

On The Fly

SFF AIMS/PURPOSE. Promoting member & visitor involvement in fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting and marine conservation in a family fun atmosphere.



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Andy C notches a grayling in the UK. P 12



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Nathan Suedmeyer: DIY bonefishing in Belize. P 14

On The Fly

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President George Haseltine...



Fly fishing is the chariot that takes us lands away

SFF President letter July 2016

Do you realize that you can't Fax, Text, Email or Snail Mail a handshake? There is no other way to deliver it but hand to hand, and it can work Big medicine.

A hand shake is a sign of peace and security and shows that you hold no weapon and mean no harm. It can mean "welcome", "glad to see you (again)", "glad you're here."

Something wonderful and amazing is happening at Suncoast Fly Fishers: our Board of directors are planning, organizing and implementing all kind of things and people are noticing us and wanting to take part in this mysterious art of fly fishing. We have earned the title of "The friendliest fly club in the country." Stand proud my fellow fly fishers."

"Tell me a fact and I will learn."

"Tell me a truth and I will believe."

"Tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever." North American Indian Quote

Teach me the principles of fly casting and I will practice and learn.

Tell me of your adventures and I will sit in wonder and believe.

Take me to places where stories are born and they will live in my heart forever.

Fly fishing is said to be a sport of solitude. I love the quiet of being outdoors. If you listen and watch, you can hear the screech of the Osprey, watch the flight of the Snail Kite, observe an Anhinga dive with a splash from a tree or quickly grab the bird book to identify whatever it is that just flew by. Some days you even get close enough to almost touch a porpoise or a manatee.

But, someone had to take me there first. They had to introduce me to these new places of solitude. Thank you Ken Doty, Alan Sewell, Mark Hays and others for dragging me along on your fishing trips.

Thank you all for making our visitors, new members, and each other feel welcome with a kind word and a handshake and for making the time to take new members fishing. See you at our next general meeting.

Never lose your sense of adventure.

George Haseltine

SFF President 2016-17

George

Calendar: Meetings & Outings

Monthly Meetings: Third Thursday of every month (except December) at St. Pete's **Walter Fuller Park Rec Center**. 6 to 8:30 pm. Guests are welcome.

Monthly Outings: Third Saturday of every month in different locations, saltwater and freshwater, with a picnic lunch at noon.

Thursday, July 21 meeting

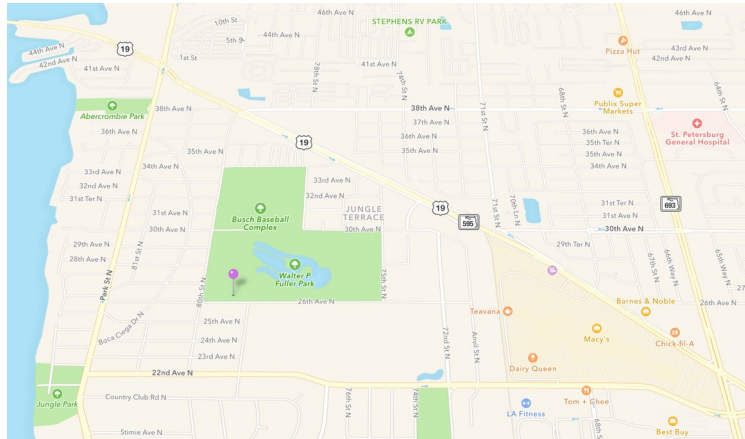
- Capt. Dan Bumgarner will tie flies and speak about how to prepare tackle and use the right techniques to catch Spanish mackerel on the fly.

Saturday, July 23 Outing

- Picnic Island Park in Tampa.
- Lunch at Pavilion _601, prepared by Alan Sewell

Thursday, August 18, meeting

- Tie-a-thon, featuring fresh water flies
- Free pizza from Joto's
- Panel discussion on how to fish Lake Maggiore, the site of our August outing



Directions to our meetings at Walter Fuller Park Rec Center
From 22nd Avenue N turn North on 72nd St. N. Turn left (South) on 26th Avenue N. Then turn right into the recreation center parking lot

Saturday, August 20 Outing

- Lake Maggorie, St. Petersburg
- Lunch: BBQ Rib Challenge. Who makes the best ribs? Bring yours to the competition.

Thursday, September 15 meeting

- JoEllen Wilson of Bonefish & Tarpon Trust will speak about her organization's project to map juvenile tarpon habitat for more targeted conservation. She needs GPS coordinates for places with tarpon 12 inches or smaller.

