



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

April, 2019

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

at Miraflores Park
17th Avenue
between
Belmont and LaRue

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

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

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

The Auction is Coming! Tuesday, May 7

In April we gather up our donations – rods, reels, stuff and more stuff, trips and more trips. If possible, bring your donations the night of the auction. If not bring them to the club in April. Donating a trip on your boat? Write it up on a card and bring it to the club.

The auction takes the place of our business meeting on May 7. There will be Silent Auction tables starting at 5:00. Come early, stay, late, bid early, bid often, spend some money and have a great time!

WE WILL TAKE CREDIT CARDS! (You can still bring your checkbook!)
Remember this is our big fund raiser of the year so we need You and Your donations.

Bob Story, owner of Feather Craft (<https://www.feather-craft.com>) has donated a brand new TFO BVK 8 wt rod for the auction.

We also will have a new TFO BVK 6 wt (thanks to Russ!). Two antique Wright & McGill fiberglass rods and at least 3 top quality used rods. Even a 10 wt rod building kit. Altogether over 150 items including a chest with 6 trays full of flies and a Marlin Original Goose Gun (12 ga 3" magnum)

More donations will come in (including yours!). And there will also be the trips with guides and guys (from the club). This will be one of the biggest nights in the history of our club!!

Club meeting – Tuesday, April 2 – 7:00.

Officer Jim McHenry from FWC Enforcement will be the speaker (see Jim's article on page 3. Plans for the auction, the basement, kids' programs, and outings will be on the agenda.

Fly tying – Thursday, April 11 – 6:30

We will be tying the **Flats Creature**



Clinic – Saturday, April 20 9:00 AM

Casting practice, fly tying, and lunch: Hamburgers and cheeseburgers from paradise, along with Jimmy Buffet (songs).

Fishing In the grand and glorious history of our club there have been days when we actually went fishing. Club Outings. There was ample camaraderie and conversation, food and fellowship. The fact that we never caught anything made no difference. Until now.... At the club outing at Stone Lake we caught fish!! Not one. Not two. Not three. But FOUR fish. The standard has been set! The bar has been raised!! And there will be another outing just to prove that WE CAN DO IT!!!



We will return to Stone Lake on Friday, April 12. The bluegills will be bedding so poppers will be the order of the day. We will also venture forth into saltwater late April / early May at Johnson Beach and Big Lagoon. Contact George Norton for more information geonorton@gmail.com



How many
fishermen does it
take to build a
grill????

Don't laugh –
It worked!!!!



New Event! Our club and Project Healing Waters will have an information table at the **7th Annual NAS Whiting Field Military Travel and Recreation Expo**. The Expo will be held on board NAS Whiting Field Atrium, Bldg. 1417, between 1000 and 1300 on Friday, April 12th. This expo provides travel and recreation information to active duty and retired military and DoD civilians. Anyone with a military ID is welcome to attend. Non-military may attend but would need photo ID and need to be accompanied by a military ID holder. *Bob Myers*

Stuff Dreams are Made Of

Link to a great article in the NY Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/06/travel/chile-patagonia-fly-fishing.html>

Fly Fishing Show in New Orleans April 6

<http://www.laflyfish.com/2019/03/jon-cave-to-headline-1st-ever-new.html>

Pres Says The weather and the water are warming; it's time to break out your gear and standby to fish. Captain Dan Storey's presentation on "Fishing Belize" was wonderful. Our 2019 class is underway. We are always looking for members to come to the session and help mentor, a wonderful time to interface with attendees.

On 5 and 26 June our club will present four (4) sessions of Introduction to Fly Fishing in cooperation with the Pensacola Parks and Recreation Department. Each session is three (3) hours with twelve participants. Club members provide the instruction so we are looking for volunteers to support this civic program.

We are in the process of collecting donations for our auction and setting up the opportunity to use credit cards for your purchases. We will be at the NAS Whiting Field 2019 Travel & Recreation Expo (see Bob Myers' article). It is your club! I encourage your participation. Tight lines! *Dave*

VP's Corner – Thank you Capt'n Dan for an excellent program on saltwater fly fishing in Belize! Thank you as well to Oleta Webb as she filled out the 2019 program schedule by volunteering to chat with the club about her upcoming summer fishing expedition to Montana. Should be a great program.

The April program will be a little different from the recent programs. Officer Jim McHenry from FWC Enforcement will talk with us about a variety of important fishing and boating issues as we begin the warm weather portion of the 2019 fishing season. Bring your detailed fish identification and improbable / outlandish situational questions. We have the expert to get them answered. This promises to be a great program so show up early for best seating.

