

# Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS  
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
FEBRUARY 2006

THE FLYFISHERS OF  
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**  
4TH TUESDAY, 6:30PM

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**Calendar 8**

## Dues are due!

Please pay your annual membership dues of \$30 to  
Karen Brand at any of the February meetings or mail  
your check to her at 5870 Country Club Rd, Milton,  
FL 32570

## *The Last Day in May.... "The Old Tyer"*

The last day in May....They thought she was dying. She had given them thousands of good eggs over the four years in the hatchery run, but now she seemed to have lost her color and hadn't produced at all this term. They didn't know that she had some type of slight infection in her reproduction system and blockage was the result. The boss told the net wielder to scoop her up and put her in the tank truck with the last batch of spring releases to give her a bit of freedom in her last hours.

At the river, as the net man tried to deliver her down the steep bank, he slipped and bounced the old girl hard against the dirt, and as she slid out of the net and rolled the rest of the way to the water, she felt a release of the blockage in her system. Stale eggs, dirt, and trout splashed together into the froth below. She finned very slowly across the bottom and settled into a hot-tub size hole, dazed, but quickly pulling in the oxygen saturated river water. She settled under a large ledge and watched as a baker's dozen hatchery rainbows and brookies moved into the same tub. She slept.

At dawn, she felt the vibration of many human feet wading the river, and saw worms and bright colored balls floating through the water. One after another, the smaller trout lunged for those offerings and were snatched from the tub around her. They didn't return. There was no reason to stir from the shelter, having little appetite after her extended sickness. She watched the bright colored floating and sinking morsels being sucked in by her kin. By evening, the others sharing her lair were all gone. By darkness, all the feet and noise had also gone. As dawn approached, she saw that her home was populated by a good number of sculpin and other scurrying small fish. She slid from the ledge and inhaled several, then moved back to her protection. She started to feel stronger every minute and felt her gills working splendidly. A number of the hatchery brood moved into her area and she saw them suffer the same fate as the previous day's occupants as soon as the feet of the humans returned.

The summer passed in this fashion, with the old brown taking only sculpin at dawn, growing stronger and bigger as the days grew cooler. She was proud of her survival and ashamed of the stupidity of the others who were gone from the river. She had no way of knowing that at that moment, he sat at his bench. Half way across the south, he waited for the catch & release season to start anew. He leaned over the vise, adjusted his binocular visor, and tied in the selected fluff of marabou. In his imagination, he stood in the cool river, breathed in the mountain air, and made his presentation above the head of the pool. Instinctively, he knew she was there under that ledge, and he would find her....The first day in October.

## *Fly Rods/Outfits for Sale....Jerry Aldridge*

1. Cabela's Stowaway, 7'6", 5 piece, 4 weight, with rod case. Appears brand new. Retail \$89.99, **your price \$40.**
2. Cabela's Stowaway, 8'6", 5 piece, 5 weight, Cabela's Prestige reel with line and backing, rod/reel case. Appears brand new. Retail for all \$195, **your price \$75.**
3. Silstar GV86FL, 8'6", 6weight, 2 piece, little used. Retail \$60, **your price \$25.** I used this rod last winter for specks and rat reds after I broke the tip on my 7 Wt. It casts beautifully!
4. Shakespeare Ugly Stik, 9', 2 piece, 10 weight fiberglass. Kevin's first salt water rod (I think). Retail about \$30, **your price \$10.**
5. Garcia 8'6", 7/8 weight, 2 piece, graphite. My first salt water fly rod. Retail unknown, **your price \$15.**
6. Bamboo rod, South Bend, 9', 3 piece with extra tip. Pretty good shape with decent finish and all the parts where they should be. **This is an old production rod, not an heirloom rod.** Similar rods appear on E-Bay for \$30-75, **your price \$35.**

**Individual prices total \$200. 10% off for any two, 15% off for any three, 20% off for any 4, all 6 for \$150. Contact me at 478-9255 or jamayfly@yahoo.com.**

## General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, January 3, 2006, President Jay Williams, Jr. presiding

The general business meeting for January 3, 2006 was called to order by President Jay Williams at about 7:00 P.M.

