# flies & fies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA DECEMBER 2006

THE FLYFISHERS OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA PO BOX 1041 PENSACOLA, FL 32591

**PRESIDENT** 

Jay Williams Jr. (850) 456-1392, 572-2624 jwmsmdjd@aol.com

**VICE-PRESIDENT** 

Russ Shields (850) 983-9515, 712-5112 rkshields@bellsouth.net

**SECRETARY** 

Jerry Giles (850) 994-9946, FlyFisherman1942@aol.com

**TREASURER** 

Larry Sisney (850) 474-1433 Isisney@cox.net

**NEWSLETTER** 

Jerry Aldridge (850) 478-9255 jamayfly@yahoo.com

**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 President's Report....Jay Williams

Minutes, November meeting....Jerry Giles

Holiday Party....Karen Brand

Fishing Report....Capt Baz



Photos Ray Lackaye Milt Mays

Fishing, Catching and Bonding Chance Regina

Stoat Tail (Tube Flies 101) Tom Regina

**Smoke & Black Clouser** 

Calendar



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December Fly Tying and Casting .... At the December 14, bull session starting at 6:30 PM Jerry Aldridge will lead us in tying the a Smoke and Black Clouser. On Saturday December 16, at 9:00 AM Tom Regina will teach us to tie the Stoat Tail tube fly streamer. Your club will provide all the materials for both flies. If you have a vise and tools please bring them. If not the club will furnish them. And do bring a guest or

two. We have a vise and tools for them also.

John Brand will be on hand at the Saturday December 16, clinic to teach fly casting and to help us hone our casting skills and techniques. Bring your own flinging stick or use your clubs rods. Bring your bride and rug rats or a guest. John has lots of patience and will be happy to teach them how to fling a fly. Russ Shields and Jerry Giles will fix you a mighty fine lunch. Adult and little peoples beverages will be available - and it's all free. Russ and Jerry put on mighty fine feeds. Don't miss out.

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# President's Message ....Jay Williams

The status of FFNWF is very good, as we close out this year and look forward to the new year. We have had about the usual number of members and hope that most if not all, will rejoin early in 2007.

During this past year we have had excellent programs and the quality of food offerings at our Saturday clinics has been superb. Clearly the membership likes to eat well. As long as we can provide this high level of quality, twelve months out of a year, without any need for a dues increase, then that figure will remain as it has been for a long time. I would say however, that it would be best for the fiscal health of the club, especially the treasurer's, if everyone would pay their dues early, and certainly by the middle of February.

I regret that we have been unable to get anyone interested in the Trip Chairman's position, and that the Conservation committee has not been able to launch a mission in keeping with the wishes expressed by the membership. I do believe that mission will be pushed early in '07. Perhaps we can get one of our newer members to try out the Trip chairmanship. I know that Art, Bob Willice, and myself would be willing to help that person get started.

I want to thank our 2006 board for their hard work, good attendance, and guidance all year. I appreciate the opportunity to have served as your president, and I sincerely wish each and every one of you, and your families, the most joyous Christmas, and a happy, peaceful New Year. Tight lines (and a drag free drift)....Jay

# General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, October 31, 2006, President Jay Williams, Jr. presiding

President Jay Williams called the meeting to order at about 7:00 P.M. The minutes of the October 3rd, 2006, meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. An extensive treasurer,s report was presented with line itemization of expenditures, income, and projections for the remainder of the year. The report was approved as submitted, with commendation for Treasurer Larry Sisney, as motioned by Jerry Aldridge.

The December 1st, Christmas Party was discussed. Please contact Karen Brand for dinner and raffle tickets. The raffle prizes include several top quality rods from Orvis, an Orvis reel, with line and backing, and a Renzetti Travel Vise. Two vacation package trips are also in the raffle. Excellent door prizes are also to be awarded.

The recipient of the Angler of the Year award was selected by sealed ballot. The award will be presented at the Christmas party.

Nominations for club officers and two At large BOD members for 2007 were taken from the floor, and voted upon unanimously. The results were:president, Karen Brand. Joe Higgins, vice-president, Jerry Giles, secretary, and Larry Sisney. treasurer. Elected board members at large are George Bennett and Bob Willice. The above will assume their positions at the January business meeting, to be held January 9, 2007 (not the first Tuesday: Jan. 2nd).

