



Club Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2016
St. James Community Center

The Cape Fear Flyfishers met at the St. James Community Center at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, July 20, 2016.

Club Business Meeting

Introduction of New Members and Guests - President Jim White welcomed Scott Ewing and Ray Hitney.

Approval of the May Minutes - Members approved the May minutes.

Treasurer's Report - Tony Mangiapane reported we have about \$1,900 in the bank.

[International Fly Fishers Federation \(IFFF\)](#): Jim consulted a lawyer regarding NC recognition of our 501 (c) (3) status and we are all set.

Fly Drawing – Tony Mangiapane was the lucky winner.

Picnic Payments – if you still owe for the club picnic, send your payment to Tony Mangiapane.

Gear Swap – our next meeting will be a gear swap. Bring gear you no longer need or want to show off. This will be an opportunity to declutter your fishing tackle.

Trips and Activities

Breast Cancer Event – The club will host, in collaboration with the Pretty in Pink Foundation and the Doshier Foundation, a 60-90 minute free Breast Cancer Seminar on Thursday, July 28, 7:00 p.m. at the St. James Community Center. Up to 15 couples can attend this event. Bring a bottle of wine. Men get breast cancer and men find 50% of breast cancers in women. (Event was later cancelled and members were encouraged to attend a seminar being held October 21 at the Senior Center in Southport.)

Fly Fishing Class – Jim White reported that 23 attended the first fly fishing class on July 5th; and 12 participated in the July 17th class. Jim thanked Dan Smith for coming up with the idea for the class – and producing the PowerPoint. Jim also thanked Ken Devansky who helped with refreshments; as well as those helping with casting instruction, including Dan Neuschafer, Eddie Van Vliet, Ed Smith, and Peter Laughlin.

Fly Tying Event – Eddie Van Vliet will host a fly tying session at his home in Varnamtown on July 29 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Email Eddie if you are interested.

Other upcoming events include fishing local waters, building your own fly rod, wade fishing tour, another Flip Pallot and Lefty Kreh clinic at Jensen Beach, Florida on October 21-22. Contact Bob Brien if you are interested in the Flip and Lefty clinic.

Round Table/What's Biting, Where and on what?

Fishing is slow. Jim saw a few small flounder and trout being caught off the end of the street next to his house. He and a friend recently went fishing in his boat and caught a sting ray and Virginia mullet. Jerry Dilsaver reported puppy drum fishing has been a “dog” so far this year in the Southport area. However, they are starting to bite in the lower Cape Fear River from the Southport waterfront up to Carolina Beach, including the Spoils Islands. Flounder fishing is ahead of where Jerry thought it would be. Those with boats are catching a couple of keepers for dinner. Some limits are being caught off the reefs. Considering the flounder stock, the catches have been better than he thought they would be.

PROGRAM: JERRY DILSAVER: FISHING LOCAL WATERS

Our guest speaker was [Capt. Jerry Dilsaver](#). Jerry was born and raised in Southport; was a national champion of the Southern Kingfish Association, and is a fishing story-teller extraordinaire. He writes a column for the State Port Pilot, NC Sportsman magazine, does radio shows, and holds fishing seminars you don't want to miss, especially his annual winter seminar with Jimmy Price.

Capt. Dilsaver has limited fly fishing experience but the lures he discussed suggested flies one could use to match them.



Jerry opened his presentation by noting John Huff, a guide in Wilmington, and a client landed a tarpon behind Bald Head Island last Saturday. He and clients caught three there on flies last year. There is also a tarpon fishery that travels through the sloughs on Frying Pan shoals. The tarpon respond to flies, such as a huge purple and brown gurgler. Locals have also sighted tarpon at night in the Lockwood Folly inlet.

Ladyfish are a fun fish to catch on a fly. One can fish for them off the Ft. Caswell dock and the ADM dock up the Cape Fear River. Also try the old Bald Head ferry dock where the new Wyndham hotel will be built. It isn't lighted but you can hang a light to attract bait which in turn will attract the ladyfish. Jerry uses a 2" white Gulp shrimp as ladyfish have a small mouth.

Typical spots for Spanish and blues are along the rips out of the inlets. If you see a school, don't motor across the school; fish around the school. Cut off the motor and drift to the school if you can. They eat glass minnows during the middle of the day. Use a small bucktail to catch them.

Bonita and false albacore do not venture close to Southport as they have tender gills and don't tolerate well the affluent-heavy Cape Fear River water. Look for them if we have a dry summer, less affluent, and the salt water line backing up to Wilmington. The Cape Fear River has a substantial tide line. Target the edge of the tide line offshore where you see bubbles and foam, much as you do fishing for trout in mountain streams.

When fishing the ocean, look for shoals that will pin bait on one side or the other. Blue fish are a lot of fun to catch; you can eat them if you keep them cold on the boat and clean them immediately after getting home. They don't store well in the freezer beyond three months.

Bait is the key. Look for bait pods in August and September, when you can see mullet as far as the eye can see. That's the buffet table.

Look for anything that congregates bait, such as structure. Fish don't care about the structure; they care about the bait the structure attracts.

As you fish coastal creeks, the deeper areas are going to be on the outside of the bends 99% of the time. That is where the tidal float is. We have an average tide of four feet; spring tides of five feet plus; and equinox tides of over seven feet. Tides are very important as they change the complexion of the fishing environment; you will fish in different places, depending on whether it is a rising or a falling tide. A moving tide is also a key factor as it moves bait. The Elizabeth River with its mounds of oyster rocks is a good example. Those mounds influence how the tide moves, not only on the sides of the mounds but also down the middle, as the mounds, emerged and submerged, affect the flow.

