

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 2011

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton

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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

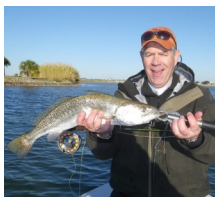
One of the great things about January is the lack of fishing pressure. On most week days we are the only boat out there, and even on weekends we have it pretty much to ourselves. This January has been especially nice because of the lack of rain. The inland flats are pristine, and the Gulf has been gorgeous...especially the second and third days after a cold front. We've been mostly selecting days with a north wind to sight-fish the edge of the Gulf for redfish. The fish are there in good numbers, but they are spookier and more selective than I've ever seen them in January. They'll run from the boat shadow, push pole hitting the bottom, excessive movement from the fly-caster...anything. I've even had some experienced fly-casters picking up spinning rods to try the fish from longer distances! That's not to say we haven't had *some* success on fly. Here's Geoff Brodersen with a nice redfish caught and released on January 8.



The next week Rhad Hayden put the fly in front of dozens of redfish, hooked two, but came away with zip on fly except this little black drum. The fish will eat; however, when they're not on alert. I found that out January 6 when conditions were right, and I didn't have a trip. I drove over to the observation tower at Ft Pickens, slid into my neoprene waders, and waded the inner bar with an 8wt, intermediate sink-tip line, and one of Karl Elliott's "Puglisi Clousers". There were schools of redfish milling around just outside the bar in 3-5 feet of water, and I hooked nine and landed six. It was my best-ever day of redfish wade-fishing on fly, but of course there wasn't another soul in site and I didn't have a camera. You'll just have to take my word for it... The redfish will be along the beach from a mile or so east of Battery Langdon all the way to Pickens Point from now until May. You just have to get out there and hunt for them.



The inside flats are surprisingly productive, too, considering the cold water temperature. With virtually no rain the water is as beautiful as it gets, and the fish will be holding in areas with mottled bottom...sand and grass. Look at the background in this shot of Keith Tucker, Reno, NV, to see a perfect bottom configuration. It was cloudy that day, but the water was so clear we could easily see the fish sitting still on the sand spots. Keith landed two and lost a third. The other thing to watch for are mullet. If you see mullet jumping there's a good chance redfish are close by.



Don't be surprised to see a long dark streak easing across the flat, as the big trout feed on the inside flats all winter. Take a look at this beauty landed by Mark Brodersen on January 8. Keith and I saw a couple big trout, too, but we never got one to take the fly.

With the warming weather forecast for this weekend the fishing ought to get even better. Plus, it's a little easier to leave the house when there's not ice at the boat ramp... Capt Baz

P.S. We have gone live with the fall photo gallery. Thought you guys might enjoy the pix and vids... <http://gulfbreezeguideservice.com/gbgs%20photo%20gallery.htm>

Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, January 4th, 2010, President Tom Birdwell, presiding

Board Mtg. : 2010 President Larry Goodman called the meeting to order at 6:30 with 14 members present. He congratulated the previous administration, officers and committee chairmen for a job well done in 2010. He recognized the 2011 officers and committee chairmen and turned the meeting over to 2011 president Tom Birdwell. Committee chairmen were formally appointed by Tom.

Membership: Art deTonnancourt; Directory: Larry Goodman; Auction: Terry McCormick, FFF: Karen Brand; Outings: To be appointed; Conservation: Skeet Lores; Newsletter: To be appointed; Education, fly-tying: Tom Regina; Education, Casting: John Brand; Publicity: Paul Lukar; Lunch, Clinic; Art deTonnancourt; Nominating: Jay Williams; Fly Fishing Class: Russ Shields

Art presented the results of the club membership survey. Everyone agreed that the club is moving in the right direction and there was some concern that we should involve the newer members through committee participation. Other recommendations included more saltwater outings, kayak trips, overnight trips and trips to North Carolina coordinated by the outing committee. Art suggested the committee chairmen enlist at least 2 new members to work with their committees. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Membership meeting: The meeting was opened at 6:30 by President Tom Birdwell. Minutes were approved as read. Tom congratulated the organizers of the Christmas party. The program was presented by John and Karen Brand on their trip to Wyoming to Lake Luce, Lake Hogan and Yellowstone National Park. Treasurer Larry Sisney presented a recap of the 2010 budget VS actual income and expenses. We finished the year with a surplus of \$1,733.10. Changes in the 2011 budget were discussed, and Larry will present a draft budget for approval in February. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Casting & Tying at the Club... Tom Regina

February 10 - Bull session 6:30 PM. Tom Regina will lead us in tying the "White Marabou Streamer".