Committee reports: Skeets Lores, Conservation Committee said that âlgœGreenshores, Phase 2âlg , conservation project is soon to get underway. It will include grass planting, oyster reestablishment and shell reclamation. The club might help with this project.

Jerry Aldridge reported the web site should be on line by the first of the year. The site will contain password protected information for members only, along with public accessible info about club functions. It will include officers, contacts, newsletters (current and archival), meetings and activities, and a photo gallery. Links to the premier guide service of Baz Yelverton, the Fly Fishing Federation, and other fly fishing information will be at the site. The web address and club e-mail address will be provided at a later date.

Baz Yelverton, club member and local renowned guide, gave a great presentation on fly fishing in the bayous, bays, and Gulf of Mexico. He had super pictures of the variety and large sizes of fish he can put you on in our area waters. He covered presentation and methods of taking these fish. If you were not there, you missed a good one! Contact Baz at www.gulfbreezeguideservice.com or e-mail him at gbgsfishing@aol.com. Upon motion the meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Jerry Giles

# Holiday Party....Friday, December 1, 2006

### Pensacola Yacht Club Social Hour 6:00 Dinner 7:00

The *Annual Club Christmas Party* will be Friday, December 1 at the Pensacola Yacht Club. Dinner will be similar to last year with a buffet featuring Pecan Crusted Grouper and Pork Loin with Mango Chutney. Dinner tickets are \$25 per person and reservations are required. Dinner tickets will be sold at the general membership meeting, Oct 31 and at the Bull Session and Saturday Clinic during the month of November. John and I will be in Colorado mid-November so Russ Shields and Larry Sisney will be selling tickets during the weeks I am gone. If you are not able to attend any of the meetings in November you can make reservations by contacting Russ and Larry at rkshields@bellsouth.net and Isisney@cox.net.

One of the best parts of the Christmas Party is the *Christmas Raffle*. This year the raffle will feature an Orvis TLS 3 weight rod, Orvis TLS 8 weight rod, Battenkill 3 / 4 Reel with backing and 3 weight Wonderline, Battenkill Mid Arbor reel with 8 weight Redfish line, a Renzetti Traveler, cam pedestal vise, and two holiday vacation trips to exotic destinations furnished by Paul Lukkar. Raffle tickets are \$5 per ticket or 6 for \$25. Raffle tickets can be purchased the night of the dinner or in advance. You do not need to be present to win so if you are not able to attend the party, buy your raffle tickets and still have a chance to win!

All ladies present at the party will have a chance to win the *Ladies Christmas Door Prize*. Prizes this year include 2- \$50 Simon gift certificates which are good at any of the stores in Cordova and University Mall.

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The fishing continues to be great. Big schools of bull redfish are providing the hottest action at the moment. You can find them most days, but sometimes you have to cover a lot of water. We've found them from as far out as 6 miles in front of the Perdido Key to as close as Dead Man's Island in Gulf Breeze. Just don't give up, and watch for crashing pelicans. Here's a shot from today to show everybody just how fine these bull reds are.



As you can see from this photo from November 12 the pompano are still "available" in the troughs along the shoreline in the gulf. We're seeing more fish off Johnson's Beach than east of the pass.

There are also more and more slot-sized reds along the edge of the gulf. And, man, is the water ever beautiful. This last picture is of a couple anglers about ten days ago who'd just blown a chance at a perfect redfish that

was cruising along the beach about ten feet from shore. The fly caster couldn't seem to get the fly aloft, and then the spin fisherman dropped the jig right on top of the fish. End of story, but check out that water clarity!...Capt Baz







Ray Lackaye with one of the 30 or so bull reds he and a friend caught just outside Pensacola Pass on a November Saturday

Milt Mays with a giant rainbow from Yellowstone Park. See this and more photos and Milt' story in January issue

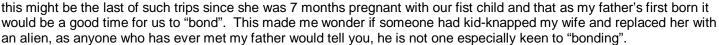


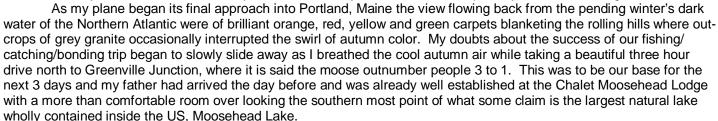
## Kennebec River, Maine...Fishing, Catching, and Bonding By Chance Regina

I won't go as far as to say there are only two types of people in this world. However, in my mind, there are two types of anglers out there. There are people who like to go fishing and there are people who prefer to go catching. Of course the former won't complain if the latter happens, but the latter are not particularly interested in the former.

