

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 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

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2009 Membership Fees
Are Due
Please Pay Larry Sisney

General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, January 6, President Larry Goodman, presiding

The meeting was called to order at 7PM with 16 members present and our new president Larry Goodman manning the gavel. Tom McLaughlin was introduced as our guest. The minutes for the December 2008 meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. Treasurer Larry Sisney reported the club to be in good financial shape to start the New Year and the treasurer's report was approved. A proposed budget for 2009 is to be compiled and presented to the board meeting and the general membership meeting in February for discussion and approval. Club dues for 2009 will remain unchanged at \$30 for continuing memberships payable by the end of February. For the year 2009 Terry McCormick will replace Art deTonnancourt as chairman of the auction committee, Karen Brand will represent the club to FFF, Paul Lukkar will assist in planning club outings but a chairman for this committee is needed and the position remains open. The Conservation committee will be chaired by Skeet Lores, Newsletter and Directory committee by Jerry Aldridge, Education committee (PJC classes and fly-tying) by Tom Regina, Education committee (fly-casting) by John Brand, Publicity committee by Paul Lukkar, and Membership committee by Jerry Aldridge. The Saturday clinic lunch menu will be handled by Russ Shields and Jerry Giles, The program committee chair and the librarian chair positions remain open. Mixed feelings were reported by club members on the quality of the Christmas dinner at Holiday Inn. Russ Shields and Larry Sisney met with the director Mrs. Beck on this matter. It was decided that the pros outweighed the cons and Tuesday December 2, 2009 was penciled in at the Holiday Inn for our next Christmas party. The club however has reserved the right to change the date. Jerry Aldridge is planning to send out club directories for 2009 primarily by E Mail to save postage. For those who do not have computers a few hard copies will be placed in the club library and will be available by regular mail. John Brand suggested that business cards should be available to club members to help us promote our club. This was approved and the details of doing this project will be worked out at the next board meeting. Paul Lukkar presented the idea of having a 50/50 drawing at club meetings. No action was taken on this proposal. Respectfully submitted, Bob Willice Secretary

President's MessageLarry Goodman

Committee Chairpersons are extremely important to the functioning of our club and we are fortunate to have very capable and dedicated people serving in these positions. In addition to their committee responsibilities, they serve on our Board of Directors. I thank those that have agreed to serve in their positions during this year as well as those that have served in this capacity in the past.

The Committee Chair positions for Librarian and Fishing Trips are vacant. If you have questions regarding responsibilities of the positions or are willing to serve in one of these positions, please contact me or another officer. Bill Parrish served as our last Librarian and can provide additional information on what is involved with the position. Similarly, Paul Lukkar can provide information on the Fishing Trip Committee.

The budget for 2009 will be a major topic at our February meeting so please attend if you would like to have input to it. Some other topics will be club picnics, the possibility of a "Spring Clinic", and a date for the auction....Larry

Pensacola Junior College (PJC) Fly Fishing Class 2009

Again this year the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida in conjunction with PJC will conduct the PJC Fly Fishing Class. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 PM at the PJC Pensacola campus, building 4, room 442 beginning March 4 and ending April 29, 2009 with the exception of March 25 - spring break.

We will teach the basics of fly fishing, including equipment selection, fly tying, fly casting, knots, leader construction, and practical application of fly fishing techniques. The lead instructors will be Jerry Aldridge, John Brand, Karen Brand, Jerry Giles, Capt Bob Quarles, Russ Shields, Bruce Vail, and Capt. Baz Yelverton. Again this year, Bill Parrish has volunteered to get the fly rods and reels to each class session. A volunteer is needed who will get the fly tying materials, tools, and vises to each class session. The PJC classes will be held each Wednesday evening from 6 PM to Other club members are needed to serve as assistants for casting, knot tying, and fly tying instruction. If you are willing to volunteer please contact Tom Regina at 458-2978 or tomregina@bellsouth.net.

