

Flies and Lies

October, 2024



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NEWSLETTER

This will be my last contribution to the Front Page as Dave Kuechenmeister will be taking on the important task of your newsletter editor. He and Paul are already working together to get things rolling. It has been a pleasure for me to be able to help out.

September is a month that I always look forward to. Our traditional PHWFF family picnic Pot Luck Low Country Boil brings families, wives and children, together with our participants and volunteers, for a fun morning of fellowship and good food. (see the pictures on the next page) This year was especially fun for me since we had Arron Davis and his family attending and they were here for the very first one we held several years ago when his daughters were toddlers. They have grown into very active lovely kids! My how time flies. This September we also started fly rod building with seven participants and that is always fun and challenging for new rod builders.

Bob Korose is tying the Fly of the Month, he calls a KRELEEX. KRELEEX is actually a very crinkly type of flash material that comes in a wide variety of colors. It makes a very durable fly. I ran across this stuff about eight or ten years ago and used it to tie Murdich Minnows for a small mouth bass fishing trip. They worked very well as should Bob's fly.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we have several members and some wives who are going through challenging health problems. Among them are Dave Handley, Bob Myers, Jerry Giles, Audrey Sisney and Beckey Brykczynski. I urge you to keep them in your thought and prayers.

I'll see you around the club house. **Russ**

And Thank You, Russ, for keeping the newsletter going these past several months!!

President's Corner

Cooler weather is on the way and hopefully the fish will be biting. In the mean time we have lots to do! The Christmas Party will be on Tuesday December 10 at Scenic Hills Country Club. This is always a great time with lots of door prizes and raffle prizes. Tickets are \$30.00 purchased from me or \$32.00 purchased on line. We need volunteers! Please see a club officer. Donations for door prizes are always welcome! A box of flies you tied, a book, a bottle of wine or something you might fancy. Please see Cliff regarding your donation.

Elections are coming up in November along with selecting the Angler of the Year. If you would be interesting in serving on the Board of Directors please see a club officer. The election will take place at the November Business meeting so plan to be there!

Cyndi

Club Meeting – Tuesday, Oct 1 6:30

Rex Green will present the program about a PHW trip to Michigan



Fly Tying – Thursday, Oct 10 6:30

The Kreelex fly by Tarpon Bob Korose. All that glitters is not gold, some is kreelex.

Clinic – Saturday, Oct 19 9:00 AM

The October Clinic Lunch will be our traditional Oktoberfest with bratwurst, potato salad, purple cabbage and sauerkraut. Cyndi Myers is preparing it all and we will finish off the brats on our new portable grill.

The Low Country Boil



Fishing Report from Capt. Richard Montgomery

September starts with a "S" and so does Spanish! You guessed it, it is that time of the year that the Spanish hit the various grass flats in the Bay and they have not failed us again this year. Large Spanish are marauding the Pickens and Town Point flats. This guy is an example of what awaits. It grabbed a chartreuse and white minnow pattern. But as Terry says his tan and olive will out fish anything on the fly rod and based his latest Instagram post there are multiple species to be had, specks, bluefish, grouper...



New to Pensacola Beach this year are the big, I mean big bluefish. They can be found cruising the shoreline on both sides of the Pass. I talked about them last month and they are still here. They are not like any bluefish I have encountered in that they are very persicity about what they will eat. Charatreuse EP flies are a good place to start, but remember tippet size matters as well, you gotta go small. You're going to get cutoff and lose a few so make sure the barbs are bent down. Conservation always come first! Baz's client caught this bruiser east of the old "Coast Guard" station or the Park registration building for you newbies. The snapper/choppers/babies are still around as well. You probably will find the small blues on the grass flats as well.



Both Capt. Baz and Capt. Dan have success with redfish and specks up close to the shoreline. The sight fishing is there but it takes patience. The warm water temps are making them more difficult and also makes hard for the fish to recover so land them fast, be sure your phone/camera is ready to go before you lift them, and take your time reviving them. There a ton small baitfish (scaled

sardines) are in the bay so use small minnow patterns, both light and dark green for the finishing wing.



Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters and the National Parks Trust have teamed up to select 5 National Parks across the country to host PHW fishing events. I'm proud to announce that our own Fort Pickens was selected as one of those 5.. On October 12th, we will hold a surf/flats fishing event at the Langdon Beach area. It's an all-day event including a picnic lunch and "goodies" giveaways. There will be 16 participants/volunteers from our Pensacola Program and 14 participants/volunteers from the Eglin Program. Should be a fun day and hopefully we'll catch a lot of fish! *Mick*

Fly of the Month: Kreelex by Bob Korose

The Kreelex fly was designed by Chuck Kraft and has literally caught almost every kind of fish in both freshwater and saltwater. Several years ago I read about the Kreelex for trout and tied up a few to try on the White River in Arkansas. I asked my favorite guide there if he had used them before and he told me that Chuck Kraft was a client of his once, and yes that new fly worked great for the trout on the White River too. So, I tried one of mine on that day and the trout loved it.



Since recently learning that the Kreelex catches many other kinds of fish besides freshwater trout I've tied up some larger ones to try around Pensacola and expect they will work well on the Spanish, ladyfish, bluefish, specks and others.

