

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
JANUARY 2011

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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

December is usually a terrific month for sight-fishing along the edge of the Gulf of Mexico, and this year was no exception. In fact it was even better than normal with spectacular water clarity due to the lack of rain. Of course you have to pick days when the conditions are right. The best days tend to be the second and third days after a front blows through. Winds have subsided but are still from the north, seas are flat, and there's plenty of sunshine. Personally, I live for those days. When you know it's going to be *right*, just drop everything, slide the boat in, put on your warm clothes, and head for the Gulf.



If the planets are aligned properly you'll be there on a day when the false albacore are running the beach, and you'll see them crashing the surface and leaping along the inner bar. Drifting on the bar in 2' of water watching a school of approaching albies is one of the biggest thrills we have around here with the fly rod. But you had best be ready. The fish are in small packs and move so fast that most anglers either don't lead them enough or never even get the fly in the water before the fish are long gone. One second they are coming at you like black torpedoes, and five seconds later they're past you and out of casting range. Just ask Tom Finkle or Terry McCormick. We found the fish on the beach close to the Beach Pier on December 3, and both Tom and Terry landed their first false albacore. And what a thrill it was! Neither Tom nor Terry had ever heard their drags scream quite like that... Author Howell Raines (*Fly Fishing through the Midlife Crisis*) had a similar experience on December 7. Presently, the fish have moved farther to the east, and you have to run all the way to Portofino to find them. Too far for me; I'm waiting for another good cold front to move them closer to Pensacola Pass. Maybe in early January...



In the meantime, we're focused on redfish which are starting to show up in pretty good numbers along the beach between Battery Langdon and Pickens Point. The best conditions are a light NE wind and bright sunshine. We either pole down-current, drift, or anchor. The fish are spooky and will run from the sound of the motor, the push pole hitting the sand, or sometimes even the boat shadow. You'll always have a better chance of hooking up if you anchor and wait for the fish to come to you. Pick a spot where there's a break in the inner bar which allows feeding fish to move in and out from shore. It's a test of patience with a big payoff....big game still hunting. There are some huge fish in the mix as Ben Raines found out on December 7, and there are smaller fish like this beauty Jeremy Church landed December 28.

This is also a great time for wade fishing. Morning tides are so low you can wade out to the inner bar and then be standing on dry sand. Again, you want a north wind and good sun. I like to get right out in front of the beach condos which act as a wind break. Just wander around out there looking for slow-moving redfish, but keep your eyes peeled for false albacore. Travis Akins' "green weenie" is a good fly that will work for both species...sometimes. Capt Baz

Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, December 7th, 2010, President Larry Goodman, presiding

President Larry Goodman called the **board** meeting to order at 6:40 pm with 7 board members present. Details of the Christmas Party and dinner were discussed. Forty dinner tickets had been purchased at the time of the meeting, five less than anticipated. Larry Goodman will E Mail members to remind those who may still wish to purchase dinner tickets to do so immediately as the final head count is due. Raffle tickets will be sold at the door or can be purchased through Karen Brand ahead of time by those who cannot attend. Jerry Aldridge has obtained a selection of quality prizes to be given away by bucket raffle. Jerry and Tom Regina have put together two fly tying kits, one for fresh water and one for salt water enthusiasts. Two \$50 gift cards will be awarded to two lucky ladies who attend.

Russ Shields, chairman of the fly tying and fly casting classes, has determined the classes will be held at the clubhouse on Wednesdays March 16, 2011 through May 4, 2011. Five basic flies (Wooly Bugger, no hackle Elk Hair Caddis, Gart-side Gurgler, Crazy Charlie, and Clouser Minnow) will be used to demonstrate basic fly tying techniques. Class size will be limited to 15. Cost of the course is \$60.00 and will include a membership in FFNWF for the remainder of year 2011. New Members who joined FFNWF after October 31, 2010 may sign up for the course on a pro- rated basis. Russ is looking for volunteers to assist students during the fly tying and fly casting classes. Class details will be addressed further at the January 2011 meeting. The board meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

The **business** meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm with 14 members present. The treasurer's report for November 2010 was approved. The minutes of the November 2, 2010 board and business meetings as reported in the December 2010 newsletter were approved. Plans for the Christmas party and the fly tying and fly casting classes that were discussed at the board meeting were presented to the general membership. The club was saddened to learn of the passing of long time member and friend **BOB QUARLES**. Bob Willice secretary

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

January 13 - Bull session 6:30 PM. Tom will lead us in tying the "Renegade" dry fly.

