



Flies and Lies

October 2026

President's Corner

Usually in October, we have our Oktoberfest on October Saturday clinic (makes sense, huh?) however, this year not so much. In case you missed it, we had it back in September because this month's Saturday clinic will be our annual fundraiser. From what I understand there are a lot of very good items that will be up for grabs so be sure to bring your wallet, purse, checkbook, cash, or credit card because you will want some of this stuff.

Also, we have some good news from our stand-in membership director: the club is growing. I'm glad to hear that. But we need to continue to push because there are a lot more fly anglers in the Pensacola region who are not members. Just a little selling point: everybody gains with more members, new ideas, new flies, and even new casting techniques so let's push to sign them up.

One more reminder: the Christmas party will be here before you know it so be ready. Russ and Larry are working on the final details and costs, so you should probably attend some meetings to get the skinny. I guess you could always check the website for details.

In sad news, the club lost three members over the last couple of months, Cliff Newton, Lance Davis, and Dave Handley. They will be truly missed.

Till next time, get out there and fish.

Richard Montgomery
President

Casting and Tying at the Club

Club Meeting

Tuesday, October 6, 6:30

In addition to the business meeting, Scott Freeburg will give a presentation on "Fishing Michigan".

Fly Tying

Thursday, October 8, 6:30

The Fly of the Month is the Lightbulb. The Lightbulb was previously tied in July 2025 but only a very few members tied it. Since it has proven to be a highly effective fly in our local waters for many different species, we will tie it again for all.



Saturday, October 17, 9:00 AM

The Saturday clinic will not be held so we can have our annual fund-raiser. This is run auction style and there are more items to bid on than I can list in this newsletter. Lots of rods, reels, tools, and apparel are waiting for new homes. Please make a point of coming out to bid on one of these treasures.

Upcoming Events

October 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6 BOD Mtg 5:00 pm Business Mtg 6:30 pm	7	8 Bull Session 6:30 pm Healing Waters 6:30 pm	9	10 Wade Fishing at Naval Live Oaks. 8:00 am Also Healing Waters
11	12	13	14	15 Community Fly Supply Fly Tying Night 6:30 pm	16	17 Fund Raiser 9:00 am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	Notes				

FFNWF

www.ffenwf.org

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[Larry Sisney](#)

3610 Baisden Rd
Pensacola, FL 32503

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Club Fishing Trip

A trip to Naval Live Oaks is planned for Saturday, October 10. The plan is to meet at the parking lot when the gates open at 8:00 am for a morning of wet wading in the flats along Santa Rosa Island. Here you can practice your casting in the water with a chance to catch Specks, Reds, and other fish. No lunch is planned, but there are a number of restaurants nearby that we can stop at when we finish.

Annual Fundraiser

The auction-style fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, October 17. This is a major source of income for the club and for Healing Waters. Put the date on your calendar today!

Here are a few of the 128 items that will be offered.

- Eighteen Fly Rods, varying from a TFO 3 wt up to a TFO 10 wt, with many sizes and models in between. A couple of these are bamboo rods.
- Several reels, plenty of materials and tied flies, and lots of apparel.
- Several stripping baskets, organizers, vises, spools of fly line, and mono or fluoro line.

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

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. Put it on your calendar. Also consider preparing a box of flies, or something fishing related, to donate as a door prize raffle.

In Remembrance Dave Handley



Dave Handley passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Thursday afternoon, September 3, leaving a profound void in the hearts of his many friends, fellow club members, and community.

A decorated veteran, Dave was a former Navy SEAL and a world-renowned expert in laying underwater communications cables. He held multiple Ph.D.s in engineering, applying his deep expertise not only to his career but also to his community. Dave frequently served as a critical advisor on building structure and maintenance, played a pivotal role in the early days of the local disabled veterans group by providing

essential management guidance, and actively represented community interests on the City Parks and Recreation Citizens Committee.

Within the club, Dave was a true pillar who wore many hats, including serving as President of the club. He acted as the Education Chairman—where he was instrumental in conducting the annual Fly Fishing 101 class—headed the Membership committee, and actively served on the Christmas Party committee. Dave worked tirelessly with city government to protect the club's best interests regarding property use and cabin maintenance. In earlier years, he reliably kept the building stocked with supplies and ensured all user groups contributed their fair share.

Beyond his technical brilliance and dedicated leadership, Dave was loved for his sharp sense of humor, wise counsel, and an endless reservoir of stories from his extraordinary life. Even while navigating significant health challenges in recent years, his dedication, good humor, and spirit never wavered.

Dave often spoke of missing his fallen SEAL Team shipmates who had gone before him; he is now reunited with them for all eternity. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Fair winds and following seas, Dave.

Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo



The Project Healing Waters group remained busy throughout the month of September with our Fly Tying and Casting activities that we conducted in conjunction with the Fly Fishers of NW Florida. Additionally, we took a little local fishing trip to the Pensacola RV Park on September 24th. The RV Park maintains a very nice fishing pond stocked with Bream and Bass. We fished the morning away and wrapped it up with a nice shore lunch and "Lie Swapping" session.

