



The Take



"From the Mountains
To the Sea"



Meeting second Wednesday each month at
REI Northlake Mall - Hwy 77 and Harris Blvd.
6:30 PM for Meet and Greet - 7:00 Meeting

Newsletter of the Carolina Fly Fishing Club - Charlotte, NC - Dick Handshaw, Editor

2012 CFFC Officers and Directors

President: Gary Jones
Treasurer: Charlie McDaniel
Activities: Bob Thomas

Vice President: Jack Cummings
Membership: Bob Villers
Conservation: Rick Meeks

Secretary: David MacBurnie
Webmaster: Daniel Grose
Director At Large: Bill Kalbas

Volume 6 Issue 1 – January 2012

Yes, This is a CFFC Newsletter!

By Dick Handshaw

I know it's been a while since you have seen a newsletter from the Carolina Fly Fishing Club. Maybe you've never seen one. This newsletter may duplicate some of the information you see on the Forum, or it may be a whole different and useful thing. Only time will tell. This first edition is being written mostly by the editor, Dick Handshaw, and the editorial staff—Gary Jones. Let us know if you like it, and if you don't, just tell Jack or somebody else.

We are looking at other club newsletters for ideas and trying things out. We're not going to do this by ourselves, so help us out with ideas and copy. As you can tell by the looks of this one, we need all the help we can get.

President's Message

First I want to thank Dick Handshaw for taking over the duties of the Newsletter Editor that will allow me to get this message to our members. The newsletter will be posted on the Website and an email will be sent to all of the members notifying you that the newsletter is available.

I'm sure that you have noticed that I haven't been to a lot of meetings this last year, but the job that kept me on the road working, instead of fishing and helping with the club is no longer an issue. I am looking forward to working with the new officers, directors and club members to continue with the success of the CFFC.

2012 should be another great year with fishing outings, educational classes in fly tying, casting and working with groups like Project Healing Waters. We will also have our regular meetings with guest speakers and programs.

Thanks to all of the members for your continued support to the club, and remember that this is your club and your input as to what can be done to improve our club is always welcome. We will keep everyone up to date on the club with the website and the forum.

www.carolinaflyfishingclub.org

We will need some volunteers to help out with some of the projects that are planned for this year. If you would like to help, contact either me or any of the officers.

Gary Jones

gjones1@embarqmail.com

My CFFC Story

By Dick Handshaw

I haven't been fly fishing for very long. If you've ever watched me fish, you probably know that. But I wouldn't be fishing at all if it weren't for the CFFC members. It started with a chance meeting with Bob Thomas who was installing networking and phone cabling in my office—and it still works. Bob got talking about fly fishing and I said I always wanted to learn to do that. A few months later he called out of the blue and took me to Stone Mountain. I caught two rainbows, two browns and the prettiest little wild brook trout I had ever seen. I had never succeeded at catching anything but trees on a fly rod before that. I thought Bob must be a magician.

A few months later, I was trying to fish a dry fly in the Beaver Dam. An onlooker on the shore asked if I minded a little advice. I said please do, and he suggested that the next time I saw the fish slap at my fly, I might try setting the hook. I set the hook alright, and the fly just about took his ear off as it went flying over my shoulder with fish lips attached. Jack Cummings learned to duck the next time he gave streamside advice to me.

A few months later, I was standing outside a cabin on one of the club Nantahala trips. I happened to ask a couple of guys, "What do I fish with here anyway?" The next thing I know, Jack and Gary and I don't remember who else were handing over flies and putting them in my fly box. The next day, I caught about a dozen trout on the upper Nanty. I couldn't believe it.

Little by little, I was learning to cast (a very slow and ongoing process in my case), I was mending line, I was fishing droppers and even presenting a pretty decent dry fly on the SoHo. And I learned all this because of great programs like Richard Griggs' "Set the Nymphing Hook" presentation and the personal help and advice I get every time I go on a CFFC trip.



Carla Yellowstone Fishing Trip



Dick Yellowstone Fishing Trip



Nanty Trip Crew

The Last Fishing Trip of 2011

By Dick Handshaw

On Friday December 30, Jack Cummings, Gary Jones, Bob Thomas with his son Devin and Devin's friend Nick and I decided we needed just one more trip before the New Year. The weather was OK. It was in the upper forties to mid-fifties most of the day with some sun and more clouds late in the day. The water was OK. The river was high, about 45 degrees and running pretty cloudy and stained. The scenery was OK. The river ran along a greenway on the edge of a small town. It wasn't wild and scenic and there was some trash in places, but it was still a nice place to fish. The fish were OK. We each caught about a half dozen or more stocked trout—mostly rainbows around 8 to 12 inches with the occasional 14 or 15 inch fish. The food was OK; cheese sandwiches for Bob, the boys and me; Taco Bell for Jack and Gary.



