

# Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS  
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
DECEMBER 2011

THE FLYFISHERS OF  
NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
PO BOX 1041  
PENSACOLA, FL 32591  
www.flyfishpensacola.  
com

## PRESIDENT

Tom Birdwell  
(850) 456-6073  
tomjudybirdwell@cox.net

## VICE-PRESIDENT

Terry McCormick  
(850) 968-5928,  
flycastsgt@hotmail.com

## SECRETARY

John Fitzgerald  
(850) 995-1412  
jhfitzgerald@mchsi.com

## TREASURER

Larry Sisney  
(850) 474-1433  
lisisney@cox.net

## NEWSLETTER

Jerry Aldridge  
(850) 478-9255  
jamayfly@yahoo.com

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings at Miraflores Park  
17th Avenue between  
Belmont and LaRua

**BUSINESS MEETING**  
1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM

**BULL SESSION**  
2ND THURSDAY, 6:30  
PM

**CASTING & TYING  
CLINIC**  
3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our FFNWF Christmas party for members and guests will be on Tuesday December 13th at the Holiday Inn North, just north of HWY I-10 on the West side of Davis Highway.

A social hour featuring a cash bar and some excellent hors d'oeuvres will begin at 6PM.

Dinner will begin at 7PM and will be a "Country Buffet" featuring fried chicken, roast beef and gravy and assorted veggies and deserts.

There will be a raffle of several very nice items from Orvis and some really neat door prizes as well. All this for just \$25 per person.

Tickets will be on sale at all of our November functions and your ticket will be your reservation. Karen Brand has the dinner tickets and will also be selling raffle tickets at the party.

We had a great time last year and we have lots of new members this year, so please come to the party and get to know our new members.

If you have photos of your fishing activities that you would like to have included in our annual slide show for the party, please send them to Karen Brand soon so John Brand can get them organized.

Let's have some fun and end the year on a high note!

Thanks, Russ Shields

Don't miss the bucket raffle at the Christmas party! Prizes include: Orvis Access rod, 9', 4pc, 7 wt; Orvis Access rod, 9', 4pc, 4wt; Saltwater Tying Kit with tools and vise; Mid-Arbor II reel with 4 wt Wonderline and backing; Mid-Arbor IV reel with 7wt Redfish line and backing. Raffle tickets sold at the party, \$5 each or 6 for \$25. If you buy 6 you can put one or two in each bucket to have a chance at all the prizes OR if you really want just one of the prizes put all your tickets in that bucket!

**Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida,  
November 1, 2011, President Tom Birdwell, presiding**

The meeting was called to order at about 7:00 P.M. There were approximately 20 members present. The treasurer's report was presented by Larry Sisney, and approved by the membership. Special appreciation was voiced for Oliver and Ann McKinney, for the excellent Octoberfest fare provided for us at the last Saturday clinic. Under new business, Tom Wargo made a motion to send a letter from the membership committee, titled "FFNWF Membership Renewal 2012", to the membership as a whole. Dave Burton seconded and the motion carried.

Jay Williams presented the proposed slate of club officers for 2012. The approved officers are as follows: President, Terry McCormick. Vice-president, Jerry Giles, Secretary, John Fitzgerald, and Treasurer, Jay Bryczynski. Members at large; Larry Sisney, and Joe Higgins. All nominations were approved by acclamation.

Kevin Gorby reported that last months "Healing Waters", booth at the Fort Walton Beach fair was deemed a great success. He, his son Kyle, volunteers Jim Morris, Terry McCormick, and Bob Korose, tied and gave out hundreds of "safety pin", flies. They provided information about the "Healing Waters" project, and also about our club. Our new banner was prominently displayed in the background. The supplies for that effort, hats, total fly fishing outfits, tying packs, lanyards, vises, and other materials, are being furnished by TFO, Orvis, and Hook & Hackle companies.

Terry McCormick asked for a volunteer to coordinate monthly fly tying sessions, as Tom Regina will no longer perform that function in 2012. He will however, continue to photograph the proposed fly recipes for the club.

Art de Tonnancourt nominated Ed Wingfield for our "Fly Fisherman of The Year", award. Art cited Ed's willing participation in many club activities, his willingness to help anywhere needed, and his rapid improvement in fly fishing abilities. There was universal agreement with his nomination, and it was approved.

In closing, President Birdwell stated that there would be a regular business meeting, but no "Bull Session", or Saturday Clinic in the month of December. Respectfully submitted; Sub. Sec., Jerry Giles

**BUSINESS MEETING....DECEMBER 6, 7 PM  
BOARD MEETING....DECEMBER 6, 6:15 PM  
NO BULL SESSION OR CASTING CLINIC IN DECEMBER  
CHRISTMAS PARTY....DECEMBER 13, DETAILS FRONT PAGE**

*Vice President's Message.... Terry McCormick*

Well this year is almost in the books, and for me, it's been a great year of fishing. I have enjoyed being your Vice President and look forward in serving as your President next year. I hope to bring in more fishing and fun. Speaking of fun, don't miss the Tuesday night meeting when we will hear about Bob Korose's latest Alaska adventure. Remember the Christmas Party on the 13th and bring a door prize if possible { 1/2 dozen flies, fishing trip, cap or something small}. This is always a fun event and a highlight of our year. The tug is the drug, Terry

**We have a new class date at the VA Center to certify more volunteers for Project Healing Waters Program Pensacola. On Tuesday January 2012, the 10th at 10:00 am. If you would like to support us in helping our local veterans, please contact Kevin Gorby by January 3rd so that I can submit our list of volunteers. Please remember that these classes are few and far between. Happy Holidays and the tightest of lines for you all....Kevin Gorby, Program Lead Pensacola, FL, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, [www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org)**

