



**Club Meeting Minutes**  
May 17, 2017  
St. James Community Center

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The Cape Fear Flyfishers met at the St. James Community Center at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 17, 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 Scott Frederick and Mike Freeman as new members and Judy Rubin who visited to collect information for a Cat Tales article on the club. [Cat Tales](#) is the St. James Plantation monthly new magazine. All members briefly introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes - Members approved the April minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Jim White reported we have \$6,519.81 in the bank.

Drawing of Donated Flies – Harry Gobble was the lucky winner.

Trips and Activities

[Bristol TN/VA Mountain Fishing Trip](#) - April 24-28. The trip included boat drifters and waders, but the latter had to cancel due to heavy rains and high, muddy water. The drifters were able to fish as they could launch in the clear tailwaters below the dams on the Watauga River and the south fork of the Holston River. Anglers did not catch a lot of fish due to the high water but still caught a few rainbow and brown making it an enjoyable outing. We plan on going back.

[Women's Anglers in Training \(WAIT\)](#) – April 29-30. Six members assisted with the program. About 65 women participated, eleven of whom signed up for the club's mailing list.

[Weldon, NC Stripers](#) – May 2-4. Heavy rains and high water resulted in the trip being cancelled. The current was six times normal. The club opted to fish on Rice's/Town Creeks instead.

[Rice's/Town Creeks](#) – May 2 & 3 - The water was high on these creeks as well. Participants did not catch many fish as they were probably in the flooded wooded area along the banks.

[Kayak Fish and Float Day](#) – June 23, [John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center](#), Fayetteville, N.C. The program includes a seminar in the morning followed by a demo session on the lake across the road in the afternoon.

[Lake Waccamaw](#) – May 10, members did not catch many but enjoyed a beautiful day on the water. We learned from the [Waccamaw Outdoors](#) shop, few people had been catching fish lately but they expected fishing to pick up in a couple of weeks.

Family Picnic – June 21. Spouses and other family members are welcome to come. The picnic will raffle a [Temple Fork Outfitters Pro II series, 9-foot, 8-weight fly rod](#). Fly Fishers International gives the club one for every new 12 members it enrolls.

### **New Business**

Member Peter McLaughlin, president of the Grand Strand Fly Fishers Club of Myrtle Beach, introduced Greg Martin Jenkins, who custom-makes bamboo fly rods in his shop in Conway, S.C. Greg invited members to visit his shop if you are interested in buying a bamboo rod. For more information, see his [website](#) – and the attached flyer. Prices start at \$1,850 for a two-piece, 4-weight rod. Greg also offers a 6 to 7-day course in constructing your own bamboo fly rod. The cost is \$1,550, including the rod you make.

### **PROGRAM: BUCKET LIST TRIPS - PLACES TO GO BEFORE YOU CAN'T**

Several club members gave presentations of their recommended bucket trip, including **Bill Buchsbaum** (Colorado & Wyoming), **Cary Davidson** (NY State Steelhead), **Harry Gobble** (Montana), **Jim Larson** (The Tropics), **Joe Rinaldi** (Patagonia), and **Charlie White** (Alaska). Summaries of their presentations are attached below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Forest Duncan  
Secretary

## **BUCKET TRIP: COLORADO AND WYOMING**

Bill Buchsbaum

### ***Walden, Colorado***

A resident of Ft. Collins, Colorado for 45 years, the place Bill fished most was Walden, Colorado, at the headwaters of the North Platte River. [Walden](#), with a population of about 600, is two hours west of Ft. Collins.

What to Expect: You will catch Cutthroats, Rainbows (wild) and Browns (introduced). Browns grow to ten pounds. You can float at certain times, depending on the water level.

When: The snow-melt runoff is a major factor in planning when to go – fish before and after the runoff. Don't go in June when the runoff is at its peak. Go in April and May, and August, September, and October. Colorado does not have a fishing season for trout.

Guide: [North Park Anglers](#)

Lodging: [Antler's Lodge](#)

Transportation: Fly into Denver International Airport; stay overnight in Ft. Collins; travel the next day to Walden.

Amenities: [Steamboat Springs](#) is about an hour west of Ft. Collins. If your spouse does not fly fish, nearby Steamboat Springs offers shopping and several attractions.