My father, well he likes to go fishing. The guy could stand in a mountain stream all day casting about while the rays of the sun peak through the tree canopy and dance on the water. If he never had a single strike it wouldn't bother him in the least. Me, on the other hand, I will give it about forty-five minutes and if there aren't fish just jumping into my net then I am likely to pull up stakes and look for another way to spend the day.

Therefore, when I agreed to join my father in central Maine for a few days of fishing I was prepared for unending hours of wading in what was certainly to be bone chilling water without so much as seeing a goldfish during the entire trip. My wife assured me there was a great time to be had with my father whether we ended up fishing or catching. She also warned me





Flowing out of the southwest corner of this lake, which covers some 200 square miles of the Longfellow Mountains, are the East and West outlets of the Kennebec River. From its source it flows 150 miles south and east to the ship building town of Bath, Maine. However, we only concerned ourselves with the first 4 miles or so of the tailwaters comprising the East Outlet. This is where we stalked landlocked salmon and brook trout from a drift boat guided by native mainer Mike Jones, a certified FFF casting instructor and more impressively the reining New England Fly Casting Champion.

If I were to claim to be a beginner in the world of fly fishing I would be exaggerating my skill immensely and this is probably what causes most of my outings to be more fishing and less catching. On the other hand my father has more flies and rods than any self-respecting fly shop would carry in peak season. He has crammed what seems like 20+ years of chasing fish into only a few years time and while he is a solid angler prone to modesty when it comes to stories of his successes, remember what they say "it ain't easy teaching an old dog new tricks".

It was with these warnings that we greeted Mike when he picked us up in the cold morning air just as the sun began to rise and start a day long losing battle of trying to push through a thick blanket of clouds which smelled of a pending winter storm. While the beautiful and relaxing drive north the previous day had done a lot to ease my concerns of two days spent freezing in a stream, there were still some questions in my mind. That is until Otis greeted me. Otis is a great beast of a North American Yellow Lab and Mike's fishing companion. This may seem trivial to some, but I think this has relevance on two accounts. First, dog people are typically good folk and you can often get a thorough read on a person by meeting their dog. Secondly and most important just a month or so prior to the trip my wife and I suffered a crushing loss in our family. The loss of River, our three year old Black Lab/Australian Sheppard mix and while we had just that week brought home a new Golden Retriever puppy named Banks, it was warming to have the companionship of a dog that had the same spirit as my best friend River.

It was such that we pushed off on our first day of fishing the Kennebec with stocking caps, jackets and smiles. Mike effortlessly worked the boat from the center while my father sat in the stern. Meanwhile Otis and I took up the bow.

To my surprise we had been away from the shore for about two minutes when Mike suggested we get started. My father had carried with him two rods, a 6 weight which was attached to a streamer and a 4 paired with one of his home tied nymphs. Mike had provided two rods which I used to imitate a fly fisher.

With Mike's suggestion I began fishing towards the left bank as my father worked the center of the cold clear waters to the right side of the boat. Understand that I can catch a tree at 500 feet so the thought of someone working in the area of my back cast had me more than concerned and I think it was pretty evident in my first few casts. Fully prepared for the ensuing mess of crossed and knotted fly lines and for the certain



## Fishing, Catching, and Bonding By Chance Regina (continued)

lecture to follow from our guide, if not my father, I timidly pitched my fly into the rushing current completely focused on everything that could go wrong and not on fishing, or catching for that matter. Meanwhile Mike very casually generated conversation with both my father and I about the Kennebec and the kind of fish and wildlife we would see the next two days.

