



**Come to the next meeting  
Tuesday, January 25 at Twin Lakes Park at 7:00 PM.  
Come early for casting and tying instruction.**



**"How to deal with cold weather fish"** with Captain Jamie Allen of Boca Grande, Pine Island Sound & Charlotte Harbor, Florida.

Jamie specializes in fishing for tarpon, redfish, snook, trout, fly fishing, light tackle, tournaments and is an FFF Certified Casting Instructor.

To learn more about Captain Jamie, come to the January meeting, visit his web site, <http://www.jamiesoutfishin.com>, or contact him by phone: (941) 628-9031 or email: [jamiesoutfishin@gmail.com](mailto:jamiesoutfishin@gmail.com)

**PARTICIPATE!!!** This your newsletter. Send in some photographs, fish stories one paragraph, one page or even one line. We all want to hear about your fishing adventures.

If I don't start getting some stuff from members I'll begin using my own again. And that's a real threat if you remember how bad that is.

The editor

## Win a free trip with Capt. Jamie Allen

**OUR SPECIAL RAFFLE for January and February**  
 Capt. Jamie Allen donated a 6-hour guided fishing trip.

**Raffle tickets are only \$5 each, or 6 tickets for \$20.**

The drawing for the winning ticket was held at the February meeting.

BIO: Captain Jamie Allen of Boca Grande, Pine Island Sound & Charlotte Harbor, Florida. TARPON \* REDFISH \* SNOOK \* TROUT \* FLYFISHING \* LIGHT TACKLE \* TOURNAMENTS \* FFF CERTIFIED CASTING

Snook, Redfish, Tarpon. Flyfishing and light tackle, from beginner to expert, everyone will enjoy a day on Charlotte Harbor and Pine Island Sound in a flats boat. How much would you enjoy a beautiful day on the water with a knowledgeable and friendly guide?

You will have fun even on a day when the fishin's tough. The boat can accommodate two experienced fly fishermen (If you're a newbie more room and time for helpful hints might be better). If one or two of the fisherman are children, three can fit in the flats boat. If you would have more fun fly fishing if you could improve your casting just say the word. Your day on the water can focus on casting or fishing or both! And don't worry, we won't take any pictures of dropped loops or short casts, just happy fishermen with their catches.

Note: Lunch is not provided but water and soft drinks are. Start times vary with the weather, tides and your schedule. .

**TO learn more about Jamie, visit his web site...**

<http://www.jamiesoutfishin.com>, or contact him by phone: (941) 628-9031 or email: [jamiesoutfishin@gmail.com](mailto:jamiesoutfishin@gmail.com)

The winner of the trip with Capt. John Hand was new member Gerald Valgora . He joined the club the night of the drawing! Nice going, Gerald.

## Capt. Rick Grasset's Fly Fishing Forecast for February 2011

You might find trout, reds and snook in rivers, creeks and canals this month and they may sneak out onto grass flats and around bars on sunny afternoons. You'll also find snook in the ICW at night feeding on glass minnows and small shrimp. If the weather isn't too harsh, you might also find pompano on grass flats and around bars and drop offs this month. Sheepshead should be plentiful around docks and oyster bars and they are a good cool weather option. It's always worth a look in the coastal gulf in February when conditions are good for tripletail, little tunny, blues or more.

**Snook** season remains closed this month, so handle them gently. Use tackle that is heavy enough to catch and release them quickly. The ICW from Sarasota down through Englewood offers a lot of protection from blasts of cold air and plenty of food for snook during the winter. I use small white flies fished on intermediate or intermediate sink tip fly lines when they are feeding on glass minnows and fly poppers or Gurglers fished on floating fly lines when they are eating shrimp near the surface. I try to use good judgment when catch and release snook fishing in the winter. If the water temperature dips into the 50's, their survivability is questionable, so that's not a good time to target them. However, there may be good action during warm ups between fronts.

