

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
OCTOBER 2012

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NORTHWEST FLORIDA
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MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings at Miraflores Park
17th Avenue between
Belmont and LaRua

BUSINESS MEETING
1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM

BULL SESSION
2ND THURSDAY, 6:30
PM

**CASTING & TYING
CLINIC**
3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM

President's Message... Terry McCormick

Fall has finally arrived and this is my favorite time of year for all types of fishing. That and many things are happening at our club. Many members are returning from their adventures and there should be some great stories (and a few whoppers) told. Project Healing Waters has started a six week fly fishing school. We are having a club fishing outing on October 27 at Big Lagoon State Park at 8 am until noon. But the biggest news of all is that we finally got a new AC unit just in time for the cool weather, (never look a gift horse in the mouth they say). I do want to give a BIG thank you to Russ Shields for staying on top of the AC issue for us. I hope with the season I'll see you soon. Tight lines and the tug is the drug, Terry

The Tip Jar... Terry McCormick

I would like to start a new post called the tip jar featuring a tip or tips every month. Please contribute to the tip jar with your fly fishing related tips.... Terry

My tip for October is to always rinse your rod, reel, and line off with fresh water after every time after fishing in the salt water. Take your spool off the reel and rinse the inside well. Strip your fly line off into a bucket of fresh water to soak over night. Then reel your line back on the spool through a soft cloth to dry and clean it. Apply line dressing as needed, about every fifth time. Make sure your bucket is dedicated to clean water only not the mop bucket that had cleaner in it. I suggest marking it for fly line cleaning only.

Remember tips are appreciated.

Fly Fishers of NW Florida Annual Christmas Party

Date: December 11, 2012 Tuesday

Time: 6 PM Cash bar Dinner served at 7:00 PM

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Location: Holiday Inn 7813 N. Davis Hwy Pensacola FL
Hors'deuvres: Complimentary Drummettes and Meatballs

Main Course: Country Buffet

\$25 per person

**Mark your Calendars. More info to follow in the November
Newsletter**

Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, September 4, 2012, President Terry McCormick, presiding

The meeting was called to order by President Terry McCormick at 7 pm with 14 members present. The minutes for the August 7, 2012 meeting as published in the September 2012 newsletter were approved. The treasurer's report for the month of August 2012 was approved. Jay Brykczynski has met with the Holiday Inn staff and the Christmas Party for this year is scheduled to be held Tuesday December 11. Terry McCormick announced the next club fishing trip is scheduled to be held Saturday October 27, 2012 at Big Lagoon State Park. Russ Shields announced plans to hold an abbreviated 6 week fly fishing course for Project Healing Waters beginning September 24, 2012 from 6 to 8 pm at Mira Flores Park. Volunteers are needed. Fishing reports from club members for the month of August were sparse due to wind and rain. Those who did brave the elements reported catching a few redfish and trout. Bob Korose reported on his recent trip to Alaska. He fished the Kenai and Togiak rivers and caught many salmon and many rainbows. Double hookups were frequent. Gerry Giles and Larry Sisney reported on their recent trip to Montana. In some areas they encountered smoke from the recent forest fires and in other areas beautiful scenery and good fishing for western cut throat trout.

Bob Willice interim secretary

Club Officers Needed... Jay Williams, Nominations Chairman

Each November, at the business meeting, it is customary, as per the By-Laws, for the Nominations Committee to propose four members for the four officer positions; these to be placed in nomination at that time. Following this, the floor is opened for nominations for the same positions, and for the two At -Large board positions. The current President and the current Treasurer have expressed a willingness to serve the club another year in their positions.

For anyone who has an interest in serving on the board but who is a relative newcomer, the At-Large positions are an excellent way to "get your feet wet". The club always needs for members to become involved at these various levels, and they are rewarding experiences.

