



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

January 2015

FFNWF

PO Box 1041
Pensacola, FL 32591
www.ffenwf.org

PRESIDENT
Cliff Newton
(850) 637-3367
ccnewton@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
W. (Rex) Straughn
(850) 261-7811
crew679584@att.net

SECRETARY
Kent Reagan
(850) 696-2862
kwReagan@msn.com

TREASURER
Jay Brykczynski
(850) 232-7504
jaybryk@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER
Paul Wargo
586-943-3155
flyfishersnwf@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETINGS at
Miraflares 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

Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida
annual membership renewal drive
kicks off this month.

Renewing members \$30.00

Associate members \$10.00.

Jay will gladly receive your dues payment in cash or check, in person or via snail mail. See Jay B. or Jack Bauknecht at any of the meetings or send check to:

Jay Brykczynski 4983 Prieto Drive Pensacola FL 32506

Make checks out to **FFNWF**



"That can't be Jay"

"How do you know that?"

"Because it doesn't snow here"

The President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR, Everyone!!

As we look forward to the New Year, we should be proud as a club of our 2014 accomplishments. The next year should bring more opportunities to serve our community and the sport of fly fishing. We should have fun times fishing, tying, casting, learning, teaching, fellowship, and eating together in the upcoming year. Take advantage of what the club has to offer and contribute where you can. We will have a great year.

There will be a board meeting at 6:00 PM and the membership meeting at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 6th.

Cliff

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL**
Annual Dues

**THIS YEAR I
RESOLVE
TO DO MORE TO
PROTECT
THE PLACES I LOVE
TO FISH**

The Christmas Party

And a good time was had by all.....

(Some more than others)



Some guys have lots of luck,
some even more than others

Angler of the Year – Kent Reagan



USMC FLY GUY

Website: www.usmcflyguy.com

Store: <http://store.usmcflyguy.com>

December Meeting -

Tarpon Bob Korose took us on a trip to the White River in Arkansas. Beautiful trout and no piranhas. Bob has giving us a lot to dream about as he shares his adventures with us – whether it's Alaska or Brazil or Town Point.



*Paul,
I caught this Bull Redfish in
Pensacola Bay, during
recent outing with Bob
Korose, Dec 4, 2014.
Merry Christmas!
Rex Straughn*



January Meeting will be Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 PM

January Fly Tying will be Thursday, January 8 at 6:30 PM. See Matt's article

January Clinic will be Saturday, January 17. Lunch - "Russ' Famous Sea Food Chowder"

This is a real treat and takes a lot to prepare. **Please let us know** if you can come for the lunch. Reply to this email and we will get the count to Russ. Bring friends and introduce them to the club. And pay your dues. Before Jay melts.

Healing Waters RE: Our PHWFFNWF Facebook page:

We're approaching nearly 400 likes. That's up about 350 in the past month and close to 2,000 views.

I just got notification that we are in the top 95%, nation wide of the other programs for interest, views and likes.

We're getting noticed and I already have a number of people who have offered help. Including a small business owner who offered 15% off for PHWFFNWF for December. He makes custom rod grips, one is on the site and fly rods. He will be making one for us for auction or the Christmas party. Russ and I wrote a small intro. letter about our group and affiliation with FFWNF. I posted it on the page. I hope everyone visits it, comments and shares frequently.

Healing Waters will meet 01/05/15 at the Senior Ctr. at 6:00 and 01/19/15 at the Miracles Club House at 6:00 (senior center closed for Martin Luther Kings Birthday) *Jack Bauknecht*

Report from Capt. Baz



The "Running of the Bulls" came to a screeching halt on Saturday, December 6, two days before Russ Shields and his family were on the boat looking for them! So sorry about that, Russ. I wish I had the power to have extended it just two more days... Since my last report the only fly angler who experienced this year's incredible run was local ER doc Tom Zavoral (aka: "Z").



Z's first taste was on November 24 when he got 5 takes but landed just this one fish. Each missed hookset or otherwise lost fish was a learning experience, and Z did some serious redfish butt-kicking on a return trip December 3. Since my report is short this month, I'm going to include photos of all his fish from that second day. It was a breakthrough day...he only missed one take! Plus, all the fish were caught on a floating line. If you are



unfortunate enough to find yourself in the Sacred Heart Emergency Room maybe you'll get lucky and have Dr. Zavoral as your physician. Between defibrillator jolts you guys can talk about fly-fishing!



Since December 6 I've been hunting the much more difficult giant redfish along the edge of the Gulf. These are some seriously tough fish, and maybe that's why they're so big. A good number of the fish I've been seeing appear to be in the 30# range...