Caddis Borealis... Tom Regina

Photos by Larry Sisney

The Caddis Borealis was originally designed and tied by Tracy Peterson, a fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. Tracy designed the Caddis Borealis to imitate the black caddis hatch on Montana's Bighorn River. According to Tracy, the Caddis Borealis is his go-to-fly as a dry/dropper or two nymph rig on many other rivers, creeks, and streams as well.

I have modified Tracy's original recipe somewhat to take advantage of a more durable material for the abdomen. Tracy's recipe specifies Flashabou for the abdomen. We will use Flex-Floss for the abdomen. Flex-Floss, aside from being more durable than Flashabou, is very easy and quick to work with. This pattern can be tied in various hues or colors by altering the color of the rib wire, abdomen, hackle, and bead.

Tying Materials

Hook:	Mustad C49S, size 12
Bead:	3/32-inch black nickel
Thread:	8/0 olive
Rib:	Black Wapsi Ultra Wire, size brassie
Abdomen:	Olive Flex-Floss
Thorax:	Peacock herl
Collar:	Olive grizzly hen saddle patch feather



Tying Instructions



1. Place a bead on the hook and mount the hook in the vise. Slide the bead forward to the hook eye. Using a jam knot, tie the thread onto the hook directly in back of the bead. In neat touching turns, wrap a thread base back along the hook shank to a position directly over the hook point. In the same manner return the thread forward to the thread tie on point.



2. Wrap the thread 1/16-inch to the rear. At this thread hang point tie on the rib wire to the top of the hook shank with the running part of the wire extending over the back of the hook. Tie the wire on with several semi-tight touching thread wraps. Pull the butt end of wire under the semi-tight thread wraps. Continue binding the wire to the top of the hook shank with tight, neat, touching thread wraps to a point directly over the hook barb. In neat touching wraps return the thread to the 1/16-inch thread hang point.



3. At the 1/16-inch thread hang point, tie the abdomen Flex-Floss to the top of the hook shank with the running part of the floss extending over the back of the hook. Bind the Flex-Floss to the top of the hook shank in the same manner as was the rib wire. However, continue to bind the floss to the top of the hook shank back to a point about half-way around the hook bend. Return the thread forward in neat touching turns to the space between the 1/16-inch thread hang point and the bead. Cut away the floss tag end. *Note: The purpose of wrapping the thread back and forth in neat touching turns to different points along the hook is to build a neat evenly tapered underbody.*



4. Wrap the Flex-Floss forward in neat overlapping turns ending in the space between the 1/16-inch thread hang point and the bead. Tie off and cut away the floss tag end. *Note: Flex-Floss is a very durable and strong material with great elasticity. The fly dresser can skillfully control the bulk, taper, and segmentation of the abdomen by the amount of stretch and overlap applied while wrapping the floss to build the body.*



5. Wrap the rib wire forward in about eight evenly spaced spiral turns with the last turn ending in the space between the front of the abdomen and the bead. Tie off and cut away the wire tag end. Move the thread back to the 1/16-inch thread hang point.

Caddis Borealis... Tom Regina (continued)



6. Select two or three peacock herls and align their tips. As a unit, stroke the herls from tip to butt between your thumb and forefinger to ruffle the barbs. Tie the herls, about one inch back from their tips, onto the hook directly over the 1/16-inch thread hang point. Cut away the herl tag ends. Grip the butt ends of the herls with a Mini Hook Clip* or hackle pliers and twist them into a “rope”. **Caution: Don't twist the rope too tight as this will break the very fragile peacock herls.** Wrap the herls forward several turns to form the thorax. Allow the last wrap of herl to end between the front of the thorax and the bead. Tie off and cut away the herl tag ends.

* Mini Hook Clip is a brand name of an electrical test clip sold by Radio Shack. See the picture included with this recipe. Fly shops also sell “hook clips” ... at a very inflated price.