## Fishing Report... Captain Baz Veluerton



"The Running of the Bulls" has been in full force all month and is showing no signs of stopping. Schools of big, brightly-colored redfish started coming to the surface in late-October between Pickens Pier and the Turning Basin. To witness the early mayhem copy this link into your browser for a Nov 6 YouTube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCVDGqkIU8> Now there are several big schools of fish in the bay and sound, and you just have to be out there in the right place when they come to the top. In the mornings the best location is between the EPA and Deer Point. In the evenings it's been happening between Dead Man's Island and the Town Point range markers. There's also a big school of fish on the north side of the bay between the entrance to Bayou Chico and the Port of Pensacola. Yet another school pops up regularly within a mile of Buoy 22. If that's not enough, there's a school in the sound out in front of Portofino. We're talking hundreds of fish in each school... Your best bet is to run to the above mentioned spots and look for the pelicans. When the fish are active there will be at least 20 or 30 pelicans just floating around waiting for the fish to push the bait to the top. When the fish come up all the birds take flight and start crashing the bait. You have to be patient. When you find a hundred pelicans sitting on the surface you can bet your bottom dollar the fish are underneath. Just kill the engine, kick back with a cup of coffee, and wait for the action to start. Take binoculars and scan the horizon...



We've been having the best success with 10wt tackle, 300-400 grain sinking lines, and a 5" white bunny strip fly with green (chartreuse) marabou collar and heavy barbell eyes (the "geau-meaux"). For every fish striking the surface there are probably ten fish below. Many times the fish will go down when you approach the school. Just heave the fly out into the general area and let it sink...and sink...and sink. Then strip it v-e-r-y s-l-o-w-l-y along the bottom. The takes are similar to steelhead takes. The fish just stops the fly. Then you feel that huge head shake, and you're off to the races.



OUR OWN TRAVIS AKINS

Of course you can catch the fish on poppers, but they have a hard time getting it in their mouths. You'll get fewer hook-ups on top, but then it's awfully satisfying when it happens. The best topwater hookup ratio I've seen is with a big crease fly. Just be sure the popper has plenty of exposed hook, and be sure to mash the barb down.

There is a ton of bait in the bay and the water temp is holding steady in the mid to high 60's. I'm expecting the topwater redfish action to continue for at least a couple more weeks. Here are some bull redfish pics from the past few weeks.



Of course the bull reds have been the top attraction in November, but sight-fishing the flats for slot reds has also been productive. The fish are nervous in the shallows, and we've been having our best success with an EP gray/white baitfish, size 1/0. The fly lands very softly and doesn't spook the fish. We like to put it 8-10' in front of and to one side of the fish, let it sink, and then retrieve in 1' medium-fast strips with a slight pause between strips. The redfish tend to charge the fly and then follow for a few feet before flaring their gills and sucking it down. It's a beautiful thing to watch... Here are a couple pics.



## *Fishing Report... Captain Baz Melverton (continued)*



Last but definitely not least, the false albacore fishing has been red hot this month. The fish have even been running the beach, and they don't usually do that until December. We've had nice pods of big FA in the tide rip at Ft Pickens and in the fast incoming current around Buoy 15. Look for small groups of diving terns. They'll follow the pods of albies dipping down when the fish push the bait to the top. We've been catching them on the usual #6 clear gummy minnows, small epoxy "surf candy" flies, and Travis' "green weenie". Be prepared as these are big fish in the 8# range, and man do they move fast. When the fish pop up you've got a second or two to put the fly in the right spot. Here's another link to a short YouTube video that summarizes the need for near-zero reaction time. Just copy it and paste to your browser. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kQ3IOeb\\_Lw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kQ3IOeb_Lw) The winter FA fishing is very fast, extreme fishing, and to me some of the most exciting fishing of the year, and it should last for another couple months. Capt Baz



Try the videos! Just copy and paste the link address into your browser.

## *Know the Members... Ed Wingfield*

Bennett Orr just goes by Ben. He's been a member of the club since 2009 when he was forced to take up fly fishing by his kids upon his retirement. Ben is a native of Pensacola and retired from accounting and finance at NAS Pensacola where he spent most of his working career. Today he enjoys the carefree life of a retired gentleman hindered only by the dreaded ~~H~~honey-doqlist and quality time with his family. Ben is married to the very gracious Mary Alice and they have 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Since Ben joined the club and learned the basics of fly fishing he has had the opportunity to fish some very nice waters to include; the Yellowstone River in Montana, Soque and Chattahoochee Rivers in Georgia, where he is going again in December, a 6 day trip to Argentina staying at a ranch to fish their private river where the rainbows were between 2 and 3 pounds on average and not to forget fishing the flats down in Key West.

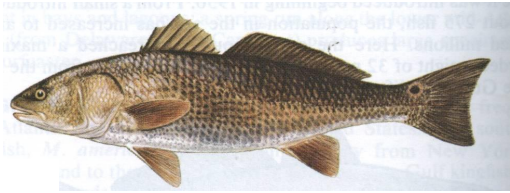
When asked to share that something special with the club members he answered that he enjoys being part of the club, being with everyone talking and learning more about fly fishing. Then there is being in good health, working out at the YMCA every day and traveling about with his wife. He wishes that he could spend more time at the club but family matters have taken up much of his time as of late.

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2012. Please send your check for \$30 payable to FFNWF (associate members \$10) to

**FFNWF Membership, Bob Willice**  
1143 Harbor Lane,  
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

**FLY FISHERS**  
  
**of NORTHWEST FLORIDA**

**PO BOX 1041  
 PENSACOLA, FL 32591**



# DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
		<b>Business Meeting 7 PM</b>				
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>Christmas Party...Details on front page</i>						
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>