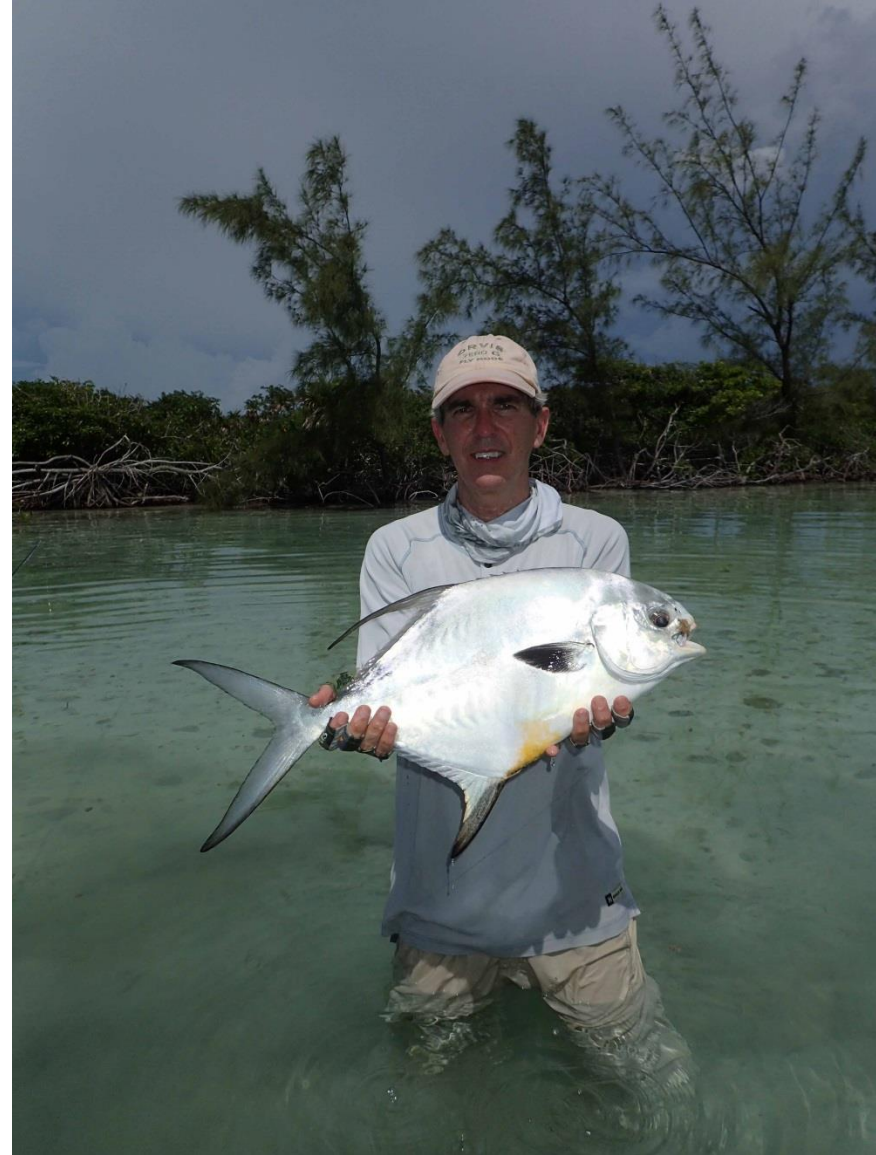




**Next meeting 3 October  
0600 PM to 0900 PM  
Leigh West  
Fly Fishing Tips and Tactics**

Leigh is a good friend of and a long time member of our club. As a Florida native, Leigh had the advantage of growing up while fishing our waters from Key West to Tampa and beyond. Recognized as an expert caster and fisherman, Leigh will offer his insights and tips on how to successfully fly fish our local waters. Leigh and I were fishing in Mexico a few years ago when he caught the permit pictured on the right.



**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 October and fall fishing weather. I fished MacDill on 18 September on a fairly good, low outgoing tide. Lots of mullet and redfish. Also saw many trout and sheepshead. This is a good sign for the beginning of our fall and winter fishing. The Cypress flat should also start to be very good on the low morning tides.

