



Club Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2017
St. James Community Center

The Cape Fear Flyfishers met at the St. James Community Center at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, July 19, 2017. The meeting began with the casting clinic followed at 6:00 with the club business meeting.

Club Business Meeting

CFF Roster Update – Vice President Ed Smith circulated the club roster for those present to verify it is correct and complete. Ed will email the PDF version to all members to review. Please e-mail corrections or additions to Ed.

Introduction of New Members and Guests – Vice President Ed Smith welcomed Rick Enz and Dave Van Cleve.

Approval of Minutes - Members approved the May minutes. Ed reminded members that Steve Moore posts the minutes and other useful club information, including photos, on the club's [website](#). You will find the minutes under the Members Only menu, which you can access with the password Fish4Reds. The Members Only section also includes basic fly fishing information, tips on where and how to fish locally, and kayak fishing-specific guidance.

Treasurer's Report – Tony Mangiapane reported we have about \$5,500 in the bank. This will drop to about \$3,500 after paying \$1,900-2,100 to FFI in dues we owe.

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

Trips and Activities

Introduction to Fly Fishing Class, July 11, 2017 – over 25 people attended the class taught by Dan Smith – kudos to Dan for his excellent presentation. Participants included newcomers and experienced members wanting to refresh their knowledge of basic fly fishing skills.

Knot Tying – Ed offered to help members, after the meeting, to learn more about tying basic fishing knots. He also offered knot-tying kits that make it easier to learn how to tie knots. Ask Ed about tying knots at future casting clinics if you need help with knot-tying.

Tours for Boat Owners, beginning August 24, 2017 – Jim White will take other boat owners out to learn local fishing spots and how to navigate our local marshes. Let Jim know if you are interested.

Picnic Utensils - If you are missing a serving spoon from the club picnic, email Jim White. Otherwise, the club will keep it for use at future picnics.

Montana Trip – Jim Larson reported he and Ron Ryll arrived a few days before the others to fish private lake waters near Livingston. They caught several nice fish but the lake fishing experience did seem as challenging as river fishing. They joined Jim White, Ed Smith, and Harry Gobble to fish the Madison, Jefferson, Beaverhead, and Big Hole out of Twin Bridges, Montana. Great guides put them on the fish with catches of 20-30 fish a day on most days. The trip is also remembered for the beautiful scenery and good food.

Ed commented that there's no need to feel intimidated by using a guide as they make you feel comfortable with your casting and you seldom need to cast more than 40 feet from the boat. Rich and Maryann Kraus were also recently in Montana on a separate trip and they confirmed that anyone from the Club, regardless of casting ability, would fit in well with a guide. They put you right on the fish. Casting all day on a float trip also gives one a grand opportunity to practice. A guide told Ed one can cast up to 10,000 times on an all-day trip!

Club members with similar concerns should not be discouraged from going on such trips. If you are concerned about spending so much money on fly fishing out west, tie it into a wider-ranging vacation to visit Yellowstone and other national parks.

New Business

The November planning program will be held in October so Ed Smith can participate. We will elect officers and discuss a strawman program of activities for next year. Ed will be sending a survey to better capture what the membership is most interested in for programs and outings next year. Think about what you enjoyed doing this year and the kind of programs and activities you would like to see next year.

Roundtable

What's Biting – where, and on what?

Bill Buchsbaum reported chartering Seth Vernon to fish inshore for redfish in the Wrightsville Beach and Southport areas. They used shrimp and toad patterns. Bill says Seth always puts him on fish.

Scott Ewing reported catching a few trout and croaker kayak fishing at Ft. Fisher.

What's up Next?

August Program - Justin Brock will be our featured speaker at the August meeting. He will be talking about fishing in our area.

Waynesville Mountain Trip Reservations – only eight of the ten condos at the Maggie Valley Country Club have confirmed reservations. Reservations for the other two are being held until the end of August. Those not having confirmed their reservations need to do so ASAP.

PROGRAM: GOOGLE EARTH – WHERE FISH HAVE BEEN

Club member Steve Moore spoke on electronic tools accessible to members through the [Cape Fear Flyfishers website](#), including the Tides4Fishing tide site; Google Earth Pro, the club's Google Earth Hot Spots map, predictwind.com, and anglr.com. Steve brings much knowledge and expertise to the club. If you have not done so, check out his website [Kayak Fishing Hacks](#). It is full of information useful to kayak fishermen - non-kayak fishermen. He is also the Field Editor for [Southern Kayak Fishing magazine](#), writes the column for new fly anglers in [Southern Trout Magazine](#), and has published five books on where to fish in Virginia and Maryland.

