



**Next meeting 4 November
0600 PM to 0900 PM
Speaker: Neil Taylor
Kayak Fishing**

Neil is a former professional baseball umpire who moved to the Tampa Bay area in 1993. He has fished Florida waters since 1975 and has concentrated on inshore fishing. Neil has also fished exclusively in kayaks since 1998. He fishes all of Tampa Bay, Clearwater, Dunedin, and Palm Harbor and on up the Nature Coast of Florida's Gulf Coast with light tackle to medium heavy spinning tackle. Trips cover the entire range of species available in the Gulf and inshore waters. Charters specialize in snook, redfish, speckled trout, flounder and pompano. He also has success catching sharks, cobia, mackerel, sheepshead, black drum and tarpon. Neil Taylor is a graduate of the University of Arizona, with a business degree, formerly on the Board of Directors for Pinellas Coastal Conservation Association, an active supporter of Tampa Bay Watch, Heroes On The Water, The FWC and Pinellas County Sheriff's office, outdoor writer and featured speaker on kayak fishing. Online at: www.strikethreekayakfishing.com

Feature Tyer: Layne Smith

Smitty is one of the Bay area's premier fly tiers. He started tying when he was 6 years old and got serious about it in the early 60's. That's when he got involved in a tying clinic run by a crotchety old cuss by the name of Carl Hanson. From that time until Carl's passing they collaborated on many variations of pan fish flies as well as a number of salt water patterns. Since then he has created many successful new patterns including the world's best bluegill fly, the Crystal Beetle (an advanced twist on the foam spider).

Directions to Our Meetings (0600pm): From I-75---Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left on to Tampa Palms Blvd., then left on Compton Drive, and right at Compton Park. From I-275---Take Bearss East to Bruce. B. Downs; then Bruce B. Downs east/north to Tampa Palms Blvd. Rt. on Tampa Palms, then left on Compton Drive and right at Compton Park.


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to November and cooler weather. Get ready for great winter fishing opportunities on low morning tides. I hope you enjoyed our presentation of Cuba last month. We will look for a chance to fish Cuba again next year.

Thanks to Capt Bryon Chamberlin for tying a super shrimp pattern; always a good fly for picky Tampa Bay redfish.

Please note Capt Phil Thompson cancelled the Nov trip to Cuba because of little interest. He is looking at another trip in January.

Next month we will celebrate the holiday's with our annual party. We will cook fish, grits and hush puppies and provide drinks. We will also swap gifts (\$10-15) in a take-away exchange. Bring your wrapped gift if you wish to participate in this lively event. You can also bring any tackle you wish to sell or trade.

Please note my new email: walt.durkin@aol.com
// Walt Durkin 

EVENTS

- Chattooga river, Georgia: 10-15 November
- Second Cuba Trip: 14-21 November – **cancelled**
- **Big Gun Casting Competition – 22 Nov**
- 2 Dec: Club Holiday Party
- Play Hooky at the Hatchery : 11 Dec

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2015 TBFFC MEETING DATES


This month's meeting is 4 Nov from 6 to 9 PM.

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Big Gun, 22 Nov: We will host this annual event at Picnic Island from 0900 hours to about 2 PM. We will provide lunch, drinks and raffle prizes at no cost. Arrive about 0730 if you would like to help set up. This is a friendly competition to hone and measure your casting skills. You will have a chance to win as a team, individual or long cast champion. All you need to participate is a positive attitude and a fly rod.

11 Dec- Play Hooky at the Hatchery. Gina Russo will host us again this year. Arrive at 0800 hours to fish the retention pond for snook, reds and baby tarpon. We will provide lunch and drinks. Gina will offer a lecture on the facility as usual. Please join us for this annual, fun event. We will have a sign up sheet and directions at the November meeting.

17 Oct – Carl Hanson Outing. We had low attendance this year at the new venue of Lake Tarpon. Jeff Janacek fished with Smitty; Jeff, 4 bass and 1 bluegill, Smitty 2 bluegill. Four other folks attended and Denise's peach cobbler was the highlight of the day.




15 Oct- Orvis Down the Hatch Film Festival. About 40 of us enjoyed the two films with exciting fishing action. Flint Creek Outfitters did a great job as hosts and gave away a lot of raffle items. They look forward to hosting another similar event next year.

Club member Jim Adams notes the latest edition (Nov/Dec 2015) of "Eastern Fly Fishing" magazine has an article on fishing Tampa Bay: "Tampa Bay Redfish" by a Tom DiGangi, Jr from New Jersey.

