

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
DECEMBER 2013

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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

President's Message....Terry McCormick

The holidays are here and so are the bull reds. There have been reports of and fish caught in the bay and the pass of the bull reds. Come out Tuesday night, December 3, and give or hear a report of fishing this past month. This will be our only meeting this month. Starts at 7 and there will be **NO** board meeting.

Party!!!! Yep it's time to party at our annual Christmas Party December 10 at the Holiday Inn on Davis Hwy. Social hour starts at 6 pm and dinner at 7. If you can donate a door prize it would be greatly appreciated. And we have some wonderful raffle prizes including 2 Orvis rods, 2 Orvis reels with line and backing. A large gear bag by Fish Pond, 2 Fish Pond fanny/chest packs, and a Fish Pond soft cooler. Also a day of fishing with Captain **Baz**. Tickets are just \$5.00 or 6 for \$25.00 or 12 for \$50.00. I know a great time will be had by all.

This will be my last writing as your President. It has been my honor to serve as your president the last two years, and as your vice president before that. I want to thank my many officers and board members for all of their help. And I would like to **Thank** all of you, the members of the Fly fishers of Northwest Florida for your support, assistants, and friendship during this time. Little did I know when I joined this club twelve years ago it would be a life changing event. It has open up new opportunities, new places, new people, and lifelong friendships I would not have had otherwise. Like I always say, "it's your club; it's what you make it". Also like I always say,

Tight lines and the tug is the drug,

Terry

Fly Fishers of NW Florida Annual Christmas Party

Date: December 10, 2013 Tuesday
Time: 6 PM Cash bar Dinner served at 7:00 PM

Location: Holiday Inn 7813 N. Davis Hwy Pensacola FL
Hors'deuvres: Complimentary Drummettes and Meatballs
Main Course: Country Buffet
\$25 per person

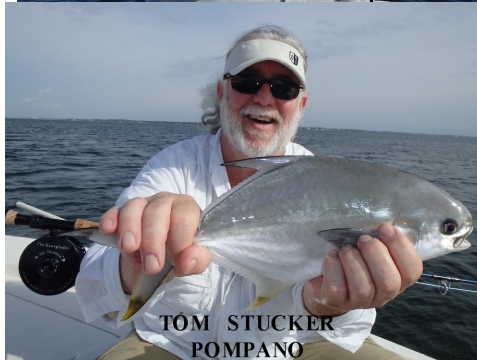
Mark your Calendars. More info to follow in the December Newsletter

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Yelverton

November is always one of our most exciting months with the fly rods, and this year was no exception. It all happened just as we had hoped starting off with the last couple weeks of the big Spanish mackerel run. Through the 12th of November there were as many big Spanish as we had all year. The grass beds by Town Point were absolutely on fire, and there was some

excellent fishing over at "Ft Pickens Flats" on the north side of the island. These were mostly fish in the 3-5# range with an occasional Spanish up to 7#. They were the bona fide "yank your arms off" Spanish mackerel that we have come to know and love over the past few years. By November 14 the fish were gone. I think the water temperature finally got too cold for the bait, so the Spanish followed them out to the Gulf. Here are some lucky anglers who scored with the Spanish in November: club member **Bruce Trumbull** and his friend **Steve Gaykan** on November 5, and **Ken Hutchison** on November 12. One last comment on the Spanish.. I've been happy with the move from 80# mono bite tippet to the 26# tie-able wire from American Fishing Wire. The bigger fish don't bite through the wire as they will sometimes do with the mono, plus I'm not seeing any reduction in strikes due to the wire. I've converted. The stuff's expensive but worth it in my book.

We were surprised at the number of pompano on the grass flats during late-October and the first week of November. We always catch a few in October, but there seemed to be more fish this year. On November 5 **Bruce Trumbull** and **Steve Gaykan** landed six nice 2-3# pompano while blind-casting tan/white clousers for Spanish! Pretty amazing. The wire didn't seem to bother the pompano a bit. The third pompano photo is of **Tom Stucker** from Northern California who landed his fish October 31 just missing last month's report.



