

Flies and Lies

January, 2026



FFNWF

www.ffnwf.org

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President's Corner

Welcome to the New Year of 2026! I sure hope everything goes as smooth with me as the driver as it has been with Cyndi Myers. First off, I want to thank the departing members of the Board, Cyndi and Rex for all their hard work trying to wrangle all of us and keeping it all together. I hope Tarpon Bob and I can fill their shoes. Second, I look forward to working with everyone to advance fly fishing in Pensacola. There far too many people I run into that do not think such thing exists. Finally, y'all can count on me pushing not only Fly Fishers of Northwest FL but also Fly Fishers International as well. We need everyone to join. Okay I'm off the soap box.

Looks like I have put myself out there by volunteering for education programs of the club, plus this President gig, plus casting instructor, so get ready to see my ugly mug around. We need volunteers! Please step up.

Richard Montgomery
President



Club Meeting – Tuesday, Jan 6, 6:30

In addition to the business meeting, Steve Hofmann will present the humor in fly fishing, illustrated with various cartoons.

Fly Tying – Thursday, Jan 8, 6:30

Russ Shields will lead us in tying Kyle Burrell's Parachute Beetle. This is a general use, versatile terrestrial for trout and pan fish. Russ says that it's a great fly to have on hand. **Notice that the Business meeting and Bull Session will be in the same week.**

Clinic – Saturday, Jan 17, 9:00 AM

Join us for casting practice and another chance to tie the Parachute Beetle. Cyndi will be serving chili for the lunch after the clinic.

Business Meeting

The December business meeting was just a formality. There are no minutes available.

Membership Dues for 2025

The dues are coming due! Dues are \$35 to renew this year. There are three ways to pay,

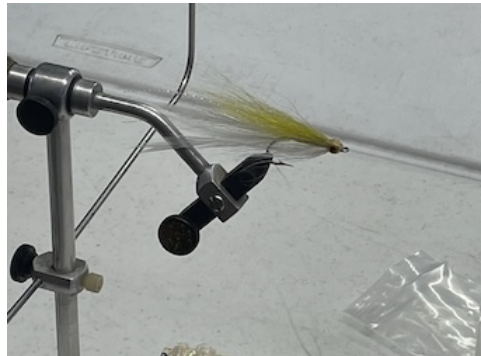
1. **Pay Larry** in person at a club meeting,
2. **Mail a Check** to:
Larry Sisney 3610 Baisden Rd, Pensacola, FL 32503
3. **Pay online** through <https://ffnwf.org/membership>. A two-dollar fee is added for the online payment.

Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo



The Healing Waters group concluded the year's activities with a deceiver, then a redfish crack fly in black and purple tied in December. We will resume normal activities in January focusing on our month-long "Bamboo Rod Building Clinic". Hope everyone is having a great holiday season.



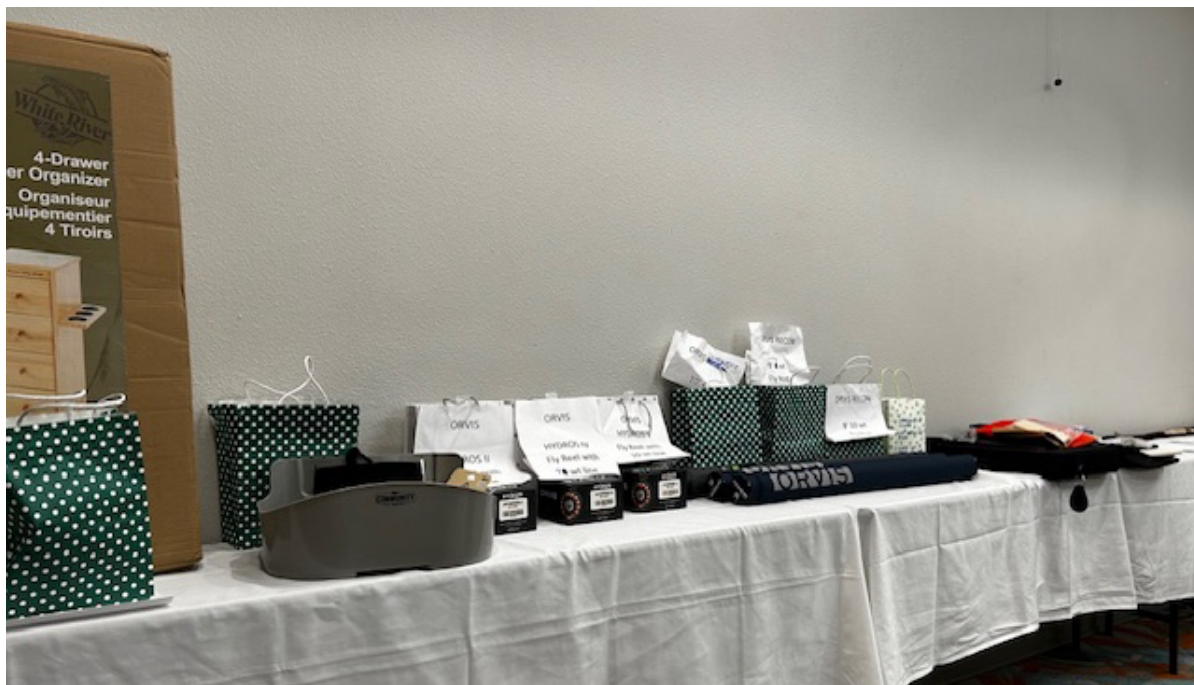
The fellow fishing on the cold and lonely shoreline is a gentleman named Colin from Alaska. Gary hosted him through the program.