After only a very few minutes my father had hooked the first fish and the excitement of the day ramped up a notch because now we were certainly not going to be shut out. Though looking back I am sure we would never have gone home empty handed on Mike's watch as we would see later Mike could almost will the fish onto the line. As my father fought the fish Mike calmly asked me to bring my line in and positioned himself to scoop the 12 inch salmon into the net all the while giving minor instruction to my father on how to work the fish closer to the boat.

The good news of having the first catch take place is everyone is at ease from that point forward because there has been some success. The bad news is the one person without a catch now had all the pressure. Sensing that I had become comfortable with him but was still struggling to get my rhythm Mike began to innocuously instruct me on minor details of my cast and fishing. "Chance, what city in California are you from?" Mike asked almost inconsequentially. "Mountain View" I replied thinking Mike was continuing with the friendly get to know you banter all new acquaintances partake in. "Tell you what, when you back cast try saying 'I am from Mountain View' before you start forward with your cast." That simple pointer had me tripling the distance and improving the accuracy of my casting immediately. And save two occasions, both of which I will lay full blame on my father for, we avoided any crossed lines or snagged trees.

Before we even moved from the first hole I would have success to match my father's. The first strike was hard and the fish ran fast. This came as a complete surprise to me as most of my fishing, or shall I say catching, experiences were with stock trout on the rivers of Western North Carolina. I had never had a fish on a fly rod bigger than eight or nine inches and this one seemed to be double that size from the fight I was getting. Mike stayed calm even though I am sure he could tell I was panicked. "Let him run if he wants", "Hold the tip up high and keep a steady arc in the rod." "Work him to the right, now back to the left", don't put a lot of pressure on him the next time he jumps" were all simple pointers Mike would provide and after what seemed like five minutes and was probably in the ballpark of 45 seconds, Mike scooped out what would be a 20 inch landlocked salmon. As we watched the beautiful hazel colored fish with turquoise blue spots swim free I thought our fishing was surely off to a good start.

As we moved down the river from that first hole I didn't realize that was the start and the end to two days of fishing. For you see, when my father pulled in the next fish, a small but gorgeous brook trout less than 10 minutes later and that was followed by several more between us for every hour we were on the river, we were catching, not just fishing. When the catching would slow, and only then, Mike would ask "Do you mind if I try here?" He would then gracefully pick up where my father or I left off and would fly a line 50, 80, 100 plus feet out to a spot that almost always gave results within minutes. For two days we fished the East Outlet of the Kennebec River and each day we had more success than a person could ask for. With my father and I both landing several 20-22 inch salmon and more brook trout than we could count; all the while getting to know more about the wonderful surroundings from a guy who had spent the better part of his life there and still knew how to appreciate the moose we came across, the mink swimming past, and the loons bobbing on the surface, or the cold nipping at our fingers and noses.

Having never fished with a guide I had no idea what to expect. Did they catch the fish for you? Did they just row the boat? Maybe they lectured you all day on how to be a better angler? My father has fished with many a guide and assures me that you get a little, if not a lot, of all of the above and that Mike was by far one of the best guides, if not the best, he had ever fished with. Mike pointed out holes, helped me to understand not only the what to do but the why to do and after two days I was certainly fishing better than I had before.

I don't know, and don't particularly care, who caught the most or the biggest fish. I do know Mike Jones was by far the best person to fly a line on the Kennebec River while I was there, and that is probably the case on most everyday of the year. I also know it all started out as a fishing trip and quickly turned into a catching trip with the help of Mike, but what I know most of all is that I have not enjoyed such a good time with my father since the days when I was 11 years old and was training for my first Blue Angle Marathon with my dad toiling away along side me mile after mile on a bicycle at 6 in the morning for weeks on end. You can call it bonding, I will call it catching and even if we would have only gone fishing it still would have been great.

