

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
July 2006

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NORTHWEST FLORIDA
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NEWSLETTER

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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

BOARD MEETING

1ST TUESDAY, 6:15PM

Minutes, June meeting....Jerry Giles

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General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, June 6, 2006, President Jay Williams, Jr. presiding

The June 6, 2006, meeting of Fly Fishers of North West Florida, was called to order at 6:30 P.M., by President Jay Williams.

The membership welcomed guest Tom Howell to the meeting. The May meeting minutes were approved by vote of the membership. The treasurer's report was presented and approved by vote of the members. Committee reports of note were presented.

Karen Brand reported that the kids clinic sponsored by Gulf Coast Outdoors and Pensacola Recreational Fishing Association was well attended. Bill Locher was worn out from all the kids swarming him for casting instruction, and his help was greatly appreciated.

Vick Vickery was given fly tying kits for the Boy Scout Camp of June 12th, through 16th., by Tom Regina. Additional volunteers were solicited to help at the camp, and Vick said that Klaus Gohrbandt had offered to help.

Tom Regina was heartily thanked for his work at the Saturday Casting Clinics. After five years of taking care of the cooking and supplies, he is being replaced by Russ Shields. Jerry Giles has agreed to assist Russ. Hopefully, the fine tradition set by Tom can be continued.

The Fly Fishers Federation conclave is being held the week-end of June 10th. Karen Brand extended invitation for members to attend and told of some of the planned activities.

Art de Tonnancourt was thanked for his splendid handling of the successful auction held in May. Larry Sisney reported that the auction netted \$1,246.50, as shown in the treasurer's report. Special appreciation was given to Jerry Aldridge and Tom Regina for the excellent fly collections they tied and gave for the auction. Everyone who contributed items for the auction were shown our appreciation.

Our guest speaker was Captain Dan Kolenich. He is a professional guide out of Mobile Delta area, but has guided worldwide. He presented a fascinating slide show of bone fishing in the South Pacific. He can be contacted at captthankolenich@att.net.

After proper motions, Pres. Jay Williams adjourned the meeting. Respectfully submitted;

From the SheepWagon

June 23, 2006. Elk and Crowsnest Now Fishing Just Fine....The water levels have come down and the rivers are clearing, several guides fished yesterday and today. The optimal "olive" color has not yet returned but perhaps tomorrow will see the change. On the Crowsnest, early in the day, and late in the evening the trout were taking the Salmon Fly; mid-day they took the PMD. Emerald Lake was reported to be "a-one".

The Elk saw some waders, and some drift boats; I do not know the results of their effort. It was just nice to go to the Tim Horton Coffee Shop and see a couple of fly rods leaning against the outside wall, while the owners had a Double-Double. I still do not what is in a Double-Double besides the coffee, but it goes down just fine. I suspect there are many hollow calories in the cup.

Mid-day I had one of the best haircuts I have had in years from a seventy-five year old Italian barber for \$6.50 Canadian. Tipping is considered "Ugly American" in a barber shop.

I was up early today and treated myself to the breakfast buffet at the Prince Of Wales Hotel in Waterton. The view from the table has no equal in this world. The old hotel (1927) sits like some Victorian God on top of the mountain and it watches over the lakes and mountains that stretch away into Montana. There is always a breeze and the flowers and weeds wave at you as you gaze out the great windows. There is a stone bear in the lobby and large paintings of the lakes and mountains hang on the dark planked walls, it all gives the feeling of an English Gentlemen's Club.

My apprehension of a few days back has turned to optimism just as surely as the rivers have turned from brown to olive.

What's Happening.... Jerry Aldridge

If you left your "ifloat" sunglasses at the last Saturday clinic see **Jerry Giles** at the July 11th meeting.

Hook & Hackle Company catalog orders.... Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida members, through an agreement with the Hook & Hackle Co., are entitled to purchase fly fishing and tying equipment, tackle, and materials from Hook & Hackle at a discount. This discount averages about 20%. Fly tying hooks are an especially good value. Under the agreement with Hook & Hackle, only Tom Regina can place orders for the discounted prices. Tom will be joyous to place orders for any club member. Tom has Hook & Hackle catalogs, both wholesale and dealers, that members are welcome to peruse. As an alternative members can go to www.hookhack.com to view the online catalog. The on line catalog does not show the discounted prices. There is generally about a \$5 S&H charge....**Tom Regina**

Bass and Bream Fishing.... If you hanker for some fast top water action for bass and bluegill, you might consider trying out the ponds at Dixie Times Fish Ponds in McDavid. The last time out, I caught a dozen or so each of bass (small but up to a pound and a half or so) and hand-sized bluegill in about three hours of afternoon fishing. The time before that, Tom Regina, Travis Akins and I got similar numbers fishing early to late morning. There are 8-10 ponds up to 5 acres or so in size all containing catfish, bass, bluegill and crappie. The ponds are separated by well tended dikes so there is plenty of room for casting. If you want to keep fish, you pay by the pound; the primary moneymaker is catfish. So far, the fish caught have been small but we saw a catfish on top that looked like the "Creature from the Black Lagoon" and I have seen several bass in the 3-5 pound range; the pond record is 12 pounds.

