



Minutes April 20, 2016 St. James Community Center

The Cape Fear Flyfishers met at the St. James Community Center on Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Introduction of New Members and Guests

President Jim White introduced three new members, two of whom were out of town:

- Sal Ambrosio (Susann) lives in Villanova, PA, but comes here often. Sal has been a fly fisher 15-20 years.
- Joe Rinaldi (Joan) lives in St. James on Cherry Bark Circle but had to be out of town. Joe has been a fly fisher for over 50 years. He has a Sylvan tin boat.
- Bill Buchsbaum (Lisa) was present. He and Lisa live on Shearwater Way. Not yet retired, he has been a fly fisherman for 45 years.

Jim also introduced two visitors:

- Marty MacDonald (Kathy) has fly fished and Kathy is very adept at fish catching.
- John Stowell is brand new to fly fishing and looks forward to learning all he can about it.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Tony Mangiapane reported that we have approximately \$2,300 in the bank. We are expecting to have to pay around \$350 for liability insurance through the IFFFF in mid-May.

Fly Drawing

In what appeared to some as a rigged drawing, Jim White won the flies again – the second time in two months. He was delighted since the previous month many of the flies he won were ones he had loaned to members who had forgotten to bring a fly.

Reports

The Board of Directors report included:

- We have been approved as a charter club in the International Federation of Fly Fishers, though our official letter has yet to arrive.
- The Annual Picnic will be on the **4th** Wednesday of **June** this year. We will return to the St. James Waterway Park (a map and gate passes will be provided for those who do not live in St. James). Hamburgers and hot dogs are the main course. Cost is \$10 per couple (\$5 per person) and those with last names starting with A-J will be asked to bring an appetizer; K-M a salad, baked beans, etc.; M-W- a dessert.
- By popular demand, a second mountain fishing trip will be planned for the second or third week of October to the Waynesville, NC area.
- The Annual Christmas/Holidays/Awards Banquet will be held at the Members Club Bar on Friday, December 9. More details will follow. Please put this and the dates above on your calendar to avoid missing out because of a conflict.
- For the past several months we have held our monthly meetings an hour earlier than in the past. At the May meeting, we will vote whether to continue this practice or revert to our original 7:00 meeting time.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

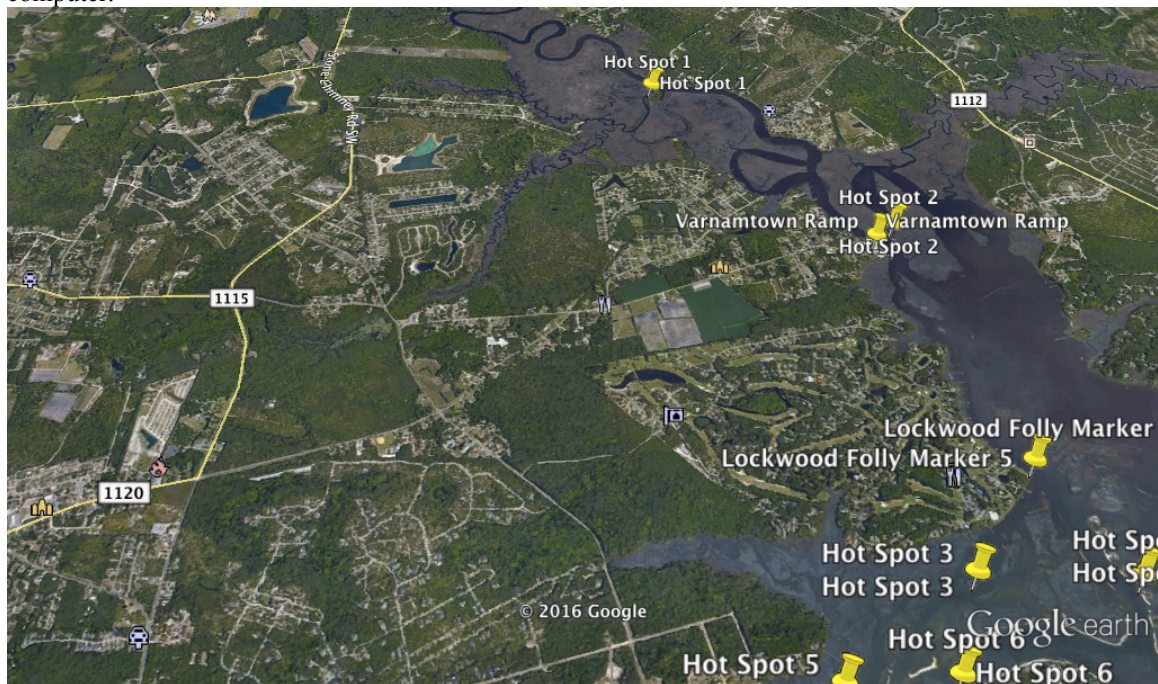
We will have a 3-hour casting clinic open to the public on Sunday, May 1. For this clinic, please bring your favorite rod(s) so other members or potential members can try casting them.