7. Select and remove an appropriate size feather from the hen saddle patch. Grasp about ¼ to ½-inch of the feather tip between your thumb and forefinger with the convex side facing you. With your thumb and forefinger of the other hand stroke the rest or the barbs down toward the base of the quill. Strip all the barbs below your grasp from the left side of the quill. With the tip of the feather facing forward and the striped side of the quill up, orientate the feather perpendicular to the side of the hook facing you. Directly adjacent to the barbs that are left at the tip of the feather and the striped quill, tie the feather to the side of the hook directly in front of the thorax. Cut away the tip end of the feather. Palmer the feather forward one-and-one-half to two turns to form the collar. Take several tight thread wraps to start the collar tie off. Cut away the excess feather quill. Stroke the collar toward the rear and lay two or three neat thread wraps up onto the very front of the collar to cause the collar to fan back over, under, and around the fly thorax and abdomen. Take the thread forward and finish the fly with several half-hitch or whip-finish thread wraps between the collar and the bead. Apply a small amount of head cement to the finish thread wraps being careful not to get cement on the collar.

Fishing Report...Dane Law, Southeastern Anglers

To all of our fishing friends we wish a happy new year with this update on current conditions of our local waters. In general, our tailwaters and natural streams are in very good condition with adequate moisture. This is the first time I have been able to say this in a while. Local TVA lakes are 5-10 feet above last year's levels. The next 90 days will offer some excellent opportunities, and with our mostly mild winters, we probably should be drifting more this time of year. I am expecting above average shad kills for all of our tailwaters this winter due to reports of healthy shad populations near the surface late winter on our major southeastern reservoirs.

Hiwassee River – flow schedule perfect for drifting on a daily basis. The fish love the consistent flows. We have some shad coming through the turbines. With intermittent cold snaps I expect more to come. We have recently released an 18" brown trout.

Toccoa River – Irregular flow schedules with weekly windows. Lots of fish throughout. The flows are suitable for some high water streamer fishing (which is becoming more popular) followed by low water angling with smaller nymphs and dries.

Clinch River – Irregular flow schedules with weekly windows. Lots of fish throughout. The brookies are getting bigger, and the new slot limit is definitely making an impact.

Holston River – Irregular flow schedules with weekly windows. Great light nymph fishing on the two upper float stretches. Good holdover populations this year with some large rainbows present.

Cumberland River – For the next few months everything will depend on local rainfall in the watershed. USACE continues to maintain the lake at a constant level. The river has been high for several weeks, but is dropping to fishable levels by week's end. Those lucky enough to drift here at proper levels during or after a shad kill will witness a spectacle. Just send a reply to do so and I will send you weekly updates. Dane Law, Southeastern Anglers 866-55TROUT.

Red Midge Pupa... Tom Regina

Tying Materials

Hook: Mustad C49S, size 16
Bead: 5/64-inch copper
Thread: 8/0 Red
Rib: Fine copper wire
Abdomen: Red Flex-Floss
Thorax: Peacock herl



Tying Instructions



1. Place a bead on the hook and fix the hook in the vise. Using a jam knot tie the thread onto the hook directly in back of the bead and lay down a neat touching turns thread base back to a position directly over the hook point. Return the thread to the back of the bead.



2. Tie the rib wire onto the top of the hook with the running part of the wire overhanging the hook bend. Bind the rib wire to the top of the hook with neat touching thread wraps to a point slightly rear of the hook barb. Return the thread to the back of the bead and cut away the wire tag.



3. Directly in back of the bead tie on about a six-inch piece of Flex-Floss for the abdomen. Bind the floss to the top of the hook with neat touching wraps of thread to a point about half-way down the hook bend while at the same time binding more of the rib wire to the same point. Return the thread to the back of the bead and cut away the floss tag.



4. Lift the rib wire and take one turn of Flex-Floss in back of and under the wire. Lay the rib wire back to overhang the rear of the hook. In overlapping turns wrap the Flex-Floss forward to the bead. Tie off the floss and cut away the tag end. *Note: Flex-Floss is a very durable and strong material with great elasticity. The fly dresser can skillfully control the bulk, taper, and segmentation of the abdomen, or other parts of a fly by the amount of stretch and overlap applied while wrapping the floss.*



5. In about eight or ten turns spirally wrap the rib wire forward to the back of the bead. Tie off and cut away the rib wire tag.



