

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
MAY 2009

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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 Velverton



April has been a challenging month to say the least. All the mud that came down the rivers totally trashed the bay, and I've been running all the way down to Navarre to find clean water. There are some redfish on the flats down there as you can see from this April 5 photo of Curt Bohling, but you've got to look hard for them. I don't expect the water around here to clear up until sometime in June, although it has improved slightly during the last week. The water at Shoreline Park changed from "chocolate milk" to "iced tea", and this improvement has turned on the trout big time in the usual springtime spots. The tan/white clouser is my favorite trout fly.



The gulf was blown out and dirty earlier in the month, but miraculously we found green water in front of the pink condos on April 7, and the jack crevalle were there for the first time this year. We landed five fish in the 15-20# range. I'll attach a nice photo of John Tiberi even though the fish were caught on spinning tackle.

The wind howled from the S for a few more days churning up the gulf, and we weren't able to get out there again until April 14. A strong cold front blew through the day before, and I took a chance on the gulf with some spin fishermen. I expected mud and was shocked and overjoyed to find green water just east of the pass. We were the only boat in sight, and pompano were everywhere. My clients were releasing everything except redfish and I don't know how many pompano we landed, but it was a big number. Schools of redfish were cruising the beach, and we kept three.



The sweetest thing about finding the clear water and pompano on April 14 was my good client Ken Hutchison was arriving that night for three days of fly-fishing. Hutch started off April 15 with the first pompano on fly of the spring season, and followed it shortly with the first jack crevalle on



fly of 2009. That put us in redfish mode to try to complete the Spring Grand Slam...pompano, redfish, and jack crevalle on fly. Hutch had a few shots at reds that day but no takes. We found another school of jacks later in the day, and Hutch's son-in-law Brian Cummings picked up the 12wt and landed his first jack.

The next day was the same story with Hutch nailing pompano after pompano and then another jack, which put us once again in search of redfish. Late in the day we found a school of bull reds close to Pickens Point in 10' of water. I had Hutch loaded up with my 10wt, intermediate sinking line, and a huge chartreuse/white half and half. We killed the motor and drifted closer and closer to the fish until we got in range. Hutch made a nice cast not spooking the school and let the fly disappear into the brown wad. On the first strip he came up tight to a big fish and the rest of the school bolted beneath the boat. We could see plainly that they were all redfish, and Hutch fought the fish very carefully taking no chances with the barbless hook. After about 20 minutes the fish finally came to the surface, and it was a jack! We couldn't believe our eyes. There must've been a few jacks swimming with the reds, and one of them beat the redfish to

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Yelverton (continued)



the fly. That was the closest anyone on my boat has ever come to completing the Spring Slam. Here are photos of Hutch with his first pompano on April 16 (caught on his own fly) and the jack we were sure was a redfish.

I've had spin-fishing clients since Hutch departed, and we've had the best pompano fishing since the peak of last year's run. Also, there are many schools of redfish close to the beach until all the boats arrive. Then the fish move into deeper water making them very difficult to catch on fly.



I have six days of fly-fishing clients starting tomorrow, and with the improved inland water conditions we'll be trying some of my favorite local flats. We'll also be tossing tan/white clousers for trout in deep water troughs around grass beds. The gulf's going to be too rough to fish for a few days, but the next time the north wind blows we should all be out there chasing after the Emerald Coast Spring Grand Slam....Capt Baz

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AUCTION - Terry McCormick

CONSERVATION - Skeet Lores

DIRECTORY - Vacant

EDUCATION/CASTING - John Brand

EDUCATION/TYING - Tom Regina

TRIPS & OUTINGS - Vacant

FFF REPRESENTATIVE - Larry Goodman

LIBRARY - Karen Brand

MEMBERSHIP - Vacant

NEWSLETTER - Jerry Aldridge

PUBLICITY - Vacant

General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, April 7, Vice President Jerry Giles, presiding

Vice President Jerry Giles called the meeting to order at 7 pm. There were 19 members present. The minutes of the March 3, 2009 board of directors and business meeting as published in the April 2009 newsletter were approved. The March treasury report was discussed and approved. Eight past members who have expressed interest in renewing their club membership have not yet submitted their dues. Russ Shields announced that he has finished building the fly rod that had been started by the late Andy Housand and it will be submitted for the June 2, 2009 club auction. Karen Brand announced the Southeastern Conclave will be held May 29-30, 2009 at Callaway Gardens. There will be no individual fees for classes and lectures this year and all activities will be covered under one charge. A Barbecue will replace the dinner that in past years was usually held the evening before the Conclave. Karen will send out to all club members a mass E Mailing of information concerning registration forms and lodging. John Brand is still working on the club business cards. John asked for more club members to assist with the fly casting and fly tying instruction at the PJC classes. Karen Brand is redoing our library and has been converting tapes to DVD format. She has been busy reorganizing our reading materials and making them more user friendly. Tom Regina purchased 15 new fly tying vises for the club to be used during the PJC classes, Boy Scout Merit Badge programs and fly tying sessions at the clubhouse. The Club agreed to reimburse Tom for his expenses and thanked him for doing this. It was announced that Jerry Aldridge will no longer assume responsibility for the Membership Committee and the Membership Directory after May 1, 2009. This vacancy will be discussed at the May 2009 business meeting. Club members were reminded that the club auction date June 2, 2009 was rapidly approaching. The highlight of the evening was an excellent presentation by Bob Korose on some of his Alaskan fishing adventures for Salmon and Trout. When he had finished his presentation a lot of club members were doing some wishful thinking. The meeting was then adjourned....Bob Willice secretary

