

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 2010

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings at Miraflores Park
17th Avenue between
Belmont and LaRua

**BUSINESS MEETING
1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM**

**BULL SESSION
2ND THURSDAY, 6:30
PM**

**CASTING & TYING
CLINIC
3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM**

CLUB DUES...

Members are reminded that the 2010 dues were due in January. If you haven't already paid, please bring your checks of \$30 for regular membership and \$10 for Associates, to the first business meeting on February 2nd. If paying in cash be sure to get a receipt in order to preclude accounting errors. Make checks payable to Fly Fishers of N.W. Florida and deliver them in person at the meeting (or by mail to our treasurer Larry Sisney at 700 College Blvd. H-106, Pensacola, Fl 32504. Your cooperation in taking care of this responsibility would be greatly appreciated so as our 2010 Membership Directory can be updated and published in February. Thanks.....Art de Tonnancourt, Membership Chairman

Pensacola Junior College (PJC) Fly Fishing Class 2010

Again this year the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida in conjunction with PJC will conduct the PJC Fly Fishing Class. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 PM at the PJC Pensacola campus, building 1700, (Baroco Center for Science and Technology, off of Airport Ave.) room 1706, beginning March 3 and ending April 28, 2010 with the exception of March 31 - spring break.

We will teach the basics of fly fishing, including equipment selection, fly tying, fly casting, knots, leader construction, and practical application of fly fishing techniques. The lead instructors will be Jerry Aldridge, John Brand, Karen Brand, Jerry Giles, Larry Goodman, Capt Bob Quarles, Russ Shields, Bruce Vail, and Capt. Baz Yelverton. Other club members are needed to serve as proctors for casting, knot tying, and fly tying instruction. Two volunteers are also needed to transport the fly rods/reels and fly tying equipment to and from each class session. If you are willing to volunteer please contact Tom Regina at 458-2978 or tom-regina@bellsouth.net.

Florida Senior Citizens Fishing in Georgia

The reciprocal fishing licensing agreement between Georgia and Florida regarding anglers 65 years and older has been terminated. Florida Senior citizens are no longer able to fish in Georgia freshwater without charge. A Georgia nonresident license is now required. A trout license (trout stamp) is also required to fish in designated trout waters and to fish for or possess mountain trout.

General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, January 5, 2010, President Larry Goodman, presiding

The meeting was called to order at about 6:40, with 15 members present.

During the board session, it was reaffirmed that the dues would not increase for 2010. Treasurer Larry Sisney gave his end-of-year report. The report was very inclusive and shows that the club is in good financial status. Russ Shields moved that the report be accepted, and the vote was unanimous for approval.

Paul Lukkar suggested that we attempt to get more participation from members by planning more fishing and social outings. Several ways to do so were posed. Ideas from all members would be welcomed.

Terry McCormick made a motion, with a second by Lowell Weaner, for the budget for 2010, to be submitted at the next business meeting. The motion was approved.

President Goodman announced that the PJC Fly Fishing Class will be conducted from Mar.3-Apr. 28th., at Bldg. 4, Rm. 442. Please consider volunteering your help with the class.

Russ Shields stated that the Christmas Party 2010, was tentatively scheduled for Dec. 14th., and will be held once again at the Holiday Inn.

This meeting was quite informal, as it was VERY cold in the club house, even with a fire going. We were glad to adjourn at about 7:30. Respectfully submitted; Jerry Giles

Casting & Tying at the Club.... Tom Regina



At the February 11 Bull Session, starting at 6:30 PM, we will tie a Mickey Finn streamer fly. The February Casting and Tying Clinic will be held Saturday February 20 from 9:00 AM until about 1:00 PM. Starting at 9:00 AM Jerry Aldridge will teach us how to tie the Puglisi Diver, a top water fly for warm or salt water. The materials list and tying instructions for both flies are included in this newsletter.



Your club will provide all materials needed to tie these flies. If you have them, bring your fly tying tools. If you need, your club has tools for both you and your guest.

