

THE BACKCAST



THE BACKCOUNTRY FLY FISHING ASSOCIATION OF BREVARD
An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers™



www.bffa-brevard.org

Volume XXII Number VI

February 2011

Next meeting

Wednesday, February 2nd, 6:30 PM
Memaw's Bar B-Q
Eau Gallie Boulevard
Indian Harbor Beach



Shad!



Bailey Island bridge



Parking!

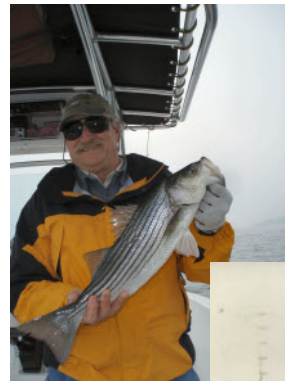
Recently Memaws has been hosting blue grass music on Wednesdays--our meeting night. This has been good for their business, to the extent that parking for our meeting has been very limited. It has been suggested that the lot immediately east on Memaws is suitable for overflow parking.

Our February program will be on shad fishing, by our own Jay McGowan. This is timely for our scheduled shad outing and camp out (see page 4 of this newsletter).

Jay is one of our more versatile and interesting members. He was born and raised on the Maine coast, and presently summers on Orr's Island, where he guides fishing and sightseeing trips. There is a famous historical bridge connecting Orr's and Bailey Island. It was built in 1928 of big granite slabs laid in an open crib to withstand the fast tides of the area.

In the winters Jay lives and guides in our area.

In his previous life he was Chief Engineer on merchant ships traveling the world.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time Flies

Those of you who have served as President of our club will understand when I say “ Time Flies.”It seems as though I will write a column for the newsletter and no sooner than it gets sent in, good ol’ Frank is pestering me for the next column. Where did all those days go? Did I do anything fun?? Oh well.

As I speak of time flying by, I will be personally reminded of the phenomenon when my birthday arrives in early March. The big FIVE OH. AARP eligible I think. Seeing how I am one of the younger members of our club, I will seek advice on how to handle the event from those of you more “mature” members, if you can remember turning 50.

I am serious about the age of our membership creeping up. We have taken steps to introduce our youth to fly fishing and the outdoors recently but I encourage all of us to try to include some of the young folks in our fishing plans. I hope to see more of the kids coming to club meetings and participating in club activities. Try to think of ways to get the kids interested in our sport and let the board know if you think the club can help.

Speaking of time flies, I recently was trying to tie some Borski flies. How he does it so quickly is beyond my comprehension. Depending on the release of the newsletter(my delay in writing the prez column noted) you will soon learn how he does it as Tim will be our guest on Saturday the 29th for a day long tying/bs session. Or you will have learned how he ties those flies so quickly because you attended the session. Hopefully by January 30th the “time flies” will be the “ in no time flies.”

Don Davis



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MONTHLY FLY TYING MONDAY, February 21st 6:15 PM MELBOURNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

For February, Bill Grady from Harry Goode's is tying "Kantner's Rivit." (A number of people have mentioned an interest in tying this fly.)

Materials-

A #2 wide gap SW hook. Gamakatsu SL12, SC15 or Mustad C68SZ.

Hackle of your choice. (I prefer Whiting American Cape hackles, streamer packs are great if you don't need a whole cape.)

Deer body hair in the color of your choice.

210 denier thread of your choice.

Sharp scissors are a must.

Flash is optional.

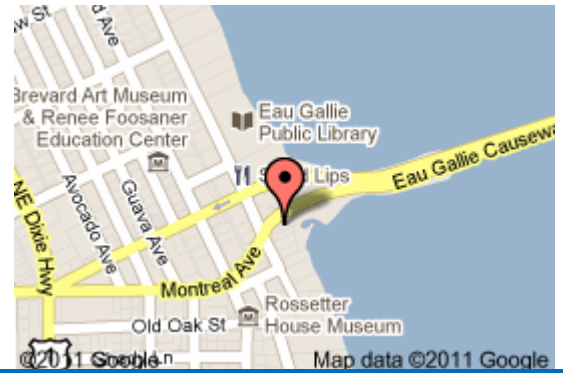


FISHING REPORTS

On recent trips, Paul and Sherry Parker report there was no evidence of shad near SR 46, but they did catch 2 Hickory Shad below the dam on Lake Washington.