17 Oct - The Sarasota MCFF/CCA Fall Fly Fishing Challenge was a success. Full report from Capt Rick Grassetto follows on page 8.

17-24 Xcalak, Mexico Trip: Our group of 11 had a great time in Mexico despite heavy rain and wind the first two days. We caught a bunch of bone fish as well as tarpon, snook and barracuda. The Costa de Cocas lodge folks were super hosts as usual. Our friend Kelly from North Carolina caught a big (25lb) permit on a bonefish fly. Capt Frank has penciled in the last week of Oct for our trip next year. Let him know if you think you may want to attend. This trip is loads of fun and a great value. Many thanks to Frank who arranges the trip each year and works hard to ensure we all have a great time. Thanks Frank!



Tips for TBFFC

The rear taper decreases in diameter from the thicker belly section to the much smaller running line on a weight forward line. The rear taper creates the transition so important to casting smoothness. A short rear taper will kick the energy quickly into the head, turning the line over fast. A long rear taper delays this turnover. Long rear tapers are preferred for big waters and long casts; a short rear taper for smaller water and shorter casts. **Pat Damico, MCI**

Random Thoughts from the Tying Bench

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

JIGGIES -- Being a firm believer in the logic of the "Occam's Razor" principle, I was convinced that Bob Popovics' new fly, the Jiggy, would be successful. Bob and Ed Jaworowski claim that they now tie and fish these simple flies more than any other fly in their fly boxes. Capt. Gene Quigley reports that more than 70 percent of the saltwater fish landed by his clients are now caught on Bob's simple Jiggy. But I was still unprepared for the success of fellow club members when fishing around the grass beds in Tampa Bay, where Clousers are prone to collect grass and debris. I tie the fly on a #2 Mustad 34011 hook with the barb mashed down and with a slight bend in the hook shank for a bendback fly. I use 1/4 inch (Large) Cone Heads. I find the tungsten cones too heavy. Usually I wrap a few turns of chenille around the shank and jam it into the cavity to stabilize the cone. I then tie a simple bucktail wing-- Chartreuse over White separated by pearl mylar flash material for example--directly behind the cone head and epoxy the wraps to form a taper up to the back edge of the cone. All material must be tied on the point side of the hook to make the fly swim point up. I make the overall length of the fly approximately 3 inches long. Depending on the color of the wing, I use either red or black Flat Waxed Nylon thread. I do not use stick-on eyes as recommended by Popovics. But where are the beautiful names of yesteryear--like Parmachene Belle, Royal Coachman, Wickman's Fancy and Greenwell's Glory?



Dayle Garcia in Mexico with a bone fish under cloudy skies; he caught an air borne tarpon on a better day. Double rainbow pointing towards big permit we hoped; Walt and bone fish caught on a pretty palm-lined beach.



Ted and Alberto with a nice tarpon, Ted with a big personal best snook on-the-fly, launching our john boat for lagoon fishing, Walt with a nice Cuda caught on a tarpon fly.

Kelly Bandlow's permit while fishing in Xcalak, Mexico with Costa de Cocas Lodge.
Caught on a 7 weight rod and a bone fish fly with 10 lb tippet





Anglers had good fishing with **Capt Rick Grassette** catching a variety of fish in October

2015 MCFF/CCA “Fall Fly Fishing Challenge” Results

The 11th annual MCFF/CCA “Fall Fly Fishing Challenge” was held on Saturday, Oct. 17th. Anglers gathered at The Meadows Country Club Community Association building on Friday evening for the captains meeting and on Saturday afternoon for angler check in and awards luncheon. The tournament, hosted jointly by the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers and the Sarasota chapter of Coastal Conservation Association, benefits the conservation or education programs of both organizations. Anglers could fish any water on the west coast of Florida using flies only in a catch, digital photo, release format fishing tournament for reds, trout, snook and more. All fish were photographed and immediately released. Winners were awarded Orvis Recon fly rod outfits, handsome plaques and gift certificates.

Donors to the event were: Orvis, CB’s Saltwater Outfitters, Economy Tackle, Chouinard Outdoor Associates, Simms, Umpqua, Andy Thornal Company, Flats Bandit, The Compound and Craig Smothers (saltflys.com).

