



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

June, 2022

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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

The Auction... Lives On

NEW.....Monthly Club Meeting Raffles!!

Just when you thought the auction was over and there was nothing left to buy, we are announcing a monthly raffle of remaining items from the 2022 auction. Each month, until further notice, we will offer up random items. Tickets are \$5.00 (cash) to be purchased at the First Tuesday club meetings. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the meeting.

So.....starting off for June, we are offering an Orvis Graphite Series 2pc 8 wt rod. Like New! It is actually 2 rods in one. It comes with a single butt section but TWO tip sections. One tip section turns it into an 8'6" rod and the other tip turns it into a 9'6" rod. And it has a removable fighting butt.

Come take a chance! It only takes \$5.00 to win.

Club Meeting: Tuesday, June 7 at 7:00 pm

We will get an Auction update and have our first raffle.

Fly Tying: The M&M, M by M

Murdich Minnow Modified Thursday, May 9 at 6:30

Note: Same week as the meeting.

The Clinic: June 18 and, Yes, Lunch is back

Chef Joe will present All American Hot Dogs with all American stuff.

The Prez Sez

So I recently experienced one of my biggest disappointments since becoming President. Some of you are aware, I've been wrestling with health issues. I was so looking forward to the auction, but alas, I had to miss it. My expectations were met however, in that it was the best fundraiser in club history....it was a DOOZY! Lots of great "stuff" was sold, attendance and camaraderie were high and the bottom line was s-w-e-e-t! The final numbers will be reported at the June meeting. Our next big project isn't until Christmas, meanwhile I hope everybody will make every effort to GET ON THE WATER! After all, we ARE a fishing club.

'Til next month.... Mick



The Auction Report

The 2022 Auction was conducted by Ellen Hofmann, Steve Hofmann and Terry McCormick. Russ Shields, Larry Sisney, Cindy & Bob Meyers took care of the accounting. A big thank you!! to all the folks who help set up the day before.



The decision to move the Auction indoors because of weather was a good one. The auction was attended by enthusiastic members eager to spend \$\$\$\$\$. Everyone had a good time. The club made more money than we ever had in previous auctions.

We sold fly 32 rods and 18 fly reels. We sold all fifteen of the 11x7 fly boxes witch held an assorted



arrangement of flies. We sold some, but not all of the fly lines. We also sold a good amount of the other miscellaneous items like nets, a trolling motor, wading boots etc. Of course the fishing trips with Capt. Baz and Capt. Richard went fast!!

We still have 4 of the top brand fly

rods (two Sage, one Scott, and one Thomas & Thomas) and 3 fly reels (Bauer M4, Tibor Riptide and Redington) that were held over for the 2022 Christmas party raffles. We also have some items that will be used for monthly raffles.

Again, a big thanks to all that helped to set up and clean up afterwards.

Auction Chair Steve Hofmann

And thank you, Steve and Ellen, for a great job well done!!!



Fishing with Capt. Baz

Well, it finally happened. The Gulf of Mexico calmed down enough for the skiff on April 27, and we made a beeline for the Palm Tree. Sure enough there was a school of jack crevalle hanging out around the tide line, and with the Blue Angels flying overhead John Earll, Bozeman, MT, landed his first jack on fly. What an experience for a trout fisherman from Montana! John really wanted a redfish on the fly, so we spent the rest of the day sight-fishing in the Big Lagoon. After multiple miscues, John sealed the deal.



My good client from London, Mike Youkee, was back the following week, but the Gulf was once again blown out for his first four days. We spent our time on all our favorite inshore flats, and Mike worked his magic landing over a dozen redfish and one nice trout.



Late in the day on May 4 we were running back close to shore a quarter mile past Pickens Pier. Mike was asleep on the seat in front of the center console when I spotted showering mullet ahead of us. It was a school of jacks, and Mike fell off the seat when I

made the sharp turn and dropped to neutral. He recovered quickly when I put the rigged-and-ready 10 weight in his hands and made a nice cast in front of the advancing fish. There were about a hundred of them, and they were the smaller-sized jacks we usually see early in the season. Except for a single big fish, and that's the one that ate the fly. How about that! Mike is one lucky chap...always has been.



