



**Next meeting 3 May
0600 PM to 0900 PM**

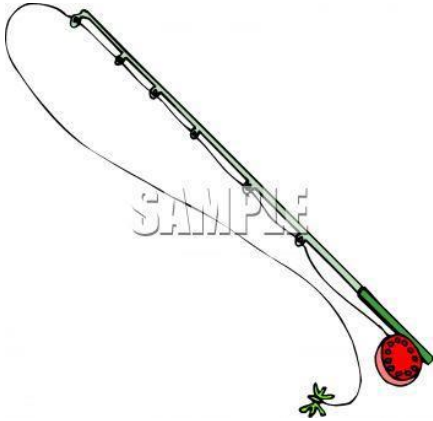
**Speaker: Captain Bryon Chamberlin
Fly Fishing for Tarpon**

Please join us for an interesting and informative presentation on fly fishing for tarpon off Florida's west coast. Bryon is one of the premier guides who specializes in fishing for the "king" of sportfish in our local waters. Tarpon fishing in our clear shallow coastal waters during the spring/summer migration of these magnificent fish is a world class fly fishing opportunity. Bryon will explain how he finds, pursues and sight-fishes 50 to 150 pound tarpon from his Hell's Bay skiff. Learn valuable tips on how you can try it yourself or enjoy the benefits of hiring one of our super guides. We are fortunate several great guides belong to our club and explore this super fishery at our doorstep. Bryon is also a skilled photographer and will have beautiful pictures and video to share. Check out Bryon's website for a sneak preview of the action at <http://www.barbedsteel.com/>.

Tyer: Capt Bryon

Bryon is a skilled and innovative tyer who ties all his own flies for himself and his clients. Please join him and watch as he ties proven winners to entice and fool our giant tarpon. Watching a 100 pound plus fish slurp a little 3-inch fly is a sight to behold; then hold on!

Annual Club Banquet 7 May



Annual Club Banquet 7 May. We will host our banquet again this year at Hunter's Green Country Club in New Tampa on Sunday, 7 May, 3 pm. Tickets are \$40 for one and \$75 for two. Please sign up and pay at the next meeting or RSVP to me (walt.durkin@aol.com) and pay at the door. We will have appetizers at 3pm and a buffet at 04:30pm. Look forward to our silent auction with a good selection of over 100 items you may not need but can't resist. We will have drawing for some free stuff. This is a club fund raiser so please Join us for good food, fun and friends. As a special treat this year, Bruce and Patty Anderson will provide us a slide show on their trip to Antarctica a couple of years ago.

Directions to Our Meetings (0600pm): From I-75---Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left on to Tampa Palms Blvd., then left on Compton Drive, and right at Compton Park. From I-275---Take Bearss East to Bruce. B. Downs; then Bruce B. Downs east/north to Tampa Palms Blvd. Rt. on Tampa Palms, then left on Compton Drive and right at Compton Park.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to May and our warm bay waters. Fishing action is increasing with the water temps , so get out there and bend a rod! Look for our fishing report for tips.

Thanks to Dr Liz Wallace for coming by to speak last month. We missed her talk due to technical difficulties and I hope our impromptu talk on our trip to Andros was okay. We have re-scheduled Liz for June. Also, thanks to Smitty for tying tarpon flies last month to get us in the mood for tarpon season.

We are seeking interesting speakers for the new year and also building our outing schedule for 2017. Please give us your input on what you would like to see. We are having more simple outings to help new folks get going and catch fish.

// Walt Durkin 

EVENTS

- Picnic Island Outing – 6 May
- Annual banquet – 7 May
- Lake Calm outing – 10 June


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TBFFC NEWS & NOTES


Picnic Island Outing, 6 May. We will host another outing in May to help new members get started in fly fishing. We will wade the flats around the island and should find snook, reds or trout. It's also good for kayaks. We will meet at the south end of the island at 0800 AM for coffee, donuts and orientation. We will fish until noon and then provide lunch and drinks. We have a good incoming tide that should work in our favor. Bring clousers or other bait fish imitations and have a bite tippet of 25 or 30 pound test.

Two Boys Inn, Andros Island report: Eight club members enjoyed a week in the Bahamas last month. We fished central Andros in the Fresh Creek area and had a great time. I would recommend this as an inexpensive, but very suitable lodge. Food, boats, guides and accommodations were all good. A flight to Nassau and a 15 minute charter gets you there. This is a world famous area of the Bahamas known for big fish. Robert Fischer lived up to his name and was top rod for big fish, but we all enjoyed the week. Conch salad at Boston's Hot spot was a highlight.