Saturday, September 17 Outing

- Chassahowitzka River

Thursday, October 20 Meeting

- Nanette O'Hara, Outreach Coordinator, will speak about the challenges and progress the Tampa Bay Estuary Program program has made to restore sea grasses and improve other natural habitats in the bay.

Saturday, October 22, Outing

- Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River, hosted by Suncoast Fly Fishers

Other Club Outings Locations for 2016

October--Hillsborough River, Carl Hanson tournament against the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

November--Weedon Island Preserve

December--Don Coleman Classic at Fort DeSoto Park with other fly fishing clubs in our area

News 'n' Notes

We're a growing club

- Suncoast Fly Fishers now has 142 members including 23 family memberships and five honorary members.

Free summer casting clinic

On July 16 SFF members gathered from 8 to noon at Egan Field in St. Pete Beach. It's the ball field nearest the water at 9101 Blind Pass Road in St. Pete Beach. Casting instructors were Brian Clark and Tom Gadacz.

Here are the drills: Casting stroke – paint brush and water drill; Casting arch. No slack - grass drill. Straight line path (SLP) – grass drill. Pick up and laydown (PLD) – pause - grass drill. False casting and feeding line – timing and casting arch and amount of line beyond rod tip. Roll Cast

Be sure to check out George Haseltine's report on the first clinic, held June 11 on the baseball field at Walter Fuller Park. Page 10.

New Member Welcoming Committee

Rick Warfel has agreed to chair our new Membership Welcoming committee to lead the effort to introduce new members to the club. First order of business: a sincere welcome to our newest members. Introduce yourself at the next meeting.

- Karen and Arthur Birkrant
- Tom Melodayo
- Katie and Andrew Snow

Project Healing Waters for Fly Fishing

- Chairman John Craig reported that the club has received nine rod blanks that recovering veterans will use to build fly rods. A group of five vets has already started building rods with direction from committeeman Alan Sewell.
- There will be a PHWFF outing on Wednesday, August 17 at Arrowhead Picnic Area at Fort DeSoto Park.

Used Gear for Sale

Two members are selling their Gheenoes

- Bruce Carlton is selling his 16-ft Gheenoe with a Johnson 4.8 and trailer. Email or phone him at [727-772-3976](tel:727-772-3976).
- Kirk Burton has a 16-foot Gheenoe with a Merc 9.9, Minnkota trolling motor, push pole and trailer. Asking \$2300. Email or call him at 631-3033.

Got used fly gear that you no longer use? Offer it for sale here. Email Bill AuCoin at wmaucoin@verizon.net

Question (and Answers) for Suncoast Fly Fishers

The June meeting question was...

"If you had only one freshwater fly in your fly box, which fly would it be and why? This is assuming that you are somewhere in Florida." Next month, your question will be the same, except for saltwater.

Bob Burkard: black woolly buggers are great for almost any kind of fish.

Robert Fisher: Clouser minnow, either grey or green over white.

Bob Morrison: black woolly bugger because it's a versatile fly for all types of fish.

Ken Doty: spider because it catches fish.

Mark Hays: Ken Doty's Spider, of course.

Alan Sewell: small bead-chain Clouser.

Quin Berry: olive woolly bugger.

Cliff Nigh: deer-hair beetle.

Michael Besel: Ken Doty Spider.

Joe Corr: cats whisker (small Clouser type).

Joe Dial: Ken Doty's White Spider.

George Haseltine: Ken Doty Spider.



Ken Doty's popular spider

>June Meeting: Gina Russo, Florida Fish & Wildlife Research

>Alan Sewell ties his celebrated docklight fly



Our June presenter was Gina Russo of St. Pete's Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. Rick Yarn spoke with Russo after her presentation and picked up some current FWC literature.



Alan Sewell tied his famous docklight fly. Check out the Tying Bench in this issue.

We are **Suncoast Fly Fishers**

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821
St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821
www.suncoastflyfishers.org

Club email address...

pres_vp@suncoastflyfishers.com

Club Officers

Pres: George Haseltine
Vice Pres: Rick Warfel
Secretary: Dick Miekka
Treasurer: Karen Warfel

Board of Directors

John Craig - Tom Gadacz - Jeff Heer - Bob Burkard - Bruce Evensen - Rick Yarn and Tom Trukenbrod

Committees

Volunteers needed. Please speak to any officer or director at the meeting

Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI, and Dayle Mazzarella, MCI

IFFF Liaison -- Pat Damico

Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen

Membership -- Karen Warfel

New Members -- Brian Clark

Webmaster -- Dick Miekka

Hog Roast -- Karen and Rick Warfel

Outings/Lunches -- Tom

Trukenbrod, Bob Burkard

Project Healing Waters -- John

Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick, Alan Sewell

Raffles -- Dave Barson

Programs -- Board of

Directors

Newsletter, publicity -- Bill

AuCoin

Aims and Purposes

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) is a non-profit 501(C) 3 organization and a charter member of the International Federation of Fly fishers.