You'll also find snook in rivers, creeks and canals this month. They may be around docks or in deep spots such as bends or channels. They may feed on larger baits such as finger mullet, pinfish or killifish (mud minnows) in these areas. Larger profile barred flies such as Kwans or EP flies will work well in these areas, especially on a sunny afternoon.

**Trout** may be found on deep grass flats, in channels, potholes or on drop-offs along the edges of bars and flats in February. They will drop into potholes and drop-offs along the edges of flats or bars when the tide is low. The negative low tides from Feb. 1-5 and 14-19 should be particularly good. You may find them in skinny water over shallow grass when the tide is high on a sunny afternoon. On deep grass flats, I like to drift and cast ahead of my drift with weighted flies on sinking fly lines to locate fish. In deep water, you may need to use a fast sinking fly line and crawl your fly along the bottom to get a bite. Once you've located fish you can shorten your drift or anchor up on them.

**Reds** may be found in some of the same areas as trout this month. They will concentrate in potholes or edges of bars and flats when the tide is low. They will feed up onto shallow grass flats as the tide rises, particularly on a sunny afternoon. They may tail on shallow grass flats of Gasparilla Sound on the negative low tides mentioned earlier. They will occasionally tail in areas of north Sarasota Bay or lower Tampa Bay, but not to the extent that they do in Gasparilla Sound. Use flies with weed guards that suspend or sink slowly when targeting tailing reds. Cast to then when their tail is in the air and wait for the tail to disappear, which is when they are horizontal and searching for food, and then move your fly slightly. Docks are another area that you may find reds in February. Look for docks that are crusty, with a lot of barnacle and oyster growth, have deep water and good tidal flow to find fish. Weighted flies, such as Clousers, fished on an intermediate or faster sink tip fly line, cast under a dock should work fine in these areas. I prefer north Sarasota Bay, lower Tampa Bay and Gasparilla Sound for reds and trout in February.

You might also find **blues, flounder, pompano, jacks and ladyfish** on deep grass flats this month and the techniques would be the same as when trout fishing. Pompano may skip on the surface making their presence known, so when this happens, circle around up wind and drift the area casting ahead of your drift. These species may also be found in passes, which will require fast sinking fly lines with weighted flies. I use a 300 or 350-grain Depth Charge fly line in this situation. Make a series of drifts to locate fish, casting perpendicular to the drift as the tide moves your boat to get your fly down in the water column.

I like to take a look in the coastal gulf on nice days to see what I might find. **Little tunny, blues, jacks and ladyfish** are all species you might find. Look for surface activity to find them and then cast weighted flies on sinking fly lines to them. My Grasset Snook Minnow fly works well when they are feeding on glass minnows. **Tripletail** may be found with their nose right against a crab trap float. Make an accurate presentation with a fly that suspends or sinks slowly, like my Grasset Flats Minnow, to catch them. Make your first presentation count, since they are much harder to catch once they know you are there.

You can be successful in February if you fish smart. Fish the windows of good conditions between fronts or when fronts are approaching for the best action. Following fronts, sunny afternoons may fish better. Whatever you choose to do, **please limit your kill, don't kill your limit!**

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 Capt. Rick Grasset  
 Snook Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc.  
 FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor  
 (941) 923-7799  
 E-mail [snookfin@aol.com](mailto:snookfin@aol.com)

[www.flyfishingflorida.net](http://www.flyfishingflorida.net) and [www.snookfin-addict.com](http://www.snookfin-addict.com)

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Look for snook at night in the ICW during warm ups in February. MCFF member Phil Rever caught and released this one on a Grasset Snook Minnow fly while fishing the ICW at night near Venice with Capt. Rick Grasset on a previous February trip. Capt. Rick Grasset file photo.



Look for "gator" trout in potholes during February. This one was sight fished out of a pothole with an olive Grasset Flats Minnow fly.



**Cindy McClure.....what's your secret fly?**

It's one I made myself. A simple deer tail one with a small strip of rabbit on top which has great action in the water. Reds and trout love it. Thanks!