6. Select one peacock herl and ruffle the barbs*. Tie the herl on in back of the bead and cut away the herl tag. Take several turns of herl to build the thorax. Tie off the herl between the thorax and bead. Cut away the herl tag. Finish the fly with several half-hitch or whip-finish thread wraps between the thorax and bead. Apply a small amount of head cement to the finish wraps being careful not to get cement on the herl.

*To ruffle a feather, stroke the barbs to make them stand out at an unnatural angle from the quill.

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Melverson



The New Year rolled in with typically wonderful false albacore and redfish sight-fishing along the edge of the gulf. The water cleared enough for sight-fishing by January 2 and continued to improve until it reached Bahamas-turquoise by mid-month. The first photo is of the inaugural redfish on fly for 2009. Jeff Morris, Austin, TX, landed it on a white bunny strip pattern the "Geau-Meaux" from Deep South Outfitters, Birmingham. It's a 4" white zonker strip with a chartreuse chenille body and lead eyes tied on a Gamakatsu 2/0 trailer hook. The chenille is the kind with the pearl mylar tinsel built in. This is the best pattern I've seen for redfish in water over 3-4 feet deep. When the fish are in very shallow water I still like the size 2 tan/white Clouser minnow.



The wind picked up for the next few days and made the gulf uncomfortable, so we moved inside the pass and found false albacore in large quantities feeding on tiny, juvenile bay anchovies around Pickens Point, the jetties on both sides of the pass, and up past Pickens Pier. The fish were about as selective and boat-shy as they get, and on Jan 4 we had to drop down to a size 8, clear gummy minnow to get them to eat. Even then it wasn't easy...like about one take every fifteen minutes of constant casting for Mark Brodersen, Jacksonville, pictured here with a prized catch. Geoff Brodersen also got into the act with his first albie on fly. The next day we solved the boat-shy problem by removing the boat from the equation. Ben and Dave Walters, Johnson City, TN, got out of the boat and chased them down on foot at Pickens Point. Here they are with the first and second FA landed from shore. The fish were rising in pods right up on the beach, and they looked like rainbow trout gulping tricho spinners. Dave and Ben caught them on larger gummy minnows and Cowen's



albie anchovies while I drifted just out of range taking pictures. Catching FA from shore was a breakthrough, and I highly recommend everybody put it on their calendars for next winter after the road to Ft Pickens opens. Be sure you've got plenty of backing on your large arbor reels!



After some nasty weather we were able to get back out in the gulf on January 12, and the redfish were eager to eat. Here's a nice shot of Jeffrey Waters with his first redfish on fly taken on my standard tan/white Clouser.



The next day Travis Akins and I landed seven redfish on fly in the same general area. Here's Trav with a nice fish caught close to shore on his shrimp Clouser. A little later I landed a 25 pounder on the tan/white Clouser. As you can see the water was a little off-color, so we moved east and found some pretty water near the fire tower. I made a "Hail Mary" cast at a passing redfish school, landed the

fly behind the fish, and was surprised to have my line come tight. The resulting catch was the first pompano I've ever caught in January. Trav and I figure the pompano was following the reds feeding on leftovers.



Another front passed making the gulf unfishable until a cold January 16. It was still in the 30's when we anchored too early to sight-fish, so Tracy Meader, Powells Point, NC, made a few blind casts with Travis' "Green Weenie" and landed this false albacore on the fourth cast. A little later we had bright sun and plenty of redfish. These photos of Tracy showcase the incredibly beautiful waters of the wintertime gulf.

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Yelverton (continued)



The following week my good clients Ken Hutchison and Tony Severa arrived from Boise for three days, and we did it all from trout and flounder in the bayous, to spawning schools of reds a mile offshore, to reds caught sight-fishing along the edge of the gulf. January 21 was our best day when we poled the flats and landed a dozen redfish. The pictures tell the story.