Suncoast Fly Fishers are dedicated to sharing their total fly-fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly fishing in both fresh and salt water. We promote and teach both fly fishing and related subjects of fly-tying, rod building, fly-casting and knot tying. Through collaboration, fellowship, conservation and sportsmanship we help members become more skilled, have more fun, and be more productive in the sport. SFF supports the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller

Park...From 22nd Avenue N turn North on 72nd St. N. Turn left (South) on 26th Avenue N. Then turn right into the recreation center parking lot

<http://suncoastflyfishers.com/meetings.html>

The Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. (SFF) is an organization of fishing enthusiasts who love fishing with the fly rod. We welcome all people of all ages with similar interests, regardless of their fly fishing skill level. We enthusiastically teach those that wish to learn or improve their fly casting, fly tying and related fly fishing skills. SFF meets monthly where we talk fly fishing, tie flies and most months feature a speaker with a program highlighting local fly fishing opportunities. SFF is a non-profit, 501(C) 3 organization. SFF is a charter member of the [International Federation of Fly Fishers \(IFFF\)](#). SFF is a member of the [Florida Council of IFFF](#).

By U.S. mail: Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

Join. Renew. Application at
www.suncoastflyfishers.com



Tom "Truk" Truckenbrod

Suncoast Fly Fishers Outing Reviews and Previews and Annual Tournament Update

The SFF Outing Committee is co-chaired by Tom "Truk" Truckenbrod and Bob Burkard with support from John Craig and Dan Bumgarner



Bob Burkard

REVIEW ... Docklight Outing

Friday Night June 17th 2016

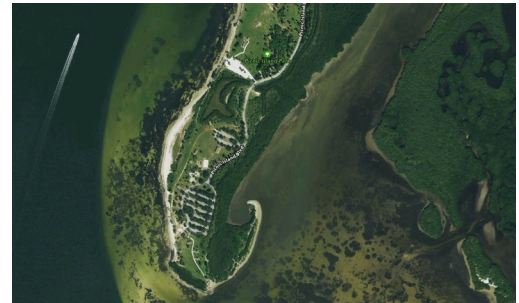
SFF Night Dock Fishing

The forecast was for winds and possible storms, but in the sheltered area near Shore Acres the night turned out to be almost perfect. Nice moonlight, just enough breeze to keep the bugs away and lots of fish. At least we saw a lot of fish. Low tide about 8:30 presented a slow start, then about 10:00 the first hook-up. Some lights had at least 30 fish moving around, but only one was hungry. We had 12 sign-ups and two reports, one from Ken Hofmeister landing a 23.5 inch linesider and George Haseltine with a snook of 18.75 inches. A beautiful sight.

July Outing Preview

- **Saturday July 23 at Picnic Island Park**
- **Alan Sewell is bringing lunch -- Pavilion 601**
- **Launch your boat/kayak here or park and wade**
- **Fish south of Gandy; north of Macdill AFB runway**
- **Target species is Spanish mackerel**

Picnic Island Park in Tampa on the Eastern shore of Tampa Bay has a boat launch and many places where you can slide in your kayak or just wade in and fish the flats for snook, reds, trout and more. Steve Putbren caught a 42-inch snook at Picnic Island in June, 2015. We'll have a falling tide. You can fish the bay anywhere south of Gandy Bridge but north of the Macdill AFB runway. Weedon Island flats are in the zone.



Picnic Island Park in Tampa, just north of Macdill AFB has grassy flats and mangrove shoreline habitat for reds, snook, sea trout, and more. It has a boat ramp and many easy-wade-in or slide-in launching spots for kayaks.

Capt. Dan B: How to fish the July outing



This month we will be fishing at Picnic Island Park in Tampa. While we have had a couple of events there this is the first time we have fished there as a club. Upon entering the park right away you will come to the boat launch ramps at the northwest corner of the park. Starting there and going south along the western shore of the park you will find a hard sandy shore with some grassy areas and potholes just offshore. There should be relatively good tidal flow in this area. Keep an eye out for diving birds and surfacing bait schools along this shore as these are always good indicators of feeding predators.

