



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

February, 2021

## FFNWF

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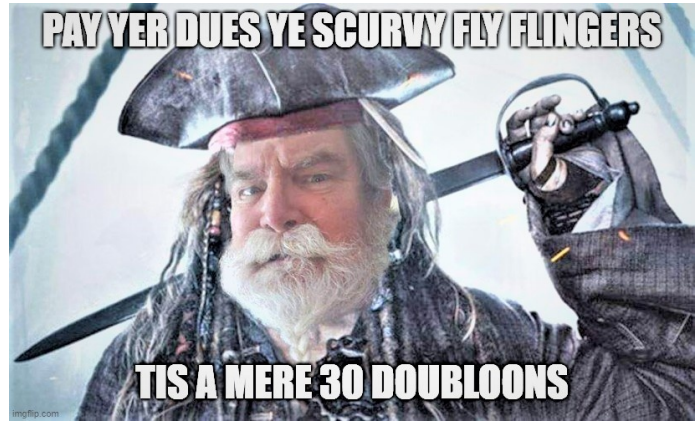
MEETINGS now  
being held via Zoom

Business Meeting  
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying  
2ND Thursday, 6 PM

Clinic -Casting, Tying,  
Lunch - Will resume  
TBA

**Dues are Due**  
**Send a check - \$30.00**  
**- payable FFNWF to**  
**Larry Sisney**  
**3610 Baisden Rd.**  
**Pensacola, FL 32503**



**The Pres Says: I hope that your year has gotten off to a start that includes fishing.** It was encouraging to hear George's fishing report at the January meeting. Fishing definitely offers a much-needed respite in these times. Although it's a new year, things haven't really changed much. The virus is still here and we're still not holding in person events indoors. We continue with ZOOM meetings and ZOOM fly tying sessions. Thanks to those who are able to be part of the ZOOM gatherings. It is really encouraging to me to see the group stay engaged.

Things are getting better, however. 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays at Miraflores Park provide an opportunity to exchange stories, fishing info, and maybe improve our casting skills. Also, some have recently received their first shot of vaccine. As the vaccine becomes more available and the pandemic runs its course, we can look forward to face-to-face fly tying and Saturday lunches. I can't offer a timetable for resuming events; your estimate is as good as mine. We will let you know when it safe to get back to 'normal.'

Please flood Larry Sisney's mailbox with your checks dues renewal. He's been working hard preparing a budget for 2021 which will be presented for your approval. Dues are an important source of income for the club. Introduce someone to the sport; take a kid fishing! *Bob Myers*

**Saturday, January 30, 0900** Orvis will be hosting a casting clinic at NAS Whiting Field. All authorized MWR patrons are invited to attend. Registration is only \$5.00. Must pre register by calling 850-623-7032. You are welcome to bring your own equipment however, Orvis will also provide what you need for the class. *Cyndi Myers*

**Did Cyndi trim Bob's beard???**

## Club Meeting – Tuesday, February 2 7:00 Zoom

Tarpon Bob will take us back to Canada. And plans will be made as we move forward into the new year. Please join us. Contact Lou Orrie if you need a link: [tazgunr@hotmail.com](mailto:tazgunr@hotmail.com)

## Fly Tying – Thursday, February 11 6:00 Zoom

Again: Contact Lou Orrie if you need a link: [tazgunr@hotmail.com](mailto:tazgunr@hotmail.com)

## Casting, etc. – Saturday, February 20 9:00 In the Flesh

Bring your own lunch. Or, ask Lou.

**The VEEP Corner:** The 2021 program schedule got off to a bit of a rocky start in January. Due to technical difficulties with the ZOOM, Tarpon Bob wasn't able to get his presentation up and running. So, we'll try again with Bob's "Canada Pike" show for the February meeting.

Incidentally, we still have a couple of presentation slots to fill so if you are planning a trip or have another topic you would like to share please let me know and I'll gladly put you on the schedule

*Mick*



**Back in Action!** A great turnout for our first casting get together on January 16. That hoop is a redfish cruising along 60' at 2 o'clock. One false cast and shoot the line!