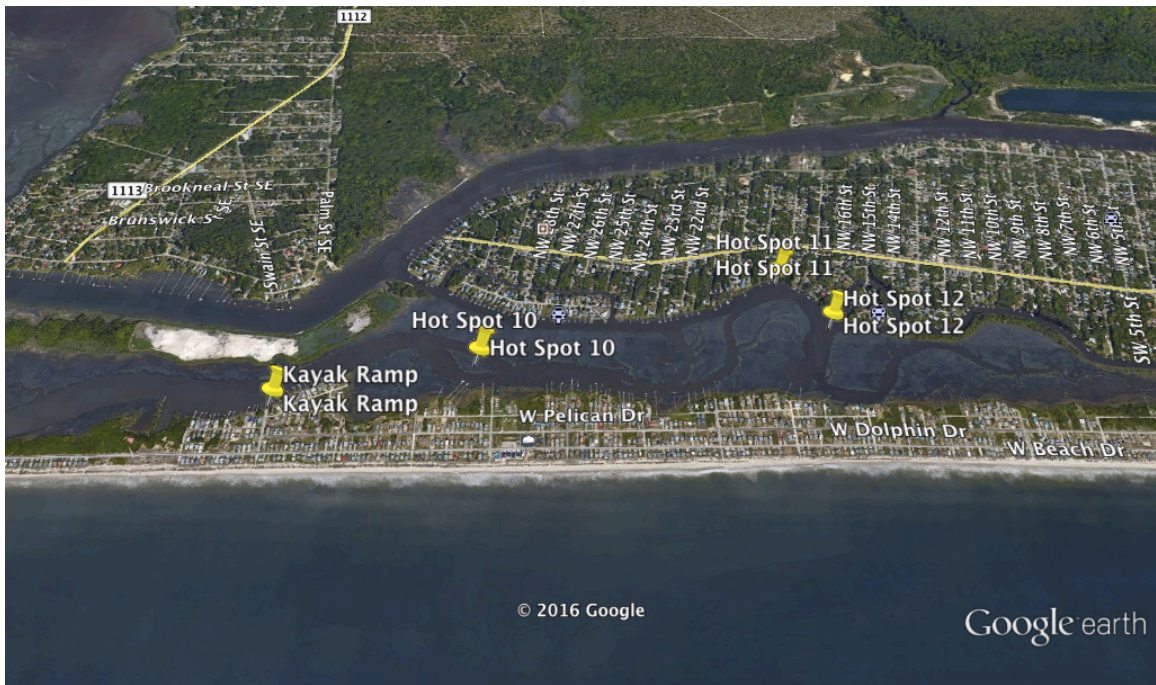
Bob Brien has planned another two-day Flip Pallot & Lefty Kreh Fly Casting Clinic to be held in Jensen Beach, Florida, on October 21-22. Check with Bob if you are interested this remarkable opportunity. The number attending is limited so make your plans now.

