



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

December, 2015

FFNWF

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NEWSLETTER

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MONTHLY MEETINGS at
Miraflones 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 Tuesday, December 8

Holiday Inn (7813 N. Davis Hwy at I-10)

Hors'deuvres 6:00

Cash Bar

Buffet Dinner 7:00

Dinner Ticket **\$25**

Raffle Tickets sold at door

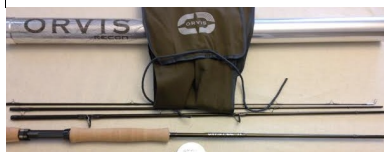
\$5 / 6 for \$25 Door Prizes, too

Last Chance to buy tickets: Club meeting Tuesday, Dec. 1 7:00

If it is impossible for you to be at the meeting you may contact Jay Brykczynski to reserve tickets. However you MUST contact Jay before the meeting Dec. 1 so we have to have the final number of dinners reservations that night. Thank you.

Jay: (850) 232-7504 jaybryk@yahoo.com

Raffle Prizes: Trip with Capt. Baz



Orvis Recon
7wt Rod



TFO BVK 5 wt rod and tube
TFO BVK 8 wt rod and tube

Orvis Hydros IV
reel for 7-9 line



TFO BVK 1 reel (5 wt line) and
TFO BVK 3 reel (8 wt line)



There are separate Raffles for each rod and each reel



Feather Craft Chest Pack donated by
Bob Story, owner of Feather Craft

Renzetti Traveler vise



Door Prizes and Prizes for the Ladies too

December Club Meeting – Tuesday, December 1 – 7:00 PM

The program will be a 15 minute movie telling the story of “real people” who are part of Project Healing Waters. There will also be the usual fishing reports and grab bag gifts at the end. And this meeting is your LAST chance to buy tickets for the Christmas Party!

NO Fly Tying or Saturday Clinic in December

Because of the party and because of Christmas..... gives you more time to shop for gifts for your wife.

Lasting Memories.... that will indeed last and last.

Oleta Webb took on the challenge of preserving the two old photo albums from the first years of our club's existence. These huge albums have managed to survive all these years on a shelf in the library. They are the only record we have other than some old mimeographed newsletters. Oleta took each picture out of the album, labeled it, scanned it into the computer, and replaced it in the album. She also scanned all of the old newsletters. So now we have a digital record of our past that can be preserved forever. This was tedious and tiresome work and we owe Oleta our thanks for a job well done!!! Examples of album pictures will be in the slide show at the Christmas Party.



Recent Memories.... share the moment.

We will run a slide show during the Christmas Party with pictures of fish and their catchers from this year. If you were lucky enough to catch a fish this year send your picture to Paul Wargo flyfishersnwf@gmail.com or paulwargo3@gmail.com. Smile!

The Pres Says

As our year ends I want to reflect back and then look forward to next year. The club changed from the Southeast Council of the IFFF to the Gulf Coast Council. This aligns more with the fishing we enjoy most often. In addition, our spring fly fishing course and our month to month outreach effort was recognized by receiving the Gulf Coast Education Award. Many thanks to Russ Shields for organizing the course and the tying and casting presenters at our monthly clinics for this award. We had another very successful auction this year and the club is in good financial shape. Our support of the Project Healing Waters program in Pensacola continues to be successful and the efforts in Orange Beach are beginning to bear fruit. All in all it has been a very successful year. I would like to thank the elected officers and all the other committee members and volunteers that make the club so dynamic.

The club's future is bright led by a new slate of officers. I ask everyone to give Rex Straughn support as he leads us this next year. One thing I would like to see is more participation in the IFFF and the Gulf Coast Council. Don't forget the Christmas Party. It is always a lot of fun and the capstone event in our club year. There will not be a board meeting this month; the general membership meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, December 1st. *Cliff*

On behalf of the club, I take this opportunity to thank Cliff for his leadership and service as our president!

Paul

Fishing Report from Capt. Baz

As expected the bulls have been running all November, and *Redfish Fever* is high!