Jerry suggests visiting the river on low tide and taking pictures, establishing a location by aligning it with landmarks that help you find the spot on high tide. If you see a swirl on high tide, you know it's because of the oyster rock mound you saw there on the low tide.

On low tide, observe how the water is moving around the oyster mound; one side the water will be moving fast; the other side, slower. The current on the slow side will taper off straighter; the current on the faster side will have swirls in it. You want to fish along the break where the current has sucked in the bait. The predator fish will be in the calmer water waiting for the trapped bait to come by.

Shrimp is the number one bait – everything eats shrimp, including offshore dolphin. From mid-July, finger mullet become more popular. There is a tossup between a mud minnow and a poggy (menhaden); Jerry prefers the poggy as they are easier to catch. Poggy can be caught in open water; mud minnows must be caught in the back of creeks. You can catch poggy in the St. James

Marina or the sailboat hole near the Wildlife ramp on Fish Factory Road. You want small pogies. Clousers are good fly imitations.

Five or six miles offshore, large Spanish and king mackerel like to feed on bluefish more than pogies, so use a fly imitating a bluefish accordingly. Pier anglers also use bluefish to fish for king mackerel.

Inshore, Jerry fishes a gold spoon a lot. He casts to the edge of the grass and works the spoon back. After gold, he likes a copper spoon. Puppy drum and flounder like spoons. Until this year, Jerry has not caught trout on spoons but is doing so this year. He cuts the curly tail off a curly tail lure and hooks it on the spoon, hooking it sideways so it imitates a crab fleeing prey when you retrieve. A new spoon on the market is a [Cajun Sleigh](#) that has a spinner attached to it. Cast in water less than three or four feet deep. Use a fly with some flash to imitate these lures.

Jerry has started fishing shrimp baits on a swim bait (flutter) hook so when he twitches it, it settles level; it dives using a jig head – shrimp don't do that. Tuck the point of the hook just under the plastic and cast it like a weedless spoon to the edge of the grass and creep it back. The fish are going to be in the first foot or two of water along the grass line. Use a fly with a weed guard to imitate this bait. Jerry recommends using lighter color shrimp baits such as white, chartreuse, pink, pink and white; he particularly likes the white shrimp with chartreuse tail. These lighter colors work better in darker, affluent water. He fishes darker colors in clearer water such as you find in Florida.

A fall big red drum bite is developing between the end of September and Thanksgiving. Some have been caught on Yaupon Reef; a dozen were caught in the surf, but most are in 12-18 feet of water under the schools of pogies swimming about the distance from the surf to the end of the Oak Island piers. They follow the schools of pogies. The largest red drum caught last year was 53 inches; most are 40 inches plus. One angler caught 22 in just one morning.

From the Big Hill on the beach front near a red-roof house you can see a swirl of water that sometimes holds fish. Jerry caught a king mackerel there in eight feet of water.

A fly fisherman can probably get a lure down to them, using a ten-weight rod. Jerry has caught them on a variety of baits, live and artificial. Use a 50 lb mono leader instead of wire in case you want to avoid dealing with sharks. He uses 30 lb braided line. If you use a swivel, tie it to a foot of mono between the swivel and the braid. If you tie the swivel to the braid, it will tangle.

If fishing from a kayak, you need a section of mono at the tip because you must high-stick the rod when trying to grip or net the fish. You need that mono to provide line stretch to help protect the rod tip. In our dirty water, you can use mono instead of flourocarbon leaders. Use an 8/0 Eagle Claw circle hook.

The prime spot is between the Oak Island and Ocean Crest piers. Don't crowd the piers and interfere with the pier fishermen. Sometimes pier anglers lose fish due to boaters crossing their lines.

Try to find schools of pogies on the surface. It is easier to find them after the annual King Mackerel tournament in October. If it is a cool morning, it may be 9 or 10 o'clock before the pogies rise to the surface. If you see a moving pod of bait, don't cast in front of the pod – nor

into the middle of the pod; instead, cast to the back of the pod, where the red drum will be following it.

To catch offshore bull reds, Jerry fishes 30 inches below the surface, using a [Magnum Cajun Thunder float](#) rig. Lob the float into the back of the pod; let the ring created by the splash expand to 6-8 feet; pull the rod tip down and tight to the water and jerk it hard two or three times to make a loud sound; move if you don't get a bite after three casts.

Use a triple surgeon knot to tie the mono to the braid; this give you a slimmer knot than a double-uni knot and travels more smoothly through the rod guides.

The "hot hole" is where the cooling water from the nuclear power drains into the ocean. You can find the hot hole by heading out the Cape Fear inlet; turn to the west; run along the beach past the lighthouse; travel until you see a big blue building. That is the final pump house for the cooling water system of the nuclear power plant. There are four eight-foot pipes that run 2600 feet from there into the ocean. The water comes up there. The cooling water comes into the plant above the ferry where one sees a large concrete wall with the fence and concertina wire on top. That's the furthest point of the intake structure. Water is sucked into the plant through four, eight-foot pipes, two pipe for each reactor.

Jerry uses a four-inch paddle tail soft plastic on a 3/0 swim bait (flutter) hook.

Respectfully submitted,

Forest Duncan

Secretary