

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
MARCH 2011

THE FLYFISHERS OF
NORTHWEST FLORIDA
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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

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Nelverton

February is always an excellent month to sight-fish for redfish along the inner bar in the Gulf, and this year has been no exception. We've seen schools of fish in the 25-30" range as far east as the pink condos and a few schools to the west within a mile of Pensacola Pass. There are also good numbers of larger fish just outside the bar in 5-8 feet of water, but man are they spooky. We've had our best luck drifting on incoming water east of the pass when there's a light east wind. It takes long, "upstream" casts to get the fly down to and in front of the fish before they sense the boat, and even then it's not a done deal. My client February 12 put cast after cast in front of redfish, but they just re-



My client February 12 put cast after cast in front of redfish, but they just refused to eat his tan/white Clouser. He was using steady two foot strips, and the fish weren't even looking at it. I made a cast to demonstrate a different stripping technique...a short, snappy strip to "pop" the fly to life...and the fish in the first photo ate it on the second strip. I think they see the fly as a shrimp, and you have to "pop" it into action like a freaked-out shrimp. Follow that with a short pause to let the fly dive, and hang on.



We're also finding a few big fish on sandbars just inside the pass. I think these fish move in from the Gulf following the increasing number of bait balls and decide to stay inside. There's more bait washing into the bay now than I've ever seen in February...bay anchovies, northern mackerel, and even some small menhaden. On February 22 author Howell Raines nailed this bull redfish in shallow water using the white bunny strip "go-meaux". That would be "nailed and released"...



Then on February 23 Joe Lucero from Fox Island, WA, landed the beauty in the last photo with steady encouragement from his son Cade. I don't expect the fish to stay on the inside bars very long, but we're making the most of it while it lasts.

We're seeing a few fish on the inside flats but nothing to get excited about...yet. About five more degrees of water temperature, and things should get interesting. Also, the big Spanish mackerel will arrive in a couple weeks, followed by the pompano, jack crevalle, ladyfish, and bluefish. Maybe this will be the year that someone finally achieves the "Emerald Coast Slam"...redfish, pompano, jack crevalle on fly. Capt Baz

Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, February 1, 2010, President Tom Birdwell, presiding

Board Meeting

President Tom Birdwell called the meeting to order at 6:30 with 11 members present. Treasurer Larry Sisney announced the amended 2011 budget would be presented for a vote. There was a discussion on the Web site line item, but no changes were made. Russ Shields commented that the budget had a deficit ending balance of approx. \$2,500. Larry Sisney indicated the Auction income has always enabled the club to finish the year with a positive balance. Art suggested we adjust the auction income upward to \$1,500, but was not approved. Tom appointed Russ Shields, Larry Sisney, and John Fitzgerald to go over several proposed line items to better reflect the income generated each year and hopefully show a positive end-of-year balance.

Art deTonnancourt suggested that we need to prorate the dues on a monthly basis for members who join during the year. Motion made and passed.

David Burton reported on the results of the membership survey and proposed that we recognize the members who bring in new members. The motion died for lack of a second. David indicated the survey suggested more club trips. It was pointed out that there was no chairman of the trip committee and Paul Lukkar suggested that more members be added to the trip committee. Action was delayed on this item until the Membership meeting when more members would be present.

President Tom appointed Jay Williams to come up with rules for conduct of the board and business meetings. Jay was appointed parliamentarian and the motion was made and passed that meetings will follow Roberts Rules of Order.

President Tom commented that the Board of Directors meetings tend to continue into the time for the scheduled Business Meetings. Art proposed that the Board of Directors meetings start at 6:00 rather than 6:30. Motion was made and passed. There being no more business before the board the meeting was adjourned.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Tom Birdwell opened the meeting and introduced John and Karen Brand who did a presentation on the Southeast Federation of Fly Fishers and its goals of education, conservation, and outreach. The Federation will have a conclave June 2-4 at Unicoi State Park near Helen, Ga., and several members indicated they plan to attend. All are invited and may sign up through the website www.fffsec.org.

The January minutes were approved as amended. The Directory Committee was deleted as the directory is a function of the Membership Committee. Treasurer Larry Sisney presented the treasurers report which was approved.

