

Suncoast Fly Fishers



On The Fly

The Prez Sez by Ken Hofmeister



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS, INC.

VISION, CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS, AND VALUES

SFF members recently responded to a survey that formed the basis for this draft of our proposed vision, values, and critical success factors. Our charter members gave us a splendid purpose statement, along with a fine set of by-laws. The aim or purpose statement clearly describes what we do, where, and for whom.

Where we need some more focus and clarity is on vision, critical success factors, and values. Our *vision* is a brief statement of our preferred future--a picture of what we want members, other clubs, visitors, and our community to say and believe about us. That gives us direction.

Our *critical success factors* are those things we need to do well in order to succeed. Our *values* are the "how" we operate as a club and how we relate to each other and newcomers. They give us guidance in how we decide to respond to situations that arise. They translate into actions.

You'll recognize your survey responses in this proposed draft that has been discussed and revised by your SFF board (*see page 3....PS.*). You are invited to review, revise, and respond via e-mail to Ken Hofmeister, Joe Dial, or Paul Sequira. We'll incorporate suggestions and finalize the document for club use.

As your president, I believe that our next challenge is to be clear about who we want to be, specific about the way we interact, and to constantly improve our processes, our people, and our services. A key is member involvement in SFF committees and a commitment to helping newcomers have fun as they learn new stuff about our sport. We'll have more fun being Florida's leading fly-fishing club as we: meet member needs, be friendly, and constantly improve our people, processes, and services.*Ken*

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 21 - Tampa Bay Watch Peter Clark
- June 23 - Emerson Point Outing
- July 21 - Chassowitzka River Outing
- August 11 - FFF Refresher Casting Clinic Ft DeSoto with Pat Damico
- August 18 - Fred Howard Park Outing
- Sept 22 - Joint outing with Mangrove Coast Club at Ft. DeSoto

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Outings—Reviews and Previews *by Richard Oldenski*



May Outing

The May night fishing outing was a bust. The wind was so strong that most members either never left the dock or came back early. Only three of us made it to breakfast at MacDonald's. The rest chose to go to bed. Capt. Alan Sewell did put his crew onto some large snook but had to leave without catching any. Ted Rich managed to win the prize with a 17 inch redfish. Better luck next time!

June Outing

Joint outing with Mangrove Coast Fly fishers at Emerson Point, **June 23, 2007**

For our June outing, the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishing Club of Sarasota has invited us to join them at Emerson Point. Our two clubs will meet

on the beach at the Park and "buddy up" with fishing partners at 07:00 am.

These guys know their way around this park and should help us find fish. Emerson Point Park, located at the confluence of the Manatee River, Boca Ceia Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, provides habitat for snook, redfish and trout. It can be fished by boat, canoe and kayak, or wading. The Mangrove Coast Club will provide lunch.

To get there, take I-275 South toward Bradenton. Exit onto route 19/41 to Palmetto. Turn right on 10th Street in Palmetto. From 10th street turn right on Tarpon Avenue then left on 17th Street, then follow the signs to Emerson Point Park. The sign up sheet and maps will be at the June meeting.

Future Outing Previews:

July - Chassowitzka River

August - Fred Howard Park

September - Joint outing with the Mangrove Coast Club at Ft. DeSoto

Fishing Tournament

Sun Fish—Ken Doty 9¼ inches

Redfish - Ted Rich 17 inches

All others are open at this time

New Meeting Location Walter Fuller Park

The Suncoast Fly Fishers have a new location for their monthly general membership meeting. We now gather at Walter Fuller Park, located at 7891 26th Avenue, North in St. Petersburg. The new meeting hall provides a larger and cleaner room with excellent lighting for fly tying demonstrations, good parking, spacious lawns for casting and a generally friendlier atmosphere for families. Speakers no longer compete with low flying aircraft or gunfire. Our first meeting there last month was a great success with everyone attending expressing their complete satisfaction with the facilities.

Walter Fuller is easily accessed: from I 275 take the 22nd Ave. N. exit and head west on 22nd Ave, make a right turn onto 79th St. N. (just past Azalea Middle School) which ends at 26th Ave, N. directly across from the driveway to the Recreation Hall parking lots. From Park St/Starkey Rd, go east on 26th Ave, N. approximately 3 blocks to the Rec. Hall driveway across from 79th St. See the map on the rear cover. Or, go to the SFF website <http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com/> and click on the “**Directions**” link. You will be able to get specific directions from your house to the Park.

