

Kayak Fishing

Bob Schorejs, aka “Kayak Bob”

Please join us for the April meeting as Kayak Bob gives us tips on kayak fishing. Here is his bio:

“I grew up in Michigan and started fishing at the age of six. When I was twelve, I found a Shakespeare Presidential 5 wt. fly rod next to a tree on the Pere Marquette River in Michigan, thereby starting fly fishing for lots of freshwater species: trout, steelhead, large and smallmouth bass, bluegills, crappies, perch, carp and salmon. My favorites were steelhead and salmon caught in Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. While in the Army, stationed in the Panama Canal Zone, I spent off-duty time fishing for tarpon, corvina, barracuda, snook, grouper, snapper, jack, dolphin fish, sailfish, marlin, and various reef fish. The area was a perfect location for fishing in a lake, river, or ocean. Though I didn’t fish from a lake, I know that Peacock Bass have been introduced and now thrive in Gatun Lake which is part of the canal route. After retiring from Worthington Industries, now Worthington Enterprises, in Columbus, Ohio, I moved to Palm Harbor, FL and started kayak fishing, joined the St. Joseph Sound Angler’s Club, won some kayak fishing tournaments and was “Fisherman of the Year” many times. I am now happy to be a member of the West Coast Angler’s Club.”



**Next meeting 2 April 2024
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**

We meet at the Northdale Recreation Center from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Come early to practice casting at 05:30 pm. We will provide pizza and drinks, so join us for an enjoyable evening. Families and newcomers are welcome to walk in and check out the club. We have also started collecting annual dues for 2024.

Directions to Our Meetings (6:00pm): Directions to Our Meetings (6:30 pm) Northdale Rec Center: Take Dale Mabry north past Ehrlich Road and then left on Northdale Blvd. Then left on Spring Pine Drive and straight to the Rec Center on the right.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our fly tying meeting went well with seven tyers and lots of spectators. We have made fly boxes with those flies and will offer them at the next meeting in our raffle. Thanks to all who attended and special thanks to those who tied the great flies.

Our annual banquet is set for 6 April so mark your calendars. We will host jointly with the Suncoast again this year. Tickets are available at the next two meetings for \$25. We are seeking a few more raffle items for you to either consign or donate, so think about that. Nonetheless, we will have cool stuff, good food and camaraderie to look forward to.

We have topped off our raffle with new items and lots of fly tying materials, so check it out and maybe buy a few more tickets. Every ticket wins something!

Thanks for supporting our club and let us know if we can do a better job. Our goal is to grow our sport with hands-on help and conservation.

We are collecting annual dues for 2024; \$40 for an individual member. Please pay at your earliest convenience. All the best and tight lines!

//Walt Durkin 

Fly Fishing Quotes

“There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over just staying home”. – Roderick Haig-Brown

“In the best stories about fly fishing ... big fish are caught or lost; people say wild and spontaneous words; event becomes memory and sometimes, in the hands of a master, bleeds into art. ” – Nick Lyons

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Bruce Anderson	813-786-3902
Jim Dye	941-730-3647
Keaton Anderson	404-313-7820

Club Banquet/Hog Roast 6 April

Annual Banquet: Saturday , 6 April at St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo. Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club will again join the Suncoast Club this year, adding to the product donations and bidding for gear and trips. Tickets are \$25 and you can buy them at the next two meetings or online at <https://suncoastflyfishers.com/>. Finally, you can also buy them at the door, but please let me know if you plan to attend (Walt Durkin 813-853-5870). This is a big fund raiser for both clubs and helps keep our annual dues on the low side. We will offer many great fly fishing items at a low cost for you to bid on. Items include lots of fly fishing equipment, flies, gift baskets and local guide trips. This will be your chance to get a great guided trip for a bargain price. Don't miss this fun event.



gg62745904 www.gograph.com

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

New Club Shirts are available in white, blue and tan. They cost us \$27 and will offer them at \$30. We are also looking for club hats to offer.

The Film Tour featured on the right is a lot of fun. The Tampa Theater is a super venue dating back over 100 years. They also have popcorn and soda, beer and wine to wash it down. Just show up and buy your tickets. Sponsored by Waterkeepers who will put their proceeds to good use.

Here is another good local website I found: Wade Fishing Tampa Bay at saltyscales.com. The article notes places to wade as well as tips on how to fish.

We are seeking fly boxes with about a dozen flies for our banquet as auction items. So, calling on all tyers to try to prepare a box for the club. Please bring them to the next meeting if possible.