MISCELLANEOUS

During tax season, the Board of Directors meets at the office of Mike Reynolds near the Eau Gallie Causeway.



GET WELL SOON

Sigmund Sarkady recently had heart trouble and was in the hospital for several days to have a stent installed. He is not at full strength yet, but is on the road to recovery.

THE CLUB ON-LINE

Visit our web site, www.Bffa-brevard.org. Have your fishing pictures posted. Just email JPG files to our web master M. E. DePalma at webmaster@bffa-brevard.org

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members:

Chad Reddick
Indialantic

Lance Grenevicki
Melbourne

Chuck Harris
Melbourne

E-MAIL DELIVERY

Get your BackCast delivered by e-mail. This will provide you a full color copy and save your club postage. Contact Bill Gunn at Wtgunnjr@AOL.com to get on the list.

OUTING

Again this year, the Orlando Back Country Fly Fishing Association is hosting a shad fishing outing and camp out on the St Johns River near Sanford. The outing runs from 1:00 PM on Friday February 11th until 1:00 PM on Sunday. Camping is available at 932 Indian Hammock Drive, Osteen, FL (directions below). Tents and small trailers are welcome. There are no hookups, but running water and a bathroom will be available nearby. No generators please. There will be a community fire pit, with firewood provided. Small grills for individual cooking may be brought. Trash cans are available, but bring your own trash bags. Everyone is responsible for their own food. Don't forget bug spray. When you leave, make sure the grounds are as you found them.

The closest spot to launch is at Lemon Bluff ramp, and a map to the ramp will be available at the camp site. Boats should be placed on the trailer at night and parked next to your camp site. Canoes and Kayaks can be used for the fishing, but mind the boat traffic on the river.

Please RSVP to Tom Dyll (407)-545-8076, or Tom@dyll.com, with:

Number of people

Names

Your contact number and email

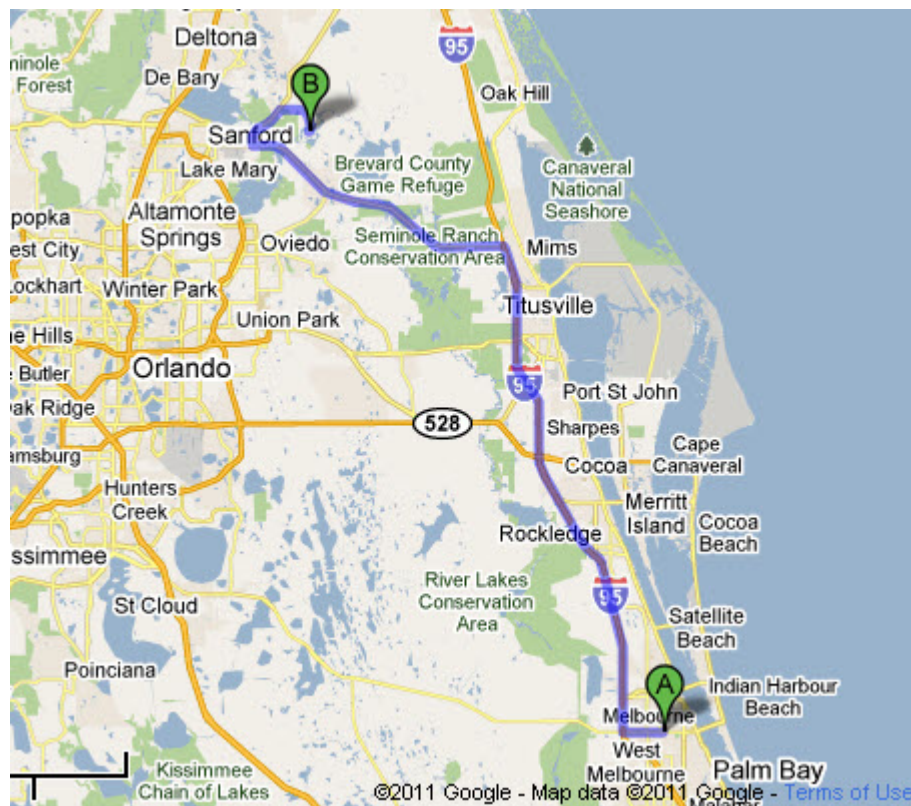
Bringing a camping trailer?

