



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

March, 2016

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MONTHLY MEETINGS at
Miraflores 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

MARCH MADNESS Final Four:

First Seed:

Club Meeting – Tuesday, March 1 7:00 Kevin Gorby will present a program about reel care (really good).

Second Seed:

First Spring Class – Wednesday, March 9 Still room for a few more students. Get you friends to sign up, or sign up to help.

Third Seed

Fly Tying Bull Session – Thursday, March 10 - 6:30 Tie the seductive Seaducer. And hear all those fishing stories..... don't be seduced by myths and legends.

Fourth Seed

Club Clinic – Saturday, March 19 – 9:00 AM. By then the switch to switch rods should be in full swing. It's seductive. Try it out. See below. For lunch: **Joe's Extreme Chili Hot Dogs.** These dogs will be a life changing experience that will only happen at the March Saturday clinic. *Joe Higgins*

And, if you survive March then there will be **AUCTION MADNESS.** Tuesday, May 3. And you have all of April to get ready. And save up some money. Lots.

And pay your dues. Or you will be in the Losers' Bracket

The Switch is On!

Considerable interest has been generated by Jonas Magnusson in Switch rod conversions. It started with Jonas helping Oleta at Project Healing Waters and Russ came up with a way of putting an extension butt on regular rods for two handed casting. Baz thinks it is a great idea; he says: *I think the switch rods could open the saltwater door for a lot of people... Immediate 60' accurate casts. What's not to like?!*

More on the next page from Jonas, himself..... from somewhere in the Baltic.



Ah, The Switch Rod. Two scenarios:

Let's face it most fly fishermen are what we can call "trouters." I was one myself. The long casts are really not necessary so why bother. So, most fly fishermen trying the salt will have a very hard time in the wind and can not get the line out more than say 50 feet. Baz will back up that statement.

It got me thinking about alternate solutions. Baz has a client that is small and thin and he was fitted out with a Sage Xi3 8 weight rod (stiff brute of a rod). He could not bend it, and me and Baz have to work hard to load the thing and end up hating it. Naturally, the casts were poor and shortish. I got a Beulah 10'4" 6 weight Switch rod (still short enough to land a fish from a boat). I played with it and could get some nice casts overhead with an 8 weight line (Rio Outbound Short - a brick on a string, really). Baz's client tried it and lo and behold he was two handed it with casts 60-80' no problem. Several other have tried and my conclusion is that I can teach just about anyone to cast over 60' with this technique in one hour. Let's face it: most casters will not practice to get their casts one handed up to the 100' wall. Short casts and salt water are mutually exclusive - with this setup the odds are much better and fly fishermen can start to enjoy salt water fly fishing and catch fish.

Second scenario. Bad dominant shoulder.

Lots of folks will get problems from arthritic and otherwise damaged shoulders. It is a very common ailment. We get around that with switch rods by holding the rod with the dominant hand on top of the handle (anterior to reel). The power is provided by the non dominant hand holding the rod below the reel. We can classify this casting style as underhand casting. The dominant hand is merely a pivot point. Oleta is a case in point - enough said.

There are really only 2 casts we need to perform. One is the classical overhead and two is the roll cast. It seems to me that teaching the roll cast with 2 hand technique is fairly simple and Oleta picked it up immediately.

I actually know fly fishermen that only use 2 handers even for small trout. They just use lighter equipment. Roll casts are actually easier to perform in my view with a 2 hander and you can even roll cast fairly horizontally and send the fly under overhanging vegetation. (Dr.) Jonas Magnusson

From somewhere in the Baltic.... Jonas wrote back to say:

Somewhere in the Baltic - is small town called Mariehamn in the Aland islands (archipelago between Sweden and Finland).

Meanwhile, Back at the ranch Russ was hard at work and came up with an extension butt that can turn any rod into a two handed rod. He writes: Attached is a picture of what is needed to make a Switch rod handle extension. It is rather simple, a 1/4 in. I.D. stainless steel tube, a 1/4 in. stainless bolt and some cork rings.