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Continued... Reviews and Previews

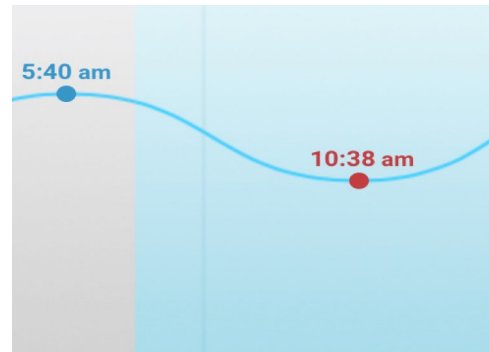
Continuing down this shoreline we come to the southern end of the park. Our shelter is number 601 which is near the very southern tip of the park. Rounding the tip and coming back to the north you will find that the entire eastern shore of the park is a mangrove type shoreline. This shore forms one side of a small shallow bay.

On the eastern shore of this bay we will find Picnic Island for which the park is named. Picnic Island Creek drains a small bayou and empties into the bay at the southern end of the island. Oyster bars are more abundant here making this area very interesting. Be careful traveling southwest along the mainland shore because you will come to a no entry area around Macdill Air Force Base. When they say *no entry* they mean it. Just ask Derek Jeter.

Looking more toward the boaters in the group you could find good action around the Gandy Bridge for macks and pompano. The Gandy middle grounds running down the middle of the bay from the bridge to just west of the parks boat ramp should be holding lots of bait to attract various gamefish. Straight across Old Tampa Bay is Weedon Island with great fishing. The buoys along the ship channel in this area often give up some nice tripletail. These odd fish will definitely eat a fly.

A word about flies to use: the bay is full of new hatch bait now so use small flies that match the hatch. Any of the typical minnow imitations should work. If you are going to target macks be sure to attend the regular meeting for some tips on tying, rigging and fishing flies for macks.

Yours truly, *Capt. Dan Bumgarner*



Tides at the St Pete Pier on July 23. Add 45 minutes to this for fishing Picnic Island.
Tides4fishing.com

2016 OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS THROUGH JUNE

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing caught
Longest bass -	24-inches	Bruce Carlton	Walsingham Lake (March)
Longest sunfish			
Longest sea trout	17.75-inches	Bruce Carlton	Urban Outing (May)
Longest redfish			
Longest snook	23.5-inches	Ken Hofmeister	Docklight outing (June)
Longest ladyfish	18.5-inches	Mark Hays	Urban Outing (May)

Note: All fish entered in the yearly contest must be caught at a club outing and inside the defined zone. The new 2016 tournament started with the January outing at Pinellas Point/Bay Vista Park and continues until the final outing of 2016 at Fort De Soto Park.



Ken Hofmeisters 23.5-inch snook won the June docklight outing prize and puts him in the lead in the annual tournament



Adam Hays caught this big trout on a docklight on a white snake fly.



This is my favorite fly for docklight fly fishing. Every fish that swims will eat this fly, night or day, around any structure or in the surf. I use a circle hook that is 2XH and 1XL. Don't raise the rod tip; just hold the line tight and the hook will set itself. Don Coleman taught me this pattern and he called it "The Neer Hair Fly" for the body material. Any streamer material will work.

Materials:

Hook: Mustad Circle Streamer 2XH/1XL

Thread: Mono #008, or white 3/0

Tail: Krystal Flash

Body: Mirror Image (white)

Dubbing: Light Bright

Eyes: 3-D Oval glued with Liquid Fusion

Tying Sequence:

Step 1. Use Mustad #C71SSS hook. Wrap thread, mono#008, or white 3/0. from eye to bend.

Step 2. Tie in strands of Krystal Flash for tail.

Step 3. Tie in strips of body material in V- shape from side to side with crystal flash in middle of stands.

Step 4. Now wrap bands of body material (I used Mirror Image fibers) from bend to eye splitting each wrap from top to bottom of hook.

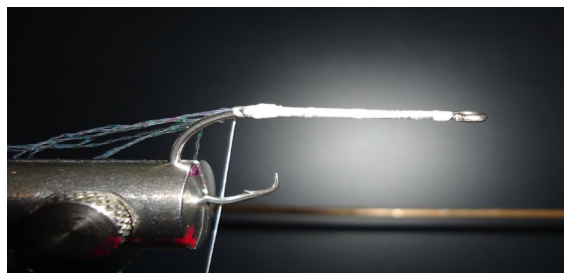
Step 5. Half-way toward eye palmer light-bright dubbing around hook.