The June program promises to be very enlightening and entertaining. Peter Clark, Executive Director of Tampa Bay Watch will describe the group's experiences and activities including visual presentations of the very important work of this dedicated organization.

SFF VISION, CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS, AND VALUES

VISION

To be the Florida's leading fly-fishing club -- helping members have more fun fly-casting, fly-fishing, and fly-tying--gaining new knowledge and/or skill at every meeting and event.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- Attract, develop, and retain a diverse group of members who enjoy fly-fishing.
- Increase membership satisfaction with club offerings.
- Effective communications to members, public, other clubs.
- Continually improve people, processes, and what we provide.

VALUES

MEETING MEMBER NEEDS: Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. will continuously seek to understand and meet the personal and practical needs of members. A key to attracting and retaining members is to meet or exceed their needs.

PRACTICES:

- Needs assessment
- Mentoring
- Recognition
- Communication
- Diverse offerings
- Tailoring some offerings to families, scouts.
- Clinics/workshops for special needs, groups.
- _____

FRIENDLINESS: SFF strives to be a friendly, inclusive, and unpretentious group of fly-fishers who have fun learning and fishing together. New members will find themselves welcomed, respected, invited, and needed.

PRACTICES:

- Name tags
- Newsletters
- Partnership with City and Country Recreation Departments
- Targeting needs of women, families, children
- Pig Roasts/Auctions
- Visitor recognition
- Committee involvement
- Mentoring
- Standing new member committee
- _____

CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT: We believe we can always improve the way we tie, cast, fish, and educate. We are committed to continually improving how we function as we benchmark with other groups. We solicit improvement ideas for our processes, services, and ourselves. We are committed to preserving our waters and marine resources. We keep searching for safer and more productive ways to enjoy our sport.

PRACTICES:

- Clinics and programs
- Meeting features: Safety, conservation, bay restoration, and first-aid.
- Newsletter articles
- Web site tips, links
- Videos and literature
- Collaboration with other clubs
- Surveys, benchmarking other groups

Baby Tarpon *by Capt. Pat Damico*

What is my favorite saltwater fish to chase with the long rod? I'm often asked this question. I usually qualify it by saying, "Tailing redfish in shallow water, snook around lighted docks, or baby tarpon." The first two are more easily available, the last, continues to be a mystery. I have spent a lot of time searching areas for baby tarpon. Many times I am not successful, however I have some trips that have been spectacular.

Very little has been published about these smaller silver kings. It seems that most authors want to keep the secrets to themselves. Through the years, my experience has narrowed the search to include several prerequisites for success.

Locating them and catching them are two different problems. If we limit our choice to fly fishing only, we have our work cut out for us. I know where there are several schools of smaller tarpon, up to thirty pounds, that are in the same area year around. The locations have these similar characteristics. They are bays that are away from the main body of water. The water temperature is a little warmer than surrounding locations, usually exposed to a lot of sun. A deep "hole" is usually present. My fish finder marks tons of small baitfish, probably glass minnows, year around. Warmer water usually indicates a spring may be close to their home. A shallow water entrance may prevent large predators, sharks and dolphins, from getting in. They are here because they have a constant source of food, comfortable water temperature, depth, and safety.

Besides bays, rivers are the next location with some consistency. Remember, they can adapt to fresh water and will sometime be away from salt for the winter months. As temperatures cool, depth seems to become more important. The outside bend in a river is always deeper. If the average depth of a river is five or six feet and an outside bend has a fifteen foot drop, this will be a good place to look. In both bays and rivers, when they are seen rolling in deep water, they are generally not feeding, but taking advantage of their air breathing ability. If the water is somewhat brackish, or stagnant, the rolling will be more frequent. Quickly casting a fly to a rolling fish will occasionally result in a hookup, but I



A successful fly trip for baby tarpon.

Photo by Pat Damico

feel most feeding is done closer to the bottom than the surface. The one that takes the fly may be a companion to the rolling fish. They are rarely concentrated and will be spread over a large area. Dr. Aaron Adams, author of "Fisherman's Coast," suggests using a weighted clouser with a sinking, or sink tip line to get your offering on the bottom where they are doing most of their feeding. If there is adjacent structure to their home, like a tree that has fallen in the water, cover the area with careful, well presented casts. Baitfish will generally use the

tree for cover and tarpon will lurk nearby. This is one time that they will frequent the shallows. If presentations close to the surface are refused, use a weighted fly with a clear intermediate sinking tip fly line.

