



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

December, 2023

FFNWF

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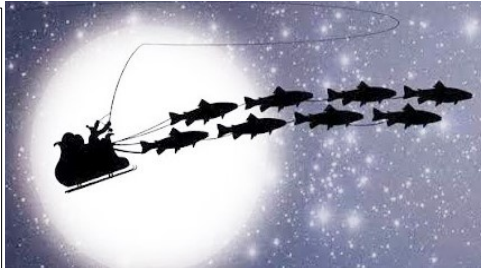
NEWSLETTER

Paul Wargo
flyfishersnwf@gmail.com

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 6:30 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6:30 PM

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



Christmas Party

December 12

Scenic Hills Country Club

8891 Burning Tree Rd
Pensacola 32514

6:00 PM

**Tickets are \$30 cash or check at the club or \$32 online
Last Chance to buy tickets –
Club meeting Dec 5**

**We will have our traditional raffles and a Silent Auction
for quality rods and reels:**

Raffle Prizes:

**8 wt 10' Orvis Recon rod
6 wt 9' Orvis Recon rod**



**Hydros IV reel with 8wt line
Hydros III reel with 6wt line**



Silent Auction

- # 1 Winston RG 10 ft. 10 wt. "New condition" Min Bid \$60
- # 2 Orvis HLS 9.5 FT, 9 wt. 2 pc. New condition . Min Bid \$60
- # 3 Gary Loomis IMX 9 ft. 7 wt. 2 pc. . Like New Condition. Min Bid \$80
- # 4 Orvis Battenkill Size III (2 spare spools). Incl 5 wt. line. Min Bid. \$60
- # 5 Orvis Large Saltwater reel 11 wt. line. New (original box). Min Bid \$80.
Comes with 1 pkg of 10 wt. line.
- # 6. Ross "Gunnison" G-4 9 wt. (9wt. line, 2 spare spools), Min Bid \$60

These are all top quality rods and reels available here at the club party before they go up for the general auction next year. **Steve Hofmann**

Club Meeting – Tuesday, December 5 6:30

Steve & Ellen Hofmann will be doing the presentation: "Fly Fishing North Carolina and Georgia". This will be the final once and for all last chance to buy tickets to the party!

NO Fly Tying Bull Session NO Clinic in December Have a blessed Christmas!!!

The Prez Sez *Merry Christmas!!*

December will mark the final month of my 2+ year stint as President of FFNWF. I have sincerely enjoyed this time and I sincerely appreciate the support you all have given me. While I am stepping down from this post, I still intend to play an active role in the overall activities of the club. I have accepted a new role as Program Lead of the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program, replacing Jim White.

For those of you who missed last month's election, your new slate of Officers and Board Members for 2024 are:

President - Cyndi Myers

Secretary - George Norton

Member-at-Large - Pat Murphy

Vice-President - Rex Green

Treasurer - Larry Sisney

Member-at-Large - Wolfgang Szutie

Congratulations to all!! *Mick*

(On behalf of all members of the club, we take this opportunity to thank Mick for outstanding leadership even with health problems, making the meetings productive and fun to attend!)

A Fond Farewell to Jim White

For those of you who aren't aware, Jim and Katherine White will be departing the Pensacola area and relocating to the beautiful Shenandoah hill country of Virginia. While Jim and Katherine are excited about the move as it will bring them closer to family, it will be bittersweet for us here at FFNWF. Jim has been one of the most dedicated and ardent members of our club and his

signature is on so many of the good things this club stands for. He will perhaps be most remembered for his leadership and management of the "Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing" program and he will likewise be missed by those many veterans he served.

Fair winds and following seas, dear friend.. *Mick*



Membership Dues are Due for 2024

Three ways you can pay:

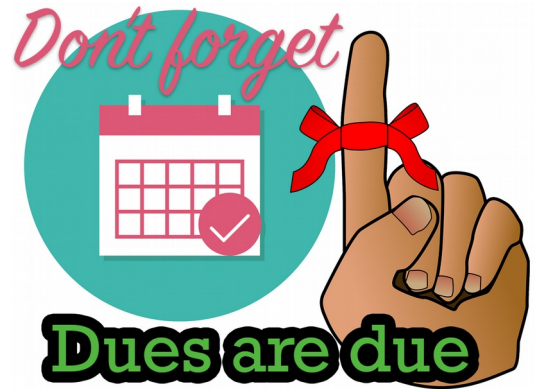
1. **Pay Larry** in person at a club meeting.