The owners have agreed to allow flyanglers from our club to fish on a catch-and-release basis for a flat fee of \$10 per day. If you hook a fish that can't be revived, you must pay for the fish. Dixie Times is located in Mc David on Mystic Springs Road. There is a fairly prominent sign on Highway 29. The phone number is 777-9038....**Jerry Aldridge**



From Capt. Baz Yelverton.... Found some pompano on an inshore flat. Sight fishing at it's best. And summertime brings in the false albacore. This fish was one of five landed on June 21...hey, that's today!

Don Lupone sent this picture, location unknown. Bet it would strain your 7X tippet!



Kyle Finkle with a huge spring turkey taken near his Maine home. The other "Tom" is his proud dad.



Zonked Squirrel Streamer.... Tom Regina (Original pattern by Jeff Pierce)

The Zonked Squirrel Streamer is a very easy and quick tie. The zonked squirrel can be tied in several colors such as natural, sculpin olive, brown, black, or crawdad orange, etc.

Fish this streamer as you would any streamer pattern. Cast it three quarters downstream letting it swing as you impart short quick strips. Cast three quarters upstream and mend the line to allow the fly to sink a few inches. Strip it in slow. Retrieve it fast. Strip, strip, pause, strip, etc.

Materials

Hook	Mustad 79580, 4XL, size 4
Head	Spirit River 1/4" Crosseyed Cone with stick-on eyes
Thread	Gudebrod 6/0 and 8/0 black BCS 118
Conehead cement	Loon UV Knot Sense
Tail and body	Wapsi sculpin olive pine squirrel zonkers
Head cement	Quick set epoxy



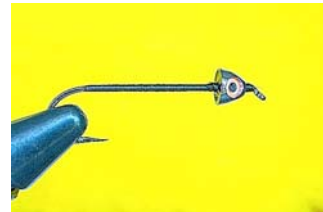
Tying Instructions



1. Slide the crosseyed cone over the tip of a round toothpick to a snug fit and apply the stick-on eyes into the eye sockets.



2. Debarb the hook and place the cone on it. Mount the hook in the vise and slide the cone back to the hook bend. Using a jam knot start the thread at the apex of the bent down eye portion of the hook shank and form a small tapered thread head in conjunction with a shallow angle "ramp" at the back of the thread head you are building. Wrap the tapered ramp rearward a distance equal to about one cone length. At the back of the apex the diameter of the thread head should be a bit greater than the inside diameter (ID) of the cone front hole so the cone fits snug and stays in place when moved forward onto the back of the thread head. To test for proper fit the cone can be slid over the working thread. Once you gain proper fit whip finish or half hitch the working thread and cut it away. Apply a drop of head cement to the thread tie off point.



3. Slide the cone forward, with the eyes properly oriented to a snug fit at the back of the thread head.



4. Place the hook vertically, cone down, in the vise. Realign the cone if necessary. Squeeze a small amount of Loon UV Knot Sense into the back of the cone. Fill the cone only about half full. *Caution: Don't overfill the cone. Leave room inside the cone to allow body materials to slide in when finishing the fly.* Note: Head cement will not afford an adequate bond of the cone to the thread ramp.

5. Use a bodkin to evenly distribute the Knot Sense around the inside of the cone.



Zonkered Squirrel Streamer.... Tom Regina (continued)



6. Reposition the cone if it has moved. With the cone properly positioned shine the Loon UV Light onto the Knot Sense for about 10 or 15 seconds to cure it and lock the cone in position.

7. Reposition the hook in the vise. Restart the thread in back of the cone and lay down a neat thread base back to the point on the hook bend that is directly over the hook barb. Cut a piece of pine squirrel zonker to a length of about 5 inches. With the fur slanting toward the back of the hook measure the tail to a length equal to the hook length. With a bodkin or the point of a scissor part the fur at the point on the hide where the tail will start. At the point on the hook bend that is directly over the hook barb secure the zonker to the top of the hook with about 5 thread wraps without trapping any fur under the thread wraps. Lift the front of the fur zonker strip out of the way and wrap the thread forward to the back of the cone. Apply a drop of head cement to the underside of the thread wraps locking the zonker to the hook.