Fly selection will depend on the size of bait available. In warmer weather, I have seen them chase baits as large as four inches up to the surface in skinny water. Pencil poppers are effective when this happens. In colder weather, smaller flies are more productive. Keys type tarpon flies when downsized as small as size one work well. Expect to miss a lot of small tarpon. Unlike their bigger family members, small tarpon often swirl at the fly, resulting in "short strikes." A longer shank hook with a large gap will help. When stripping, eliminate slack by keeping your rod tip on the water surface and if you can't see the fly, watch the end of the fly line for the slightest hesitation. I've watched clients miss a take because of slack line many times, especially in brackish or tannin stained water. If seeing the end of your fly line is a problem in stained water, a one foot section of Orange colored Amnesia monofilament, the same diameter as your butt section between the leader and end of the fly line, will give you a strike indicator. This is a trick that I occasionally use when fishing for small mouth bass in rivers.

A recent kayak trip with Chrystal Murray put us into a concentration of very happy tarpon up to twenty pounds. Knowing how much I love to fly rod these juveniles, she contacted me and we ventured into a series of overgrown canals that were full of glass minnows and feeding fish. *Continued on page 5*

More SFF News

Baby Tarpon *continued from page 4*

Our Ocean Kayak's provided our transportation as well as a fishing platform for our stealthy approach. I jumped many more fish than I landed due to the tight quarters and water laden structure. My new TFO, TiCrX eight weight fly rod was a perfect choice for our trip. This seven and a half foot four piece rod really had a workout. It's small size made it easy to transport thru some tight spots where mangroves overgrew parts of our waterway. Casting was simplified in tight quarters because of it's size. It had adequate backbone to, "put the screws," to the tarpon that ranged into the twenty pound class. My leader was the rod's length. Five feet of forty pound for the butt section and a thirty pound mason monofil tippet was all that was needed. A 1/0 standard cockroach, an all white keys design, and my bead butt baitfish pattern all seemed to work.

Depending on your location, it may take some effort to locate these mini silver kings. There isn't another fish that will give a fly rodder more of a challenge. The antics and commotion that begins when they feel the steel will make them your favorite too.

A FFF, certified casting instructor, Capt. Pat Damico guides fly and light tackle trips in lower Tampa Bay and surrounding waterways. His website www.captpat.com will provide additional information.

This article originally appeared on Capt. Mel Berman's website www.capmel.com and is reprinted here with the author's permission.PS

Suncoast Fly Fishers, Your Board Of Directors Working For You

Activities are at the heart of any successful organization. SFF's BOD has instituted the following Standing Committees to help us maintain a high level of activities that have proven to be popular with the membership and some new ones to fill a need as expressed through membership surveys. These committees are generally chaired by board members but you do not have to be a board member to fill that position. If you would like to volunteer to participate on any or these committees, please speak to any director.

Committees are as follows:

- Casting Skills - Pat Damico
- Club Outings - Richard Oldenski & Mark Hays
- FFF Liaison - Pat Damico
- Fishing Locations - Ken Doty
- Fly Tying - Alan Sewell
- Knot Tying - Ken Doty
- Membership - Alan Sewell & Paul Sequira
- Newsletter - Paul Sequira
- Publicity - Roger Blanton & Larry Cohen
- Programs - BOD
- Raffles - John Rodgers & Tom Hummel

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Our Aims and Purpose

The Suncoast Fly Fishers are dedicated to sharing their total fly fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly fishing in both fresh and saltwater. We shall 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 will help members become more skilled, have more fun and be more productive in the sport. Suncoast Fly Fishers support the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

LOCAL FISHING GUIDES

Capt. Pat Damico, Tampa Bay 727-360-6466

Capt. Pete Greenan, Boca Grande and

The Everglades 941-923-6095

Capt. Mike Homer, Tampa Bay 727-418-5005

Capt. Ray Markham Sarasota and

Tampa Bay 941-723-2655

Fly Tying Bench — Soft Hackle Deceiver

Jack Gartside is one of the most innovative fly tyers and his flies all seem to have a simple but elegant beauty. His Soft Hackle Deceiver is no exception. Tied in an all white pattern, it is a favorite of Mark Hays as well as myself and several other members who have fished it. This easy to tie pattern is a very productive streamer and can be tied for fresh or saltwater. If there were one tricky tying procedure in this fly, it would be wrapping the marabou hackle; however, if you follow the directions you will see that this is a simple task. The instructions below are for a one-color streamer but you can tie this streamer in many color combinations.

