



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

August, 2018

FFNWF

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MONTHLY MEETINGS
at Miraflores Park
17th Avenue
between
Belmont and LaRua

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

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

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

Christmas Party - Save the Date - December 11

New place – New plans – New Price – Same Great Time

The party will be held in a private room at Scenic Hills Golf Club. Instead of a sit down dinner we will serve a large variety of hors'd'oeuvres all evening. Tickets are \$30 (first increase in 10 years!). We will still have the cash bar and the raffles. Tickets on sale now. Thanks to Jim White for getting it done!



Club Fishing Get Together

August 10 - Wade Fishing and Kayaks from Johnson Beach

on Perdido Key. Johnson Beach is in Gulf Islands National Seashore.

Get Together: Go thru the Gate and all the way to the **last pull over**. My car is a grey Jeep with a dolphin license plate. The gate opens at 7:00 AM.

I will supply cold drinks back at the car at 10:00 AM or sooner for fish stories. Suggested items to bring are nippers, pliers, a wide brimmed hat, wading shoes, sunscreen, and flies such as Gurglers, Deceivers, Clousers, and Poppers. Species of fish are speckled trout, ladyfish, Spanish mackerel, pompano and maybe redfish. I prefer to fish the shore of Big Lagoon. The Gulf beach is a short walk away on other side of road.

High tide is at 10:40 AM and the solunar table forecast is for excellent fishing. Good luck and hope you can make it. *George Norton.*

Take Action! The Florida Wildlife Commission is currently taking comments on ending commercial fishing and sale of Spotted Seatrout. I think that this is something we need to get behind and address. The commercial fisherman can keep 50 a day; doesn't take long to wipe out all the trout in an area in a few days. Recreational fisherman would still be able to keep 4 a day. Please go to myfwc.com/SaltwaterComments and ask them to end sale of Spotted Seatrout. In the August issue of Florida Sportsman on Page 26 there is an article on this. *Terry McCormick*

August Club Meeting – Tuesday, Aug 7 - 7:00 PM



The program will be: **The Three Amigos Out West** as Larry, Jerry and Jay take us out to Montana to cool us off with some fish and some stories.

Fly Tying Bull Session – Thursday, Aug 9 - 6:30 PM

The **Mega** Popper. Big baits for big fish!!!

Once again the meeting and fly tying are the same week.

Clinic – Saturday, August 18

Jay Brykczynski will be our host, and the menu will be:



Polish Stew!

Of course!!

More Pictures from our very successful youth class we offered through Pensacola Parks and Recreation. And a good time was had by all!! (Including the instructors)



Fishing Report Tom Finkle accomplished the first Toothy Critter Slam of 2018 with a barracuda and a king mackerel on the same trip to the Massachusetts (the wreck, not Massachusetts, USA). And he still has all his fingers.



Fishing with Capt. Dan Wow what a great month of fishing we have had! I spent most of my “off time” chasing tarpon and even managed to put a handful of big ones in the air. I posted some of the artsy shots on the club's Facebook page, but if you are looking for a picture of me holding one by the face, no can do. We are still seeing fish though so maybe I (or you) can get it done with the chicken feather this year.



Tarpon are not the only game in town. It is the best time of year to “take what it gives you” out there because there are just so many possibilities once you leave the dock. One of my now favorites has been fairly dependable on the outgoing water near the pass. Ladyfish! Throw them whatever you got and use a little section of bite tippet to keep them from taking it with them. Here is a young Will Goodman helping his dad show off a typical catch:

Redfish are still on the menu and continue to be on the beaches in the same place that you saw them last time. I had Chris Fanale and his son Jake on the boat July 19. Jonas gave them a casting lesson the night before and gave me a heads up that young Jake is an incredible caster. Even with that knowledge and high expectations I was blown away watching him punch 70 footers all day and outfishing his dad.



They caught all the ladyfish they could count and checked the big fish box out of the school of redfish that everyone knows about. His biggest fish ever on fly and I was thrilled to be the one help make that happen, although he made my job real easy! I wish I could remember the fly this fish ate so I could tell you about it.



How about false albacore? We found a lot of them on the 19th, and when I called Baz to tell him about it, he said there were “a million of them” over where he was. Even though we had enough around us to get bites, the realization that I had never really seen a million of anything got the better of me and we ran to the mother load. It was worth it. The next day I had Drew Carlisle on the boat and he told me he had never been to the backing before! I love it when they say that. He saw his backing 15 times that day.

Quick note on these albacore, the ones we are catching are the larger fish in the 5 pound and up range. They aren't as fly picky as we all know they can be sometimes so you can get away with small clousers and such. We have had a few straighten out the hooks on my smaller “Bobo Special” fly so don't try to pressure them on a tiny #8 hook or you'll come unbuttoned.

Snapper season is now closed so its a great time to take your sinking lines out to the nearshore wrecks. There are a lot of king mackerel, small cobia and mahi out there. No secrets, just check the public numbers and keep your eyes open. A lot of times the snapper will come up to the boat just to check you out too. Amberjack will eat big poppers and you can even try to bait and switch a big cuda if you're really adventurous. It's quite the potluck out there so take plenty of water and go burn some gas on these slick mornings we have been having. Just don't leave the house without a rod rigged for false albacore. I like Cortland's 444 intermediate camo line on Baz's old 9 wt that ya'll weren't able to outbid me on at the auction. You will like the extra backbone of the 9 wt. when those fish are 40' down and thumping under the boat.