February 19 - Monthly Casting and Tying Clinic, 9 AM until about 1 PM. Casting instruction and practice with John Brand. Fly tying the "Forage Fly" 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 the "White Marabou Streamer" can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. The recipe and instructions for the "Forage Fly" are in the January 2011 newsletter.

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

P.S. Take a look at Henry Harrison's web site. I think it is a good one that many of our club members would find of interest. The following is an excerpt from his e-mail: Hello Mr. Regina, I'm writing to you because you are listed as the fly tying instructor on your club website. I currently run a website that features a new fly tying video (for free) every week. I thought you and your members might be interested in my website <http://www.theweeklyfly.com>. There are almost 150 patterns up there including many saltwater and warm water patterns.

White Marabou Streamer... Tom Regina

Tying Materials

Hook:	Streamer 3XL - 6XL size 4 - 8, i.e. Tiemco 300 1XH, 6XL, size 4
Thread:	6/0 black
Tail:	Wapsi red wool yarn
Body:	Size 10 silver Mylar
Wing:	White marabou blood barbs
Wing accent:	Peacock herl
Head:	Epoxy (optional)
Eyes:	Painted (optional)



Tying Instructions



1. **Lay down a neat thread base.** Using a jam knot start the thread on the hook two-hook eye distance back from the hook eye.

Note: Do not crowd the hook eye during any of the tying steps. By avoiding crowding the hook eye, you will lessen the chance of fouling the hook eye when applying epoxy to the head.

Lay down a neat thread base with touching thread wraps back to a point directly above the hook barb. Let the thread hang at this point



2. **Tie in the tail.** Cut about a 2-inch length of yarn from the skein. Untwist the three yarn segments. Select one segment and tie it in on top of the hook at the thread hang point. The tail should extend back beyond the tie-in point a distance about equal to the hook gap. Bind about 1/4-inch of the yarn butt to the top of the hook. Take the thread back to the base of the tail just above the hook barb. Cut away the butt end of the yarn tail.



3. **Tie in the Mylar.** Cut about a 6-inch length of Mylar from the spool. Trim one end of the Mylar to a chisel point. At the thread hang point, tie in the Mylar chisel point, gold side up, on the far side of the hook. In close spiral turns, take the thread forward to a point 1/16-inch back from the thread tie-on point. Half-hitch or whip the thread but do not cut it away. Let the thread hang at this forward point.



4. **Wrap the Mylar body.** Wrap the Mylar forward with each successive wrap overlapping the previous wrap by 50-percent. Continue the wraps stopping at the thread hang point. Tie off the Mylar butt end and cut away the excess. Build a small tapered thread under head up to the thread tie-on point. Take the thread back to the rear of the under head.



5. **Tie in the marabou wing.** Select a bunch of marabou barbs and strip them from the quill in a manner that will provide you with a wing, with somewhat even tips, about equal in length to the hook length, or longer. This "bundle" of barbs should be about equal in circumference to a round wood toothpick. Measure the final length of the marabou wing to the hook so the wing tips will extend back beyond the tip of the tail a distance about equal to the length of the tail. Tie in the marabou bundle on top of the under head. Cut away the excess marabou butts and build a second tapered under head to cover the cut marabou butts. This second under head should be built directly

over the first under head and extend about two thread wraps forward of the original thread tie-on point. *Do not crowd the hook eye.* Take the thread back to the middle of the now completed under head and let it hang.