The rod must have a fighting butt adapter already in the rod handle or one must be installed (not shown here). Cut the head off the bolt, cut the threaded part of the bolt to the proper length to fit the fighting butt adapter in the rod, clean up the threads and epoxy the bolt in the tube. Epoxy the cork rings to the tube. Shape the rings to fit the users hand. Add an "O" ring (1/4in. I.D.) to the bolt and you are done. The length of the switch rod handle should not be made any longer than 6 inches. Or....



Russ will make one for you and install it on your rod for about \$25.

Plans to demonstrate the switch rod and extension handle will be discussed at the meeting March 1.



Fishing with Capt. Baz

The thing about our sport is the magic can happen when you least expect it. On the first of February Mark Christopherson and his fiancée were on the boat visiting from Minneapolis. I told them all about the dirty water, paucity of fish, cool weather, etc, but they still wanted to go. Compared to Minneapolis in February it seemed nice to them, and it was a fine day with plenty of sun and relatively light winds. At least we weren't under Small Craft Warnings for a change.

It was just a 4 hour trip, so I had to decide which way to go. We could run east to Opal Beach where there are reasonable numbers of slot-sized redfish or head to the flats around Pensacola Pass where there are some big reds. The two areas are over 16 miles apart, and we didn't have enough time to do both. Mark had never thrown a fly at a redfish, and I thought just *seeing* a few big fish might make his day. So I elected to run west. If we couldn't find any redfish I could always show them some beautiful water a mile or so east of the pass...much nicer than they were seeing from their Gulf Shores condo.

To my dismay the water was filthy in the pass, but I ran on over to some flats and started poling anyway. The water was less than 3' deep, but even from the platform it was almost impossible to make out any bottom features. I pushed along hoping to see anything...a shadow, movement on the surface, *anything!* Finally, I gave up on the poling and slid the anchor over in an area that has been productive in the past. I thought if we stared at the same dark water long enough we might be able to pick up any slight change. My clients knew we were "big game hunting" trying for one shot at a big fish, and that they would have to be patient. They were good with it, especially since there were no other options.

So we sat there for **two hours** straining our eyes into the chocolate milk. Occasionally I thought I saw something, but wrote it off to wishful thinking or hallucinations. Since Mark was totally blind from the bow casting position he "target-practiced" placing the fly where I directed. You know the drill "two o'clock, 40 feet"... And we continued to watch and wait. Finally I saw definite movement. There was a slow-moving shadow coming in from the SW about 60' from the boat. The light breeze was from the SW, and left-handed Mark had to try a backhanded shot. The fly fell short; the shadow turned and disappeared. A couple minutes later two or three shadows came in on the same path, and once again the cast was short. If we got another shot we decided to take our chances and let the fish get closer to the boat. A little later I saw a much larger shadow coming toward us more from the west. There was no doubt this was a school of fish, and we waited as planned. This time Mark made a beautiful cast right where directed, the leader turned over perfectly, and the fly dropped directly on top of the fish. Miraculously they didn't spook, and I watched the fly disappear into the large shadow. Since Mark couldn't see anything he didn't know it was time to get really nervous. Instead he calmly let the fly drop and waited for stripping instructions. I counted to four, and told him to give it the long, smooth strip we had practiced. The redfish nailed it halfway through the strip! Mark executed a textbook strip-strike with the rod pointed directly at the fish and then cleared the line beautifully as the redfish exploded down-current.

