



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

November, 2015

## FFNWF

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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

## Christmas Party \$25



**Tuesday, Dec. 8**

**Hors'deuvres 6:00**

**Cash Bar**

**Country Buffet Dinner 7:00**

**Holiday Inn**

**7813 N. Davis Hwy at I-10**

**Raffle Tickets sold at the dinner  
\$5 /6 for \$25 Door Prizes, too**

**Tickets on sale at the Meeting Nov 3, Tying Nov 12, Clinic Nov 21**

**Christmas Party Raffle prizes** will include a trip with Baz, an Orvis Recon rod and Orvis Hydros reel, two TFO BVK rods and two TFO reels, and lots and lots of good stuff. There will be raffles for each item. In addition are door prizes provided by our members. This is a cool part of the party and depends on you to donate some flies or other fly fishing item. This year all members who attend will receive an club logo embossed fly box. Please plan to attend and bring a donation for the door prizes. *Cliff Newton*



## Christmas Party Memories

**Club Meeting – Tuesday, Nov 3 at 7:00 PM.** We will elect the Angler of the Year (to be announced at the Christmas Party) and the officers who will plan our activities next year. We also will discuss plans for the Spring Class, including a new leader. There will be no Board meeting.

**The Program** for the meeting will be two short programs: Jim Morris will take us to the library and there will be a short video on a new product – the Pop N Fly – that just might be the ticket for the redfish run in the bay.

**Fly Tying – Thurs, Nov 12, 6:30    Outing – Sat, Nov 14, 8:00 (pg 7)  
Clinic – Saturday, Nov 21, 9:00**

## Project Healing Water's Saltwater Trip -

September 30, 2015

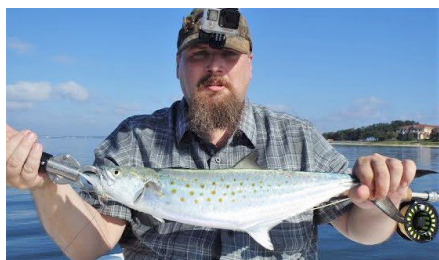
Four of us that participate with Project Healing Waters (PHW) to help Veterans went on a Fly Fishing trip on our local Pensacola Bay waters. Kent Reagan, Cliff Newton, Russ Shields, and myself met our guides, Capt Baz and Capt Eddie at the docks behind Peg Leg Petes restaurant on Pensacola Beach. It was a beautiful Wednesday morning.



Capt Baz had Kent and Cliff, Capt Eddie had Russ and myself. We headed out to find Spanish Mackerel. We fished two productive places. The water was surprisingly clear because it rained like heck that Monday and usually it takes a few days for the water clear. We anchored in 3 to 6 feet of water and cast tan and white Clousers on the end of



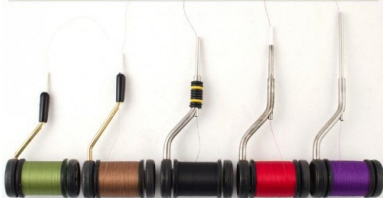
one of Capt Baz's 10' leaders with about 10 inches of wire to help keep the Spanish from biting through the fluorocarbon tippet. I was too lazy to add the wire and actually brought a fish in with just a 15 lb tippet. However, my next fish took my fly and kept going until I didn't feel it tugging any more. Capt Eddy put a piece of wire on my leader and I fished the rest of the trip with it. This was the first time I ever caught a fish strong enough to take my fly line and a good part of my backing past the tip of the rod. All I could think when I saw that white backing zipping through the guides is, "I sure hope I tied the Albright knot right!" Another fly used on this trip was the Flash Fly, but I was having so much luck with the



Clouser I stayed with it. The day turned out to be one of those "It's great to be on the water" type of outings and after rafting up to have lunch we decided to take the few fish we kept for dinner and head on in. Everyone caught fish and had a great day and as you can see by the pictures those Spanish were big. *Joe Higgins*

### From Kent Reagan - USMC Fly Guy LLC

SHORTY STANDARD HALFHITCH CERMAG MAG



We are proud to announce our recent relationship with Merco Products who manufacture Rite Bobbins. USMC Fly Guy now carries the entire Rite Bobbin line. Seven styles to choose from including the 5 pictured. We are also happy to announce that soon we will have Devil Dog Legs in all sizes. We are also getting a new type of crab dubbing so keep checking our website.

[www.USMCFlyGuy.com](http://www.USMCFlyGuy.com)



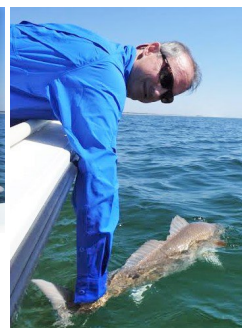


## Fishing with Capt. Baz

Time to strap on your seat belts boys and girls, because the *Running of the Bulls* has started early this year! We found the fish on top October 11 on the Caucas Shoal, and since then they've been popping up sporadically around the bay from the EPA to the Three Mile Bridge.

