



## South Coast Fly Anglers



### NEWSLETTER September 2026

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**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)

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#### Preparing to cast.

We once again have a relatively short Events Calendar this month. This will however, be rectified at the Committee Meeting, which is to be held early in September.

Please take note that the venue of the Casting Clinic on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> has been changed. Pieter C. has been unable to secure a suitable venue for this, at the time of going to press. Steve will send out an SMS when a venue has been finalised. Sunwich Port is unsuitable because it has become very busy over a week-end, the beach is at present unpleasantly steep and I think that we will get a greater attendance down south, than at the northern venue. No braai facilities at the chosen venue, but we may pop into the pub for some liquid refreshment after the clinic finishes.

#### Events calendar

| Date                                           | Event                   | Venue                  | Time            |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| September 2 <sup>nd</sup>                      | Committee meeting       | Neil's home            | 18h15           |
| September 6 <sup>th</sup>                      | Casting clinic          | TBA                    | 07h00           |
| September 9 <sup>th</sup>                      | Fly-tying workshop      | Neil's home            | 18h15           |
| September 16 <sup>th</sup>                     | Travel and grub meeting | Neil's home            | 18h00           |
| September 18 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> | Trout outing            | Crystal waters         | TBA             |
| September 24 <sup>th</sup>                     | Monthly meeting         | Umtentweni Tennis Club | 18h00 for 18h30 |

#### Coming Events.

The **September Committee Meeting** is at Neil's home on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 18h00**. Neil will supply supper, but committee members please bring your own liquid refreshments.

SCFA members are once again reminded that any suggestion of a venue for an outing will be considered. Just drop a line to any committee member before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept.

The **venue for the casting clinic on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September has not yet been finalised**. Pieter C. has been given a real run-around in trying to secure a suitable venue. Steve will send out an SMS when we know for sure where this will be held.

Sean will give us some tips on how to improve that vital aspect of fly fishing. **Be there at any time after 07h00**. No braai, but we may pop into a local restaurant after the clinic finishes.

At the **Fly-Tying Workshop, which is being held at Neil's home on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**, we will tie the Copper John and the Polar Fibre Bait Fish. By the time that members read this, they should have received recipes for these flies. If not, give Arthur a shout.

The **Grub and Travel Meeting for those going to Crystal Waters on the 18<sup>th</sup> will be held at Neil's home on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 18h00**.

The **trout outing to Crystal Waters is from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September**.

The **Monthly Meeting is, as usual, at the Umtentweni Tennis Club on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, at 18h00 for 18h30**. Flies that will be judged are the Copper John and the Polar Fibre Baitfish.



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**Past Events.**

**Saltwater Outing to Mzamba. Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August.** By John New.

We met at the entrance to the casino, but had to wait for Pieter C. who took a while to cover the 7 kilos. from his home. We got to the beach just after low tide.

The sea looked good, but there was a big sand bank. Sean started in the river, while Neil walked north and the rest of us fished in-between, Sean got a good pull and a then caught a wave garrick; Neil saw fish, but did not catch. Kevin missed two wave garrick; Steve missed out: Sakkie had the tail of his fly bitten off and John had a nice pull and then caught a small wave garrick.

There was no hassle from DAFF.

**Saltwater outing to St Lucia and Cape Vidal. Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August.** By Dick Plaistowe.

Dick, Sakkie, Sean and Neil Scott's brother, Dale, drove to Saint Lucia on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>, departing at a respectable time for a change at 09h00 and joined Neil at the La Rochelle complex around 14.00, after an uneventful drive.

We've had varied success at St Lucia and Cape Vidal over the years, with strong winds often being a major problem, particularly for the lefties, like myself. Last year was pretty much a non-event from a fishing point of view, but always good fun, being with a bunch of Club mates, who make the trip worthwhile.

Let me say at the outset that this trip was probably THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SCFA CLUB FLYFISHING TRIP EVER - 113 fish in effectively only 3 days fishing, where a "day's" fishing was probably no more than 4 hours per day. In fact, Sunday was windy and unpleasant and we fished for no more than an hour and Wednesday was perfect almost windless weather from 07h45 to 09h45, which turned out to be the lull before the storm and the end of our fishing trip, as Thursday was a gusting gale and no-one fished.

Dick made great use of Thursday morning, by going on a guided birding trip for 2,5 hours from 06h30 with a local guide, Ian Ferreira, who was simply superb and a whizz with his bird calling skills.

