



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER October 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.

Our Events Calendar seems to be one of either feast or famine, these days. Last month was one of famine, whereas this October has a full feast, with 10 days devoted to fly-fishing activities of one sort or another. Hope to see many of you at most of these. Cheers Arthur.

Events calendar

Date	Event	Venue	Time
October 4th	Bass outing	Voigts' Dam	07h00
October 7th	Fly-tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15
October 12th	Grub and Travel meeting	Dougie's Sports Bar.	18h00
October 16th to 19th	Trout outing	Wattled Crane	TBA
October 26th	Grub and Travel meeting	Neil's home	18h00
October 28th	Committee meeting	Dick's home	18h00
October 29th	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
November 2nd to 6th	Yellowfish outing	Sterkfontein	TBA
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.

On **Sunday October 4th**, we have a **Bass outing to Voigts' Dam in Paddock. Braai after the fishing.** We had originally scheduled a Yellowfish outing in the Umzimkulwana River, but with the recent rains, we suspect that the river will be murky, so "a bass fishing we shall go."

At the **fly-tying Workshop to be held at Neil's home on Wednesday 7th October, at 18h15**, we will tie the freshwater Bal Byter and the Crazy Charlie. SCFA members should have received the relevant recipes by the time they receive this newsletter.

The grub and travel meeting for those going on the trout trip to Wattled Crane on the 16th, will be held at Dougie's Sports Bar in Uvongo, on Monday the 12th October, at 18h00.

Trout trip to Wattled Crane from Friday 16th October to Monday 19th October. Cost is now R 400.00 per night and a once-off cleaning fee of R 300.00, split between those on the outing. There is still a spot or two open, so contact Steve (082 551 9010) if you are interested in going.

The Grub and Travel meeting for the Sterkfontein trip, will be held at Neil's home on Monday 26th October, at 18h00.

There is a **Committee Meeting at Dick's home, on Wednesday 28th October, at 18h00.**

Monthly Meeting is at the Umtentweni Tennis Club on Thursday 29th October, at 18h00 for 18h30. Flies that will be judged are the Bal Byter and the Crazy Charlie.

The Sterkfontein Yellowfish trip, is from Monday 2nd November to Friday 6th November. Neil is co-ordinating this one, so contact him on 083 265 6608, if you want to be included.



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Past events.

Casting Clinic. Held at Douglas Mitchell Sports Grounds. Sunday 6th September. By Arthur Cary.

Despite the threat of cold and heavy rain, there was a good turn-out of members for this event. Great to see, Marion, Elisa and David S. there, as well as visitor, Dave Lambley.

Pieter did a grand job in eventually securing a venue, after being given a 4-day run-a-round. The field was a little on the squishy side, but nothing with which we could not cope. Many thanks to Jaques of Dougies, for the use of the rugby field.

The ten or so anglers who attended, brought a selection of about 20 rods, loaded with a variety of lines and it was interesting to feel how one had to adapt ones casting style when using the fast, medium and slow action outfits. It was also interesting to hear that not all anglers agreed which combination of rod and line was "Perfect" and which was "Very difficult to throw." This opinion of course depended largely on what one was used to and how quickly one could adapt to the different set-up.

Sean was very helpful in giving advice on how much line to aerialize, on restricting the number of false casts and on timing the double haul.

Not all went to according to plan during the morning, as Dick's Sage Xi3 9 wt. rod decided that it was tired of being a four-piece and was in fact more suited to being a five-piece outfit.

This is apparently a Heritage rod, which according to Google means that the rod loads deeper down in the handle. The blank is also specially selected and the rod is hand-built by 27 different craftsmen during production. This of course adds significantly to the cost of the finished product.

As the rod has a lifetime warrantee, the broken section will be replaced by a graphite section, specially rolled and baked by the craftsmen who built the rod. Sounds great, except for the fact that the rod has to be returned to Washington DC, at small cost of about R 4000.00 for shipping, which somewhat takes the gloss off this cherry. *(In my inexpert opinion, one can get 2 or 3 locally produced rods for this price, which may possibly perform just as well as the Sage, if you are lucky. Jealousy makes me nasty. AJC.)*

All in all, the clinic was a very useful exercise and thanks once again to Pieter C, to Sean and to Dougies for a most enjoyable morning.