Check out this Youtube video of the scene October 11: [https://youtu.be/d4\\_GSybpgvs](https://youtu.be/d4_GSybpgvs)

We found them again on the shoal October 16, and Birmingham attorney Greg Hawley landed and released these three fine specimens before the school disappeared.



On October 21 Steve Deeg and I were poling a stretch of beach all the way east by Opal Beach when a school of bulls came to the surface a quarter mile away. We



blasted out to them, and Steve landed this brightly-colored fish on "Tom Stucker's redfish fly"...his biggest fish ever on fly. My crystal ball tells me that the cold front coming through October 27-28 will be the key that really gets them fired up, so finish up those geau-meaux's or pick up some of "Tom Stucker's redfish flies" from Kent. Things are about to get exciting.

Of course bull redfish aren't the only game in town. October has been great fun in the usual spots for big Spanish mackerel and pompano. The Spanish are plentiful when conditions are right...calm water, plenty of sunshine, and good tidal movement. Here are some anglers who felt the Spanish rush this month:



Cliff Newton and Kent Reagan September 30 on the PHW trip, Kent Gilliland on October 7 and Greg Hawley on October 16. But the biggest Spanish of the month *and the YEAR* was landed October 9 by our own Alicia McCormick on the trip Terry won at last year's Christmas Party raffle. Talk about a monster Spanish! This fish measured 26" to the fork and weighed 7 1/2#! Alicia fought it on light-tackle like a pro, and Terry couldn't have been happier. I guess he *might* have been happier if it had taken his fly instead of Alicia's Sidewinder spoon... If the FFNWF published a magazine Alicia would be *Ms October*, and this photo would most certainly be the centerfold.







There are other species roaming the grass beds, and you might land a big ladyfish, trout, bluefish, shark, or pompano. Greg Hawley landed his first pompano on fly October 16. The water temperature is holding around 72 degrees, and the usual spots should remain active for another month...at least until mid-November.

The false albacore came into the bay all the way to the Ft Pickens Pier early in October, and we caught them October 1 and 2 on light tackle. By October 3 they had moved west of the pass but were close enough to shore for my octogenarian fly-casters Hobart McWhorter and Andy Sherrill. Hobart and Andy each landed three FA in the 6 pound range and a number of big ladyfish. Of course the FA were gone the



next day and haven't been seen since...

One final word on the mahi-mahi. Incredibly there continue to be good numbers of fish around FAD's within 5 miles of shore. Kent Gilliland had a great day with them October 7, and Terry McCormick landed his first mahi on fly October 9. Both fish took a green weenie. Man, what a productive fly for the Gulf species. Thank you, Travis! The mahi ought to stick around for another month. Last year Ben Walters landed one in mid-November....



## Capt Baz



**Russ Shields** was surprised by Kevin Gorby with a gift from Project Healing Waters at the October clinic. It is a beautiful shadow box filled with fishing signs. Russ replies: *"First of all, many, many thanks to our Healing Waters folks who instigated this and to Kevin Gorby who did all the work of putting it together. He did a beautiful job! More importantly perhaps, I need to recognize the continuing support of this wonderful club for our Healing Waters program."*



*Without the support of the FFNWF we would not be able to have a Healing Waters program that does what we do. That is truly unique and very much appreciated. So to all of the members of the FFNWF I offer my profound thanks and a hearty WELL DONE to you all. This will hang on the wall of my fly tying room where I will see it every day! Thank You all so much again." Russ*



I thought photos of these fly fisherman bringing home their daily catch would be in the spirit of Thanksgiving dinner. Take a notice of the fish in the second photo. I was surprised to see the fish is a striped bass and appears to be of good size. I was surprised to see we have Striped Bass in Pensacola Bay.



Photographs are copywritten



## Fly of the Month *The Pompinator*

The real story of story of this fly dates back nearly 50 years when a young Capt. Baz Yelverton was fishing a lure called a *Mr. Champ*. Every year he would catch pompano on the version that had a tail of yellow bucktail and red thread. Fast forward 30 years, to when Capt. Baz was trying to develop a fly that he could use to catch pompano on. He remembered those two colors, yellow and red, from his very effective *Mr. Champ* lure. After tying up a rudimentary variation of the clouser minnow using these two colors, he discovered that pompano liked this fly almost as much if not better than his boy-hood standby.

The final piece of the puzzle was put in place when Capt. Baz was asked to help with an article in *Fly fishing in Saltwater* and was introduced to Capt. Mike Connor who guides in the Indian River Lagoon near Stewart, Florida. They began swapping favorite flies for pompano and Capt. Mike revealed *The Pompinator*. As Baz examined the fly he immediately noticed two things; this fly had a yellow tail with red thread, just like his *Mr. Champ*. Add a little gold flash for the body and you have the fish catching machine known as *The Pompinator*.