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## **An Introduction to Fly Fishing**

Some call fly fishing an art form and depict it as an elitist's sport. This is a skewed concept and principally held by non-anglers. When as a youngster following ancient men along the streams of New England, every-one fished with a fly. We were farmers with a small town mentality, but we took our fishing seriously. The winter past-time was fly tying and long discussions about hatches, flies and big fish in impossible places. To-day's saltwater fly fisher has his own "old men" and spends his off hours telling tales of great trips, tarpon and wily snook. A day on a flat casting to "flags" is the meat of conversations over margaritas in a water side pub. So today's saltwater angler has much in common with his ancestors and the passion of the sport has lost nothing with the passage of time. I can only tell you why I fish with a fly, not why you should. Many enjoyable days were spent perfecting my casting. It took passion and energy. Each time I pick up the rod I feel the excitement again. It is also important to me to share the advantage with the fish. It is truly humbling. Fish are not rocket scientists and have no reasoning power, but they continue to fool the most accomplished anglers. For what it's worth, I feel I have met my match when I hook up on a wary fish. Lastly, I can feel the raw power and determination of the fish. It gives me a glimpse of nature's power and determination. I hope it is reflected in me. Fly fishing is easy. That statement makes students believe I am fooling with them. They are sure I am lying. Well, I'm not lying. The reason fly fishing is easy is because it is a natural motion we use every day in our activities. The cast is best described as a transfer of momentum. The momentum imparted by your arm is transferred to the rod. From high school physics, we know a rod is a lever, a simple machine. The length of the lever multiplies the power received from our arms and the rod tosses the line carrying the line with it. Okay, you say, where is the tricky part? The tricky part is keeping control of the lever (rod). Once you develop a little control you work on timing. Timing is just moving the rod at the right moment. This is where your instructor can help you the most. Your belief in these words will aid you immeasurably as you learn to cast well.

A life dedicated to fly fishing brings memories and friends you could never have found in the world of non-anglers. You can fly fish until your dying days and enjoy it. It will imbue you with a sense of pride and accomplishment outside your given vocation. And you will be seen as a person of quality, a good steward of the environment and an artist. Never let go of the experience you find on the water. It will give you great comfort in the autumn of your life.

Fish Hard,  
Peter T. Greenan  
A Flyfisher

## **Tips on Casting by Pete Greenan**

Here are three important factors to help your casting.

First, maintain a straight line path of the rod tip. It is easy to do if you watch the tip of your rod while practicing. The straighter the path the tighter the loop.

Second, try to maintain a constant rate of acceleration throughout the cast. This means that the rod continuously

increases speed from stop to stop. That way the rod is moving fastest just before the stop.

Third, match the rod arc with the rod bend. Rod arc is the angle of the rod between the front stop and the backcast stop. The arc widens as you bend the rod more. When you increase distance you cause the rod to flex deeper into the rod. The deeper the flex the wider the arc. This will help maintain the straight line path of the cast.

I hope this helps your casting. Just come a bit early to our meetings and you can test your ability with our casting instructors. Feel free to ask any question or seek one-on-one help.

**Pete Greenan, Master Casting Instructor**

## Fly Of The Month

### The Schoolie



I've had a couple of conversations about last month's "Fly of the Month". Pete Greenan and I discussed how the use of the kahle hook I used for the Slinky Deceiver might not get a good hook set on a fish. I have to now concur, but there is a very good fix.

Bob Popovics's book "Pop Fleyes" (which I high recommend) has a fly in it called the schoolie. David (Jeff) Jefferson of our club pointed it out to me. This fly was tied on a keel hook (no longer available). One of Popovics's notes about the fly recommended bending the hook point up slightly in order for it to properly hook-up with the fish. This tip also applies to the use of a kahle hook.

So, this month I continue with the use of the kahle hook, tying one of Popovics's patterns, slightly modified. This fly is a bit whimsical, but it's easy to tie and gives you a two-for-one profile.

