

# FIRST COAST FLY FISHER

J U N E 2 0 0 9



On the Web: [www.FCFF.org](http://www.FCFF.org)  
[www.firstcoastflyfishersforum.org/phpbb3](http://www.firstcoastflyfishersforum.org/phpbb3)

photo: Woody Huband



May Outing #2:

# Blues, Ladies at Black Rock Beach

This Saturday we'll fish Black Rock Beach on Big Talbot Island. We'll meet around 7:45 a.m. on Saturday, May 30 to fish with Don Edlin and other FCFfers. We'll leave to walk the trail to the beach at 8 a.m. sharp. Don't be late. We'll fish the incoming tide. The trail is well marked and takes about 20 or so minutes to walk. It ends on the west side of Nassau Sound., but it can also be an out.

The trail entrance is located on A1A, about 2 miles north of the Simpson Creek Bridge. and about 1.5 miles south of the Sawpit Creek Baot ramp on A1A.

Park on the east side of A1A. The trail is about one-third of a mile long. It can get buggy this time of year, so bring some bug

spray. Also bring foul weather gear.

We will fish the south beach area. Because high tide covers the rocks and makes the exit dangerous, we need to be out of there or near the ladder to the beach by 12:30 p.m., latest. Hopefully the fish will join us on this outing. We will be wading so be prepared to get wet. rods: 5-8 wts. Lines, floaters and intermediates. Some anglers will carry light spinning tackle, incase the wind blows up strongly.

We'll be discussing the outing on Outing Friday at Black Fly Outfitter, May 29 from 5pm till 7pm. Come by, eat a burger or dog, and and talk fishing.

**Friday, May 29 - Outing Friday at Black Fly Outfitter.** Come talk fish, eat and drink on the club. Flies, lines, outing info.

**Saturday, May 30 - May Outing #2 - Wading Black Rock Creek with Don Edlin.** Meet at Black Rock Trail, 2 miles north of Simpson Creek Bridge at 7:45 a.m. walk 1/3 mile to beach. Bring 5 - 8 weights and baitfish flies. Call Rob Benardo for info or come to Outing Friday at Black Creek Outfitter.

**Monday, June 1 - FCFF Meeting - Speaker, Capt. John Bottko of the Salty Feather.** Casting Analyzer analysis starts at 5:30, meeting starts at 7 p.m.. John will talk about wade fishing Talbot and Nassau Sound.

**Saturday, June 27 - June Outing. Wading for Reds at Little Talbot Island.**

**Monday, July 13 - FCFF Meeting. Speaker is Capt. Larry Miniard on Fly Fishing Palm Valley, between Ponte Vedra and St. Augustine.**

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## Modern Fly Rod Construction

*by Jim Lepage, VP Orvis Co.*

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Curious about what manufacturers mean when they throw around terms like ‘mandrel,’ ‘scrim,’ ‘pre-preg,’ ‘resin,’ and ‘modulus?’ Here’s a quick overview of the basic techniques used in the manufacture of a modern carbon graphite fly rod. (Bamboo rod-building techniques require a book unto them-selves.)

To better explain how various materials and manufacturing techniques determine fly rod performance, let’s review the process. A roll of graphite fiber material prior to being cut into “flags.”

The main flag and scrim are both composed of carbon fibers that run linearly, side by side, and come in the form of a roll. Carbon fibers can be manufactured in very long lengths, so a roll of carbon that is 120 feet long would have fibers that are 120 feet long and run the entire length of the roll. Manufacturers will choose fiber rolls with specific densities, measured by the number fibers per inch going across the sheet, depending on the performance characteristics they want to achieve.

In the recent past, the term ‘modulus’ was tossed around a lot in fly rod performance descriptions, but it’s simply a reference to a material’s resistance to bending before being permanently deformed or broken; the higher the modulus, the more resistance to bending you get with less material. High-modulus carbon/graphite materials have allowed modern manufacturers to build lighter rods but maintain stiffness.

The carbon material arrives as a roll and is impregnated with epoxy that is sticky or tacky and not yet set or “cured.” It has a backing that can be peeled off in manufacturing, just like you would peel a label off of a piece of paper that keeps the sticky part from being exposed. The combination of carbon fibers and epoxy that has yet to be cured in the final heating process is called the “pre-preg” and needs to be kept in a freezer until used.