### ***Jackson Hole, Wyoming***

What to Expect: You will catch cutthroats and enjoy spectacular scenery, such as the Grand Teton Mountains, fishing the Snake River.

When: Mid-September

Guide: [Grand Teton Fly Fishing](#)

Amenities: [Jackson Hole](#), a major resort town, offers numerous attractions beyond fly fishing.

## BUCKET TRIP: NY STATE STEELHEAD

Cary Davidson

Cary lived in the Poconos in northeast Pennsylvania and fished a lot in New York State. You will find the best trout fishing in the Catskills, Bosco, New York, and the upper branches of the Delaware River. Fishing for Coho and King salmon on the Salmon River is also popular. But, fishing for steelheads is the most thrilling trout fishing experience in the northeast U.S.

**What to Expect:** You will catch Rainbows up to 20 inches, Coho salmon up to 20 pounds, and King salmon up to 30 pounds. Catching salmon on the Salmon River is challenging, involving chasing a hooked fish on a 4-foot stream filled with boulders, slippery bottom, and deep holes. The river gets heavy fishing pressure and you will want to hike some distance to find less-pressured water. The salmon are half dead at this time and do not feed. Fish are more often caught “accidentally” by snagging a fly in an open mouth. Other unethical anglers use treble hooks to snag them. It’s a “circus” and good for a thrill if it interests you.

Sportsman do not fish for the salmon; they fish for the steelheads that arrive after the salmon spawn. The steelhead in NY are larger than those in PA but are not as plentiful. Those in the [Salmon River](#) run up to 15 pounds; you may get 2-3 hookups a day; and they often snap the line. They are difficult to land. The steelhead near [Erie, PA](#) are smaller, up to 7 pounds, and you have a better chance of landing them. Instead of running a mile downstream, you will more likely run a quarter of a mile before landing them.



You can easily wade-fish the gorgeous streams and medium-size, limestone, flat-bottomed tributaries of [Lake Erie](#). You can also float-fish the small tributaries, but doing so depends on the rainfall and water level. You need to time your trip when the raised water level from a recent rain is falling and the steelhead are coming in. You can expect to catch up to 20 steelheads a day. Fish during the week to avoid crowds. Use streamers, wooly buggers, and egg patterns.

**When:** For the salmon run, fish October and November; for the steelhead run, fish November and December. The best time is a couple of weeks before and after Thanksgiving. Expect 30 to 40-degree weather and the possibility of a foot of snow.

## **BUCKET TRIP: TWIN BRIDGES, MONTANA**

Harry Gobble

Harry has made annual pilgrimages over many years to fish Montana rivers. One of his favorite destinations is Twin Bridges with access to the Big Hole, Madison, Beaver Head, Jefferson, and/or Ruby Rivers. [Twin Bridges](#), population of 400, is 45 miles from Butte and 70 miles from Bozeman.

**What to Expect:** A typical catch on these rivers would be 20-30 fish; a slow day would be 10; a great day would be 40-50 fish.

**Big Hole:** Good variety of big, strong fish including Browns, Rainbows, Graylings, Brookies, and Cutthroat; salmon fly hatch is in early July; not much wading access; merges with the Beaverhead at Twin Bridges.

**Beaverhead:** Referred to as “The Ditch,” the river is not wide but it is swift. It has large, strong Browns and Rainbows, that have fought the fast current all their life.

**Ruby:** Good number of decent fish including Browns, Rainbows, Brookies, and Cutthroat. This is the best river for wade fishing. It is about ten miles from Twin Bridges. Locals go there in the evening or early morning to fish the evening or morning hatch.

**Jefferson:** Home of big Rainbows and Browns; not well suited for wade fishing as most accessible areas are on private property; slower moving river that slows down due to warming water in August. Agriculture uses a lot of water for irrigation in the area and can contribute to low-water conditions on the Jefferson and the Big Hole.

**Madison:** One can wade-fish the upper Madison but you can’t fish from boats there. Lyon’s Bridge is the put-in for the southernmost section of the Madison; one can fish by drift boat from Lyon’s Bridge 40-50 miles to Ennis. There are a number of accessible areas to wade but you can’t wade far out due to the fast, deep water. One can also wade-fish “The Braid” area near Madison Valley Ranch.

