



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

May, 2019

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

AUCTION!!! Tuesday May 7

The auction takes the place of our business meeting on May 7. There will be Silent Auction tables starting at 5:00. Bidding starts at 6:00. Come early, stay, late, bid early, bid often, spend some money and have a great time!

WE WILL TAKE CREDIT CARDS! (You can still bring your checkbook!)

Bob Story, owner of Feather Craft (<https://www.feather-craft.com>) has donated a brand new TFO BVK 8 wt rod for the auction.

And: a new TFO BVK 6 wt (thanks to Russ!). Two antique Wright & McGill fiberglass rods and at least 3 top quality used rods. A 10 wt rod building kit. Altogether over 150 items including a chest with 6 trays full of flies and a Marlin Original Goose Gun (12 ga 3" magnum)

And: Fishing Trips! A trip with Baz! A trip with Jim White! A trip with Captain Richard Montgomery! And More!!



This will be a great event in the history of our club. Don't miss it!!!!

The Pres Says "Auction! Auction! Auction!" It's finally time for our annual club auction. This is our club's major fundraiser of the year. Richard Montgomery and Bob Gray have been working hard taking in donations and getting them cataloged for presentation. Russ Shields and Bob Myers received and cataloged two heritage donations from the families of members passed. This is an event NOT to be missed. Cyndi Myers has done a wonderful job setting up the club's ability to accept credit/debit cards for payments at the auction. Of course checks and cash are always accepted. Bring your donations, come early, stay late enjoy the event."

Cyndi has completed the setting up of SQUARE Point of Sale (POS) which allows FFNWF to accept credit/debit cards for purchases. A convenience charge of 3% will be added to the total purchase amount. This charge covers the SQUARE service charge the club has to pay per transaction. *Dave*

The V.P.'s Corner – Thank you Officer Jimmy McHenry for an excellent program on the do's and don't's of fishing and boating in our local Pensacola area. No presentation for May because it is "Auction Time!" Lots of great fishing gear at great prices. Remember, this auction is a key funding source for our club and enables us to do fun stuff like enjoying the annual Christmas parties at Scenic Hills Country Club. In addition to benefiting the club, selected items will be auctioned to benefit disabled veterans through our Project Healing Waters group. Come early for the best seating. Regular program presentations will resume in June. *Jim White*

Jun – Jim White presents "Trout fishing on the South Holston River"

Jul – Steve Hofmann presents "Modern fly rod and reel construction methods"

Aug – Bob Korose presents "The Golden Dorado in Argentina"

Sep – Jim White presents "Trout fishing on the Yellowstone River"

Oct – Matt Wegener presents "Hunting Bull Reds in Pensacola"

Nov – Dr. Jonas Magnuson presents "Fishing in Iceland"

Dec – Oleta Webb presents "Fishing in Montana"

NAS Whiting Here are photos of the NAS Whiting Field Travel and Recreation show on April 12th. Russ Shields and Jim White answered many questions from active duty and retired military and DOD guests. There were more than 300 attendees at the event. Our table, representing Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida and Project Healing Waters, was one of the most visited tables.

Bob Myers



The Class of 2019



The class has successfully matriculated through casting and fly tying and they are about to commence into the world of fly fishing with honors. However, in lieu of a prom they will attend the auction.



Bob Korose taught rods and reels.

Jonas (and many members) taught casting.



Fly tying was *All Hands on Deck*

And a Good Time was had by all. Especially at recess.

No business meeting May 7 because of the Auction.

Fly Tying – *The Tall Tale of the Dragon Tail* – Thursday, May 9 – 6:30

Clinic – Saturday, May 18 – 9:00 AM - Dave Handley, our club president, is going to serve us a white bean, chicken, sausage soup with lots of other good ingredients mixed in. *Joe Higgins*

Fishing with Capt. Baz **EMERALD COAST GRAND SLAM!!**

It happened April 23 for only the third time in 16 years. For those of you who don't know about *THE SLAM* it's a redfish, pompano, and jack crevalle caught the same day on fly. You might think it wouldn't be that difficult, but I've had over a thousand fly-casters on the boat during the past sixteen years, and it's happened just three times. Long odds. What's even more incredible is Bob Jenkins from Aspen, Colorado, achieved it in 2016 and last Tuesday he did it **again!**

It was a perfect day for fly-fishing with bright sunshine, blue skies, clear water, and a light northerly breeze. The migrating jacks and pompano showed up a couple weeks ago, and we were in a big hurry to get out to the Gulf which was as flat as a pancake. We're talking about .3' seas! But I knew of one small inside flat holding some very nice redfish and decided to go there first.