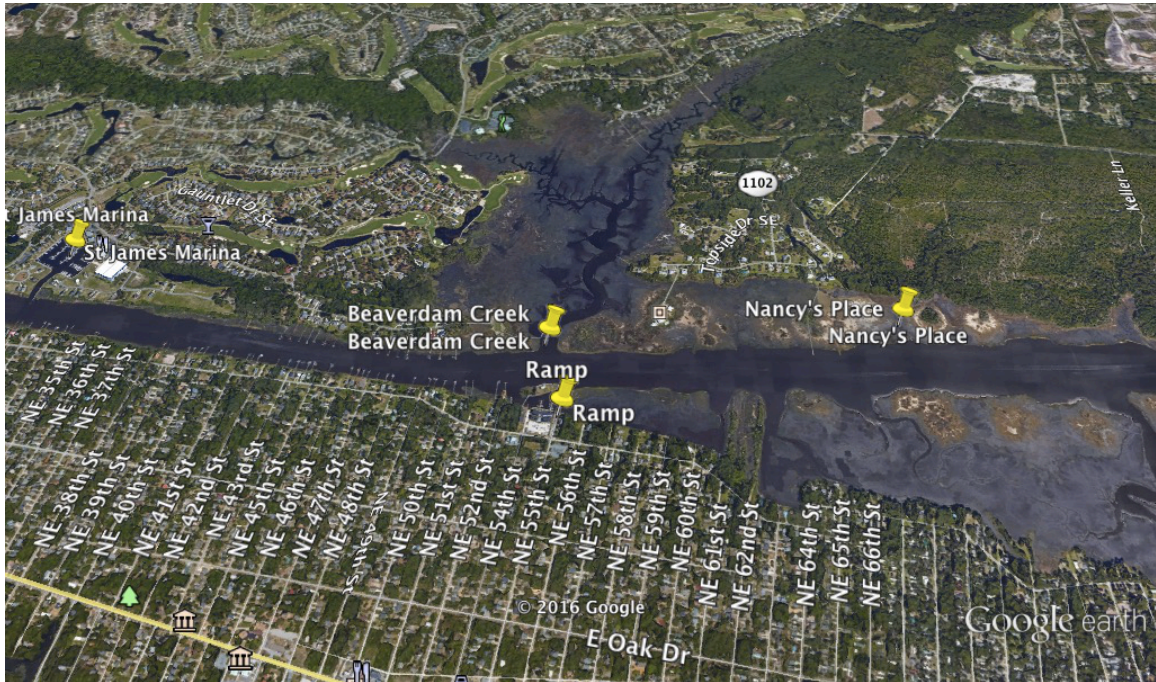
Program: The Internet and How It Can Help Improve Your Fly Fishing
Steve Moore, Vice-President

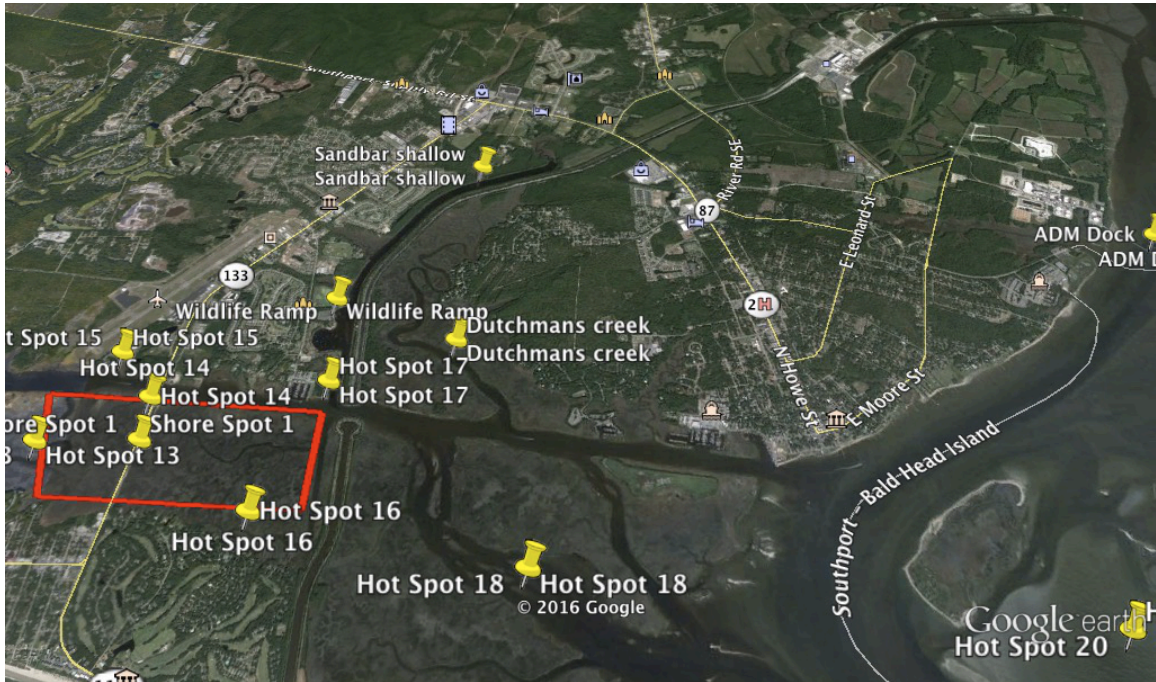
Steve Moore began his presentation by showing us some of the features of the website he developed for the club (www.capefearflyfishers.com). In addition to pictures, minutes, helpful hints, and such, there are links to Tides4fishing.com and Weather Underground (www.wunderground.com). By using Google Earth Pro (now free instead of \$400 per year since they quit giving the property boundaries of each parcel along with information regarding ownership) and his GPS, Steve amazed us with how he could not only research a particular area (in Google Earth Pro, hit the “history” button and you can see all the previous satellite pictures going back to black and white pictures).

