

Flies and Lies

June, 2025



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President's Corner

Thank you to all that made our annual fundraiser possible. Although we had a smaller group this year, we were still able to raise money for the club. There were lots of great items but if you missed it, we hope to hold another fundraiser on October so stay tuned.

June = Hot Weather.

As summer approaches, the water temperature rises, which triggers more action from inshore and offshore species. Redfish, speckled trout, and flounder remain active, while tarpon season begins in full swing.

Get out on the water, looking forward to some great fishing reports.

Cyndi Myers

President

Club Meeting – Tuesday, June 3, 6:30

In addition to the business meeting, Jeremy Anderson will talk about the Project Healing Waters trip to the Holston and Watauga Rivers in Tennessee. This was a three-day float trip in the middle of February. The trip was very successful. Ninety-nine fish were caught and no one got frostbite. Come here about the details!

Fly Tying – Thursday, June 12, 6:30

Bob Korose will lead us in tying the Micro Minnow.

Saturday Clinic – Saturday, June 21, 9:00 AM

Join us to perfect your casting and tie the Micro Minnow. The June clinic lunch will be the Russ's Homemade Kielbasa.

Replacement for FFNWF Head Chef

We are looking for a head chef to organize the meals for the Saturday clinics. Joe Higgins has told Cyndi that he cannot continue to carry out the head chef duties. Simply put, the head chef purchases the utensils and beverages that are used for the lunches and stocks the fridge with beverages. The head chef also recruits folks to prepare lunch for the clinics. All the funds are provided by the club.

Business Meeting

The May business meeting featured a presentation on common casting faults and cures by Dr Tom Dempsey of the Gulf Coast Fly Fishing School and Cap'n Richard Montgomery. A number of errors were demonstrated along with the cause and corrective action needed to eliminate the error. It was a great opportunity to get in-depth instruction from two excellent instructors.



Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo



The group started off May with Wolfgang leading us through tying the Brooks Blonde Fly. Then the May schedule changed a little. The May 26 meeting was moved to May 19 and a fly-casting clinic was conducted by our local guide, friend, and FFI certified casting instructor, Richard Montgomery.



On June 2, we will build on this casting instruction with a fishing trip. We will assemble at Fort Pickens and wade-fish the pass area. It is our hope that members with boats might volunteer to take other members out on the flats to fish as well.

If this outing goes well, it is my hope to put together additional outings during the Summer and early Fall.

Fly Tying

In our Bull Session on Thursday, Bob Korose let us through tying the Flash Fly variant on a long hook. The long hook has success with avoiding bite-offs from Spanish Mackerel, Bluefish, and others. Bob went on to tell us that he favored the red collar in the Pensacola area.



Saturday Fund Raiser

By Russ Shields

Although we only had 18 people bidding, the fundraiser went very well. Gary and his helpers did a great job. The new system of keeping track of things worked as promised. The total amount raised was \$2982 of which \$662 was specifically marked for our club's Disabled Veterans program. Capt. Baz's trip was purchased by Russ Shields and Capt. Richard's trip was purchased by Jay Brykczynski.



There is still quite a bit of stuff available for processing so we plan to have another event in October. Everyone seemed to have a good time and we had enough help to make everything happen, including cleanup. Cyndi's doughnuts and coffee were a big hit! Good job by all.

Gulf Coast Classic Fly-Fishing Festival

By Terry McCormick

Along with several members of our club and Project Healing Waters, I attended and also maned an information table at the annual FFI Gulf Coast Fly Fishing Festival on May 2 and 3. It was held at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores Al. There were vendors, professional fly tiers, seminars and demonstrations. Also raffle prizes and a silent auction, along with some fun tying events like blind fly tying.



Many of our club members won raffle prizes both days. The event ended with the Fly-Fishing Film Tour on Saturday night. Yours truly walked away the grand prize at the end of the night, a R. L. Winston Air 2 Max 6wt. rod. A good time was had by all who attended. Plan to go next year, you won't be disappointed.



Fishing Report

By Captain Richard Montgomery

And summer begins! Okay it is officially a month away, but it sure feels like it in the great outdoors. Just about the only place out there to stay cool is one the water, so let's hit it.

As most know these reports have been coming to you from Capt Basil and Capt Dan, through one armed Capt Richard, who is on the mend as we speak. Both captains have reported good sight fishing along the correct shorelines and grass beds. Reds, specks and black drum have been cruising in search of a quick meal. Looks like the tradition continues with the EP bait fish (Peanut Butter) pattern being the top fly of choice for all three species. As always slow and steady is the key to finding these fish. Reds and blacks can be found cruising the shallows on both the Bay and Gulf shorelines. As always, be sure to carry a big stick with a popper for the marauding Jack Crevale.



Baz reported ladyfish and bluefish have entered the Pass and can be found scattered around Pickens Point. Club members have reported they not here in great quantities but as we know it won't be long before you can't keep them off your fly. Clouser minnows, Flash Fly and Clouser's Flash Belly work well.

The Spanish and specks have been touch-and-go as of late on the right grass flats. The Bay is still tea colored which has a tendency to put these fish off. But fish the moving water time periods with flashy flies and Terry Mc's tan and olive Clouser with either heavy mono or wire tippet and hold on tight. Bob K reported the long shank Flash Variant worked well on his last outing.