We had to cancel last month's meeting because of the threat from the hurricane. I hope the word got out to everyone as I was in Alaska and my email was unavailable.

We have scheduled the Carl Hanson outing on 12 Oct to try to get better turnout. We fish the Hillsborough River with the Suncoast Club and provide lunch and drinks. It's a lot of fun and I hope you can join us that Saturday. Details and sign up at the October meeting.

We have a table at the Florida Sportsman show (16-17 Nov) and need club members to attend on Saturday and Sunday. Free admission if you can help out for a couple of hours.

We need score keepers for our Big Gun. Let me know if you can help out on this fun and easy task on 17 Nov.

// Walt Durkin



## EVENTS

- 12 Oct: Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- 19 Oct: Marine Quest in St Pete
- 16-17 Nov: Florida Sportsman Show
- 17 Nov: Big Gun, Picnic Island

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin	813-513-2122
<a href="mailto:Walt.durkin@aol.com">Walt.durkin@aol.com</a>	cell 813-853-5870
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Pat Damico	727-504-8649
Robert Fischer	813-962-0185
Bruce Anderson	813-960-8523
Rick O'Hara	813-238-6763

# The BIG GUN SHOOT-OUT



Sponsored by the **Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club**

Sunday, November 17 at 9:00 a.m.

Picnic Island Park, Tampa (Shelter #611)

Experts and beginners alike are invited to test their fly casting skills at the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club's annual "Big Gun Shoot-Out" casting competition!

Individuals and teams of 3 are welcome!

Plaques will be awarded for highest scoring individual, highest scoring teams, and the "Big Gun," the overall distance casting champion.

Contestants will participate in competition stations that mimic the challenges of fly fishing, such as casting under the mangroves, into a cup of water, or through a hoop suspended a few feet off the ground. Come out and give it a try – you'll be hooked!

The competition will run from 9 am - 12 pm. There is NO entry fee, and lunch will be provided to all contestants. You may use your own rod for all competition stations except the Big Gun distance contest. Volunteers also are needed to help set up the course and score contestants.

**CONTACT: Rick O'Hara (flyguy47@verizon.net)**

Please let us know if you are coming by 11/13 so we can order adequate food and beverages

## TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

**Costa de Cocas Trip: 19-26 Oct. Capt. Frank Rhodes** is collecting deposits for this trip; \$2500 this year. Call Frank at 863-604-6505 or see him at a meeting.

**Chatoogga River Trip: 3-8 November.** Please note the new dates and join us for another trip to the Oconee State Park and great trout fishing for 4 days. We will collect deposits for the trip over the next couple of months. We stay in a comfortable barracks with four bedrooms and two bathrooms. We share meals, fishing and fun. The river is designated wild and scenic and one of the best streams in the south.

### **Project Healing Waters News:**

October 1, 8, 22, 29 the PRRC outreach program at 14517 Bruce B. Downs suite 201 Tampa F 10:00 to 11:45

October 15 outing at Picnic Island .Time 8:00 to 12:00 Noon. Come and do some wading.

Second Monday of the month at Tampa fishing outfitters from 6:00 PM. to 8:00 PM.

Pretty Soon in November we will have HPW on Saturday.

For any questions call Joe Perez at 813-445-9821 program lead for Project Healing Waters .

## Prepare for Tarpon on a Fly

While recently discussing saltwater fly fishing with a group of freshwater anglers the bucket list for every one of them included coming to Florida and catching a big tarpon with a fly rod. I then asked a couple of questions. What is the heaviest fly rod you ever used and can you cast 50 feet with accuracy in most wind conditions with one or two false casts? Most never cast anything heavier than a 5 weight rod, their usual trout streams were small, often wind protected, requiring very short unrushed casts and they usually false cast multiple times to, "Dry their fly." How then are they going to use an 11 weight rod with a large bulky fly, cast accurately to an often moving target, difficult to see under frequent cloudy, windy conditions? They stared at me without answering. The videos we see showing an experienced angler casting to, hooking with a strip strike and landing a large tarpon often may take a few days to put together. They must invest considerable time in preparing for a successful trip. This would begin by researching their intended location, talking to local fly shops and some recommended guides and finally getting some good instruction so that necessary practice before the trip will be time well spent. Like many things, it may look easy but isn't.