John Brand will conduct the casting clinic on Saturday February 20. John can teach you basic fly-casting or help you improve your more advanced casting skills. If you have a particular casting technique you would like to learn or improve, John will be happy to help you learn or improve the procedure or skill needed. John will start the casting clinic at 9:00 AM. Bring your long rod or use one of your club's sticks. Many club members attend the monthly casting clinics and bring one or more of their fly rods to practice casting. Most are happy to let others try their rods.

Russ Shields and Jerry Giles will serve us Hobo Stew for lunch at the casting and tying clinic in February. Jerry picked up this recipe for Hobo Stew during his days living in the rail yard jungles of Lincoln, NE. I hear tell that was a long time ago... when trains were fired with coal. Jerry asks if anyone has been burning coal during this cold weather that they bring a cup or two of cinders to the clinic as that is the one ingredient he is missing.

If you do not want to tie flies or take advantage of the casting instruction, do still join us for a free lunch, adult beverages, and little people drinks.

As always, you are encouraged to bring guests to all club functions. If you or your guest need fly rods or fly tying tools your club is ready to provide them for use during the clinics and guests are more than welcome to partake in our free food and drink.

Mickey Finn... Tom Regina

The Mickey Finn streamer is a classic, but still popular bucktail pattern designed by John Alden Knight in the 1930s. The Mickey Finn is a first-rate baitfish imitation. The red stripe of bucktail hair resembles the lateral line of a small minnow or trout. The fly is productive for salmon, trout, steelhead, and bass.

The Mickey Finn can be tied with extra weight such as a length of lead-free wire bound to the top and/or bottom of the hook shank or with a cone or bead head to get it deeper in the water column. I prefer to fish the Mickey Finn about 4-6 inches below the water surface and tie it without extra weight. If I want to fish the fly deeper, I will use a sink tip or sinking fly line.

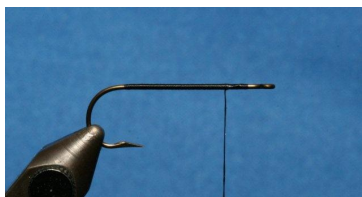
Fish the Mickey Finn up or down stream, or across current, with a jerky twitching retrieve to imitate a baitfish.

Tying Materials

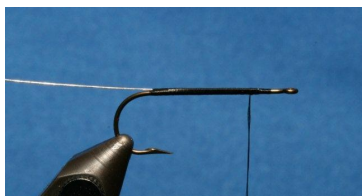
Hook:	Size 6-12, 3X or 4X long streamer
Thread:	6/0 black
Rib:	Small silver oval tinsel
Body:	Appropriate size flat silver tinsel
Wing:	Yellow and red bucktail hair



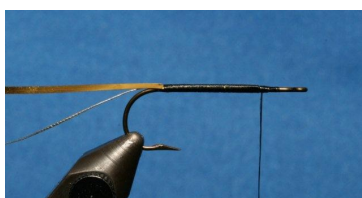
Tying Instructions



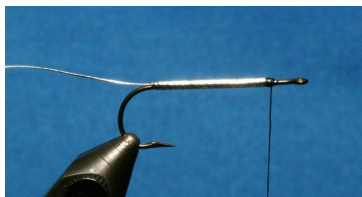
1. Lay down a thread base. Debarb the hook and fix it in the vise. Using a jam knot start the thread on the hook one hook eye width back from the hook eye. In neat, touching turns wrap the thread back to the point on the hook directly above the hook barb. In neat, touching turns return the thread forward to a point three-hook eye widths back from the hook eye. *Note: It is important to wrap a neat, even thread base. If the thread base is not neat and has gaps or lumps in it, the flaws will show when the flat tinsel is wrapped over the thread base. The fish won't care; so says Doc Birdwell, however when your fishing buddy snoops in your streamer box what will he think? Neatness counts!*



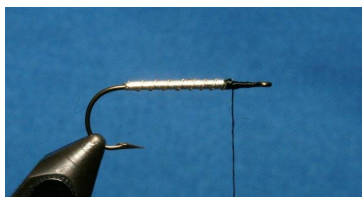
2. Tie in the oval tinsel rib. Cut about a 6-inch length of oval tinsel from the spool and tie it onto the top of the hook at the front thread hang point. With neat touching thread wraps, bind the oval rib tinsel to the top of the hook back to a point directly above the hook barb. Return the thread forward to the front thread hang point in the same manner. (Review the note in step 1.)