But it was really a great day for all of us. With all the other conditions being just OK, something had to make a great day. As Jack said, it's all about the camaraderie of the people you fish with. We were also greeted by a local spin fisherman who shared a lot of local knowledge with us and welcomed us to his home waters. It wasn't the weather, it definitely wasn't the food, and it wasn't the breathtaking scenery or even the somewhat cooperative fish that made it a great day. It was the six of us who made it a great fishing day. There is something special about this last trip of the year

that I will probably remember and we will always talk about.



Of course no fishing story ends without at least one good story. This story turned out to be pretty funny. There was a nice greenway path running next to the stream for more than three miles, so access the stream was easy. But in some places the water was a long ways from the bank. I sat down on the base of a large tree that was about six feet directly above the water. It felt good to sit down as I flipped my line in the water and watched the indicator float downstream. I was thinking, "If I get a fish here, how will I climb down to the water to get him in?" That's about the time my indicator disappeared and the fish set the hook. I wish you could have seen me lowering myself about six feet down from the roots of that tree into the water that was also about two to three feet deep. Somehow I managed to hang on to the fly rod and the fish. He ran downstream, jumped a couple of times and turned out to be one of the 14 to 15 inch bows by the time he showed up in my net. That was more than OK.



(Continued on Page 4)

Page 3

“From The FFF Club Wire”

The Pros and Cons of Introducing Your Wife to Fly Fishing

By John Berry

Let me begin this article by saying that the smartest thing that I ever did was to introduce my wife, Lori Sloas, to fly fishing. We were not married at the time but it was the beginning of the most rewarding period in my life. As with any decision, there are many aspects to be considered. I am writing this from my point of view but it would be as effective from a woman's. If you are not married, the same points apply to introducing a significant other to the quiet sport.

Sharing the same interests has a positive effect on any relationship. A day spent fishing together on a trout stream definitely qualifies as quality time. Being outside on a crisp fall day catching fish on a clear trout stream is my idea of fun. My favorite part of the day is after I have caught all of the fish that I require and I sit on a log watching Lori fish with my yellow lab, Ellie, by my side. When she hooks a good one, Ellie jumps into the stream and helps her land it, while I take pictures.

Since I began fishing with Lori I have noticed that I eat much better on fishing trips than I used to. The days of eating a can of beanie weenies cold from the can are over. Now there is a nice picnic lunch or a trip to a local restaurant. The same goes for your accommodations when on a fishing road trip. I used to camp or just sleep in the back of my ancient Volvo. Now we stay at a nice clean room in a nearby motel or better yet a quaint bed and breakfast.

The whole travel thing is better. Family vacations can now become fishing trips. Lori and I love to travel to Montana for some serious fishing. A trip to visit my grandchildren in Decatur, Georgia includes a side trip to the Smoky Mountains to fish for native brook trout. Lori and I were married in a tiny chapel on a trout stream in the Smokies.

There are of course disadvantages. My wife and I live in different time zones. I am an early bird. I naturally wake up at 5:00 AM and am as cheerful as a bird. That, of course, requires that I go to bed at a reasonable hour.

(Continued on Page 5)

Page 4

(Continued from Page 3)

In accordance with our “Don't tell, Just ask” policy I'm not mentioning the name of the stream in the newsletter. If you want to find out where we were, you'll have to catch one of us at a meeting and ask us. We'll tell you all about it.

Policy Statement

“Don't Tell, Just Ask”

There will be many articles about fishing trips in this newsletter. Unless the story is about one of the rivers we ALWAYS go to, we will make it a practice not to include the name of the river. We call this our “Don't tell, Just ask” policy. If you want to know where any unnamed streams are, you will have to ask the author at the next meeting. See you there!

FFF South Eastern Council Fly Fishing Festival

We're pleased to announce that the Fly Fishing Festival will return to UNICOI STATE PARK LODGE IN HELEN, GA FOR 2012 ... BUT IT WILL BE HELD APRIL 27, 28 & 29 (FRI, SAT & SUN).

YES, WE HEARD YOU WHEN YOU SAID JUNE WAS TOO HOT ...

AND WE ALSO HEARD YOU WHEN YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO TAKE VACATION DAYS TO ATTEND THE EVENT ...

AND WE KEPT IT AWAY FOM TARPON SEASON SO WE CAN HOPEFULLY ATTRACT SOME OF OUR FRIENDS FROM FLORIDA BACK ...