Bringing a boat? If so, do you have room for a guest? If not, do you need a ride?

Google directions from Melbourne Square Mall to the campsite at:

932 Indian Hammock DR, Osteen, FL 32764 (78.5 mi)

1. From Melbourne Square mall head west on US-192 W/W New Haven Ave 3.3 mile
2. Slight right to merge onto I-95 N toward Jacksonville 42.9 mi
3. Take exit 223 for FL-46 toward Sanford 0.2 mi
4. Turn left at FL-46 W/W Main St Continue to follow FL-46 W 23.7 mi
5. Turn right at FL-415 N 4.0 mi
6. Turn right at Lemon Bluff Rd 3.6 mi
7. Turn right at Indian Hammock Dr. Destination will be on the right 0.5 mi



Ramblin' and fishin' in southern Chile

Frank Perkins

Eighteen years ago this month I took a fishing trip to Chile. At the conclusion of the formal fishing, I rented a car and poked around extreme southern Chile. This month completes the tale begun in last month's issue. Enjoy!

Wednesday, 2/3/93

It rained some during the night, but had mostly stopped by morning. Clouds on the peaks, however. Lots of guanacos along the roads, and I should have gotten some good pictures. The view of the mountains changes constantly, with the angle, the light and the cloud cover. There was a rainbow arcing over them for a while - I hope it shows up good. Some of the lakes are a startling shade of green, from the glacier silt. Salto Grande is an impressive waterfall between Lago Nordenskjold and Lago Pehoe. It falls through a narrow chute in the rocks, creating an impressive spray.

I drove the 18 km out to Lago Grey, expecting a distant view of Grey Glacier. When I got there, the main attraction was a collection of icebergs from the glacier which had blown down to the southern end of the lake and grounded. They were the most incredible blue color in the sunlight. The shapes were incredible too - some intricate forms with holes, others with high, sharp peaks. A trail led to a long gravel bar, which gave constantly changing perspective of the icebergs and the mountains in the background. Needless to say, I took many pictures from the different angles.

The trail then led up the side of a cliff to a point with a better view of the glacier, and yet more icebergs. All along I was buffeted by the gale of wind down the lake. There must have been gusts to 50 MPH. They would stagger you even when you were braced. Imagine taking landscape pictures at 1/500th of a second to avoid camera shake.

Another feature of the trail was a long, low-hanging pedestrian suspension bridge, barely a foot over a raging torrent of turbid glacier water. It had a peculiar swing to it, and featured widely spaced floorboards, to give you a good view of the water flowing just below you.

I have all day tomorrow in the park, and a room at the good looking lodge. My main worry now is gas. The gauge in the car doesn't work right - it only shows about 5/8 when it is full. I filled up in Puerto Natales, the last station. That is about 170 km by the map from where I am and I went about 30 km out of the way, so I have been about 200 km, or 120 miles. With a little running around tomorrow, I can get back with another 120 miles, for a total of 240 miles, which should be (marginally) OK for a tank full, but not with much to spare. The gauge is down about 1/3 of full scale from the full point, but I not sure what that means. It is also about half way to the empty mark from where it started when I filled the tank. It may be interesting on the way back to the gas station.

Thursday, 2/4/93

Well, on thinking it over, I decided that they must have "gasolina" in the park, else everyone would be in the same situation of marginal fuel. Sure enough, there is an undocumented source of fuel near the administrative center, so now I am all set with plenty of fuel.