Thanks for bearing with me as I have been reporting others' catches. I hope next month to filling in with my own experiences now that the shoulder is "FIXED" and on the repair.

Richard

Fishing Report – Campeche

By Bob Korose and George Norton

George Norton and I enjoyed 5 fun days fly fishing at Tarpon Town Lodge in Campeche Mexico last week. Despite the hot weather (100+ degrees each day), we had fun catching baby tarpon on 8wt tackle casting tarpon toad and EP baitfish flies. Pictures from George Norton of himself and Bob Korose.



Fishing Trip – Brevard, North Carolina

By Steve Hofmann

FFNWF Club members Ellen and Steve Hofmann fly-fished the French Broad River near Brevard NC on May 6. We used Headwater Outfitters guide service for a full day float trip. We started on the French Broad River adjacent to their shop and fished another 4 miles downstream. It was a great day of fly fishing with a dry dropper rig.

We each caught about 15 fish each. Mostly smaller trout. We used a “Hopper dropper” set up for flies. i.e. point fly was a ‘Daves Hopper’ second fly a ‘Squirmy wormy type fly’ as the trailing fly. Fishing method was the usual river method, i.e. cast upstream of a riffle, and mend accordingly to produce a drag free drift.



We caught Rainbow, Brown, Brook trout and an occasional sucker fish. Our guide was Brett Meany. He was an excellent guide. (I have fished with dozens of guides all over the US over the last 20 years of fly fishing and he was one of the top 3 guides I have ever used)

Steve Hofmann

Fly of the Month: The Micro Minnow

By Bob Korose

The Micro Minnow is a fly that was developed to catch picky fish that only wanted to eat tiny bait fish. It was first developed for brown trout in Argentina but later used successfully in many other places and situations. In the Pensacola area it should be effective when the false albacore (bonito) are feeding on schools of bay anchovies and are refusing larger flies. Also, target specks, reds and ladyfish feeding under dock lights on glass minnows. For fun on the grass flats use it with a 3 weight to catch pinfish, ladyfish and others and maybe even get a speck. In freshwater it should be effective for bream, crappies, yellow perch, white bass and anything else feeding on small fry.

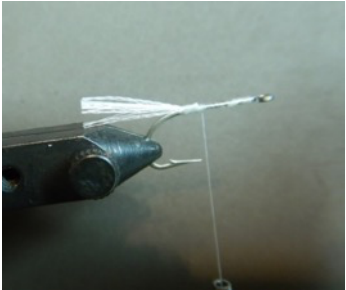






<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYHalxfsT2E>

Ingredients:

Hooks:	Mustad 3407 Sizes 6-8 or Gamakatsu SL11-3 H sizes 6-8	Tail/Wing:	White bucktail or FTD Baitfish Hair white.
Eyes:	FTD Fisch Eyes: color: silver, glow, red or yellow	Body:	FTD Starburst Dubbing: Pearl colors
Thread:	White flat waxed nylon 3/0.	Gut Sack:	Polarflash Micro #2033 or FTD Micro Flash color: hot white.
		Glue/UV	Superglue gel . Solarez UV Medium

Steps:

		
<p>1. Start behind the hook eye and put on a thread base. Tie on the gut sack at the hook bend.</p>	<p>2. Tie on the tail/wing forward of the gut sack.</p>	<p>3. Tie on the body dubbing forward of the tail/wing. Two ties around the fly. Build a head and whip finish.</p>
		
<p>4. Flatten the head to prepare for eyes. Then use the gel on both sides and put on the eyes.</p>	<p>5. Cover the eyes and head with UV resin and rotate the vice as you hit it with the UV light.</p>	

The Minutes

FFNWF Business Meeting Minutes: May 6, 2025

George Norton, Club Secretary

1830: Our President called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

Presentation by club guide Richard Montgomery and Dr. Thomas Dempsey from the gulfcoastflyfishingschool.com in Mobile on "Common Casting Faults and Cures." About a dozen attendees viewed the demo and we all learned about our bad habits. Get a casting buddy whose criticism is immeasurable or schedule Richard. An excellent handout by Dr. Dempsey gave lots of good details.

Treasurer's Report: Jay gave the report and reported club finances are in excellent shape. Revenue from dues, the 101 class and beverage sales, less routine expenses for tying materials, beverages, and clinic food and pastries left a healthy balance in checking. Russ and George approved the TR.

Last month's minutes as published were approved by Terry and Rex.

Membership: Dave Handley reported we gained three new members for a total of 62 members which consists of 47 paid members, 10 associates, and 5 honorary which is consistent with recent years.

Terry showed off his new top of the line Winston six weight rod he won at the recent **Gulf Coast Classic** in Gulf Shores. The regional event was well attended (Lake Charles to Destin) and our club had Wolfgang, Gary, Bob, George, and Terry there.

Clinic Food Director: Joe Higgins now needs to retire. We need someone to take over. Thank you, Joe, for all you did for years. Please volunteer. You don't need to make every meal but only oversee it.

Fishing Reports: Reds and trout are on the flats but stealth and long leaders are in order. Terry said he got broke off by a big jack. Spanish and ladyfish have moved in. Ramsey just back from North Carolina reported that yellow sallies and green drakes worked on browns, rainbows and bookies.

1945; Meeting adjourned by George and Bob.