Christmas Party



Auction and Raffles



Angler of the Year

Our 2025 Angler of the Year is Jay Brykczynski. Jay was nominated by Larry Sisney and elected by the membership for reasons that are best described in Larry's nomination.

"The Angler of the Year award is not presented to the person who catches and releases the most fish but rather to the person who makes the most valuable contributions to the operation of our wonderful club.

My nominee is a long-time member who has never before been formally recognized for his huge contributions over many years.



He served as Club Treasurer for nine years... He currently represents our club in meetings with the City of Pensacola Parks and Recreation so that our club's voice is heard.



Jay never fails to jump in, when something he can do needs to be done which has earned him the title "The Energized Bunny". One recent example of his stepping up to the plate is when Joe Higgins became unable to continue purchasing beverages to restock the refrigerator, Jay stepped up in a heartbeat, taking this task under his wing.

When a new visitor walks through the club house door, Jay is usually the first to cheerfully greet the person and introduce him or her to our club and members.

This year, he never failed to visit club members who were hospitalized or in rehab bring lots of cheer and sometimes valuable outside nutrition.

Finally, on occasions too numerous to mention, he has provided wonderful food for our Sat. Clinic lunches even though he failed to supply good German beer for our last October-fest Clinic."

Fishing Report

By Captain Richard Montgomery

December was an exciting month on the water. Sight fishing was pretty good, Specks have migrated to deep waters, but the bulls left the Bay.

I am always amazed at what species will attack a fly. This was new for me, several of my clients were able to add the puffer to their list of species on a fly, the Southern Puffer. This guy gobbled up a 3/0 Clouser minnow meant for bull redfish.



But my client did redeem himself with this nice redfish we happened up on the next day. I guess it pays to keep after it.



As I said, specks have moved into deep waters. That means if you find the school you can catch fish till your arms fall off. Terry and I did just that.



They ate Clouser minnow patterns Terry tied because I left my CM box at home. Terry was using his Tan and Olive but I tried Chartreuse and Pink, both worked great.

As usual Baz kept his clients in the big redfish and black drum.

What to look for next month? Same deal, cold water means the fish will be off the flats and in deeper water. Except those hardy redfish, but even they will be moving slow. Also don't forget about wading the Gulf. The water is crystal clear so sight fishing should work well.

Richard



Belize Club Fishing

By George Norton & Bob Korose

Tarpon Bob and I flew nonstop out of Atlanta to Belize the day after Thanksgiving. We spent six days fly fishing out of Belize River Lodge. We caught tarpon, bonefish, snook, barracuda and mangrove and mutton snapper in shallow water flats, rivers, and around mangrove islands.



The top flies were a black snake for tarpon, the lightbulb for snook and a small spawning shrimp pattern for bonefish and snapper. On the third day we both got grand slams. We landed snook and tarpon early in the mouth of a river, but only got our two bonefish minutes before we were due to head in.

My first snook ever was a twenty pounder and measured thirty inches. The fish came out of the mangroves where a river dropped into a large bay. My previous two snook broke off on their sharp gill plates. Tarpon Bob had a big snook that ran him into the mangroves.



My first tarpon was estimated at twenty pounds but I lost a fifty pounder, and almost cried after the fly line wrapped tight around my legs like a tourniquet on a run after several jumps that broke a sixty-pound leader. I'm glad I wasn't wearing shorts. Our bonefish were caught in shallow flats as were the snapper and barracuda.

The Belize River Lodge was easy to access from the airport. We had wonderful fresh seafood and fruit and enjoyed our guide Mick T. Tarpon Bob and I are already talking of a return trip. If you are interested come to our presentation in March. In the fall rainy season, they offer a two for one special. We only had a couple brief sprinkles and one broken rod. While Pensacola had a cold front, we were fly fishing in 83-85 degrees' sunshine.