Please support our local fly shops, especially Tampa Fishing Outfitters off Dale Mabry past the stadium and Minnows and Monsters in S. Tampa. Mention our club for a 10% discount.



Fly Fishing Trip to Andros Island

Six club members traveled to Andros Island for a week of bonefishing. Travelers included Jim Adams, Jim Dye, Ken Moser, Robert Fischer, Ted Hagaman and Walt Durkin. We flew American Airlines to Nassau and then took LeAir to Fresh Creek on Andros. Next, we traveled by taxi to Behring Point and stayed with Melinda at Frankie's Two Boy's Inn. Mostly fair weather greeted us for the week with some sun and mild wind. Clouds and thunderstones arrived on day four and we delayed a couple of hours before heading out for a good, but cloudy day. Boats and guides were all fine and we had fun trying to rotate guides and fishing partners. We were targeting bonefish, but also caught permit, barracuda, snapper, blue runners and mackerel. Jim Dye caught the permit when we were fishing deeper water adjacent to the AUTECH Naval base. Bonefish ran from two to six pounds caught and some bigger ones were seen, hooked and lost. Andros is known for having big bone fish up to 14 pounds. I hooked a good one, which took off and straightened my hook toward the end of my backing. We fished 7 to 9 weight rods and mostly shrimp flies along with traditional Crazy Charlies and Gotcha's. The guides favor bigger flies to go after the bigger fish. Have a variety of weights from light to fairly heavy. If you hook a big bonefish you will be happy to have your 9 weight in hand. Plan on 9 foot leaders down to 15 to 20 pound test. The Middle Bight holds thousands or acres of prime flats with good habitat. I thought the fish were a little hard to find and catch this year, but we all had good days with shots at multiple fish. The fish were also spooky at times, both frustrating and fun. We fished from the boats most of the time with one guide and two anglers. Limited wading was available for those wanting to try on their own. We ate breakfast at 7:00, made our own lunch sandwich and met the guides around 8:00. Usually we returned between three and four depending on how the day went. We also fished off the dock a little in the evening where you could try for snapper, bonefish or perhaps a rolling tarpon. I thought the food was very good this year with a soup or salad, entree and dessert. Entrées featured chicken, fish, lobster and ribs. We also walked down to Boston's Hot Spot, where Boston prepared us six conch salads as we watched a master at work. You have not really lived until you have enjoyed one of those. Two Boy's also has a well-stocked bar to enjoy and perhaps drown your fishing sorrows. All-in-all it was a great week with good friends, food, drink and interesting sights and fishing. We were replaced by a group of six Bulgarians who had just traveled 40 hours to bonefish. They seemed well-prepared and excited and we wished them all the best as we left early the next morning. //Walt