Steve opened his presentation by describing the [Tides4Fishing website](#), one of the most comprehensive tide sites on the Internet. You can find information on the weather; water temperature; barometric pressure, UV index, wave conditions, low and high tide tables and graphs; moon phases, solunar activity showing major and minor periods of fish activity; tide coefficients; wind speed and direction; maps; and excellent explanations of these variables. Surf through the site to discover how helpful it can be to you. Find the tide station for your local area by clicking on the North Carolina dropdown menu at the top of the page and cursor down to find your preferred tide station.

Knowing fish movements over the tide cycle is a key factor in catching fish. Pay attention to the time you catch a fish and the stage of the tide. Guides may tell you where they caught fish but not the stage of the tide – which could be only a 30-minute window.

Also pay attention to the tide coefficient which tells you how fast the tide will change and its amplitude. If the coefficient is low and the height of the curve is drawn out, you will have more time to fish a particular tide level. If the coefficient is high and the height of the curve is compressed, you will have less time to fish a particular tide height. If you know you want to be at a spot when the tide is, say 1.5 feet, viewing the tide graph will tell you when and how long you should plan on being there.

The tide coefficient also tells you what to expect about tidal current speed. If the coefficient is low, the current will not be moving as strong. If high, expect to paddle/peddle harder against the faster moving tide. Be wary of getting caught in the marsh if the tide moves out quicker than you experienced when the tide coefficient was lower.

Tides4Fishing also shows future and past coefficient data, useful information for planning trips.

[anglr.com](#) has a fantastic automatic fishing log to record your catches, but is available currently only for freshwater fishing. An inshore version is expected this summer. When you catch a fish,

you push a button on your rod to automatically tag the catch with the weather forecast, tidal and moon phase data at the time of the catch.

For accurate wind information, register at predictwind.com. You can put a dot on the map and four winding predicting models will indicate the current wind speed and direction.

Google Earth Pro, until recently, cost \$300-400 for a subscription. It is now free and offers much greater resolution than Google Earth. Download it and you will be able to view the club's fishing hot spots - and access points where you can launch.

Steve highlighted the historical imagery feature (the backward bending arrow at the top of the screen), which allows you to change the satellite imagery over different time periods. Click on the icon and a bar will appear that allows you to move backward to earlier years' imagery. Some are better than others, having been taken when the tide was low, revealing more structure such as oyster beds and channels.

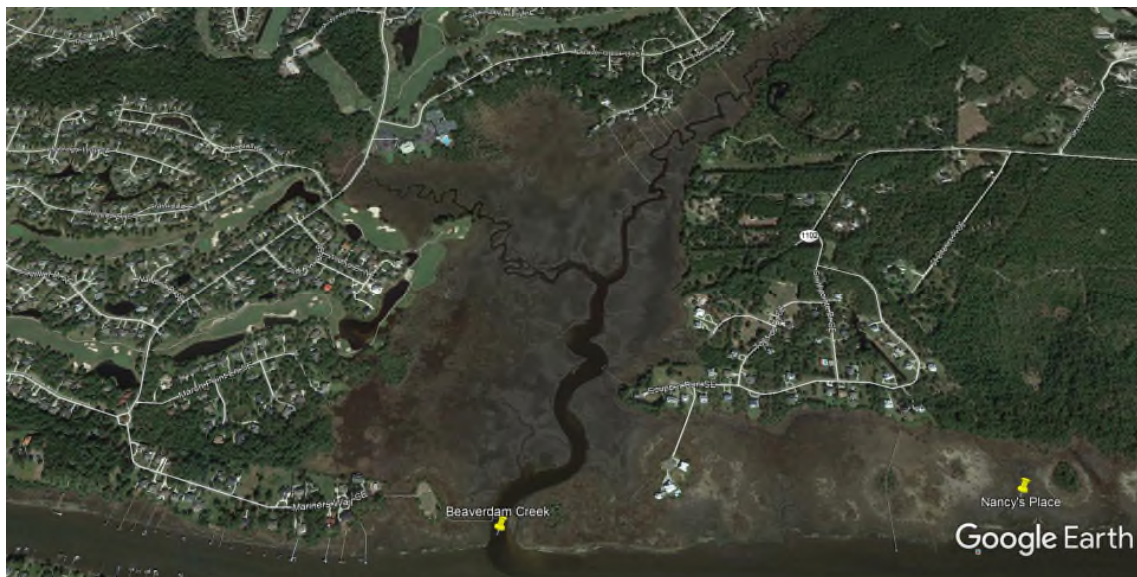
Several hot spot locations were discussed. Oak Island hot spots accessible from the Wildlife Creek ramp on Fish Factory Road include the rocks at the mouth of Wildlife Creek (Hot Spot 17), Dutchman Creek, the grassline along the ICW (Hot Spot 15), and the red square area which includes creeks and flats for catching redfish (Hot Spots 13 and 14). Crossing the Oak Island bridge, one can find Shore Spot 1 where one can fish off the unpaved road that parallels the main road.



