



Cape Fear Flyfishers Meeting Minutes—June 18, 2025

<https://capefearff.com>

President Rick Hettenbach called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the St James Community Center. Approximately 20 members attended the meeting.

NEW MEMBERS/VISITORS:

One visitor attended the meeting:

- Bob Shively; Phone: 703-980-0529 email: bob.shively@verizon.net

One new member introduced himself:

- Will Hollingsworth

FLY Raffle:

- Rick Winterhalter won the fly raffle

FISHING REPORTS

- Rick Hettenbach reviewed his fishing in Cherokee and the Nantahala River. He used a Tuck Fly Shop guide, from the same shop as our spousal trip guides this fall. He report having a “really big one” that got away.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Doug Donaldson reported that the club's cash balance is \$4,426.37.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Jim White, “Rev” made a plea to all members to send their photo to Dennis at Denni523@me.com if they have not already done so. We have over thirty members who have submitted their photo, or about half the membership. This handy directory is posted on the web site and password protected for all to view and download.

UPCOMING EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- June 21: Surf Casting Clinic, 10:00-12:00 Caswell Beach
- July 16: Member Meeting at Homer Wright Event Center
- Aug 20: Member Meeting at Homer Wright Event Center
- Sept.17: Member Meeting at Homer Wright Event Center
- Oct. 4-8: Beaufort Trip in concert with FFI, email Rick rickhettenbach@gmail.com if wanting to attend
- Oct.19-24: Spousal Fishing trip to Dillsboro, NC

SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

Capt. Tim Disano of Tideline Charters <https://anycreek.com/tidelinecharters> was the speaker for this meeting . He presented detailed helpful information on “how to fly fish” in these inland salt waters.

Tim grew up fishing the Cape Fear area and works out of Calabash. He specializes in light tackle and fly fishing for redfish, black drum, speckled sea trout and flounder. He also targets tarpon and cobia.

Tim said we can fish Red Fish all year long using his techniques. Right now Cobia are also a target. He feels you need to “engage” the fish with bait. We are experiencing “Dog Days” early and the fish move slowly in these 80+ degree days. Mullet and shrimp are the primary source of food now. Best fishing is at tide changes; either incoming or outgoing. He relies on the water level of the tide rather than an exact time i.e. 1-2 feet of tide. The fish are feeding at specific water levels which only last a few minutes. Thus he also moves around from spot to spot to catch these levels in various areas. “Never sit in one spot too long” even if you saw activity at a one point of time.

Fish in low water spots and oyster bed areas. Look for “pushes”, “blow ups” or tails up. A tail up means Red fish are feeding on the bottom. Pay attention to current, wind and bait. Your fly must travel with the current, this means casting into the wind, even though not long casts, they require double haul capability. The fly needs to be targeted right on top the fish, not leading it. Setting the boat in position to make all this work is a challenge and casts need to be made quickly, you can’t spend time with several back casts. The fish will move.

Tim showed several example locations on the Bonaparte Creek, but same examples can be found all over this area. Best condition is outgoing tide at specific small creeks emptying into larger water area and “drains”. Drains are very small slits in the grasses where Reds exit the draining ponds. These can be very narrow slits in the grass and Reds will actually push through in these areas rather than follow the larger water paths or creeks as the water levels drop. Prefer times of outgoing highest tide levels (king tides). Reds are in small schools, no more than four at this time of year.

In the autumn Reds travel in larger schools and “bait is everywhere”. Reds will also sit in slightly deeper waters around a shallow area and wait to get bait in the shallow area. Cast your line into the shallow area. Make sure to immatate the bait. Shrimp does not move quickly and sort of “hops”.

The slightest noise by your movement on the boat will startle the fish. Tim uses a #8 weight rod and only has a #12 weight for larger catches. He uses a non-sinking line with a pre-strected #20 flourocarbon tippet, he pre-stretches by tying one end to a point in his garage and stretches it to a second point, leaving it there for a couple days to maintain the stretch. Flies he purchases from <https://239flies.com/collections/shrimp> and will use dark colors in our darker waters and will use less dark if water is clearer. He prefers to make fish “question” and strike the bait.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM. Six members continued discussions at Lonerider restuarant on Oak Island. The venue was changed from Paul’s.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Falkenstein

CFF Board for 2024/25 are:

Rick Hettenbach -President/Club Officer
Al Roy-Vice President/Club Officer
Doug Donaldson-Treasurer/Club Officer
Dennis Falkenstein-Secretary/Club Officer
Jim White
Steve Moore
Jim Larson
Joe Fetter
Dominick Sangillo

Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Director-Education
Director-Webmaster/Conservation
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member