



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

September, 2019

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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

Club Meeting – Tuesday, Sept 3 7:00 PM

The program will be **Trout Fishing on the Yellowstone River**. For more info see the VP's Corner below. Christmas Party tickets will be on sale. Buy early. Buy often.

Fly Tying Bull Session- Thursday, Sept 12 6:30 PM

We will be tying the **FFF**. Time to go back to school and already you are getting F's. It's the **Flats Frenzy Fly**.



Clinic – Saturday, Sept 21 9:00 AM

Back to school and Jonas will be teaching **“Two handed overhead casting for folks casting on the beach.”** No F's – he grades on the curve (as long as your backcast is straight).

Lunch will be **Septemberfest**. No need to wait for Oktober. Jerry Giles will be serving up our favorite and famous German food. And IPA brewed iced tea (Just Kidding!!).



Christmas Party

Tuesday, Dec. 10. \$30 Scenic Hills
Tickets on sale in September.

VP's Corner – Many thanks to Tarpon Bob Korose for a great presentation detailing his adventures hunting the elusive Golden Dorado in Argentina earlier this year. Beautiful fish!

And speaking of beautiful fish, the September program will most certainly be one of the highlights of the year: **“Trout fishing on the Yellowstone River.”** You will be as astounded and amazed by the technical fishing details included in the presentation as well as the dramatic photos. I heartily recommend arriving early as it will be first come-first served to the choice seating. As for the remainder of the year, see below for the final, fabulous programs to be presented.

Jim

Oct – Matt Wegener presents “Hunting Bull Reds in Pensacola”
Nov – Dr. Jonas Magnuson presents “Fishing in Iceland”
Dec – Oleta Webb presents “Fishing in Montana”

Fishing with Capt. Baz

The usual summer doldrums descended upon us in August, but that didn't stop the fishing. I mean the fish still have to eat, right? The gulf was mostly blown out and nothing on the inside was dependable, but we kept fishing the usual spots with some success. Here's Joe Young on August 5 with a pompano landed and released by the guard shack. We were hoping for Spanish mackerel, but they weren't there yet. By the end of the following week the Spanish had arrived in spades, and new saltwater fly-angler Bob Mecklenborg from Cincinnati learned all about line burns and bruised knuckles as he landed a dozen respectable fish on my switch rod. It was quite a day for a guy who had never before seen his backing.



I had a 10 day stretch during the middle of the month with just one charter and to maintain sanity went fishing. I wade-fished barefoot in a totally minimalistic approach...8wt fly rod, couple extra flies and 12# tippet in my pocket, pliers on my hip. No fly boxes, gear bags,

cooler, or push pole on the skiff. It was a breakthrough in simplicity for me, and I highly recommend it. Pick a day with sunshine and a south wind. Anchor your boat on any of the sand flats along the north side of the island and walk parallel to shore in knee-deep water with the sun at your back. I found fish as close to ten feet from shore. First day I landed a 26" redfish and a 24" fish the next day both on the EP gray/white baitfish. Of course I didn't have a camera...

Toward the end of the 10 day period my brother Dave and I took his skiff hunting for balls of bay anchovies along the inside beaches from Chicken Bone to the Ranger Station and between the points on the Gulf Breeze peninsula. Slashing ladyfish and groups of



floating pelicans led us to some huge schools of bait, and as suspected there were good numbers of redfish beneath them. Here are a couple nice shots of Capt Dave Yelverton on Aug 21 and 23 with fish landed on his 8wt. The first fish was quite spectacular as it hammered a big chartreuse popper the size we normally reserve for jack crevalle.

Speaking of jack crevalle, as usual they provided the most intense action of the month. The first week of August was all about the jacks, and we could count on them coming across our favorite

sandbar in small groups and schools up to a hundred fish. These were the bigger sized jacks...25-30# brutes that climbed over each others' backs to crush the popper.



Jay Lanier had an epic battle with this fish on August 9. We were anchored in 3' of water in sloppy 1-2' swells when the big school of jacks showed up. Jay made the cast, got the hookup, and I unclipped the anchor just about the time we got hit by the wake from the Pensacola Bay ferry and took a wave over the bow. We were left standing in a few inches of water as the drag screamed and the fish headed for parts unknown. I pulled the drain plugs and tried to follow the fish without turning sideways in the seas, but the boat was very sluggish. After 30 minutes Jay finally got his crevalle to the boat, and we took the photo. The fish was totally exhausted.

Jay tried to resuscitate it, but the boat was rocking so much it slipped out of his hands and sank to the bottom in 4' of water. As Jay prepared to jump in I motored back through the slop to the fish and poked it with the push pole. That did the trick, as it righted itself and slowly swam away. The boat continued to be incredibly sluggish as we motored back and retrieved the anchor. Upon opening a hatch to the bilge I saw we'd taking on a lot of water, and the bilge pump wasn't operating. My two clients held on as I lowered the trim tabs and hit the throttle to see if she would come up on plane. Which she did, and we powered through the seas straight back to my dock and onto the safety of the lift. I set up a siphon to drain the bilge, and the hose ran at full speed for about ten minutes. You engineers can figure out exactly how much water that was, but my Physics BS tells me it was too much. I now have redundancy in that category in case it ever happens again.

Always good to get lucky, but you sure don't want to count on it.

Capt Baz

Speaking of Jacks..... and Jeff's

It has been a long hot summer and with the water quality problems we have had, this big Jack Crevalle was a welcome surprise. The "fun" part was that we were targeting the usual specks, reds, and big ladyfish out on the barrier islands. So I was using a rickety old 7wt when I hooked this unexpected monster.