The false albacore action slowed considerably after the first week of January, and we haven't landed a fish since the 16th. However, I got a report yesterday that "thousands" of fish were on the surface four miles S of the Beach Pier on Friday, Jan 23. I plan to be there in the morning with new club member Tom McLaughlin looking for them. It'll be nice to add FA back into the mix, and with a little luck they'll make another beach run before moving to parts unknown. If not we'll be stuck chasing redfish until the pompano arrive in force in a little over a month. Things could be worse...



Capt Baz
Gulf Breeze Guide Service
www.gulfbreezeguideservice.com

Casting & Tying at the Club... Tom Regina

The February Bull Session will be held Thursday February 12 at 6:30 PM. We will tie a Red Midge Pupae. This nymph has worked well for me on trout streams in western North Carolina and for landlocked salmon and brook trout on the East Outlet of the Kennebec River in Maine. The materials list and tying instructions for this simple Red Midge Pupae are included in this newsletter. Bring your fly tying tools and tie this very effective nymph and join in for some good hearted jawing and lying. (You lie... I'm a sailor and don't. Buy me a Bud and I will believe you... buy me several and I will swear to your lies).

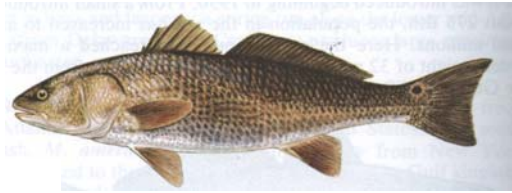
The February Casting and Tying Clinic will be held Saturday February 21 from 9:00 AM until about 12:00 or 1:00 PM. Starting at 9:00 AM we will tie a modified version of Tracy Peterson's Caddis Borealis. The materials list and tying instructions for this fly are also included in this newsletter. Although not as simple to tie as the Red Midge Pupae, the Caddis Borealis is still an easy tie and somewhat resembles a soft hackle wet fly. Your club will provide all the materials and tools needed to tie both flies. Bring a guest, or more, we will have tools for them to use.

3/0 John Brand will continue his casting instruction for accuracy, distance, presentation, and fun at the Saturday clinic. John is an expert caster and is always happy to help others refine and improve their casting style and technique.

As always, you are encouraged to bring a guest - or more - young or old. If you or your guest needs fly rods your club will be happy to provide them for use during the casting clinic.. Jerry Giles and Russ Shields will provide us with a grand lunch of fish chowder at the Saturday clinic. And it's all free, along with big and little people drinks for club members and our guests.

Fish Chowder.... Russ Shields... ½ Lb bacon, cut in small pieces. ½ stick butter. 4 stalks celery, chopped. 2 medium onions chopped. 1 large leek, just the white part, chopped. 2 lbs Yukon Gold potatoes, ½ inch dice. 1 ½ lbs to 2 lbs fish cut into bite size pieces. 1 lb each peeled shrimp, scallops, and oysters (with liquid). 1 can chopped clams, with liquid. 1 pkg frozen corn. 8 cups shrimp or fish stock. 2 cups heavy cream. 1 Tbs fresh Basil, chopped. 2 Bay leaves. 1 Tbs fresh Thyme, chopped. 1 Tbs Chervil. ½ tsp Bayou Blast seasoning. Old Bay seasoning to taste. Chopped parsley and chive for garnish when serving.

Brown the bacon thoroughly in a large pot, Make a roux with the drippings and a half cup of flour. Add butter and sauté onions leek celery and spices. Add additional oil or butter if necessary to sauté the veggies. Add stock and cook potatoes until just done, add corn and bring to a boil. Add seafood and bacon and cook for five minutes. Add cream and re-heat but do not boil. Check seasoning and add Old Bay or Bayou Blast to taste. Serve immediately, garnishing with parsley and chive or transfer to a HEATED crock pot and keep warm. This should make about 7 quarts or about 12 to 14 servings. More stock and cream may be added if necessary to reach the right consistency for the chowder.
Cheers, Russ



FEBRUARY 2009

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