Bahamas Fishing Regs: Here is how I understand the new fishing rules. First, you do need a license; \$15 a day, \$20 a week. You can find the application on-line, fill it out and it can then be submitted to local authorities, depending on the island, for a valid fishing license. So, I would fill out the application and have it ready when you get there as a show of good faith until they get organized. For DIY, you can fish anywhere on foot. You can also ride around in a boat, but fishing from the boat requires a guide unless you are alone. Link below has the regulation. [http://www.bahamas.com/sites/default/files/flat_fishing_regulations .pdf](http://www.bahamas.com/sites/default/files/flat_fishing_regulations.pdf). Good luck.

Amazon Trip: Capt Frank Rhodes has arranged another Amazon trip starting 30 September. Cost is \$3000 for a week's fishing. We will have more info at the next meeting. Let Frank know if you are interested or email me. We are trying to get six anglers for this great trip for peacock bass.



Tips for TBFFC

The Double Haul: I watched a Youtube video on fly casting and noted there are many great videos out there. I encourage you to check them out. One instructor suggested practicing your double haul technique with repeated false casts. Work on your rhythm and timing and get the feel of carrying the line in the air with a smooth forward and backward motion. After your first haul practice moving your left hand back to the reel to be ready for the second haul. As you cast back and forth your left hand will move in an oval path to and from the reel to maintain the line in the air. Effective hauling is simple with good timing and will make your casting effortless with a little practice. If you need help with this, please ask at any meeting and we will provide instruction. Walt 

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH

By C.W. “Don” Coleman

EARLY FLY FISHING MEMORIES

- Bamboo Fly Rods with metal ferules and two tip sections--and Medalist reels.
- Double tapered fly lines with letter designations such as HGH that had to be hung on streamside bushes to dry and be dressed with floatant several times a day—a time to relax and eat lunch.
- Willow creels with a pair of beautiful trout lying on a bed of ferns—“Keepers”.
- The beautiful streams in the uplands of the Endless Mountains—Solitude and peace.
- Patching rubber hip boots with automobile inner tube patches—The Robins are back.
- Struggling to cast 60 feet and learning to cast with your elbow at your side.
- Forest trails to that secret spot--Trilliums and Skunk Cabbage and Red Winged Blackbirds.
- Climbing over ice flows on opening day to reach open water and hot coffee from a thermos and dipping your rod in the water to melt the ice on the guides so you could cast again.

Layne Smith's Ghost Rat Tarpon Fly

Hook: Gamakatsu SL12s 1/0
Thread: Flat waxed nylon (white)
Tail: White craft fur or Polar Fibre
Flash: Pearl Ice Dub
Wing: White marabou or blood feather
Eyes: Medium black bead chain
Collar: EP Minnow Head Brush
Coating: Solarez UV resin
Marker: Grey prismacolor