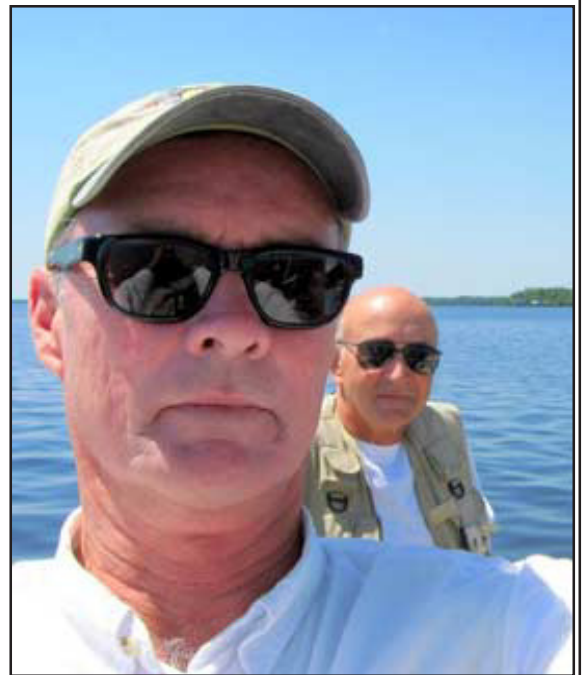
Manufacturers cut the pre-preg carbon into a shape or pattern called the “main flag.” With the fibers aligned from butt to tip on the rod, the main flag’s primary purpose is to give the rod strength along the length of the rod. The flag is typically triangular in shape but is often tailored to give the rod its bending and casting characteristics. It needs to wrap at least once around the mandrel (described below) so that the rod is solid all the way around, but more or fewer wraps in the right areas will change where the rod flexes and its target line weight.

The scrim is very similar to the main flag and is used in conjunction with it, except it is used to provide strength around the rod, not along its length. Manufacturers call this “hoop strength” . . . .

. . . .Read the complete article at Midcurrent.com  
[http://midcurrent.com/articles/gear/flyfishing\\_rods\\_manufacture.aspx](http://midcurrent.com/articles/gear/flyfishing_rods_manufacture.aspx)



# May Outing Photos



The Lott Adams Outing is undoubtedly the best attended outing we present al year. Many thanks for the hour of time Bill and Ann Lott and John Adams put in to this. Above, Rick palazzini and john Adams catch fish for the fry. Right, Woody the Photog in self portrait. Middle left, part of the 60 FCFFers or so who showed to fish and eat. Middle right: Rick threatens our fearless leader.



Bottom left: Former prez Dick Choate. Bottom right: FCFFer Capt. David Borries, great friend to the club. All photos: Woody Huband







## *Lotts To Be Thankful For*

More pics of the very successful Lott-Adams Fish Fry and Fish Catch. Top Left: Angler against the Cypress. Ttop Right: Daniel Issac with biggest bass of day. Center right: Uh, fearless leader caught with hand in cricket jar. Bottom Left: This is hw a day is supposed to end. Bottom Right: Rick Palazzini with a St. johns bass.



"Trying to become a more casual traveler, your correspondent finally ends up by shooting himself through both legs with one hand while gaffing a shark with the other. This is as far as he will go in pleasing a reader."

Esquire magazine, 1938

## Hemingway: On Being Shot Again

*from Esquire Magazine, 1935*

In contrast to later exploits, [writer Ernest] Hemingway's first trip to Bimini was a complete failure. It was April of 1935 when Hemingway and party, including the famous writer John Dos Passos, set off from Key West with the intention of fishing their way over to the obscure little island. There they hoped to chase the giant tuna and marlin reportedly swimming in the nearby waters.

A few hours into the trip the party hooked up with a shark, most likely a large bull shark, one of two or three species that can legitimately be called man-eaters. After a spirited fight, the flailing beast was finally hoisted into the cockpit. Hemingway pulled out his Colt revolver to silence the shark once and for all. That he did, but not before first shooting himself in both legs, which may explain why posterity records Hemingway as a legendary angler, not marksman.

Of course sudden metal poisoning was not new to Hemingway. He was seriously wounded while driving an ambulance in World War I and had 227 metal fragments removed from his legs.

Read more of Ernest Hemingway's "*On Being Shot Again*": <http://fcff.org/pdf/hemingway.pdf>



Fish and Photo: Bart Isaac

### Don't Wait 'til Fall

You'll miss some fine tailing red action. Bart Isaac caught this tailer the last few days of May. Rumor has it that FCFFer Don Edlin caught the first true tailer of the season in mid-May.

Here's Bart's story:

Don got the first Lawnmower red this year. I'm just glad to have gotten one in May. I saw several reds, but many showed quickly and then would vanish. This red was tailing happily so I took a pic before casting but he took off as soon as the fly landed.

In contrast to that fish, the red pictured below was tailing so hard I had to make several casts before the line got tight. I took it with a black epoxy spoon with orange tail--he took it deep.





# Genesis of The Parachute Dry

## *A Working Fly That's Easy To Your Eye On*

*by Charlie Most*

from *On the Fly*, newsletter of the SunCoast Fly Fishers

About 1500 years ago in northern Greece, an angler tried to catch trout on a hook wrapped with a feather to imitate a floating insect. And trout anglers have been trying to make this work ever since.