If you have an interest in any of these six positions please contact me and I'll explain the duties and try to answer any questions. Suggestions from any member as to potential candidates for the offices are welcome.
Jay Williams

A Dolphin Tale... Bob Willice



While fishing one Morning off Fort Pickens Beach I noted a dolphin stalking me. He was trying to make a deal with me. In dolphin talk he was saying that if I delayed releasing my fish they would be extra tired and easier for him to catch. If I agreed to do this in return he would show me where to fish. I am not saying I made the deal but I had a great day fishing!



Two Texans went on an ice-fishing expedition in Minnesota. They gave up after only one day and returned home. When they were asked why they had come home so soon, one of them replied, "Heck, it took us six hours just to get the boat in the water".

From "World's Best Fishing Jokes"

Montana Fishing... Jerry Giles with photos by Larry Sisney

Russ Shields, Larry Sisney, and Jerry Giles, made a journey to Missoula, MT., in mid-September, for some trout fishing. We had planned to go into Idaho's St. Joe Wilderness, but when we landed in Missoula, there were forty (yes, 40), fires burning in forests to the west of us. Also, the rental we got was lower than a turtle's belly, and that was not suitable for such a trip. It would have required a three hour ride over gravel logging road.

We fished the Blackfoot River near Ovando, MT., about 55 miles southwest of Missoula, where the nice 22" brown trout was taken and released. That river was beautiful and fished well.

The Bitterroot River, near Hamilton, was difficult to wade, and not as productive for us. The best fishing we found was fifty miles northwest, above Kalispell, on a stream called Fish Creek. The west-slope cutthroat there were beautiful, and taken from some of the most scenic places a fly fisherman could ever hope for. Most were in the 10"-16" range. All the trout caught were wild, none having come from any stocking by hatcheries. We were too late for the stone fly hatches so famous in the west, as they only last a couple of weeks at most. There were nymph exoskeletons on the rocks as you can see in the picture. We were surprised that we saw few other flyfishers on any of the streams.

We took fish on the same flies we use up in the Smokies, including the rubber-leg Prince, blue assassin, and the two wire nymph, which we have tied in a session at the club. The October Caddis, took some of the larger ones.

The morning temps. were in the low fifties, with a couple of mornings in the forties. Mid-day jumped into the upper eighties. The humidity ran about fifteen percent. The locals all said, "Yeah, it's hot. But, it's a dry heat."

Kudos to Larry for his fine photography, and net handling. "LOL". Over all, a great trip, with no one getting hurt (much), and all the flights on time (pretty much).

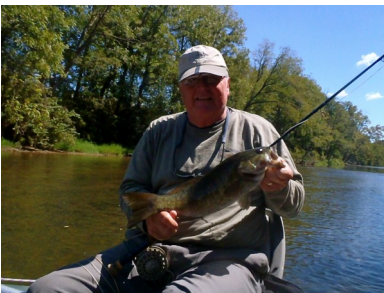


Around the Bay... and Further Away

From Terry McCormick...."What I did on summer vacation"



From Karen Brand....More pictures when we return.
Catching cutthroats, rainbows, browns and grayling!



From John Fitzgerald....Caught this 4.5lb smallmouth on a float trip down the lower Tuck. We caught 8-10 more smaller fish. The second pic is of the fish being released using an underwater camera.

