



Club Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2017
St. James Community Center

The Cape Fear Flyfishers met at the St. James Community Center at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. The meeting began with the casting clinic followed at 6:00 with the club business meeting.

Club Business Meeting

Introduction of New Members and Guests – President Jim White welcomed Jack Craven and asked each member to briefly introduce themselves as we have so many new members.

Approval of Minutes - Members approved the August minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Tony Mangiapane reported we have about \$4,646 in the bank.

Drawing of Donated Flies – Rick Enz was the lucky winner.

Trips and Activities

Knot Seminars – Members can expect more knot-tying seminars next year similar to the one held last month. Future seminars will include more advanced knots.

Tours for Boat Owners, August 24-27, 2017 – Jim White took boat owners out to learn local fishing spots and how to navigate local marshes. Let Jim know if you are interested in participating in a future boat tour.

NC Mountain Trip, October 8-12 – registration is closed; the trip is full. Non-resident member Tom Donaldson will be joining us.

Georgetown, SC – volunteers are needed to arrange the trip. Jim will give someone names of guides if you want to set it up. Contact Jim if you are interested in coordinating the trip. The guides can provide fly rods and reels.

Masonboro Inlet near Wrightsville Beach, late October, early November – the clearer water of Masonboro Inlet is better suited for catching False Albacore. Catching them is an indescribable experience. Jim White will offer his boat but more boats are needed. The inlet is a 30 nm boat

trip from the St. James Marina, up the Cape Fear to Snow's Cut; and up the ICW to the inlet. Boat owners without trailers are asked to consider the trip. Again, the club needs someone to volunteer to organize this trip.

Christmas/Holiday/Annual Banquet & Awards – Saturday, December 16 – It will be held at the St. James Plantation Members Club. The cost is about \$35 per person and there will be a cash bar. Come for a fun evening and the chance to win a fly rod; you must be present to win.

New Business

The November planning program will be held October 18 following the election of officers. The October program, *Tactics for Fall and Winter Fishing*, will be presented in November.

Officer-in-Nomination:

President: Ed Smith
Vice-President: Bill Buchsbaum
Secretary: Nancy Fuller
Treasurer: Scott Ewing
Environmental Officer: Steve Moore
Activities Director: Jim Larson

Roundtable

What's Biting – where, and on what?

Ray Kozen reported catching trophy rainbow and brown trout this past spring at [Riverbound X-Stream Flyfishing](#) in Southwest Virginia near Lebanon, Virginia. One can fish 12 miles of private water and four creeks and rivers. The largest rainbow he caught was 33" and 17lbs; the average rainbow is 16-24." Fish species include rainbows (70%) and Brown (30%).

Now is the season to fish for bull red drum as they follow the mullet migration south. Many are caught surf fishing.

Steve Moore caught a 38" redfish on spinning gear and live bait off the ICW near Masonboro Inlet. Steve fishes the channel the redfish use to enter the flats.

Nancy Fuller offered to introduce members to Nancy's Place (shown on the club's Google Earth Hot Spots calendar) where she watches redfish tailing in the flooded marsh flats around her community dock. One can launch from the public boat launch at the end of NE 55th Street on Oak Island. Jim White reminded members to sightfish for reds when the tide reaches 4.6' or higher. If you don't find tailing fish at Nancy's Place, Jim suggests looking for them across the ICW at "Charlie's Place."

FLY FISHING IN THE MOUNTAINS

Members Steve Moore, Bill Buchsbaum, and Scott Ewing presented the program, sharing their experiences with fly fishing in the mountains of NC, Wyoming, and Montana.

Steve reviewed the options for fishing next month in the NC mountains. Although the drift boats and guides are fully committed, there is still the opportunity to wade fish. Those wade fishing are reminded to not enter areas posted as private.

We will be fishing in three areas: Maggie Valley, Transylvania, and Cherokee.

From Maggie Valley one can access the Tuckasegee River and the Watauga River, both of which will have been stocked a week before we arrive – see the [online stocking schedules](#) for Haywood, Jackson, and Transylvania Counties. A [printable PDF schedule](#) is also available. A lot of fish will also have been stocked in the Pigeon River. Steve showed a map of the Pigeon with access and stocking points, reminding members to always fish downstream from the stocking points.