This was actually the start of fly fishing as the only way to cast a small and nearly weightless imitation of something a fish might eat. And with the sort of primitive hooks probably available then, trying to get the thing to float must have generated some creative Greek expletives.

As the centuries passed, the British made major advances in fly fishing and even developed the first truly dry flies. Englishman Frederick Halford came close to perfecting the dry fly tradition and sent some of his flies to Theodore Gordon, who was the American correspondent for England's *Fishing Gazette*. But those flies didn't work so well so Gordon designed his own, based on our mayflies. That started the so-called "Catskill School" of dry fly tying.

These beautifully thin and delicate flies were traditional when I started fly fishing 65 years ago and I still love them but even greater advances have come since then. For one thing, those lightly dressed flies wouldn't float so well in heavy currents.

So, more fully dressed flies came along, a la the hair-winged Wulff series originated by Lee Wulff and expanded by Dan Bailey. Other approaches followed, such as the no hackle patterns described in *Selective Trout* by Swisher and Richards with duck quill wings but no hackle, and the Comparadun with an arc of erect deer hair over the top of the body and still no hackle as touted by Caucci and Nastasi in *Hatches*.

But the latest development seems to have saved the genetic chicken hackle industry by reintroducing hackles, but now wrapped in a horizontal plane around the fly wings and called "parachute" hackle flies.

Ted Giddings was one of my regular fishing companions in Virginia and Ted took to parachute flies as the last word. I had taught him to tie flies but this was another case of the student outdoing the teacher. Ted out fished me on most of our Shenandoah Park trips, attributing his success to the parachute-hackled Adams flies he was tying.

But tying those parachute hackles seemed too tricky for me until I tried tying some Klinkhamer Specials. This is a transplanted European pattern meant to imitate a caddis fly that can't get off the water. A curved caddis hook is used and a traditional pupa body but with wings and a, you guessed it, parachute hackle wrapped around the wings. I struggled with the things and finally began to tie decent looking ones but they weren't easy.

Then I saw some magazine articles that gave me an idea. Why wrap horizontal hackle as an integral part of the whole operation which then made it hard to finish that part of the fly's body ahead of the hackle? So I tried doing this in two steps and that made tying parachute flies fairly easy.. Just tie in the tail fibers, move forward to a wing of calf body hair, poly yarn or turkey T-base feather fibers, wrap thread firmly up the wing and back down, super glue those thread wraps, tie in the hackle stems, dub a full body, tie off and cut the thread.

Now loosen the hook in the vise, tilt it so the shank is pointing straight down and the wing out to the right.

Reattach the thread over the hackle stems and wrap the hackle around the wing in the traditional manner. Piece of cake!

# A Trip to The Keys

by Capt. Rich Santos

I spent last week at the Bayview Inn Motel and Marina in Conch Key with club friend Val Grendanin and friends Basil from NJ and Andy from New Zealand. It was the boats maiden voyage and 1st offshore trip. The plan was to catch dolphin and break in Val's new 22' Twin Vee Catamarans boat. The first couple days we got blown out with 4-6 seas and threatening thunder-storms. We stayed close in around the bridges and did some local sight seeing and shopping. Our first day out beyond the reef line we found some weed lines and trolled. We ended up catching 3 smaller dolphin around the 20" limit size. The next day we stayed in close and fly fished the reefs in about 20' of water. We caught about 40 small yellowtail snapper and I believe bar jacks. The next day we headed 30 miles offshore to place called the ups & Downs Humps. Trolled for a few hours and finally found a decent dolphin that put on a awesome fighting display with brilliant colors! Overall the bite was a little on the slow side for a us newbie's but was a great learning experience for the fishing days ahead. We celebrated the last night with a grilled dolphin shish-ka-bobs, Peppers, Onions and Potatoes, salad and some Corona Beer for some good times.



Yellowtail Snapper Photographed by Capt. Rich Santos

**For Sale: 14.4 foot Sylvan Jon Boat and 4-stroke 15 HP Yamaha Electric Start motor -- \$2200.**

*This is an excellent high-gauge, aircraft aluminum jon boat at a especially good price. It is the high-sided model with a slight forward v-shape, which cuts the water better than the flat front boats and makes a softer, dryer ride. The 15-hp Yamaha Electric Start is guaranteed to run quiet and efficient. No mixing oil. Boat and motor have an honest 50 hours or less run time. The boat is fully loaded and the motor has been fully serviced. The boat was stored hoisted, so there is no trailer. Call David Lambert for photos and info, 904-403-5525; or call Greg Franks, 904-612-0558, email: gregfranks@bellsouth.net*

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is about to happen

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