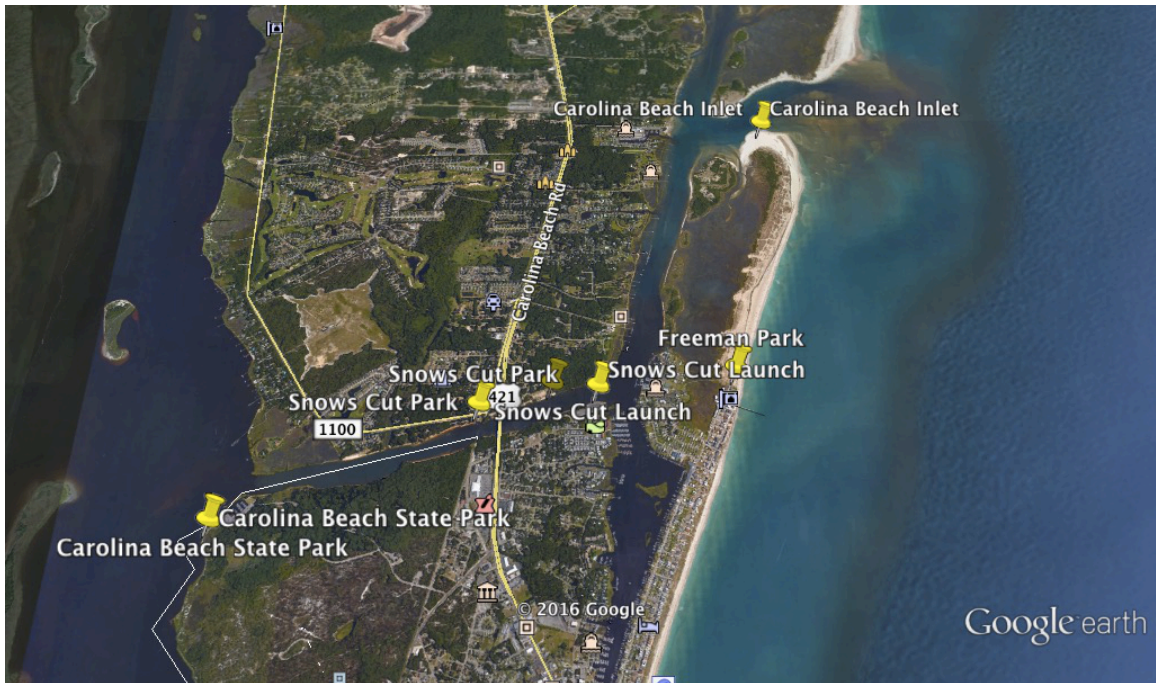
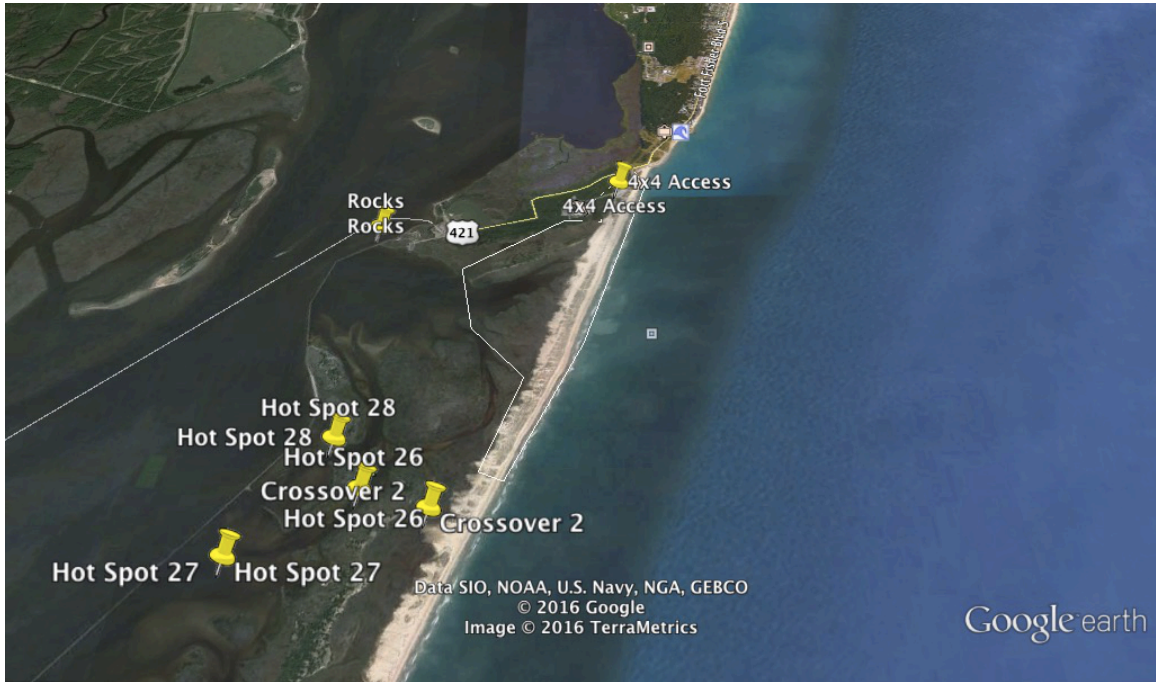
Also, Steve is able to create waypoints to plot his route and transfer them from his GPS to his computer.