**When:** For a good update on trout fishing and conditions in southwestern Montana, see [Montana Troutfitters](#) website. Check for the timing of hatches.

**Guide/Fly Shop:** [Four Rivers Fishing Company](#). The total cost should be about \$2,500 per angler, more or less depending on air fare. In addition to air fare, this amount includes a package with lodging and vouchers for breakfast and dinners at any of the local restaurants. Guides are \$500 a day plus a \$100 tip for two anglers. Guides Chris Knott and Seth McClain are featured in a recent article on fishing the Madison River in [FlyFishers Magazine](#).

Hire a guide that is familiar with the river you will be fishing. For example, avoid hiring a guide to fish the Yellowstone River if he/she has no or little experience guiding the river.

Lodging: The Four Rivers Fishing Company can accommodate a group of four upstairs in two up stair apartments. They also have apartments down town.

Transportation: Fly into either Bozeman or Butte; drive to Twin Bridges.

Amenities: Twin Rivers is the home of the [Winton Fly Rod Company](#) and the [Sweet Grass Rod Company](#). [West Yellowstone](#) is about a two-hour drive from Twin Bridges. [Yellowstone National Park](#) offers many good areas for wade fishing. Dude ranches can be booked in the surrounding areas.

[Ennis](#) is about an hour away and is a bit larger than Twin Bridges. It should be a bit more interesting for spouses, although it, too, is small. [Bozeman](#) is larger and offers several attractions. It is about an hour and a half away. Nearby [Alder Gulch](#), ten miles from Twin Bridges, is the site of first Gold Rush discovery.

## **BUCKET TRIP: THE TROPICS**

Jim Larson

Jim's bucket list, "The Tropics," includes Mexico, Belize, and the Bahamas.

**What to Expect:** Expect to catch 15-20 fish a day. Species include Bone Fish, Permit, Snook, Tarpon, Barracuda, and Snapper. You will catch more bonefish in Boca Pinal but larger ones in Nassau. Use a 5-, 7-, or 9-weight rod, depending on the species. Beware that you, your guide, or your partner may get hooked from a backcast due to the typical windy conditions.

Expect good weather, quality accommodations, and good local cuisine.

**When:** Go any time of the year but be wary of the hurricane season. If targeting Permit, learn exactly the time of the year they will be present.

**Guides:** All guides do not speak English, but they all know how to say "STRIP, STRIP; 40 FEET 10 O'CLOCK; CAST NOW."

**Lodging:** Pricing cited below is for four nights and three days of fishing. It is difficult to explain why the pricing differs so much as the quality of fishing, accommodations, food, outdoor/indoor bar, etc. was similar for each location.

[Boca Pinal Lodge](#), Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, \$2,100

[El Pescadore Resort](#), Belize, \$3,400

[East End Lodge](#); Nassau, Bahamas; \$2,600

**Transportation:** Several flights are available out of Wilmington to Cancun, \$700; to Belize City, \$1,000; and to Nassau, \$800.

**Amenities:** Most locations offer attractions for non-fishers – or you may want to expand your fishing trip to include non-fishing activities. You can leave non-fishing members of your family in Cancun while fishing in Boca Pinal, a 70 kilometer, 3-hour drive.

## BUCKET TRIP: PATAGONIA

Joe Rinaldi

Patagonia is an immense 600,000 sq. mile-piece of land in Argentina, the eighth largest country in the world. It is “Montana and Wyoming on steroids” with rivers similar to the Madison.

What to Expect: If fishing the 40 to 300-yard-wide rivers, you will fish from drift boats, starting early morning when the winds are calm. Expect to catch, Rainbows, Browns, and Brookies, fishing over the span of a week without fishing the same water twice. The crystal-clear rivers are fed by runoff from the Andes which rise to 20,000 feet and provide spectacular scenery. You can see the bottom of rivers in 15 feet of water.

You will fish mostly dry flies with a 5-weight rod 90% of the time. For deeper, 25 to 30-foot pools of water, you will use a 6-weight with sinking line to get a Woolly Bugger or streamer fly to the bottom. Cast big flies, such as copper patterns, Fat Alberts, and Chernobyl Ants, within 5-6 inches of the bank – 12-18 inches is too far.