Step 6. Tie off and seal small head.

Step 7. Use comb, (I like dog flea combs) to comb out body material.

Step 8. Trim fly to look like a minnow.

Step 9. Color top with permanent marker and glue on eyes Step 10. Admire and fish.



Alan starts with a heavy hook –the “hook that sets itself” -- then ties in a tail of Krystal Flash



Alan used Mirror Image fiber for this fly but he has used other fiber material as well with equal success.

Free casting lessons for members only

By George Haseltine

On Saturday June 11th, 2016, 8:00 to noon, at Walter Fuller Recreation Center Baseball Field,



Rick Yarn (l) with instructor Brian Clark

six of us got the opportunity to improve our casting skills. Katie Snow stopped by to say she couldn't attend today because of work being done at her home. Joe drove all the way from Sarasota.

On almost a one on one basis, Tom Gadacz and Brian Clark covered all the planned tasks. It was a very successful clinic.

It was hot and muggy, but the sun was not out in full strength and the wind was calm. When we finished, the temperature was 92F with 64% humidity and a feel like reading of 107.

Thank you Rick Yarn for bringing the coffee, donuts and water. It was a great time for all of us.

Thank you Tom and Brian for planning and laying out the course and for all the thought, time and study that this required.



Tom Gadacz (l) leads student in a drill



Practice makes perfect



The second free casting clinic was July 16, from 8 to noon, at Egan Park in St. Pete Beach. It was held at the ball field nearest to the water at 9101 Blind Pass Road in St. Pete Beach

Dennis and Ben Marquis: Feeding Frenzy at Weedon Island



That's Ben Marquis with a Weedon Island snook, one of many caught in a feeding frenzy



Dad Dennis Marquis with a feeding frenzy redfish. It was too big to keep but not too big for the memory bank.

Dennis Marquis: Report from the Jersey Shore

I fished with my friend, professional fly fishing guide [Captain Ray Szulczewski](#) Thursday July 7th. Ray operates Tide Runner Fly and Light Tackle Fishing Charter service out of Cape May in New Jersey.

We fished a heavy incoming tide along the beach and rock jetties. Using an 8-wt 9' rod with a sinking line and steel leader we successfully landed the South Jersey slam -- striped bass, blues and weakies. Bass and weakies were on the small side. Blues were monsters. The biggest blue went to reel and took several minutes to bring to boat. Fish story, you decide.



Dennis-and a striped bass on the fly



Dennis with a weakfish, kin to our "speckled trout"

Andy Constantinou: Grayling, Big Rainbows in England



Andy Constantinou with a couple of 2-lb-plus rainbows caught at Latimer Park Lakes in Buckinghamshire, UK. He said both were caught on size 16 gold head black buzzer under an indicator. Andy also caught a 5-pounder on a booby nymph at the Latimer fishery.



Andy writes, Not a whopper but very pretty fish and it's my first grayling, caught on the River Coln in St Aldwyns, Gloucestershire today (July 3).

Joe Coor's "extended interaction" with a tarpon



I had an extended 'interaction' with a tarpon on the night of 5th July. I popped down to the dock at about 11pm to catch a couple of trout. Having bagged two (my self-imposed limit for the day) I noticed a large dark shape tear into the light and under the dock. After a few minutes the fish came into the light and I cast beyond and behind it with an all white clouser. Sure enough my line tightened and the fish then made a run thankfully away from the dock. To cut a long story short the fish made several efforts to get under the dock and on three separate occasion left the dock and jumped out of the water shaking it's head. After about 15 minutes

I became concerned for the fish getting overly stressed. Each time it got under the dock it was under my feet and my weight 8 rod was bent over. Finally the fish made one last run under the dock and cut me off at the top 40lb section of leader, I had a 15lb tippet. There was no chance I would have got the fish out of the water for a picture and estimated it was in the 50 to 60-pound range, around 48 inches in length. Fly fishing is about the interaction with the fish for me, and had the fish been bigger there would be no story or memory. In other circumstances (not on a dock suspended 20 feet above the water) I think I would have landed the fish but we called it quits and an honourable draw.

Bob Burkard: Honeymoon Island Snook. On a Jig?