Now there is one more thing to discuss before we start tying this fly. Having this weapon at your disposal is only part of the equation. Pompano require an almost perfect presentation to get them to bite. The first step is spotting a cruising pompano. Look for the shadow of the fish on the sand, rather than the fish themselves. Also, lead the fish enough so that the fly is near the bottom when the hungry fish comes near. Finally, slight color variations can make the difference between catching fish and going home empty-handed. The the yellow tail and red thread are a standby, but tie versions with different amounts of gold flash. The pompano to the west of Pensacola Pass like a lot of gold on their fly, but as you move east and the water clears use less gold flash.

This fly was clearly designed to catch pompano, but that's not all. Last summer, I was fishing the grass flats looking for late season pompano. To my surprise, I "accidentally" landed a slot redfish and several speckled trout on this pattern. Fish it with 4-6" strips and hang on! *Matt Wegener*

### Tying Materials

Hook:	Mustad 34007 or similar style, #4	Thread:	Red flat waxed nylon
Body:	Salmon <i>Estaz</i> (medium size)	Tail:	Yellow <i>Super Hair</i>
Flash:	Gold <i>Krystal Flash</i>	Eyes:	Dumbbell eyes (small to medium )

### Tying Instructions

1. Start by wrapping a thread base. Place the eyes 1/3 of the way back on the hook shank behind the eye and hold in place with several diagonal wraps. Finish securing the eyes by making figure-8 wraps and adding a drop of super glue.



2. Tie in a match-stick sized bunch of *Super Hair* on the hook shank directly above the barb. For flash, tie in 3 strands of pearl *Krystal Flash* on one side of the hook shank and then fold over to the opposite side of the hook shank and tie off.



3. To form the body, tie in the *Estaz* behind the eyes and wrap back towards the rear of the hook. Then wrap the *Estaz* towards the hook eye. Doubling the amount of the *Estaz* creates a larger profile that closely resembles a sand flea. Finish the body by wrapping the *Estaz* around the eyes in a figure-8 manner. Tie off behind the eye and make a prominent head to give the fly a touch of red.



4. Finish the fly by picking out the *Estaz* fibers and trimming the excess, particularly on the top and bottom, to give the fly a finished look.



## **Club Outing - Big Lagoon State Park Saturday, November 14 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

Entry Fee: \$6.00 Ramp Fee: \$10.00-12.00 (depends on # of people)

There are several picnic shelters near the boat ramp suggest that we establish our group at one of these. Boating, kayaking, and wade/shore fishing is available. Canoes and kayaks available for rent at the Ranger Station.

**Directions:** From I-10 take exit 7, drive south for 4 miles on Pine Forest Rd. to Blue Angel Parkway. Turn right onto Blue Angel Park Way, drive south on Blue Angel park way for approximately 14 miles to Gulf Beach Hwy. Turn right onto Gulf Beach Hwy Drive west for 4 miles, Big Lagoon State Park is on the left. Or take US 98 West from Pensacola to Bauer Rd. Turn left. Go to end of Bauer.

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### **Memorandum for Record**

**Subject:** Meeting minutes for 04 August, 2015 General Membership Meeting

**Location:** Miraflores Park, 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Pensacola, FL

**Time:** 1800 Board Meeting, 1900 General Membership Meeting

For a list of participants for both meetings please refer to the attendance record dated 06 October 2015.

Cliff Newton called the Board Meeting to order at 1818 hours.

Russ Shields motioned the minutes from the previous month's meeting be accepted as printed in the newspaper and Rex Straughn seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jay Brykczynski gave the treasury report and also stated that he made the reservation with Holiday Inn Express on N. Davis Hwy for the Christmas party on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, 2015 from 1800-2200 hours.

**Committee Reports** were given. Russ Shields, for Project Healing Waters, stated that he and Joe Higgins attended the PHW meeting in Orange Beach. Future meetings in Pensacola are going to concentrate on tying flies for the upcoming trip to Atlanta. Kevin Gorby stated that Project Healing Waters is having a meeting at headquarters for all program leads and assistances. Headquarters will pay for travel. On another note please get all flies to Jack Bauknecht for his time capsule project as soon as possible.

**Christmas party prizes.** Cliff Newton stated he has a lead on fly boxes that were 8.5" by 4.5" with our club logo printed on them. He is going to order 50 so we have some to sell after the Christmas party. Kent Reagan is going to purchase a Renzetti vise from one of his wholesalers. Paul Wargo mentioned that we should see about getting a discount from TFO and Russ Shields stated he would contact TFO. Paul also said he was going to contact Bob Story at Feathercraft for prize donations. We are going to try to have 3 rods and reels at the party. Someone needs to contact Church Mouse about donating a prize. Kevin Gorby mentioned the possibility of giving a gift card to have your t-shirt embroidered and Russ Shields volunteered to make contact with the embroiderer.