Materials:

- **Hook:** Mustad 34007 sizes 4 to 2/0 or Eagle Claw 254SS for shorter bodied streamers
- **Thread:** flat waxed nylon or 3/0 color to compliment the fly
- **Flash:** Pearl Flashabou or color to compliment the fly
- **Tail:** 2 to 3 pairs of matched white saddle hackles, concave side inward
- **Body:** Mylar braid or Krystal Flash strands twisted into a rope
- **Hackle:** 1 or more white blood marabou feathers (a 2nd color marabou plume may be used for a contrasting color effect)
- **Collar:** Mallard flank feather wound as hackle. Other feathers i.e. teal or dyed guinea etc. may also be used.



*Top: All white Soft Hackle Deceiver
Bottom: White and chartreuse Soft Hackle Deceiver
Flies and photo by Paul Sequira*

Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch the barb down and secure the hook in the vise in the normal fashion. Attach the thread with a jam knot at the start of the hook bend.
2. Select 2 or 3 pairs of matched saddle hackles, remove the soft fluff from the butts, tail length should be approximately 1½ to 2 times the hook shank length. Place the matched pairs on top of the hook and secure them with several tight wraps. Cut away the excess butt stems leaving about ¼ of the hook shank bare behind the hook eye. Spiral the thread back and add 4 or 5 strands of pearl Flashabou by securing them to the hook shank in the middle and folding them over so that the strands are evenly distributed on either side of the tail.
3. Attach several strands of Krystal Flash at the start of the tail and spiral the thread forward to the end of the butt wraps. Now twist the Krystal Flash into a rope and wrap the hook shank up to the waiting thread with the Krystal Flash to create a body. Tie off and discard the excess Flashabou. Mylar braid may also be used.
4. Select a blood marabou feather with fibers long enough to go slightly beyond the start of the tail. Strip the fibers away from the thicker part of the stem near the base and cut the stem at the point where the stem noticeably changes from thin to thick.
5. Place the feather on top of the hook shank (concave side down) just in front of the body and tie the feather down by the butt -- **not the tip**. Wind the marabou forward around the hook shank, brushing each previous wrap back towards the rear. Do not over wrap a previous wrap. You may add another marabou feather to create a fuller collar or a color change. Inspect for tied down fibers and free them with your dubbing needle.

Fly Tying Bench—Soft Hackle Deceiver continued

It helps to get neat wraps if you moisten your thumb, index and middle finger tips as you fold back the marabou during the wrapping process.

6. Select a mallard flank feather (or other) with a thin stem and fibers long enough to reach back approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the marabou. Strip the fibers away from the lower thicker part of the stem and tie the feather in at the point where the stem noticeably changes from thick to thin.
7. Once again, tie this feather in at the butt – **not the tip**. Lay the feather flat on top of the marabou concave side down. Cut and discard the excess mallard feather butt. Mallard feathers have a flat stem and you must wind the feather on its flat side; this may require you to twist the feather as you wrap it.
8. Wind and fold the feather as you wrap it so that the fibers flow out over the marabou. You do not want them to stick out wildly. Two or three turns are all you will need to create this mallard collar. Cut and discard the excess mallard butt and tie off
9. Wrap a nice bullet shaped head and give it several coats of head cement to finish the fly.

A note about marabou. This feather no longer comes from the marabou stork; rather it comes from the tail end of white domestic turkeys and is dyed in the various colors we use. Marabou plumes come in various lengths and are usually packaged according to size. The very long (6" or more) are mature feathers and are unsuitable for this streamer. The shorts, or blood feathers (usually 2" to 4" long) are the immature feathers and make excellent streamer wings. We want the longer stemmed bloods, about 4" long. You'll find that the tips or upper 1/3 portion of this feather will have nice straight thin fibers just right for streamer wings. Wrapping the marabou and mallard sounds like a tedious and fussy procedure but once you have done it a time or two, you will see that it is really very easy and creates a very nice and gracefully flowing streamer. Fish this fly with confidence, it is very productive.

Baby Tarpon Flies

An excerpt from a recent article by Capt. Pat Damico found on Capt. Mel's excellent website entitled "Baby Tarpon Flies" is included below in which Pat tells us about some successful patterns. Pat's complete article will be featured in an upcoming newsletter. Many of the patterns listed below have been included in "The Fly Tying Bench" in previous issues of "On The Fly".PS

"My recent article on small Tarpon elicited several questions about not only what flies to use, but also how to use them effectively. Tarpon of any size seem to have their own agenda about what they like to eat at any given time."

