

Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida July, 2024

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NEWSLETTER

Greetings Everyone,

I am filling in for Cyndi while she is attending to Bob. So, this is a first attempt to try to put together a newsletter.

We had an excellent Clinic in June with a wonderful Shrimp Creole dish prepared by Mick and Ellen. We also introduced a new program designed to get more of our members out for a days fishing in the local waters. It is a drawing for two paid-up club members present at the clinic for an all expense, paid, one day outing with a local guide. We plan to hold at least two or perhaps more drawings each year depending on our budget.

The first drawing took place at the June Clinic and Jerry Giles and Rex Green were the lucky winners. We selected Richard Montgomery as the chosen guide and Jerry and Rex will make arrangements to go out sometime in the future. The club will send a check for guide fees and gratuity once the arrangements have been made. Everyone we have talked to thinks this is a good idea so I hope we can keep it going.

At the June business meeting we enjoyed an excellent program about "Casting for Recovery". It was well received and we discussed several ways our club might help that program out to include making a scholarship available for our annual FF101 course for some of their newest members. We also discussed putting some flies together for their use at their annual confab.

This month's Fly of the month is the Sparkle Spider developed by our own Jerry Giles with the pattern sheet prepared by Pat Murphy. It is a really cool fly with proven results in a local pond according to Jerry.

If you have any ideas for future Fly of the Month presentations, please let Bob Korose and/or Pat Murphy know.

We are also desperate for someone to step up and take over putting our Newsletter together each month. I don't have the computer skills or publishing software to do it.

Lastly, we will be serving my grilled, marinated mullet filets with Hot Spot BBQ Beans and coleslaw and using our new table top, portable propane grill at this month's clinic. Please let me know if you plan to be there so I can order the right amount of fish etc. I need to know by Monday the 15th of July.

Cheers, and Tight Lines, ***Russ Shields***

Club News

Meeting – Tuesday, July 2 – 6:30 – Let's come together to support Cyndi and each other. We have a lot we can do together. The minutes from June will be reported at the meeting.

Fly Tying Bull Session – Thursday, July 11 – 6:30 - The Sparkle Spider. Great for fishing; don't let it crawl up your leg.

Clinic – Saturday, July 20 – 9:00 AM – Russ will be cooking up Marinated Mullet with Hot Spots beans. RSVP to Russ so he can order fish for you. rkshields37@gmail.com

Fly of the Month **SPARKLE SPIDER**

by Jerry Giles

MATERIALS:

THREAD: BLACK 6/0

HOOK: NYMPH or WET #10-#14

BODY: VEEVUS UV BODY FUZZ SM or LG

COLOR YOUR CHOICE,

COLLAR: ANY BLACK DUBBING

HACKLE: BLACK HACKLE. FIBER LENGTH

EQUAL TO HOOK SHANK LENGTH



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Crush hook barb, wrap thread jamb knot wrap thread to hook bend.

2. Attach 4" length of body fuzz at hook bend. Palmer body fuzz to 1/8-3/16" behind hook eye. (Leave room for collar and hackle). Tie off and brush sparkle fuzz fibers back towards hook bend.

3. Dub collar w/dubbing as a hackle dam. (color your choice)

4. Attach hackle by tip directly in front of dubbing collar dam. Palmer 3-4 tight turns.

5. Wrap neat tapered head and whip finish, apply head cement to secure hackle,

Note:

Experiment with different colors for sparkle fuzz, dubbing and hackle, as dictated by day's hatch. (blues or greens fuzz) or add bead head.



Fishing with Capt. Baz

June has been tough. The Gulf was either blown out or dirty leaving us fishing the inside flats where the water temperature is in the high 80's. Water clarity on the inside was "strong iced tea" during the first half of the month but has finally returned to "lemonade", and we're seeing some of that beautiful Bahamas turquoise in the Gulf east of the pass. If the shore break subsides to a foot or so, we'll finally be able to pole the beach again looking for redfish.

There is some good action on the Caucus Shoal for 2-3# bluefish, plus you'll find large schools of smaller ladyfish. As always, there are Spanish mackerel in the mix. You just have to be careful with the swells.

Schools of westbound tarpon are also migrating through, and we've had a few "Hail Mary" shots, but conditions haven't allowed for any serious tarpon fishing. I'm hoping for calm seas in July.

The false albacore have been disappointing so far. I got a call from my brother a few days ago that there were lots of fish on top around the *three barges* and Joe Patti reef. The next day's forecast called for southerly 2' seas on 8 seconds, so my client and I ran out there looking for them. We left early and went straight to the Sea Buoys, turned left toward the *Three Barges*, and ran all the way to the pier. All we saw were a few individual strikes, so we figured the fish were farther out. Undeterred, we turned south and ran out about 9 miles before turning back to the west. We were on the edge of the Federal Waters and skimmed along, riding the troughs of the swells, all the way to the Perdido Key condos. It was beautiful out there with the flying fish, but we never saw any decent schools of FA. After the two-hour boat ride, we spent the rest of the trip in the Big Lagoon. When we got back to the dock, I was surprised to see we'd traveled 70 miles. Just another false albacore learning experience...



Sight-fishing the inside flats has been productive all month for trout and redfish. Even though the warm water, jet skis, and multitudes of boaters have been challenging, all but one of my clients have caught fish. It's been mostly smaller trout and redfish, although we've had multiple shots at big fish on every trip. Here's Patrick Pedano, from Chicago, with a typical redfish. Next up is Greg Catalano, from Maine, with a nice trout and a redfish from a few days ago.

We've been seeing a few ladyfish on every trip but haven't focused on them. Also, we're catching bluefish on our favorite grass beds when it's too cloudy for sight-fishing. We haven't caught a Spanish all month.



I've heard reports of big schools of jacks but haven't been in the right place at the right time...

I'll be taking a break from writing a report next month. Be careful out there this summer. It's hot out there.

RIP, Kevin. **Capt Baz**