So why were these snook hitting lead-headed jigs but not flies? Bob is on the case.

Bob Burkard caught this snook on the north end of Honeymoon Island beach. It was one of eight in a row. However, all but one, the one shown above, were caught with a spinning rod throwing a lead-headed plastic jig.

Bob was fishing with a friend who kept catching snook on a heavy plastic jig while Bob tried every fly in his box...without catching a fish until he switched to spinning gear (how sad!) He didn't actually catch a snook on the fly rod until he tied a plastic lead-headed jig to his fly-line leader. These fish were all close to shore so distance was not the problem. Also, many of the

flies thrown were the same white and chartreuse colors, and were of a similar size to the jig. So color and/or size were not the problem. But what was the problem?



Will beach snook always go for the jig on the bottom or will Bob's heavy-eyed Clousers do the job? Stay tuned.

So the experimentation begins: Since then Bob has been tying Clousers with very heavy eyes with extra weight, and he plans to give snook another try using sinking fly line within the next few weeks. So why wouldn't a snook eat a fly, but killed a heavy jig?

Bob thinks that it was the weight of the lure hitting the bottom during a moving tide, and he intends to find out if a heavier fly with sinking line will make a difference. He will give us an update in a future issue. Let's hope the snook are cooperative.

Nathan Suedmeyer: Bonefishing in Belize

Nathan Suedmeyer is back from a do-it-yourself bonefishing expedition to Ambergris Caye, Belize over the July 4 weekend. He'll be at the July meeting. Let's chat him up about how this all went down. Maybe he'll write up the how-to in a future issue of the newsletter.



Jimmie O'dell Carroll: Quest for West Virginia Brookies

"I'm O'dell Carroll, one of the Rocket Boys"

I was at an astrophysicist conference and Star Quest at Greenbank, WV, where they invited me to talk about the movie **October Sky**. I'm **O'Dell Carroll**, one of the Rocket Boys.



I fished in the Monongahela National Forest, located in the highest mountains of east central West Virginia. I fished on headwaters and lower sections of four different streams, and caught brook trout at each stream! Royal Coachman with drop flies of Zugbug or pheasant tails etc.

I fished Friday for three hours after a 50-minute hike. Then two hours on Saturday and again Sunday morning, before the five hour drive back home. Yes, yes, my rear was dragging from climbing over fallen trees and over and around rocks. But it was

fun. I can't wait to go back next year!

Jimmie

PS. If I tell you the names of the streams I fished, I'd have to hurt you. HA!



left to right: Homer "Sonny" Hickam, Quentin Wilson, Roy Lee Cook, and O'Dell Carroll (not pictured are Sherman Stone and Billy Rose - the Rocket Boys).

October 5th, 1957 - the Soviets launched Sputnik. January 31st, 1958 - the United States launched Explorer-1. Great technical and scientific achievements that had a profound influence on the lives of several young men in Coalwood. Homer Hickam became the central figure in a group of boys at Big Creek High School who learned about, designed, constructed, and launched their own rockets. The first rocket Homer built was less than a success - pieced together with parts from a plastic airplane model and a flashlight casing, rather than soar into the air, it exploded and destroyed part of a backyard fence. This did not deter Homer and his friends. Instead, with support from a high school science teacher, help from machinists at the coal mine where his father worked as superintendent, and a driving curiosity and desire to succeed, they continued with their rocket experiments. To organize their efforts, they formed a rocket club - the Big Creek Missile Agency (BCMA) and they gave their launching area the name, Cape Coalwood. Eventually, they were able to build small rockets that could reach altitudes of several miles. Their story is recounted in the pages of the book, "Rocket Boys", by Homer Hickam (also published under the title, "October Sky", an anagram of rocket boys). The book became #1 on the New York Times bestseller list and was made into a feature film in 1999.

Photo courtesy - Homer Hickam

The Rocket Boys

In 1957, the Soviet Union successfully launched Sputnik, the first satellite in earth orbit. This event marked the beginning of the space-race between the United States and Russia. The political and scientific communities of both nations were to embark on a decades long effort to explore space. Deep in the heart of Appalachia, in the small coal mining community of Coalwood, a group of young men embarked on their own adventure to include themselves in history by developing and launching their own rockets. The days of the Rocket Boys had arrived.

"I have seen the future and it works! Two weeks ago, this reporter watched as the boys of the Big Creek Missile Agency launched their magnificent creation at their Cape Coalwood range. As their silver missiles leapt from the concrete pad and soared away into the sky, my mouth dropped open, so enthralled was I at the glorious sight of their rocket scrambling toward space - If you have any boys of under standing who the great and glorious future holds for all who dare seize it, you must come to see the rocket boys of Cape Coalwood."