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton

BLACKFIN TUNA ON FLY!!! You never know when the magic's going to happen. Full moon, neap tide...it just didn't matter on September 29. We rounded Pickens Point looking for FA and hit incredibly clear, blue-turquoise water like you don't usually find around here until winter. We headed out toward the "Mass" and saw a large congregation of birds including pelicans over a school of fish east of buoy #4. It looked like a mix of Spanish and albies, but there were some big explosions in the mix which I took for sharks. My client Mike Youkee from the UK was ready with a 9wt Sage Xi3, Tibor Everglades, floating line with 10' intermediate "ghost" tip, 20# fluoro tippet, and a #6 clear, gummy minnow. Mike put the fly into the melee, got an immediate take, and the line started screaming off the reel. *Hot damn* I thought...he'd managed to hook a nice FA out of the middle of all the Spanish! Mike was "bowed up" in a big way but seemed to have control of the situation, so we just sat there along the edge of the school while he battled the fish. Then I saw some big fish boiling around the edges of the school but couldn't figure out what they were...until one jumped. Blackfin! They were all around us. These were the biggest tunas I've ever had around the boat...20-30 pounders, and I grabbed the 10wt and started casting like a mad man. No takes in the first few casts. Mike was well into the backing fighting his fish, and I realized in all the excitement I was coming dangerously close to crossing his line. So I put the 10wt down and concentrated on helping him land his fish which was looking more-and-more like it might be a blackfin. Then we saw his fish, and it was *definitely* a 3' blackfin moving in slow circles around the boat. The fish couldn't sound because the water was only 25' deep, and Mike played it beautifully within range of the net. The iridescent lavender color of the fish's back was simply incredible...indescribable. I've never seen anything like it before. It took two shots, but I eased the net over the magnificent fish's head, grabbed the tail, and lifted it into the boat. We only kept it out of the water long enough to get the photos and then released it with a head-first thrust and watched it power away. It was an unforgettable, breathtaking experience for both Mike and me. I'm hoping the clear "bluewater" will be with us for a while. If so the blackfin will stick around, and so will the sailfish. Kayak fishermen are landing both species regularly close to shore just east of the Navarre pier....



The Gulf is absolutely loaded with Spanish mackerel, and these schooling fish are a couple sizes larger than normal. You'll find them at the Mass and on both sides of the channel. There are also huge schools of ladyfish close to shore both east and west of the pass. I think they stack up better on outgoing water. We spent some time in a big school a few days ago and landed some real monsters (for ladyfish)...up to 4#. That was on spinning tackle, but man what fun on a 6wt!

The false albacore are as unpredictable as always. We found them numerous times during the month on spin-fishing trips, but they always seem to be AWOL on my fly-fishing charters. I think they're a little farther offshore at the moment, but they'll be moving in as the water temperature drops in October.

The bull reds are starting to show up occasionally in the Gulf. A buddy of mine called one day last week while hooked up in a school of "a thousand redfish" (his words) just south of buoys 3&4. He was so excited he could hardly talk, and I could hear the reel screaming in the background. He told me later that while he was fighting his fish the school drifted down and out of sight. Never could find them again. That's a pretty good disappearing act for a thousand redfish... I've also heard of schools of big reds under bait balls between the Perdido Bay condos and Alabama Pass. Later in October the millions of baitfish in Pensacola Bay will start migrating to the Gulf. There will be a time when their scent travels with the outgoing currents into the Gulf, and the annual "Running of the Bulls" will commence. It's time to get your 10wts ready...one with a sinking line and the other with a floater. I think it's going to happen early this year.



The inland waters fishing has really turned on the past couple weeks. The big Spanish mackerel are back in their usual places. I'm not going to mention my favorite spots, but most of you know where I'm talking about. Check out these fine specimens. The first is Jimmy Wright on September 15 with his first-ever saltwater fish on fly. This fish weighed 5 1/2# and was well into Jimmy's backing in seconds. Blew his mind!

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton

The next shot is Mike Youkee again with a bigger fish on September 29. This fish took the fly on a dead drop and almost yanked the rod out of Mike's hands. He had a similar strike the day before which burned his fingers, so this time he wore finger protection. The fish weighed 6#...released unharmed.



We're finally seeing lots of redfish and some big trout on the sand/grass flats. As usual it's hard to get them to eat the fly, but at least they're up there where we can see them. Mike got this fish to eat a tan/white EP fiber clouser on September 28. While you're in the shallows there's a lot of fun to be had sight-fishing for catfish. I know...I know...*catfish!* But don't knock until you've tried it. The fish are easy to see and will readily take a well-placed fly that's stripped properly. I call it redneck bonefishing, and my clients have fun with it...for a while. Then we get on with the more serious business of redfish and big trout.