We first found them on top inside the bay on October 31. Mike Youkee was in town for 6 days, and we were



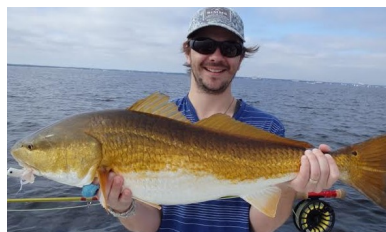
poling the flats east of Portofino when we saw the water boiling out in the ICW. These were beautiful brightly-colored fish but smaller than the usual "bulls". Over half of them were just inside the slot. Mike landed five and released them all.

Nothing happened for a few days and then on November 3 there was a major eruption between the EPA and Bob Sikes Bridge. Russ Shields had booked Capt Eddie Woodall and me for three days, and after combing the whole bay (including the EPA) we headed east to the Portofino area. We had not been there long when Tom Finkle called to tell me he had just landed a fish by the Bob Sikes Bridge. By the time Eddie and I got there it was absolutely on fire with hundreds of big redfish crashing menhaden and mullet on the surface.

Eddie had the fly-casters (Russ and Cooper Adams) on his boat, and I had Russ' son Mike and son-in-law TJ Carnes who are spin-fishermen. When the smoke finally settled Mike and TJ had landed 50 redfish in the 20-25 pound range! If you don't believe me ask Russ. I'm including photos of Mike Shields and TJ with their best fish of the day.

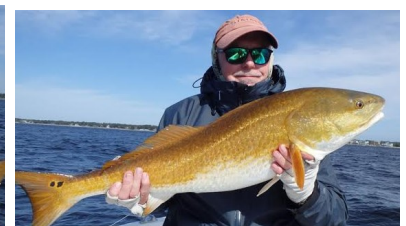


Again, nothing happened for a week. I'd resorted to drifting live bait through Pensacola Pass and could see big schools of redfish on my fathometer, but they seemed content sitting near the bottom in 60' of water. Then on November 10 something triggered them to all come into the bay at once. Could have been the new



moon...new tide sequence...drop in water temperature...who knows? But for Dave Walters and Scott Aitken it was a taste of heaven as they experienced my all-time best day of fly-fishing for redfish in Pensacola Bay. We boated twelve "doubles", and they figured each landed in the neighborhood of 20 bull redfish. I posted a short YouTube video which you might enjoy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Uuht73XHVQ>

Then a cold front came through with a week of small craft warnings. My fly clients Edd Hill and Dwayne Mays were here for five days and landed a few fish around the bay on sinking lines. Nothing spectacular until their final day when we found hundreds of fish on the surface west of Pensacola Pass. The menhaden were thick all the way to the Perdido Key condos, and the redfish were under them. Of course by the next day they were gone...



Bob Jenkins and I last found them a couple days ago on November 20 in the middle of the bay. We had finished a frustrating day in the Gulf with just a single fish landed and were drifting a mile out from Bayou Chico in the glassy water and sunshine enjoying a cold beer. Way in the distance I saw a couple boats motoring and stopping by the 3MB, and we decided to cruise over there and check it out. We were between the Port of Pensacola and Deadman's Island when the fish all came to the surface at once covering a half mile of water. Incredible numbers of fish! I think it was the same school we'd videoed ten days earlier. Bob landed 6 monsters in the next hour or so before it abruptly stopped.



And that's how it's been. If you're in the right place at the right time it's fabulous. Otherwise it can be pretty darn boring running around the bay burning gasoline hoping something will happen. I've had reports from the last couple days that the fish have been dependably on top in the middle of the bay close to the Deadman's Island range markers. With the cold weather maybe they'll stay active for a while. There's a ton of bait; why shouldn't they!