If fishing the glacial lakes when there is little wind, you will use a 12-foot, 6X leader, and #20-22 hooks to catch 18 to 20-inch fish. When the wind comes up, you cast a terrestrial against steep rock walls, such that the fly bounces off the rock into the water. You may catch up to 25 fish on the lakes. Fishing the rivers is more difficult. You may catch only 4-5 fish, but they will be 22-23 inches.

When you stop for lunch, the guide pulls the boat to the shore so you do not have to step in the water. A folding table and chairs are set up; a table cloth and dinner service is put on the table; and you are offered wine or cold beer with your meal.

When: Go in January when the weather limits what you do in the northern hemisphere.

Guide: [Nervous Waters](#) is the website for booking fly fishing lodges in South America.

Lodging: [Chime Lodge](#) accommodations are incredible; food and wine is beyond belief; there is an open bar; and the staff prides itself on hospitality. They meet you at the airport; transport you to the lodge; and take you back to the airport, waiting in the airport until your plane departs.

The cost is about \$700 a day but this includes the cost of your float trip, accommodations, three meals a day, and transportation. So, if you price the cost of the float trip at \$500 a day, getting the rest at \$200 a day does not seem unreasonable.

Transportation: One can take a non-stop flight to Buenos Aires out of Atlanta; American flies out of Miami; and United out of Chicago. You then fly to San Martin de los Andes Airport, about 700 miles southwest of Buenos Aires. The Argentina air fleet is modern and a member of the Delta alliance.

Amenities: Chime Lodge can arrange horseback riding and shopping in a town about 45 minutes away from the lodge. Argentina, like Chile and Uruguay, are European countries in the southern hemisphere. If your spouse does not fish or you want to expand your outing experience, drive from the north of the country to Mendoza. This is the Napa Valley of Argentina. On the end of the trip, spend at least one night in Buenos Aires, one of the most amazing cities in the world. The city looks like Paris; the hotels and restaurants are incredible; and the theater and tango shows are entertaining.

Being in the southern hemisphere, you will see star constellations, such as the Southern Cross, that are different from those at home. Viewing the sky at night is like being at Yellowstone without the glare of city lights.

## **BUCKET TRIP: ALASKA**

Charlie White

Alaska offers many and varied fishing opportunities depending on what part of the state you fish. This trip started near Seward, south of Anchorage, in Resurrection Bay. From Anchorage, the party flew down to [King Salmon](#) on the Naknek River; and from there to Wildman Lodge on the remote Alaska Peninsula. The party included Charlie, his brothers Jim and Harvey, and Harvey's son, Joey.

**What to Expect:** Around Seward, you will fish for halibut and other bottom fish which can be cleaned and shipped home. Near the Wildman Lodge, you can wade-fish near the lodge or fish from a jon boat on the spring-fed, gin-clear, Ocean River. You will catch Arctic Char, Rainbow, Dolly Varden, among other varieties. You can also fish for salmon at the mouth of the river and on other parts of the Ocean River system. The lodge will fly you where the fish are.

About a half-hour arriving at the lodge by plane, you will board a boat and travel downstream, stopping in places to wade and fish. You will catch mainly Arctic Char and a few Silver Salmon, fishing with nymphs. If you fly to the mouth of the river where it meets the ocean, tents are available in case the weather turns bad and you are unable to fly back.

**When:** Charlie's group fished in August. One can catch King Salmon in the spring and Silver Salmon in the fall.

**Lodging:** [Wildman Lodge](#) The lodge will fly you in a twin-engine airplane from King Salmon to a private landing strip in front of the lodge. Accommodations are comfortable, including the main lodge and cottages. There is a modern kitchen. Chefs are flown in from Anchorage to prepare meals. You will have internet access and "all the modern conveniences of home." There is a fly-tying station you can use in the evening. The lodge also has a small store.

**Transportation:** It is easy to get there – see the lodge website for information.

**Amenities:** Seward is a delightful town, geared for fishing. Cruise ships dock in the Seward's deep water port and passengers take ground transportation to visit Anchorage.



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