For big fish enthusiasts the jack crevalle fishing has been terrific for the past few weeks. There are schools of the biggest jacks of the year feeding between Town and Deer Points. We've also found them along the Naval Liveoaks Reservation east of the Bob Sikes Bridge. My favorite spot is right on Town Point. Just anchor up and wait. If you sit there long enough the jacks will come. Sometimes they'll take poppers, and other times they want a 3" baitfish imitation...maybe even a tan/white clouser. You don't want to try this with anything smaller than a 10wt. These are BIG fish up to 35 pounds. The first photo is Bernie Smelstoys with an example of a 35# monster landed September 14 on spinning gear. Next is a more reasonable 22 pounder landed on fly again by Mike Youkee on September 28. While Mike was fighting



the jack we saw some commotion a quarter mile or so to the south of us out in the sound. To our delight it was a big school of bull redfish crashing baitfish on the surface...the first I've seen since last winter. It took about a half hour to land the jack, and by that time the reds were gone. But they're out there somewhere in the bay, and we'll be on the lookout for them. We need Paul Wargo. He's always the one who can find the redfish in the bay. Of course Paul has Divine help...Capt Baz



F-C Sand Shrimp... Ed Story

The F-C Sand Shrimp was created by Ed Story, of Feather Craft in St. Louis Missouri. A frequent visitor of the Port St. Joe area, Ed claimed that this was about the only inshore saltwater fly pattern you needed and was his favorite fly for redfish.

Before I was introduced to the world of tan/white clouser minnows and green weenies, I too touted this pattern as my most productive fly. To this day, when my father comes to visit the Pensacola area, you better believe this is the fly tied on his tippet. And for good reason, as he has caught countless redfish, trout, flounder, bluefish, and even Spanish mackerel on this fly. As Ed put it, "Everything hits this one".

There have been many days on the grass flats of Fort Pickens when the F-C Sand Shrimp simply out fished everything in my box. Strip it just off the bottom and hang on!

Tying Materials

Hook:	Mustad 34007 or similar style, #2
Thread:	Red flat waxed nylon
Body:	Rootbeer <i>Estaz</i> (petite to medium size)
Tail:	Tan <i>Craft Fur</i>
Wing:	Rootbeer <i>bucktail</i> or burnt orange <i>Craft Fur</i>
Flash:	Copper or gold <i>Krystal Flash</i>
Eyes:	Dumbbell eyes (small to medium size)
Markers:	Red and Black <i>Sharpie</i>



Tying Instructions



1. Start by wrapping a thread base, then tie in dumbbell eyes near the eye of the hook. Leave 1/8" or less between the eye of the hook and the eyes. *The dumbbell eyes will be much closer to the hook eye than compared to normal clouser minnow.* Then tie in the tan craft hair at the base of the hook and let it extend 2 ½ times the length of the hook shank



2. For the body, tie in 3 inches of Estaz at base of the hook shank and wrap forward to the base of the dumbbell eyes.



3. Tie in 6-8 strands of Krystal Flash behind the dumbbell eyes. Then tie in top wing in color of choice. Make sure to tie in all the material behind the dumbbell eye to achieve the correct appearance, *not in front of the eye like on a clouser minnow.*



4. Use red and black permanent markers to make ¼ inch bands on the tail, starting with red, following with black, then 1/4 inch with no marker then beginning again with red followed by black. The width of the band is very similar to the width of a standard sharpie marker, so simply press the felt tip against the tail to achieve the correct width of the band.

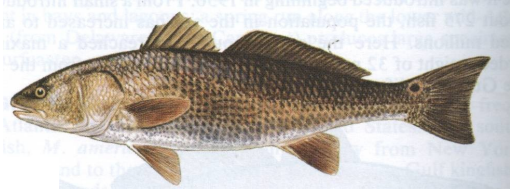


5. Complete three full color patterns on the tail; red, black, tan and then repeat on the other side of the tail.

FLY FISHERS

OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**PO BOX 1041
 PENSACOLA, FL 32591**



OCTOBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Business Meeting 7 PM				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					Clinic - Casting, tying, gourmet lunch 9 AM	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
					Big Lagoon State Park Fishing Trip Oct 27	
28	29	30	31			