I found these redfish a month ago and have had numerous clients casting to them, but no one has been able to get a fish to eat. The closest was on April 3 when Atlanta's Kevin Maxey (Grand Slam in 2012) had a big fish aggressively follow the fly for 20' before refusing right at the boat. I know the area well and poled the skiff very close to shore "tip-toeing" as quietly as possible, drifted the last fifty feet, and eased the anchor over in 2' of water leaving the skiff sitting over a grass bed surrounded by numerous sand spots. Jenkins took the bow with his trusty TFO "Mangrove" 8wt and the "old faithful" EP baitfish... same fly Kevin's fish followed on April 3. It was 9:30 in the morning and glassy-calm which made for excellent visibility to the west, south, and north, but the eastern view was into the sun over a sheet of glass. As opposed to standing on the poling platform I got down on the deck to minimize our profile and stared to the east into the glare while Jenkins watched for fish coming from the west, south, or north. We waited. I had seen a dozen reds here the day before, but we were an hour earlier on the tide and all was quiet. We continued waiting. After about a half hour I saw a dark spot move onto the outer edge of a small sand spot eighty feet to the east of us. It sat still, I alerted Jenkins, and we both tried to determine if it was a fish or a ray and which way it was facing. Bob decided to try a cast and laid out as beautiful a 90' cast as I've ever seen. The cast had a slight upward angle and was directed a few feet right of the dark spot. The leader turned over, straightened out, and the fly dropped quietly three feet to the right and five feet beyond the dark spot. The end of the flyline dropped softly on the water five feet short of the spot, and nothing



moved....a good sign. Jenkins let the fly sink, and as it dropped in the water column the dark spot slowly moved toward it. After a count of five, Bob made one l-o-n-g strip and the redfish charged the fly and absolutely crushed it! Man, what a rush! After about fifteen minutes and numerous runs into the backing he brought the fish to the net, and as you can see it was a beauty. Quite a fish in 2' of water! We sat there for an additional half hour, but nothing else was happening so we took off for the Gulf with Leg 1 of *THE SLAM* in our pocket.

We crossed the tide line at Pickens Point, and the water turned to that beautiful emerald blue/green of the Bahamas. There were plenty of boats along shore waiting for the Blue Angels, so we headed east a few miles to a secluded area of beach that we knew held some schools of big redfish sometimes accompanied by our next target...pompano. We found a school of over a hundred reds close to shore, pulled in to the inner bar, and began poling in their direction. Bob was armed with a 9wt "Mangrove" rod, heavy sink tip line, and an EP mullet imitation. As we poled toward the school several pompano and a good number of Spanish mackerel shot by the boat, but we had our sites set on another redfish. It was still early in the day, and our quest for *THE SLAM* would have to wait. You'd have to be crazy to pass up a school of a hundred big redfish in less than three feet of water! After a few missed opportunities Jenkins connected with a nice fish,

landed and released it, and then we decided to shift gears and try to find a pompano.

A slight breeze had picked up from the ESE, and we ran a mile more to the east and started poling back to the west with the sun and wind at our back. The sight-fishing was perfect with translucent water and very little current. Bob had his Mangrove 8wt ready with a pompano rocket. We were looking for pompano close to shore and also watching farther out hoping to see a westbound school of jack crevalle. They usually show up when you're not ready, but we were locked and loaded with the 10wt and big white popper within easy reach.

Problem was there weren't any pompano. We saw plenty of nice Spanish mackerel cruising just outside the inner bar, but that was it. After about a half mile we found a deep cut angling toward shore. As we got closer I could see it was loaded with fish, and they were "flashing" a dozen at a time. As soon as we reached casting range Jenkins fired the fly out there and hooked up immediately. After a short run the line went slack, and I thought we had found a huge school of bluefish. I called out "do you still have a fly?" He quickly stripped in, saw the fly was intact, and recast. This time we saw the pompano follow and eat the fly while hundreds more raced around and under the boat trying to escape. We had happened upon a giant school of spawning pompano! I poled the boat away from the mouth of the cut while Bob carefully fought the pompano. It's amazing how fast they are. They'll double back on you in a heartbeat and come unbuttoned. But not this time. I netted the fish, got the picture, and Bob released it unharmed. Leg 2 of *THE SLAM* in the bag!