Open Division-based on total inches (guides, anglers fishing with guides and any other angler wishing to compete)

Slam-largest snook, redfish and trout

Capt. Colby Hane, Sarasota, FL

61.5”

Trout

Capt. Jeff Brue, Tam 64.75"

Redfish

Doug Forde, Sarasota, FL 16"

Snook

Steve Gibson, Sarasota, FL 125.75"

Fly Angler Division-based on a point per inch format for redfish, snook, trout and multiple other species (no guides allowed in this division)

- 1st-Fred Mclendon, Lithia, FL 519.75 points
- 2nd-Cody Vaughan-Birch, Port Charlotte, FL 222 points
- 3rd-Ken Babineaux, Sarasota, FL 203 points
- 4th-Jim Knowles, Bradenton, FL 201.75



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner:

Albies love flies. A sure sign of the approaching fall fishing blitz is the large schools of false albacore and baby tunny feeding heavily on plentiful maturing baitfish, especially in gulf passes. Either a strong incoming or outgoing tide will have these speedy torpedoes chasing baitfish to the surface in areas that will attract terns and gulls, causing chaos. The birds will tell you where to fish. This is ideal fly rod fare and can be almost too easy to do by observing just a few rules. Running an outboard into the school will ruin your chances of success, so use the wind and tide to position your boat ahead of the surface activity, letting the fish come to you. An electric motor run slowly is a big help to get a good position. Jacks, ladyfish and mackerel will be mixed in with the albies taking advantage of the easy pickings. The wild surface activity usually contains the smaller fish, so getting your fly deeper will result in larger fish. Use a 9-weight fly rod with a full sinking or sink-tip fly line. Four or 5 feet of 25-pound hard monofilament leader will be attached to a size 2 white baitfish pattern made of synthetic materials rather than natural hair for durability. You can't retrieve the fly too fast. Many anglers put the rod under one arm and retrieve using both hands in hand-over-hand fashion after making a long cast. Using 150 yards of 30-pound backing gives you the advantage when the fish make long runs. A good large arbor reel with smooth adjustable drag is necessary. A pair of binoculars helps locate diving birds and extends your area of visibility.

Capt Rick Grasset reports action with tripletail, false albacore and Spanish mackerel should be a good option now in the coastal gulf when conditions allow it. You may find trout, Spanish mackerel, blues and jacks on deep grass flats. Snook fishing around lighted docks and bridges close to passes with flies and DOA Lures should also be a good option. Look for reds, snook and big trout mixed with mullet schools on shallow flats and edges of bars.

Fishing Report and Forecast, cont.

Kayak guide **Neil Taylor** suggests November will be the month for bigger fish. Cooling water and changing conditions will mean that our best fish will be most active. You can expect the action for just about everything to be good. The variable for the month will be cold fronts and wind. The fish are going to be eating great, the conditions may not always be perfect for getting out. More fronts will mean more fish going toward our creeks and rivers. Follow the fish to these areas for best results. If it is a mild month, you can expect the fish to stay where they currently are located. Break the jacket back out and leave it in the car. You may need it again this month.

Book Review

I invite readers to submit a review of their favorite fishing book. I'll start things off with: *On the Water: A Fishing Memoir* by Guy de la Valdene. Mr. Valdene writes of his childhood living in a castle in France and exploring the local waters. After banishment from a French boarding school his Father sent him to South Florida where he pursued an adventurous life from the Palm Beaches to the Keys and the Bahamas. In 1990 he bought a farm in northern Florida. From the 10-acre spit of unproductive water he fashioned a 27 acre pond of prime fishing habitat. He notes these days "my interest in fishing is more a flirt than a passion." In his eloquently written memoir he describes life in and around his pond as the seasons change. Intermixed among these chapters he remanences of tarpon fishing in the keys in the 1960s, early days in the Bahamas on Walker Cay, salmon fishing in Iceland and much more. For those of you who love to fish South Florida, Mr Valdene's stories will bring fond memories. He seems to have made the most of a fortunate sporting life that he has captured in thoughtful and well written prose.

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov 10-14 Chattooga River, Ga trout fishing
- Nov 14-21 Second Trip to Cuba **cancelled**
- **Nov 22** **Big Gun, Picnic Island**
- Dec 2 Members Year-End Party
- Dec 11 Play Hooky Outing at the Hatchery
- Dec 19 Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto

Member Benefits

TBFFC is famous for its value and focus on the sharing of information, experience, and craftsmanship with its members. As a TBFFC member you will enjoy many benefits free or at nominal cost.

- Monthly Meetings with informative speakers
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
- One-On-One Fly Casting Lessons
- Shirts and Hats with club logo
- 80-page Beginner's Basic Skills Instruction Manual
- Annual Banquet

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Please Check: One Year _____ Five Year _____

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

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Ad Space in Newsletter)

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