The planned activities for October will be similar to September's, PLUS we will be joining the Fly Fishers for a wade trip outing at the Live Oaks Park on October 10th. The fishing in the Bay and Sound is said to be getting hot as the waters cool, so it should be a productive outing. Our rod kit order has been delayed due to out-of-stock rod kits at our supplier. We hope to have all the kits in hand by the end of the month at which time we'll turn our focus to some fly-rod building.

Labor Day Cookout



Wilde Lake (Photos by Jay B. and Ellen Milo)



Business Meeting

The September business meeting is documented in the minutes attached to this newsletter. There was a general discussion led by Richard Montgomery regarding fly-rod construction and some new and improved tippet materials.

Fly Tying and Clinic

The September Fly of the Month was the Whistleducer, created by founding FFNWF member Vance Cook. We had a terrific turnout for the Thursday night Bull Session, including several folks that were new to fly tying. Bob Korose led the session with plenty of help for the new tyers from Gary Pheabus, Richard Montgomery, Jeremy and others.

The Saturday clinic was also well attended. We tied the Whistleducer again and there were coaches available for casting practice. Lunch was a terrific Oktoberfest meal provided by Russ and Bob.



Fall Fly Fishing Forecast

By George Norton (Taken from an earlier presentation by Captain Baz Yelverton)

Redfish: Inshore reds are found in the grass flats and around docks. Offshore in the Gulf, bigger redfish averaging fifteen to twenty pounds patrol the outside of the inner sandbar. Every year starting in early November big redfish known as "bull reds" suddenly appear in Pensacola Bay for what has

become known as “the annual running of the Bulls”. During this time the top water action, if you are lucky and hit it right, can be fast and furious but only lasts about 4 weeks. Afterwards, these bruisers leave the Bay and spawn offshore in the Gulf or in the Pass. Inshore flies for year-round redfish are the green weenie, spoon flies and the Clouser minnow patterns but a stealthy presentation is the key on the flats. The bigger reds are targeted with the Go-Meaux fly (rabbit strip) and mullet patterns fished on 10-weight rods.

Pompano: Look for shadows on the bottom inside the inner bar. They also locate where there is a washout and feed on sand fleas. Our best fly is called a Pompanator which is yellow with red or chartreuse and white. Pompano migrate so they are only in the northern Gulf from March to November. A popular area is the beach near Fort Pickens and Johnson Beach in Perdido Key.

Spanish Mackerel: These can get up to nine pounds in the fall. Like pompano, they are a pelagic species and show off the beaches in mid-March and hang around until the fall when they transition out of Pensacola Bay. Spanish are one of the easiest fish to take on a fly rod and will hit about anything that moves fast and has some flash but require heavy mono tippet or wire leader. Don't stick your fingers in their mouths! Inside the Bay, Spanish follow the edge of grass beds generally in five to six feet of water.

Ladyfish: A relative of the tarpon, they are great leapers and make a powerful run at high speeds. Since they are not edible, they are looked upon with disdain by meat fishermen but for the fly fisher ladyfish are great sport. They're pelagic and don't show up until the water hits 75 degrees in May and they leave in mid-October when temperatures drop below 75 degrees. They are non-selective and will hit anything that moves fast. They can be caught in the Bay or in the Gulf close to the beach. One method is to troll the beach sand bars until you locate them.

False Albacore: Sight fishing in the winter on the fly right off the beach is a hit or miss proposition but these fish are a challenge and a powerhouse to catch on a fly rod.

Jack Crevalle: Requires heavy tackle. You must use a ten to twelve weight rod as these pelagic species frequently run in the twenty-pound range and break rods or spool light tackle. 2/0 Poppers and mullet flies are good choices. Look for boiling water to locate feeding Jacks.

Fishing Reports

By Captain Richard Montgomery

Ah, the fickle world of Spanish Mackerel fly fishing. One day they are here and the next not so much, then it repeats. Spanish started early this year, and I looked forward to writing this report. Those fish



didn't take long to humble me. I started texting my contact to let them know it was on. Nope. However, if you were on the flat when they did show, you'd get a hit almost every cast. Terry Mc and I hit it on one of those days. We figured we had 20 or so hits and landed about half of them. Not only that but there have been several Pompano to spice things up. Several of my clients spent most of their charter catching the silver streaks.

What can October have in store for us? To start with there is the Club fishing trip to Naval Live Oaks, October 10th. Come on out and do a little wade fishing. Then as I am sitting here typing this out, I am rethinking my statement about the Spanish being hit or miss. It is the time of day when you must be on the flats. Miss that time, and it's like you are fishing in a desert. Then again, get the timing right and bingo. They are currently attacking prey at most docks, because the small alewives have finally arrived, but the big winners are on the grass flats. My clients and I spent a couple of hours mixing it up with them and some big ladyfish.