It was announced that the board of directors would hold their meetings at 6:30 PM, immediately prior to the business meeting. All members of the club are invited to attend any time the board convenes.

The members were advised of planned dates for outings. The May outing and picnic is tentatively set for the 14<sup>th</sup>, with the 21<sup>st</sup>., as an alternative. For October, the dates are the 1<sup>st</sup>., with the 8<sup>th</sup>., as the alternate.

Outgoing officer Don Lupone submitted the end of year treasurer's report. The club members expressed their gratitude for Don's long and exceptionally well done service. Most notable in the report were the total figures for income which varied from the projection by only a -\$1.70. The surplus money carry over to 2006 was \$1,482.64. Don was ably assisted in the audit by the new treasurer Larry Sisney. Larry stated that he had audited the 2005 financial records of the club and found them reconciled.

Committee reports revealed that the May Auction Committee was not yet established. Participants in the administration of that function were solicited. That issue is not yet settled. Tom Regina advised that Thursday evening regular sessions will have two boxes of materials from which to choose, and the attendees will independently decide what to tie. His and other expert assistance will of course be readily available. Larry Goodman reported that NOAA had given a grant to the State of Florida to restore mangrove habitat. Bill Parrish said that he has completed an inventory of our library. A motion was made by Travis Akins to purchase DVD's when available in preference to VCR tapes. The motion was seconded by Russ Shields and unanimously approved by the members.

President Williams introduced Rod Taylor as a prospective member of our club. He was welcomed and stated that he was joining our group.

Nominations for two new board members at large were taken and Travis Akins and Pat Poloski were elected.

Pete Barrett, otherwise known as the "Sheep Wagon Man", gave an excellent presentation. Mr. Barrett is an authority on fishing the West, from Texas to Alaska, and provides trips for fisherman in those areas. He may be contacted at P.O. Box 8027, Gadsden, Al. 35902, or e-mailed: [Sheepwagon2ak@aol.com](mailto:Sheepwagon2ak@aol.com). Appreciation was expressed by the members for his trip from Gadsden, Alabama.

After the proper motion, President Williams concluded the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Gerald (Jerry) Giles, Secretary.

### *Fly Fishing & Tying Books for Sale....Klaus Gohrbandt*

I had to reduce my my flyfishing literature book-shelf space when we rebuilt and remodeled our home following its destruction by hurricane Ivan. Therefore, I had two boxes of literature stored in the attic. When I recently saw the boxes again I thought, that another flyfisher might possibly be interested in some of the books.

I offer the books to club members for purchase. They are all in very good condition and deal with fly tying (21), fly fishing techniques (10) and fly fishing destinations (8); collected when I learned to fly fish and fished in and around northern California. I leave it up to the purchaser to pay me what he/she thinks is a fair price; somewhere in a window from \$1.-- to \$10.--. As a guide, I have listed on an inventory the original prices as far as I found them printed on the book.

I will carry the books, and copies of my inventory, with me at the next few monthly general meetings, and at the bull sessions and casting clinics when I attend them....Klaus Gohrbandt

## February Streamer Ties with Tom Regina... Mickey Finn

Since the first fish hooks were sharpened bone fragments and carved wood it is logical to assume the first “fly patterns” were streamers and historical evidence seems to bear that out. Bone and wood hooks were dressed with bird feathers and animal hair and fur. Men who invented the first streamers did not fish for sport - rather they fished to eat. The earliest fly-fishers didn't worry about matching the hatch. What they needed was something big, meaty and fishy looking. Something subsurface that would fool big fish. Streamers fit the bill. They were large meaty baitfish looking lures worth the effort of a big fish to pursue. Since iron and steel hooks had not yet been invented, streamers dressed on relatively large bone and wood hooks fit the bill. Yes, most anglers hung a worm or other natural bait on their bone and wood hooks. But those guys were not fly fishermen - they were just fishermen. Fly fishermen (and gals) used and use streamers to finesse the fish. After all, anyone can catch fish on a worm. But only some of us can do it fairly and correctly - we are Fly Fishers.

It is well recognized that very small dry fly and nymph hooks, size 18, 20, 22, and smaller, catch big fish, especially in tailwaters where most trout food is tiny bugs. It is also well recognized that large hooks or streamers also catch big fish and more consistently.