3. Tie in the flat body tinsel. *Note: Flat tinsel comes with both sides silver or with one side silver and one side gold. If you are using silver/gold tinsel, tie it in gold side up.* Cut about a 6-inch length of flat tinsel from the spool and tie it onto the top of the hook at the front thread hang point. Bind the flat body tinsel to the top of the hook and return the thread forward to the front thread hang point in the same manner as you did the oval rib tinsel in step 2. (Review the note in step 1.)



4. Wrap the flat body tinsel. Wrap the flat tinsel forward in turns that overlap about 25 percent forming a neat underbody free of lumps and spaces. At the front thread hang point tie off the flat tinsel with three or four tight thread wraps and cut away the excess flat tinsel.



5. Wrap the oval rib tinsel. In about nine evenly spaced spiral turns, wrap the oval rib tinsel forward. At the front thread hang point tie off the oval tinsel with three or four tight thread wraps and cut away the excess oval tinsel. Form a neat, slender, tapered underbody thread head from the front thread hang point to the back of the hook eye.

Mickey Finn... Tom Regina



6. Tie in the yellow underwing segment. Cut about a wooden matchstick diameter bunch of yellow bucktail hair from the tail hide. *Note: When cutting hair from any hide, cut as close to the hide as possible. This procedure keeps the hide neat and you will get more flies per hide.* Clean and stack the hair to even the hair tips. Measure the hair to equal the hook length or a bit longer. Tie the hair in on top of the hook at the end of the tinsel body, which is also the front thread hang point. Pinch the hair and the sides of the hook to prevent the hair from migrating down the sides of the hook. Use only about five to ten tight thread wraps. Cut away the excess hair butts at a long shallow angle so as not to form a sharp shoulder. Take the thread back to the front thread hang point.



7. Tie in the red mid wing segment. Cut a bunch of red bucktail hair from the tail hide. The red hair bunch diameter should be about one-half the yellow underwing hair diameter. Clean, stack, and measure the hair. Tie on the red hair in the same manner as the yellow hair underwing.



8. Tie in the yellow top wing segment. Cut a bunch of yellow bucktail hair from the tail hide. The yellow top wing segment hair diameter should be about one-and-a-half to two times the diameter of the yellow underwing hair segment diameter. Clean, stack, and measure the hair. Tie on the yellow top wing segment in the same manner as the other two wing segments. Form a relatively large, neat, tapered thread head. Cut away the thread. I epoxy the heads of all my Mickey Finns. If you are not using epoxy, apply several coats of head cement, allowing the cement to dry between coats.

*This space reserved for your fish stories, photos and tall tales in general.
No tall tale too tall to tell.*

Puglisi Diver... Jerry Aldridge

The diving head of the Puglisi Diver is made of foam instead of the spun deer hair of Larry Dahlberg's Diver on which the Puglisi (and all other divers) is based. Tied in sizes 6 to 2/0, it works very well for warm water and salt water prey. The rabbit strip tail weighs the rear end of the fly down while the foam heads buoy up the front end of the fly. At rest, the fly lies on the surface horizontally or with the rear end down slightly. When the fly is stripped, it dives steeply as much as several inches because of the shape of the head and the inertia of the heavy tail. When the strip is stopped, the fly rises quickly to the surface because of the head's buoyancy. The "wounded critter" action is hard to resist for a bass or speckled trout, or any predator.

MATERIALS

HOOK	Gamakatsu B10S, 6-2/0
THREAD	Danville flat-waxed nylon, chartreuse
TAIL	Yellow rabbit strip and 2 yellow legs each side
BODY, REAR	Puglisi yellow anadromous brush plus 2mm foam disk
BODY, FRONT	Puglisi yellow anadromous brush plus 2 yellow legs each side
HEAD	2mm foam disk



TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Place hook in vise and lay thread base on shank from 1/4" behind eye to bend. Cut a rabbit strip about 1/2" longer than the hook and tie in fur up at bend forward with several thread wraps. Cut two leg strips twice the length of the tail. Wrap both strips around tying thread and tie in in front of tail with two legs extending backward on either side of tail.