Russ Shields made an appeal for the membership to volunteer to help the instructors for the Fly Fishing Class. They need to sign up in advance. Paul Lukkar announced that a meeting of "Hook, Line, and Sinkers" will be held at Flounders on the Beach on Monday Feb 21, from 6:30-8:30 and all are invited to attend.

Art deTonnancourt announced that David Burton is the new chairman of the Membership committee. Paul Vargo will assist Bob Holton with the club website. President Tom read a thank-you note received from the Bob Quarles family. Russ Shields indicated that he would be meeting with representatives of the Bream Fisherman's Assoc. Wednesday night, Feb 2nd to try and work out a more equitable storage arrangement for our club in the facility.

Bill Locher commented that trees had been planted in the casting practice area. The suggestion was made that we ask that the trees be relocated. Jay Williams commented that no annual club picnic has been held for the last few years and that the club needs to decide whether we want to have one this year. The pavilion at Shoreline Park has to be reserved in advance. No action was taken. Paul Lukkar asked for 3 volunteers to work on events. John and Karen volunteered to plan an event for the fall at Hurricane Lake. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:20. John Fitzgerald, Secretary

"Assimilation" ... Art de Tonnancourt, Clinic Food Chair

At the February 2010 Board of Director's meeting, I made a motion that all committee chairpersons enlist at least 2 additional members to their committees with the intent of getting more of our membership involved (assimilated) in our club affairs, while developing a greater democratic flavor to our management culture. The motion was unanimously passed.

At that time in February 2010, I was Chair of the membership committee. During the past twelve months the membership committee grew to six members: Art deTonnancourt (now past chair), David Burton (present Membership Chairperson), George Bennett, Joe Higgins, Paul Wargo and Bob Holton. Two of these five members were new to our club in 2010, bringing with them new ideas, new energy! We have had a lot of fun and accomplished much. Our committee held a fishing retreat in NC in Oct 2010, created a club wide very usefull survey, created new membership packets, name tags and much more.....Five of us working and playing together was fun, and ASSIMILATED 5 MORE of us into greater participation with our club.

In October 2011, Russ Shields volunteered to chair the Fly Fishing Course that is starting at our club this March. He needed a replacement for himself as Chair of the Clinic Food committee consisting of himself and Jerry Giles. (Russ and Jerry had been carrying this herculean task themselves for over 5 years!).... I volunteered to relieve Russ as chairman of the clinic food committee. I immediately recruited 12 generous and eager members to join me on the clinic food committee as follows: Russ Shields, Jerry Giles, Larry Sisney, Bob Willice, George Bennett, Joe Higgins, Mike Rowan, Joe Beyer, Jeff Deuchle, Oliver MCKinney, Ed Wingfield, and Bob Korose....and me. We had our first committee meeting Jan 8th with oysters (raw and roasted), ham, and great pot luck.....We had a ball, did some planning with the outcome that while working together everyone volunteered to be in charge of one clinic meal..... ASSIMILATED members....12...assimilated NEW (since 2010) members.....five (5)!

AND our committee is going to NC for some cold water trout fishing in April....and more fun, planning , and camaraderie. Several of these before mentioned new members brought their friends to our Feb 19th clinic....and several of these visitors joined our club and enrolled in our fly fishing class.

ASSIMILATION.....is the name of the game.....let's do it!

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

March 10 - Bull session 6:30 PM. Tom Regina will lead us in tying the "Panfish Spider".

March 19 - Monthly Casting and Tying Clinic, 9 AM until about 1 PM. Casting instruction and practice with John Brand. Fly tying the "Snake Charmer" with Tom Regina.

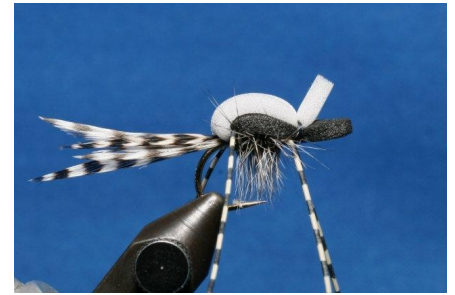
Your club will provide all tying materials to tie both flies. If you have them, bring your vise and tools. The club can also provide a vise and tools for you and your guests. The recipe and tying instructions for both flies can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Bring your long rod to the Saturday casting clinic. Club fly rods/reels are also available for you and your guests. Free lunch and beverages will be provided at the Saturday casting and tying clinic. Free beverages are available for all club bull sessions, clinics, and meetings.