**The Nomination Committee** has been formed and consists of Oleta Webb, Rex Straughn, and Russ Shields. Contact any of them if you are interested in being an officer for next year.

Jim Morris is asking that anyone with ideas to better the library to please contact him. Kevin Gorby mentioned stenciling the side of the cabinet so individuals would notice it more easily.

Kevin Gorby asked for volunteers for the IFFF committee. Cliff Newton mentioned the club received the Education Award from the Gulf Coast Council of the IFFF.

**Tickets** Paul Wargo plans on printing numbered tickets for the \$25.00 country buffet at the Christmas Party. Kent Reagan motioned we adjourned and Kevin Gorby seconded the motion. Motion passed and Cliff Newton adjourned the meeting at 1843 hours.

Cliff Newton called the General Membership meeting to order at 1902 hours.

Russ Shields motioned the previous month's minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter and Rex Straughn seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jay Brykczynski gave the treasury report and mentioned that he made the reservation with Holiday Inn Express for the Christmas party last week. The party is scheduled for Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup> from 1800-2200 hours. Russ Shields mentioned that we need to negotiate a price for wine and mixed drinks. Jay Brykczynski will follow up.

**Fishing Reports:** Last Wednesday Project Healing Waters had a great trip. Cliff Newton, Kent Reagan, Russ Shields and Joe Higgins went out with Capt. Baz Yelverton and Capt. Eddie Woodall. They went out to town point and then out by Fort Pickens. Paul Wargo asked someone to write up an article for the newsletter and Cliff Newton volunteered. Capt. Eddie was playing with Russ's rod and site fished a shark. Russ Shields said that something hit his hook and took off. They chased it with the boat and it turned out to be a large Spanish mackerel hooked in the back of the head. Russ stated that he was great to eat. Terry McCormick said he was drifting the west side of EPA by Peg Leg Pete's and had a phenomenal day on a tan and white closer. He landed a bunch of trout and reds. He also went one day off of Perdido Key and got into a bunch of lady fish. Between Deer Point and Fair Point he foul hooked a lady fish in the center of the back. Paul Wargo stated the surface temperature in the bay has dropped 10 degrees in 2 weeks. Terry McCormick stated that the grass is fishing well. Cliff Newton went out with Bob Korose over by EPA. Cliff caught a few trout and Bob caught a lizard fish. Cliff also caught a large blow fish.

**Committee reports:** Russ Shields mentioned the previous week's Project Healing Waters trip in the bay and also the planned trip at the beginning of November to go to Atlanta to drift boat fish for brown trout. He is still working with Tina Nelson to get the Orange Beach program up and running. They thought they had 10 veterans coming from Mobile for the meeting, but their van broke down and they didn't show. Meeting on second Friday of the month. Currently tying flies in preparation for the Atlanta trip.

**Nomination committee** formed and consists of Oleta Webb, Russ Shields and Rex Straughn. Contact any of them if you're interested in being an officer for the club next year.

**Library** Paul Wargo mentioned that Jim Morris is looking for ideas to jump start the library. Paul also asked if someone was interested in doing a quarter page book report on a book in the library. Will be stenciling a sign on the outside of the library locker to make it more visible.

**Gulf Coast Council Fly Fishing Fair** was a great event. Cliff Newton won a Yeti cooler in a raffle. Our club was awarded the Education Award by the council. We still need someone willing to take over the spring fly fishing class. Russ Shields has done it 8 times and will help whoever volunteers as much as he can. Paul Wargo spoke about Jeff Deuschal's article and thinks a hard copy should be placed in the club's records. If you have any suggestions for next year's conclave please send Jeff Deuschal or Paul Wargo an email.

**Upcoming events** include the Bull Session on Thursday, the Christmas party on December 8<sup>th</sup> and elections for officer positions the first Tuesday of November. Jay Brykczynski and Kent Reagan are willing to continue in their current positions of Treasury and Secretary respectfully. Rex Straughn volunteered to be in the position of President and Kevin Gorby volunteered for Vice President. Angler of the Year nominations and voting at the November general membership meeting. Two people are needed for the Director at Large positions. Official nominations and voting will be done at the November general membership meeting. The 17<sup>th</sup> of October is Oktoberfest at the Saturday clinic. Gerry Giles will be cooking. Paul Wargo will send out a reminder.

Hareline Dubbin door prizes were given.

Kent Reagan motioned to adjourn and Oleta Webb seconded the motion. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 1951 hours.

The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned.

Kent Reagan, Secretary

**Email:** [usmcflyguy@outlook.com](mailto:usmcflyguy@outlook.com)