2. Tie in anadromous brush with center wire forward while stroking fibers to the rear. Wrap 2-3 turns of the brush forward while continuously stroking fibers to the rear with off hand. Trim brush with scissors suitable for wire. Place foam disk on top hook with rear of disk even with rear of hook. Adjust tying thread on shank to wrap about 1/4" of front of disk. Hold disk securely with off hand and tie in the front 1/4". Make sure disk doesn't wrap around hook.



3. Tie another pair of legs each side as in step 1. Wrap more anadromous brush as in step 2.



4. Wrap tying thread to just behind hook eye. Place second foam disk atop shank with off hand so that front of disk is just behind hook eye. Tie in disk while holding securely with off hand. Wrap a neat tapered head about 1/4" long and cover with head cement. After head dries, remove fly from vise and mark legs and foam as desired with marking pens.

NOTES I prefer the GamaKatsu B10S hook - it can be used fresh or salt, has a wide gap and a little extra length. Feel free to substitute the Mustad 33007 for salt or Mustad 3366 for fresh water or other similar hooks. Puglisi uses black striped rabbit strips for his flies but I haven't found any I like and the ones I striped myself look awful. The legs can be marked with spots or bright ends. The Puglisi anadromous brush works well but is quite expensive so use sparingly. A cross cut hackled rabbit strip, UV polar chenille, or baitfish emulator flash are good substitutes for the brush. The foam disks need to be wide enough at the front to wrap most of the way around the hook shank. Experiment with length and shape until you like the results and use that as a template. I like the flat waxed nylon because it secures the foam nicely without cutting. Use your imagination on this fly; change colors to suit your prey (olive/yellow/chartreuse frog, white/blue minnow, purple/black/red attractor, etc.)

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton



Each year January is one of my favorite months with the fly rod. Of course we have to work around the cold fronts, but when you hit it right the fishing is downright outrageous. Ideal conditions along the shore of the Gulf of Mexico generally occur the second and third days after a front passes. On these days the sky is cloudless and deep blue, the Gulf is dead flat, the water is crystal clear turquoise, and winds are moderate from the north. If you're



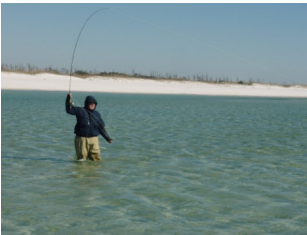
lucky you'll catch a day when the false albacore run the beach, and you can see these black torpedoes coming at you a hundred yards away. The Walters family from Johnson City, TN, had such a day on January 4. This is Ben Walters with the first FA on fly for 2010. The fish took one of Travis Akins' "green weenies". A little later Ben's dad Dave Walters got his first FA of the year on my new fly the "magic bus".



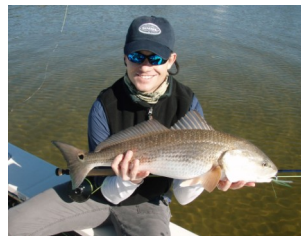
On days when the FA disappear you can always count on finding a few redfish feeding along the beach. Sometimes you'll find them in water as shallow as 2', and these fish will be boat shy. It takes a long cast to entice them to eat the fly before sensing the boat. I like a sz 2 tan/white clouser or a green weenie for the shallow-water redfish. Other fish will move out from the inner bar into water that's 5-7' deep making them a little more difficult targets mainly because



it's hard to get the fly down to the fish. I keep two rods ready one with a floating line for the shallow fish and the other with an intermediate sinking line for the deeper fish. For the deeper water I prefer a simplified version of Deep South Outfitters "go-meaux" white bunny strip fly which for laughs I'm calling the "Baz-meaux". This is a nice shot of Ben Walters on January 4 with a trophy redfish caught on a baz-meaux. The next photo is of Pensacola's Geoff Brodersen with his biggest redfish to date taken January 10 on a tan/white clouser. Geoff's dad Mark Brodersen also landed this bull redfish that day.



