



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

December, 2018

## FFNWF

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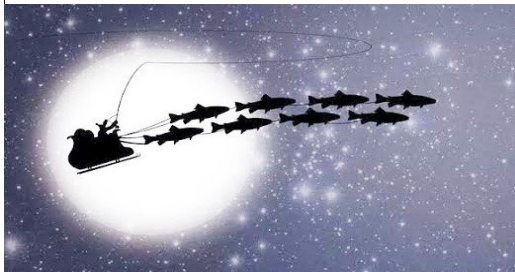
### MONTHLY MEETINGS

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 December 11

Scenic Hills Country Club  
8891 Burning Tree Rd  
Pensacola 32514 **6:00 PM**

**Last chance to get tickets: Meeting on Dec. 4. \$30**  
**Lots of Hors'deuvres served all evening and cash bar.**

**Raffle Tickets: \$5 or 6 / \$25 sold only at party.**  
**Raffle Prizes: Trip with Capt. Dan Storey**  
**Three Orvis Rods. Three Orvis Reels. Details page 4**  
**TFO BVK rod donated by Bob Story of Feather Craft**  
**Yeti Cooler. Fly Tying Kits from Kent Reagan**  
Separate Raffle for each prize.

## Club Meeting Tuesday, Dec. 4 7:00

Matt Wegener will present the program which will be an update on the growing concern over red tide in NW Florida. Last chance to get tickets for Christmas Party.

## There will be NO Fly Tying or Clinic in December



*In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers*

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Kent Reagan on the passing of his mother, Selbia. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kent and his dad.

**The Pres Says** "December, can't believe the year has gone so quickly. The club is in great shape. The 2018 Board of Directors and the Club Committees have done a wonderful job. Our activities over the year have seen great participation on all levels. Our end of year Christmas Party will be one to be remembered. Lastly, the Pensacola Parks and Recreation has notified us the money is in the budget for the handicap ramp and other facility modifications at the clubhouse to meet the ADA requirements. This is your club please make a point of attending in the new year. Sharon and I wish you a Merry Christmas and the hope for a Health New Year!" **Dave**

## **November Clinic**



Hard at work casting and tying, especially those brave souls who put their skills on display for all to see on the PHW competition course – but that was nothing compared to the REAL competition:

**Not** Pay Per View, but worth every penny. **Not** Tiger and Phil, but just as much pride and **almost** as much money: Could Jay hit a golf ball as far as Tarpon Bob Korose could cast????



**No.....**

**Miss Baz's Reports?** We all do, but here is a link to article about Baz in **Florida Sportsman** that covers a lot of the good advice we all learned from. Good to see Baz still helping people from all over enjoy the fishing that we get to try right here all the time!

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

## Fishing with Capt. Dan

OK; I took last month's report off mostly due to high winds and just downright crummy weather. We ran a few trips in October but fishing was tough. I did manage a nice weather day for the club's PHW trip on October 31, so we will include some pics from that if you haven't already seen them otherwise. I had Aaron Davis on my boat and we started the day with a few shots of the first Bulls on top of the year (for me at least). We couldn't button up but it was an exciting thing to see. We fished a popular spot for the rest of the day and caught a nice pompano and a whopper of a mackerel. We lost one even bigger.



Since then most of my time has been spent trying to be one step ahead of the bull redfish and the other boats as the "running of the bulls" is in full swing as I write this. It's been an interesting year for them. When the fish are active I am convinced that there are more in the bay than we had last year. But we have had several days where no one sees any fish! If you don't believe me, ask Russ Shields. We had a nice day of floating around the bay on November 4th, but not a tail swipe was seen. We have had some luck since then, but as I told him; "Some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue". Better luck on November 11th when I had Handsel on the boat.