I will close with some cool pictures from a recent photo session with my buddy, Handsel Reid. Check him out at Handselreid.com when you get a chance. Dude has talent and hopefully I will be able to offer a “sports photographer” add on to my charters soon. **Capt. Dan Storey**



Capt. Baz has retired from writing monthly reports after 10 years and turned the typewriter over to Capt. Dan who is doing a fine job. Baz will still be part of the club and he will be looking for you when you are out on the water. Meanwhile we can also use more fishing reports like this:

Fishing Report My parents were in town for Luke's baptism this last week, so of course my dad and I sneaked a few fishing trips in during their visit. The bite was slow inshore. The water is fairly clear, especially on an incoming tide. We had fish follow several different fly patterns, but the classic tan & white clouser seemed to be the most effective at garnering attention from the redfish.

My best bet inshore is targeting ladyfish and bluefish in Pensacola Bay around hard structure with current. The fly pattern doesn't matter, just find areas with plenty of bait and good current, then settle in for some fun catching fish.

We also had several schools of hungry jacks move through the grass flats, crushing full grown 12" mullet. They move so fast and their locale is so unpredictable right now that it will take a quick reaction and a big fly to get you hooked up with one of these bruisers. Things should become more predictable hopeful in the coming weeks

The False Albacore bite also proved frustrating. We found lots of fish in 40 to 50 feet of water. The schools were widely scattered, which meant we spent lots of time moving to stay with the fish. The best bet was to get up wind of a school and let it push you towards the school. However, we didn't have much wind to help us there,



so we were forced to use the outboard and the trolling motor to move close to the feeding fish, which caused several schools to go down before we could make a presentation. The selectivity of the fish was even more frustrating. The fish we caught threw up larval bay anchovies. If you have never seen this before, I'm talking about a 2" long baitfish that is completely clear. Talk about difficulty matching the hatch! The best fly was an epoxy fly I had tied years ago. I wish I had a picture of it, but we lost all of the flies that day to fish, so all I can say is something small (#6) and translucent is what you need to score an albie over the next few weeks. Gummy minnows, Cowen's Anchovies, and Hoo Flies should start becoming more productive after these larval fish start to get a little bigger. **Matt Wegener**

(We are happy to report that Matt is back from paternity leave. Thanks, Pat, for filling in!)

Fly of the Month - *Mega Popper* by Matt Wegener

Many years ago I was given a giant (3/0) Bob's Banger popper. It was the first time I'd ever laid hands on such a big fly! That big white popper has fooled 90% of my Jack Crevalle I've caught, along with countless Bull Redfish. It's still my go bait when the big boys come to town. But, last summer I ran into a situation with club member Brian Whalen, where that big popper just wasn't enough to get the attention of hungry Jacks that were cuing on bigger mullet. That day spawned the mega popper. Yes, it's huge. But it casts surprisingly well for such a big fly, as long as you are using a 10-12 wt rod, which is standard fare for me when targeting big predators like Jacks and Bull Redfish.

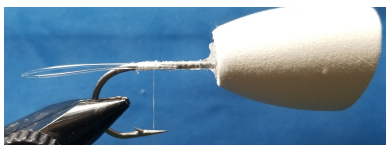
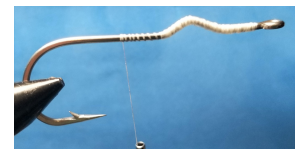


Hook: Saltwater Popper, 3/0, 2X heavy, 4 XL **Thread:** Any color of strong thread
Popper: Rainy's Preshaped Saltwater Popper, size Large **Anti-foul loop:** 40# mono
Adhesive: Zap-a-Gap Goo **Body:** Estaz Grande (white) & EP Anadromous Brush (raspberry)
Tail: Steve Farrar Flash Blend (white)



1. Trim 1/4" from the rear of the popper body

2. Lay a big thread base on the front half of the hook shank. This will help absorb the glue to hold the popper in place.



3. Apply glue and slide the popper head on the body. Tie in anti-fouling loop on the hook bend.



4. Tie in a 3-4" tail.



5. Wrap estaz for the back half of the body.

6. Wrap in the brush to form the front half of the body.



7. Trim brush, whip finish, and add eyes & gills with a red marker. Apply a thin layer of epoxy or clear goo to protect the fly (optional).

