



Minutes April 15, 2015
St. James Community Center

The Cape Fear Flyfishers met at the St. James Community Center on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

Introduction of New Members and Guests

The Club welcomed guests Dick Ishler and Denny Delozier and new members Dan Smith and Eddy Van Vliet.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 18, 2015 meeting were approved subject to making minor revisions.

Treasurer's Report

Tony Mangiapane reported we have \$2,104.10 in the bank.

Fly Drawing

Forest Duncan held the winning ticket for the fly drawing.

Fishing Reports

Jim White reported a neighbor catching 11 speckled trout on a topwater plug at the end of the street next to his home. One was a keeper. Forest reported catching a 22.5" speckled trout on a MirroLure MR 17 in Wildlife Creek. A few days earlier he caught a 21.5" and a 20" trout, again in Wildlife Creek, late in the day between 5 and 7 p.m.

Old Business

Meetup: The members concluded the website has not been as effective as a communications and recruitment tool and agreed to close it. In its place, Steve Moore offered to create a new website that will be simpler but still provide essential information

for members. The site will also be a useful for those searching the web for local flyfishing organizations, providing membership and contact information. We will use email to plan and coordinate trips. Harry and Jim White made motions to replace the Meetup.com site with a new capefearflyfishers.com site and reimburse Steve Moore for the expenses he incurred in setting up the Meetup.com site. The membership approved the motions.

[IFFF](#) – Jim White reported we must sign and submit the completed constitution and by-laws – also the club roster which Harry will complete shortly. Jim will also send IFFF the financial information they need. When he receives IFFF approval, Jim will work with our lawyer on incorporating the club as a [501 \(c\) 3 organization](#) and receiving NC state recognition.

Annual Picnic and Holiday Dinner – Harry proposed the dates for the annual picnic to be Wednesday, August 19th and the annual holiday dinner at the St. James Members Club to be Wednesday, December

16th. Members agreed and Harry will try to make reservations on these dates.

Roanoke Rapids near [Weldon, N.C.](#) - The trip is scheduled for Monday, May 4 through Wednesday, May 6 – subject to the weather forecast as we get closer to those dates. We will fish Monday afternoon, all day Tuesday, and Wednesday morning. Seven people indicated interest in participating. Jim White has two boats for the trip; Charlie White will bring a third boat. Jim White advises fishing any color clouser you wish as long as it is lime-green. You must use barbless hooks. You will also need an 8 or 9 weight rod with sinking line.

Town Creek – We now plan to fish Town Creek ([Rice Creek Boat Ramp](#)) on Thursday, April 23rd. Steve and Forest will be using their kayaks. Jim and Charlie White, Leon Hicks, Greg Swift, and Jim Larson also plan on participating. Bobby Sands cautioned to be wary of the red wasps which are building their nests this time of year.

PROGRAM: KAYAK FISHING

Members Steve Moore and Forest Duncan shared their experiences on accessorizing and using their kayaks for fishing. See Steve's PowerPoint "Kayak Fishing.pdf" and Forest's handout "Kayak Fishing Comes of Age" sent separately.

Steve and Forest used a round robin approach in which each addressed the following questions:

- What caused me to look to a kayak instead of a boat?
- Why we picked the kayak we selected?
- What accessories we installed to improve the fishing experience?
- How we fish from it?

What caused me to look to a kayak instead of a boat?

Steve bought his [Native Angler Ultimate 14.5 kayak](#) to save money, paying \$1,100 for it used instead of buying a \$20,000 power boat. He also had a history of canoeing in Northern Virginia. One can buy less expensive ones at Dick's for \$300-\$400 but expect to pay more for one designed for fishing.

Like Steve, Forest chose his [Hobie Pro Angler 12 kayak](#) due to the cost savings over buying a power boat. He paid about \$6,000 for the kayak and [trailer](#), including about \$2,300 for the kayak, \$2,700 for the trailer, and a few hundred dollars more for accessories. Storage was also a factor. One can store the kayak and trailer in one's garage if you are willing to forego the garage space for it. Attending Jerry Dilsaver's kayak seminar in May, 2011 also convinced him to buy a kayak.

Why we picked the kayak we selected?

Steve chose his Native because it is wide; permits you to stand; its hull provides stability; it is long; and its weight and width enables it to move faster. He recommends choosing a paddle size based on your height and the width of the kayak you select. Be sure you get a seat that is supportive and comfortable. If the kayak comes equipped with a flimsy seat, buy another one that has a firm frame and is adjustable. On Native Kayak models, you can also add a ["Captain's perch"](#) to increase the height of the seat for fishing. For fly fishing, it is easier to kneel, which permits a more natural casting motion. One can also stand and fish. On Steve's model (Angler Ultimate 14.5), a second seat can be installed if another person wants to join you.

Forest chose the Hobie because of its stability, maneuverability, stealth, and the exercise it provides. The [Hobie Mirage pedal drive](#) frees up your arms and hands to fish when you pedal. It is heavier than other kayaks but the heaviness contributes to its stability. Choosing a sit-on-top instead of a sit-in kayak also gives you more freedom to cast from a higher vantage point.

What accessories we installed to improve the fishing experience?

Forest chose a comfortable seat that provides excellent back support and a collapsible [Hobie "H" bar](#) that can be installed to lean against when standing, giving you more stability. He added a battery-operated live well that can be used for keeping live bait or fish you have caught.