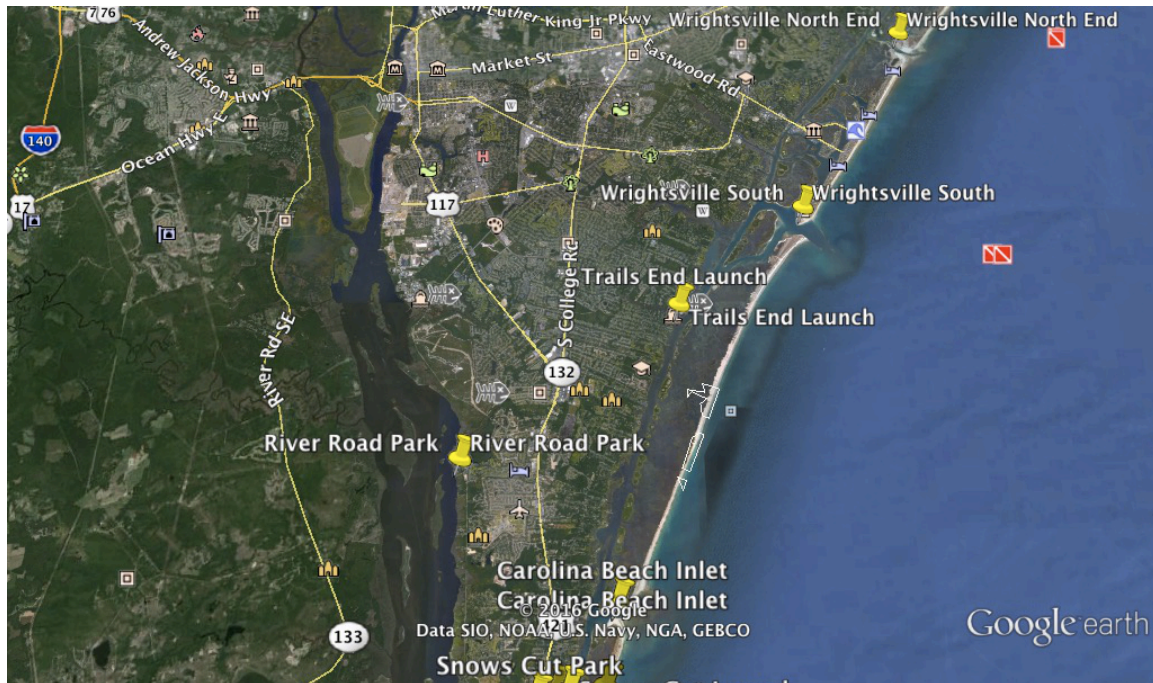












The marked areas give you a good idea where fish have been over the years. I have tried attaching this to the minutes to no avail. I will forward Steve's email with it to all of you instead.

