



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

January, 2017

FFNWF

PO Box 1041
Pensacola, FL 32591

www.ffenwf.org

PRESIDENT

Oleta Webb
850-221-9797
LilCurve87@outlook.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Gary Pheabus
(850) 287-0473
Fishingman01@hotmail.com
CrappieCandy.net

SECRETARY

George Norton
geonorton@gmail.com

TREASURER

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

NEWSLETTER

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS at

Miraflores Park
17th Avenue between
Belmont and LaRue

Business Meeting

1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying

2ND Thursday, 6:30 PM

Clinic - Casting, Tying, Lunch
3RD Saturday, 9 AM

Happy New Year -

New Officers! New Plans!! New Class!!!

Same Meeting Time – Tuesday, January 3 - 7:00 PM

This will be a meeting where we actually focus on the business at hand – the agendas, budget, programs, and all that good stuff, especially the new plans for our annual Spring Class for Beginners. Since this class is our primary source of new members, these plans (and volunteers to carry them out) are of vital importance to our club.

There will be a Board Meeting at 6:00 to get everything ready for the new officers' first meeting.

Fly Tying – Thursday, Jan12 – 6:30 – **Redfish Radish**

Bring that new vise you want to buy yourself for Christmas and make some flies to give your wife for Valentines Day, then she won't mind you buying another vise.

Clinic – Saturday, January 21 - 9:00 AM

Time to get those muscles back in the groove and smooth out the old casting stroke. Fly tying, too. And camaraderie, of course. But what you really want to come for is the Lunch – Russ is making his **Famous Chowder** again. What a way to start the year!!!!!!

From the New Pres

Hope everyone had a fabulous holiday season. I want to begin by saying, what a Great Christmas Party! Thank you to the Christmas committee and all who has helped with the wonderful raffle prizes and the donations.

Congratulations to Jay Brykczynski for being named the Angler of The Year.

I am so thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as your President and can not wait to work with each and everyone of you in making our club a continual success as it has been in the past. I look forward to exciting times this year and with Jonas's lessons hope to smoke some of you guys on the water. (lol) I know with your support and encouragement I will be able to represent our club to the fullest. President, **Oleta**





The Thrill of Victory Sure they have the College Football Playoff and the Super Bowl but none of that compares to the pure excitement and sheer elation of winning a raffle prize at the Christmas Party, as you can readily see from these smiling faces. There should have been a Gatorade shower for each but they didn't have any Gatorade at the bar. Darn.

Fishing with Capt Baz

The hot redfish surface action accelerated into December after the wild Thanksgiving week. Finally, most of the out-of-control recreational anglers tucked their boats away for the winter and gave the fish a much needed break. When the second week of December rolled around there were just a few boats and plenty of fish.

On December 13 we spent 4 hours between Deer Point and the EPA and landed over 30 beautiful redfish with just a couple other boats in the vicinity. What a relief! The last significant surface action happened on December 20 both at Deer Point and the "Turning Basin". There's still plenty of bait around Deer Point, the 3MB, Deadman's Island, the EPA, and NAS. I expect schools of redfish to be popping up for the next couple weeks especially on calm, sunny days.



Here are photos of happy "Running of the Bulls" anglers from December with in many cases their "redfish of a lifetime". Jim Seegraves on Dec 1, Greg Hawley and Randy George on Dec 2, Stephen Miller on Dec 5, Mark Opitz on Dec 6, Dave and Mark Walters on Pearl Harbor Day, and North Carolina guide Alex Bell with his dream 40" redfish on December 9.



