



**Next meeting 7 October
0600 PM to 0900 PM**

**Speakers Walt Durkin, Ted Hagaman
Cuban Fly Fishing Trip
14-22 August 2015**

Walt and Ted will present slides of their trip to Cuba in mid-August with club members Capt Frank Rhodes and Rick Happle. Following a direct charter flight from Tampa to Havana they fished for six days in the Garden of the Queens off the south-central coast of Cuba. Caribe Travel booked the flights and supplied the Cuban Visa. Customs coming and going were smooth with no inspections. The two hotels in Havana were modern and elegant. Avalon, which has exclusive rights to the area, provided great service. Our food, accommodations and guides were all first class. Please join our presentation for trip details and pictures of how the fishing went. Now is the time to visit Cuba and experience its old-world charm and buy that 1953 Eldorado.

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

Thanks to Bruce Evensen for speaking and tying in September. We always appreciate expert advice on where to fish in Tampa Bay. Finding the fish is often the hard part when pursuing fish on the fly. Thanks also for those members who helped out at the fly casting pond at the Florida Sportsman Show on 11-12 Sep. Special thanks to Leigh and Brenda who worked both days for us.

We are looking forward to presenting our trip to Cuba at our meeting this month. We also just returned from Cordova, Ak, and will offer that talk next year. We had a super experience fishing Cordova on our own and followed-up with a great adventure with our wives on Prince William Sound and in Denali National Park.

Welcome our Fall Season with cooler water and lower tides in the morning. Late fall and winter will offer good sight fishing opportunities on your favorite flat.

Please note my new email: walt.durkin@aol.com

// Walt Durkin 

EVENTS

- **Down the Hatch Film Festival: 15 Oct**
- Sarasota MCFF/CCA fly fishing challenge: 17 Oct
- Carl Hanson Outing, **Lake Tarpon 17 Oct**
- Mexico trip: 17 to 24 October
- FFF Enclave, Miami: 23, 24 October
- Chattooga river, Georgia: 10-15 November
- **Second Cuba Trip: 14-21 November**
- Play Hooky at the Hatchery : 11 Dec

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Bruce Anderson 813-960-8523

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2015 TBFFC MEETING DATES


This month's meeting is 7 Oct from 6 to 9 PM.

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Club Facebook. Please visit and like the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club on Facebook to keep up-to-date with club meetings and events. We also share tips about what's biting now, advice on casting and fly-tying, and news about fisheries conservation. And, we love to share your fishing photos, so don't be shy! The Facebook page is also a great way for members to connect with one another and share knowledge about fly fishing. The page is at [Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club](#)

10-15 Nov - Chattooga River Outing. Ted Hagaman and I will travel to George by car to fish the Chattooga along the Georgia, S Carolina border. We will travel one day, fish four days and return the last day. We will stay in the historic log cabins at Oconee State Park (864-638-5353) in S Carolina, near to the fishing. Check out the river and the park online and let us know if you want to come along.

17 Oct – Carl Hanson Outing. Come join us at John Chesnut Park on Lake Tarpon for our annual freshwater outing with the Suncoast Club. We will fish from 7-12 and meet at shelter #6 for lunch. The park is at 2200 East Lake Rd. which is also McMullen Booth Rd. The park opens at 7 am. and it costs \$6 to park a trailer, or \$2 to park a car at the ramp only.



15 Oct- Orvis Down the Hatch Film Festival. Flint Creek Outfitters will host this event at the Holiday Inn at 700 N Westshore Blvd at **07:00 PM**. Two one-hour films, one on fresh and one on salt, will be shown. Admission is free and includes raffle items. Food and drink are available. Please contact Flint Creek for more Info at 813-681-1888.

17 Oct - The Sarasota MCFF/CCA Fall Fly Fishing Challenge: New for this year Tampa folks don't have to attend the Friday meeting. Instead, you will be emailed a token and can use your own measure device, which needs to be brought to the check-in. This means you only need to show up to fish on Saturday. Details: <http://fallflyfishingchallenge.com>

14-21 Nov– Second Cuba Trip. You will fish Cayo Santa Maria located in the "Garden of the King" preserve on Cuba's north shore. It's known for tarpon (see Gaff magazine July 2013) and big bonefish. Fly in on Saturday the 14th, overnight in Havana and take a bus to your fishing location on Sunday. Fish Monday thru Saturday and return home on Sunday. Contact Capt Phil Thompson for details (philkeywest@yahoo.com). This trip is with Avalon who hosted our last trip and were great. Price is \$2900 for the week.



