



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

July , 2016

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

July Meeting: Tuesday, July 5 - 7:00 PM

Bob Korose will present the program – his trip to Christmas Islands. Bob has taken us on many adventures including Alaska and Brazil, but they are right around the corner compared to Christmas Island. However, this is the Christmas Island that is still in the Pacific. So, still close by. Sort of.



Fly Tying: Thursday, July 14 – 6:30 PM

This is the Month of Tarpon Bob. Bob will return and do the **Fly of the Month** on Thursday, July 14. **The Midnight Special.** See page 4

Club Clinic: Saturday, July 16 – 9:00 AM

Bob will be back with the Midnight Special even in the morning. (When it is morning here it is midnight somewhere where there is a Christmas Island.) And we will have good old fashioned American food – hamburgers and cheeseburgers thanks to Joe Higgins. A Christmas party in July.

Tool Kits Many of our Fly Fishing Class members and new members to the club have expressed a need for a set of tools that would be all that they would need to get started. You can tell they are new, because those of us who are experienced in the ways of fly fishing know that you never have all the tools (or rods or reels) you need. Nevertheless, Kent Reagan has put together three kits at various prices that fit the bill. Kent can order them from his suppliers at a good price. A good deal even for those with a wealth of experience (and you don't need wealth). Check with Kent at the meetings.

The picture is just a sample of typical roll up kit. Kent's are better, and isn't it great Kent is feeling better and busy with us again!!



Fishing with Capt. Baz

We always have a lot of fun with the fly rods in June, and this month was no different. The most exciting day was on June 3 when club member Bruce Trumbull and Jake Tessler experienced an amberjack feeding frenzy at the Tex Edwards barge. There were amberjacks exploding all around the boat when a big fish crushed Bruce's popper and headed for the wreck. As you might remember Bruce brings out his "inner-Neanderthal" by fighting big AJs on 10wt tackle and very little drag. He stops the fish by palming the reel, and by-the-way doesn't wear gloves! When this first fish made it to the wreck cutting him off Bruce turned to me and said "Baz, if I hook another one he ain't making it to the wreck!"



And that's exactly what happened. Another big AJ grabbed his popper and bolted for the structure, but this time Bruce got the jump on the fish and stopped it before it reached the wreck. It was an epic tug-of-war with the AJ fighting for its life and Bruce applying all the pressure possible with his twenty year old Sage RPL 2-piece 10wt. Here's the photo of a



bloody-knuckled Bruce with the new boat record amberjack which measured 33" to the fork. We landed numerous other AJs that day including this one by Jake Tessler...his first on fly. We tried on numerous other days for the amberjacks without success until Mike Youkee (previous AJ record holder) landed one at the Liberty Ships on June 21.



The other big fish of the month was this 25 pound redfish landed by Ted Calcaterra from St Louis on June 13. There's been a very spooky school of bull redfish living in the vicinity of the "Palm Tree" for the past few months, and when the conditions are right I've been trying to get them to eat the fly. We landed two last month but had had no success in June until Ted coaxed this beauty to eat one of my special half-and-half "worm" flies. Ted's smile says it all!

The "slot" redfish fishing on the flats has been tough as expected with the warming water and increased fishing pressure, but we have had some success. Here's Patrick Pedano on June 8 and a nice shot of Mike Youkee on June 23. The fish have disappeared from most of my favorite flats west of the Bob Sikes Bridge, and I've been finding more fish by heading east towards Navarre. It'll be tough until the water temperature starts dropping in the fall.





The jack crevalle sight-fishing in Santa Rosa Sound is getting better and better. We saw fish every day this week in numerous spots, and Mike Youkee tied the 28 1/2# boat record with this monster at Town Point on June 20. For those of you like Bob Willice who are itching for the adrenaline rush of big jacks call me, and I'll tell you where to set up.

The USS Massachusetts is literally covered up with Spanish mackerel and juvenile kings. Mike Youkee got strikes on almost every cast yesterday using a 10wt with 550gr sinking line and a "green weenie". Yes boys and girls, it's finally time to get your weenies out and head for the Massachusetts! I would tie them with 1/0 hooks and a little longer than usual to get the bigger fish. Let the fly sink until the running line straightens, and then retrieve with long fast strips. Don't forget finger protection, and hold on tight to your rod! Here's Mike with a nice king after a typical struggle.



The tarpon are arriving in good numbers. We "staked out" in various spots this past week, saw hundreds of fish, and had a few less-than-perfect shots with the expected results. No takes. The tarpon are migrating outside the outer sandbar in roughly 20' of water. You can pick a spot east of the pass or try shallower water just east of the pass or along Johnson Beach. The water west of the pass has been dirty, but it should clear up some with the next set of big tides. The silver kings should be coming through for the next few weeks, and I'll be out there after them every day conditions permit.

Capt Baz

And More from Tarpon Bob Korose *(Yes, he gets around)*

I recently completed a trip to Campeche, Mexico, "Tarpon Town" to fish for "baby" tarpon for 5 days. We fished in and around the creeks, lakes, and mangroves shorelines. This was mostly sight fishing in 3 feet or less of water. We jumped and caught quite a few of these 2 to 10+ pound baby tarpon. Everything with the trip was excellent. The guides were some of the best I have ever fished with. I highly recommend the trip. I plan on doing a presentation to the club at some future meeting.