In short, the places you want to try in Brunswick County are: the St. James Marina (though a recent dredging has made fishing worse- also, do not touch anything), docks and drop-offs along the ICW, Beaverdam Creek, Nancy's Place (across from the 55th Street/E. Yacht Drive public ramp), or use the Wildlife public ramp off Fish Factory Road to access the rocks at the entrance to the Wildlife Creek, all of the marsh/flats behind Caswell Beach and the Town of Oak Island (both east and west sides of the old bridge onto Oak Island), the Elizabeth River, Dutchman's Creek, the upper reaches of Wildlife Creek where there is a tree in the water and a huge sandbar, or use the Southport ramp at the Small Boat Harbor to access the waterfront in Southport, the islands between Southport and Bald Head, and the creeks behind Bald Head. Remember the Cape Fear River can turn very nasty when the tide and wind are going against each other.

In the Lockwood Folly area, the public ramp at Blue Water Point Marina gives good access to the marsh/flats to the west, the Inlet, the rocks at the Inlet, Galloway Flats- just east of the Inlet on the mainland side, and the shell banks along both sides of the ICW from the Inlet to the mouth of the LF River. You can access these areas from the public ramp at Sunset Harbor for those as well as the sites up the LF River, the shell banks to the east, the west side of LF #5 (the green marker with #5 on it), the docks just past the golf course launching ramp, both sides of the LF River where oyster shells have been piled up once you pass the docks and are getting closer to Varnamtown. You can use the public ramp at Varnamtown to fish around Varnamtown (especially when the shrimp boats are in and the catch has been de-headed), the creek and its tributaries just east of the ramp in Varnamtown (go past the house on the edge of the marsh and be careful there for a sand bar), the first two major creeks to the left (west) up the LF River- (they are very shallow so don't try to go up them, just fish the mouths), Pepsi Island and the creek behind it, the rocks at the "marina" for Winding River, and any little creek that feeds into the River. Know that the current in these areas can be right fast so plan your trips using a good tide table (such as Tides4Fishing or SaltwaterTides) and use the tide to your advantage- paddling a kayak against these tides is tough.

The best way to get to the Big Davis Canal is to use the unimproved ramp at 39th Place NW off of West Beach Road on Oak Island. The marshes and oyster beds in Davis' Creek/Montgomery Slough, and Big Davis Canal can be productive. You can "troll" a fly along the edge of the marsh for speckled trout or go to the oyster beds at low tides and the low marsh/flats at high tides. There is a huge oyster bed complex in the Big Davis Canal just east of where the main channel of Montgomery Slough feeds into the Canal around 15th or 16th Streets SW, not too far from the red round roof on the house high on what once was a beautiful sand dune. The main channel is the middle of three times the Slough intersects the Canal. Don't

try going up the first or third unless you like to crawl through mud and oyster rocks. The middle channel is navigable in many boats at all but very low tide. There is a stick in the middle of the eastern-most intersection. It warns you of some serious oyster rocks. Fishing just west of it can be spectacular at times.

Remember, when going to the marsh/flats, high marsh means soft, sink-up-to-your –tail-bone muck while low marsh often means harder ground. The low marsh is what you want to find because it is where the tide covers it only during very high tides for the most part. Redfish loves going up in those areas when the tide is higher than 4.6' above mean low water.

In addition to Weather Underground, www.wunderground.com) WECT's weather app is very good and very usable. It has excellent radar and can be used almost like Google Earth, in that you can check not only the radar but the weather forecast for the entire nation. This writer uses it frequently and recommends it highly.

Time caught us before we got to other sites of note. NC Angler has an interesting blog. Plus you can Google almost any topic to get information about gear, videos of casting techniques, excellent videos for knot tying, rod building, fly tying, and the like. Just spend a few hours one rainy day letting your imagination take you to all sorts of interesting places on the internet. Let us know if you find something of particular interest.

The meeting was adjourned after this whirlwind tour.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. White, Jr., Temporary Secretary