The final catch tally was an astonishing 49 shad, 2 Wave Garrick, 2 Thornfish and 2 Sand Steenbras for a total 55 fish for Sean; 33 Shad and 1 Wave Garrick for a total of 34 fish for Neil, followed closely by Dick and Sakkie- the reader can do the catch arithmetic themselves!!! 99 Shad, 10 Wave Garrick, 2 Thornfish and 2 Sand Steenbras.

The majority of the fish were caught at Vidal, maybe 150-200 metres north of the small bay and very close to the shore. We were kept on our toes and in truth were probably out-fished by another unknown fly fisherman on Thursday, who was fishing a pink and white Clouser. If only we'd known earlier and he wasn't letting on.

Sakkie has a message for Mike Skellern, to say that the fish were caught on a Pink Panther or a Yellow Peril.

What a great trip with a great bunch of mates - good company, good food, our fair share of good weather even for a "leftie" and great catches - our thanks as always to Neil for making La Rochelle available. Even the game viewing through the Isimangaliso Park on the way to Vidal was the best we've ever had, with sightings of Elephant, Buffalo, Waterbuck, Nyala, Bushbuck, Zebra, Kudu, Warthog, Hyena, and a pair of Leopard to top it off, plus some good birds as well.

The round - trip distance including going to Cape Vidal twice was 1192 kms on my vehicle, with a commendable consumption, for me at least, of 12.83 l/100 kms (my lowest consumption ever, which goes to show that speed is a problem, so drive slowly and get there cheaper).

**Monthly meeting. Umtentweni Tennis Club. Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August.**

**Present:** 16 members. Welcome to Bryce Mellors, who popped around last month to collect an application form, which he duly completed. We hope that your association with SCFA will be a long and mutually beneficial stay. It was also good to see Reagan, who has been absent for quite a while.

**Apologies:** Warren, Conner, Toi and Mike S., Robyn and David and Eliza.



**Flies of the Month.** Judged by Sakkie.

**Freshwater: Simulid Nymph:** Sean, Steve, Pieter C., Arthur, John and Dick.

**Saltwater: Pink Clouser Minnow:** Sean, Arthur, Pieter C., Steve, John.

**Freestyle:** Pieter C. (Brown Tail,) Pieter C. (Wing Back,) Pieter C. (Fluffy.)

**General:**

John mentioned that the casting clinic, scheduled for Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup>, should be moved from the proposed venue at Sunwich Port due to various reasons. After a discussion, it was decided that the clinic would not include a fishing outing and that it should be held on grass, not on a sandy beach. Pieter C. undertook to find an alternative and suitable venue.

Dick, Sean, Sakkie and Neil all added their pounds worth to the discussion on the trip to St Lucia and Cape Vidal. All in all, a most enjoyable and worth - while outing. (See Dick's report above.) In reply to a question from Mitch, it was generally agreed that a shad would give a better fight than a trout of the equivalent weight.

Both Dave M and new member Bryce reported that they had been on successful trout outings recently. Dave, got his in the Broederstroon Spruit in the Tzaneen district, while Bryce managed to land 14 rainbows and one brown in a small dam in the Harding district.

Steve mentioned that bass were being caught in deep water in his dam, by anglers using conventional tackle.

Due to the pressure of work, he has not been able to complete the clubs financial report this month, but it will be available at the September meeting.

We once again had a very pleasant braai to finish off the evening, thanks to Steve.

**Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.**



To read how Tasmania removed invasive carp from two lakes, go to Google and type in "Tasmania remove carp from two lakes." Although it took nearly 3 decades to remove the carp, authorities at last announced that these lakes were free from this exotic and invasive species, which had decimated trout fishing for years.

While trout are not native to Tasmania, the authorities realised the economic importance of trout fishing, and decided to get rid of the carp, which are also an exotic species there. A pity that our powers-that-want-to-be cannot get that done here.

**Last Cast.**

After reading Dick's report on the recent trip to St Lucia and Cape Vidal, my confidence in the angling expertise of SCFA members has been restored. Our poor catch record on the southern beaches is obviously only due to the lack of fish. Down here it would take a dozen outings to get to what was taken in 3 days up in Vidal. Even an expert cannot catch a fish that is not there!! Well done guys.

My apologies for the later-than-wished-for-newsletter this month, but Pieter C. is having a real problem in finding a suitable venue for the Casting Clinic, planned for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September. When it has been sorted, Steve will send out an SMS, so watch this space. Hope to have a good attendance on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for all your trouble, Pieter!

Cheers Arthur.