For more info on Mike visit: <a href="www.driftboating.com">www.driftboating.com</a>. For more information on the Moosehead Lake Region visit it...or the website <a href="http://www.mooseheadlake.org/">http://www.mooseheadlake.org/</a>. For the record.... Mike Jones is a full time guide who also guides on the Androscoggin River, Maine. In the winter he operates an international fly fishing lodge in Patagonia, Chile at www.lastorreslodge.com. Mike has an in-depth knowledge of both pre- and post-history of Maine, its' rivers and people. Mike holds a Bachelors Degree in Biology with a concentration in Ecology. Mike can be reached at 207-491-9898 or by email at mdjonesdog @gmail.com. And by the way - Chance won the Blue Angle Marathon in his age group....Tom



# Streamer 7ies with 7om Regina... Stoat 7ail (7ube 7lies 101)

Tube flies are a British innovation that have been around for many years. For several decades, United States fly fishers have been using tube flies primarily to fish for salmon and steelhead. U.S. anglers are also now using tube flies to catch all kinds of game fish in both fresh and saltwater. A tube fly is just that: a fly tied on a hollow tube instead of a traditional hook. The tubes are made from copper, aluminum, or hard plastic. This gives the fly dresser a great deal of versatility in fly size and weight. Metal tubes are lined with plastic to prevent chaffing of the leader which is passed through the center of the tube after which the hook is tied onto the leader. The hook either dangles behind the fly or is snugged up to the rear of the hard tube and held in place by a section of soft plastic tube called a junction tube. The junction tube holds the hook in place at the back of the fly. When a fish is hooked the fly can separate from the hook and slide up the leader thus avoiding the abuse a normal fly takes in the mouth of a fish. The fly lasts longer and as an added bonus the hook is easier to remove from the fish, ergo increasing the catch-and-release survival rate.

All the fly tying materials, techniques, and tools you use to tie conventional flies are adaptable to tube flies. There are many vises on the market designed specifically for dressing tube flies. However, tube fly tying doesn't require you invest in one. A little ingenuity and research will lead you to a wealth of resources that will allow you to adapt your conventional vise for tying tube flies. HMH, 14 Maine Street, Box 18,Brunswick, ME 04011 (1-800-335-9057) or <a href="https://www.hmhvises.com">www.hmhvises.com</a>. , offers a tube-vise adapter for regular vises. The adapter clamps in the jaws of virtually any standard vise and uses stainless steel pins to hold the tube in place. Renzetti, 8800 Grissom Parkway, Titusville, FL 32780 (321-267-7705) or <a href="https://www.renzetti.com">www.renzetti.com</a>. , offers a Tube Fly Vise Head which fits all Renzetti Traveler vise stems.

One of the simplest and most economical ways to adapt your conventional vise to tie tube flies is to cut off the eye of a large hook and file the end to a blunt point. Clamp the altered hook in your vise as usual and slide the tube snugly over the hook shank. Wrapping tying thread on the hook shank helps keep the tube from rotating. For our purpose we will use a Mustad Signature S 74S SS, 2XH/4XL, size 3/0 hook to hold the tube as we tie the quick and easy Stoat Tail tube fly.

For more in-depth information on tying tube flies go to the afore mentioned web sites. A good reference for the would-be tube fly tier is the book "*Tube Flies a Tying, Fishing & Historical Guide*" by Mark Mandell & Les Johnson, ISBN 1-57188-036-4, published by Frank Amato Publications, Inc.

#### **Materials**

**Tubing** 1 1/2" piece of 1/8" O.D. hard plastic tube and 1/2"

piece of 1/8" I.D. soft plastic junction tube.

Thread Gudebrod 3/0 black BCS 118.

Glue Zap-A-Gap

**Rib** Fine oval silver tinsel.

**Body** Black punch embroidery yarn.

Wing Black bucktail.

**Head** Tying thread and head cement and/or epoxy.

### **Tying Instructions**

1. From a length of hard plastic tubing cut off a piece 1 1/2" long. Using a lighter or match carefully heat and soften one end of the tube. Press the softened end to a flat surface to form a flare or "dam". This dam will prevent tying materials from slipping off the front of the fly. (The junction tube will do the same at the back of the fly).



2. Clamp the altered hook in your vise and slide the tube over the hook shank with the dam toward the hook bend. Slide a 1/2" length of soft junction tube 1/8" onto the nondam end of the hard tube. Secure the junction tube to the hard tube with several tight overlapping thread wraps. Half hitch or whip finish the thread wraps and cut away the thread. Apply a small amount of glue to the thread wraps.