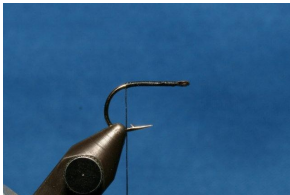
Panfish Spider... Tom Regina, Original Pattern by Matt Ramsey

Tying Materials

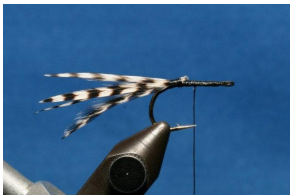
Hook:	Daiichi 1640, size 6
Thread:	6/0 black
Tail:	Four grizzly rooster saddle hackle tips
Overback & head:	2mm white foam over 2mm-black foam
Legs:	Grizzly-barred medium white rubber legs
Body:	Peacock herl and Grizzly rooster saddle hackle



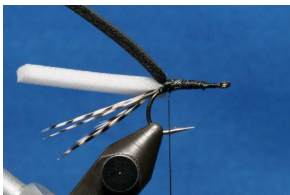
Tying Instructions



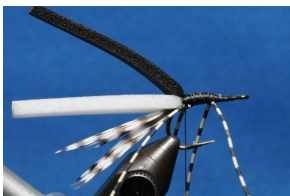
1. **Lay down a thread base.** Using a jam knot, start the thread on the hook at the hook eye. In tight touching thread wraps lay down a neat thread base back to a point on the hook directly above the hook barb.



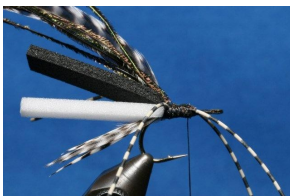
2. **Tie on the tail.** Select four grizzly rooster saddle hackle tips. At the thread hang point, directly above the hook barb; tie in the hackle tips so they extend back from the hook bend about 1 ½ times the hook length. Take the thread back to the point directly above the hook barb.



3. **Tie on the overback.** Cut a strip each of 2mm white and black foam from the foam sheets. Cut the strips 2-inches long by ¼-inch wide. Cut one end of each strip at about a 45-degree angle to form an "arrow". Tie in the arrow of the white foam strip to the top of the hook. In a like manner tie in the black strip. Form an evenly tapered thread base up to the hook eye. Return the thread to the point directly above the hook barb.



4. **Tie in the legs.** Select two 4-inch lengths of leg material. Center the rear leg set over the top of the hook at the thread hang point and tie it in with several figure-eight thread wraps. In a like manner, tie in the front leg set ¼-inch back from the hook eye. Take the thread back to the point directly above the hook barb.



5. **Tie in the peacock herl and saddle feather.** Select three or four peacock herls. Align their tips. With your thumb and index finger, stroke the group of herls from tip-to-butt thus causing the barbules to stand out from the quill. Tie the herls to the top of the hook by their tips at the thread hang point. Return the thread to the point above the hook barb. Select an appropriate sized saddle hackle feather. At the thread hang point, tie the feather butt to the top of the hook. Take the thread forward to the back of the front leg set.

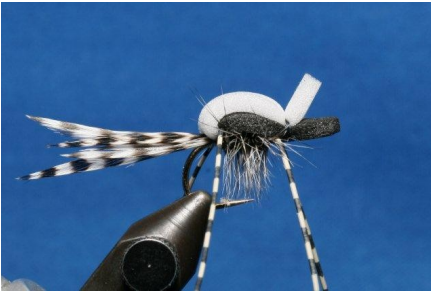


6. **Wrap the herl to form the body.** Grasp the herl butts and twist them into a loose "rope". Wrap the herl rope in close touching turns forward to the thread hang point. Tie off and cut away the excess herl butt ends.

Panfish Spider... Tom Regina. Original Pattern by Matt Ramsey



7. **Palmer the saddle hackle.** In several evenly spaced spiral turns, wrap the saddle hackle forward to the thread hang point. Tie off and cut away the excess feather butt. Take the thread forward to just in front of the front leg set.