Nancy's Place off the ICW northeast of Beaverdam Creek is another popular hot spot. You access it through a creek to enter the surrounding area with short spartina grass. Where you find short grass, the bottom is more often a harder, sandy bottom than the knee-deep mud bottoms you encounter where the grass is tall. The area is named after Nancy Fuller who lives nearby and observed redfish tailing there from the long pier to the left of the creek leading to Nancy's Place. One can fish there from a kayak or get out of a boat and wade as long as you stay in the short grass.

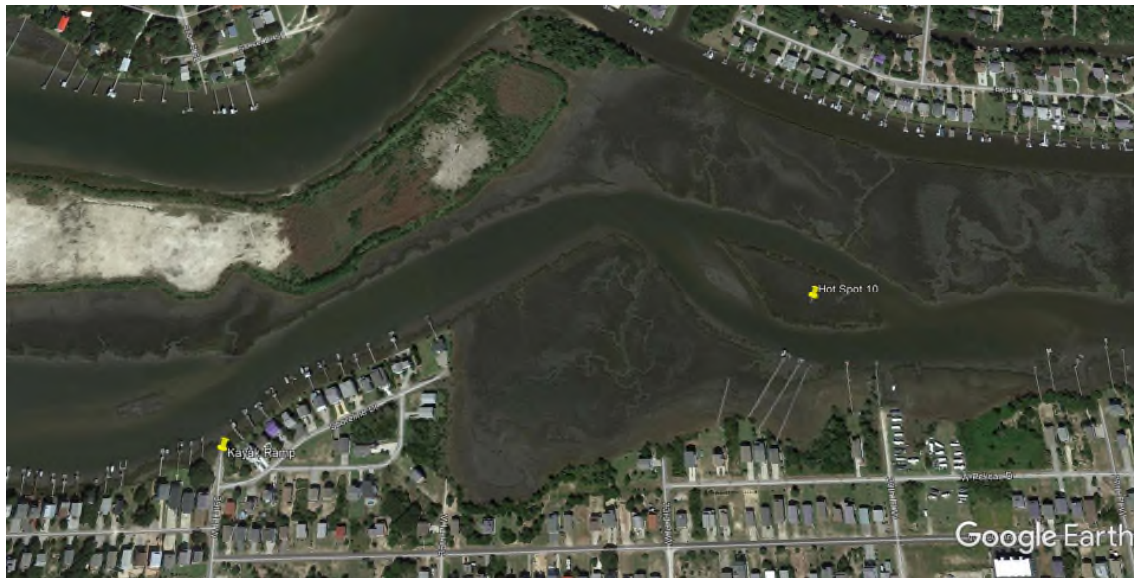


Forest Duncan referenced the Google Hot Spots map in identifying sections of Beaverdam Creek that he has found to be productive fishing for redfish. As one reaches the back of the creek, it forks. Taking the left fork, one meanders to a flats area where one can sometimes see redfish tailing. This area is more suitable for kayaks; boats should venture there only on very high tides. Taking the right fork, one can also find redfish in the deeper turns in the creek as opposed to marsh flats. The right fork is also good for catching flounder. Again, boats should be careful not to get caught as the tide falls.