Sometimes the fish get too darn boat shy, and you have to go in after 'em. Both Geoff and Mark Brodersen had wading success on Jan 10. Here are some nice shots of Geoff with his first hookup and resulting catch. When you're in the water with the fish it's amazing how close to you they will take the fly. Think "bonefishing in the Bahamas", except it's about 40 degrees colder...



Later in the month we got blown out of the Gulf and were forced to check out some favorite inside flats. To my surprise the redfish were there in spades hanging out around the mullet schools. Here are a couple of nice fish landed by Greg Speer, Ft Collins, CO, on Jan 18. A few days later Keith Sparks of Lexington, KY, landed another beauty. Almost all the redfish we're

finding on the flats are in close proximity to the mullet. The best flies are the tan/white clouser, green weenie, and yellow pompano rocket. The inshore flats fishing is ideal for wade fishing. I recently picked up some 3.5 mm neoprene boot foot waders from Cabelas for \$80, and I've been toasty ever since...Capt Baz

Is Your Fly Pattern More Important Than How You Present It?

By Pat Damico – Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers Club Newsletter

A book that should be in every saltwater fly fisherman's library is, "Fisherman's Coast," by Aaron J. Adams, Ph.D. Described as, "An angler's guide to marine warm-water gamefish and their habits," this book has been a revelation on how to fish different fly patterns. The author spends a lot of time discussing different types of prey found in every type of shallow saltwater environment. Color and size, as well as movements are presented in detail. Aaron's most recent book, "Fly Fisherman's Guide to Saltwater Prey," continues his quest and not only describes and contains photos of prey, but has detailed tying instructions and patterns that closely duplicate each life form.


Freshwater trout fishermen frequently wear a wool patch on their vests to dry fly patterns used that day. Did you ever notice that the most successful fisherman usually only have a couple flies present, while others may have a dozen or more? What does this tell us? Can we apply this information to improve our saltwater success? Could it be that the way a fly is presented is more important than the pattern itself? If you "match the hatch," exactly, why aren't you having as much success as you should? Think about how many times your beautiful fly improved as fish after fish destroyed the fly until only half of it was left.

With crabs, for instance, most fisherman fish a good pattern ineffectively. When discussing snook, the author reveals that stomach contents in colder weather show a very high number of crab parts. This finding was reinforced when our Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club had an outing close to Cockroach bay. Dressed for a cold windy morning with water temperatures below sixty degrees, we were all wading and fly fishing except for one person nearby who was using live shrimp with spinning tackle. During the first fifteen minutes, he caught two redfish and a snook casting into a deeper hole and just letting his bait sit on the bottom. None of us fly fishing had a strike. I switched to a weighted crab pattern and with a sinking tip line cast into the deepest part of the water in front of me. After waiting until I was sure the fly was on the bottom, I made short, one inch slow strips. My third cast stopped abruptly, almost like being snagged, and when I strip set the hook, I felt some head shaking. I thought I had a redfish on because the fish just, "Bulldogged," along the bottom. When he tired and came to the surface, much to my surprise, it was a decent snook. I told my companions what I was using, and continues to fish. Soon, another snook took my bottom-hugging crab pattern. After releasing the fish, I again shouted, "Put on a crab pattern!" Two more larger snook were later released. Every fish caught that morning fell to the same technique. Others fishing the same pattern were not fishing slow or deep enough to duplicate natural bait. Instead of changing to multiple patterns, presentation was the key.

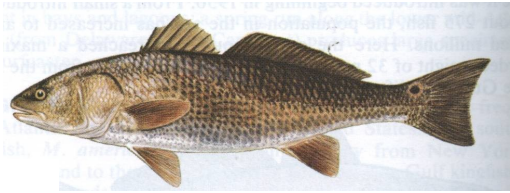
Our spin fishing friends who use a DOA shrimp successfully follow my friend Capt. Mel's advice, "If you think you are fishing it too slow, slow it down even more." This will tell you how to fish shrimp patterns.

Size and color of these patterns should not be underestimated. Use a shrimp or crab pattern that closely matches the bottom you are fishing.

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FLY FISHERS

OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**PO BOX 1041
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FEBRUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Business Meeting 7 PM				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					Clinic - Casting, tying, gourmet lunch 9 AM	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						