"According to Donald Larmouth and Rob Fordyce, authors of 'Tarpon On Fly,' "Baby Tarpon will eat almost anything you would throw at a Snook, size 2 or size 1/0 Lefty's Deceivers, Glass Minnows, Sea-Ducers, Bend Backs, Clouser Deep Minnows, popping bugs, Gurglers, divers, and the like. Downsized standard Tarpon patterns will also work."



Flies and photo by Capt. Pat Damico

Editor's Corner by Paul Sequira

Here it is June 2007 and I have been your newsletter editor for one year. That's right, Charlie Most and I worked on the May '06 newsletter together and then I took over the editorial/publishing duties of "On The Fly" starting with the June '06 issue. The June and July issues continued the old format and I reissued the July edition using MS Publisher, which I sent to the Board of Directors and a few interested members as a test for the electronic mailing. By all indications you are mostly satisfied with the new format and content.

Some members have been very helpful by contributing articles and photographs for the newsletter. These contributions are so important to creating an interesting, entertaining and informative newsletter. I am sincerely thankful to all of you who have contributed. But I have not heard much from most of you. I know you are out there fishing and enjoying the sport, so how about sharing some of those experiences with your fellow members. If you need a little assistance composing an article, talk to me, I'll be happy to help you.

Many of us carry a camera on our fishing trips; please send me some pictures. The other members love to see proof of our successes. If you are using a digital camera, set your resolution and compression small, 640 x 480 pixels is more than good enough for the newsletter or viewing on your computer. Or, if you want to take larger format shots for your own files, please resize them before you send them to me. Try to keep them around 100 KB (+/-). You may also give me printed photos; I'll scan them and return your pictures to you. By the way, there is an excellent image resizer available free from Micro Soft. Just Google up "MS Power Toys" and click on "MS Image Resizer" it works great, I use it all the time. It will save you a ton of space in your picture files and you really only need the large format images if you plan to print large pictures.

The "Fly Tying Bench" section that I have instituted seems to be very popular but I haven't had many contributions from you. It would be a lot more interesting if we featured some flies other than my favorites. If you have a fly that you would like to see included, talk to me! Give me an example and the dressing, I'll even photograph it if you don't have the equipment and I'll be happy to write it up if you don't feel qualified to do it yourself. Heck, I'll even tie it for you if you don't think your efforts would be that photogenic. Just remember, they only have to be pretty to please us; the fish don't care. In fact, some flies are meant to be scraggly and shall we say esthetically challenged, they work better that way!

I enjoy putting the newsletter together for you, and it could be even better if we all contribute.Paul

A Day's Fishing With The Grandkids or, Words of Wisdom



Each grandchild caught a trout. Julia then said:

"Granddaddy, go closer to where the fish are."

"Granddaddy, why don't you go to their favorite place--where they like to hang out."

Finally, she said: "Let's catch one more before we go home."

Once home, the question was: "How big?"

Naturally, the answer was: "Thisssssssss big!"

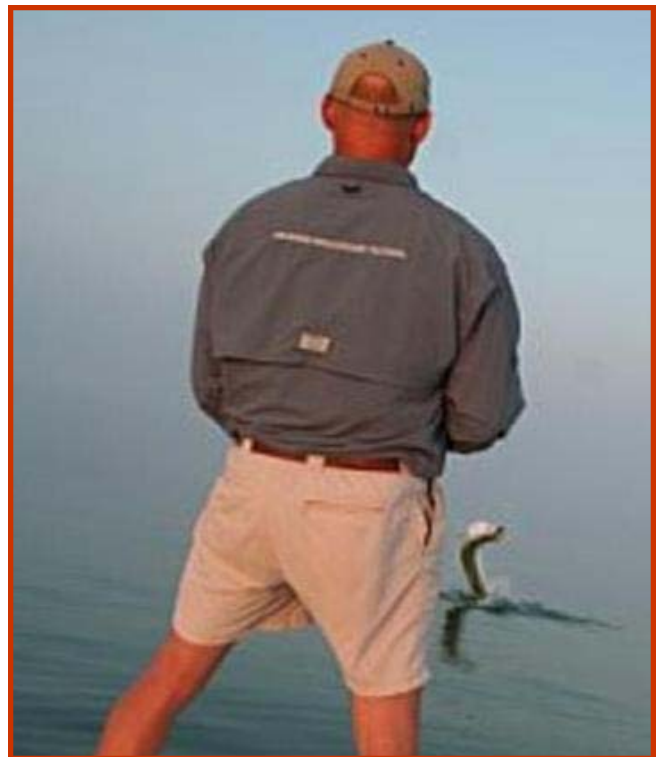
Sounds like some future club members. Ken