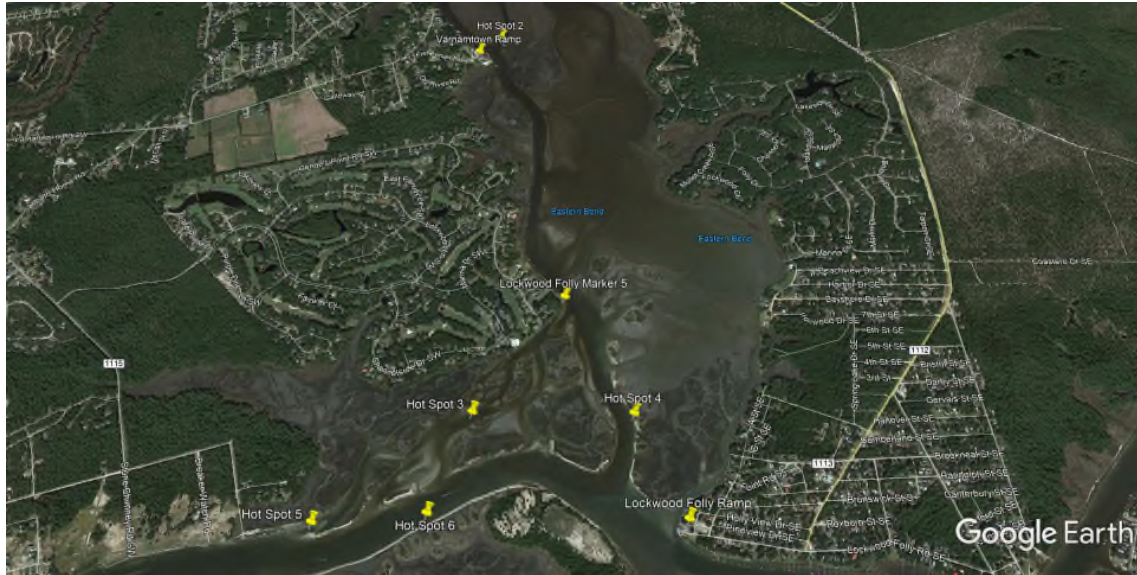


Closer to the mouth, the second bend is popular for catching trout in the cooler months. Fish the oyster bars for flounder and redfish when the tide is moving. Beaverdam Creek is a good fishing option on low tide when the nearby ICW offers few spots to fish.

Forest also described the area one can fish launching from the public boat launch at 39th Place on the west end of Oak Island. This area is more suited for kayak fishing as sections are quite shallow on the falling tide. Even kayakers must get out before the last two hours of the falling tide or you will be up to your knees in mud. Leaving east from the ramp you will eventually get to an island (Hot Spot 10). On low tide, a large oyster bar is exposed on the west side of the island. Fish around the island. The left bank between the ramp and the island is also good. These areas are particularly good for trout in the cooler months.



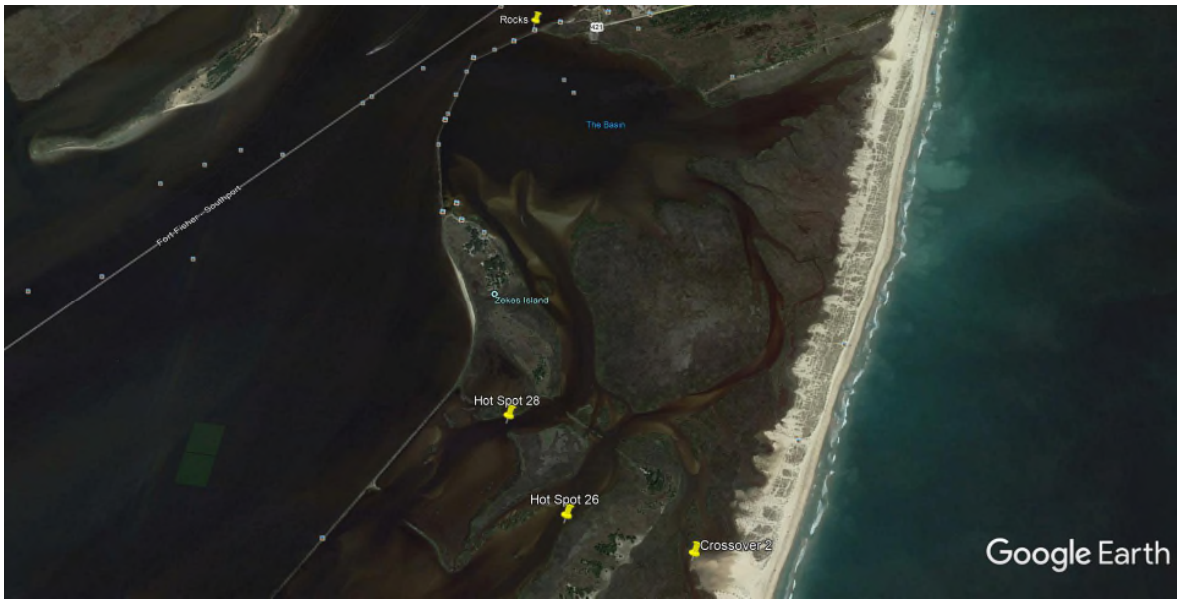
In Lockwood Folly, Jim White recommends fishing around Marker 5 in the Lockwood Folly River; the 200-300 yards of shells along the right side of the river as you enter from the ICW (Hot Spot 4); and the creek across from the public boat ramp at Varnamtown (Hot Spot 2). The creek channel in Galloway Flats (Hot Spot 3) is good for flounder. Be warned that all of the entrances to Galloway Flats are guarded by sand bars, making getting in or out is pretty tough except at high tide.



