last Cast.

Well, the sardines seem to have gone, shad, kob and garrick are being caught by bait anglers all along the coast, so why not try your luck with fly.

Be sure to join the gang for the trip to Mzamba on the 9th and contact Neil about the St Lucia trip, although you may be too late for this one.

Cheers, Arthur.

