



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

December, 2022

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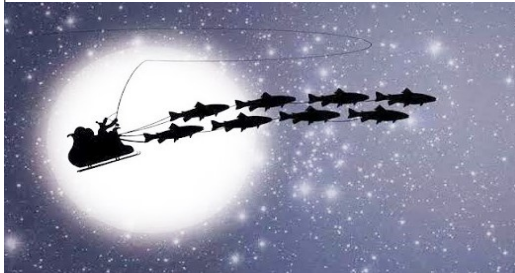
NEWSLETTER

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Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6 PM

Clinic -Casting, Tying,
Lunch - 3RD Saturday
9 AM



Christmas Party December 13

Scenic Hills Country Club
8891 Burning Tree Rd
Pensacola 32514 **6:00 PM**

Tickets online (\$32) on our website www.ffenwf.org
Last chance to get tickets: At our Meeting Dec. 6. \$30

Lots of Hors'deuvres served all evening and cash bar.

Raffle Prizes: Brand new

Echo Blue Boost 9' 9wt with beautiful blue hard case.

Donated by Bob Story, owner of Feather-Craft

Orvis Recon 9' 10wt rod

Orvis Recon 10' 8wt rod

Orvis Hydros IV reel with 8wt line

Orvis Hydros V reel WTH 10wt line

Yeti Cooler

Silent Auction: Quality used tackle from estates

Scott Fly Rod STS 6 wt. 9 ft. 3 Pc w/case & sock

Sage Fly Rod RPLX 10 wt. 9 ft. 3 pc w/case & sock

Thomas & Thomas Fly Rod 7/8 wt 9 ft. 2 pc w/case & sock

Redington Reel AS (5/6 wt.) w/ 6 wt. line and reel cover

Bauer Reel M4 (9-10wt.) 10 wt. line & extra spool - 9 wt. line

Tibor Rip Tide Reel 9-11 wt. w/10 wt. line

Raffle Tickets: \$5 or 6 / \$25 sold only at party.

Separate raffle for each rod and reel

Put tickets in the bag that goes with the prize you want

Silent Auction Bid Sheets will be by each auction item

Club Meeting Tuesday, Dec. 6 6:30 reminder – new start time
Last chance to get tickets for Christmas Party.
The program will be Fishing Arkansas' White River and Norfolk River

As per usual:

There will be NO Fly Tying or Clinic in December

THE PREZ SEZ:

The Flyfishers of NW Florida have enjoyed a very good 2022! From a very lucrative fundraiser auction to a successful FF101 school to the crowning achievement of being awarded FFI's McKenzie cup, it has been my privilege and distinct pleasure to have served as your President. So much so that I was inspired to stand for another term as President for 2023 and you all supported that decision.

So, before we look too far forward into 2023, let's wrap up 2022 with a bang and all get together for the fun and fellowship at the annual Christmas Party on December 13 at Scenic Hills Country Club. Tickets will still be available at the December 6 General Meeting. They can also be purchased online at the Club's website until Dec 6.
Here's wishing you all a Merry Christmas!

Mick

November Clinic



Fishing wih Capt. Baz



The **Running of the Bulls** started in earnest on Tuesday, November 2. It was my day off. I'd worked the day before and was fishing the same client the following day. Capt Dave took this photo in front of Battery Langdon at 0930 and texted me. My client was staying in town near Bagelheads and having breakfast when my text with Dave's photo arrived. Twenty five minutes later he was running out my dock where I eagerly awaited in the Mako with the motor running. We ran at top speed to the Gulf, turned east looking for my brother, but he was gone. I called him and found out the fish were moving southeast and were already well past the Ranger Station. Through binoculars I could see his boat, and off we went again. As we got closer we could see a huge flock of circling and diving pelicans, the redfish were exploding everywhere, and Dave's client was hooked up. I killed the engine as we slid into the school. There were fish on the surface all around the boat, but my client was experiencing the dreaded *RTS*... "response time syndrome". By the time he got line off the reel and made a cast the fish were gone. The pelicans started floating around waiting for something to happen, and we drifted with them. Some time later a small group of redfish popped up and we ran over to them, but once again *RTS* struck. The fish disappeared before the fly hit the water, and with that the ball game was over. We missed it by an hour and never saw another fish. Ran back to the house with our tail between our legs... Dammit man! This bull redfish fishing is feast or famine, and the **famine** part sure can be disappointing.

The **feast** happened six days later on November 8. Tim English from New Orleans was my client. We started at 0800 and circumnavigated Pensacola Bay looking for birds. Nada. So we ran to the Gulf and got out the binoculars. There was nothing to the east, but I could see 3-4 guide boats to the west past the Caucas Shoal. We cruised over there and sure enough a couple spin-fishing anglers were hooked up. There were no birds or any surface activity, and we assumed the fish were deep. But then I saw some reddish-brown water a couple hundred feet away which turned out to be hundreds of redfish swimming in tight formation a foot below the surface. Tim had his 8wt and chartreuse/white EP "peanut butter" loaded in the



LineTamer tube, made the cast, and the redfish fought for it. It took him 30 minutes to land his first fish. During that time the guide boat flotilla expanded to 10 boats, and they pummeling the school with lead jigs until the redfish went down and disappeared. By the time we took the photo and resuscitated Tim's fish all the boats were 2 miles to the west presumably following the school of redfish. We ran in their direction for a mile before turning back to our original spot hoping there might be a few stragglers left behind. We arrived, killed the engine, and drifted. It was only a few minutes before the reddish-brown school came to the surface again, and we quietly idled over to them. It was miraculous. We had them all to ourselves for the next hour, and Tim landed two more and lost a couple more. Numerous guide boats shot by us running hard to the west to catch up with their buddies, but not one of them noticed we were hooked up. I sat casually on the poling platform eating an apple, and Tim pointed his tip directly at the fish to keep the bend out of his fly rod. To the casual observer we looked like a couple guys drifting around taking a break. Hard to describe how much fun *that* was...