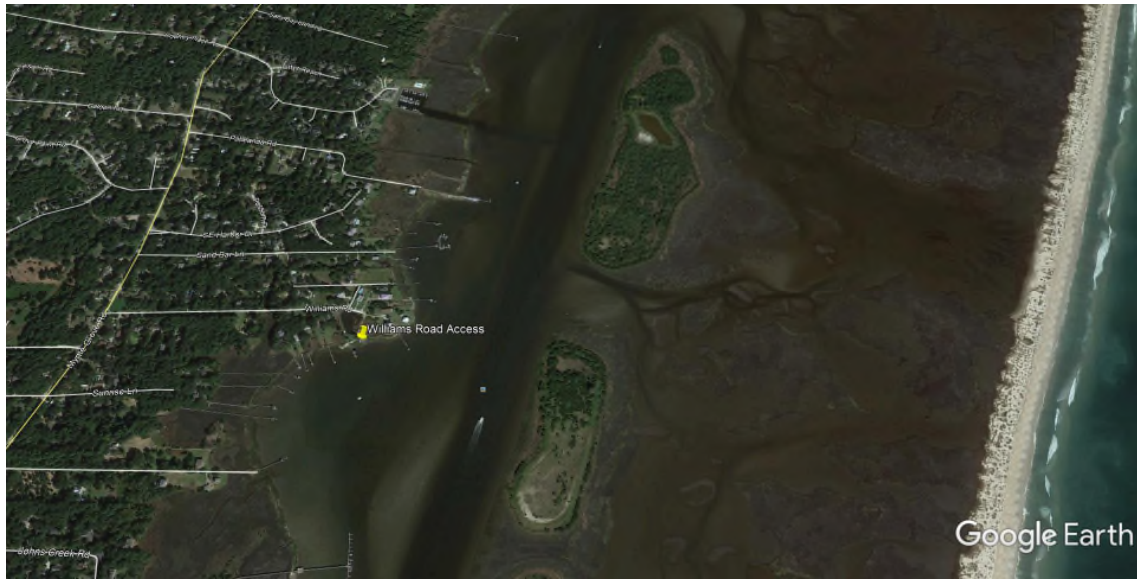
Ft. Fisher is another popular hot spot, especially for kayaks. The line outlining “The Basin” is “The Rocks” constructed during the Civil War to improve river navigation. You should plan on fishing three hours on either side of high tide to avoid getting stranded up a creek or on a sandbar. It’s hard to get a kayak back to the ramp on low tide.

The first bay, “The Basin,” gets a lot of fishing pressure from kayakers so try to fish the second or third bay, if possible. If you have four-wheel drive, you can access the second bay from the beach at Crossover 2. You must purchase an inexpensive park pass to do so. If you enter at Crossover 2, move up and around into the deeper channel marked Hot Spot 26. On the outgoing tide, you can go to the rock wall in the second bay and fish it.

The only way to reach Buzzard Bay is to drive on the beach to Crossover 3 and follow the channel 2 ½ miles to buzzard Bay.



Steve enjoys fishing the Masonboro Island area for redfish, although it is some distance for kayaks to reach from Snow's Cut or the Trails End ramp. Another option is to launch from the end of Williams Road. Fish the marsh creeks and channels across the ICW. If you see a crabber, always ask them if they have seen any redfish. They usually don't mind talking with you about fishing. Don't talk to the gill netters as they don't like recreational fishermen. Steve invited anyone to let him know if they would like to fish the Masonboro area with him.



Respectfully submitted,
Forest Duncan
Secretary