Trout trip to Crystal Streams. Friday 18th September to Monday 21st September. By Sakkie Mckay.

The following members fished those waters on the dates mentioned viz: Steve, Mitch, Neil, John, Sakkie, Pieter C, Dave M. and Kevin. The weather was not kind on the Friday of our departure as the skies opened and it was rain all the way. No fishing was done as we huddled in the two cottages with a fire going to keep out the cold and wind.

On the Saturday the sky was clearer and we were able to launch the kickboats and take part in putting lines into the water. Alas the cold front was evident as the fish were scarce and ducked for cover. Apart from a few bumps only Pieter and John were fortunate enough to each land a single fish. Sunday was also a sunny day but here again the fish were nowhere to be seen with Pieter landing a solitary 1.

The scenery surrounding the venue is stunning with snow on the mountains and the cottages were well equipped with the necessary fridges, microwaves and cutlery. The one drawback was that only one cottage had a shower with the other a sunken bath. To certain senior citizens this was a definite No No as getting in was fine but getting out was a nightmare.

However the normal banter and laughter was abound even though the fishing was not up to our usual standard. Would I go back, in hindsight I would say NO. but that's my thought entirely.

Monthly Meeting. Umtentweni Tennis Club. Thursday 24th September.

Present: 11 members. **Apologies:** Matt, Warren, Conner, Pieter C., Dave M., Alun.

Visitors: Stacey Tharratt, James Cary.



Fly of the Month. Judged by Sakkie.

Freshwater: Copper John: Sean, Bryce, Bryce, Dick, Arthur.

Saltwater: Craft Fur Baitfish: Dick, Sean, Arthur.

Freestyle: Nil.

General:

Sean was thanked for his help at the Casting Clinic. (See report above). Steve suggested that at future clinics, members bring their rods and Sean appraise their casting action with the rods with which they are familiar.

Steve tabled the financial report, which shows that club funds are slightly up on last year. This is indeed good news, in light of the fact that the club picked up a tab of over R 3000.00 for the recent trip to Crystal Waters. Once again, thanks to Steve for keeping a beady eye on our well-being.

Fry Fingerling and Stocky stories.



Ex founder member of SCFA, Gerald Mc Cay, donated a few unwanted items to the club. These were on display at the September monthly meeting and were quickly snatched up. Steve secured the tow and tensioning straps and a gas bottle and lamp, while John bought the air compressor. He also took a two-piece 9ft 9/10 wt Elbe fly rod, (donated some time back by the late John Gibbon, who incidentally was also a founder member of SCFA.) Both Gerald and the late John are gratefully thanked for these donations, which have helped keep club funds on a relatively even keel.

I still have a unique Edgar Sealey Stowaway, 4-piece fly and spinning rod. This 10ft outfit, consists of 6 lengths of 75 cm, the end two of which, can be exchanged to alternate between a fly rod and a bass rod. Reasonable offers will be considered. This rod will be available at the Bass Outing at Voigts' Dam on the 4th October, together with a fly reel and suitable line as well as a coffee grinder and bass lures, where members will be able to try out the different set ups.



Unfortunately, the cost of a trip to Wattled Crane has again had to be raised. Cost per person, per night is now R 400.00, with a minimum charge of R 1200.00. There is also a once-off cleaning fee of R 300.00, which is split between those who helped in making the mess over the week-end! Getting steep, but still good value for money, when compared to other venues.



There has been a lot of hype on social media and elsewhere regarding the wash-up of sardines along the South African west, south and Transkei coasts during August and September. Whether these deaths are due to a Pilchard Herpesvirus (PHV,) high (or low) water temperatures or some other bacterium infection, depends on which publication you are reading. Authorities are warning beachgoers not to handle these fish, but I have heard that thousands of fish have been consumed in the Transkei and other areas and as far as I know, the consumers have shown no ill effects. However, if they do wash up in our neck of the woods, take care.



A reminder for those going to Sterkfontein, that the 4th of November is election day. It would be a good idea to organise a special vote, so that you can jot down your cross before you go away. I believe that the October 12th is last day to register for these special votes.

Last Cast.

Nope. Nothing more from me. I have said enough this month.

Cheers, Arthur.

