

THE BACKCAST



THE BACKCOUNTRY FLY- FISHING ASSOCIATION OF
BREVARD

www.bffa-brevard.com

Volume XXXIV Number XII



September 2023

Tuesday-September 5th , at 6:30

**BFFA Club Meeting
at the Italian American Club
1471 Cypress Ave
Melbourne**

Our September 5th speaker will be Capt. Mike Arnoldy who is a USCG Master Captain and has been fishing in central Florida since 1964. His specialty is fishing for bass and his prime fishing spot is the Stick Marsh/Farm 13 area. He uses a 2021 falcon Hybrid as well as an airboat for his charters and his personal best from the Stick March area was a 14.55 lb bass. Mike often uses a flyrod when he bass fishes and will share what flies he uses when he is on the water. He also fishes a lot of areas outside our own state for coldwater trout and is well dialed in on the areas of Georgia and Arkansas. This should be a great program from one of our own local guides so we hope to see you there. Check out Mikes website for more pictures and information. www.haulinbassguide.com



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Ramblings and Such

September

September is the month when many of us are watching the ocean for two things, hurricanes and the mullet run. These two activities often can interact with each other as the hurricanes will often push the mullet convoy towards or away from us, depending on how far east the storm is. This year let's hope for the mullet to show up and the hurricanes to stay away from us.

September is the month that club members need to renew their dues. Please see Ron Winn at the next meeting to renew and if you aren't able to make the meeting you can send in a check to Backcountry Fly Fishing Assoc. P. O. Box 524 Melbourne, FL 32931-0524. Dues are \$20.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for Families.

September is also the month where we elect board members so if you are interested in being on the board, please let Ron know when you come to the meeting. We always welcome new additions to the board.

A big shout out to Bill Sargent for another one of his contributions to the newsletter. Recently I asked Bill if he had any of his older columns which are full of the history of this area and once again, he provided a great article on the solunar tables and where they originated. This is the second of his articles that we have republished and hopefully we will be bringing more your way. Thanks Bill.

Fly Tying with Jeff Ward

September's fly is the Murdich Minnow

Recipe:

Hook: FTD MS100 1/0

Thread: 210 White

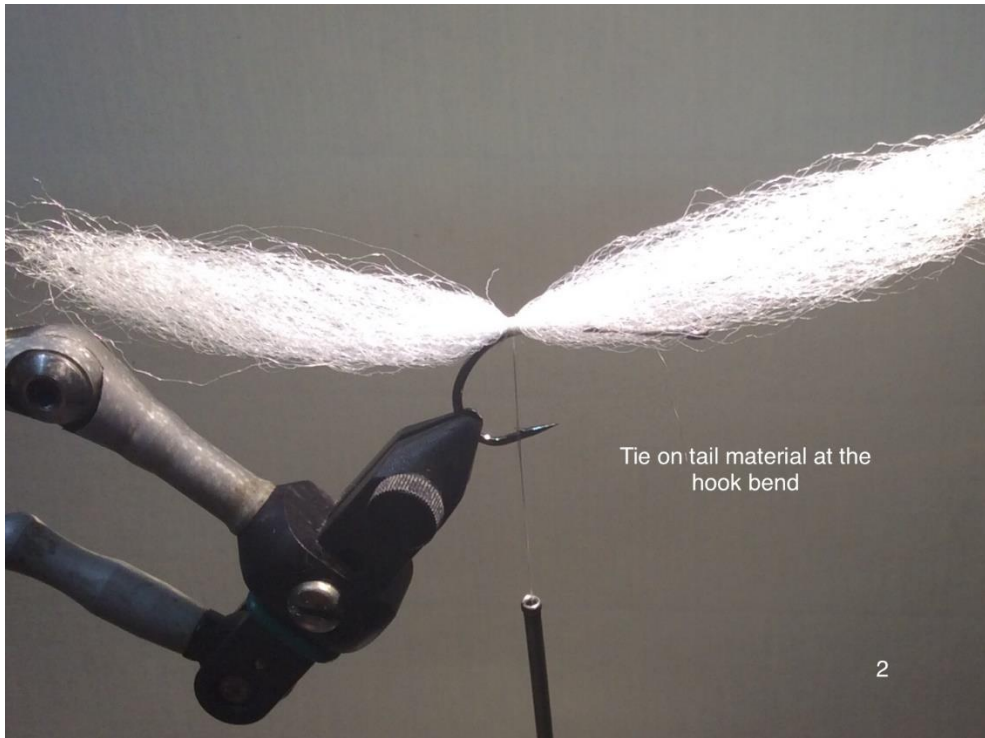
Tail/Skirt: White Congo Hair

Flash: Holographic

Head: White Estaz

Eyes: 5mm Silver





Fold back forward facing flash and cut white material flush with the hook eye



Fold back cut material and tie down to form a skirt



Add Estaz at hook bend and wrap thread forward to hook eye

6

Palmer Estaz forward and finish head
Add eyes

7

Bill Sargent column for August 16, 2015

As the Solunar Theory story is told in John Alden Knight's 1942 book *Moon Up, Moon Down*, it was just before noon on a hot July day in the early 1930s. The place was Lake Hell'n Blazes at the headwaters of the St. Johns River south of U.S. 192 west of Melbourne. Knight, a New York stockbroker on a fishing vacation, was being guided by Bob Wall, who moved to Melbourne from his native Georgia to build a fishing camp where the river crossed 192, in those years known to people in Melbourne as the Kissimmee Highway, a bumpy two-lane road to Kissimmee.

They had been plugging with top-water baits since dawn and had little to show for it. There wasn't a sign of activity anywhere under the boiling sun and Knight was losing his patience. He suggested they pull their small cypress boat up on a floating island for lunch. Wall kept glancing at his watch, followed by a look out across the thousands of lily pads that matted the Hell'n Blazes surface. Then Wall said, "Come on Jack. Hurry up with that lunch. We'll miss the good fishin' if we sit here much longer.

"What makes you think they'll rise in all this heat," Knight questions in the book.

"They'll rise all right. Moon's down about noon," Wall said.

"What's that got to do with it?" Knight asked.

"Never mind about that. Just take my word for it. These fish are goin' on a feed pretty quick now," Wall explained.

It was from that conversation more than 80 years ago that the idea for the Solunar Theory, often called the Solunar Tables, was developed, copyrighted and marketed by Knight and his family

To this day, countless anglers and hunters use the Major and Minor solunar periods as prime activity and feeding times for fish and game. The original John Alden Knight Solunar Tables appear in hundreds of newspapers and magazines.

It was an old back woods Georgia Cracker idea that had been handed down to Wall by his grandfather, a South Georgia market hunter who had observed fish and game all his life and coming to believe that fish and wildlife became more active when the moon was in its "up" position – at its zenith—and again when it was "down" at its nadir.

Wall's success with the theory earned him a reputation as one of the finest bass guides in Florida and people, like Knight, came from all over to fish with him.

According to Knight's book he and Wall caught more bass following their lunch break than Knight had ever seen. They brought nine bass back to camp that totaled 78 pounds. Just as Wall had predicted the good fishing started about noon and lasted for two hours.

Knight became so intrigued with Wall's theory that he moved to Orlando so he could fish with Wall often. For several years Knight studied and researched the effects of the moon and sun on the activities and feeding habits of fish and game, using Wall's "moon up, moon down" theory as his basis.

Knight coined the word Solunar from "solar" and "lunar." The tables usually list four Solunar periods each day, two "major" and two "minor" times. Each major lasts about two hours, with the peak occurring at the time listed and the minor lasts about 45 minutes. Each is followed by an approximate six-hour activity lull.

The active periods occur about one hour later each day because a so-called moon day is about an hour longer than the 24-hour earth day, according to Knight. For the same reason occasionally a day will show only three periods. Knight found that barometric fluctuations, frontal conditions or changing air temperatures could alter the times. Anglers – particularly freshwater types – are the primary users of the tables. Most saltwater anglers are more tide-conscious, believing that feeding increases during certain tide phases. Deer hunters use them and some squirrel hunters swear by the tables. Similar tables also have surfaced but most sportsmen feel the Knight tables are accurate more of the time.

Bob Wall sold his camp and moved back to Georgia in the early 1950s. His camp always was known simply as Bob Wall's Camp. Owners that followed kept the name until years later when Henry Hollingsworth bought the business and renamed it Camp Holly, a name it retains.

Today Camp Holly is best known for its laid-back atmosphere, airboat rides, good hamburgers, and more recently an alligator exhibit. Few know it as the home of the worldwide Original Solunar Tables.

BFFA September 2023 Events

Monthly Dinner Meeting:

September 5th at 6:30
Italian American Club—
1471 Cypress Ave. Melbourne

Fly Tying:

Melbourne Library
September 18th at 6:00 pm

Outings:

Nothing scheduled

Board Meeting:

September 12th 5:00 meet at Ron Winn's
office 2103 Grant Place Melbourne All members
are welcome to join. We typically eat at Megs
first and then rejoin at Ron's office around 6:00



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