Dave Walters, Johnson City, TN, was with me December 9 the day after Russ and Company got skunked (except for a flounder...). We spent a little time running around the bay looking for birds, but there was nothing happening. So we decided to give the beach a try. I started east of the tower poling westbound, and it wasn't long before we started seeing some fish...singles, doubles, but no large groups of fish. The water was gin-clear, and the fish were so spooky they were running from the shadow of the fly line before the fly hit the water! There was no doubt in my mind that to have any success we needed a larger group of fish, as maybe a couple fish would compete for the fly. Finally, west of the palm tree I saw a decent school milling around in the shallow water. We eased along and got as close as possible without them "hearing" us, and slid the anchor over. Some time went by before they moved into casting range, and Dave drifted the fly down-current to them. As we had hoped a redfish rose up in the water column to investigate the fly and this 27 pounder shot by it and ate the fly. Dave had his hands full on his little Sage ONE 8wt! We had lengthened the leader to 12' and dropped down to 12# tippet trying to elicit a strike, so he really had to baby this big fish...the only one we landed that day.



The next day we worked that same stretch of beach, but there was nothing there. Zip. I tried west of the pass and found nothing there either. So I resorted to running east along the outside edge of the inner bar hoping to run over a school of fish. We lost our light which made it hard to see, but we powered on anyway. Shortly before Battery Langdon we ran right smack over a school of a hundred or more fish, and I immediately killed the motor and drifted. The redfish were naturally alarmed but soon settled down, as we just sat there motionless...dead-quiet. They headed off to the west, and we let them get almost out of



sight before I fired it up and ran due south beyond the outer bar...then turned west for a quarter mile...and came back to the north idling up close to the beach. I put the anchor out and we waited. Some time later they appeared moving toward us just as "high and happy" as you could want. Dave waited until they were in range and laid the fly out there in front of them. He tried the usual long strip but got no interest. The school was on us by then and freaked out. They were out of there in a hurry, so we tried the same maneuver and anchored again on the inner bar well ahead of the school. This time Dave got the fly to the school a little farther from the boat, and when the long strip failed he tried a series of short, quick strips which drove this redfish crazy. The fish charged out of the pack and crushed the fly.



Two days later I had fellow guide Mel Rojko, Breckenridge, Colorado, on the boat on her birthday. Armed with the knowledge from my previous trips I was very confident that Mel would land her first bull redfish. But of course the fish were much harder to find than I expected. There was nothing between Pickens Point and the observation tower, so again I headed east and found a relatively small school of maybe 30 fish close to Battery Langdon. The fish were moving eastbound, so we got ahead of them and set up. But when they got close enough to sense the boat they changed direction and headed back to the west. We did "the maneuver" again, anchored on the bar, and waited for them to get into range. Mel tried her best to be calm and collected, but this was her first time sight-fishing for big redfish.

She had a hard time getting the fly to the fish before they saw us and bolted. After doing "the maneuver" two or three more times, she made a nice cast and hooked up! Man, what a relief! She was thrilled, the reel was singing, and I was jumping up and down. All was good until the line went limp... Sadly she reeled in only to find that my blood knot had failed at the 20# to 15# connection. There is nothing worse for a guide. Nothing. She thought the fish had broken the line, but I confessed and showed her the "pigtail". Crestfallen is a pretty good word to describe my mood, but Mel was upbeat as ever. She was looking forward to hooking another one...a feat I thought was remote at best. I mean seriously, this was the only school of fish out there, and they'd seen us maybe five times already... But we continued doing the maneuver as the fish headed to the west. Three times Mel got takes but missed the hookset. Finally in the neighborhood of the palm tree she hooked up again. This time I had kept the leader at 20#, and she put as much heat on that fish as her little 100 pounds allowed. Thirty-five minutes later she landed the redfish, and it was a major hog bottoming out my 30# bogagrip! I'll tell you one thing...landing that fish was how you spelled relief for me that day. Here are photos of Mel holding and releasing the fish.



It's December 17 as I write this, and I am done for the year. I'll be "off the grid" until January but want to take this opportunity to thank everybody for your encouragement and support. Let's make 2015 our best year ever. **Capt Baz**

Minutes of December Meeting

Time: 1900 General Membership Meeting

For a list of participants at the meeting please refer to sign in sheet dated 02 December 2014..

Cliff Newton called the meeting to order at 1900 hours.

Prizes for the Christmas Banquet were on display. Currently have 42 tickets sold for the banquet. See Jay Brykczynski for Christmas banquet tickets and 30th anniversary hats for sale.