-The McDowell County Banner, August 1958

National Science Fair

A STUDY OF AMATEUR ROCKETRY TECHNIQUES

Homer H. Hickam, Jr.
Big Creek High School
West Virginia

Gold and Silver Medal Award 1960

Sponsored by: Panhandle Industrial Council for Education
Martinsburg State College

The National Science Fair is a Service Club of America - Science Service activity conducted in cooperation with leading newspapers, educational, industrial and civic organizations

In 1960, the efforts of Homer and the rest of the Rocket Boys resulted in a trip to the National Science Fair for Homer, where he exhibited their work in a medal winning entry. Encouraged by their success, all of the boys continued their education after graduation, with Homer eventually working at NASA.

Pictured to the right is Homer Hickam with the rocketry project that won at the 1960 National Science Fair.

That's Jimmie Carroll on the right. Check out the story of the Rocket Boys at **homerhickam.com**. It became a best selling book and a top rated movie, *October Sky*

July 2016

ON THE FLY

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Tom Gadacz: Suncoast Fly Fishers Teach Fly-Casting



to Students at E. G. Simmons Park in Ruskin

Suncoast Fly Fishers helped teach summer camp youth how to cast a fly rod at E. G. Simmons Park in Ruskin on June 11 and July 12. At the June event 40 kids (shown above) participated. This is the second year Suncoast Fly Fishers have participated in the Youth Fishing Camp.

Brian Clark and Tom Gadacz brought the fly casting rods and other equipment for the instruction which included using a paint brush tipped with water to learn the forward casting motion, the no-slack grass drill, false casting, and roll casting.

Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing How-To



Hit the Beaches. Early.

Hot news! Snook, pompano, sheepshead, and sea trout are being caught in shallow water along the Gulf beaches. Try flies in baitfish, sand flea, and crab patterns and cast out to water up to four feet deep.

Fish in the morning. Well, Duh. Woolly buggers In fresh water, always have brown bead-head woolly buggers in your fly box. They are good imitations for crawfish, as well as black buggers are for hellgramites and stone fly nymphs. Use the bead-heads to get the fly down on the bottom where the crawfish live. The best time to fish is early morning when it's cooler for you as well as the fish.

Get ready for our freshwater outings. Again in fresh water, bluegills and bass are going deep to get to cooler water. Catfish don't mind 90 degree water and will often remain in the shallows. Put the surface bugs away and fish with small minnow, large nymph, and San Juan worm patterns.

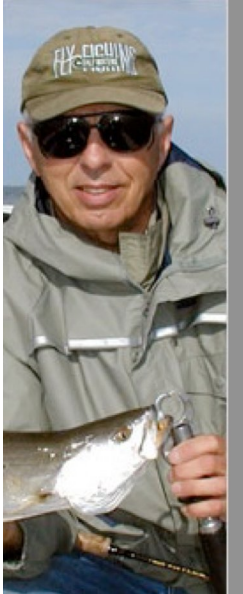
Roll with the wind. Dayle Mazzarella was right--when it's windy the roll cast is usually the best type of cast to try. One exception is that you will probably need a side cast to get under overhanging mangroves without getting hung up in the branches.

Fish big fly and little fly together. Going up north or out west for freshwater trout? Try using a large drake fly in size 8 or 6 with an 18-inch dropper and a size 14 to 18 Sulphur or Blue-winged Olive dry fly. At distance you can't see the small fly very well, hence the big fly. Watch, and if you see any disturbance within 18 inches of the big fly, set the hook. This method has worked well for me, seriously.

Go Get 'Em, Good Luck, and Remember to crunch those barbs.

Bob

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #80



Match Casting Essentials to Your Casting Style

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

How come my last casting instructor said to me that "I should" use his terms?

Some of our earlier Fly Casting Clinic tips dealt with *Substance vs. Style*. I can tell you why an instruction I give you will help you advance. One of the greatest attractions for me with the IFFF Casting Certification program is that it is, for the most part, not style specific.

