



NEWSLETTER

February 2108

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Preparing to cast.

We once again have the usual calendar of up-coming club events, a couple of articles on our outings and meetings, as well as what is probably a contraversial article on fishing in hot weather. Let's hear your views. Cheers. Arthur

Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Outing</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
12 th February	Fly tying Workshop	Dean's home	18h30
18 th February	Bass outing	Allan Dates' dam	06h00 onwards
28 th February	Monthly meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
3rd March	Prize Giving	Steve's home	18h00 for 18h30
12 th March	Grub & travel meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00
16 th to 18 th March	Trout outing	Kokstad	TBA
24 th March	Salt water outing	Umtentweni beach	06h00
28th March	AGM	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
4 th April	Committee meeting	John's home	18h00
9 th April	Grub & travel meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00
11 th April	Fly tying Workshop	Dean's home	18h30
13 th to 15 th April	Trout outing	Matatiele Mountain Lake	TBA
22 nd April	Salt water outing	Nash	From 06h00
25 th April	Monthly meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00 for 18h30
7 th May	Fly tying Workshop	Dean's home	18h30
14 th May	Grub & travel meeting	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	18h00
18 th to 20 th May	Matatiele Trout Compo	Matatiele Mountain Lake	TBA
27 th May	Salt water outing	Southbroom Grannie's Pool	From 06h00

Coming Events.

12th February. Fly tying at Dean's home. We will be tying the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear and Ken and David's Crazy Charlie. Attendance at these workshops has fallen off a bit of late. Let's get it back to the 6 or 8 members that we had at one stage.

18th February. Bass outing. The Umzimkulu is still very dirty following good rains inland, so we will fish Allan Dates' dam. A braai fire will be available for a bit of a "do" after the fishing.

28th February. Monthly meeting. As usual this will be at the Ski Boat Club. 18h00 for 18h30.

3rd March. Prize giving at Steve's home. This is once again a family affair, so partners and family are most welcome. Bring your own meat for a braai and liquid refreshments. Bring your own plates, knives and glasses as well. (Steve and Belinda are tired of washing our dirty plates!) Salads will be provided by the club.

16th to 18th March. Trout outing to Kokstad. Full details of the trip will be finalised at the monthly meeting on 28th February and at the "grub and travel" meeting on the 12th March.

24th March. Salt outing to Tweni Grannies pool and beach. This area normally produces something, so be there to get your share.

28th March. AGM at the Ski Boat club.



Recent outings and meetings.

Saltwater outing to the Umzimkulu Mouth. Sunday 6th January. By Arthur Cary.

There was a fair turn out of 7 anglers for this, the first outing of 2018. Marion came along to ensure that the fishy stories did not get out of hand, while Steve popped in to deliver the braai grid and Mitch kept a beady eye on proceedings from the south bank. It was good to see that Bill came along to give his shoulder a test. He reported, "All A-OK"

Conditions for fishing were perfect, with a slight north east breeze, an outgoing followed by a turning tide and clean water, both in the estuary and in the surf. Although the shore break was minimal, there was a lot of water being pushed through the channel under the bridge; so much so, that John nearly took a swim on a couple of occasions.

As no one had informed the fish of this Utopia, only two "likkle ones" came to the party. John got a small yellow tail king fish on a green and grey Clouser in the estuary, while Arthur managed a single wave garrick on a brown and white Crazy Charlie in the surf.

This in itself was a bit surprising, as wave garrick normally move up and down the beach in small shoals, and one fish usually heralds a plethora of "takes." Admittedly Rob did have a couple of tentative bites, but not strong enough to result in a hook-up. He however, earned himself a fine for allowing some "toothed critter" to strip his red and white Deceiver of all the dressing, leaving only the hook with the silver body-wrap. As Rob does not tie his own flies, this was either a cheap bought job or more likely, one of Arthur's competition flies that was awarded at last year's end-of-year raffle. Rob, start saving for an attack by the Master-at-Arms at the AGM in March!

For once, and this does not happen often, Ken, David, Bill and Neil struck blanks, not getting a single touch all morning. The fact that a dozen bait fishermen fared little better than we did on fly, did not tell us why the fish were not interested in what we threw at them. If a lone angler, hurling a plug, could land two pick handle barracuda and a small king fish, a hundred metres upstream of us, why could we not do the same? Ah well, things should improve at the next outing.

Bass Fishing Outing to Dunstones Dam. 20 January. By Ken Schwartz.

Pat, Arthur, John, Jaco, Ken, David and Marion were all at the specified meeting place on time. We moved on to the dam, after wishing Pat all the best for his 80th birthday, which was on the day before.