2. **Mail a check to**

Larry Sisney 3610 Baisden RD. Pensacola, FL 32503
or to FFNWF P.O. Box 1041, Pensacola, FL. 32591

3. Through www.ffnwf.org -under Membership Tab.

There is an additional \$2.00 fee.



Fly Tying October

Very intense. No bottles on the table. Looks like Santa's elves but they are just tying flies.

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing - 2023 has been a good year for our Pensacola Program of PHW. While a few of our number moved to other areas, we were able to bring in a few new folks as well. We tied a lot of flies, built a few fly rods, taught a few folks how to cast and even enjoyed a few outings..... a very good year indeed.

Our program exists due to the kindness of others and to that point I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to several key individuals (you know who you are), to Navy Federal Credit Union and to the Emerald Coast Veterans Alliance for making very generous donations to PHWFF HQ on our behalf. Those donations will help ensure 2024 is another good year.

Following my mid-December departure there will be new leadership for our program. The good news is that we know all of the folks stepping into the new roles. Mick Milo will relieve me as Program Lead as of the Christmas Party. Also stepping in will be Phil Hartz who will assist Mick with the IT database portion of managing our Pensacola program. Not at all new will be Bob Myers who is staying on as Assistant Program Lead. I am very pleased with this leadership team and leave knowing our program is in very good hands. Finally, if you find yourself in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, give me a call. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, **Jim White**



Fishing with Capt. Baz – *Fall Fun*

The 2023 *Running of the Bulls* was more like the *Crawling* of the bulls. The big fish started popping up in early-October and continued sporadically throughout the month. I heard about it but never saw it. Probably missed some opportunities while I was in the Bahamas, but we found the fish at the end of the day October 30 on my first trip back. Bill Nellen landed a beauty that day, his first-ever big fish



on fly. A major cold front came through that night forcing us into the canals and protected waters on Halloween. Mike Youkee arrived from London the next day, and we spent the morning at the Naval Live Oaks trying to stay warm out of the NW wind. After lunch the wind settled down a little, and we ran to Deer Point hoping to find the bulls. The wind was NNW as we rounded the point with enough N in it to keep things calm close to shore, and we

cruised along toward Town Point with our eyes peeled. Sure enough the fish and a hundred diving pelicans were a half mile out in the open water toward Buoy 24. We were in my little 17' Maverick Master Angler which is a seaworthy skiff, but she was outgunned by the 2-3' white-capping chop and strong incoming current. We made it to the school and had fish all around the boat, but Mike couldn't stand up even using the leaning rail. When we took the second wave over the bow I decided to get out while we still could, and we left them crashing the bait on top. That's the first time I've wished for my old Mako...



The next day, November 2, was our day. It was the third day of the cold weather, and there were very few boats on the water. At least that's what I thought until we found the bulls south of Buoy 24. There were no boats in sight when the fish came up a quarter mile away, and we "tip-toed" over to them and drifted quietly into the school. It was like the old days. Mike calmly put the big deceiver into their midst and the redfish fought for it. He had his 10wt and was settling in for a nice fight when we heard the sound of motors coming from all directions. In less than 10 minutes there were eight boats on top of us with lead-slinging spin-fishermen and country music blaring. Talk about a buzz kill!



We cranked up, left the circus, and ran toward Deer Point hoping to get lucky. Nobody followed us. As we reached the point a couple guide boats passed us running west at top speed to join the melee. After they passed, we stopped to look around. There were a few pelicans circling in the distance toward Peglegs, and others were getting up off the water heading in that direction. We took off, and by the time we got there the bulls were running in full force. There were multiple schools chasing bait in an area about the size of a city block,

and once again we were the only boat. Mike landed four more before another boat showed up and we called it a day.

That was it for me and the bulls. I blanked the next 8 days straight and cancelled my trips November 14-16 due to weather.

The good news is there was plenty of terrific shallow-water sight-fishing when we had sunshine and light winds.



Megan and Bill Nellen had an incredible day on October 30 wading in 78-degree water. We spent the first two hours stalking tailing redfish, and then poled for them after lunch. A week later and after the cold front, the water temp dropped to 69 degrees. Carl Huhnke had a stellar day hooking 7 and landing 3 on his 6wt and barbless hooks. How about barefoot wading in November for tailing redfish in less than a foot of water! Spectacular, world-class fly-fishing for sure.