We took the Mako in the Gulf the following day and set up for pompano just outside the inner sandbar in front of the Observation Tower. Sure enough schools of fish were coming down the bar and Mike landed three. Here's the first pompano of the season on my boat. Mike ended his week landing all the Grand Slam species but not on the same day. Oh well. Maybe next time.

The following week belonged to stroke survivor and two-time Emerald Coast Grand Slam holder Bob Jenkins from Colorado. Bob has been in stroke and heart surgery rehab for 15 months, and one of his goals has been landing another redfish on fly. We tried last fall, but he wasn't quite ready to make it happen. This time; however, he rang the bell. We were wading in the Big Sabine on May 10, and Bob made a perfect cast to this fish, strip-set it, and landed it on the beach like a pro. It was a very emotional moment. He was crying. I was crying. The



redfish was wondering what the heck was going on. Jenkins has caught many redfish, but he said this little guy was the greatest redfish of his life. It sure was nice being a part of that.



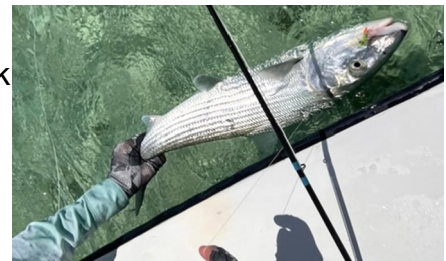
With the monkey off his back, Jenkins had a red-letter redfish day on May 12. We found a hungry school of fish in the cloudy water west of Pensacola Pass, and Bob landed four of them. Two of the fish required 30' casts directly into a 15 mph wind, and Jenkins was able to turn over the leader. I was very proud of him. Against doctor's orders we shared the traditional Dogfish Head 90 Minute IPA before heading back to the dock.



Jump forward to May 18, and it's the Project Healing Waters trip on a day with a nasty east wind. We picked May because we were "certain" the ladyfish would be plentiful, and everybody would have a blast catching lots of fish. Problem was the ladyfish were in the Gulf along with 5' seas. So the three of us guides scrambled around trying to find something for our most valued guests to catch. Capt Dan went N towards Butcherpen, Capt Richard ran east in the ICW to Opal Beach, and I headed west to the Big Lagoon with Larry

Sisney and Jerry Giles. We nearly hit a home run when I found a big school of jacks east of the Ranger Station at 0845. There were very hard to see in the low light, and the wind was howling. Jerry who is an excellent caster made a couple shots at the school and had the fly into them at one time, but we never got a take. So off we went to my favorite spot for some sight-fishing, and Jerry landed the fish of the day. Sorry boys and girls but this tiny spot is so secret we had to eliminate the background. I'm sure you understand...

That was my last trip before heading off to South Andros for a week of bonefishing with Jonas, my bro-in-law, and some good clients. We went back to Mars Bay Bonefish Lodge and had a great week. Jonas landed one of the biggest fish of the week but didn't take it out of the water. Check out this shot of him holding it by the tail



alongside the boat. Megan Nellen is next with a 12 pounder. Dave Dawson sitting in the boat with a beauty. Finally there's bro-in-law Dave McLeod with his guide, and yours truly.

They've got some big bonefish down there, mon! **Capt Baz**

Fly of the Month – The Murdich Minnow Modified by Pat Murphy

The Murdich Minnow was originally tied as a freshwater, warm water fly. The fly was fished to target most warm water game fish. Recently the Murdich minnow has migrated to saltwater fishing with relative good success. I have modified the original recipe to better fit our waters. It is a light weight fly with only a few materials. Good Luck.

MATERIALS:

HOOK: MUSTAD 3407 #1

EYES: 5MM DOME YELLOW

FLASH SILVER FLASH A BOU

SKIRT: LT GREY PALMER CHENILLE MEDIUM

MARKER: WATERPROOF GRAY PRISMACOLOR MARKER

THREAD: WHITE 140d

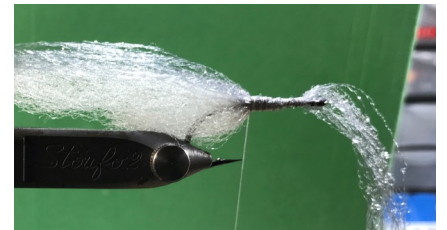
TAIL: POLAR BEAR CONGO HAIR

HEAD: OPAL PEARL ESTAZ GRANDE

INSTRUCTION



1. Tail: Regular size clump of Congo Hair ,secured at hook bend ,top of shank. Approx. 2x hook shank.



2. On top of tail fibers, tie in silver flash, wrap down to hook eye. Leave remaining tag end of clump, to be completed later.