Andros Pictures

Jim Adams



Ted



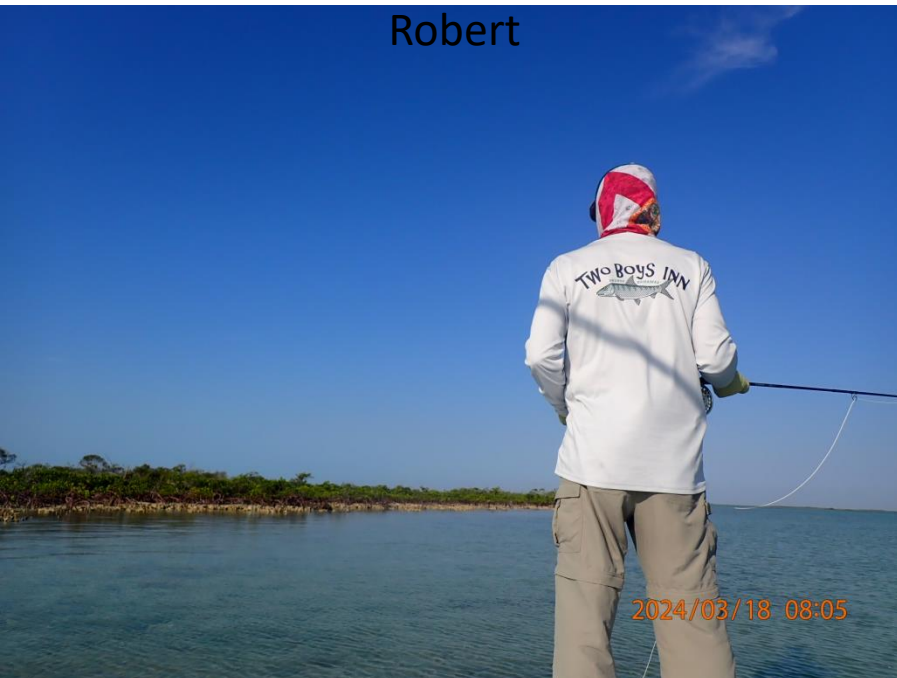
Jim Dye



Ken



Robert



Boston



Fly Casting Tip for April

Recently, I have been reading and looking online for casting tips. I have found my casting does not get any easier as I get older and you can always learn something new. I was reminded of this on our recent trip to Andros, where our guide asked me to slow down and wait on the back-cast; a little hard to do when he is excitedly telling you where to quickly make a cast. In my eagerness, I was forgetting to stay calm, start slow and only snap the back-cast when the fly leaves the water. This proper technique will allow for a strong back-cast and set up a successful forward cast.

Another tip I read about and tried was to move your thumb right up to the end of the rod grip. This small move, shortens the rod and gives you a better feel for the action of the tip. Good casters have a smooth action and can feel the rod load and unload. You can practice this by carrying 20 feet of line back and forth in the air with you eyes closed using short quick hauls. This tip by my friend, Patty Anderson, will help you feel the tip action of the rod by not looking.

Finally, please watch this YouTube video by Flip Pallot:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LFdPXR0M4w>

Take note of his relatively short, smooth casting stroke and the way the tip of the rod loads and unloads. You can see he is carrying quite a bit of line and casting it back and forth with little effort as the rod rolls out the line. There are many good casting videos online and I encourage you to watch them, practice correct technique and also get training and help from one of our instructors. Fly casting is really pretty easy if you don't get too excited and flustered as I did in the Bahamas. But, that's why its so much fun and satisfying when we get it right! //Walt

Club member Ken Moser is back at it again with stained glass. He sent me this with the note: "Couldn't help but make this piece after sitting for hours looking at the back of yours and Ted's shirt."



Club member Jeff Abeles sent us this: "Rick Happle and I went out with Rob Gorta. We fished the Mangroves around Ft. Desoto, strong incoming tide. The fish were very spooky and we couldn't get close enough to throw flies under the Mangroves! We used light spinning tackle and these fish gave us some fight jumping and pulling a cranked down drag. We had double hookups all day. My largest Snook was 32" and Rick landed a 10-15 lb Redfish. We drifted some grass flats and caught many trout on fly. Rob was saying we caught 3 Florida slams each! A great day on the water."



Club member Ken Zadoyko sent us this: “On a recent trip to Belize, we stayed at El Pescador Lodge. The lodge, food, staff and guides were great. We fished for three days. We caught bones, jacks and permit. Christmas Island specials size 8/10 with varying size eyes for different water depths worked great on the bones. I used a 6 wt 9 ft trout rod because there was very little wind. What a blast! Our guide would point out pods of bones that were able to see and cast to. We caught a lot of them. Permit were a lot more difficult to catch. We used crab patterns and a 9 wt rods. Once permit were sighted we got out of the boat and waded into position to cast. Once hooked they took you into your backing on several great runs. Overall, it was a great trip”.



Kelly Sobczak sent us this: "Wes and Kelly camped and fished in the Florida Keys in early March. They camped at Bahia Honda State Park (12 miles west of Marathon), Curry Hammock State Park (east end of Marathon), and John Pennekamp State Park (Key Largo). Our Florida state parks are beautiful and in the middle of some of the best fly fishing. Fishing from kayaks that were easily launched at each park, they caught dozens of fish each day, including bonefish, snapper, jacks, and lots of barracuda. The barracuda were relentless and took many of their flies until wire bite tippet was found at a local fly shop. Kelly also caught lots of fish, but isn't as good at fish selfies as Wes. They went to the Key Deer Refuge one night to photograph key deer and titled this photo "the buck stops here"."