Jim

May – FFNWF Auction!

Jun – Jim White presents "Trout fishing on the South Holston River"

Jul – Steve Hofmann presents "Modern fly rod and reel construction methods"

Aug – Bob Korose presents "The Golden Dorado in Argentina"



From Bob:

I just got back from a trip on the liveaboard "Golden Dorado River Cruiser" fishing the upper delta of the Parana River near Buenos Aires Argentina. The fishing was very exciting. The golden dorado are toothy fresh water fish that aggressively attack a fly and are hard fighters and frequent jumpers. I plan on preparing a presentation about the trip for the August FFNWF meeting.

March Program: Capt. Dan Storey told us about his trip to Belize for the elusive permit. Landing a permit on the fly is a very rare treat. They are extremely selective. Dan flew from New Orleans to Belize City with his wife and daughter. From there it is another one-hour flight to the island. Dan fished for six days and targeted permit exclusively.

The guides were ready to fish from dawn to dusk. He had good shots at permit everyday but unfortunately didn't land any. Still, Dan is ready to go back again next year.

The Resort has an all-inclusive seven-day package. Anglers can target tarpon or bonefish in one session and permit in another depending on the tides. The Lodge had comfortable accommodations and the food was excellent. Tarpon Key Lodge is a more cost efficient choice compared to the Bahamas, but is more difficult to get to.

Tarpon run can be caught in the lagoon right by the lodge. A one-hour boat ride is necessary to reach bonefish. Dan fished 8 wt in calmer water with smaller flies and 10 wt in rougher water.

The best deals were at the Atlanta Fly Fishing Show in February. The best rate was \$3250 for one person or a special of \$4250 for two anglers. Dan thanks for a great presentation. *George Norton*

The Class of '19 is Underway

Capt. Baz, as always, gave an inspiring presentation at the first session that got everyone EXCITED! about fly fishing in salt water right here in beautiful Pensacola. Just get us to the water.....



Dean of Students (Russ) got things started.



Fly fishing College Entrance Exam.

Don't let your wife pay anyone to take the test for you.

We will give you the answer on page 8

1. What is this?
 - A. Dungeon for those who haven't paid dues
 - B. Clubhouse for spin fishermen
 - C. Detention hall for those talking during meeting
 - D. All the above



Baz is Back!!!

First of all I'd like to thank Capt Dan for writing all those great reports last year. I even learned some new spots! Love that "best chance to see your backing"! Nice work.

As far as the March fishing goes, the weather gods served up all the typical challenges except for rain. With minimum rain the water cleared up nicely making it easy to see where the fish were... and weren't. As usual the March flats water temperature was too cold for everything except redfish, which isn't exactly a problem. We always catch our biggest flats redfish of the year in March. You just have to catch days with the right wind and tides for your favorite spots. And then for me I have to be lucky enough to have a client that day. Of course there are always very nice redfish along the edge of the Gulf in March, but again you need flat seas and sunshine to find them.



Of the five trips I've run so far in March the planets aligned only once... on March 12. I had David Streiler and Colin Fitzgerald from Kansas City on the boat, and we found a nice school of fish inside the inner bar in the neighborhood of the Observation Tower. The tide was coming in hard, and I had been poling westbound (down current) for a while when we saw the school just inside the

dropoff hiding under some "sea foam" formed by the breaking waves. I was poling close enough to shore to go unnoticed by the fish, and we anchored in perfect position for 60-70' casts downwind to the school. It took David two casts to hook into our



first fish, and the redfish broke from the school and headed toward Pickens Point. After a half hour fight David brought the fish up-current to the net. The school was still intact, and Colin took over also hooking up on his second cast. My immediate comment to David was "how about some lunch?" It was perfect. We finished our sandwiches while Colin fought his fish. The school was *still* there as David took the bow



and immediately hooked up and landed his second fish while Colin had lunch. These young men are spoiled for life. We ended up with five hookups and four fish landed. Fly of the day?? Tan/white clouser.



All my other trips were on the inside flats, and although every client had at least a dozen shots no one ever hooked up. About halfway through the month I went by myself on a day off to see if it was even *possible* to catch the darn flats fish... Happy to report that all is right with the world, and I landed a 14 pounder on my new 6wt outfit. Sorry. No photo. You'll have to take my word for it.

Capt Baz

(Editor's note: It's great to have Baz back!)