Wading access on the [Tuckasegee River](#) will depend on the water generation. If only one generator is being used, the water level will be comfortable for wading. About 10,000 trout will be released above the access areas we will be fishing on the Tuckasegee. An access road parallels the river offering easy access. The lower section of the Tuckasegee benefits from a second stocking area and offers additional wading opportunities. If the water level is not suitable for wading the Tuckasegee, there remain other options.

The most successful fly used on the Tuckasegee last year was a white grub-like fly that resembled a crappie lure. Steve bought 50 small white worms for \$1 from China. He plans to add a hook and fish with them. If you buy similar grubs from Walmart, don't buy scented ones – you can't use scented baits during the delayed harvest season.

A second wading option is Transylvania County, about an hour and one-half drive from Maggie Valley. One can fish the [Little River](#) and the [French Broad River](#).

If you are wading without a guide, request a copy of the [Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail Map](#) that identifies most of the previous areas mentioned but it does not include Haywood County. All areas are good to fish except the Chastain, which is fished out according to one of the local guides. Steve recommends fishing [Moses Creek](#), about an hour and one-half drive from Maggie Valley.

[Cherokee](#) is another well stocked area, with easy access to wading streams. Fish the general waters, not the designated fly-fishing section called [Raven Fork](#). The general waters receive less fishing pressure and are better stocked than the fly-fishing section. You need a tribal fly-fishing permit to fish the Cherokee area.

Steve plans to fish the [South Fork of the Mills River](#). It was on the Trout Unlimited top 100 list until there were three safety incidents. There are two access points from the top and the bottom of the river. Others are welcome to join Steve if you wish.

Steve concluded with a discussion of the [fly hatch chart](#).

Bill Buchsbaum gave an overview of fishing western mountains (the “Promised Land” here on Earth), describing three areas he recommends, including the headwaters of the North Platte River in Colorado, the Bighorn River in Montana; and the western and eastern branches of the Delaware River.

There are basically two types of western rivers, freestone and tailwater. According to [Trout Pro](#), freestone rivers are fresh cold, free flowing streams that start high in the mountains as a result of snow melting or rain falling. The little streamlets combine to make a feeder stream, then a fishable creek, and finally a larger river. The term freestone originates from the fact that the water flows over gravel, rocks and rubble on the bed of the stream. Tailwater rivers are fed by the release of water from the bottom of the reservoir above dams, which permit stabilization of both flow and temperature. Floods are reduced, temperature extremes are moderated, and growth is easier. Bill prefers fishing freestone rivers.

The [North Platte River](#) near Walton, Colorado is a freestone river until it reaches Wyoming, where dams are built on the tributaries. Walton is about a two-hour drive from Ft. Collins.

Go with a guide. You will not see other people and will get first-class treatment. The best time to go is late August through October; May and June are dicey. The river is not stocked and fishing is catch and release.

The [Bighorn River](#) below Yellowtail Dam in Montana is a fantastic tailwater river. You can float your own boat or hire a guide. It is very popular and you must reserve a guide several months in advance. You fish streamers, nymphs, dry flies, and crustaceans.

Bill also likes [Slough Creek](#), a freestone river in the northeast corner of Yellowstone. It is full of cutthroat trout and Bill calls it “My Promise Land.” One can walk along the 15-mile length of the creek - or ride along the creek on horseback and camp. Also consider a float trip. Book far in advance as it is a very popular destination.

One does not need to go West to find great mountain trout fishing. The eastern and western branches of the [Delaware River](#) offer great fishing back east.

Scott grew up fishing the 8,000-9,000-foot high mountain lakes near [Buffalo, Wyoming](#). You will not see as many fly fishermen there but you will catch a lot of fish, some up to 24.” Scott focused his presentation on gear. He usually fishes with a 4-weight TFO rod, using terrestrial patterns such as Chernobyl ants, pheasant tails, and grasshoppers. He will use a 2-weight rod if fishing smaller streams. Other gear includes a sling pack, fly boxes, an extra six-piece, 6-weight Orvis rod; waders, non-felt boots, and raincoat. He likes fishing a nymph with a split shot.

Jim White closed the meeting reporting that Charlie White's wife is recovering slowly from recent brain aneurism surgery three weeks ago. She will enter rehabilitation soon at Autumn Care in Shallotte.

Respectfully submitted,
Forest Duncan
Secretary