3. In front of tail tie-in, secure a 4"-5" length of palmer chenille. Wrap chenille in close touching wraps, approx.5-6 wraps and tie-off. At tie off back wrap a small amount to lay fibers to rear.



4. Take tag end of remaining flash at hook eye and tie down to beginning of chenille skirt. Trim flash to same length as skirt material.



5. Secure large estaz in front of skirt and palmer to hook eye, leave room for nose.

6. Form small tapered thread nose, whip finish, glue. Add 3D eyes each side and trim estaz head to small taper. After trimming head, use gray marker to color top side head back to beginning of skirt.



Fly Tying – Thursday, June 9 6:30

Note – on Meeting and Fly Tying nights several members meet at local restaurants for dinner before coming to the clubhouse. If you would like to join in contact Russ Shields.



May Fly Tying



Quick Tips: *Move Your Feet*

By Capt Chip Smith

We've all seen pro level football and basketball players make an awkward pass or throw. If it works it's an amazing play. If it fails then everyone points to fundamentals. Square up on the target, move your hips, follow through. Same with a fly cast. Face your target, drop your fly into your back cast (practice this onshore) and make a solid cast to intercept the fish's heading. The more variables eliminated from the shot the higher the probability of an eat.

As mentioned before, 10-12 o'clock is the optimum casting window for the right hand caster on the bow of a skiff. (12-2 o'clock for the lefties) Fish don't care about that and will swim where ever they want too. So what to do about the 6,7,8, 9 o'clock shots? 3,4,5 o'clock as well. These shots are behind you, into the sun and/or wind and usually need to be executed quickly. Sometimes a backhanded roll cast will get you in position. Over the shoulder, against your body, blind.... OR you could **move your feet** to turn around on the casting deck and face the fish. Even if you don't see the fish you can deliver a solid shot in proper fashion to the general area.

Additionally I have a lean bar on my casting deck and if you're locked in to the bar and just facing forward it makes adjustments difficult. Minor movements are required for the second, third and fourth shot. Especially if the fish are moving. Move your feet. **Chip**

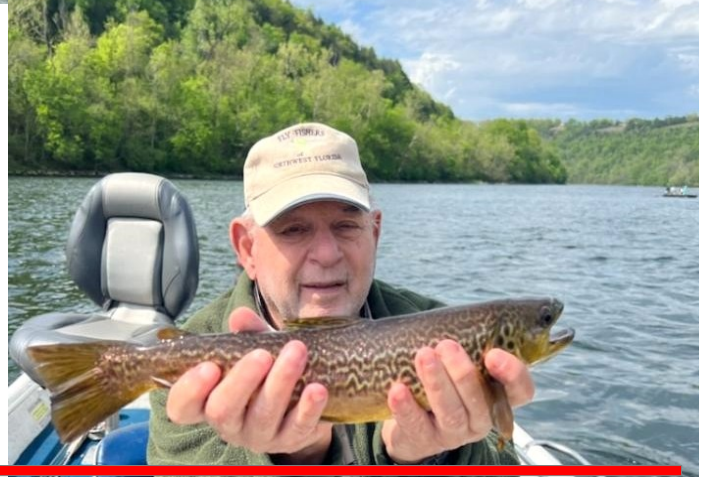
Fishing Report – Tarpon Bob Korose



Went fishing on the White River at Bull Shoals Arkansas at the end of April and early May.

Not as many fish as usual but some really nice ones. A nice brown and a nice rainbow, and a surprise tiger trout. A tiger trout is a hybrid cross from a brook and a brown.

Bob



TROPICAL PARADISE



Want to take your boat to the Bahamas?
But have to stay close to home? – how about Big Lagoon?? *Pictures from Wolfgang Szutie*

The Minutes May 2, 2022

George Norton, Secretary

1900 Meeting called to order by the Vice President Brad Heun

April minutes were approved. .