And here is Mike Youkee's fish from November 14th. It was 40 degrees and raining on us all day. Mike still wanted to go, and the howling winds and full cloud cover meant we had the water all to ourselves. He managed to get this fish on a chartreuse deceiver, and it helped that he had an experienced guide to put him on the fish even in the face of all that adversity. (I've never been so lucky in my life than when he hooked this fish)



The skies cleared for Greg Strong on November 16 and he caught 2. We never got a picture of the second one so you will just have to believe us: And I'll close with Montana trout guide Jenny West with her first ever saltwater fish on fly. We fished all day and the fish never came to the surface. I watched as boat after boat ran back to the dock. I asked her what she wanted to do, and made sure she understood that I will stay out as long as she wanted because this was her only day to get it done. She opted to stay out and we turned a 4 hour trip into a 7 and a half hour ordeal and still had nothing to show for it. I took the long way home and halfway across the bay I saw some birds. Squinting my eyes to see through the spray and setting sun, I saw splashes that moved against the direction of the white caps. What a relief. We spent the next 45 minutes surrounded by fish. No other boats, they all gave up hours ago. I picked this fish out of the water, set in in her lap, and asked her, "What's the biggest fish you ever caught on fly?" She said "This one!" This is my most rewarding fish of the year.



Best bet to get in the backing this month is pretty obvious. Redfish! You can chase them in the bay or start looking on the beaches for them. Time to slow down though. Pitch anchor and wait for them to swim by.

**Dan Storey**

**Fishing Report...** *We have all seen the Orvis ads for their fishing schools, and we have all wondered what it would be like to actually be there.... Well, Wolfgang has been there and done that:*

## Saltwater Fly fishing in the Florida Keys through Orvis



This October was my third trip down to fly fish the Keys. I had signed up for a three day course "Everglades Fly Fishing School" last year but was cancelled due to Hurricane Irma.

The course started on Monday morning at 9:00 at the Cheeca Lodge in Islamorada. The first session was instruction on casting techniques, tackle and fly selection, knots, hook setting, and fish fighting. Classroom instruction was conducted in the condo suite of George H.W.Bush in which the walls were filled with mementos of the former president and family.

Truel Meyers and Joe Sedge were the experienced Orvis instructors conducting this one day class of seven students. Breakfast and Lunch was provided so no one went hungry during our first day.

Despite easterly winds blowing from 18-23 mph, my fly casting had improved since I was able to cast 40-50 feet downwind on the beach with good accuracy. I was happy that both instructors thought my mechanics was proficient and I was casting in excess of 50 feet double hauling.



Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 8:00 two students were assigned a fishing guide from Florida Keys Outfitters. I was the fortunate "odd number" of the group to have my own guide. We met at the Lorelei Restaurant marina dock for a full day of fishing. I was assigned to Kris Bacen who has been guiding in the keys since 1998. He suggested for Tuesday to fish the bayside in the channels for bonefish and perhaps doing some blind casting to the mangrove trees surrounding the cays for baby tarpon. Since the winds were still blowing 18-23 mph with gusts to 25 mph with broken clouds. The wind and the clouds made seeing the bonefish difficult in order to turn the boat properly to get a shot of casting to them.



He knew the area well and I had some limited success, catching 3 small fish and a mangrove snapper which I "tossed back". Fishing different channels and waiting for the tide to change made it difficult the first day to spot the bonefish. Bonefish make "clouds" feeding on soft bottoms and stirring up sand. I was able to identify the areas where bonefish were feeding.

Wednesday, we experienced similar conditions, but gave bone fishing a try in the channels both the ocean and bayside where Kris has had success in the past. I had the opportunity to cast three times to single and a school of bonefish but was not successful in getting a bite. Again, because of the wind there was difficulty in seeing the fish and



having Kris get the boat in the properly position for me to cast. The tarpon also did not respond to the shrimp fly that I was using on my 8 weight 9 foot TFO rod. I guess the most relaxing part was just sitting in the boat enjoying the sandwiches and the cold beer that were provided while enjoying the scenery in the cays.



After the school, on Thursday and Friday, I was fishing on my own, wading and blind casting off Scout Key. This area is right after the Old Bahia Honda Bridge. When the railroad was built in the 1900's limestone was mined from this area leaving a horse shoe shaped bay inside the mangrove island. There were rocks to walk on surrounding the horse shoe during low tide. The water is 30' deep close to shore. I was told that predator fish visit the area usually before sunrise and sunset. The flies here I used were Clousers of different colors. I was able to catch a Spanish mackerel (initially I thought was a barracuda) but before I could land it a huge predator fish bit it in half.