My favorite catch of the month happened on December 21. As you know, back-to-back winner Gary Pheabus won his first raffle trip back in December 2015. That night he told me he wanted to save the trip until his son Brandon could go with us. It finally happened on December

21 when Brandon returned from a little vacation at Boot Camp with the US Marines. Gary was hoping Brandon might land his first redfish on fly, and I was optimistic since it was a beautiful day and the "bulls" had been active the day before. Right off the bat we saw pelicans diving by the EPA and ran over there expecting to see fish on the top. I handed Brandon the 10wt, and after a quick lesson he was double-hauling nice tight-looped 60' casts. Would've been great if there'd been any fish around...which there weren't. So we did the usual trek around the bay looking for more birds, talking to other guides, etc. There was nothing happening anywhere, so we ran toward the pass hoping for false albacore or maybe a peek into the Gulf even though seas were supposed to be a solid 2'. We poked around the sandbar by the lighthouse for a while with Brandon casting a gorgeous 20 year old Lamiglas 8wt and then decided to try the Gulf. To our surprise it was flat, and we zipped east to the observation tower and idled to the inner bar. I told them how spooky the Gulf redfish had been, and we decided to go with a white rabbit fur fly Gary had created. As soon as I got up on the platform I could see fish moving down the bar in our direction in about four feet of water. In no time they were on us...a pod of a dozen, a few singles and doubles, and a large school of about fifty coming behind them. Brandon was incredibly cool and laid out a nice cast in front of the first wave of fish. I was expecting the usual response... which is *no* response... and was amazed when one of the fish followed and took a half-hearted swipe at the fly. No problem for Brandon who picked it up and dropped a 60' cast right in the middle of the big school of fish. A couple of long strips and this fish hammered it. Please understand these are fish who haven't aggressively eaten anything I've thrown at them for a year! Brandon handled it beautifully on the little Lamiglas 8 and brought it to the net in about 15 minutes. How about this photo of Brandon and his dad! Does it get any better?? I don't think



so. By the way, we found the fish one more time and had another very aggressive take, but Brandon missed the hookset. Gary's got a big-time winner with that fly, and maybe he'll show it to you sometime after he ties some more. I confiscated all he had on the boat...

Capt Baz

ps: Late Breaking News! Club member Jerry Barkley took his fourteen year old son Braden on the auction trip today, and Braden landed this redfish on fly...his first. Hearty congratulations! *(this is the Club Auction – first Tuesday in May every year)*



Fly of the Month: **Redfish Radish**...by Matt Wegener

Description This fly is a favorite of mine for my wade-fishing adventures for two reasons. First, it's easy to cast. Standing waist deep in water is not the easiest situation to cast a fly rod. Heavy materials weighing down a back cast is the last thing that you want when trying to quietly deliver a fly to a spooky redfish. The marabou tail of this fly provides plenty of action, while not absorbing any water, making it very easy to cast. The second reason it excels as a wade-fishing fly is that the cone-head weight causes the fly to fall vertically, compared to a clouser-style fly that tends to glide. Why is this important? You can't normally see the fish when wading due to the low viewing angle to the water, but you can easily see the sand spots that are interspersed in the sea grass. These sand spots consistently hold fish and are a favorite target of mine when wade fishing. I know that when I drop a fly over one of these spots, or stop the retrieve when passing over one, that this fly will fall directly into the strike zone, which results in more bites when wading my favorite flats.



Tying Materials

Hook: #1 Mustad 34007

Weight: ¼" gold cone head

Flash: Copper or gold Krystal Flash

Collar: (optional) Grizzly saddle hackle or gold Fire Fly

Thread: Tan Danville flat waxed

Tail: Ginger marabou

Body: Root beer Grande Estaz

Tying Instructions

Pinch the barb and slide on the cone head. Add a few turns of lead behind the cone if you want more weight.

Tie in a healthy hank of marabou 3 times the length of the hook shank along with 3 to 5 strands of Krystal Flash

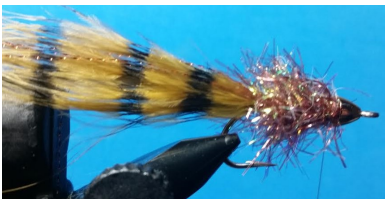
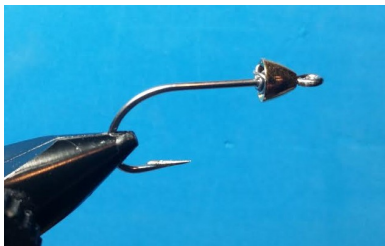
Run the thread up to the cone head and tie in the Estaz. Wrap the thread back towards the bend of the hook to help make a uniform body.

