



President's Letter, September 2020

Suncoast Fly Fishers,

It's September and that signals the start of our 2020 membership drive. That means it is time for existing members to renew. It's also time to invite all of the local fly fishermen and anyone who has an interest in fly fishing, fly casting or fly tying to join our club.

It might even be a good time to hold an open house so we can show any prospective members the joy of gathering together to tell stories, renew old friendships, learn the best places to fish and the best ways to catch them, spend a day on the water together and to relish the comradery that is derived through personal interactions with an exceptional cast of characters. We could even let them in on the secret that what we really are is an eating club with a fishing addiction. The problem is that our house isn't yet completely open.

We are not able to hold meetings in person and we are not yet sharing meals at our outings but we are taking some creative measures to stay relevant and we still have a lot to offer. The SFF board is working harder than ever. We have a regular board meeting once a month on ZOOM but we also have numerous side meetings and share phone calls to work on club issues. In addition, we have many committees working to keep the club going and I am proud of all that has been accomplished.

After suspending all club activities for March and April we started getting back in operation with a virtual outing in May and our regular dock light and beach fishing outing in June. Since then we have been scheduling regular monthly outings without our normal group lunch. We can still gather together in the parking lot at first light as we rig our rods and prepare to fish. It is a pleasure to look down a shoreline to see a string of fishermen stretched out over a half mile plying the water socially with a long rod. And we can share a few moments of comradery at the start and end of the day social distanced and brimming with anticipation as we leave to fish and satisfaction as we return.

We hosted our first ever digital dock light panel on Facebook Live, launched a brand new website, started having our member meetings using ZOOM video conferencing, we started a series of fly tying videos on Facebook featuring Bruce Evensen and we had the world's most entertaining and informative panel discussion on tarpon at our last member meeting. We have increased our social media footprint by 1000 fold. You can find us online on these websites:

Club website: <https://suncoastflyfishers.com>

Facebook website: <https://www.facebook.com/scff2020/>

Club You Tube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX1AWZ32-vjZTzEfCHJfkkQ/>

In November, world renown Olympic skier, expert fly fisherman and author of [A Passion for Tarpon](#), Andy Mill will be the guest speaker at our ZOOM member meeting.

I whole heartedly encourage you to join the club, renew your membership and participate in everything that we have to offer. Tune in to our ZOOM meetings, watch our videos and come out to our outings. SFF is doing great things now. Just wait until once again we can do it all in person!

Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick Rick Warfel, SFF President