#### **Materials:**

Hook: Mustad 37160S (stainless) or VMC 9801PS (plated) #1/0 or #2/0 (up eye kahle hook)

Body: Ultrahair, Fishhair, Slinky Fiber, Kinky Fiber or the like in white and a color, complementary flash material

Eyes: 3-D eyes

Thread: White Flymaster + or mono

Misc: 5 minute epoxy, Dave's Fleximent, Fletch Tite, red sharpie marker

1. If the hook you are using has an off-set shank, straighten it out. Now bend the hook point up slightly.
2. Start by tying the bottom fly first. Don't start it too far back from the upward sweep to the hook eye. Attach and build a thread base, then tie in the white fiber. Don't be too generous with the materials, and keep the materials on top of the hook. Not flared towards the sides. Tie in the flash. Now tie in slightly less colored material on top. Build a smooth head with which to attach the eyes. Whip finish, cut, and glue with Fleximent.
3. Just below the hook eye, build a thread base. Tie on the white material first. In order for this material to point rearward to the hook point, make several under wraps beneath the material followed by a wrap above the material. This will help cock it in the proper direction. Add flash and the colored material. Build the head, whip finish, cut and glue with Fleximent
4. To attach the 3-D eyes, I place a glue base of Fletch Tite and apply the eye using a bodkin. Allow this to dry for 20 minutes. Mark in a gills with the red sharpie.
5. Mix up the epoxy and apply to the head. Turn the fly for a few minutes to smooth the head, then allow to dry overnight.

Craig Smothers

Ready to have some fun  
AND help make a difference?

## Become a Sarasota County Seagrass Survey Volunteer



- Help protect this valuable natural resource.
- Participate in environmental research.
- It's easy, fun and will help scientists better understand Sarasota's Bays.

Join us for hands-on training in the water.

**1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Saturday Jan. 29**  
**Turtle Beach Community Center**  
**8919 Midnight Pass Rd.**  
**Sarasota, 34242**

**Rain Date: Saturday, Feb. 5, same time and location.**

A portion of the training will take place in the water so please dress accordingly.

Participants in the survey should have their own GPS and watercraft. Those who do not have this equipment will need to be paired with those who do.

**Contact Amanda Dominguez at**  
**861-5000 or [adomingu@scgov.net](mailto:adomingu@scgov.net)**



Directions



## The Kayak Corner

Ask around and you'll probably discover fishing has been good, but catching tough!

Abnormally cold weather again is the culprit.

However, there are areas where fish congregate during the cold and make for easy pickings if you know where they are and you're stealthy enough to take advantage.

My clients and I have been averaging 100 fish per outing over the last six weeks. That includes a low of 20 fish and a high of 250. Most often we've been getting at least 60 fish. The totals include mostly spotted seatrout to 22 inches, but we're also getting flounder, redfish and ladyfish.

The action has been steady on both spin tackle and fly rod.

I've watched amazingly as those in powerboats visit the same spots, fish for 10 minutes and then head off for a honey hole 10 miles away. They usually show up, make a dozen casts and are gone.

What they don't realize is their large boats give away their presence. The hull displaces a tremendous amount of water, sending out fish-alarming pressure waves. Also, their outboard motors are danger signals to the fish. Ditto for electric trolling motors.

I've even seen professional guides "throw" their anchors in the fish-holding holes.

Meanwhile, my clients are usually catching fish and enjoying steady action.

I'm convinced it's mostly because the fish don't know we're there.

I had a fellow out from near Buffalo, N.Y., the other day. He has fly fished for steelhead and salmon around his home, but had never caught a saltwater fish on fly rod. After doing well on spin tackle, he wanted to try the fly rod.

He caught 20 spotted seatrout.

We had anchored along the edge of a channel where we had located a school of trout. We caught fish after fish because they had no clue we were there.