Wrap the thread back towards the eye of the hook and whip finish. Wrap the Estaz forward, making touching wraps, and tie off behind the cone head.

Make vertical bars with a black marker on the tail.

Add the optional collar, either palmer wrapping the grizzly hack or a beard of Fire Fly flash.

Whip finish and complete the fly.





Around the Bay (actually, around the beach)

Worth a second look... Note the change in color. Winter is here.

Gary won the trip with Baz two years in a row at the Christmas Party, breaking the legendary McCormick winning streak. Who will start a new streak this year?? Save the date: Dec 12. Save your money. (To buy more tickets; it helps.)

Fishing Report from Capt. Chip Smith

The bulls are in the shallows and very enthusiastic to eat. Actually they seem more offended that you would even try to through something at them that they eat it just to spite you. Nothing like a #30+ fish eating in 12" of water.



Here's a fun story about the fish Unk Smith is holding. I slid us back into a cut in a very isolated section of marsh noticing a derelict crab pot just past the entrance. The water was maybe 18", somewhat cloudy due to some very anxious mullet. The mullet's anxiety stemmed from this monster of a red just basking in the sun. He was right in the sun and all I was able to make out was water not "sitting" normally.

"11 o'clock, 20 feet, drop one" just to be sure.

Unk expertly dropped one right on his nose. No eat, just rising out of the mud and shuffling towards the exit. The fish is now at 8 o'clock and fully visible.

Unk lands a cast about a foot in front and this red flares up and explodes on the fly!

Great cast, good set, "Don't let it get in the trap! Don't let him get in the trap! He got in the trap....."



I fly off the platform and some how undo the massive granny knot around the barnacle-encrusted buoy, with the push pole. Crisis avoided, fish landed, series of Hi-Fives and hoots. Man these fish are amazing!

I hope everyone is having a chance to get line wet! Happy New Year!

Captain Chip

Chandeleur Islands by Jeff Deuschle



Rod Fields and I got out to the Chandeleur Islands for a few days before Christmas. Rod is a long time officer in the Ocean Springs club and some of you have met him at the Fly Fishing Fair.

The weather was really rough on that weekend before the holiday and we had to reschedule several times. Even then, the trip out was cold, damp and foggy. The few hours of fishing that we got in on that first afternoon were tough too. Only a couple were caught and I slipped and got a blast of icy cold water down the back of my waders. It looked like we might be in for a long couple of days.

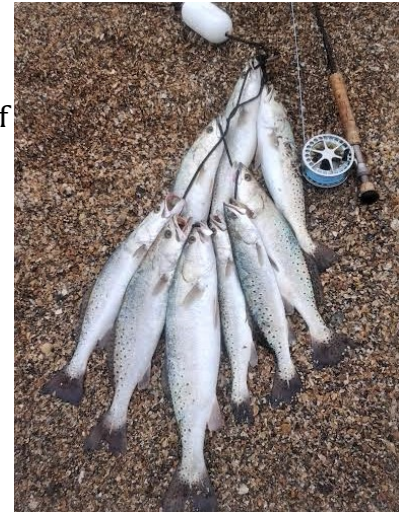
But the weather warmed and improved by the next morning and did we find the fish! Loads of nice sized, fat, pre-winter trout averaging 2&1/2 to 3 lbs. with 6 nice bull reds thrown in

for good measure. During the peak of the bite we were catching them on every cast, often doubled up or "stealing" fish as they followed one that was hooked, and we both caught limits of specks on that day.

The fishing continued to be very good for a couple more days. Biggest speck and most specks on fly for me this trip. Here are just a few of the many pictures that we took. We generally release most of our fish, but did keep some big stringers to stock empty freezers and to share with neighbors and friends who couldn't make the trip.

Note the tape on my "stripping finger." Lots of miles on that poor finger that week! I was catching repeated trout "off the reel," and then a big bull would hit and burn my finger before I could react!

Happy Holidays everyone and a wish for great days of fishing and friendship in the coming year. *Jeff*



Angler of the Year – Jay Brykcznski



We invite you to teach or demonstrate at the
2017 International Fly Fishing Fair
to be held in Livingston, MT!