You know, I've fished with Ken a few times myself and I've often wondered why he "doesn't go closer to where the fish are or to their favorite places where they like to hang out?" Truly words of wisdom.Paul

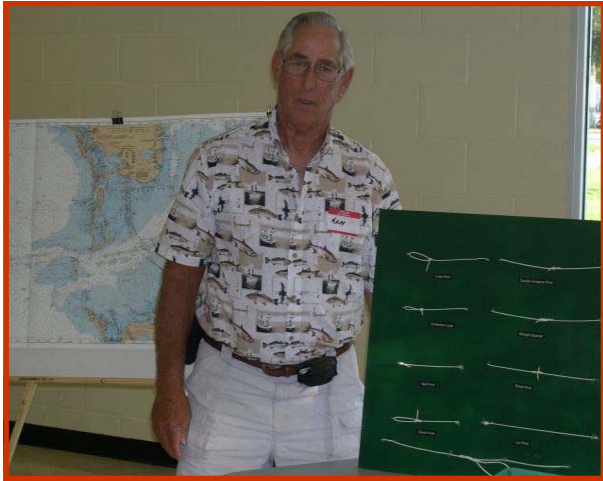
Pictures From The Suncoast Fly Fishers

Keith Dudley on a recent tarpon trip off the beach.

This fish was landed after a full on 40 minute battle that ended up breaking my 12 weight fly rod in two. Unfortunately this fish was too heavy for my buddy Damien to pick up over the gunnels of a flats boat. Three times he tried with two hands only to be sent to his knees. . . .Keith Dudley



Pictures From The Suncoast Fly Fishers 1st Meeting at Walter Fuller Park



Ken Doty with his knot ying display board.
Photo Ken Hofmeister



Alan Sewell giving away all the secrets of fishing for snook under the dock lights. Photo Ken Doty



Paul Sequira & Jim McPhail deep in discussion, must be about bluegills. Photo Ken Hofmeister



John Rodgers has the raffle table well in hand
Photo Ken Hofmeister

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Club Officers

President: Ken Hofmeister 727/521-1637

Vice President: John Zientarski 727/391-1480

Secretary: Joe Dail

Treasurer: Alan Sewell

Board of Directors

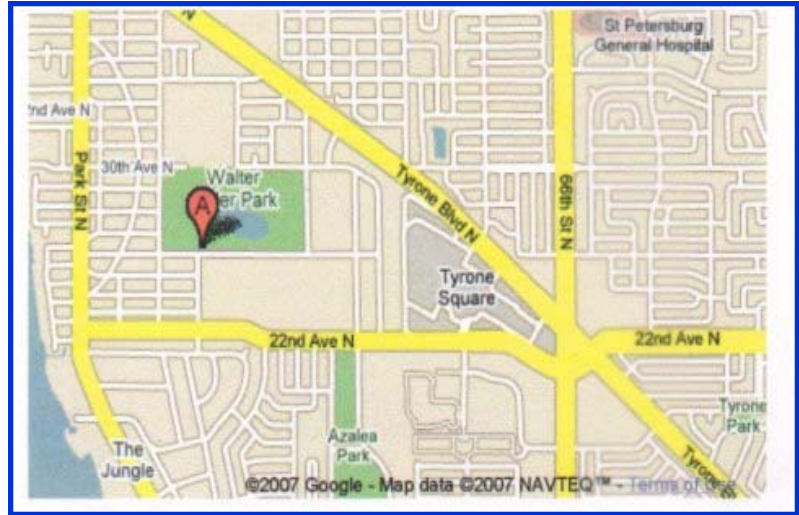
Roger Blanton - Larry Cohen

Pat Damico - Ken McKinnon

Richard Oldenski - John Rodgers - Paul Sequira

“On the Fly” is the monthly newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF), a not-for-profit organization offering fly fishing and fly tying instruction to members and visitors. Club membership includes newsletter subscription. Send e-mail submissions to the editor, Paul Sequira

psequira@tampabay.rr.com



Next Club Meeting: Thursday, June 21, 2007

Time: 6:30-7:00 PM Outdoor Activities

7:00-8:30 Meeting & Program

Location: Walter Fuller Park

7891 26 Avenue, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Program: Tampa Bay Watch Presentation with Peter Clark

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com/>

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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