Langley's Trout Candy....Kevin Cohenour

MATERIALS

HOOK Long shank stainless steel, size 1 to 8

THREAD Monocord or flat nylon, color optional (I like red or pink)

WEIGHT Lead dumbbell eyes

TAIL Brown bucktail, krystal flash, white bucktail

BODY Large chartreuse ice chenille, large pink ice chenille



TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Slightly bend the hook shank, at a point just forward of midshank, to bring the eye slightly closer to the point. Secuhook in vise. Start thread and wind back to the bend placed at midshank.



2. Place lead eyes at the bend made in step 1 and secure using "diagonal" wraps (about 10 each direction). Wrap thread horizontally below the eyes (but above the hook shank) to securely fasten. If desired, add a drop of super glue to the wraps. Wind thread back to a point slightly down the bend.



3. Place a small amount of brown bucktail (about a fat matchstick size bundle on a size 1 hook) so it extends about a hook shank's length past the bend. Secure and wind thread back to slightly below bend. Place several strands (about 10) of krystal flash (slightly longer than the bucktail) on top of the brown bucktail. Secure and wind thread back to the bend. Place white bucktail (a smaller amount than the brown) on top of the krystal flash. Secure and wind thread back to slightly down the bend.



4. Secure the chartreuse ice chenille at the bend. Wind thread to just behind the lead eyes. Closely wrap the chenille. Stroke the fibers back between each wrap. Wrap to just behind the eyes, leaving room for one wrap of pink behind the eyes. Secure and cut excess.

5. Secure the pink ice chenille behind the eyes. Wind thread forward to just behind hook eye. Make 1 wrap of chenille behind the eyes, then a figure 8 wrap over the eyes. Closely wrap chenille to just behind the hook eye, again stroking fibers back between wraps. Secure and trim excess. Form a head, whip finish and cement.



Captain Baz's Favorite Redfish Fly... Jerry Aldridge

MATERIALS

HOOK	Mustad 34007, size 2
THREAD	White 3/0 or 210 denier flat waxed nylon
EYES	Nickel plated brass hourglass, 3/16", painted red with black pupil
BELLY	White bucktail
WING	Copper flashabou and tan bucktail



TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Place hook in vise. Lay thread base from eye of hook to barb. Return thread to ¼" behind eye. Attach eyes there with series of figure 8 wraps followed by 6-8 horizontal wraps (under brass eyes but over shank). These turns will lock eyes in place. Return thread in front of eyes.



2. Cut a swatch of white bucktail about a kitchen match thick or a little more. Stack the bucktail so the fine ends are near the same length. Cut the blunt ends square to form a belly about 2 ¾" long (shorter for smaller hook, longer for larger hook). Place bucktail atop hook with blunt ends aligned just behind hook eye. Take 3 "soft wraps" around bucktail and then apply firmer thread pressure by pulling bobbin up from bottom. This upward pressure will keep the bucktail from spreading around shank. Cover the bucktail with a series of wraps between eyes and eye of hook. Also cover the bucktail behind the eyes with a series of wraps all the way back to just above hook barb. Return thread to just behind eye of hook with several wide wraps. Trim loose ends of bucktail around the hook eye.



3. Turn hook over in vise with hook point up. Cut 3-4 full length strands of flashabou. Double flashabou around tying thread and tie in the strands (now 6-8) with a few thread wraps while holding strands so that half are on each side of hook. Don't pull hard on flashabou or it will curl. Cut and prepare a swatch of tan bucktail the same as the white. Tie in the same way between eyes and eye of hook. NOTE: Do not tie the tan bucktail behind the brass eyes. Wrap a neat, tapered thread head and coat with head cement or epoxy.

Notes: Almost all the fly-caught redfish you see in Captain Baz's Fishing Reports are caught using this Clouser Minnow. The copper flash is a must as are the red/black eyes. I paint my own with red and black nail polish and a simple foam jig. Gulf Breeze Bait and Tackle carries a product called "Fire Fly" that also works well in place of the flashabou.

Around the Bay... and Further Away

From **Tom Regina**....At the business meeting on May 5, Russ Shields will give a short presentation on bamboo fly rod making. Russ and several other club members have recently completed Bill Oysters bamboo fly rod making class.