Applying the Essentials to any style will have positive results. The problem we often run into is that our students have had either poor instruction or they misinterpreted the instructor's advice. I had someone tell me recently that I should use his terms so that he could understand it better. This borders on ridiculous! Take advantage of the instruction Brian Clark and Tom Gadacz are making available to our club members. (The next members-only free session is July 16 at Egan Field in St. Pete Beach. Editor)

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

Fly fishing guide Pat Damico charts in lower Tampa Bay. Contact: captpat.com (727) 504-8649

Captain's Corner: via Tampa Bay Times

Does your fly line match the warming weather?

By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times Correspondent

Your fly pattern is very important, but not putting the fly in the proper location is even more instrumental for success. If casting with your normal setup is giving you poor results, your fly line is probably the culprit because of much warmer weather and especially water. One well known fly line company makes more than 1,000 different fly lines for a good reason. In the spring when gulf water temperatures were in the low 60s a line that performed perfectly will not do the same now when the same water temperature is above 85. I see this frequently with clients from northern states and find they are trying to cast line that behaves like limp spaghetti. A line that performed perfectly for striped bass in New York in the spring will be a disaster now. Some fly lines will have designations such as tropic or warm weather on the box. Fly fishing guides understand this and will have the proper lines on their reels. When clients are having difficulty with the equipment they brought with them, I frequently give them a reel to use with a suitable line on their rod that they feel comfortable with. This will restore their confidence and go a long way to eliminate their frustration resulting in a successful day.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



An encouraging new effort to fix Lake Okeechobee.

There's a petition going around – and it has a lot of support -- that deserves our serious consideration. I don't know all the pros and cons but it seems to be way past time for a solution. HT to Tom Gadacz for the heads-up on this. Also, this was a hot topic of discussion at the sportfishing trade show in Orlando in mid-July. ([Gladesdeclaration.com](#))

Have Kayak; Will Travel. Here's a neat website for kayakers looking for where they can put in. Looks like a good site to check when you want to kayak in a new area. Ken Hofmeister has been using it. ([Kayak and Rafting Boat Launch Map](#))

Have you caught a world record but didn't know it? Fly fisher Debbie Hanson has penned an interesting article in BoatU.S. magazine entitled "The One-Pound World Record." She makes the point that you don't have to catch a huge fish to earn an IFGA record. It could be a bluegill or a crappie or, in her case, a seven-pound longnose gar. Her article lists the things you'll do to gain an IFGA certification. ([BoatU.S.](#))

Flies that caught world records. Writer Steve Kantner captures the stories behind some of those fly fishing records. Very interesting. Be sure to check out the record caught on a MirrOlure fly on a tidal creek in Chocoloskee. ([Midcurrent](#))

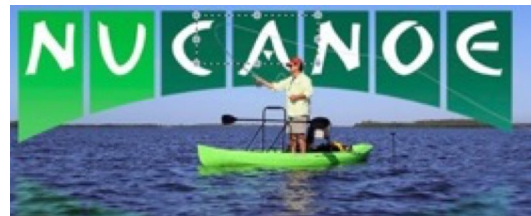
Crocodiles want to eat your kayak. Exotics make for great fishing in south Florida but there are some that really do not belong here. Like crocodiles. They're here. Biologists are pretty sure of it. Somebody has brought them in, illegally, of course. The saltwater crocodile grows up to 20 feet or more, which is longer than Bruce Evensen's kayak. Worrisome? I'd say yes. Crocodiles kill about 200 people every year in Africa. As Ken Hofmeister knows alligators charge and eat the bass on the end of your line. Crocs would prefer to eat your 'yak. H/T for Bob Burkard for spotting this AP article. ([Orlando Sentinel](#))

An active life ends way too soon. Terry Tomalin, outdoors editor of the Tampa Bay Times, collapsed and died in late May while taking a life guarding test with his son. Heart attack. He was only 55 years old. I thought he did an amazing job engaging outdoor people of every stripe. Fishing, of course, but also camping and kayaking and much more. He was, positive and absolutely a Do-It-Yourself kind of writer. Check this out. ([Tampa Bay Times.](#))

As usual, too much alcohol is usually to blame. The good news is that boating fatalities were down in 2015. As you might expect, alcohol was the leading cause of accidents. Check out the Coast Guard's 2015 Boating Statistics Report for 2015. There's a lesson or two in this. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Hey, y'all. Sit back and page through the spring issue of this online publication. Then sign up to get the next one and the next one after that. Label me impressed. ([Southern Culture on the Fly](#))

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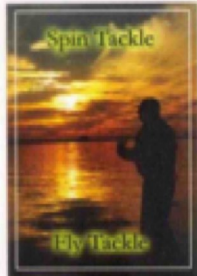
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