I spotted a swirl and push well out about 3 feet deep. Made a cast and saw another huge swirl when he missed the fly. I kept "teasing" and I saw the big yellow finned outline as the Jack pinned my chartreuse clouser against the bottom and ate. I hit him hard and all heck broke loose!



My old 7wt. is my back up on these trips. The reel is pretty worn and overdue for an upgrade with the manufacturer (wouldn't you know it!) So I was not able to pressure the fish very hard, even for a 7wt.! Lots of spool palming and bruised knuckles. The fish stayed well into my backing as we chased him for over an hour. My buddy, Ralph, did a professional job of keeping the boat at just the right distance and angle to the fish and he deserves more credit for the catch than I do. I offered repeatedly to bust the fish off, but Ralph wouldn't hear of it!

Finally, after multiple "leader touches" close to the boat, I leaned too hard and broke the rod. Do or die, I grabbed the line and backed off the drag, Ralph grabbed the leader and we landed the fish! I am sitting in the photo because I just couldn't stand up anymore! After some revival, we were able to release that fish to fight another day. A really memorable fight and a special fish - **Jeff Deuschle**

Fly of the Month **Flats Frenzy Fly**

Pat Murphy

This fly was originally tied using Cascade Crest Frenzy tying materials for the skirt and fly brush. I have changed to more readily available materials that are less expensive and easier to find.



MATERIALS:

Hook: Mustad 34007 #1 or Gamakatsu SC15 #1

THREAD: Danville 140d Brown

EYES: Small Lead Dumbbell Yellow or Gold

TAIL: Craft Fur Chartreuse, & Tan or Med. Brown

SKIRT: Chartreuse Medium Palmer Chenille

BODY: EP 1" Tarantula Brush Tan

DIRECTIONS:

1. Debarb hook, secure eyes behind hook eye advance thread to hook bend, tie in tan craft fur tail. Tie in 2nd clump chartreuse craft fur over tan craft fur. 1-1/2 times hook shank.



2. Add 4-5 brown sharpie bars each side, tail.



3. Secure skirt in front of tail tie-in, make 4-5 turns and secure.



4. In front of skirt, add body brush and palmer to just behind lead eyes. Note, as you palmer brush forward, pull fibers back as you wrap forward. Once brush is secure, pick out trapped fibers, comb out & back to create a smooth body. Whip finish & cement head. Trim brush as necessary.



Project Healing Waters -

There is a great month ahead:

Monday, Sept 2 (Labor Day) - **Potluck/Low Country Boil** for all PHWFF members and families.

Mondays, Sept 9 & 16 - **Regular meeting** Casting instruction and fly tying (getting ready for fishing)

Monday, Sept 23 - **Fishing with Capt Baz and Capt Richard**

Russ Shields



Longtime friend of the club, Corbett Davis, Jr. sends greetings from Cudjoe Key (near Key West):

Rare day of calm water in Atlantic Ocean. 24 miles offshore south of American Shoal in weed line found a floating cushion. Caught tripletail and dolphin on fly. Took to Geiger key marina restaurant and they cooked us up a feast.

Hope y'all are enjoying great summer.

Corbett

August Minutes - by George Norton Club Secretary

The President called the General Meeting to order at 1900 (there was no board meeting)

Presentation: Bob Korose presented his March trip to Argentina for the Golden Dorado. The trip was a full week of fishing booked through 'Fishing with Larry.' Bob and his fly fishing buddy from Louisiana fished out of a houseboat that slept eight anglers, along with guides and a full staff. The boat cruised to different areas in the Parana River Delta, about three hours north of Buenos Aires. Bob caught some big Dorados and they were great jumpers. Dorados are very toothy and tore up his flies. Bob said, "On the last day he landed eighteen Dorado in about two hours which was as good as it gets anywhere." The food and wine topped all his international trips. The flight from Atlanta nonstop to Buenos Aires was ten hours and from there they were transported three hours by van to a boat for an hour ride.

Fishing was in two sessions daily with a siesta break. They went thru six to seven flies a day and used non-slip loop knots on wire and had many blow ups on poppers. Bob rigged three fly rods with full sinking line, floating and intermediate lines. Other species caught were Sabalo, Boga, and Piranha. Glad you didn't stick hand in the Piranha's mouth! Thanks Bob for a very informative presentation on an area we don't hear much about.

Business Meeting June minutes were accepted.

Treasures Report: Jay reported our finances are strong. Our membership is strong with 67 paid members. Motion by George and second by Bob Myers to approve the Treasurer's report. Passed.

Old Business: Bring in your items to be donated to the Christmas party. We are still looking for members to lead or assist with Public Relations and Education Committees.

Committee Reports: Russ reported the annual class handouts are in good shape for the new education chairman. The club needs someone to take over. Russ announced his retirement after eight years. **Thank you Russ** for all you have done and given to our club.

New Business: Jim reported on the status of getting cards for use in club outreach events like PHW. 500 cards cost \$140. We will vote on that expenditure at our next meeting.

Fishing reports: Terry reported lots of ladyfish and Spanish are right off the beach. Spanish are starting to show in up the Bay but September is when the run of Spanish inside really turns on. Other club members had reports of bonito getting deep into their backing. Trout are still under the lights at night but require a lot of stealth as they have been fished over for quite some time. The President proposed we adjourn the meeting at 2030 and the members approved