



Cape Fear Flyfishers Meeting Minutes—November 19, 2025

<https://capefearff.com>

President Rick Hettenbach called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Homer Wright Event Center. Approximately 30 members attended the meeting.

NEW MEMBERS/VISITORS:

- One visitor attended meeting:
Jack Bartels; phone 847-815-5363, email j.bartels@comcast.net
He is process of moving to Wilmington from Highland Park, Illinois

FLY Raffle:

- Mike Raby won the fly raffle.

FISHING REPORTS

- Joe Fetter and Rick talked of their recent fishing and The Rev Jim White mentioned some good catches in the canal near his home.
- Slides of the Spousal fishing trip to Dillsboro were presented, a few are attached. Twenty six people attended, including members and wives. The water was very low due to lack of rain and very little dam release. The stocking is still recovering from Hurricane Hellene, but despite all of this the fishing was still enjoyable and everyone made catches during the floats. The guides were extremely appreciative of having our support as they recover from last years cancellations. Everyone enjoyed the dinners that were arranged; when we could all meet up with other members and wives in the group.

TREASURERS REPORT

- Treasurer Doug Donaldson reported that the club's cash balance is \$ 4178.57. There are final 2025 accounts to be paid, including Christmas party appetizers (\$300) and Homer Wright Event Center (\$450 approximately), as well as other minor expenses.

MEMBERSHIP

- Current membership is 70.

UPCOMING EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The major upcoming event is the annual CFF dinner arranged by Ann White. It will again be held at the "Island Way" restaurant on Oak Island. Hors d'oeuvres will be supplied by the CFF Club and there will be cash bar. Ann White has paid to reserve this restaurant exclusively for CFF. Attendees are to pay Ann \$60.00 per meal which includes tip.

SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

- Captain Seth Vernon of [Double Haul Guide Service](#) 910-233-4520 CaptainSeth@icloud.com made an excellent presentation.

He has a Fly and Light Tackle fishing service and offers year round guide service for fishing redfish, speckled trout, flounder and more, guiding the waters of Oak Island, Bald Head Island, Carolina Beach, and Wrightsville.

A native Texan, Seth arrived in N.C. in 1997 seeking an education in the Blue Ridge Mountains at Appalachian State University. In 1998, fishing guide and friend, Ollie Smith took Seth on as a rookie guide at Foscoe Fishing Company. A fly fishing addiction was spawned and Seth began professionally guiding trout and smallmouth anglers on the rivers and streams of the high country and tailwaters in neighboring Tennessee.

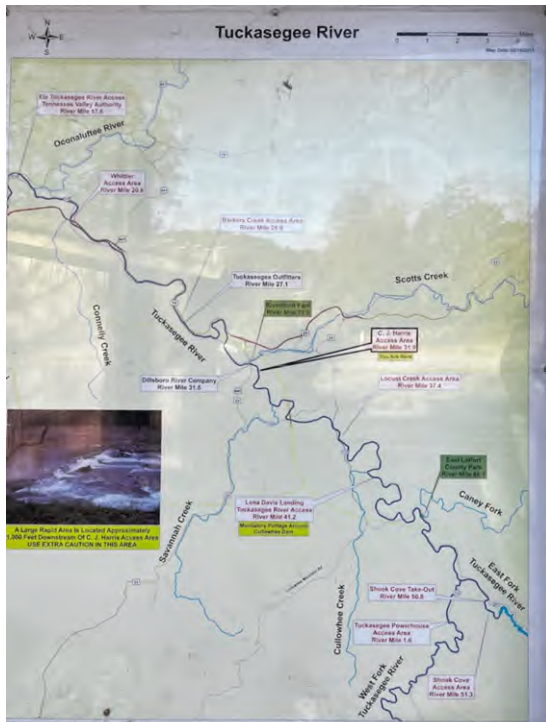
After guiding for several years out of Boone, NC and traveling to fish western rivers the allure of wild fish in wild places led Seth and his bride, Francesca, in 2002 to work for one of Alaska's premier fly out fishing lodges, Mission Lodge. Here in the heart of Bristol Bay, Alaska under the tutelage of famed guides Bobby Kratzer and Wally Adams, Seth cultivated new skills as an outdoorsman and for fishing steelhead, salmon, trout, char, pike and grayling. In 2004 Seth and friend Stuart Smith partnered to operate Intracoastal Angler, saltwater tackle purveyors in Wrightsville Beach, NC. Seth began investing his energy into learning the tackle, techniques and local waters both from the poling platform as well as the cockpit of sportfishing vessels plying the gulfstream. With the seemingly endless bounty of pelagics to fish for as well as a burgeoning shallow water scene being developed, Wilmington became home base and provided an excellent learning environment. It seemed logical that the next step would be the creation of Double Haul Guide Service in 2006.

By 2008 Seth had begun to work on a film exploring North Carolina's state fish, the Red Drum. Working alongside director Luke Pearson, of Lift Films and angler Josh Eddings, Seth found the experience to be both challenging and rewarding. Redfish Can't Jump debuted to a packed crowd in Wilmington at Level Five in January of 2010 and went on to receive critical acclaim. The film has made a tremendous impact in the angling community in NC and the quest for gamefish status as well as the removal of gill nets in NC waters.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM. Many members continued discussions at Oak Island Pub.

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