Mike Youkee and I had some outstanding fishing for jack crevalle on October 30. The bay slicked off, and we were hunting redfish over by the port. In the distance I could see nervous water a hundred yards long and 30 yards wide. We idled over, killed the motor, and drifted into

range. To our delight it was a giant school of jack crevalle swimming on top with their tails and dorsal fins breaking the surface! You talk about getting excited! Mike was rigged with a big popper and heaved it out there on the edge of the school. He started stripping, and the fish came up under the fly but wouldn't eat it. Fish after fish rose up and refused it. So we let them move away and quietly changed to a big streamer. I repositioned the boat, and this time the fish crushed it. Mike landed two jacks...26 and 24 pounds. Earlier in the day he had landed his first ever pompano on fly, so we immediately clicked into redfish mode hoping for the Emerald Coast Grand Slam. But it was too late in the day for the flats, and we were never able to find any fish on the surface. Close but no cigar. Of course the next morning we found the redfish at Portofino, and Mike landed 5!



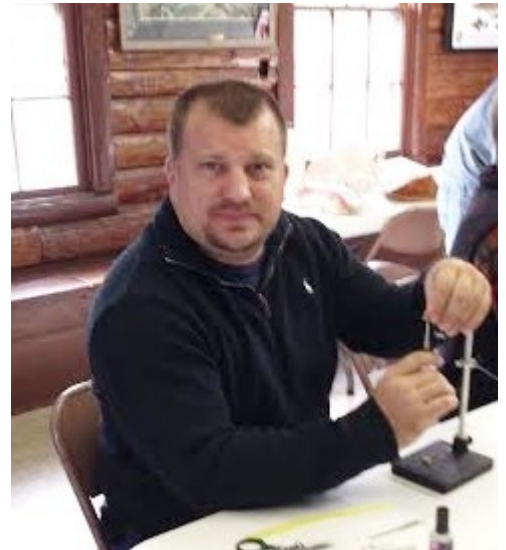
Kent Gilliland and I were drifting out from Joe Patti's November 24 hoping for some magic, and a school of a couple hundred fish popped up 200 yards from us. We beat the other boats there, and Kent landed this beauty on an all white go-meaux. One cast...one fish. Nice job, Kent.

In closing, here are some nice shots of Mike with a big Spanish on October 30, his first pompano, and a big moonfish landed by the Massachusetts. There were hundreds of them feeding on the surface after the remnants of Hurricane Patricia passed by, and from a distance I thought they were false albacore. Mike put the gummy minnow in the school, and this is what ate it. I've never seen them before. At the time we thought they were lookdowns, but after more research settled on moonfish. You never know what might eat your fly out there...



Capt Baz

Welcome Gary Pheabus is a new member and also volunteer in our PHWFF Pensacola program. He is very experienced fly fisherman and fly tier and patient instructor. He has stepped forward and volunteered to **manage the fly fishing course next year**. Gary is a retired Navy Cryptologic Technician who has visited sixty five countries during his navy career. We are very fortunate to have him involved in our club's many activities and I look forward to working with him in all that we do. *Russ Shields*

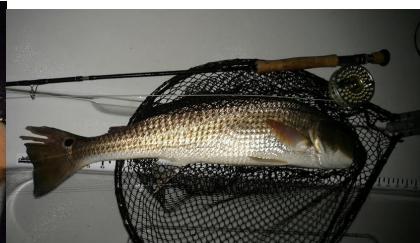


Gary with a bonefish caught in Pearl Harbor across from the USS Missouri. One of three caught on a crystal shrimp that evening.



No fly tying this month due to Christmas. Make up some red and green Clousers with tinsel for flash. Hang on the tree.

Around the Bay



Jeff Dueschle fishing the docks near Orange Beach. Successfully.

New member Kent Gilliland with a pompano. One of two caught on flies fishing with Paul Wargo. What made these fish special is where they were caught – in 12' of water in the bay east of NAS.



And Far, Far Away It appears that Tarpon Bob should change his name to Tarzan Bob.