With the fish over a hundred yards into the backing and running hard, I realized we could easily get spooled on the 9 weight. So I pulled up the anchor, hopped up on the platform, and started poling for all I was worth. The fish felt the change, did a quick 180, and charged the boat. It was pandemonium! I jumped down off the platform and heaved the anchor over. Trying to get tight to the fish Mark reeled like a wild man and finally grabbed the backing and pulled hand-over-hand until all the slack was out of the line. I held the backing at the rod tip tight to the fish while he cranked the slack line off the deck. Incredibly the hook had not fallen out, but some of the loops of backing on the deck had twisted together, and Mark reeled a

big knot of it onto his spool. I leapt back to try to untangle it just as the fish bolted down-current again. We watched in horror as the knot cleared the first stripping guide and then to our amazement click-click-clicked its way through all the other guides, and the fight was on once again. Mark turned the fish this time and regained enough backing to get the knot back on the reel. There were no more crises after that...just a long fight with a huge fish on 9 weight tackle. It took him over 30 minutes, but Mark finally brought the fish to the net. It was a bona fide monster that measured just shy of 45" and bottomed out my 30# bogagrip so solidly that I estimated it at 35 pounds. It's by far the all-time record redfish caught by any means on my boat. The fish ate a little size 2 tan/white clouser minnow tied on 20# tippet. This photo of Mark Christopherson says it all! *Capt Baz*



Fishing Far Away From Bob McKay

Son, Scott , and Tina and the kids were in Jackson Hole on the slopes skiing, so Scott took out the fly rod and.... " THEY'RE BITIN" .

Spring Fly Fishing Class

Week 1	9 March	Getting started and choosing your tackle:	Gary Pheabus/Russ Shields	
Week 2	16 March	Introduction to Local Fly Fishing:	Capt. Baz Yelverton	
Week 3	23 March	Fly tying tools and materials	Matt Wegener	<u>Casting Instruction</u>
Week 4	30 March	Fly tying - Wooly Bugger	Gary Pheabus	<u>Casting Instruction</u>
Week 5	13 April	Fly tying – Prince of Tides, Bend back	Kent Reagan	<u>Casting to Targets</u>
Week 6	20 April	Fly tying-- Elk Hair Caddis	Jerry Giles	<u>Casting to Targets</u>
Week 7	27 April	Fly tying- Clouser Minnow	Matt Wegener	<u>Casting to Targets</u>
Week 8	11 May	Fly Tying-- Gartside Gurgler	Roy Turner	<u>Casting to Targets</u>
Week 9	18 May	Fly Tying – Partridge and Orange	Russ Shields	<u>Casting to Targets</u>
		Review of local fishing opportunities	Matt Wegener	
		Discussion of Class Outing	Gary Pheabus	
		Welcome to club membership	Rex Straughn	

Fellow fly fishers, please note that the 2016 Fly Fishing course begins on Wednesday the 9th of March. The opening lecture will discuss fly fishing equipment and Baz's lecture will take place on the second night, Wednesday the 16th. You can also see that we skip the nights of the first Wednesday in April and May. That is because the Bream Fisher meet on those nights. Weather permitting, we intend to use those nights to meet at Bay View Park and practice casting on the water using the long dock there. Please mark your calendars and be ready to assist. We will need your help!

Gary and Russ

Fly of the Month

Dirty Yellow Seaducer...by Matt Wegener

Seaducers have been around for a long time and simply catch fish everywhere. Whether they think it's a big shrimp or a jumbo finger mullet, predatory fish see it as a full-size meal and will pounce on this fly with a vengeance. I've caught specks up to 25" long on fly, plus tarpon and bonefish in the Keys. The bright coloration of this fly helps it stand out and be seen, so I prefer a yellow or burnt orange color. The fly starts to become a "dirty" yellow after a few fish chomp down on it (look at the difference between a new fly & used fly in the picture at the top of the page), hence the name Dirty Yellow Seaducer. You can also tie it in natural colors if you like, but be sure to use Estaz flash and bright thread near the hook eye to help imitate the bulbous head of a finger mullet or the thick thorax of a jumbo shrimp.