I spent the day fishing the Rio Serrano. It is a big, fast-flowing river, very clear. I was skunked, after trying all sorts of streamers, Woolly buggers and big nymphs. The weather was cold, dark and cloudy most of the day, with periodic showers. All snug in waders and rain jacket, I ignored the weather and stayed reasonably comfortable all day. The water was awfully cold, so it didn't pay to wade too long or too deep. The wind blew hard most of the day, with occasional mild periods, but I am getting used to it. When it briefly calmed late in the afternoon, it seemed very strange. The river flows through a big grassy meadow. There were geese everywhere, in the grass and in the water. One family was feeding at a place I fished, and made a terrible ruckus about me intruding.

I am writing this in the lounge of the Hosteria Pehoe, and a pretty nice place it is. I am having a Pisco Sour in honor of being in a real hotel bar. The Hosteria is on an island, reached by a footbridge. It has good views of the mountains, which are looming through the clouds as I write this. The sun appeared briefly for my arrival, but now there is a heavy shower sweeping across the lake toward us. It is nice being cozy with no need to face the weather directly. Back home, I think I shall miss the howling wind, although it will be nice to fly-cast without it.

The chairs in the restaurant have hand carved backs, with local scenes carved into the back - nice.

Friday, 2/5/93

Well, I'm back at Rio Penitente, where I caught 8 trout to 15" (by 7-1/2" circumference), the latter I kept for dinner at the hotel. They came on a brown streamer, and a couple on a gray Woolly Worm. This was in about three hours fishing. I had such confidence going out that I told the hotel I would bring one back for dinner. Things were slow at first, and I was worried, but eventually I caught a smaller one, and then the dinner fish, and then they came easier. The trout was excellent - served steamed, with potatoes and salad.

This morning at Pehoe, the mountains were almost clear - a various times you could see all of them - just not all at once. There is a trail to the top of the island behind the hotel, which gives good views of the lake and mountains.

I also went on the hike to the viewpoint beyond Salto Grande. It is about a 45 minute walk, and ends up above Lago Nordenskjold, with a relatively close-up view of the "Horns of Paine" across the lake. It was nice to get out in the countryside, and I didn't see another soul on the entire hike. You could see on the lakes gusts of wind which were so strong they would pick up large quantities of mist from the water - like dust off the ground. It was sort of frightening when these gusts sweep toward you, and when they hit you can hardly keep your balance.

Saturday, 2/6/93

Fished for three hours this morning on Rio Penitente, and caught four brownies to 16". The largest came on a red woolly worm, and the others on brown streamers, and a gray woolly worm. For a while, three Andean Condors circled dramatically overhead, wing tip feathers distinctively spread.

A brief panic at the car when the keys were not in their regular place in the wader pocket. As a last hope, I took off the waders, and the keys had fallen down one leg - this has never happened before.

The drive down to the airport was uneventful, except for encountering a logging truck on the section of road with one paved lane. After following behind for miles, I lost patience and moved on to the gravel at 100 km/hr to pass. The car became very unstable, but I managed to hold it.

In retrospect, this section of the trip was quite memorable and illustrated the virtues of a semi-planned excursion to a remote area—just the right leavening of unexpected events.

BFFA FEBRUARY 2011 Events

Monthly Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, February 2nd, 6:30 PM
Memaw's Bar B-Q
Eau Gallie Blvd.
Indian Harbour Beach

Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 9th, 6:30 PM
(Meet at 5:00 PM for dinner)
Mike Reynold's Office
Montreal Ave.
Melbourne

Fly Tying

Monday, February 21st, 6:15 PM
Melbourne Public Library
Fee Ave
Melbourne

Outing

Shad camp out
February 11-13
Near Mullet Lake Park



THE BACKCAST

Backcountry Fly Fishing Association of Brevard
P.O. Box 524
Melbourne, FL. 32902-0524

Limit your kill, don't kill your limit !

Please practice Catch and Release.