Update: Oleta Webb has had successful surgery and is now home. This is great news and hopefully the beginning of pain free total recovery after a long struggle. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers

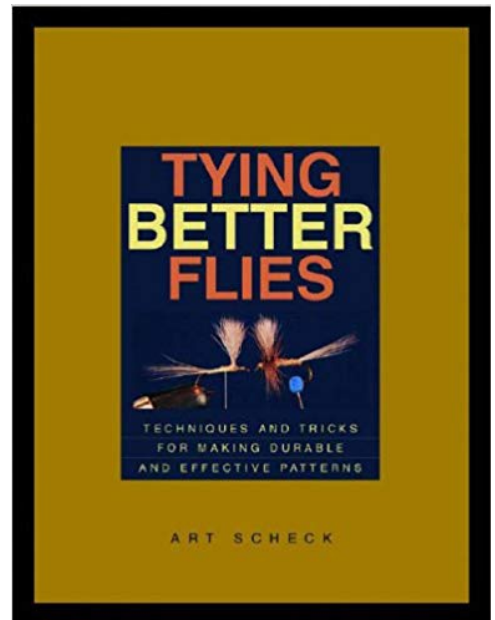
Tying Better Flies by Art Scheck **Book Review**

My sister gave me this book for my upcoming birthday present. She didn't need to spend much on it. Fifty cents at a library book sale!! Used but in new condition. It retails for \$27.95.

This book was just what I needed to improve my fly tying with easy to understand visuals and tips. My first project was to tie a dozen trout streamers in sizes 4-6-8 of Black Nose Dace, Mickey Finn, and the Red and white streamer with deer hair, fox squirrel tail and calf tail. I can't wait to wet these flies and hook some trout, though I suspect they will also work on warm water species.

The book covers hair wing streamers, the wholly bugger, the Muddler Minnow, dry flies, nymphs, and the Clouser Minnow. Scheck breaks down each fly's different components in an easy to understand step by step process which make it easy to put together better quality flies. I recommend this excellent book.

George Norton, Club Secretary



Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida Minutes - July 10, 2018

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Dave Handley at 1815. There were 10 board/committee members present.

June club minutes were accepted with no changes.

The Treasurer presented the July financial report. It was accepted and approved.

Treasurer further reported that 2018 incomes from Membership, Spring FF Class and the May Auction were down.

Currently we have 60 paid members.

Old Business

-President stated work continues on a questionnaire/survey concerning membership retention.

-Club is now accepting applications for the 2019 Spring FF Class beginning March 18, 2019. Russ Shields will prepare a new handout with contact information.

-Jim White reported that the Christmas Committee has locked in the Scenic Hills Country Club for the 2018 Christmas Party on December 11th. Tickets will be \$30.00 per person. Menu will be Hors' d'oeuvres, cash bar and desserts to be determined. Tickets will go on sale in August, see Jay for reservation/sales. Raffle prizes as in the past; from Orvis and Feather Craft, donated fishing trips and much more.

New Business

-President Dave requests all committee chairs provide a turn-over-file concerning their perspective duties and responsibilities by September 4, 2018.

-Project Healing Waters Leader Russ Shields shared information from the Florida Regional Training Conference held in June. Many new and positive changes concerning participates/volunteers and instructions pertaining to the MOA each club has to abide by.

-The club is still looking for a volunteer with IT expertise to assist/consult in our social media venues.

-President Dave reports we received glowing reviews from our participation in the Pensacola Recreation Youth Fly Fishing course this past summer.

Board Meeting adjourned at 1915.

FFNWF General Membership Meeting

President Dave Handley called the meeting to order at 1920.

there were 17 members present. June minutes were accepted with no changes. Treasurers Report was approved. Club members were informed of drop in club incomes as reported at the board meeting.

All Old/New Business as reported in the board meeting was presented to club members.

Tarpon Bob Korose made a fine presentation on his fishing trip to Campeche, Mexico. Thank You, Bob, for another great presentation. Bob had a great trip. He fished for baby tarpon in rivers, creeks, mangroves and on grass flats and also fished on an atoll which was 70 miles offshore of Progreso, Mexico. The atoll consists of five islands and they fished from a mother ship. Bob believes the best times for the trip are spring and fall but these baby tarpon are resident fish year round. They range from 3-30 pounds with ten pounds being about average. The outfitter he goes with is called "Tarpon Town Anglers" and "Fishing with Larry. " Getting there is not too tough. You fly to Merida, Mexico and tarpon Town provides transportation to Campeche from the Merida Airport.

Fishing Reports Last week George Norton and family went to their rental cabin, "Juve Cabin" in the North Carolina Mountains southeast of Ashville. George found the rivers from Bryson City to Lake Lure were high and muddy. The only fishing he could muster was in the fifty acre lake near the cabin. The shoreline of the lake in the spring produces 8-9 inch bluegills but most fish had moved. Fishing early and late in a canoe, he caught a few big bluegills shallow on a yellow Gartside Gurgler but the spring spawn was over so he trolled three flies on one rod and a Black Nose Dace on another rod out the back of the canoe. The Black Nose Dace streamer out fished the rod loaded with three flies for some largemouth that were cruising the middle of the lake. He also picked up couple of largemouth on a fox squirrel tail streamer fishing blow downs.

Local Fishing Reports: Inshore Spanish, Bluefish, sharks and ladyfish. Troll the beaches to locate the fish. Blind casting in the heat will wear you out. Try wade fishing but go early.

Club Fishing Trip August 10th — George Norton has arranged a trip. See Page One for plans and details.

There being no more business to discuss meeting was adjourned at 2025.