I did stay at the Amara Cay which I would recommend (it was exquisite). For restaurants in Islamorada, I tried both Lazy Bones and Lorelei had wonderful food with ocean/bay views. There was a sign that indicated that another Square Grouper restaurant would be opening soon in Islamorada. If this one is on par with the one in Cudjoe Key, I would suggest get their early for lunch or dinner. I found food and drink to be outstanding.

Here are links to photos of the horseshoe bay: <https://goo.gl/maps/D4YuYw6TBnn>

<https://goo.gl/maps/ygqLFxQFoBS2>

Wolfgang Szutie

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## Orvis Raffle Prizes – each rod and each reel +line a separate raffle

Superfine Carbon 9' 5 wt rod    Battenkill III reel with WF 5 line

Recon 9' 8wt rod    Hydros SL IV reel with WF 8 line

Recon 9' 10wt rod    Hydros SL V reel with WF 10 line



Yeti Cooler

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## FFNWF November 6, 2018 Minutes    The Board Meeting Opened at 1805:

The Treasurer reported our club finances in good shape. We plan to have at least 50 at the Christmas party. Treasurer's report approved. Minutes from October approved.

**Old Business:** A certificates of appreciation will be given Kent Gilliland, who has driven down from Huntsville on a regular basis to help Jonas with casting instruction, and Bob Story, owner of Feather-Craft, who has donated many fine rods to our Christmas Parties and Auctions.

The President reminded all officers to submit a "turn over file" if you haven't already done so.

**Christmas Party.** The December 4 meeting will be the last opportunity to purchase tickets. There will be a TFO BVK rod from Feather-Craft, three Orvis rods and reels, a Yeti cooler, and two \$100 gift certificates from Kent's fly shop in the raffles. Capt. Dan Storey has also donated a trip for the raffles. Members are encouraged to donate boxes of flies for door prizes. Scenic Hills will have a cash bar open all evening.

**Education/ Fly Fishing Course:** Tom Finkle volunteered to help Russ with the class. Thanks Tom!

**Club Outings:** Due to cooling temperatures it was decided to wait until spring 2019 for our next outing to Johnson Beach. George would also to plan a freshwater trip in the spring to Lake Talpin which is the top rated bass and crappie lake in our area by the Wildlife and Fisheries. If you have access to a private lake and would like to share with the club please let George know.

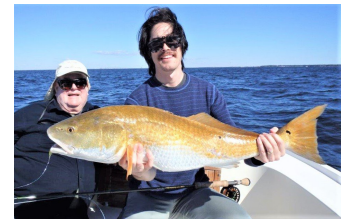
**Saturday clinic:** On November 17 we will set up the Project Healing Waters casting course for everyone to test their skills. Don Smith will provide the Brunswick Stew for lunch. Reminder: no beer outside. Please put your beer bottle caps in the box over the frig.

**Nominations:** President: David Handley, Vice President: Jim White, Treasurer: Jay Brykczynski, Secretary: George Norton, and Members at Large: Bob Myers and Oleta Webb were nominated.

**Nominations for Angler of the Year:** Don Smith, Joe Higgins, and Jonas Magnusson were nominated. The winner will be announced at the Christmas Party.

**General Meeting** began with welcoming Russ' grandson, Brian, as a guest.

**The Program:** Kent Reagan made a great presentation on his recent PHW fly fishing trip to the Patriot Ranch in Montana. Kent and other veterans had a float trip down the Wise River. His top trout was a 22" Brown trout. They



predominately fished a double dry rig of tiny Trico's (mayflies) or a Spruce Moth fly in size 12. The Wise River has browns, rainbows, cutthroats, brook trout and grayling along with whitefish. Kent could have stayed another month and the worst part of the trip coming home. Off the water Kent loved the food and the company.

**All of the Committee Reports and the Nominations** in the board meeting minutes were approved.

**The slate was elected** by acclamation. Meeting adjourned.



But he can hit it as far as Tiger and Phil