SO, THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR YOU NOT COMING NEXT YEAR ... RIGHT?! WE HOPE THESE CHANGES MAKE THIS EVENT A BETTER TIME FOR ALL

More information check our web site <http://www.fffsec.org/>

(Continued from Page 4)

Lori, on the other hand, is a night owl. She stays up reading every night and prefers to sleep in. She also likes to take a shower and do her hair before hitting the stream. As a result, we don't generally arrive at the river before noon. If conditions dictate, she will go earlier but that is generally not her first option.

Another disadvantage is that she frequently out fishes me. Lori is an intense angler and approaches any fishing trip as serious business. I have found that the days catch for each of us depends on which water we individually get to fish and of course there is luck. It is always a pleasure to fish with someone that knows what they are doing.

Her casting ability has surpassed mine. I have been teaching fly casting for over twenty years but my skills have leveled out. I am a competent caster but Lori keeps working at improving her cast. Last week at the Southern Council Conclave she had a casting class with John Wilson who is a Master Certified Casting Instructor. I was tying flies at the time, a skill that Lori has no interest in. She does however like the fact that I tie. This supplies her with flies to fish with. She will also buy flies. As a fly tier, this drives me crazy. I'm standing there thinking about how easy that particular fly would be to tie and she is thinking about how pretty it is.

If you are thinking that if your wife takes up fly fishing, you can give her all of your old fishing gear and buy yourself some new stuff, you are dead wrong. She doesn't want your old stuff. She wants new gear. If you take the time and money to shop with her and make sure that she gets the proper equipment for her to be comfortable and achieve success, you will come out much better in the long run. If you are thinking about getting yourself a new rod, you might as well buy two of them.

When I weigh all of the pros and cons of involving Lori in fly fishing I think it was the best thing that ever happened to me. My best days are spent on a trout stream with her.



Web Site
[www. carolinaflyfishingclub.org](http://www.carolinaflyfishingclub.org)

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing



Project Healing Waters has a new website:
<http://charlottephw.org/>

Please check out the new web site and check the Veteran and the Volunteer links. CFFC is working with them to help out the vets. If you can, please sign up to help. Thank You!

Fly of the Month Articulated Stone Fly by Gary Jones



Hooks: Rear #18 202 Front # 10 1X streamer
Thread: 8/0 Yellow Uni thread
Weight: .15 non lead wire
Body: Woven Yellow and Brown Embroidery thread
Thorax: Light brown dubbing
Legs, antenna and Tail: Brown turkey biot
Wing: Partridge wing feathers

**Watch the forum for dates on
new CFFC fly tying classes.**

Thanks to our sponsors

Carolina Mountain Sports

123 West Broad St.

Statesville NC

<http://www.carolinamountainsports.com/index.php>

Flymen Fishing Company

10612-D Providence Rd, Suite #549

Charlotte, NC 28277

<http://flymenfishingcompany.com/>

Orvis of Charlotte

6800 Phillips Place, Suite F

Charlotte, NC 28210

<http://www.orvis.com/charlotte>

Jesse Brown's Outdoors

4732 Sharon Rd

Suite 2M

Charlotte, NC 28210

<http://www.jessebrowns.com/>

REI Charlotte

9755 Northlake Centre Pkwy.

Charlotte NC 28216

<http://www.rei.com/stores/115>

New Location Breathes New Life

By Dick Handshaw

The CFFC Board had been talking about trying a new location all summer long without really making a decision. Then we had a scheduling issue with our host of many years at Gander Mountain in Mooresville. While we were grateful to Gander Mountain for providing a meeting site for many years, it became obvious that we would have to make a change.

We knew the traffic on I-77 northbound around Huntersville was a deterrent for many of our members. So we were looking for something on the north side of Charlotte to keep it somewhat convenient for our members in the Mooresville-Cornelius- Huntersville area. We also wanted to be south of Huntersville to attract our members from Charlotte. The REI store at Harris Blvd near North Lake Mall seemed to be the obvious choice. The October meeting was an experiment that went very well. Every meeting since has been well-attended and a little more lively than usual. So, if you haven't been to a meeting lately, you need to come see what you have been missing.

Speaking of missing, Gary Jones who was absent for a while because he was working too hard has come to his senses and is back as our new President for 2012. Thanks to Jack Cummings for being our president for the third time as our outgoing 2011 President. I know Gary, Jack and the new board will be working together to make this year better than ever.



**Meeting every second
Wednesday of the month at
REI Northlake Mall. M&G at
6:30 Meeting at 7:00 PM**