



Flies and Lies

July, 2026

President's Corner

It is hard to believe we are starting the downward swing to the year 2026 but here we are in month 7 of the year. This month usually begins the False Albacore (Bonita) run. I hope everyone is ready.

I hate to keep harping on membership, but we need help. I know this newsletter goes out to more members than those that have paid their dues, so come on back. Believe it or not we all want to hear your fishing stories; have you show us how to tie your favorite Albie fly or show us your casting skills. In other words, we want you back.

In addition, we have the fund raiser/annual auction coming up. Come get a preview of what is up for grabs, dollars actually if you know what I mean.

Richard Montgomery
President

Christmas Party

It's a little hot to think about Christmas, but the planning for our party has begun. The Christmas Party will be on December 8 at the Holiday Inn North. Put it on your calendar. Also consider donating a box of flies or something fishing related as a door prize raffle.

Guided Trip Winners

Congratulations to Ron Volk and Simon Heras on winning the fishing trip raffle.

Casting and Tying at the Club

Club Meeting Tuesday, July 7, 6:30

In addition to the business meeting, Jojo Bulan will describe how he made his first fly rod.

Fly Tying Thursday, July 9, 6:30

The Fly of the Month is the F-C Sand Shrimp. Leading us this month will be Bob Korose. The Healing Waters group will be joining us for this session.



Clinic Saturday, July 18, 9:00 AM

Come to the clinic and get another chance at tying the F-C Sand Shrimp. Casting coaching will also be available. Lunch will be Filipino food, provided by Jojo Bulan. Healing Waters members will also be joining us for this session.

Upcoming Events

July 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7 BOD Mtg 5 pm Business Mtg 6:30 pm	8	9 Bull Session 6:30 pm Healing Waters 6:30 pm	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Community Fly Supply Fly Tying Night 6:30 pm	17	18 Clinic 9:00 am Healing Waters 9:00 am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	Notes Healing Waters is joining the FFNWF club for the fly-tying and Clinic in lieu of it's Monday morning meetings.				

Annual Fund Raiser

The auction-style fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, October 17. This is a major source of income for the club and for Healing Waters. Please consider a donation of good, used equipment for the sale.

Contact Steve Hoffmann, smanhof94@gmail.com, with any donations.

Fly Tying Night at Community Fly Supply.

This is always on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. The featured fly for June was a favorite Guide Crab from Captain Sam "Glassy" Glass. (*Ed: I went last month and was late. I had to sit at the "kids" table because the big table was full. These are the example flies, mine still need a lot of work to look this good...*)



FFNWF

www.ffenwf.org

PRESIDENT

[Richard Montgomery](#)

VICE-PRESIDENT

[Bob Korose](#)

SECRETARY

[George Norton](#)

TREASURER

[Larry Sisney](#)

3610 Baisden Rd.

Pensacola, FL 32503

MEMBERSHIP

[David Handley](#)

MEMBER EMERITUS

[Russ Shields](#)

NEWSLETTER

[Dave Kuechenmeister](#)

Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo



PHW has, for a long, time, held our regular monthly meetings on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 0900. Attendance has been falling off for some time and we believe that this is due to the meeting days/times conflicting with work times and other daily activities. So....for the remainder of the summer (at least), we will be joining the FFWF for their regular Thursday evening tying session and their Saturday casting clinic. Doing this should increase PHW member attendance and will also expose many of the new PHW members to the club and the club members. Hopefully, this interaction will entice more PHW members to join the club.

So....we will be seeing you all on Thursdays and Saturdays for the foreseeable future.

Any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Business Meeting

The March business meeting is documented in the minutes attached to this newsletter. The meeting also featured a presentation by Steve Hoffmann on his favorite fishing trips along several western rivers.

Congratulations to the winners of the raffle for the guided fishing trip. Ron Volk and Simon Heras were the lucky members that won the all-expense paid guided trip.

(Photos from Jay B.)



Fly Tying and Clinic

Jojo Bulan led us in tying his Hollow Tie. After a false start on June 20th, when the clinic was cancelled for weather, Jojo returned on the next Saturday to give us another shot at the Hollow Tie.

Thanks to Russ and Bob for the hot dogs and baked beans for lunch.