Bob Korose on his latest trip to Amazon found some prime fishing. (The river, not the store.) Bob is featured on the web site <http://aguaboamazonlodge.com/fishing-reports/> This is what they wrote:

Greetings Peacock Fans and welcome back to the **Agua Boa Amazon Lodge Fishing Report**. Last week was another great week of fishing here at the Lodge. If you have been following the fishing report this year, you already know that the river is unseasonably low. However last weeks weather was just what we were hoping for. It rained on and off for most of the week including a very nice sustained early morning rain last Wednesday. In fact the pitter-patter of the rain on our newly renovated roofs caused a few of our guests to sleep in an extra hour. Hey why not, it is a vacation!

The **good news** is that the river came up 8 inches last week and the **better news** is that the clarity of the water was unchanged. Therefore....yes you guessed it...**the sight fishing is still great**. In fact we frequently highlight (we never brag) our great sight fishing for peacock bass in our Fishing Report, but this week **veteran Agua Boa angler Bob Korose** took sight fishing to a whole different level. Bob was fishing with Bacaba in Zona 2 when they spotted a group of Redtail catfish. Fortunately Bob was able to combine the right presentation and hook set, to land the beast. Enjoy a shot of Bob with his Redtail Catfish!



That wasn't the only cool fishing experience Bob had last week. He and Fly tying Guru John Holpuch were lucky enough to happen upon a passing school of Arowana. They were then able to hook up and land a rare **double on Arowana**, quite a feat. Well done John and Bob!

Looks like the makings of a great program for a meeting next year!



Meeting minutes for 03 November 2015

General Membership Meeting

For a list of participants please refer to the attendance record dated 03 November 2015

Cliff Newton, President, called the meeting to order at 1900 hours.

Jay Brykczynski gave the treasury report. Terry McCormick motioned to accept the previous month's minutes as printed in the newsletter. Robin Armstrong seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Fishing reports were given. Robin Armstrong took a trip to the White River in Arkansas. New member Kent Gillian caught a Pompano. Water temperature in the bay at this time last year was 66 degrees Fahrenheit. This year the temperature is a 75 degrees Fahrenheit in the bay. Terry McCormick caught a bunch of Spanish mackerel by Fort Pickens. He also caught his first Bull Red of the season measuring in at 38" after a 35 minute fight by himself. He showed pictures so we believe it actually happened. Gilmore has been slow. He caught his Red east of Gilmore on a tan & white #2 Clouser. Overall fishing has been slow but did find some Bull Reds on the east side of the EPA.

Project Healing Waters reported than their planned trip to Atlanta to drift boat fish the Chattahoochee River has been postponed due to weather.

Elections Rex Straughn, Vice President, presented the results of the Nomination Committee. The following people have agreed to serve if elected. Rex Straughn has agreed to run for president. Vice president Nominees include Oleta Webb and Kevin Gorby. Kent Reagan and Jay Brykczynski have agreed to stay on another year in their positions of Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Robin Armstrong and Kevin Gorby have agreed to run for the two members at large positions.

Voting for the officer positions for the 2016 calendar year commenced. Cliff Newton asked individually for nominations from the floor for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor for these positions. Paul Wargo motioned for a vote of acclimation for the uncontested positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer. Terry McCormick seconded the motion and the motion passed, **electing Rex Straughn to President, Kent Reagan to Secretary and Jay Brykczynski to Treasurer** for the 2016 calendar year. Ballots for Vice President were passed out to vote for either Oleta Webb or Kevin Gorby to the position. Cliff Newton tallied the votes and **Oleta Webb was elected to the position of Vice President** for the 2016 calendar year. Next the Members at Large positions were voted on. These are great positions for new members to the club allowing them the opportunity to learn how the board and club work. Cliff Newton asked if there were any nominations from the floor and there were none. Paul Wargo motioned for a vote of acclimation to elect Kevin Gorby and Robin Armstrong to the uncontested positions of Member at Large. Oleta Webb seconded the motion and the motion passed electing **Kevin Gorby and Robin Armstrong as the Members at Large** for the 2016 calendar year.