It was cloudy, with some very light drizzle. Conditions were quite cool, which was a relief to the hot weather of the previous days.

Jaco tackled up quickly and was fishing from the bank, while the rest of us were busy setting up kick boats. He was soon into a small bass and we all felt confident that there would be a good mornings fishing ahead. Not long after we were all on the water, Mitch arrived and fished from the bank.

Floating and sinking lines were used. Although there was a lot of weed about, there were plenty of clear channels to get your line deeper down for those fishing with a sinking line. The water was quite warm, measured by Arthur at 25 degrees. It soon became obvious that there were plenty of small fish about. Often while retrieving you could feel your fly being knocked without any hook ups. It seemed as if some of the bass were even too small to take the fly on offer. Jaco gave us a demonstration on how to multi task, fishing and reporting on his progress on a cell phone at the same time.

The morning progressed with numerous small fish being hooked and lost or landed. Most fish were around 200 to 300 grams. The recurring question was how to hook up something of a reasonable size. There was even a suggestion, from those who should know better, of using a small bass on a big fly as live bait.

Probably the most excitement we had was being watched and spoken to by a large fish eagle, who at one stage showed a great deal of interest on a fish hooked by David. The catch record is given below. From the variety it seems apparent that the small bass were taking anything that moved in or on the water.

John	More than 30 fish including 1 tilapia. Mainly David's Demon, also a popper and a Grasshopper.
Arthur	10 on a Flipper. 2 on a Tadpole.
Pat	2 on a Mop fly (yes really!). 1 on an olive Woolly Bugger.
Jaco	5 on: Mrs Simpson, Hamill's Killer, Walker's Yellow Nymph, Woolly Bugger.
Ken	19 mainly David's Demon also a Walker's Killer and a Mrs Simpson.
David	10 mainly Walker's Killer also David's Demon.
Mitch	2 on a fly described to me as a "rubbery thing".



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Jaco continued fishing after we left so the record does not include any fish that he may have caught later. We had a most enjoyable braai afterwards, unfortunately the cloud cover had burnt off and the sun really started to bite.

A total of more than 78 fish were landed. Even though they were small, it was still a privilege to be out on the water in a beautiful setting with plenty of bird life and fish activity and the expectation that the next one could be the big one.

Thanks to Trevor Dunstone for allowing us access to the dam.

Monthly meeting. Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club. Wednesday 31st January.

Present: 15 including Mitch, who has not been to many meetings this year, due in part, to a gammy knee. Good to see you.

Visitors: Justin Brand, Steve's nephew, who may well become a convert at some stage.

Apologies: Pat, Ian, Keagan, Liam. Bianca and Duane tendered their apologies, but pitched up during braai time.

Flies of the Month for January: Judged by Steve.

Freshwater: Blood Worm Larva: Arthur, Dean, Neil, David, John, David, David, Arthur

Saltwater: Whistler: Dean, Arthur.

General:

Justin gave a short report on the KZNFFA trials that were fished at Giant's Castle recently. This was the first of more than half a dozen that will be fished this year. The competitors were nymphing for brown trout and a large number of 15 inch fish were caught, with the biggest measuring 34 inches. Justin won the 1st session and Liam won the 2nd session.

Steve reported that the club finances are still very, very healthy.

Flies of the year for 2018.**Flies for 2018**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Freshwater</u>	<u>Saltwater</u>
February	Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear	K.D.Killer Charlie
April	Peddar's Dragon	Crayfish
May	Vaalie Nymph	Karl's Lion Mane Crazy
June	Beaded Orange Hot Spot Nymph	Zambezi Killer
July	Baby Doll	Grunter Charlie
August	Griffith's Gnat	Organza Shrimp
September	Copper John	Soft Calamari
October	Hare's Ear Emerger	Polar Fibre Mullet
November	Two Tone Hot Spot Emerger	Duane's Fly
January 2019	Two Tone Hot Spot Caddis	Brush Shrimp

For those who have forgotten, here are the Flies of the Month that have been proposed for 2018.

Note: The Flytying Competition starts in February with the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear and Ken and Davids Crazy Charlie. Recipes and photos of both flies were sent out early in February. If you have not received these or cannot open them, give Arthur a shout.

If you would like to propose a substitute fly for any month, please contact a committee member timeously.

The advisability of "Catch and Release" fishing in extremely hot weather. By Arthur Cary.

If there are concurring or opposing ideas to those expressed below, please drop a line to Arthur and your article will be printed in next month's newsletter. Your silence will be taken as a sign that you agree with his views.