Spring fishing has arrived! Snook are pictured on the right off the seawall on Bayshore waiting for action. Ken Moser guided by Capt. Nick Angelo is shown with a big redfish; and, Capt. Bryon Chamberlin guided Robert Fischer to big snook and also reds and trout. Support our club guides for a super day on the water. //Walt



Photo Gallery

I am trying a new section of our news letter to feature photos from club members of things besides fish. So, dust off your cell phones, SLR camera's or your Kodak Polaroid and send me your exceptional photos each month. Examples below are from Capt. Bryon Chamberlin, an excellent guide and photographer. //Walt



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Stealthy Fly Fishing

"I've been seeing redfish, but they won't take my fly!" As the number of fly fishers in our area increases, this is getting to be something I hear with increasing frequency. If they are seeing redfish, it has to be in very shallow often clear water. They usually feel their fly choice is the issue expecting me to recommend a different fly pattern. After asking what fly pattern they were using, they will generally give multiple answers. They could be wading, using a kayak or boat. My next question is often, "Are the fish aware of your presence?" "I don't think so!" is the usual answer. After asking about how far the fish are, they usually say a little further than they can cast. The real clincher is as they move closer to the fish, the fish move further away because they are on high alert. Changing flies, even casting further will not succeed until stealth is developed. When the fish are relaxed enough to not feel threatened, only then can a carefully presented fly to an active fish be successful

Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and (727) 504-8649

Capt Rick Grasset reports: There should be good action with reds, trout and snook in skinny water in March as the water warms and baitfish become more plentiful. Look for Spanish and king mackerel, cobia, tripletail and false albacore (little tunny) in the coastal gulf. Night snook fishing in the ICW should also be a good this month.

Reds should be more active as the water warms and baitfish become more plentiful. Higher tides, as we head into spring, will allow them to spend more time feeding in shallow water. Look for them over shallow grass, along mangrove shorelines and around oyster bars when the tide is high. You should find them in potholes and along sand bars when the tide is low. Fly anglers should score with my Grasset Flats Minnow fly, fished on a 12' or longer leader. When using a long leader be sure you are able turn it over, otherwise you'll need to shorten it until you can. The butt section should be at least 50% of the total length of the leader and stiff enough to transfer energy from your fly line to the leader.

You might also find reds around docks when the tide is low. Look for deep water under docks with a good tidal flow for the best action. A clear intermediate sink tip fly line with a weighted fly and a 6' leader should work well for dock fishing. In addition to reds, you might find snook, flounder, sheepshead, jacks and more around docks.

You may find big trout in skinny water in many of the same places that you find reds. Blind cast seams where grass meets sand or focus on light colored bottom, in potholes on top of sand bars, where you may be able to sight fish them. I release all big trout (over 19"), since they are usually females that are often filled with roe. These big fish are important to the health of our fishery.

Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc.; E-mail snookfin@aol.com; (941) 923-7799.



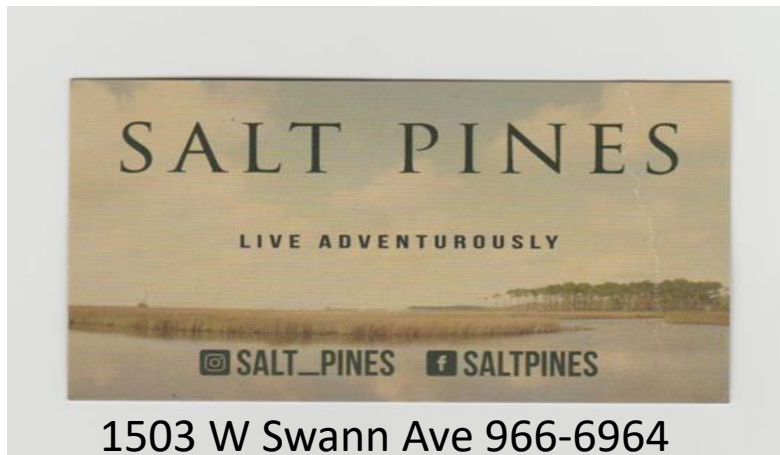
2023/24 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 6 Cypress Park Wade Clinic
- Jan 20 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 17 Trout Creek Outing
- Apr 6 Annual Banquet
- June 22 Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct Carl Hanson Outing
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov Casting Clinic, Egan Park
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec Play Hooky at the Suncoast Youth Center
- Dec 16 Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto

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These companies sponsored the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Some are members of the club. We urge you to patronize them.

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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

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- Capt. Bryon Chamberlin (813) 361-8801
- Capt. Rick Grassett (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
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Member Application

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Name: _____

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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: \$40.00 Individual Membership

\$50.00 Family Membership

\$150.00 Corporate Single Membership

(includes one membership and Ad Space)

Five-year dues: \$160.00 Individual Membership

\$200.00 Family Membership

Please make check payable to: Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club C/O Walt Durkin at 3401
W Vasconia St, Tampa, FL 33629