All we needed was the jack crevalle, but the school of pompano was re-forming and we just *had* to get after them. The search for jacks would have to wait. Jenkins hooked up again, and this time the pompano pulled a "Crazy Ivan" and the hook fell out. As he was recasting I saw something moving in my peripheral vision, and there they were...a giant school of jacks moving west at high speed just outside the bar. Jenkins saw them as they passed us, and we both shifted into hyperspeed. Talk about an adrenaline rush! I poled into water deep enough to crank up the motor so we could run ahead of the school. Bob secured the 8wt and got the 10wt out and under control. We could still see the school a couple hundred yards down the beach, and we made a wide loop around them far enough out so they wouldn't be spooked by the sound of the motor. I set the boat up 300 yards ahead of them, and we waited. Jenkins job was to get the popper as far from the boat as possible and in front of the advancing school, but he couldn't cast too soon because many times they'll change direction at the last minute. So we waited until the whole mass was bearing down on us, and he made the cast. There were two problems. It took more false casts than normal to get the cast going, and the school of fish was moving faster than he anticipated. Half the school was past us before the fly hit the water, and the remaining fish were too spooked to eat. So we let them get well past before we fired it up again to repeat the process.

Now the problem was three boats 500 yards down the beach directly in line with the school, and if that wasn't bad enough the jacks were heading straight for a big pod of dolphin. All we could do was run well past the boats and hope the school settled down before reaching us, but it didn't turn out that way. The dolphins chased the school causing the fish to run deep. We didn't even see them until they passed us, and we once again ran well down the beach ahead of fish hoping for one more shot.

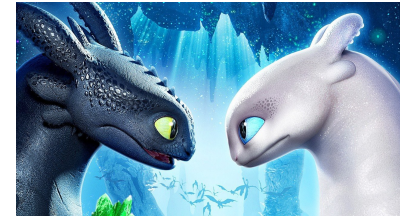


By the time they got to us this time they had slowed down and moved back to the surface. We were drifting with the motor off when they came into range, and Jenkins put the fly on the money and started stripping. Two fish came over to investigate and a third larger jack climbed over them and inhaled the fly. It felt good knowing the big popper had a barb and we were using a straight shot of 50# tippet. After about 20 minutes Bob landed the fish to the applause of a bunch of shore anglers. The ***Emerald Coast Grand Slam*** was his for the second time! It was just 2 o'clock, but we pulled up on the sandbar, put the rods away, and cracked open a couple Dogfish Head 90 Minute IPAs brought along just in case the magic happened. And it certainly had... *Capt Baz*

How to Train Your

Fly of the Month: **DRAGON TAIL FLY**

by Pat Murphy



MATERIALS:

HOOK: GAMAKATSU SC15 2/0, DACHII 2477 2/0

SKIRT: GINGER BUCKTAIL

REAR COLLAR: MEDIUM RED PALMER CHENILLE

HEAD COLLAR: MEDIUM ROOT BEER PALMER CHENILLE

UV RESIN: LOON FLY FINISH THICK

TAIL: WHITE TAIL DRAGON TAIL

EYES: 8MM GOLD-RED-BLACK GATOR EYES

OVERCOAT: HARD AS NAILS (IF NECESSARY)

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Debard hook and apply thread base to bend.

2. Trim 1-1/4"-1-1/2": off tail to shorten somewhat. Be careful not to take off too much, or you will lose some of the tail action. Prepare cut end of tail similar to chenille. Tie down tag end and some of the tail body at bend of hook. Head cement.

3. Cut several small clumps of bucktail and tie-in at base of tail. Spread bucktail around hook shank, bucktail should extend over tail 2"- 2-1/2".



4. In front of bucktail skirt tie-in, 4" of Red Palmer Chenille. Wrap 4-6 turns and secure.



5. Tie-in 6" of Root Beer Palmer Chenille 8-10 turns and secure.



6. Wrap smooth tapered thread nose and whip finish. Apply Flex-rite to back of dome eyes and install each side of fly at nose. Apply UV resin over eyes and thread nose. Overcoat resin with Hard as Nails if necessary.



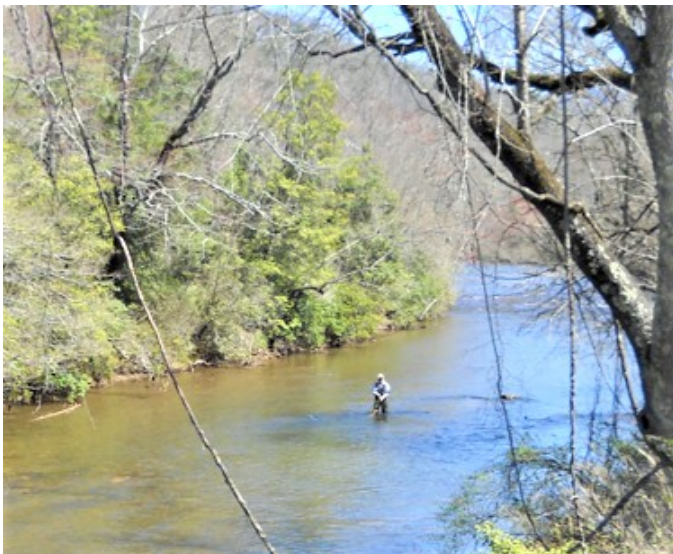
Fishing Reports

A few friends and I had one of our best weekends ever fly fishing the barrier islands last month. We caught scores of huge redfish over ~ 2 1/2 days of fishing with a few black drum, speckled trout and pompano thrown in. Lots of these fish were in the 30-40+ inch range and we had many 15-30 minute battles, bent hooks, broken hooks, parted leaders, etc.