From **Vick Vickery**....Please volunteer to help with the club project, teaching fishing and flyfishing merit badges at Boy Scout Camp this summer. The dates are June 15-18, and June 22-25. Those who are interested should call Vick Vickery at 478-3584 for details.

From **Tom Regina**....Please return club-owned fly tying materials and/or tools to Tom Regina.

From **Terry McCormick**

AUCTION JUNE 2ND

We are looking for donations of all things flyfishing. Please hold your items until the day of the auction if possible. I will have the club house open by 5:00 pm the day of the auction for donations and browsing. If you will not be able to attend, I will take your items early. Remember everyone can help. Make a dozen or so flies, make a fishing trip if you have a boat, bring or buy a book, if you've graded your equipment let us have your old stuff. Come early and stay late, spend some money and have fun....Terry McCormick

From **Milt Mays**....Milt has already been to the Big Horn 13 times this year! Nice fish but aren't you freezing your _ _ _, Milt?



From **Tom Regina**....Carolina and western photos. Can you figure out who or where?



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

The May Bull Session will be held Thursday May 14 at 6:30 PM. Jerry Aldridge will lead us in tying Captain Baz's favorite redfish fly, a tan and white bucktail clouser with red and black eyes and copper accent.. Bring your fly tying tools and tie along with other club members and guests. If you are not into fly tying then come to the bull session and just shoot the bull and join in for some good hearted jawing and lying.

The May Casting and Tying Clinic will be held Saturday May 16 from 9:00 AM until about 1:00 PM. Starting at 9:00 AM Jerry Aldridge will lead us in tying one of Kevin Cohenour's favorite speckled trout flies called Trout Candy.

The materials list and tying instructions for both of these saltwater flies are included in this newsletter. Your club will provide all materials needed to tie both flies. If you have them, bring your fly tying tools. If you need, your club has tools for both you and your guest. Speaking of guests, please do bring a guest or more.

3/0 (John) Brand will be back from his bamboo fly rod making class in north Georgia to conduct the casting clinic on Saturday May 16.

Russ Shields and Jerry Giles will fix us a mighty fine lunch at the Saturday clinic. Russ and Jerry are keeping the menu a secret... but we know it will be mighty fine. If you don't want to tie flies; don't want to take advantage of the casting instruction; at least join us for lunch.

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 clinic and guests are more than welcome to partake in our free food and drink.

Fishing Report....Dane Law, Southeastern Anglers

We are experiencing some of the best overall spring fly fishing that we have in over two years in our Tn./Ga. area. Cold winter temperatures and adequate moisture have all of the streams we fish in good shape. The near term forecast is for a typical spring weather pattern which includes weekly showers to add to our water table. Bring your waders and jacket and let's go trout fishing.

Hiwassee River - Definitely the best we have seen in a while. Fish throughout the river. Mostly average rainbows with high fish counts. Some 14" -16" fish being caught in the quality zone. Mid April should see the beginning of our dry fly fishing as the water warms just a little. Hendricksons and caddis should start this month. Water flows have been great and look great for April. Most weekday flows right now give us one turbine which we can drift the upper river on. Fish numbers have been high on this float. We have also had good floats on the middle and lower section.


Toccoa River - Also fishing great for us. Our larger fish are coming from here now. Two new members of the 20 inch club so far with a 22" rainbow and a 21" brown trout. The first caddis came early in February. We are currently nymphing and streamer fishing. Waiting on the Hendricksons to arrive. Stream flows are the best in a while.

Holston River - Our pick right now for a Knoxville area tailwater float trip. Flows are consistent daily for floating all three river sections. Good fish counts with the average fish being strong, solid, with shoulders. We are expecting to break the 20 inch mark here anytime. We will start seeing good insect activity here in April also.

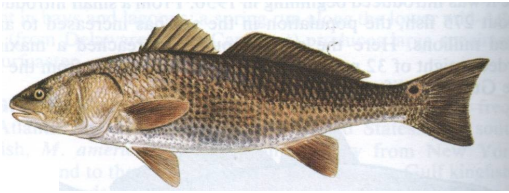
Tellico River - Our wild trout, brook trout, wade fishing paradise is running the best we have seen. Again, adequate rainfall makes a huge difference in our area streams. April will provide the slightly warmer water temps needed to bring out the smorgasboard of bugs, drakes included. We are excited about the off road ban on the upper river.

Cumberland River - Weekly rainfall has kept the generation level from Wolf creek too high for fly fishing. Right now, it looks like May before we will begin to fish the Cumberland consistently. Dane Law, Southeastern Anglers - 423-338-7368, © 770-655-9210.

From Jodi Slapsinsky....19th Annual Southeastern Council Conclave and Fly Fishers Show, May 29 - May 31, 2009, Callaway Gardens, Georgia. We are currently updating the FFF Southeastern Council Website. For information about programs, demonstration fly tyers, lodging and to download the upcoming 2009 conclave registration form, please plan to visit the conclave website at www.fffsec.org

FLY FISHERS

OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**PO BOX 1041
 PENSACOLA, FL 32591**



MAY 2009

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