Angler of the Year Secret ballots were passed out to vote for the Angler of the Year. Angler of the Year is not necessarily the best fisherman, but has done the most to serve the club and fly fishing in Pensacola. Terry McCormick nominated Paul Wargo as Angler of the Year and Oleta Webb seconded the motion. Paul has contributed a great deal to the club this past year by constructing the newsletter, history of the club and taking new members fishing. For the record he did neglect to take Kent Reagan fishing but Kent is willing to overlook that infraction. The secretary took a moment to laugh at this point in the writing of these minutes. Paul also still performed all his duties and maintained contact with the club even during the time he was in Michigan. Kent Reagan nominated Cliff Newton for Angler of the Year and Ralph Newton seconded the motion. Kent nominated Cliff because of all the work he did as President this year and his continued contributions to Project Healing Waters. The secret ballots were collected and turned into Rex Straughn for counting. Other than the elected officers there are many ways to get involved and serve the club like the committees, cooking, volunteering for the sprung course, helping with the library or giving programs to name a few. Cliff encourages people to get more involved in the club and club activities.

Fall Outing Ralph Newton made an announcement about the fall outing scheduled for the 14th of November at Big Lagoon State Park. Gates open at 0800. There is an entry fee for entering the park and for launching a boat. There are tandem and single kayaks for rental. National Park passes will not work because it is a Florida State Park. Sam recommending fishing out on the flat by the amphitheater.

December Schedule Paul Wargo made a motion that we have the business meeting on the first Tuesday and the Christmas party and cancel all other meetings for the month of December because of the holidays. Rex Straughn seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Tuesday Business Meeting will be your last chance to buy tickets for the Christmas party. Paul Wargo stated that we will show the Project Healing Waters video at the December Business Meeting and a slide show will be presented at the Christmas party. If you have picture of you with a fish please send them to Paul for the slideshow. His email is paulwargo3@gmail.com. Rex Straughn has membership rosters if anyone wants one.

Raffle Prizes So far for the Christmas party we have an Orvis 7wt rod with a 7/8 reel. Awaiting a donation from Feathercraft for the party. There will be a trip with Capt. Baz in the raffles. We have TFO BVK 5wt and TFO BVK 8wt rods and BVK reels. There will also be a Renzetti Saltwater Traveler's Vise with base. There will also be a couple \$50 gift certificated for spouses. USMC Fly Guy plans on donating a collection of Rite Bobbins and fly tying material. You must be present for the raffle to win. Everyone is asked to either tie a half dozen or a dozen flies to give away as door prizes. You could also donate one of your favorite fly tying tools.

Email Paul Wargo asked if everyone is receiving the newsletter. There has been some issues with the email distribution list. If you are having any difficulties receiving the newsletter please contact Paul at paulwargo3@gmail.com.

Library Jim Morris gave a program about the library. There are over 200 books, some DVDs and some odd and end items available for check out. Sign outs are good for a month at a time. Inside the library there is a binder with all the rules associated with utilizing the library. Books are listed in order of 1000s of numbers. Please make sure when you return a book to put it back in the correct place so the next person can find it. If you have a book you're interested in that is not in the library let Jim know because he does have a budget for purchasing new material. Paul Wargo stated that there will be some book reviews done for the newsletters. If you're interested in doing a book review take a picture of the book and do about a quarter page article then email to Paul at paulwargo3@gmail.com. If you would like to donate books, DVDs or any other type of material please contact either Jim Morris or Paul Wargo. Please use the library!

Pop N Fly Paul Wargo made a handout and passed it around concerning the Pop-N-Fly available from Feathercraft #HD580. Paul has been using them for mackerel and according to him they really work. If you want to try it out contact Paul, paulwargo3@gmail.com, and he can make one for you. If you google Pop-N-Fly you can find a YouTube video about it.

Door prizes were given. Kent Reagan motioned for the meeting to be adjourned and Robin Armstrong seconded the motion. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 2015 hours. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned.
Kent Reagan, Secretary
Email: usmcflyguy@outlook.com