Of all the hairwing and featherwing streamers, the Mickey Finn is probably the most famous. We don't know who first created it (probably not the first fly fisherman). Whoever first tied alternating bunches of yellow, red, and yellow bucktail hair atop a tinsel wrapped steel hook created one of the most enduring fish catching streamers we have. If you want to take the full array of trout species in all kinds of water conditions when big trout are feeding on baitfish, you better have some Mickey Finns in your fly box. Better yet you better have Mickey Finn tied to the end of your tippet. For then you can wheedle Mr. Big Trout to your minnow like lure streamer - Mr. Mickey Finn.

### Tying Instructions

<b>Hook</b>	Streamer 4X or 6X Long, Size 12-6. For example: TMC 9394 or Mustad 79580
<b>Thread</b>	6/0 black, 8/0 black optional
<b>Rib</b>	Small oval silver tinsel
<b>Body</b>	Flat Mylar silver tinsel
<b>Wing</b>	Yellow, red, and yellow bucktail, layered
<b>Head</b>	6/0 and/or 8/0 black thread with head and/or epoxy cement



1. Debarb and mount the hook in the vise. Using a jam knot start the thread about two hook eye length distance back from the hook eye. In tight touching turns lay down a smooth neat thread base a distance of 1/4" back along the hook shank. At this point tie in about a 5" piece of oval silver rib tinsel on top of the hook shank with the running part of the tinsel hanging back over the hook bend. Continue wrapping the thread to the hook shank mid point. At the mid point tie in about a 5" piece of flat Mylar tinsel, gold side up, on top of the hook shank with the running part of the tinsel also hanging back over the hook bend. (Note: Flat Mylar tinsel comes in several sizes or widths. Most flat Mylar tinsel is gold on one side, silver on the other. To use the silver side tie the tinsel onto the hook with the gold side up. When the tinsel is wound around the hook the silver side will be out. Visa versa for gold side out). Continue wrapping the thread around the hook shank and over the two tinsels to the hook bend. In close spiral turns return the thread to the thread tie on point in back of the hook eye. Cut away the tinsel tag ends.



## February Streamer Ties with Tom Regina... Mickey Finn



2. Wrap the flat body tinsel forward in slightly overlapping turns. Stop wrapping and tie off the flat body tinsel three hook eye lengths back from the hook eye. Cut away the flat body tinsel tag end. Wrap the oval rib tinsel forward over the body tinsel in about ten evenly spaced spiral turns stopping at the same point as with the flat body tinsel. Tie off the oval tinsel and cut away the tag end.



3. Clip a small amount of yellow bucktail hair from the - you guessed it - yellow bucktail. (After tying one or two Mickey Finns you will figure out what constitutes a small amount). Remove any fuzz or underbody hair from the hair butts. Stack the hair to align the tips. (Tip - It's mighty fine if the tips are not perfectly aligned. Staggered hair ends feather out naturally and appear tapered in the water). Measure the hair so when tied in the tips will extend just past the end of the back of the hook. Tie the hair in at the front of the body as shown in the picture. Use only five to ten thread wraps. Cut away the hair butts at a shallow angle so as not to leave a sharp shoulder.



4. Clip a small amount of red hair from the red bucktail. This clipping of hair should be close to the same size as the yellow hair. Clean the under hair from the butts. Stack the hair and measure it the same length as the yellow hair. Tie the red hair in on top of the yellow. Cut away the butts at a shallow angle.



5. Clip another bunch of yellow hair from the tail. This clipping should be the same size as the first. Clean, stack, measure, and tie in this bunch of hair. Cut away the butts and wrap a smooth tapered head. The head of Mickey Finn will not be small. The thread head represents the head of a baitfish so it should not be tiny. Half hitch or whip finish the head and apply one or two coats of head cement or epoxy cement. (Note: After I tie in the

*last bunch of hair I change to 8/0 thread. The 8/0 thread makes a smoother and neater head. I then apply one coat of epoxy cement to the thread head instead of head cement. Why? I just like the way the head looks and I get to drink a few more Buds. However, as doc Birdwell says... "the fish don't care" so do it your way.*

A tempered hook will bend or straighten out before it breaks. A forged hook will break before it bends....Courtesy of Tom Regina

## President's Message ....Jay Williams

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**A**s we begin the New Year, plans are being made for various trips and excursions by individuals, and by the trip committee chairman, Art deTonnancourt. Flyfishing is a highly personalized sport where the angler really competes with himself, although he may, on a more superficial basis, compete with his confreres for numbers and size of catch. In spite of friendly competition, as in all sports, there are some rules for fly fishing, vis-a- vis interaction with other folks on the stream or even larger body of water.