White Marabou Streamer... Tom Regina (continued)



6. **Tie in the wing accent and complete the fly.** Select two or three peacock herls and even their tips. Measure the herls to the hook so their tips are about even with the marabou wing tips. Tie the herls to the top of the under head. Build a relatively large bulbous thread head. *Do not crowd the hook eye.* Half-hitch or whip finish the thread and cut it away. Apply several coats of head cement to the thread head. I like to apply epoxy to the thread head. If you do epoxy your flies, you will need the space between the front of the thread head and the hook eye because you are less apt to get epoxy in the hook eye. With an epoxy head, you can also paint on eyes.

From the FFF Club Wire

Essential Knots & Rigs for Trout (reviewed by David Lambert)

I'm the easiest guy to buy for at Christmas. Give me a good knot book and I can stay busy, content even, until Valentine's Day, maybe Easter. So when fishing illustrator Joe Mahler told me he'd just completed work on an illustrated knot book, well, I was excited for him. . . .and for me.

Mahler's new book, *Essential Knots & Rigs for Trout*, is a top-shelf, lovingly and beautifully illustrated primer for those of us who love to fish with a fly. And it's published by Stackpole Books, the trusted name in fly fishing tomes. Despite the title designation "For Trout," many of the leader and terminal ties are effective and efficient for small to medium saltwater species, too.

Essential Knots is intelligently partitioned into seven sections. It begins with knots for attaching backing to fly reel and runs logically through the full fly fishing system, with a couple of chapters at the end dedicated to multi-hook rigs and strike indicators.

What sets this book apart from the lower order knot books is Mahler's choice to include knots like the 16-20 Knot (a.k.a. Pitzen), Seaguar, Orvis/Becker, and the Eugene Bend, none of which are your everyday knot-book fare. But these are all knots I've used and now champion. Of particular interest to me is Mahler's chapter on leaders and the art and info depicting multi-fly rigs, which will can benefit fishers of waters both sweet and saline.

Simple, clear written descriptions accompany the artwork, but Mahler's visuals are so expertly and vividly rendered that the written is almost unnecessary. And that's a good thing, since trying to follow written directions from a knot book is confusing, like trying to follow driving directions from a slow talker.

You've seen Joe Mahler's illustrations in most all the good fishing publications recently and you'll see much of his work in Jon Cave's new casting book, due out late this year. Pick up Mahler's book and you'll see why the magazines love his illustrations -- they're exceptional and accessible, just like his new book.

Available at fly shops, fishing stores, and online. *Essential Knots and Rigs for Trout*, © 2010 by Joe Mahler, 92 pages, full color slicks, \$14.95, Stackpole Books, ISBN 978-0-8117-0716-9


Fly Fishing Course Content.... 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 Jerry Aldridge Jerry Aldridge
Week 3 28 March	Casting instruction and practice Fly tying - Wooly Bugger Local fishing opportunities	John Brand Russ Shields Skeet Lores
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 erry 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

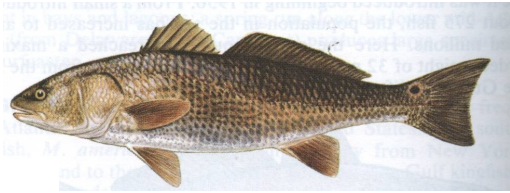
Classes are held at Mira Flores Park, 17Ave. and Belmont Street, Pensacola, from 6:00 to 6:00PM.

CANOE for sale: Old Town 16' Katahdin fiberglass canoe with cane seats. In like new condition. Accessores: storage cover, two paddles, anchor outrigger, cane seat w/back rest, two PFD's and a motor mount. \$600. See Tom Regina. 850-458-2978 or tomregina@bellsouth.net.

The Southeastern Fly Fishing Festival will be held Jun 2-4 at Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA. I will be giving a PowerPoint presentation on the Festival at the Feb 1 club meeting and will have information on the programs and workshops, key note speakers, casting clinics, tying demos and fishing opportunities that will all be a part of the Festival....Karen Brand

FLY FISHERS

OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**PO BOX 1041
 PENSACOLA, FL 32591**



FEBRUARY 2011

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