Fishing Report... Captain Baz Yelverton.....Continue

As I reported last month sight-fishing for smaller redfish has been outstanding this month. When the water temperature dropped below 65 degrees the fish got noticeably more active. It's very common now to have them charge the fly from 15' away and eat it. Of course conditions have to be right with enough water on the flats and plenty of light. Plus, you need to position yourself well short of a fish and put the fly beyond it and to the side. Let the fly sink, and then strip it pretty quickly past the fish. If the redfish charges the fly, pause and then start rapid, short strips. You ought to get the take. If the fish swims over and turns away from the fly just let it drop. Then start stripping again if the redfish comes back to check it out. With a redfish behind the fly you have to think and make the fly act like the baitfish you're trying to imitate. How cool is that! Here are some nice shots of my clients who've proven they can think like a baitfish... **Tom Stucker** on October 31, **Eric Cobb** with his first-ever redfish on November 4, **Hutch from Idaho** on November 14, **Dave Walters** on November 19, and **Mark Walters** on November 19 with his first redfish on fly.



TOM STUCKER
Red fish



ERIC COBB
Red fish



Hutch from Idaho



Dave Walters



Mark Walters

And now to the **Main Event**. Yes, the **Running of the Bulls** is wide open at the moment, and there are as many huge redfish in Pensacola Bay as I have ever seen. The annual event started late this year. We first found schools of the big redfish on November 3 about a half mile SE of Pensacola Pass. **Jimmy** and son **Jay Wright** from Birmingham were on the boat, and we were sitting close to shore on a pompano spot when redfish started blowing up outside the outer bar.



Jimmy Wright



Jay Wright

Fishing Report.... Captain Baz Yelverton.....Continue

We ran out there, and both guys landed fish. The wind was howling from the north, and the fish moved too far out for us to chase them. For the next eleven days we couldn't find any big redfish. I was beginning to wonder if they were going to come up into the bay at all this year, but on November 14 they finally made their move. A cold front blew through the night before, and the morning of the 14th was in the 40's with a hard northwest wind and bright blue skies. **Hutch** and **Greg Fisher** from Idaho were on the Mako, and we were trying to survive crossing the bay heading for the calm waters close to shore by the Observation Tower. We started seeing bull redfish around Buoy 24, and they were crashing the surface as far south as we could see. The swells were so high I had to keep us pointing into the seas while **Hutch and Greg** battled fish after fish. It was borderline dangerous, extreme fishing, and we decided to run south past the Turning Basin to see if there were any fish there in the calmer water. And they were there in spades, too. At one point my fathometer showed solid redfish all the way to the bottom 36' below. We landed about 30 fish that day split between fly and spin. Here's a shot of **Hutch** later in the day after the wind died with his biggest fish...a rare thirty pounder. Once the fish were in the bay they started popping up by the EPA, between Deer and Town Points, or over by Deadman's Island and the Three Mile Bridge. Our biggest days last week were at Deadman's with **Jack and James Noneman** on November 16, **Dave Walters** on November 18, and our own **Russ Shields** and **Cooper Adams** on November 20 and 21.



Fishing Report.... Captain Baz Yelverton.....Continue

We're having good success with floating lines and sinking flies: streamers, go-meaux, whatever. The floating line is easy to cast, and a subsurface fly makes it easier to get the hookup. Of course a sinking line with a go-meaux is deadly as always. There are so many fish and so much bait that I'm confident the bulls will be with us well into December. Who knows, maybe this will be the year when they take up residence close to shore west of the pass throughout the month of January. We could all stand some of that.

Capt **Baz**

Around the Bay...and Further Away



New member **Rajiv Mahadkar** caught these mackerel (and a few more) fishing with **Paul and Judy Wargo** in the bay on a tiny #6 Orvis "Freshwater Clouser". Rajiv and his wife are hoping to start a business and settle in Pensacola.

Hi All,

Here are some pictures that a good friend of my son and mine took on our 2day outing with **Baz** last week. My son **Mike** took all his on spinning tackle but **Cooper** and **I** took ours on 10wt fly rods and all went for the chartreuse Go-Meaux. Pretty neat fish!

Cheers,
Russ



*Around the Bay....and Further Away....
Continue*

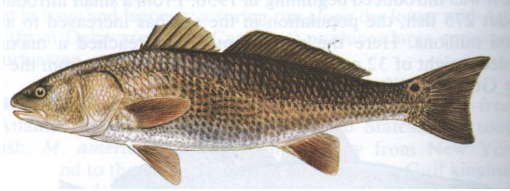


*MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR
to one and all*

Dear Santa

Please find my Christmas Wish List below. Items listed are what I would like to have for Christmas.





JANUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 VA tying clinic	4
5	6 Healing Waters	7 Business Meeting	8	9 Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Clinic - Casting, tying, gourmet lunch 9 AM
19	20 Healing Waters	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	