A number of members were able to work on their casting with coaches.



Fishing Reports

By Captain Richard Montgomery

Well, June started out as a good month. It was like a typical beginning to our summer fly fishing: speckled trout, ladyfish, and bluefish were scattered around the grass flats. But then came Tropical Storm Arthur. He was a wimp when it came to onshore winds, but the rain was just too much. Then came the west-southwest winds. I'm not sure what the meteorological cause was, but it sure blew. Between the two systems, it has messed up the Bay. Sight fishing has been tough; I haven't been on Pickens Flat in several weeks.

All that negative talk has me bummed, so let's talk about people catching fish! Capt. Baz reported he has seen some mid-sized False Albacore a little offshore and spent an afternoon casting to small groups, landing several using Gummy Minnows. Here's hoping they will group up and move closer to the Pass. I know Capt. Dan spent some time down south on a tarpon trip and sent videos of nice fish. I think everyone should go tarpon fishing at least once. Speaking of tarpon, an Army Ranger friend recently jumped two fish before the winds hit. If you go in search of the Silver King, you will need several of my specially tied black and purple EP Peanut Bunkers.

Cheers and good fishing!

Fly Fishing at Ski Beach

By Jeremy Anderson

Our recent Father's Day event marked our third year of bringing fly fishing to the local military community—and despite a smaller turnout of about 15 active participants, the energy was high, and the potential was even higher!

We set up shop at Ski Beach (moving from our first-year spot at Blue Angel Rec), and it proved to be an incredible venue. About half of the folks who stopped by sat down at the table to tie flies with us. Even better, out of those 15 participants, we walked away with three fantastic prospective members who seemed genuinely eager to join the club.

But the biggest takeaway from the day wasn't just the flies tied—it was the massive opportunity staring us right in the face.

Ski Beach leadership let us know that we are welcome back any time we want, not just on Father's Day. The pavilions are completely free to reserve, and as long as participants have base access, they can bring their boats and utilize the excellent dock facilities.

Think about the potential here: we have a premier, zero-cost waterfront venue with instant access to the water. We can sit a newcomer down, help them tie a fly, and immediately walk them out to the dock to cast it. The entire base population—active duty, retirees, civil service, and dependents—is eligible to join our club, Project Healing Waters, or both.

If we want to grow our numbers and share our passion, leaving a resource like this untapped seems silly. Stay tuned as we look into scheduling some casual, informal "Tie & Cast" days at the beach in the future. If you have base access and want to help us reel in the next generation of club members, we'd love to have you on board!



Fly of the Month: The F-C Sand Shrimp

By Bob Korose

The F-C Sand Shrimp was created by Ed Story of Feather Craft in St Louis Missouri. He was a frequent visitor to the Gulf Coast and claimed that this was the only inshore fly pattern you needed and was his favorite fly for redfish. He also used it to catch speckled trout, flounder, Spanish mackerel, ladyfish and more. Ed commented that "Everything hits this one". Matt Wegener introduced this fly to us back in October 2012 as the Fly of the Month. He commented that "many days on the Fort Pickens grass flats the F-C Sand Shrimp simply out fished everything in my box". Many in our club have had success with it in both the bay and in the surf. Like a Clouser Minnow this fly can now be tied using newer synthetic materials rather than craft fur or bucktail and in many other color combinations depending on conditions. We'll tie this one in a tan and white (red eyes) for over sandy bottoms, in olive and tan (yellow eyes) for fishing over the grass flats, and in chartreuse and white (silver eyes) for in the Gulf.

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 34007 (Mustad S71-SAP-TX) Size #2

Thread: Flat waxed nylon 210 Denier color White or Hot Red

Body: Pearl Chenille or Estaz in colors Root Beer, Pearl or others, Size medium

Eyes: Dumbell eyes (small or medium) Colors red, yellow or silver (as desired)

Tail: FTD Water Silk (or other synthetic fibers) Color (as desired)

Wing: FTD Water Silk (or other synthetic fibers) Color (darker than tail) (as desired)

Flash: Copper, Pearl or other color Krystal Flash (as desired)

Markers: Red and Black or Green Sharpies

		
1. Start by wrapping a thread base, then tie in dumbell eyes 1/8 inch or less behind the hook eye. (No material will be tied on in front of the eyes).	2. Tie on the tail at the base of the hook. It should extend back 2½ times the hook length.	3. For the body, tie in 3 inches of the chenille at the hook base and wrap forward to base of the dumbell eyes and tie off.
		