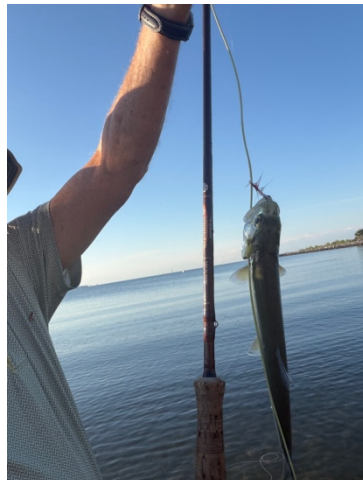


The redfish are starting to appear in the shallows along with some very nice speckled trout. You know the drill, quiet cast, soft presentation, and wait for the fly to reach their level in the water column. What fly you ask? EP Peanut Bunker, various colors and a variation of Redfish Crack, maybe I'll tie one of these months.

It won't be long till the big boys and girls come to town. I just hope they aren't beat down as soon as they show.

George Norton

George sent several photos of fish he caught wading at the beach by the Wahoo ballpark. He says that there are tons of Ladyfish. I heard later that he caught about 10 on the same seducer before the fly started to tear up. Also pictured is his "world record" 10-inch pinfish.



Brian Hinkson

Brian caught an 18-inch Bluefish while fishing last Tuesday with Bob Korose and Rex Green

Fly of the Month: The Lightbulb

By Bob Korose

Capt. Tom Shadley of Mangrove Outfitters in Naples, Florida, created this fly with bright, glow-in-the-dark materials after snook and tarpon refused his standard patterns during night fishing sessions. This fly really works. It turns out that just about everything eats the Lightbulb both night and day including speckled trout and redfish. It is an easy fly to tie. It can be tied in various hook sizes and with different weighted eyes depending on the size of the fish and the water depth to fish. We will tie it here with a large silver bead chain eye or an X-small white dumbbell eye. Try it in our region for Spanish mackerel, bluefish, ladyfish, specks, and redfish. Give it a try under dock and bridge lights at night too. See a video of the fly [here](#).



Materials:

Hooks: Mustad C70SD or C47SD Size 1
Eyes: Large silver bead chain or X-small painted white dumbbell
Thread: White flat waxed nylon.
Tail: Polarflash Mirage Opal (FTD Big Game Hair Tinsel-Bright White)

Fin/Body:

Head: Palmer Chenille Medium Pearl Medium Pearl Chenille or Pearl Estaz.
Flash Glow pink and glow white Flashabou (FTD pearl Shadow flash)

1. Place the hook in the vice and start a thread base. Tie on the glow white Flashabou.	2. Turn the hook over and tie on the gills of glow pink Flashabou.	3. Turn the hook back over and tie on the eyes. Leave room in front for the fly head.
4. Tie on the Polarflash in two clumps. Side by side on the top and sides of the hook. This keeps the tail from fouling on the hook.	5. Tie on the pearl Palmer chenille and wrap forward with 3-4 turns while stroking the fibers to the rear.	6. Tie on the Estaz or Pearl chenille and move the thread to forward of the eyes. Palmer the chenille forward and through the eyes and tie off.
		7. Make a nice head and finish with head cement or UV.

FFNWF September 1, 2026 General Meeting Minutes

by George Norton Club Secretary

6:30 P:M The President called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer's report: Our checking account maintains an excellent balance and there were no transactions to report.

Annual Club Fundraiser: is the third Saturday in October and you can still donate up to an hour before it begins at nine AM. Many gently used fly rods and accessories will be sold to raise money for the club.

Tonight's Presentation was canceled because Frank Rowley was not feeling well. He will present on Tenkara fly fishing at a future date. Frank has had great success with the Tenkara rod in North Carolina. In lieu of a presentation, Richard M., Club President, filled in and talked about rod-building and some new, improved tippet that is thinner and stronger but more expensive. He also passed around two eight-weight rods he recently wrapped for feedback. I think they were made from Loomis blanks. If you want to present at a monthly meeting, see Bob Korose who sets the schedule.

The Next Club Fishing trip will be to Naval Live Oaks on the morning of October 10th. More details to follow. This is a wade fishing venue over grass flats. Bob K has fly fished it on a regular basis and it's a good location for reds and specs. If you want to lead a club trip let one of the officers know.

Christmas Tickets: Mick Milo will print out 45 tickets for the party on December 8. The last day to purchase tickets will be at the December meeting. Please no cash and pay by check or credit card.

Membership: Jay B reported good news with 61 members. This is an excellent jump from where we were only a few months ago. Welcome new club member Mike Harmon who was a long-time resident of southeast Alaska and is an ex-Marine or always a Marine. Mike is looking for coaching to help him get up to speed on fly tying and fly-casting sessions. Welcome Mike!

(A section describing the Fall Fishing Forecast was not part of the meeting and moved to page 5)

7:30 PM The Meeting Adjourned