## *What's Happening.... Jerry Aldridge*

**Pete Foster reports that Hurricane Lake is still giving up bass.**



### **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 [jamayfly@yahoo.com](mailto:jamayfly@yahoo.com)

## *What's Happening.... Jerry Aldridge, continued*



These are excerpts from Capt. Bob Quarles December fishing report.

Son Ben lies down and says, "Dad, The fish is as big as I am".

One of Bob's clients shows off "the biggest red ever brought to my boat. It bottomed out the 30 pound Boga grip. I wish I knew how much it weighed...."

Take a look at the rest of the report at [www.pensacolafishingforum.com/forum/forums/thread-view.asp?tid=143335&posts=3](http://www.pensacolafishingforum.com/forum/forums/thread-view.asp?tid=143335&posts=3)

**NORTH CAROLINA FISHING TRIP SPACES AVAILABLE....**Art de Tonnancourt, Fishing Chairperson. Starting in March more than 20 members of our club will be participating in one or more fly fishing trips to the Nantahala and Tuckesegee Rivers in western North Carolina.

As of this writing, there are two spaces available for the six trips planned between March and the end of May. There is room for two (2) more participants for the six nights commencing Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday AM, April 29<sup>th</sup>. The cost of this trip will either be \$203 with five participants, or \$170 with six.

If interested, contact Art at [artdetonnancourt1@cox.net](mailto:artdetonnancourt1@cox.net) or 492-3833. A non refundable reservation check made payable to Art will be required. The checks won't be cashed until April and should you need to cancel, your substitutions are welcomed.

In addition to sharing the cost of Black Bear Lodge, a 3 story, 4 bedroom, 3 and a half bath custom vacation home, each participant will be responsible for providing one evening meal for six. Car sharing is encouraged and the cost of an annual out of state trout license is \$40.00.

Presently, the members reserved for the April 23 to 29<sup>th</sup> trip are Joe Higgins, Klaus Gorbandt, Mitch Abernethy and Art de Tonnancourt.

**WHO IS THE "OLD TYER" WHO WROTE "THE LAST DAY IN MAY"? PRIZE AWARDED FOR FIRST CORRECT ANSWER RECEIVED BY EDITOR.**

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS EXCERPTED FROM [www.GulfCoastKayakFishing.com](http://www.GulfCoastKayakFishing.com), THE WEBSITE FOR THE GULF COAST KAYAK FISHING ASSOCIATION. GO TO THE WEBSITE OR SEE PATRICK POLOSKI FOR MORE INFO.**

***"Gulf Coast Kayak Fishing Association offers a forum for people interested in participating in this rapidly growing sport.***

Pensacola, FL - January 1, 2006 - As one of the fastest growing sports in the country, kayak fishing offers anglers a new way to access inshore and near-shore fishing spots. There is no other experience quite like it. Kayakers hear the nearby baitfish activity, they see things right at the surface of the water. They can go into shallow water where the fish are and where most boats cannot follow. The kayak fisherman is only inches above the surface of the water as he silently stalks his prey, presents his lure and with the zing of the drag he is off on a "Gulf Coast Sleigh Ride." Kayak fishing is an exciting water sport that is relatively cheap, easy to get started, requires no fuel or motor and is a remarkably effective way to catch fish!

The Gulf Coast Kayak Fishing Association (GCKFA) is a new non-profit organization focused on promoting this exciting sport throughout the NW Florida and South Alabama area. Activities planned for 2006 include hosting a kayak fishing tournament, rigging workshops, social gatherings centered on"



# FEBRUARY 2006

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