**Fishing with Capt. Baz** There are schools of redfish along the shore in the Gulf this time of year, but you have to catch a day with clear and calm water. The fish have been moving around a lot this January. You could find them anywhere east of the pass as far down as the pink condos. My favorite way to do it is on foot. Find a place to park and take a stroll along the shore. Don't walk along the water's edge but stay 20-30' up the slope. The sand is softer making the walking a little tough, but the visibility is much better. Wear *white* to blend in with the background dunes. I prefer 9wt tackle and an intermediate line carried in a nerdy, hard-plastic stripping basket. My favorite fly is Travis Akins' "green weenie". Casting Instructor Kent Gilliland came down from Huntsville last week, and we walked the beach for 2.8 miles. There weren't many fish that day, but I landed one and Kent took the following video. Capt Dan was out there next day and saw "1000 redfish" between Pickens Point and the guard shack. We missed it by one day... Oh well, it was a nice day for a walk, and the company was good.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cr3KX4BDtQA&feature=youtu.be>.

There are also plenty of redfish on all our favorite flats on the north side of the island from the Ranger Station all the way to the Big Sabine. The problem has been finding a day with the right conditions. You need sun, light southerly winds, and enough water for the fish to be comfortable close to shore. The extremely low tides in January have made it challenging. I hit it right just two days this month. The first time was on January 6 when club member and terrific electrician Mike Broughton landed his first redfish on fly. Mike hooked a bona fide "submarine" earlier in the trip but the darn hook came unbuttoned. We had shots at 20-30 redfish that afternoon, and Mike had three good takes. The fish were eating one his own creations...a chartreuse/white minnow tied perfectly with EP fibers. The sink rate was just right, and the fish really liked it. The other time was last week when my brother Capt Dave and one of his clients joined me for some "scouting". The client was staying at Portofino, and we picked him up there and headed toward Opal Beach. We saw about 50 redfish along one stretch of beach down there, but the client is new to fly-fishing and couldn't make the casts. It was quite an "eye opener" for him, and I think we may have a convert.



We had some good luck this month with bigger redfish on some of the flats closer to the pass. First up in Brian Boutchard with his first-ever redfish on fly. It took two trips during his holiday vacation, but he hit the jackpot on January 5.

We'll wrap it up with Kent Gilliland holding a sad-looking, diseased

bull redfish on January 14. Kent's fish looks sick, but it did not affect it's ability to put up one heck of a fight.

*Capt Baz*

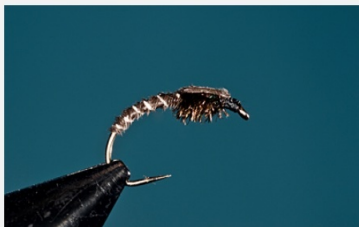


## FFI Corner

To our members who, at “o-dark-thirty” January 1<sup>st</sup>, made the following New Year’s resolution – “My goal for this year is to become a better fly tier” – I’ve got just the program for you!

One of the many great programs Fly Fishers International (FFI) sponsors is the Fly Tying Skills Award program. That program is operated within FFI by the Fly Tying Group (FTG). The FTG’s goal is the preservation, enhancement and support of the art of fly tying. They encourage FFI members to develop and improve their fly tying skills at their own pace through a structured learning plan with progressive goals. The program is meant to be informative, enjoyable and encourage camaraderie and co-operation among those taking part. There are three progressively more difficult levels of proficiency, Bronze, Silver and Gold. How does it work you ask? Simply tie flies. The handbook for each of the levels includes the tying instructions and list of materials necessary to accurately complete each of the five patterns in each level. Three examples of each of that level’s patterns are then sent to one of the FTG evaluators. Sounds easy, right? One of our members, Kevin Gorby, recently achieved the Bronze award and is working on Silver so we have a go-to guy with the inside gouge.

The Bonze level flies:



Grey Goose Emerger (Click to view)



Pheasant Tail Variant Dry Fly (Click to view)



Partridge and Orange Soft Hackle Wet Fly (Click to view)



Woolly Bugger (Click to view)



Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph (Click to view)

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/Tying/Fly-Tying-Skills-Award-Program/Bronze-Award>.



Three notes: (1) This will be a largely independent, self-paced activity with periodic get togethers to share lessons learned and to cheer on each other’s progress. (2) This activity is an additional and entirely optional club activity that will not supplant the regularly scheduled fly tying sessions (second Thursdays and third Saturdays). (3) Any materials costs and the registration fee (\$30) are the member’s expense.

If you are interested in taking part in the Fly Tying Skills Award Program, contact me via email at [Jrwhite55@aol.com](mailto:Jrwhite55@aol.com). Once I know the level of interest, I’ll schedule a Zoom session with the group so we can discuss a plan among ourselves regarding how to proceed.