Bob Korose



And Bob is back..... Fly of the Month

Midnight Special by Bob Korose

Night fishing around lighted docks and bridges can be very enjoyable and productive during the warm summer months. Because the fish are usually feeding on small grass shrimp and glass minnows, small flies are usually the most effective. The midnight special fly imitates the grass shrimp and is tied using glow fibers. A size 6 white lightning fly also uses glow fibers and imitates a glass minnow. Both these flies are easy to tie and work great using a 10# test fluorocarbon tippet.



Tying Materials:

Hooks: Mustad 3407 size 6

Eyes: black or bronze bead chain

Body: EZTAZ Petite (Opal white #01) or small pearl chenille

Thread: White Danville Flat Waxed Nylon

Tail: Kent's Night Vision Fibers (glow white)



Debarb the hook. Start the thread behind eye and tie a thread base to the bend of the hook. Tie on a 1 ½ inch long clump of glow fibers, then tie on the bead chain eyes with figure 8 wraps where the fibers are tied on.



Tie on a piece of chenille and wind thread to just behind the hook eye.



Wrap chenille forward to thread and tie off. Form a head and whip finish. Put on stripes with a green marker. Apply head cement.



The white lightning is a similar fly tied on a size 6 hook with glow fibers for the tail and bead chain for the eyes but the eyes are positioned at the front of the fly. A red thread head gets more bites. Try various retrieves for each type fly based on fish reaction. In our area, specks, reds and ladyfish are the likely catch.



Celebrate Freedom on Independence Day

Picture from Jerry Giles

Around Town.... Saw that the club was thinking about an outing to Brooks Hines. John and I have not fished there but we have been fishing Hurricane Lake just about every weekend this Spring. This past weekend I caught an 18" bass, was close to dark so did not get a picture but I'm sending another picture of one taken a couple of weekends ago. This past Sunday we caught about 50 bass using top water flies and mainly the Bomber Mouse that Jerry Aldridge created several years ago. The water temp is in the 80's so not sure how much longer the fishing will be good but the lake has been fishing very well this Spring. *Karen Brand*



A Food Fight with an Osprey By *(our own)* George Norton: Outdoor Writer: May 2016
I had two speckled trout on the Bayshore dock by 630 AM and my fly rod was bent in a beautiful arc as I fought a third trout thinking it doesn't get any better than this. In ten minutes I had two quality trout and was ready to hoist the third fish onto the dock's deck. They were in the 16-19 inch range. The wind blew directly in my face and the trout fed only thirty to forty feet in front of me, a short cast away.

Then the water exploded like a small bomb went off as I was wearing down the third trout. An osprey dove and grabbed the fish with his talons. He flapped his wings furiously trying to lift himself and the trout up and out of the water but I applied just enough pressure to keep the osprey from getting airborne. His yellow eyes glared in anger at me as he floated on the water clutching his prize but we had a "Mexican stand-off."

When the steady pressure on my rod didn't separate the osprey and my fish, I impatiently yanked the line too hard and the tippet section broke. The osprey slowly gained elevation and finally soared up and away with my trout in his talons. Our food fight was over.

The osprey's fledglings would have enough to eat and the trout was a larger prize than he was accustomed to handling. The osprey had a nest of young to feed. From our patio early in the morning I watched a pair of them hunting and calling to each other as they soar on the wind currents a hundred and fifty feet above the water.

When a fish is spotted, they hover over their prey before dropping like a dive bomber head down but hitting the water feet first in a braking motion. Lately they have had to work extra hard for their usual catch of mullet. Mullet are the targets of about everything in the Bay from man's nets to trout, dolphins, pelicans and osprey.

Speckled trout hit a variety of flies that imitate shrimp and baitfish. They favor grass flats in the Bay and feed from the top to the bottom of the water column; unlike redfish which are primarily bottom feeders. Trout spend the winter months in the river deltas that empty into the Bay. They move into the grass flats when the water temperature reaches about 72 degrees in late April full of spawn. They retreat to deeper water during bright sunlight and move shallow early morning or at night where they are attracted to the baitfish that hang around the Bayshore's lighted pier.

Speckled trout are the filet mignon of the fish culinary. Lightly dusted in flour or fish fry and pan sautéed with a trilogy of onions, tomatoes and bell peppers topped with capers in lemon butter, they are unbeatable. *George*

Minutes Business Meeting of June 7, 2016

Rex Straughn, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. There were ten (10) members present.

Club treasurer Jay Brkczynski presented the financial report. The report was approved as read.

Terry McCormick requested that a replacement be found for his administration of the club auction. He has been handling that project for twelve (12) years, and wishes to step down.

Brian Cooper, Director of Pensacola Parks & Recreation, spoke to the members regarding the status of the building in which we hold our meetings. He presented a draft of a "Memorandum of Understanding", regarding proposed assumption of control of the building by our club. Russ Shields made a motion that a committee be formed to review the document and report on their findings and recommendations. The motion, seconded by Terry McCormick, passed. Committee members are Russ Shields, Cliff Newton, Rex Straughn, and Jerry Giles.

Following a call for further business, President Straughn declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted;
Jerry Giles, Sub. Sec.

Project Healing Waters With the first Monday being the 4th we will not have a Healing Waters meeting. The other July Healing Waters meetings will be on the 11th and 25th.

We are also planning a fall fishing trip with Capt. Baz and Capt. Eddie for Thursday October 20th. Hopefully the weather will be cooler by then!

This month we will continue to concentrate on terrestrial fly patterns and in August we will go back to some salt water patterns: We are always open to suggestions.

Cheers, *Russ*