3. Remove the assembled tube from the hook shank and reposition it back onto the hook shank with the junction tube toward the hook bend. Immediately in back of the dam attach the tying thread and in touching thread wraps cover the tube back to the junction tube. Applying a thin coat of Zap-A-Gap to the thread wraps will prevent them from rotating around the tube. Immediately in front of the junction tube tie in an 8" length of oval tinsel for the rib. Also just in front and adjacent to the junction tube tie in a 30" piece of black punch embroidery yarn for the body. Return the thread to the front of the fly.





4. In touching turns wrap the punch yarn forward to build the body, stopping about 3/16" back from the dam. Tie off the yarn with the tying thread. Trim away the excess yarn. In 7 to 9 evenly spaced turns, spiral wrap the rib tinsel forward to just in front of the body yarn. Tie off the tinsel and cut away the excess.

5. Cut, clean, and stack a small bunch of black bucktail. Tie the bucktail in on top of the tube in the space between the front of the body yarn and the dam. The tips of the wing should extend beyond the junction tube 1/4" to 1/2". Rotate the tube in the vise 180 degrees so the first wing becomes the belly of the fly. Tie in a matching amount of black bucktail on top of the tube in the same manner as the first wing. Make the second wing the same length as the first. Both sides of the body should be visible. Trim the excess bucktail butts at a shallow angle and bind them down with several tight thread wraps. Apply Zap-A-Gap to the thread wraps. Form a neat tapered thread head. Whip finish or half hitch the head thread wraps and apply head cement and/or epoxy.

## Smoke and Black Clouser....Variation of Bob Clouser's Original....Jerry Aldridge

### **Materials**

**Hook** Mustad 34007 #2 or equivalent, size to fit

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Thread Red 3/0 or 6/0

Eyes Nickel hourglass, 3/16"

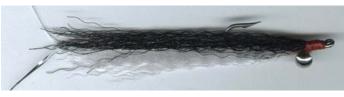
Wing Smoke super hair (SH), silver flashabou, black

SH

#### **Tying Instruction**



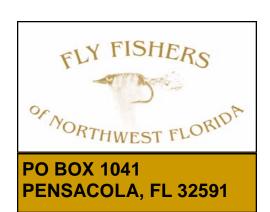
1. Bend barb down, place hook in vise, lay thread over front third of shank. Position thread and eyes 1/4" behind hook eye. Take 10 wraps around hook and shank in same direction, then 15 turns in the other direction, then 5 more in the original direction. Take 10 horizontal turns between the bottom of the eyes and hook shank Position thread in front of eyes.



2.Turn hook upside down in vise. Cut a 2 1/2" length of smoke SH the diameter of a wooden match and place atop hook just behind eye. Take 4 slightly loose thread wraps, correct the position of SH if necessary, then firmly wrap SH inplace with several adjacent wraps. Cut 3-4 strands of flashabou the full length of the swath, double them up and tie the 6-8 strandsbehind

hook eye atop smoke SH. Leave them long for now. Cut a 2 1/2 length of black SH slightly smaller in diameter then the white. Tie in atop flashabou. Trim ends of flashabou 1/2-1" longer than SH. Wrap neat head. Cover thread wraps with a couple of coats of head cement **OR** epoxy for a more attractive and durable fly. If epoxied, turn by hand or in fly turner until epoxy sets.

**NOTES....**The smoke and black clouser is a fine fly any time of year but seems especially effective in fall and winter. Speckled trout love it but just about any fish that swims by will eat it, for example a 50 pound black drum a couple years back. These days, any time I tie a clouser with artificial hair I place the entire wing on the point side of the hook. I think the resultant profile looks more like a minnow. With bucktail or yak, I still tie the light color on top and the dark on bottom of the hook shank because the fly is prettier that way. The fish probably ignore this logic. For a fuller-bodied look, try light gray and black yak hair - it also works well. The smoke and black is one of my favorites along with tan/olive, green/white, chartreuse/white and orange/brown. Don't leave home without it!





# **DECEMBER 2006**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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