Warm weather has certainly taken it's time in reaching KZN in 2018, but in mid January seemed to have taken a really good hold, and if it was not for a daily dose of refreshing NE wind, locals would already be dying of the heat!

These temperatures, coupled with a lower-than-average monthly rainfall, have had an adverse effect on the water of local dams; the water temperature of a bass dam in Murchison on the 20th January, pushed the mercury to 25 degrees. While bass may possibly cope with the stress of being caught and released under these conditions, it is doubtful if trout are as resilient to this treatment.

The advisability of fishing for trout under these "warm water" conditions (ie 22 degrees and higher) can be seriously questioned, as the survival rate of fish released in this water, is surely below the average survival rate of fish released into cooler water.


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Consider this scenario: a trout seeks the cooler, deeper reaches of a dam in hot weather, but snatches up a passing morsel, which turns out to be a well presented nymph fly. Mr Trout is unceremoniously hauled up through layers of water of varying degrees, all the while putting up an initial, spirited resistance. However in the, for him, relatively "warm water" he has limited reserves of energy and soon tires, and is finally dragged along the surface in water of a temperature that he would never willingly enter. Mr Angler, although happy that he has broken his duck, is not entirely satisfied with the fight that his catch provided and after having taken the mandatory "selfie," weighs his catch and releases it into the warmest upper layer of water. Mr Trout, totally exhausted by the brief fight, is unable to swim strongly back to the cool waters and he languishes awhile in the mid waters, where temperatures are less than ideal for him. Under these circumstances, it takes longer for the build-up of lactic acid in the muscles to be absorbed and for the fish to return to a more normal state. This can lead to an abnormal acidification of the blood and a disruption of the normal metabolism.

Fish being cold blooded, assume the temperature of the water in which they are swimming; they have little tolerance of even a few degrees of rapid-change of water temperature and their whole metabolism is seriously adversely affected by the changes of temperature brought about by being pulled upward through the various layers of water and then having to traverse those same layers in reverse, on their way back to their comfort zone. No wonder that the fight is of short duration under these circumstances and no wonder that it is often difficult and on occasions impossible, to revive such a fish. Even if the prize does swim away, his chances of survival have been seriously jeopardised and it will probably die, which could occur up to 72 hours after being released.

While it is doubtful if closing the dam can be legally enforced in private waters, riparian owners could consider closing their trout waters to all fishing during an exceptionally warm spell. This would give the fish a chance to sit out the hot weather in relative comfort in water of their choice. If waters are not closed, thoughtful anglers should consider not fishing until the water temperature drops to an acceptable level, whatever this may be.

Could someone, more knowledgeable than I, throw some light on this "acceptable level"? If said angler "**has to fish**," the heaviest tackle should be used and the fish landed and released as rapidly and as gently as possible. If you have difficulty in reviving the fish, it is best to label it "a keeper" and take it home.

Note: This article was written **before** the following notes from Ken were received, but I saw no reason to change any of the views expressed above.

Ken spotted the following article in a recent copy of The Daily News newspaper:

Some tips for summer trout fishing, courtesy of the Natal Fly Fishers Club:

1. Use a thermometer and know your upper limits: 21 deg C for trout.
2. Don't take a knife to a gunfight: tippet up to get the fish in as fast as possible for a quick release.
3. Use a big net to hold the fish freely while recovering and keep them wet.
4. Don't handle the fish unnecessarily.
5. Timing is everything; a rainstorm can reduce water temperatures drastically so fish the day after.
6. Target other species: yellowfish, bass, carp and tilapia are the preferred species for the summer months.
7. Know when enough is enough. Catch a couple early on and call it quits when the heat sets in.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.

 The article on the SCFA trip to the Richtersveld has not been published in the February edition of Africa's Original Flyfishing Magazine (AOFM), but will appear in the April-May edition. As you will have seen in the DFT February edition of "The Bobbin" the AOFM will no longer be in glossy magazine format, but can be viewed on line by going to www.issuu.com and signing in. I must say that I certainly prefer to read a magazine!

 As mentioned in my note to SCFA members in January, Sheena Carnie, editor of the AOFM is always on the hunt for flyfishing articles, so if you have had a successful trip, be it saltwater or freshwater, drop her a line at [<sheena@mags.co.za>](mailto:sheena@mags.co.za).

 No article on the outing to The Pont by John and Arthur because neither of them had a touch the whole time that they were there. Their excuse is that the water was very, very dirty, due to the rain on the previous Monday evening.

Last Cast.

My line is tangled, so cannot cast anymore. Cheers Arthur.