Tips for TBFFC

If you want to cast using modern fly casting methods, beg, borrow, or steal Ed Jaworowski's article on "Speed, Part 1: The Rod Hand" that appeared in the April/May 2002 issue of Saltwater Fly Fishing magazine. Study every word and practice this drill regularly. You will soon master the very short and fast speed-up-and-stop necessary for long casts with tight loops, without using your line hand, your wrist, or the muscles of your upper arm and shoulder to throw the line. Practice this drill regularly, and if you practice with each hand you will soon be able to cast with either hand and your back-casts will have tight loops and be as long as your forward casts. **Don Coleman**

Random Thoughts from the Tying Bench

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

FLIES FOR THE WINTER GRASS FLATS – During the winter months in the Tampa Bay area, most of the mature baitfish have migrated to spawn, leaving crabs, shrimps, and small baitfish for the resident game fish to feed on. Use small flies tied on small hooks. Try a small Merkin for a crab imitation, a small Hackle fly (Sea Ducer) for a shrimp pattern, a small Clouser in Brown over yellow with small bead chain eyes, and a yellow over white Bendback for baitfish imitations—one of Carl Hanson's Glass Minnows comes to mind, as does Jack Gartside's Soft Hackle Streamer.

What a wonderful time to wade the saltwater grass flats with a three fly dropper rig using small flies. Drift the dropper rig wherever tidal currents are flowing over grass flats containing sandy "pot holes," mending and checking and paying out line as necessary to control the drift so that the flies appear naturally before the fish—just like small, helpless bait being carried along by the current. When little current is present, try retrieving the rig by using a Hand Twist retrieve. Most hits on drifting flies will be soft. Intently watch the fly line where it disappears in the water and set the hook whenever it twitches. There is much more to fly fishing than simply casting it out there and stripping it back like a spin fisher.



Dr. Greg Stepanski with a Mahi; Captains Greg Peterson and Bryon Chamberlin guided a patriotic Adam Hood to several little Tunny in the shipping channel.



Lynn Skipper had good fishing with Capt Rick Grassetto catching a Black Sea Bass, a small Gag Grouper, a Lane Snapper, numerous trout; 8 different species of fish between 5 AM and 12 noon.

Wes Sobczak with two golden rockfish, Kathy Hagaman with a chum salmon, Ted Hagaman with a silver, floating cabin on Prince William Sound near Cordova, AK





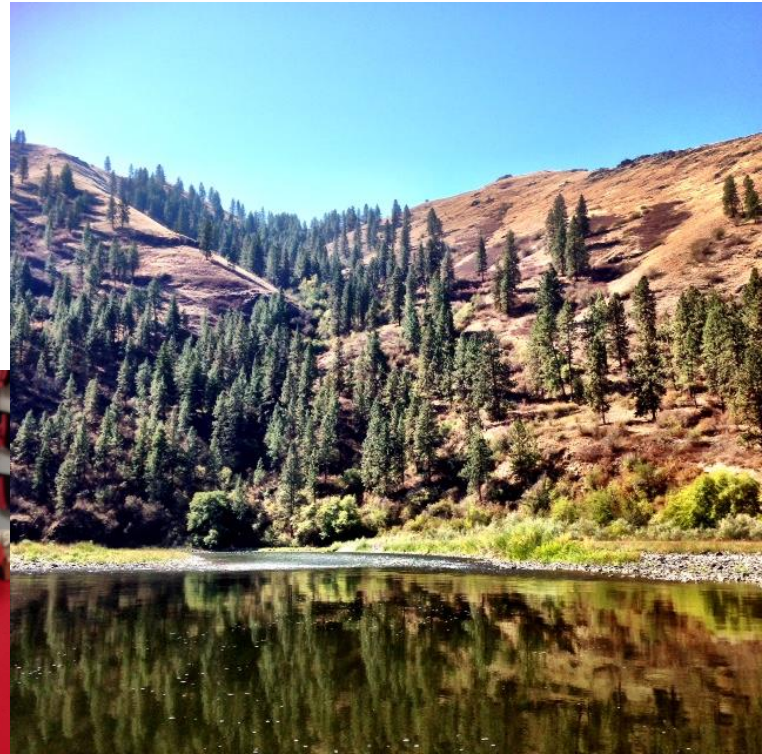
Frank Rhodes and Steve Parker with silver salmon in Kodiak, AK