Fly Fisherman Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) and (727) 504-8649.



# Brooks Falls Trip

Several club members traveled to King Salmon Alaska this Sept for some rainbow and silver salmon fishing. We stayed a week at the Naknek River Fishing Lodge run by the Johnson family. Although the silver salmon were not plentiful this year, we did manage to catch enough to fill a shelf in the freezer and found some big rainbow trout.

The highlight for all of us was a fantastic day trip to the famous Brooks Falls River. Crossing 28 miles by boat across Naknek Lake, we landed on the far shoreline of Brooks Falls Park. Greeting us the beach was a beautiful float plane and our host, our first brown bear. As the grizzly bears have the right of way in this area, we were held up in the water until the bear wandered down the shore and past us. Luckily for our sake he didn't decide to lie down for a snooze or our fishing would have been delayed. We attended the 20 minute Bear School and then were off to the boardwalk to the viewing area of these classic falls. Two bears were at the falls and entertained us with their play for salmon. We stayed about 30 minutes and then headed out into the river ourselves with our guides Mario Chance and Josh DeYoung. The river was shallow, with gravel bars and crystal clear water which made easy sight casting thru the thousands of red sockeye salmon to target the giant rainbows who feast on the salmon eggs. Streamers, mouse patterns and salmon fish eggs were all casted at these beautiful fish but the eggs were the most successful. Mario and Josh gave great instructions and joined the rest of us hooting and hollering as these colorful large rainbows would attack our flies and took our lines screaming down the river. Several huge fish got us into the backing of our lines as they gave us a fight worthy of any saltwater fish their size.

Adding to the adventure were these historic bears who chased us off the river 4 times. They would appear coming out of the woods and grasses and step out into the river and walk in our direction. Somehow the lure of the river and rainbows kept us wanting to be in the river and their presence added to the mystique of the area vs the full scope of having a 2000 ton animal that could kill you with one bat of his paw and kept us wanting to fish the river

Thank you to Naknek Lodge for the opportunity to fish this historic area and Josh & Mario for a day we will never forget. //Patty Anderson

Bear Viewing at Brooks Falls  
Southwest Alaska  
Katmai National Park



Bruce, Walt, Patty, Ted, Leo



Josh, Patty, Mario and Paul below Brooks Falls





Bruce and Mario



Ted with trophy rainbow  
drifting a Dali lama fly  
on the Naknek River



**Patty Anderson** with her chunk of a rainbow on the Naknek river





**Patty and Bruce Anderson** hosted us in Ft. Collins for a week on the way to Alaska. We fished, drank and worked in Patty's garden. Bruce dry fly fishing on the Poudre River and relaxing by the Big Thompson river.



**Rick and Nanette O'Hara** enjoyed fishing the Everglades backcountry for Nanette's 60th birthday in September. Over two days of guided fishing with Capt. Kevin Mihailoff, they caught several large snook, 8 juvenile tarpon and about 50 smaller snook. The large snook were mostly caught on poppers.



Capt. Bryon got to fish with his friend Capt. Bruce Chard in mid-Sep. They caught 11 of 18 bonefish hooked. All were caught while wade fishing the gulfside of the middle keys. Nothing big, but all were quality fish.





Club member **Tom Walden** fishing Wish River Montana with Project Healing Waters last month at Freedom Ranch from 13-17 August. They fished the Big Horn River and caught 3 rainbow trout, 3 brown trout and 1 brook trout.

Our new **traveling club flags** are on the move! Four club members in Cayo Coco, Cuba in May. Lower right **Ted and Frank** in Cordova AK in September. **Lou and Walt** at Casuarina Point, Abaco, Bahamas in April 2018.