Jay Brykczynski gave the Treasury Report. Pending expenses include membership folders, IFFF membership dues by 01 January and Christmas raffle expenses. Received 2 letters for donations. Donation to Fisher Hose for Jerry Aldridge and Trout Unlimited for Mitch Abernathy. Kent Reagan motioned to accept Treasury report and Oleta Webb seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Correction to November meeting minutes. Member at large positions for 2015 are Oleta Webb and Robin Armstrong. Jay Brykczynski motion to accept meeting minutes and Bob Korose seconded. Motion passed.

Fishing reports given.

Committee reports. Project Healing Waters NW Florida has a new Facebook page. Please go to page and like it.

Trying to have a spring outing possibly to Naval Live Oaks.

Bob Korose gave a presentation on fly fishing for trout in Northern Arkansas.

Door prizes given.

Kent Reagan motioned for adjournment Jim Morris seconded. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at hours.

The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned.

Kent Reagan, Secretary Email: kwreagan@msn.com

Fly of the Month - Cook's Critter by Matt Wegener



This fly pattern was created and patented by Vance Cook, a long-time member of this club. Cook's Critter may look familiar to you because it is the fly in our club logo. This fly was made to imitate a shrimp or a crab and can be tied in a variety of colors. A quick search on the internet revealed that this fly has successfully caught Bonefish, Bluegill, and even Atlantic Salmon. While Cook's Critter has caught many species of fish, anglers from the Florida Keys to the Louisiana mainly use it to catch Spotted Seatrout, or "specks". Natural colors in brown or tan will likely fool Reds and Bones, while brighter colors, such as chartreuse or pink may work better on Spotted Seatrout.

Tying Materials

Hook:	Mustad 34007 or similar style, #2	Thread:	Flat waxed nylon, color to match fly
Body:	Chenille	Tail:	Marabou
Hackle:	Hackle feather to be palmer wound	Wing:	Calf tail or similar fine fur
Flash:	Krystal Flash	Eyes:	Bead Chain
Shellback:	Mylar, medium size		

Tying Instructions

1. Prepare the hook by crushing the barb and sharpening the hook point. Advance the thread to the rear of the hook and tie in the bead-chain eyes only a 1/8" behind the hook eye. Then tie in a tuft of marabou as long as the hook shank followed by several strands of Krystal Flash trimmed slightly longer than the marabou.



2. Staying at the rear of the hook, tie in a 2" piece of hollow mylar, then a hackle tied in by the tip, and finally a 4" piece of chenille. Wrap the chenille towards the eye of the hook, making the 1st wrap of chenille behind the hackle.



3. Palmer-wrap the hackle towards the hook eye making 5-6 loose wraps. It is important not to make too many wraps with the hackle so the fly remains sparse in appearance.



4. Pull the mylar over the hackle to make the shell back. Tie off behind the eyes then again in front of the eyes. Trim the excess mylar.

5. Rotate the fly in the vice and tie in sparse clump of calf tail, slightly longer than the hook shank. Whip finish and cut the thread to finish the fly.



Tackle Review - Baitfish Emulator Flash

This wing /tail material is unique in two respects:

BEF (Feather – Craft # TU044) is not as limp as Flashabou or marabou but not as stiff as SF blend or Congo hair, and it comes in 3” lengths sewn together with a little hem instead of long hanks that have to be pulled apart. You could wrap the whole hem around the hook but I think it is better to cut the fibers and tie them on like anything else, especially if you want to keep it sparse. It picks up a lot of light in the water; you don't need much even if it is the only material you use for the tail.

Here are some samples (it's much more difficult to take pictures of flash material than you would think; background is supposed to be white). There is olive, minnow gray, tan, and pearl BEF surrounded by olive and polar Congo hair. The tan is very translucent which should make for some nice Clousers and shrimp flies.

Paul Wargo

Do you have equipment you would like to write about?

Send your ideas via email to flyfishersNWF@gmail.com



Around the Bay



George Bennett lands his first Bull Red. How long do you think it took to get that smile off his face? Kyle Finkle came down from Maine and spends some time on the water with his Dad.

Tom Finkle

(Editor's note: The trout was in Hoffman Bayou. Wouldn't Jerry be proud?!?!)



Warm Memories for cold winter days



Smallmouth Bass caught by Rex Straughn on fly tied by John Fitzgerald

2013 raffle “Trip with Baz” winner, Alicia McCormick, with a nice Spanish.



Eventual pictures of 2014 winner might look very similar.

Her husband's fish. Much smaller.



**Be thankful we have
so much water
What a wonderful
place to live**