4. Turn the fly over in the vice and tie in 4-6 strands of Krystal flash right behind the dumbell eyes. Then tie in the wing in the same place. Bring the thread forward of the eyes and make a nice head and whip finish. Seal with UV or head cement.	5. Use red and black permanent markers to make ¼ inch bands on the tail, starting with red, followed by black. The width of the band is 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.	6. After a ¼ inch gap with no marker, then continue again with red followed by black and another gap. Complete three full color patterns on the tail and your new fly is ready.

FFNWFL June 2, 2026 BOD and General Meeting Minutes

by George Norton Club Secretary

1830: The President called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A big welcome to visitors, Kaleb and Jack who attended for the first time and are at flight school.

Christmas Party Dec 8th at the Holiday Inn North: The Party is a major fund raiser by the sale of tickets and raffle times. Please think who you can invite. The party is also open to nonmember friends. The average attendance has been 42 attendees. Come enjoy an evening celebrating the club.

Raffle Items: Richard M will follow up on getting the Christmas Party raffle items: three fly rods, reels and fly lines with Orvis as he can use his guide discount. Last year we had a 3,7, and 10 weight rods and reels. Rod weights to be determined by the party committee.

Please consider bringing a small gift like a box of flies, a fly-fishing book, or a fly-fishing tool for the giveaway prizes so everyone gets one.

Tarpon Bob will contact Community Fly Supply about a donation and an invitation to attend our party and will also reach out to Duke Davis. a new guide who focuses on the upper estuary. Tarpon and Mick Milo also plan to hire him for a guided trip.

Treasurers' Report: Minor income (one new member), less minor expenses, left a healthy balance in our checking account. George and Tarpon Bob approved the TR.

Membership: our numbers are down versus last year. We have 26 paid regular members versus 41 last years at this time. The good news is our veterans program has grown substantially. Dave Handley has been contacting past members who have not paid and will try to learn why they have stopped attending.

Saturday Clinic Food dates for 2026 have been filled. Please think of volunteering next year.

Fly of the Month and Monthly Presentations: Volunteers are needed. See Tarpon Bob. He would love to hear your ideas. In July JoJo will present on making your own homemade fly rod from natural materials.

Our Annual Fund Raiser was moved to the third Saturday in October. Donate your lightly used fly-fishing stuff which helps fund the club. Steve H has graciously agreed to help organize and categorize the donations.

Presentation by Steve Hoffmann

Fly Fishing Western Rivers

Steve and his wife, Ellen have fly fished western rivers extensively since his retirement. He took us on a tour through his favorite fly-fishing rivers in Wyoming and Montana which included the Madison, Big Horn, Beaverhead, Big Hole, the Miracle Mile, the North Platte, the Shoshone and Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone. He showed us a beautiful slide of his biggest trout: a 23-inch rainbow from the Miracle Mile. He caught rainbows, browns, cut bows and cutthroat trout on the trip.

He told us about the flies used, the guides, Cody's attractions, Thermopolis and other sites to be seen such as the staged gun fight outside the historic Irma Hotel in Cody and the rodeo. He also visited the Scott Bamboo factory and the Winston Fly Rod Company. Dillon Montana was noteworthy

since three major rivers came together there. Angling styles ranges from dry fly fishing to streamers, to nymphs. Yellow sallies, hopper droppers, were some of his favorite flies. Thanks Steve for another wonderful and informative presentation.

Fly Fishing Trip Raffle Winners: were Ron Volk and Simon Herrera.

Fishing Reports:

Terry M reported ladyfish, blues, and Spanish were all over inshore. Community Fly Shop's Tournament in Gulf Shores was sold out with 55 anglers but bad weather and weeds limited the catch.

JoJo spent five days' fly-fishing Helen, Georgia and caught rainbows and browns but had to share the river with a lot of tubers. He fished with his bamboo rod and used streamers.

1940: The Meeting adjourned 18 attendees tonight.