Happy to report that member Kevin Gorby has been invited to be a teacher / demonstrator at the International conclave in Livingston MT in August/

The President's Message WISHING ONE AND ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

I trust that all who attended our annual Christmas party enjoyed the warm fellowship and excellent food. I understand that we may have set a new attendance record. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the 2016 Christmas party a success. Furthermore, I hope that everyone had a joyous Christmas season.

The new year, 2017, will bring fresh opportunities for us to enjoy nature and our beloved sport of fly fishing as well as to share our knowledge, experience and excitement with members of our community, hopefully attracting new enthusiasts. Our activities will run the full gamut of fly tying, casting, learning, teaching, fishing and fellowship.

Again I request that you fully support our new president Oleta, other officers, committees and each other in 2017. Remember, this is your club! Enjoy all your club has to offer and contribute to make it better. I look forward to another exciting year of fishing and continued new adventures plus the genuine camaraderie this club offers. Thanks again for your support during 2016. Let's have another great year!**Rex**

From the Treasurer:

"Our 2016 Christmas Party was attended by 48 members and guest. This is a club record from previous years. I want to thank everyone for attending and participating. From all accounts everyone enjoyed the food and events of the evening.

See ya around the Club House in 2017." *Thanks, Jay*

FFNWF Meeting Minutes - December 6, 2016 George Norton, Secretary

7:00 PM President Rex Straughn brought the meeting to order. There were 20 Members in attendance.

Austin Harker introduced himself as a new member. Austin works for the FAA and moved from Huntsville, Alabama. He has fly fished all over the U, S. and is a fly tier. He also just bought a boat and is looking forward to learning our waters and tying flies. Welcome aboard Austin!

The first topic for the evening was updating the club roster which hasn't been updated in 2-3 years. A printed copy of the roster is available on request and is not distributed on line due to privacy concerns. The only public emails on the newsletter are the officers' emails.

The Christmas Party is Tuesday December 13th at 6 PM. A club record of 49 signed up to attend. The Party will feature raffles, door prizes and Paul Wargo's slide show of the best photos of club members and their fish caught during the 2016 season. We are requesting that everyone to wear name tags.

Financial report was given by Jay and the club's financial numbers are in good shape. The treasurer is seeking a Non-Profit 501c7 status for our club which will help on taxes.

The next topic was the Bream Fishers Association's request to forgo their \$50/Yr. dues for the use of the clubhouse which is shared by six organizations. The BFA claims they alone pay the water and sewage bills. Our club members thought the city should be paying water and sewage since the building is a city facility. Dave Handley will look into this matter and report back at the January meeting.

Our next order of business was the nomination for the Vice President's Position. Gary Pheabus was nominated and sworn in. The VP is responsible for the monthly club's programs. Gary is also Committee Chair for the Spring Fly Fishing Class. Gary gave an overview of the changes he wants to implement for the spring class such as; shortening the class to seven weeks, using more technology i.e. Facebook and youtube to aid in the learning process. Gary also suggested we upgrade the club's tying vices. It was suggested the club purchase 2-3 new tying vices every year and we should also stop printing up materials for the spring classes as they should be available on line which will save the club time and money. All of these recommendations will be discussed in January's Business meeting for further review by board members.

Fishing reports: Russ caught the largest bull red (a forty inch fish) and other club members connected with the big bulls on their annual run in the Bay in November. The bull reds averaged 20-30 pounds. Poppers and big streamers were the meal ticket. Don Smith also recently bought a boat and asked for club members' help and suggestions for rigging it for fly fishing.

Presentation : Jay gave a report on the Project Healing Waters Drift Float fishing trip to the Chattahoochee River outside of Atlanta. The fishing and the weather cooperated and everyone caught brown and rainbow trout. Kyle caught a 17 inch brown which was the largest fish on the trip.

We adjourned the club meeting at 8:25 PM by thanking Rex and Kent for volunteering their time, energy and leadership as our President and Secretary in 2016. Merry Christmas to everyone.