A link to the detailed info at the FFI site is here:

*Jim White*

# Fly of the Month: Cooper Mullet Imitation

**HOOK:** MUSTAD #2-#1

**THREAD:** ORANGE 140d

**EYES:** YELLOW DUMBBELL SMALL/MEDIUM

**TAIL:** BLACK RABBIT ZONKER STRIP

**FLASH:** COOPER KRYSTAL FLASH



**SKIRT:** SENYO AQUA VEIL CHENILLE PEANUT BRITTLE

**BODY:** EP BRUSH MINNOW HEAD 1.5" ROOT BEER

## INSTRUCTION:



1. De-barb hook, wrap smooth thread base to bend. Add dumbbell eyes 1/8" +/- from hook eye.

2. Secure rabbit strip at hook bend, HIDE SIDE UP. Extend 1" +/- from bend. Secure 20 lb mono doubled as foul loop.



3. Tie loop top of hook shank. Add 3-4 strands Krystal Flash doubled over top of tail. Trim same length as tail.



4. Tie-in aqua veil chenille at base of tail, palmer w/ close wraps 4-5 wraps. Secure.

5. Wrap in EP brush for body/head at skirt base. Palmer brush to D/B eyes, tie-off behind D/B eyes. Pick out trapped fibers and comb to rear of fly.



6. Finish fly head with smooth tapered, thread nose. Trim brush of outstanding fibers. Trim bottom of fly flat. Fly will sit upright when at rest, on retrieves.

## NWFFF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES: January 5, 2020

**1904 Call to Order.** The President advised that long time club member **Rex Strahan** recently passed away. Rex was the Club President in 2016 and was an active and valuable member for years. Additionally Rex served as our liaison with FFI. . A private burial ceremony is planned at the Barrancas Cemetery this week. A motion was made by Dave Handley and seconded by George to send a \$100 donation to the Fisher House Foundation in Rex's memory. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

**Bob Korose's Presentation** on "Fly Fishing for trophy Northern Pike" in the Northwest Territory of Canada was canceled due to technical problems with Zoom. Bob will reschedule for our next meeting in February.

**Treasurer's Report:** A check for \$310 was sent to FFI for our annual club obligation. 2021 dues are now pending. Last year our membership grew to record levels despite Covid. Please send a \$30 check to Larry Sisney's address in the newsletter. Associate dues are \$10 for those residing outside our area. Larry reported our checking account balance is in good shape. Last year we received nonprofit status from the federal tax authorities and from Florida. This allows for using a tax free debit card for club purchases.

**Old Business:** We will start up our 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday "clinic" on January 16<sup>th</sup> at Miraflores Park with restrictions according to city guidelines at 9:00 AM. We will be outdoors. Bring your own lunch and fly rod. The club house will be closed except bathroom. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted because we are outdoors in a city park. Masks are required.

We still need a website manager. Let the President know if you would like to volunteer. This is a great opportunity to promote our club.

The annual "Fly Fishing 101 Class" has been delayed until further notice due to Covid.

**New Business:** New articles are needed for the newsletter. Please contact Paul Wargo. In particular articles about innovative fly tying materials or patterns.

**Fishing Reports:** were scarce due to cold windy weather. George had success at Bayou Texar with trout on his first trip on a cold day past the railroad trestle but got skunked two days later in the same area. The bayous on the north side of Gulf breeze didn't produce anything on several trips. Our local guides are finding reds on the flats sight fishing.

### *Fishing Stories by George Norton*

#### **The Louisiana Lake Pontchartrain Marsh**

The days' grey skies hung low over the salt marsh with bone chilling temperatures in the low 50's and the cold south Louisiana humidity went right thru you as I steered the flat aluminum boat thru the twists and turns of numerous bayous on the hunt for fish.

The cold ran down the back of your neck and seeped right thru the layers of clothes that didn't block out the damp chill of winter. We were fishing in the salt marshes south of Lake Pontchartrain, which connects the fresh water from rivers that empty into the Lake with the Mississippi Sound and the Gulf of Mexico.

"Honey would you mind wrapping the bow rope around that piling while I ease the boat up? I said." Janie took hold of the anchor rope while I eased the motor into reverse so the bow would kiss the piling with a gentle bump.

I had just caught a nice redfish and eager to get another one, paid little attention as she leaned over the bow and put the loop around the piling but the boat drifted away from the piling. Left with no boat underneath, a loud scream and then a splash followed, as she landed in the frigid waters.

She always wore her life jacket so I reached over and hauled her into the boat by her armpits over the gunwale dripping wet. Having just caught the only fish of the trip a few minutes earlier, I was not anxious to call it a day. When I said, "Sweetheart would you mind if we fish a few more minutes before we go in?" This spot looks great. She gave me a look like "Do you want to live?" I pulled the motor's chord, returned to the launch and got the heat on in the Jeep.