A Bird Of Flyfishing Import

By Jerry Giles

Following a normally stressful ride of nine hours from Florida to the hinterlands of North Carolina, we had arrived deep in the mountains at our rented home. A celebratory libation for successfully living through Atlanta traffic seemed appropriate. As we sat in the living room winding down, we heard a loud crash against the front door. As loosely quoted from a poem I heard somewhere, "We sprang from our chairs to see what was the matter!" There on the porch, lay a dead grouse.

Now, you may quibble regarding the presence of a grouse on a N.C. porch. Which of the many types of grouse it was, I do not know. But, research shows all to be of the pheasant family or Galliformes. So quibble to your hearts content. It was apparent from the noise of the crash that the bird (henceforth referred to as), had not suffered demise from natural causes. Having been a cop at one time, I instantly announced that as my diagnosis. In summation, universal agreement followed. The door, which interrupted the bird's flight, was a storm door outside the regular door, and reflected the woods as clearly as any mirror. Framed that way, it apparently looked like a path through the house. Not so.

Next, what to do with the bird? Except for a broken neck, it looked perfectly healthy. So, labeled as "Entree", on the evening menu, it was sliced and iced. Properly sauteed in Dutch butter, with accouterments, very palatable! Of course, the feathers were divided among us, resulting in future North-country Spiders, and Partridge & Orange creations. There is a passable scotch known as The Famous Grouse. Every time I sip on that, I think of our trip and our personal "Famous Grouse". Memories are made. They are not crafted from imagination of what might have been. Go and make some of your own.

And Just for Fun...

Thanks Gary Pheabus!



Fly of the Month: Kyle Burrell's Parachute Beetle

By Russ Shields

Kyle Burrell is a professional guide on the upper Green River in Wyoming and the Chattahoochee River north of Atlanta Georgia. Art deTonnancourt and I fished with Kyle on the Green River and Terry McCormick fished with him on the Chattahoochee River. Kyle developed this beetle as a versatile terrestrial for general use for trout and pan fish. I can attest to its efficacy. It's a great fly to have in your box or on your line.



Materials:

Hooks: Mustad 94833 size 10 or 12

Wing: Black dry fly hackle to match hook size




Thread: 6/0 black




Underbody: Peacock herl

Body: 3mm black closed cell foam*

Wing Post: White or pink Antron Yarn

Steps:

1		Before you begin to tie this fly, cut out several foam bodies as shown in the photo. The body should be about 7/8 in. long, 3/8 in. wide at the back and taper to 3/16 in. at the front. Round off both ends. (I made a simple die from stainless steel to stamp out identical copies.)
2		<p>Flatten the hook barb and mount the hook in the vise. Wrap a thread base from the hook eye to the hook bend.</p> <p>Attach the wide end of the foam body at the rear of the hook with the narrow end of the body extending in back of the hook. Wind the thread forward to a distance 1/3 hook shank distance back from the hook eye.</p> <p>Cut about a 1 1/2 inch piece of Antron Yarn from the skein and tie it on top of the hook shank with figure 8 wraps. Pull both ends of the yarn up to form the wing post. Wrap several tight threads turns around the base of the post to stand it up. Return the thread to the rear of hook at the body tie on point.</p>
3		Tie on three of four nice Peacock Herl fibers at the base of the body and twist them into rope. Wind the herl rope forward around the post and up to the eye, forming the Under Body. Tie off at the just behind the eye with several half hitch turns.

4		<p>Cut a slit in the body foam to allow the body to go around the post as the body is pulled forward. Tie down the foam body just behind the eye, about 1/16 th of an inch, and trim the foam to form the head of the beetle. Make several half hitch turns behind the head and take the thread up to the bottom of the post.</p> <p>Wind several tight turns around the post to form a secure attachment point for the parachute wing. Strip a few fibers from the end of the wing hackle and tie feather vertically at the bottom of the post with several wraps going up the post and then back down to the bottom.</p>
5		<p>Wind the hackle feather, with the concave side down, starting at the top of the tie in point on the post and working your way down. Use three or four turns to form the Parachute. Carefully wrap the thread around the base of the post close the foam body and over the tag end of the hackle. Make several tight turns to secure the hackle and cut off the tag end close to the post. Make several half hitch turns behind the head of the beetle staying underneath the parachute. Cut thread and carefully place some head cement on the final thread wraps.</p>
6		<p>Cut off wing post leaving a fairly tall section for visibility. About 1/4 to 5/16 inch on a size 10 fly seems to be about right.</p>