Patty and Bruce Anderson  
In Belize City, Belize  
behaving themselves



Ted and Walt beach snook fishing  
Little Gasparilla Island May 2019



Walt and Capt. Frank  
in the jungles of Columbia



Grand Cayman June 2019



## Fishing Report and Forecast

### “What a great time to go fishing!”

**Kayak guide Neil Taylor** reports: I wish I had more to say. It is the tail end of my slow season. I have been out. I have had out of towners and I have put them on "action", mostly ladyfish, trout, accidental jacks, lizardfish. Bluefish, no but are coming in another 6 weeks. Mackerel are possible if you can find them. Pompano have been a major disappointment. Flounder, nothing impressive. Things are different than they used to be. A seasonal change can only help. Livelybaits@aol.com Phone: 727-692-6345

**Captain Rick Grassett** reports tarpon are moving from the coastal gulf to inside areas of Charlotte Harbor and Tampa Bay as they thin out in the gulf. You might also find juvenile tarpon in creeks and canals this time of year. Fishing mangrove shorelines for catch and release reds and snook may also be a good option. Night fishing for snook and more is a dependable option and a good way to beat the heat. Our natural resources are under constant pressure from red tides fueled by industrial, agricultural and residential runoff, freezes, increasing fishing pressure and habitat loss and degradation, please limit your kill, don't kill your limit! *Snook Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc. (941) 923-7799 (office)*



## 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 19 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 1-3 Shad Outing St John's River
- Feb 9 Girls Fish Too!
- Feb 24 East Lake Woodlands fly fishing seminar
- Mar 2 Casting Clinic
- Mar 31 Annual Banquet
- Apr CCA Banquet
- June 22 Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct 19-26 Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip
- Oct 26 Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- Nov 3-8 Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 17 Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Nov 16-17 Florida Sportsman Show
- Dec Members Year End Party
- Dec Play Hooky at the Hatchery
- Dec 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

## Fly Casting Coaches

### Dade City

Jeff Janecek.....352-588-3866

### South Tampa

Steve Parker.....813-287-5583

Walt Durkin.....813-853-5870

### North Tampa

Robert Fischer.....813-962-0185

Dan Lagace.....813-929-6605

Leigh West .....813-971-8697

### St. Petersburg

Capt. Pat Damico.....727-504-8649

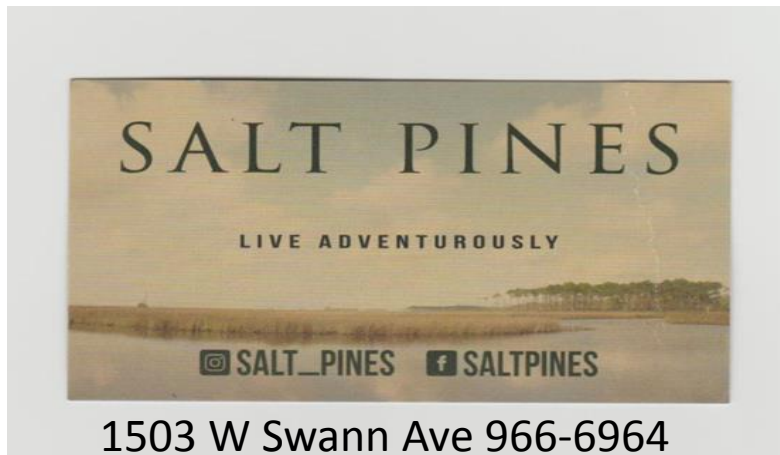
### Polk County

Capt. Frank Rhodes.....863-967-4258

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- THE FLY GUY, Capt. Pat Damico, (727) 504-8649 ,w [www.captpat.com](http://www.captpat.com), pat4jaws@hotmail.com
- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grasset, (941) 923-7799, [www.snookfin-addict.com](http://www.snookfin-addict.com)
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- Dave Chouinard, Simms Fishing, 732-610-9700, Fax: 727-953-6296 ; [Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com](mailto:Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com)



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Member Application

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Hm. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Wk. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check: One Year \_\_\_\_\_ Five Year \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

Annual Dues: \$25.00 Individual Membership

\$35.00 Family Membership

\$95.00 Corporate Single Membership

(includes one membership and Ad Space)

\$120.00 Corporate Double Membership

(includes two memberships or family membership and

Ad Space in Newsletter)

Five-year dues: \$100.00 Individual Membership

\$140.00 Family Membership

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