

Flies and Lies

December, 2024



FFNWF

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Christmas Party December 10

Scenic Hills Country Club

The Christmas Party at Scenic Hills Country Club will start with a cash bar at 5 pm and dinner will begin at 6 pm. The address is 8891 Burning Tree Rd, Pensacola 32514

Tickets are \$32 online. The last day to buy tickets online is Monday, December 2. Tickets will not be sold at the December 3rd Meeting!

Raffle Prizes:

Orvis Recon Fly Rods

10 ft 4 wt

9 ft 8 wt

9 ft 10 wt

Orvis Fly Reels

Hydros II reel with 4 wt line

Hydros IV reel with 8 wt line

Hydros V reel with 10 wt line

Members are encouraged to bring some small items for door prizes. A favorite fly you have tied or some other fly-fishing related items are good suggestions. Also, a bottle of wine is always welcome.

Club Meeting – Tuesday, Dec 3 6:30

This is a business meeting only. There is no program scheduled for the meeting.

There will not be a Bull Session or Clinic this month.

President's Corner

Well, another year has come and gone. December is a busy month for us all, but I hope to see you all at the Christmas party on Tuesday December 10th @ Scenic Hills Country Club. Cash bar at 5pm and dinner at

6pm. There will be great door prizes, raffles, heavy hors d'oeuvres and best of all, great company. Christmas party tickets are still available to purchase online thru Monday December 2nd. \$32.00 each.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our 2024 officers for their dedication to the club. At the November general meeting, there were no nominations for any new officers therefore all current officers have agreed to stay on for the 2025 year.

I would also like to thank Paul Wargo for his many years of dedication as our newsletter editor. What a legacy he has left. We all wish you and your wife lots of joy in your retirement. I would also like to thank a new member, David Kuechenmeister, for stepping up and taking over the role as newsletter editor.

Cyndi

Membership Dues for 2025

The dues are coming due! There are three ways to pay,

1. **Pay Larry** in person at a club meeting,
2. **Mail a Check** to:
Larry Sisney 3610 Baisden Rd, Pensacola, FL 32503
3. **Pay online** through <https://ffnwf.org/membership>. A two-dollar fee is added for the online payment.

November Clinic



Fishing Report

By Captain Richard Montgomery

November Fishing Report

The weather has been the topic of discussion in November. When we weren't dealing with tropical activities, there was nearly consistent East 10-15 knot wind and close to 50% days with cloud cover. That weather pattern does not work well in the Pensacola area. It means nowhere to hide from the wind and rough surf conditions in the Gulf. An old surf buddy of mine tracked 17 straight days in late October and early November of rideable surf. Needless to say, that ain't good for fly fishers.

Okay enough of the "Negative Nelly". There has been some good news, the bulls returned the weekend of 11/16-17 (casting clinic) and there is still plenty of food for them, so they should be around for a while.

When he was able to get out Baz has guided a few of his clients to some nice redfish using the ubiquitous EP minnow patterns. Try them in different colors and sizes, small pale olive or tan Perfect Minnows to 2/0 "Peanut Butters" in grey/white or pinfish colors. The Spanish seem to have taken the same break as the bull redfish did, so hopefully they will be back as well. With the water temp still in the low 70's and the amount of bait still in the bay, there is no reason for them to pack their bags.



There have been some nice redfish caught while wading the shallows, as evidenced by this nice 25ish+ incher. Remember to move slow when walking and casting. If you can see them, they can see you.

Up for an adventure? Take a trip with Tom Dempsey to what he calls the "Marsh", the Biloxi Marsh that is. He says it's only 13 mile south from his launch point in Mississippi.



Oh, make sure he takes his "big" boat, the Maverick 17. He does catch some big fish out there.



WHERE TO FISH NEXT MONTH

December typically brings in colder air temps and even shorter days. With the changing environmental conditions usually the flats fish we search for have begun moving to places with more consistent water temps. That means the “deeper” waters of rivers, bayous, and canals. But until the water temps dip into the mid-60’s, try the entrances/mouths/cuts before motoring all the way in. Deepwater Clouser and other weighted minnow and shrimp flies are in order.

Wade fishing is still there. If the Gulf ever calms down search the shallows and breaks in the sandbar for redfish and pompano. Watch for flashes as the silver speeders come through, then make blind casts into those cuts. Standard pompano and redfish flies will work. Don’t forget it can still be false albacore time so give the Pensacola Beach Pier a call before you head out. If you are looking for some great flies and materials head over to Orange Beach, AL and check out Community Fly Supply. Owned and operated by folks from Space Coast Flies, they have everything you need, be it fly rods, reels, lines, flies, or just materials.

Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo



November Fly Tying

Gary led us through several jigs. They were quick to tie and we all tied half a dozen in the hour or so we spent at the meeting. Mick couldn’t be there, so I took a few photos to capture the day.
(Photos by Dave Kuechenmeister)



November Fly Tying

We were so busy tying the Glass Minnow, no one remembered to take pictures at the Bull Session! Here's an assortment of Glass Minnows from Bob's collection.



Member Fishing Reports

From George Norton

My daughter from Mobile and I fly fished the Davidson on November 13. She caught her first trout. I used my three weight Steve Hoffmann rod and fished streamers and nymphs. Nothing was hatching. The river was clear and no problem from Hurricane Helene floods.



The Minutes

FFNWF November 5, 2024 Meeting

By George Norton Secretary

1830: Cyndi M called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance

Treasurer's Report: Larry said the club's checking account has a healthy balance. Expenses were for two members to go on a guided trip with Richard Montgomery, the club's casting instructor and guide. Other expenses were for clinic food and pastries. Income from ticket sales and a new member were modest. Russ and Pat M approved the TR.

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

Christmas Party: Bring a donation for the door prizes such as a book, flies, or a bottle of wine. Steve and Ellen H will be selling raffle tickets at the door. There will be some nice items such as three rod and reel combos and other surprises. Tickets are available at the December 3rd meeting or on line until December 2nd. Don't miss this party.

Club Officers for 2025 are the same team we currently have of Cyndi, Rex, George and Larry along with our two Board Members at large.

Angler of the Year. The three finalists are Wolfgang Szutie, Steve and Ellen Hoffmann and George Norton. Congratulations to the winner who will be announced at the Party!

Club Clean up Day was November 15th. Thanks to all who volunteered.

Gulf Breeze has a new fly shop called "Community Fly Supply." Terry M gave a short talk on what they carry and the importance of patronizing this new local business.

Our old refrigerator died and Bob K made a motion to allocate funds to replace it ASAP. The motion was approved and once again we will be able to enjoy our cold beverages.

Russ will order new bobbins from Wright Bobbin Company for \$340 to replace our old bobbins. The club approved the purchase. Thanks Russ.

Presentation by Tarpon Bob Korose "Aniak River Lodge" Alaska

Bob decided to revisit Aniak Lodge, one of his favorite past trips. He treated us to a beautiful slide presentation in which he caught eleven species including all five of the Alaskan salmon family, sheefish (called the Alaskan tarpon), rainbow and brook trout, arctic char, dolly varden, and pike on August 9-16th which coincided with the peak silver salmon season and Bob's favorite species in Alaska.

His trip was coordinated by "Fishing with Larry." They used eight weight fly rods and cold-water floating lines. The favorite fly was a top water called a wog fly. The wog resembles a foam gurgler that imitates a mouse. Hook ups were problematic so Bob added a stinger hook.



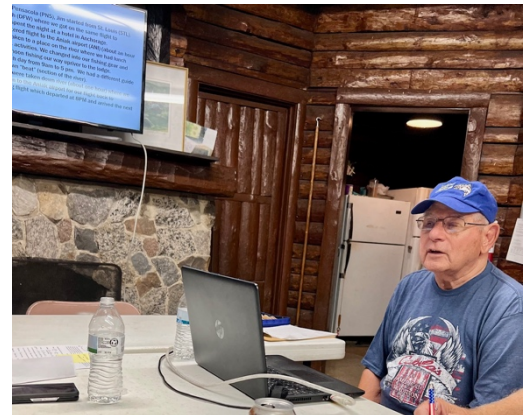
They also had success with streamers and Clouser's. Bob even hooked one silver while stripping of fly line before even making a cast right next to the boat. At times the action was fast and furious!

Bob and his buddy joined another group who utilized eight guides and boats. They wade fished but primarily fly fished out of the boats on certain beats depending on what species were targeted that day.

They flew to Dallas and Anchorage and had a 1.5-hour flight north to the river. Their lodge was a series of glamping type tents but with all the comforts of hot water, showers, and great food prepared by a chef. There are no roads to the Aniak Lodge so all supplies came via plane or boat.

Thanks Tarpon Bob for another wonderful and educational presentation,

Fishing Reports: Members reported taking Spanish, bluefish and ladyfish in October at the Pass. The Bay was



less productive. George and his daughter, Leah had success on the Davidson River in NC in mid-November which was a pleasant surprise considering the flooding from Hurricane Helen. His daughter caught her first rainbow trout on a fly. Lake Lure was full of debris and very muddy from the flood so its recovery as a top-notch bass lake is unknown.

Campeche, Mexico: May 2025: Tarpon Bob, George, Mitch and his son have signed up with “Fishing with Larry.” There is one spot still available. If you are interested see Tarpon Bob who has been on this trip three times and made a presentation to the club with all the details or look up the outfitter’s website.