Other accessories included a light for night use; a traditional kayak paddle to use if the pedal drive fails; a stick anchor; an anchor trolley system that permits you to reposition the kayak by moving the trolley rope; a collapsible landing net designed for kayaks; rod holders including one designed for holding a fly rod; a depth finder; an attachment for a Go Pro camera; a VHF radio (joined Boats USA rescue club); a life vest; an insulated cooler bag; a grapple anchor, and a cart wheel to transport the kayak to and from the

ramp. Also include a urinal from your last hospital visit. A storage hatch allows you to store emergency equipment, a change of clothing, etc.

Forest's latest "toy" is a [Super Stick push pole](#) that extends from 9 to 17 feet. This can be used in shallow marsh sightfishing for reds. You can also add an electric propeller and power pole anchor to the "toy box."

One does not need to register the kayak with the state but you must do so for the trailer. You cannot use the trailer in salt water as it will damage the wheel bearings. You can't avoid getting into the water when you put in and take out the kayak. One uses the cart wheels to take the kayak from the trailer to the water and vice versa. Forest likes to wear the knee high, waterproof, and warm [NRS Boundary boots](#) in cold weather.

Not being able to use the trailer in salt water is a drawback although there may be trailers on the market that can be used in salt water. With Forest's trailer, one must remove most of the accessories from the kayak at the dock and take them to the car using a [surf fishing cart](#). Another downside is that the Hobie Pro Angler is heavy, requiring a trailer. You cannot lift it on top of a car although you can put it in the back of a pickup truck.

There is no way to get out of a kayak without getting wet. After 4 or 5 hours on the water, it is important to get out of the kayak carefully, securing the kayak against the dock or shore; perching yourself on the side; and then standing up.

Forest does not load the kayak with all these accessories but chooses them based on the type fishing he will do.

Whereas Forest's kayak includes all off-the-shelf accessories, Steve's kayak is an excellent example of the creativity one can use in accessorizing a kayak. His Native kayak weighs 59 lbs and is 14.5 feet long. He carries a rope to pull the kayak across shallow areas if necessary. For fly fishing, he uses a homemade skirt cut from a cheap tarp that can be attached on the sides of the kayak with Velcro, allowing the fly line to collect without becoming entangled in the kayak attachments. A fly rod holder on the side of the kayak back and behind the seat can store the rod when traveling. One must be sure the rod is angled upward to avoid the danger of breaking the tip. He attaches a butt sack to his seat to store his fly box, forceps, etc.

Steve stores spinning tackle in a separate bag that also includes an emergency beacon, a backup emergency signal, and a VHF radio. You don't want to have a heart attack if you are out alone so you must have this type emergency equipment. Steve also wears a brightly colored fluorescent vest if fishing in areas where there are power boats.

Steve installed a float on both his stakeout pole and anchor so he would be able to find and retrieve them if the kayak is tipped over; e.g., by the wake of a large tanker on the ICW or from getting hung on a log in a fast running creek. He can also attach a video camera to the top of the pole using a cut up section of PVC and a ¼ inch screw to film him fly casting and viewing it later to critique his skill.

He added a mount for a trolling motor which he uses when his wife joins him or he has a long distance to travel, such as to Buzzard's Bay. He bought a freshwater motor at Bass Pro Shop three years ago and it has held up well in salt water. A 12-volt battery powers the motor.

Most kayaks are equipped with the rod holders standing vertically. This can present a problem when you catch fish spin fishing and the fish begins swimming around the kayak. If the rods you are not using are stored vertically along the side you must maneuver around them. Steve made rod holders out of PVC piping that resemble "rocket launchers" and hold rods horizontally out the back of the kayak. You must be careful and be sure you don't back up against a structure that could break the rod tips.

One must tie down all accessories to avoid losing them if you tip over. Forest tipped over only once when he reached over to retrieve a lure hung up a foot or two below the surface in marsh grass. Otherwise, boat wakes have never caused him to tip over. Owning a heavier kayak is more of a burden to handle but it offers more stability on the water. One can also buy outriggers to add stability to a kayak.

How we fish from it?

Steve typically spends 5 or 6 hours on the water, travelling 5 or 6 miles, and has traveled as far as 9 miles. When you ride with the tide, you can travel 4 or 5 MPH.

Forest seldom anchors when he is kayak fishing although he may do so occasionally at a spot such as a creek mouth. He is using Seth Vernon's advice to fish parallel to a grass line more than perpendicular to it. This puts the lure longer in the strike zone. Moving along the grass line in a kayak makes this easier to do than if in a power boat.

Fishing a narrow feeder creek can be done with much greater stealth with a kayak than a power boat. Many believe it is necessary to turn off a depth finder when fishing this and other shallow water.

Steve finds a kayak, compared to a john boat, enables one to get through skinnier creeks leading to high tide bays in the marsh.

Forest finds that using a kayak is great for freshwater flyfishing such as on Rices Creek, the Black River, and on his two-acre, backyard pond. Wind is much less a problem than on the marsh.

Forest recalled a tip from Al Noble to hold your reel high when stripping. This enables you to make longer stripping motions.

When you are out fishing, it is helpful to get out of the kayak from time to time, walking and casting from a hard bottom marsh area, sand bar, or shell bank. This gets the circulation going and recharges your "battery."

Respectfully submitted,

Forest Duncan, Secretary