8. **Complete the overback and head.** Fold both the black and white foam overback strips forward and tie them down at the thread hang point. Whip finish or half hitch the thread and cut it away. Cut away excess overback foam about ¼-inch in front of the overback tie down thread wraps thus forming the head of the fly. At the front of the head, cut away a small tip from each corner of the strips. Apply a small amount of thread cement to the overback tie down thread wraps.

Note: You can cut the legs to the desired length once you start fishing and deter-

Fly Fishing Course Outline... Russ Shields

Week 1 14 March	Opening remarks by FFNWF Club president Getting Started, choosing your tackle Local fishing opportunities	Tom Birdwell John Brand Capt. Baz Yelverton
Week 2 21 March	Introduction to fly casting Fly fishing knots Introduction to fly tying tools and materials	Video/John Brand John Brand Jerry Aldridge
Week 3 28 March	Casting instruction and practice Fly tying - Woolly Bugger Local fishing opportunities	John Brand Russ Shields Skeet Loes
Week 4 4 April	Casting instruction and practice Fly tying - Clouser Minnow	John Brand Karen Brand
Week 5 11 April	Casting instruction and practice Fly tying - Elk Hair Caddis	John Brand Jerry Giles
Week 6 18 April	Casting instruction and practice Fly tying - Crazy Charlie	John Brand Bruce Vail
Week 7 25 April	Casting instruction and practice Fly tying - Gartside Gurgler	John Brand Jerry Aldridge
Week 8 2 May	Casting review and practice Local fishing "round table" Welcome to club membership	John Brand Jerry Aldridge Tom Birdwell

Classes are held at Mira Flores Park, 17Ave. and Belmont Street, Pensacola, from 6 to 8 PM.

Snake Charmer.... Tom Regina

The Snake Charmer, originally designed and tied by Kevin Price, is a result of his many hours wading in muddy water; top water fishing in gin-clear rivers under bright sun; and even night fishing. Kevin says, "The Snake Charmer is not so much a noisemaker, but more of a big-profile, diving and sliding-style bass fly". Although the Snake Charmer is a fresh water big bass fly, it has proven equally effective in taking salt-water fish such as tarpon and others.

At first, the Snake Charmer may appear difficult to tie. This however is far from being a reality. In fact, the most difficult part of this fly is tying the rabbit strip to the poly rope.

Tying Materials

Hook:	Mustad S74S SS, 2XH, 4XL, size 3/0
Thread:	Red UNI-Thread A+ and 3/0 red
Weed guard:	80-lb. mono
Tail:	6mm white Poly rope and red rabbit strip
Adhesive:	Cyanoacrylate (super) glue
Legs:	Red rabbit strips
Thorax:	2mm red and white foam strips, white schlappen feathers, and red Flex-Floss
Head:	Extension of thorax



Tying Instructions



1. **Prepare the tail.** Cut a 1 ½-inch piece of poly rope from the skein. From a length of rabbit zonker, cut off a piece with a hide length of 1 ¼-inch long. Be careful not to cut the fur. Cut or strip away the fur from a ¼-inch of the butt end of the cut strip. *Note: To determine the butt end of the strip, lay the strip in front of you with the natural flow of the fur pointing to the left. The right end of the strip is the butt end.* In one hand hold and pinch the stripped end of the cut rabbit piece, fur side up, in place over one end of the cut rope. In the same manner as you would start thread on a

hook, tie the rabbit strip to the rope with the A+ thread. Start the thread with a 6-inch tag end. Take about 10 tight overlapping thread wraps. Cut the thread away leaving a 6-inch standing end. If you made the 10 thread wraps tight enough you will be able to set the tail on the bench without the thread unraveling. Use a square knot to tie-off the thread wraps. Apply a small amount of Cyanoacrylate glue to the thread wraps and square knot. Set the tail aside.



2. **Lay on a thread base.** Secure the hook in the vise. Using a jam knot, start the 3/0 thread on the hook shank one hook eye distance back from the hook eye. Wrap the thread in neat touching turns back to a position 1/3 the distance down the hook bend. In several spiral turns, wrap the thread forward to a point ½-inch back from the hook eye.