Treasurers' Report: We have a healthy balance in the club's checking account. Monthly expenses were for the Saturday clinic, FFI's annual base fee, and seat cushions for the clubhouse. An issue with the unused E-Bay cards is ongoing; but hopefully will be resolved by June. Colleen has spent countless hours on this problem. Treasurer's report approved. Motion by Russ, second by George.



Presentation on Fly Fishing in Montana and Wyoming

Jim White presented fishing Montana-Wyoming out of an Orvis Lodge in Paradise Valley, Montana. Jim fished four full days September 11-16, 2016 out of Hubbard, Montana population 12! A few days before his trip, Montana closed the entire Yellowstone River due to a fish kill. Jim nevertheless had a very successful trip. He and his guide floated the only open section of the River (four miles). They fished dry flies on day one and streamers fished on day two. He took 3, 4, 5, and 6 weight fly rods all rigged with floating lines with 9-12 foot leaders. On day one, the dry flies were 12-14-16 and the trout averaged 14-16 inches. On day two he fished streamers with lead shot and an indicator and the trout averaged (16-18 inches). The streamers were a Muddler-Zonker combo and a fly called a golden retriever which resembled a woolly bugger. Later on day two he fished Tom Miners' creek which was full of brush for 8-10 inch cutthroats. At Miner's Creek he crawled on his hands and knees and had to make bow and arrow casts in heavy brush into a very small stream.



What added to the drama was the presence of grizzly bears. His guide had bells and bear spray. On day three he fished Soda Butte Creek in Yellowstone Park and caught a number of 16-18 inch cutthroats fished on tiny 20-22 dry flies. They also fished the Gardiner River outside the Park for

10-12 inch brown trout and Joffe Lake in Yellowstone Park for rainbows and brook trout on Obsidian Creek. Jim also visited the FFI Museum in Bozeman and three fly shops. When asked how he handled six X tippet and size 22 dry flies, he suggested using a Davy Knot. Jim had a great trip. The lodge offers all kinds of opportunities for non-fishing spouses such as outings and massages. The food was excellent and Jim worked up quite an appetite and thirst after long days outdoors in the wild-west. The Orvis Lodge also has a private lake loaded with big rainbows and browns but Jim didn't get an opportunity to fish it. Thanks Jim for another wonderful presentation.

Club Business Thanks to Colleen we have club hats for sale at \$25 each.

The clubs' 101 course finished last Monday and the participants gave very favorable feedback. If anyone wants to suggest any changes to the course textbook, please contact Dave Handley. Dave expressed special thanks for the support of Richard Montgomery and Tom Dempsey who so graciously donated their time to casting instruction at the course.

A motion by Dave seconded by Jim to update the club's By-Laws and was approved without discussion.

Russ is handling a plaque to honor past club Presidents and Vice Presidents along with a memorial plaque which will hang in the clubhouse.

New Business The annual club auction is Saturday May 21st. We have 46 rods, 22 reels and cannot accept any more donations. Some items will be held back for the Christmas Party by the auction committee. We had an early book sale at the meeting. Unsold books will be available at the auction.

A motion was made to cap the reimbursement of Saturday luncheons at \$75. If someone wants to go over the \$75 cap, then talk with the treasurer or Joe Higgins first. The BOD needs to approve any special occasions that exceed the new cap. This is necessary because our food budget is running higher than planned.

Meeting adjourned at 1830

Summer Reruns – Just like your favorite TV shows.

This is from February, 2021

Warm water Fishing Opportunities By George Norton

Matt Wegener, FWC biologist and club member, was kind to share options in our region for bass, crappie, shell cracker and bluegill. Matt manages freshwater fisheries in our region. Ponds and lakes come into their own first. Some suggestions were Lake Victor for bass and crappie (140 acres in Westville), Lake Juniper (600 acres in DeFuniak Springs) and Karick Lake (65 acres in Okaloosa).

The lakes are one hour to an hour and a half from Pensacola. Other much larger options are Lake Seminole and Lake Talpin for bass and crappie. A past club trip to Stone Lake in Century was moderately productive with bass, bluegill and crappie. Hurricane Lake is less productive.

Local rivers are productive right now for striped bass and hybrid stripers. The rivers come into their own later in April and May for largemouth and bluegill. Hit the shorelines and blow downs with roll casts as you move down the banks.