Many years ago, I figured I'd use my kayak to get to my favorite wading spots, anchor the boat, get out and fish. Didn't take me too long to figure out I was less stealthy wading than I was in the kayak.

I rarely wade any more.

During November's MCFF/CCA Fall Fly Fishing Challenge, I caught enough fish to win the Snook Division and Trout Division. You could only win one division, but it felt good to know that I'd caught that many fish.

I caught seven snook around one dock. I never had to make a cast of more than 25 feet.

Again it was a case of the snook not having a clue I was there.

And that makes a big difference.

Steve Gibson

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Last week Florida was the only US state without snow on the ground. I hope you all took advantage of the conditions and went fishing. Back home (for me it's Colorado but true in many states), fishing in January meant spraying my flyrod with PAM to keep the water from freezing inside the eyelets. So next time it seems too chilly for fishing, just remember that everything is relative.



We are still in need of new board members for 2011. So far, recruiting has been like pulling teeth, which is a mystery to me given all the talented and dedicated people in our club. Not to get on a soap-box here, but our events, speakers and outings do not plan themselves. We could sure use your help. Please contact me for more information...before I am forced to go knocking on doors J

And seriously, if you haven't been fishing lately, get out there and see what you've been missing. Not only have the Snook made a decent showing recently, but the water is so clear you could read a newspaper headline at the bottom of the bay.

## **CB's SALTWATER OUTFITTERS MCFF SPECIAL**

### **20% off all non-sale items-fly rods, reels and all materials**

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**CB's an MCFF sponsor also stocks tying tools, materials, hooks and other supplies. Bring your membership card.**

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## Outings Report

### Members visit FL Fish and Wildlife Redfish Hatchery

About 20 MCFE members showed up. As usual Gina and her staff gave a tour of the facility and provided interesting information on fish tagging and the intricacies of rearing redfish. It's not as simple as you might think and involves a

After the tour we met at the outdoor ponds to watch feeding of some of the large breeder redfish. Wow, if I could have made just one cast it would have been awesome. We then went to the detention pond, where we enjoyed a fine repast of soup, biscuits and desert provided by John and Leslie Hand. We are going to miss those great meals in the future. Fishing was not good in the cold water.

And then there was lunch



**Next outing will take place at the north rest stop of the Skyway bridge on Feb. 12 starting about 8:00 AM. Water and soft drinks only will be available.**

**Come on out and join the fun.**



### Short Casts

**Stephanie's first redfish!**

## RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH

By C.W. "Don" Coleman, *Chief Curmudgeon*

### RANDOM THOUGHTS

***Keep things in perspective, it's just fishing. Enjoy your day on the water. And remember, they call it fishing, not catching.***

***"Fish are just simple, wild creatures not possessing nearly the brain power most match-the-hatch advocates attribute to them." – Syl Nemes***

***"Don't mess with any fly that takes more than five minutes to tie." – Lefty Kreh***

**Bend down the barbs on your flies and sharpen the points...and keep them sharp.**

**Wade like the predator you are—like a stalking bird—and keep your rod tip down.**

**Always explore current lines, edges and structures. Yes, grass beds are structures.**

**There are always fish here....Sometimes.**

**Just one more cast is always a lie.**

***If you stick with the basics, you never have to go back to them.***

**There are no fly tying or fly fishing police, but do try to improve your casting.**

**Tidal currents are the key to good fishing. Maximum current usually occurs about mid-way between high and low tide. This is when baitfish and crustaceans are carried by the current to predator fish laying in ambush. The strongest tides occur around the times of full and new moons. Strong winds can affect the tide and can even overpower it. Even high pressure can flatten a tide.**

**For those who cannot accept a straight, level leader, here is a simple tapered leader formula for the saltwater flats: 4.5 to 5.0 feet of 40 pound soft monofilament; 2.0 feet of 25 pound monofilament; and 2.0 feet of 12 pound monofilament for a tippet. Connect the sections with back to back Uni-Knots pulled together. Add a 20 or 30 pound bite tippet if necessary.**

**Or, simply buy a 9 foot long knotless monofilament leader that tapers down to 12 pounds and add a short 20 pound bite tippet if necessary.**

**Release most of your fish in the water if possible. Don't keep a fish out of the water to measure or photograph. Your memory is a better judge of the value of your catch...and it will continue to grow with time.**

Editor's note: I thought we'd start the new year with an introduction by the late Don Coleman.