Tying Materials

Hook: #1 Mustad 34007

Thread: Red or Hot Orange Danville flat waxed

Under Body: Medium Pearl Estaz

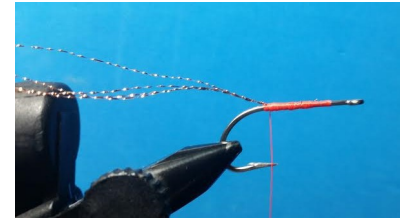
Hackle: Saddle Hackle, 2 for a bushy look

Tail: 4 Saddle Hackles, curved toward each other

Flash: Gold Krystal Flash

Tying Instructions

- 1) Pinch the barb and attach thread. Lay a thin thread base and return bobbin to the rear of the hook. Tie in 4 to 6 strands of Krystal Flash and let the strands extend 4" off the rear of the fly.



- 2) Tie in 2 matching hackles on each side of the hook, 4 total hackles, so that they lay over the Krystal Flash.



- 3) Tie in a full length hackle and then run thread to the hook eye.



- 4) Tie in Estaz and wrap back towards the hook bend, covering the Estaz with each wrap to make a uniform body



- 5) Return the thread to the hook eye and wrap Estaz forward, tying it off and trimming the excess once you meet the hanging bobbin by the hook eye.



- 6) Palmer wrap the hackle forward and tie off at the hanging bobbin,
- 7) Finish thread head and whip finish. Coat the thread wraps in 30-minute epoxy or superglue.

Project Healing Waters News We are changing our Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing meetings beginning in March. We will now be meeting only on Mondays; on the first, second and fourth Monday of each month until further notice. On Monday the 7th we will tie a nymph pattern(s). On the 14th we will tie a scud pattern(s) and on the 28th we will tie some ants. Thanks and Cheers, *Russ Shields*

Blasting for the Brave Attached to the same email you got this newsletter from is a poster about the Blasting for the Brave fund raiser for Project Healing Waters. Please share it; forward to friends who shoot and would enjoy supporting PHW in this way. The date is April 2.

Trout Fishing News North Carolina's trout waters will be closed to fishing from March 1, to April 2, for stocking. All 1,000 miles of hatchery supported streams are included. This year, they will stock 916,000, trout averaging over 10 inches.

Tight lines and drag free drifts to all!

Jerry Giles



Minutes of FFWF, February 2, 2016

The board meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M., by Past President Cliff Newton. President Rex Straughn was absent due to his continued recovery. Several other board members were also absent due to health problems. A quorum was established.

Jay Brykczynski presented the budget for 2016. He reported that the club is on sound financial ground, and furnished line item amounts reflecting that status. Noted was that we had contributed \$500 to the worthy cause of Healing Waters Project. Paul Wargo made a motion to increase our allocation for other annual charitable contributions from \$100 to \$200. Robin Armstrong seconded, and it was passed by the board.

It was noted that the annual fly fishing course offered by the club had been moved from Mondays to Wednesdays, and is to start March 9. Flyers were prepared by Kent Reagan, and the Pensacola Fishing Forum would announce details by February 9. The board meeting was adjourned at 6:50, P.M.

General Membership Meeting, 7:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Past President Cliff Newton. Sixteen members were present, and Dave Handley introduced a guest. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as presented, as was the treasurer's report. Treasurer Jay Brykczynski also presented the club budget for 2016, which shows the club on sound financial footing.

Fishing reports were not too encouraging. Water and wind conditions were the main factors in sketchy results. The canals and bayous have been largely unproductive.

Robin Armstrong motioned to buy 25 club logo hats, as the others had sold out. Russ Shields seconded, and the motion carried.

Russ described and showed an innovative modification he has developed to convert a standard fly rod to "switch rod", function. It appears to work so well that he probably should patent the model.

Gary Pheabus gave a presentation demonstration of the Norm Norlander "NorVise". He showed how versatile it is by making a Puglisi style wire dubbing brush, and extended body and tube flies. Most impressive was the quality and versatility of the component parts. A revolutionary bobbin with a retractor function was also impressive.

Following requests for any other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Gerald Giles, Sub. Sec.