On November 9, during my streak of blanks, the big false albacore showed up in Pensacola Pass for one day. A friend of mine sent a text that evening with a photo of a beautiful fish he'd caught. Said there were only a couple boats fishing for them, and that the fish were eating "anything". I didn't ask him why he didn't call me while it was going on, but rest assured I'll be returning the favor someday. **Capt Baz**

Fly Fishing Show – Atlanta February 2-3-4

Here is the link to all the information about the show. ("Ctrl" and click on the link)

[https://flyfishingshow.com/atlanta/?](https://flyfishingshow.com/atlanta/?fbclid=IwAR0q6Un5YIuGsL8GUvPpeLo5el6jDPwquuWL3u8RMiX4KfaTBbQvWSDO_ag)

[fbclid=IwAR0q6Un5YIuGsL8GUvPpeLo5el6jDPwquuWL3u8RMiX4KfaTBbQvWSDO_ag](https://flyfishingshow.com/atlanta/?fbclid=IwAR0q6Un5YIuGsL8GUvPpeLo5el6jDPwquuWL3u8RMiX4KfaTBbQvWSDO_ag)



Cyndi Myers

Club Trips For 2024

The spring trip will be to Twin Lakes in DeFuniak Springs at Twin Lakes Camp Resort 850-892-5914.

I took a complete tour of the resort. Everything is maintained in excellent shape and they offer a variety of very nice accommodations that accommodate small to larger groups. Great reviews.

The two lakes are decent size and the bass and bluegill fishing is excellent. They have grills, cleaning stations and fire pits. Every building has its own dock



and they have a big game room and swimming pool.

They have pontoon and kayaks rentals. The other plus is they are only an hour and half drive from Pensacola. The club members favored trips close to Pensacola in the survey I took last year.

Last fall our club trip to Port St. Joe club had great fishing. I definitely want to go back. We caught Spanish, bonito and big ladyfish all on top and schools of bait were right around the boat.

Regarding the Chandelier islands I reached out several times to the Ocean Springs Club to see if they would like to combine a trip with our club but I didn't get much of a response. I might call Red Stick in Baton Rouge since they have a very active club trip program.

I will talk more about club trips in next year's January meeting. Of course if anyone wants to lead a club trip to their favorite place please step up. **George**



Fishing in North Carolina on a partridge and yellow soft hackle with a 3 weight rod
George

Club Meeting November 7, 2023 – The Minutes, by George Norton

1830 The President called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance

The Minutes for the October meeting were approved as posted in the newsletter

Treasurer's Report: Monthly income was modest from hat and beverage sales along with Christmas



Party tickets. Minor expenses were for Saturday clinic food and pastries and refrigerator beverage restocking. We have a solid balance in checking. The report was approved as presented; motion by George, second by Bob M.

Christmas Party Tickets are available at the fly-tying bull session and Saturday clinic or on line.

Elections The slate of candidates on the Ballot received 100% approval by the attending members to lead the club in 2024. Cindi Myers, President, Vice President Rex Green, Treasurer Larry Sisney, Secretary George Norton, and Members-at-large Wolfgang Szutie and Pat Murphy.

Paul Wargo made a motion to thank Mick Milo, Bob Myers, and Oleta Webb who will step down from the BOD in 2024. The membership approved the motion.

Angler of the Year: The nominations for Angler of the Year were co-anglers: Steve and Ellen Hoffmann, Gary Pheabus, Cindi Myers and George Norton. The members present voted, The winner will be announced at the Christmas Party.

Presentation: Freedom Ranch, Montana Trout Fishing Trip by Brian Freeman



Brian and Curtis represented the club's Project Healing Waters program. They traveled to the Freedom Ranch in Montana for three days of fly fishing and camaraderie with ten other attendees on August 20th. They flew into Bozeman and the ranch was two hours north on the Big Hole River. Travel took up two days to and from the ranch. All their gear and flies were supplied along with three meals and lodging. They went one night out to a local steak house in the small western town of Wise River.

They wade fished the first day with guides and for the two following days fly fished from drift boats. They fished primarily with hopper dropper rigs and most trout were caught on the dropper. The weather was excellent in the 70-80's during the day. Nights were cool. Brian's photos of the Rockies were breathtaking. There was one scene on video when the biggest fish was lost after a long fight in the drift boat. Brian only lament was he didn't want to leave. He totally enjoyed the trip and the fellowship with the other attendees.



Fishing Reports: Terry reported he and his wife had a good trip to the Ocoee River in eastern Tennessee in October. They caught smallmouth, spotted bass and pan fish. He also had good trips in October for Spanish.

Bob K and Wolfgang also did well on Spanish. Paul said he saw no birds and no bull reds all the way out to the 3 Barges area. Matt and his Dad did well on bull reds.

1935 Meeting Adjourned