Finally the guide boats worked their way back close enough to see we were fighting a fish. When they descended upon us we decided to leave. It was close to the end of our 6hr trip, so we headed back toward the dock making a big turn through the bay from Buoy 22 to Town Point and then toward Deer Point. As we got close to



Deer Point I spotted some white water close to shore. From a distance it looked like confused boat wakes, but as we got closer it was obviously redfish blowing up in a school of menhaden. Tim



was already false casting as I slid into the school, and this redfish crushed his fly as soon as it hit the water. Once again it took him almost a half hour to land the bright orange beauty on his 8wt while we watched hundreds of redfish on the surface all the way across Santa Rosa Sound toward Chicken Bone Beach. Bright sunshine, glassy-calm water, and we were the only boat...a dream come true. Here's a nice shot of Tim's final redfish reflecting the 3 o'clock sun.

After hard back-to-back cold fronts we were finally able to get back out in the Gulf on November 14. Carl Huhnke was here from Wyoming and we spent a couple cold, rough, fruitless hours out there before retreating back to Pensacola Bay. After lunch the wind died, the water turned to glass, and



we saw the birds at Deadman's Island from a mile away. We arrived to fish busting menhaden all around us and a few other boats casually idling around as though it had been going on for some time. Carl was rigged and ready with an 11wt, and it blew his mind watching the bulls go berserk after his big popper. He landed these two fish and had a couple misses before the action stopped.

That's all she wrote for me and the 2022 Running of the Bulls, but I'm pleased to report there are lots of redfish and some really big trout on the flats. We found plenty of fish everywhere we went on November 27, and Vail snowboard instructor/god "Sando" landed his first redfish in 5 years. The water on the inside flats is as pristine as I've ever seen it, and the baitfish are still around in good numbers. Bodes well for the next few weeks.



Capt Baz



Project Healing Waters The last meeting of the year is Monday, December 5th, starting at 0930.

From our Friends at The Bream Fishermen Association,

We are happy to announce that our fundraiser Fish Fry will take place December 11, 2022. We have missed everyone and it's time to move forward with new projects and new energy, but we need your help!

BFA is more committed than ever to support sustainability concepts, citizen-based science, education about healthy watersheds for all ages, and water quality monitoring in the Pensacola Bay area.

Come support the BFA and hear live bluegrass music, check out arts and crafts by Pensacola Arts Market artisans, enjoy a fish fry, reconnect with old friends, and meet new ones from 11 AM - 3:30 PM at Miraflores Park. See BFA's new water quality & outreach/education van, obtained with a grant from Impact 100! Meet UWF student scientists & learn about their research projects! Renew your membership to help BFA's efforts or join for the first time for only \$20! Or make a one-time, tax-deductible gift of an amount you choose! Bring a friend, maybe a chair and your appetite - BFA needs your support to keep making a difference in our community.

If you think you'll be able to make it, please email and let us know!

TheBreamFishermen@gmail.com

Thank You, ***President Barbara Albrecht and the BFA Board***

Club meeting – November 1, 2022 Minutes George Norton, Secretary

1900 President called the meeting to order.
Minutes from last month were approved.

Treasurer's report: The club's finances are in excellent shape. The Treasurer will present the 2023 budget in January which will determine whether or not we need to raise dues for 2023 due to inflationary pressures.

Committee Reports: Nothing new to report. PHW Steering Committee consists of certain club members who help and support Jim W when needed.

Fly Master, Bob K presented the Cockahoe Clouser for November's fly of the month. It proved to be very challenging. The Fly of the Month will continue under Pat and Bob. If you would like to lead a Fly of the Month see them.

The Sanibel Florida Club lost all their tying vices and club fly rods in hurricane Ian. Our club offered support and forged a good relationship for cooperation. Sanibel was very appreciative of our offer and our President will update us as to what support would be appropriate.

Elections: The current President, Treasurer and Secretary were reelected. Bob Myers offered to be Vice President and was confirmed, as were Pat and Oleata as Members-At -Large. There were four nominees for Angler of the Year. The winner will be announced at the Christmas Party on December 13th.



Christmas Party: Cindy is in charge of tickets (\$30 cash or check, \$32 online). Bring door prize offerings to the party. It all starts at 6 PM and is again at Scenic Hills Country Club. Good food and fun along with many surprises make it a fun and entertaining evening out. Some of the items a lucky attendee might take home are a Sage and a Thomas and Thomas fly rod with fly reels to match. Nonmembers are invited.

Fishing Reports: The Bay is clear and this is peak time for bull reds in the Bay. Look for feeding birds. With the cold snap try the bayous for trout or the marsh in the upper estuaries. In October five club members traveled to fish the White and the North Fork Rivers. They caught plenty of trout, mostly rainbows. The weather and fall leaf changes made for a beautiful trip. Generation was minimal and low water made for good catches. Happy Thanksgiving to all.