An article about Capt. Baz in Florida Sportsman:

<http://www.floridasportsman.com/2018/10/28/beach-redfish-fly-fishing/>



March Clinic

Irish eyes were smiling

And the pipes were calling



“An ichthyologist knows about trout and an entomologist knows about bugs, but it’s the fly tier who knows how to fool a trout into thinking something is a bug when it’s not”.
—John Gierach



Fly of the Month - Flats Creature....tied by Matt Wegener

It's time I came clean. Sometimes I go to the dark side and use a spinning rod. There, I feel better getting that off my chest. I'm not proud of it, but as a weekend warrior, sometimes you must do whatever it takes to catch fish. When I'm poling someone who is using a flyrod on the bow, I keep a spinning rod rigged for situations where fish on the flats are never going to pass within fly-casting distance. And what's tied on that spinning rod? Most often, a small tube jig. It casts great, sinks fast, and redfish can't stand it bounced in front of their face. This month, we will tie a fly I created to imitate this tube jig. It's a spinoff of the Flymen River Creature. I've added a teaser tail and a bump of estaz that keeps the "skirt" flared when the fly rests on the bottom. Cast it far in front of a cruising redfish and work it with erratic strips to get the fish's attention.



Materials:

Hook: Mustad 34007, #1

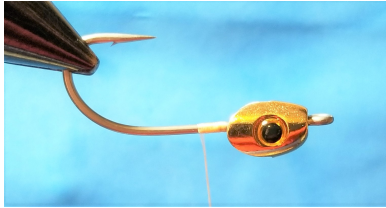
Thread: Flat wax nylon

Body: Estaz

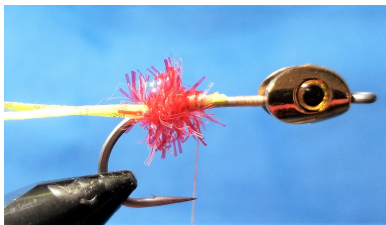
Weight: Flymen Fish Skull, small-medium size

Tail: Rubber legs

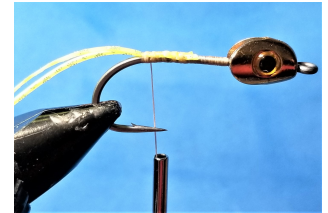
Instructions:



1. Mash the barb and slide the fish skull on the hook shank.



2. Tie 2 strands of rubber on top of the hook shank near the bend of the hook. These strands should be a bright in color and about 2 times the length of the hook shank.



3. Tie in a couple inches of estaz in a contrasting bright color. Make two wraps with the estaz and tie off. This forms the bump that keeps the skirt flared.

4. Tie in 6-8 strands of rubber legs in the middle of the section, so that half lays on each side of the hook shank.



5. Fold legs back and tie into place. Trim so that the legs are 1 1/2 times the length of the hook shank.

6. Tie in estaz behind the fish skull. Wrap the thread over the estaz back to where the legs are tied in so that the body will be uniform in size.



7. Move thread to behind the fish skull. Wrap estaz forward to create the body and tie off. Whip finish and cement the thread to finish the fly.

March Meeting Minutes

Treasurer Jay called the General Meeting to order at 1900 (there was no board meeting this month)
16 Members were present

Capt. Dan Storey reported on his recent trip to Tarpon Key Lodge in Belize. Dan is a local fly fishing guide who supports our club. His daughter Sammy also contributed to the presentation. Thank you both for a very informative and enlightening presentation. For more on this presentation see the article by George Norton in this issue.

Business Meeting

February minutes were approved. Motion by Cliff seconded by Rex.

Treasurers' report: we have 55 paid members and 16 have signed up for the class. Of the sixteen in the class, 13 are new members. Our finances are in good shape and within our budget for 2019. Russ moved to accept the financial report and Cliff seconded.

Old Business: None

New Business: A motion was made to make available the use of credit cards for our May auction. Paul moved and Russ seconded. A motion was made to purchase more club pins. Cliff moved and Rex seconded.

Committee Reports:

Education: Russ reported the class is on track and the new syllabus looks great.

Rex reported that FFI is redesigning the link and it is coming soon. There will be FFI Expo in the fall of 2020. The Gulf Coast Council is up and running.

Dan has taken over our membership roster and reported a new updated roster is in the work.

Bob Myers asked if we would like to have a table at the April 12th Whiting Field Travel Expo. The table would be free to the club and a way to advertise. (see article in this issue)

George reported on the club outing and plans for more. See article in this issue.

Meeting adjourned at 2020.

From This to This:

The basement of our building turned into a secure area to store auction stuff and other club belongings. Thanks to all who help put it together! And special thanks to President Dave for getting this project going (and getting the basement cleaned up)