Materials:

Hooks: size 2-10 long shank Mustad S74SAP (formerly 34011)

Thread: White waxed 140 or 210 Denier

Eyes: Dumbbell eyes (medium)

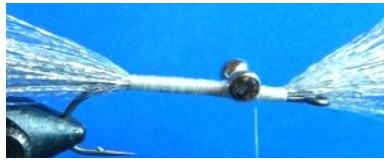
Materials: MFC Kreelex or Fly Tyers Dungeon (FTD) Northern Flash
Silver and Gold (or any other colors as desired)

Tying Instructions:



1. Start thread wraps 1 eye width behind the eye and wrap back several turns then forward to 2 eye widths behind the hook eye.

2. Take a clump of the silver flash, measure a little more than 1 hook length and tie it down with the short end to the front. Continue wrapping with touching wraps to the bend of the hook making a tail. Then return the thread forward to ¼ hook length from front of the hook.



3. Tie in the eyes and bring the thread directly in front of the eyes.

4. Trim the tail to 1 hook length behind the hook. Then take ¼ of the front flash and pull it back over the eyes and take 3 wraps in the front of the flash. Then do that procedure 3 more times to have it all going back. Grab the flash and hold it back while tying it down behind the eyes. Bring the thread forward of the eyes and wrap forward to the front.



5. Invert the fly. Take a clump of the gold flash half the size of the silver flash and align one end with the shorter silver flash and tie it down in front of the eye. Fold the part going forward back over the eyes and tie it down then wrap back and forth toward eyes making a nice head.

6. Whip finish the head. If desired, color the head with a marker. Use head cement or UV resin to seal the head.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfQkxZ35xJI>

September Fly Tying



The Minutes September 3, 2024 George Norton, Secretary

The President opened the Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 1830.

August minutes were approved. Two new attendees introduced themselves. Joel was a club member in 2019 before Covid and Jack has trout expertise having moved from Boulder, Colorado. Welcome aboard, guys!

Treasurer's report: The club finances are in excellent shape.

Old Business: PHW's rod building class started in September with eight participants. PHW's trip to Fort Pickens needs two volunteers on October 5. Trip includes lunch.

Casting for Recovery for breast cancer survivors has two upcoming events in late September and October. Contact Wolfgang if you are interested in a volunteer opportunity to help teach fly casting to novice casters. See previous newsletters for information about the organization.

Fly of the Month September 12th is a fly called the Neon Icon designed specifically for pompano. Terry McCormick will lead it. The pompano migration past our beaches peaks in October.

Newsletter Our Club needs an editor to replace Paul Wargo, whose outstanding club newsletter promoting the club on the internet as well as keeping members informed. Paul will assist you to get started.

Fishing reports: **Tarpon Bob Korose** caught eleven species of fish on his August 8-17th trip to Alaska at the Aniak River Lodge. He and a buddy caught five salmon species, arctic char, dolly vardon, rainbow trout, pike, grayling and a new species for Bob called a sheefish, which is in the whitefish family. The best fly was a top water "wog fly" which imitates an Alaskan mouse and is similar to a gurgler or popper. Tarpon Bob will present on his Alaskan trip at the November meeting. There were no other fishing reports. Cooler weather and better fishing is around the corner.

Presentation by Terry McCormick on "How to Fish the Beaches and Bay on Foot" Terry graciously shared a lifetime of experience fly fishing our local waters from Navarre to the Alabama line. He has caught about every fish on the fly that swims in our local waters from reds, jacks, ladyfish, false albacore, bonito, pompano, trout, catfish, blue runners, bluefish, Spanish, flounder,

sharks, whiting, and black drum. I probably missed a few species.

He said he doesn't stress over catching one species, but simply enjoys the fight of whatever fish he can fool on a fly that day.

Terry uses both an eight and or ten weight depending on the species or conditions he encounter that day. For big Jacks and bull reds he will go with the ten weight. For shallow water he likes an eight weight and either a floating line or an intermediate sink tip line for deeper water or in a choppy surf. He adapts to the wind direction by choosing either the Bay or the Surf.

Terry said 'he makes his own leaders with a butt section of 40-pound mono, then two sections of 30 and 20-pound mono with a tippet of fluorocarbon tied on with a loop to loop connection so he can change out his tippet section quickly.' He'll change to a 20-pound wire tippet if he gets cut off by a blue or Spanish,

He showed us his salt water flies. A big foam popper for jacks and bull reds, along with pompano rockets, crab and shrimp patterns, gurglers, and clouser minnows in different colors. Colors for the clouser minnow depends on whether he is fishing the surf or the grass flats in the Bay, He doesn't overcomplicate his fly box with too many patterns.

All his flies were on a one piece of foam he can readily access. For specks he stresses the importance of yellow eyes on Clouser minnows and has years of experience to back it up. On the Bay he uses colors that match the submerged grass; while in the surf he favors tan and white clousers.

He prefers an incoming tide early in the morning which bring baitfish in closer. On the Bay side he looks for sandy spots in the middle of the grass where the trout ambush hiding in the grass. "Cast beyond the sandy spot and retrieve over it.. Go early morning and early evening for your best opportunity. That's when the fish are most active."

He wears neoprene booties for protection from sting rays and Neoprene waders in winter. Terry always uses eye protection and said," you can dig out a fly stuck in your ear but not in your eye!" He showed us his beach bucket equipped with a rod holder and a chest pack with pliers, nippers, tippet material and a foldable ruler.

Thanks, Terry, for all the good information. The fish don't have a chance We need to put the information into action on the water.

1930 The Meeting Adjourned