## BOAT SHARING

These members will welcome other members for a day of fishing on their boats. Give them a call and hook up for some fun on the water.

**Ron Whiteley**

941-697-548-1453 17' Maverick HPX tunnel. Times and places you like to fish. Yes, Fly.

**Rick Schwartz**

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www.kayakfishingsarasota.com  
http://gibbysfishingblo.blogspot.com

### **Capt. Rick Grasset**

PH: 941-923-7799

EMAIL: snookfin@aol.com  
www.snookfin-addict.com  
www.flyfishingflorida.net

### **Capt. Pete Greenan**

PH: 941-232-2960

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www.floridaflyfishing.com

### **Capt. John Hand**

PH 239-842-7778

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PH 941-628.9031

www.jamiesoutfishin.com

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PH 941-346-8954

EMAIL: martybw7@comcast.net  
www.sumertime.agap.com

### **Capt. Al White**

PH 941-697-0320

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### **Capt. Tony Petrella**

PH 941-496-4289

EMAIL: tightloops@peoplepc.com

### **Capt. Bryon Chamberlain**

PH 813-361-8801

EMAIL: captbryon@yahoo.com  
www.barbedsteel.com

### **Capt. John Meskauskas**

PH 772-529-4484

EMAIL: info@stuartflyfishing.com  
www.stuart.com

### **Capt. Ed Hurst**

PH 941-928-3718

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PH 941-723-2655

EMAIL: Flatback@tampabay.rr.com

### **Capt. Dave Loger**

PH 941-830-0195

EMAIL: dave@nomotorflyfishing.com

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**EMAIL**

muchatrucha@gmail.com  
 Captpete@floridaflyfishing.com  
 rogerinke@aol.com  
 KBH3471@aol.com  
 rmflatsfisher4@gmail.com  
 tomatoesjh@yahoo.com  
 modelnut@comcast.net  
 josephbursel@comcast.net  
 jonesp018@yahoo.com  
 Snookfin@aol.com  
 glhuffman@aol.com  
 thefishdoc@comcast.net  
 joe.polidoro@comcast.net  
 rdsmith@cslcpa.com  
 2bobprkr@gmail.com

**MCFF Club Website:** <http://www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com>

**MCFF Email List & Chat:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MCFF/>

**MCFF Mission:** To promote saltwater fly fishing and conserve, protect and restore Florida's coastal fisheries and habitats.

**Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m. at Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota, FL.**

**The Board of Directors meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Members are welcome.**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephones ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (club use only) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Check payable to:**  
**Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers ,**  
**P.O. Box 3792**  
**Sarasota FL, 34230**

**Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers Renewal \$30**  
**Family \$45**

**New members, only: Individual: \$65**  
**Seniors: \$55**

**Includes membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers**



**MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS  
P. O. BOX 3792 SARASOTA, FL. 34230-3792**

**Directions to meeting**

- **East of I-75 on Clark Rd**
- **Go about 1/2 mile**
- **Turn into Twin Lakes Park**
- **Take first right into the parking lot**
- **Meeting is in far right building**

**Member benefits**

**Monthly meetings with expert speakers.**

**Club outings and trips**

**Boat sharing**

**Casting instruction**

**Fly tying instruction**

**Fishing reports**

**Monthly news letter**

**Raffles for merchandise and guided trips**

**Tournaments**

**Fishy places**

**Make new friends with other fly fishers**

**Club web site: [mangrovecoastflyfishers.com](http://mangrovecoastflyfishers.com)**