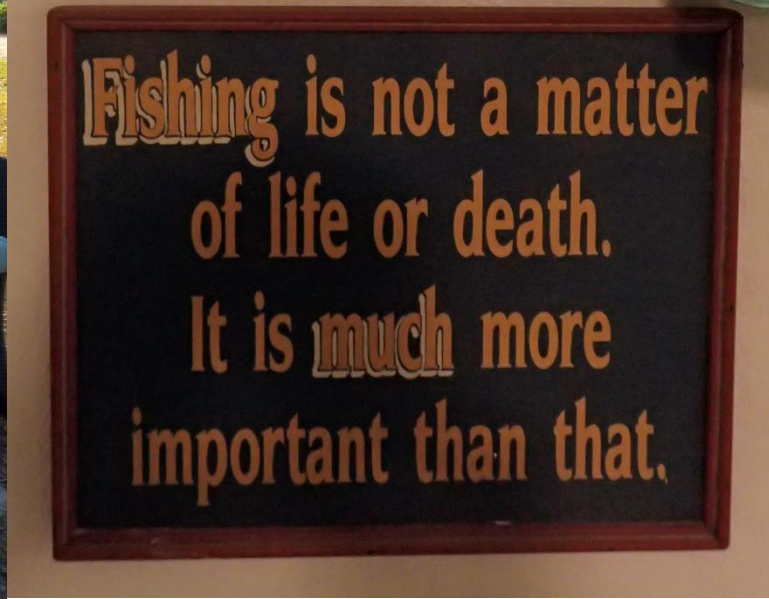


1. Place hook in vise and tie in base wrap for tail starting at hook point and wrap back to barb and then half hitch.
2. Cut and preen a piece of white craft fur or Polar Fibre (about 2 – 2 1/2 times hook length), getting rid of most of the underfur; tie in at hook point and post it (wrap around the fur and not the hook) with 2 or 3 wraps of thread to help with anti-fouling. Then add stripes with the marking pen.
3. Take a small clump of tapered Pearl Ice Dub and tie in front of the tail, on top of the hook, allowing it to spread around the sides of the tail (this should be about half the length of the tail).
4. Stroke the marabou and tie in on top of the hook as a wing (this should extend back 1/3 of the length of the tail) then trim away the excess feather. Wrap down the butt ends tightly, smoothly tapering thread wraps to the 1/3 point from the hook eye.
5. Tie in bead chain eyes with figure 8 wraps to set eyes in place.
6. Tie on EP Minnow Head Brush just in front of marabou wing and palmer forward to just behind eyes, stroking material back as you go so you don't overwrap any fibers. Tie off and remove any excess fibers.
7. Tie a few wraps of thread at the front of the brush to keep it angled back.

Some alternative color patterns are to use a red brush head or a chartreuse tail with pink EP Head Brush for the “electric chicken” effect.



Arriving, relaxing and a new way to jump a battery



Andros pictures: conch salad at Boston's Hot Spot, relaxing in the shade, picture in the lodge.



Andros pictures:

Rick and Jacob with a bonefish, Robert with a good one, and Ted with a nice fish.



Grilled kingfish, Leigh West with a nice trout, Jay Wright with a really nice trout (8lbs), Mosquito Lagoon



Tom Perkins with a nice rainbow trout caught at Escatawba Farms in Southwest Va.

Andy caught a 28 inch redfish fishing with **Capt Bryon Chamberlain** in Chassahowitzka Bay

Ted with a 35" snook on a tan and white Puglici minnow, released to fight another day!





Capt Rick Grasset guided his clients to great catches in April.

Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner: We are having more wind than usual. Should you leave your fly rod at home and take only spinning tackle? If you want to improve as a fly fisherman, the reverse is true. If wade fishing, there are many areas protected from the wind. If using a kayak or boat, go to a protected location, and if wadeable leave the watercraft and approach fishable water on foot. An easterly wind offers protection from buildings and mangroves; worst case scenario is a wind at your back or over your shoulder, which can be an asset to casting. Learn to cast tight loops to achieve wind penetration. Cast more horizontal than vertical. The closer your line is to the water, the less chance the wind has to affect it. Using a shorter, stiffer leader and smaller flies will give you a better layout of your line, improving your presentation.

Capt Rick Grasset reports trout, blues, Spanish mackerel, pompano and more should also be good options on deep grass flats and passes of Sarasota Bay. You should also find larger trout in shallow water along with snook and reds when conditions are good. Fishing lighted docks and bridges in the ICW for snook with flies and DOA Lures continues to be a good option. on sea conditions.

Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports the action has been exceptional. On the fly the clients have had a lot of fun catching ladyfish and trout. In one specific location they have hooked up to decent size gag grouper. It is definitely spring action right now. Things will start to slow down when it starts to get very hot. We will shift to pre-sunrise fishing when the heat of summer arrives.

Our new traveling club flags are on the move! **Bruce and Patty Anderson** took one to Colorado and **Walt and Frank** took one to the Amazon. Lower right at Two Boys Inn, Andros, Bahamas



2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 13-15 Shad Outing St John's River
- Feb 23 – Mar 3 Brazil Peacock Bass trip
- Mar 25 Two Boys Inn, Andros Island, Bahamas
- Apr 1 Suncoast Fly Club banquet
- April 13 CCA Banquet
- May 6 Picnic Island Outing
- May 7 Annual Banquet at Hunter's Green
- June 10 Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct 7-8 Florida Sportsman Show
- TBD FFF Enclave
- Sep 30 Amazon peacock bass trip
- Oct 21 – 28 Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip
- Oct 21 Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 6 Members Year End Party
- Dec 8 Play Hooky at the Hatchery
- Dec 16 Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto

Member Benefits

TBFFC is famous for its value and focus on the sharing of information, experience, and craftsmanship with its members. As a TBFFC member you will enjoy many benefits free or at nominal cost.

- Monthly Meetings with informative speakers
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
- One-On-One Fly Casting Lessons
- Shirts and Hats with club logo
- 80-page Beginner's Basic Skills Instruction Manual
- Annual Banquet

Fly Fishing Guides

- Capt. Nick Angelo (813) 230-8473
- Capt. Pat Damico (727) 504-8649
- Capt. Bryon Chamberlin (813) 361-8801
- Capt. Rick Grassett (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Frank Rhodes (863) 967-4258
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973
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Please Check: One Year _____ Five Year _____

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

Annual Dues: \$25.00 Individual Membership

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(includes two memberships or family membership and

Ad Space in Newsletter)

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