8. In tight touching but not overlapping wraps palmer the front (body) of the zonker strip forward to the back of the conehead. With each wrap stroke the fur to the rear so as not to trap any fur under successive wraps. Using your bodkin or other such tool tuck the zonker strip evenly into and around the back of the cone. To tie off the zonker strip make several whip finish or half hitch wraps using your bodkin or other tool to guide the tie off thread wraps into the back of the cone. Cut away the thread and the tag end of the zonker. These cuts are best done using a micro tip scissor. It may be necessary to pick some of the fur fibers out from under the cone to give the Zonkered Squirrel Streamer a "finished" look. If you used enough whip finish and/or half hitch wraps it will not be necessary to cement the tie off thread wraps. If you want to cement the thread wraps, compress the fur away from the cone and apply cement with the point of your bodkin to the thread wraps inside the back of the cone.



Note: Step 9 is optional. However it does make the streamer more durable and aesthetically pleasing to the fly dresser and angler. But the fish won't care. Or so says Tom Birdwell.

9. Using 8/0 black thread build a neat tapered thread head in front of the conehead. The thread head should "climb" up the front of the cone about 1/16 to 3/32 inch. Apply a small amount of epoxy to the thread head and eyes.



Night Fishing for Snook....Klaus Gohrbandt



In May, inspired by Bob Willice, I fished for snook at night under the dock lights around Stuart on the central peninsula. The lagoons of the St. Lucie and Indian Rivers connect there to the Atlantic Ocean. By arrangement of the local flyfishing store, Southern Angler, I hired Captain Duber Winters to guide me.

Fishing was great! Duber is an excellent flyfishing guide who put me continuously in the right spot for successful casting. He drove a comfortable Pathfinder Tournament Edition 22 bay boat with wide bow and stern decks, equipped with a 200HP Yamaha, remotely controlled Minnkota trolling motor and a GPS system for precise night time navigation. Seeing snook swim around under the dock lights was fun in itself.

I landed a number of snook, plus many "lookdown", a hand-sized tropical fish, on Duber's attractive Clouser style glass minnow in size 6, tied with a non-slip loop to a straight 5 foot fluorocarbon tippet. I used a floating line with clear intermediate sink-tip with my seven weight rod. The picture shows the largest snook I landed. I broke off two even harder fighting fish, one due to the fish's shredding of the 15 pound test tippet! Snook easily sever tippets because their lower, protruding lip is as abrasive as sandpaper. Snook apparently reject flies tied to a wire trace (tippet). Reportedly, snook are occasionally caught in the 8-12 pound range with the rare 30 pounder, around seawalls and bridges, primarily during the day. **Note:** Bob Willice later fished with the same guide and landed two fish larger than the one shown.

Red Beard Clousers....Jerry Aldridge

The speckled trout fishing has been good on the grass flats with lots of fish, mostly small, fairly eager to take your well presented Clouser Minnow. Action on poppers and gurglers has been surprisingly slow, especially considering the water temperature in the high 80s. Look for intermittent patches of sand and grass, changes in depth (edges and ledges) plus any "nervous water" you see. Two to eight feet of water is the normal range; the deeper you get the better chance you have at the occasional lady fish, Spanish mackerel or blue fish.

The Naval Live Oaks and Big Sabine Bay have been fishing well but Shoreline Park, the east and west sides of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the area between Deer Point and Fair Point have been mysteriously slow, at least for me.

Good Clouser colors have been tan and olive, tan and yellow, dark green and white, and chartreuse and white. I have started tying some of my Clousers with red hackle beards to represent blood red gills or perhaps just for a little variety in tying. They seem to work at least as well as their beardless counterparts so give them a try. A couple are pictured here..



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AUCTION - Art deTonnancourt

CONSERVATION - Skeet Lores

DIRECTORY/NEWSLETTER - Jerry Aldridge

EDUCATION/CASTING - John Brand

EDUCATION/TYING - Tom Regina

TRIPS & OUTINGS - Vacant

FFF REPRESENTATIVE - Larry Goodman

LIBRARY - Bill Parrish

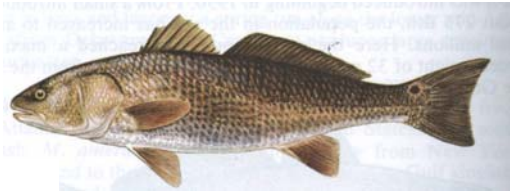
MEMBERSHIP - Karen Brand

PUBLICITY - Patrick Poloski

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

FLIES & LIES

If you still get your copy of the newsletter by regular mail, please consider receiving it by e-mail only. This will save your club money for mailing costs and your editor lots of time that he could use for fishing! Contact Jerry at jamay-fly@yahoo.com



JULY 2006

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Business Meeting
7 PM

Bull Session-Tying &
Tall Tales 6:30 PM

Clinic - Casting, tying
gourmet lunch 9 AM

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

23 24 25 26 27 28 29

30 31