Most bites were on dark and neutral colored Clouser and banded shrimp patterns ~ #2-1/0. The water was very clear and they would not hit brightly colored flies. We released all of the big fish, keeping a few smaller ones for the table. It was a real "bucket list" type trip, welcome after such a dismal winter, and what a special fishery we have here on the Gulf Coast! - *Jeff Deuschle*



Buenos días The Spanish are back in town! I found my first Spanish of the year on April 10. Most were between 14 and 18 inches with a couple in the 20 range. I was able to land this nice 28 inch fish on a *you guessed it*..... a tan and olive Clouser with yellow eyes. I use a wire bite tippet, too. As of April 23rd, they are still in the bay. *Terry M*



Old Man River

Jay fishing for trout in North Carolina
He caught three trout but he is too far away for us to see them.
Maybe if they were a little bigger.....



Photo by Jerry Giles

Minutes of April 2, 2019 Meetings George Norton, Secretary

Board Meeting Called to Order: 1800 Hours by the President (13 members present)

Minutes and Treasurer's Report accepted.

Old Business:

We are changing the club to a non-profit status for next year with the IRS to save on taxes.

We are also in the process of taking credit and debit cards at our auction in May. Bring your check books just in case. (Cyndi Myers is working this out).

Committee Reports:

The Saturday Clinic needs cooks to prepare the July and September lunches.

All the reports that follow were also approved in the General Business Meeting:

Monday evening classes are well attended and going very well. Russ reported we now have new bobbins in the club's fly tying kits.

The Pensacola Summer Youth Program with the Pensacola Parks and Recreation program at our club will run on June 5th and 26th from 9-12 AM and 1-4 PM. The session will be split with 1.5 hours of fly casting and 1.5 hours of fly tying. Each group will have twelve children ages 9-14. The city is supplying all the materials and we need club members to help and volunteer with fly casting and tying.

The position of Public Relations is still open. If you are the type of person who would like to promote our club within the community see the President.

A discussion whether the club would be better served with Wi-Fi was brought up and it was decided the extra cost and need are not justified.

Our web site is due for renewal and 'Go-Daddy' wants a big price increase from \$36 a year to \$165 a year with a five year contract. Bob Myers motioned to extend for one year with "Go-Daddy" and Russ seconded it. We are forming a committee to actively look at our options for the web site and Cliff will head up this new committee.

Adjourned the Board Meeting at 1840

General Business Meeting called to order at 1900 hours. (16 members and a guest present)

Mark Pampalone a long term Pensacola resident introduced himself. Welcome Mike.

Presentation by FWC Law Enforcement: Jimmy McHenry

This very informative presentation gave us much insight on the department's enforcement division. Florida residents over 65 do not need a fishing license, but a driver's license that proves residence. Fishing Rules are very complicated and every changing. It is best to get the Fishing Rules App. Lobbying for the interests of the recreational fishers is crucial. Commercial interests are well funded and have a lot at stake. How does one get heard? Committee meetings are called "fishing forums" and are open to the public and the FWC site has the dates and places. A major concern for enforcement is safety which is primarily life jackets for everyone on board and sobriety. Life jackets are also required along with a whistle in kayaks. Anyone born after 1988 has to take a safe boating class. Carrying a weapon in a secure box is legal but let the enforcement officer know immediately that you have a firearm on board. All fish must be cleaned on land but they can be gutted on the water. Thank you Jimmy.

Business:

The Auction is May 7th There will be no meeting in May. The next club Meeting is the first Tuesday in June.

Danny is putting together a membership list.

Fishing reports: March was a very slow month but April 15th (tax day) is when George typically first sees trout under the lights. Terry was the first to hammer the Spanish in the Bay. Bob Korose reported on his trip to the Parana River in Argentina for Dorado. "The fishing was mostly poor until

the last three hours on the last day when they nailed 18 Dorado apiece.” Bob and his buddy from Louisiana fished out of skiffs with guides with fine dining in a mobile mother ship. The President adjourned the meeting at 2030



The Arbor Day Ceremony held at the Scout Hut April 26 and attended by several members of the club.

Jay Pictures