Nanette and Rick O'Hara on the Grand Ronde River in NE Oregon; guided by Mac Huff.



World's greatest milkshake below, from Boggan's Oasis fishing resort.





Light Trick -- For an inexpensive camp lantern, set a small flashlight in the opening of a plastic milk jug. Hold the light in place with a shim of paper or cloth. Nick Colantonio

Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner: This has been a banner year for smaller tarpon in the Tampa Bay area. Dock lights have been holding a good number of tarpon up to 30 pounds with an occasional larger one cruising near the lights to take advantage of the concentration of baitfish. Snook, reds and trout are the usual customers frequenting lights, but tarpon will be there too. Lights near structure, docks, bridges and marinas are a good place to start. Be very cautious on your approach. Watch the lighted area from a distance using an electric motor at a very slow speed. Good tidal flow is needed to get these fish to accept your offering. This is strictly a sight fishing situation where long accurate casts are needed. If you can't do a saltwater quick cast, get a good casting instructor to help perfect your technique. This will help in all saltwater fly sight casting. If you're not a night person and you want other baby tarpon choices, explore the many rivers that go into the bay and Gulf. Early morning will bring these silver rockets rolling on the surface helping you find their location. If they do not show, concentrate casting small baitfish patterns around the above mentioned structure. If there is no surface activity, use a full sinking line as these elusive fish will spend most of their time close to the bottom. When you find one, more will be nearby.

Capt Rick Grassett notes Fall is here and action will heat up as days get shorter and water cools down. False albacore should be a good option in the coastal gulf especially after another front cools the water and schools baitfish up. Snook fishing around lighted docks and bridges close to passes with flies and DOA Lures should also be a good option. Tarpon are moving to inside waters of Sarasota Bay, where you may find them around lighted docks and bridges, in passes or in canals and creeks. You may find trout, Spanish mackerel, blues and jacks on deep grass flats, particularly close to passes. Look for reds, snook and big trout mixed with mullet schools on shallow flats and edges of bars.

Fishing Report and Forecast, cont.

Kayak guide **Neil Taylor** suggests with the heat of summer drifting into oblivion, October is usually the time when people feel comfortable going back out into the Florida sun. It also coincides with some fantastic action in local waters. Still warm enough to have all the baitfish continuing to take up residence here, the fish are feeding throughout the day instead of just the hours of lower light.

Look for October to be a tremendous month for redfish, trout and flounder. These have been the regular catches throughout the summer months but action should accelerate with water temperatures declining with the less direct sunlight and cooler air temperatures. Redfish will be aggressive and taking advantage of the cooler water to get out and feed longer.

Speckled trout action was the best through the summertime as I have ever seen, but only if you knew exact locations to go. With October, they should invade even more of the areas that they come to every Fall and Winter.

An influx of Spanish mackerel is upon us. The king mackerel will not be far behind. For Spanish mackerel, the 20-pound fluorocarbon leader you use for the other species is not enough. Jump up to 30-pound if using lures and 40-pound if you are feeding them baits with a smaller size hook. King mackerel require a wire leader.

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct 15 Orvis Down the Hatch Film
- Oct 17-24 Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip
- Oct 17 Sarasota All Release Challenge
- Oct 17 Carl Hanson Outing, [Lake Tarpon](#)
- Oct 23-24 FFF Enclave, Miami, FL
- 10-14 Nov Chattooga River, Ga trout fishing
- 14-21 Nov Second Trip to Cuba
- [Nov 22](#) [Big Gun, Picnic Island](#)
- Dec 2 Members Year-End Party
- Dec 11 Play Hooky Outing at the Hatchery
- Dec 19 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

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- 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
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