3. **Tie in the weed guard.** Cut a 6-inch length of 80-lb. mono from the skein. Hold the mono in your off hand with the concave side of the mono's natural curve down. Using needle nose pliers, flatten 1 ½-inches of one end of the mono. At the thread hang point tie the very end of the flattened portion of the mono to the top of the hook. With tight, closely spaced thread wraps, bind the flattened mono to the top of the hook back to a point 1/3 the distance down the hook bend. In several spiral turns, wrap the thread forward to a point 1-inch back from the hook eye.



4. **Tie on the tail.** Once the tail glue has dried, cut away any excess-glued end of the rabbit strip and rope. Lay the unglued end of the tail rope on the top of the hook shank at the thread hang point. Bind the tail to the top of the hook shank with tight thread wraps as shown in the photo. Cut away any excess rope and cover the butt end with thread wraps.

Forage Fly.... Tom Regina (continued)



5. **Tie on the legs.** From the rabbit zoner, cut two pieces, each with a hide length 1 ¼-inches long. Prepare the two pieces in the same manner as was the tail strip. Tie the strips, one to each side of the hook, directly over the tail tie-on thread wraps.



6. **Tie on the thorax foam strips.** From a sheet of 2mm white foam cut two strips each 3-inches long and ½-inch wide. From a sheet of 2mm red foam cut one strip 3-inches long and 3/8-inch wide. *Note: All three strips are tied on directly over the leg/tail tie-on thread wraps shown in photo 5.* Invert the hook and tie one of the white foam strips to the bottom of the hook shank. Turn the hook right side up and tie the red strip to the top of the hook shank. Tie the second white strip over the top of the red strip.



7. **Tie on the thorax schappen feathers and Flex-Floss.** *Note: All the materials in this step are to be tied on directly over the leg/tail/foam tie-on thread wraps.* Select one or two schlappen feathers and strip away the fuzz from the butt end(s). Tie the butt end(s) to the fly. Palmer the schappen forward in two or three very close turns. Tie off and cut away the excess feather. Cut four strands of Flex-Floss from the skein. Cut the four strands in half. Tie four half strands to each side of the hook. Tie on and palmer one or two more schappen feathers in the same manner as the first two. Tie off and cut away the excess feather. At this point, the schappen tie-off thread wraps should be about ½-inch back from the

hook eye.



8. **Tie-off the bottom foam strip and weed guard.** Invert the hook and fold the bottom white foam strip forward while manipulating the schappen barbules out from between the hook and folded foam. At the thread hang point, bind the foam strip to the bottom of the hook with several tight overlapping thread wraps. Trim away the foam tag end close to the thread wraps. Cover the excess butt with several thread wraps. Turn the hook right side up. Bring the standing end of the weed guard mono forward and under the hook spear and up through the hook eye. Adjust the weed guard so there is a ¼-inch gap between the mono and the hook spear. Bind the mono to the bottom of the hook with several tight thread wraps. Fold the mono tag end over the top of the hook and bind it down with several tight thread wraps covering the hook up to the hook eye. Cut away the excess mono. Establish the thread hang point ¼-inch back from the hook eye.

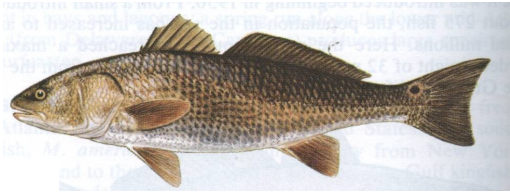


9. **Form the thorax and head.** Fold the white and red top foam strips forward while manipulating the schappen barbules out from between the hook and foam strips. With several tight overlapping thread wraps, bind the foam strips to the top of the hook ¼-inch back from the hook eye. Take the thread forward under the tag ends of the foam strips and form a neat tapered under head. Half hitch or whip finish the under head thread wraps. Cut away the thread and apply head cement to the under head and top-foam binding thread wraps. Trim the top foam strips even with the front of the hook eye. Cut a small angle on each side of the two top foam strips to finish the head.

FLY FISHERS

OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**PO BOX 1041
 PENSACOLA, FL 32591**



MARCH 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
	Business Meeting 7 PM					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
					Clinic - Casting, tying, gourmet lunch 9 AM	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		