January 15 - 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.

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

Christmas Party Winners



LEFT TO RIGHT

Russ Shields, mid arbor reel
Linda deTonnancourt, gift certificate
Cliff Newton, salt water tying kit
Michelle Howell, gift certificate
Karen Brand, fresh water tying kit
Joe Higgins, 3 weight Helios rod
Tom Birdwell, 8 weight TLS rod
Terry McCormick, Battenkill reel
Baz Yelverton, 2010 Angler of the Year

Renegade... Tom Regina

Jack Dennis, in his book *Western Trout Fly Tying Manual*, describes the Renegade dry fly as a “top producing rainbow trout fly”. I think any angler who has fished a Renegade will attest to that. They will probably go on to tell you how great a Renegade is for taking other freshwater game fish such as pan fish, brook, and brown trout... how they caught three trout over 22 inches in one day on a Renegade. *Can I sell you the Three Mile Bridge?* Many fly anglers have had wonderful success with a Renegade on moving and still waters all across our USA... east-to-west, north-to-south. Members of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida, www.flyfishpensacola.com, or any other fly angler, headed to the mountains of North Georgia or Western North Carolina, will be amiss if they don't cast a Renegade to pocket waters of the mountain streams or along likely lies of the many rivers.

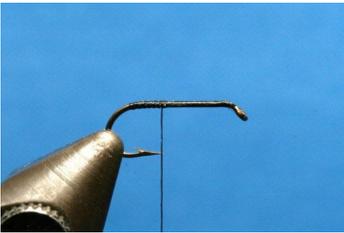
Tying Material

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Hook: | Mustad R30 size 14 |
| Thread: | 8/0 black |
| Body: | Peacock herl |
| Back Hackle: | Brown saddle |
| Front hackle: | White saddle |



Tying Instructions

The Renegade is a simple and quick tie. To further simplify the tying process and produce a fly of proper proportions, visualize and divide the fly *body* - not the *hook shank* into thirds. Your visualization of the *body* starts on the hook shank one hook eye distance back from the hook eye.



1. **Lay on a thread base.** Debarb the hook if desired. Fix the hook in the vise. Using a jam knot start the thread at the hook eye. In tight touching turns wrap a neat thread base back to a point on the hook shank directly above the hook barb. Take the thread forward to a point directly above the hook point or spear. (Remember the one-third *body* rule).



2. **Tie on the peacock herl.** Select three to five peacock herls from the skein. Even their tips and stroke the group of herls from tip to butt between your thumb and index finger. This procedure causes the barbules to stand out perpendicular from the quill, which in turn makes for a fuller body that reflects more light. At the thread hang point tie the herls onto the hook. *Note: Peacock herl is very fragile. To prevent it from breaking at the tie on point, make the rear most thread wraps light so as not to cut through the herls.* Cut away the excess herl butts. Take the thread in back of and adjacent to the herl tie on point.



3. **Tie on the back hackle.** Select a brown hackle feather of the appropriate size from the rooster saddle. Strip away the barbs from about a quarter-inch of the feather butt. With the convex or shiny side of the feather facing you, tie the striped stem or quill area to the rear side of the hook just in back of the herls. Cut away any excess quill butt. Return the thread to the back and against the peacock herls.



4. **Wrap or palmer the back hackle.** In about five-and-a-half wraps, palmer the back hackle forward to directly in back of and adjacent to the peacock herl. Tie off the hackle but do not cut the thread away. Cut away the excess hackle stem. Take the thread around the herl and forward to the point on the hook shank where the front of the body will end. (Remember the one-third *body* rule).

Renegade.... Tom Regina (continued)



5. **Wrap or palmer the peacock herl.** Twist the peacock herls into a herl rope and wrap them forward over the middle third body area. *Note: Initially twist the herls into a loose rope to prevent them from breaking when first wrapped onto the hook. After the first one-and-one-half wraps you can twist the herls into a tighter rope - but not so tight as to break them. Experience will be your guide. Tie off the herls and cut away the excess.*



6. **Tie on the front hackle and finish the fly.** Select a white hackle feather of appropriate size from the rooster saddle. Strip away the barbs from about a quarter-inch of the feather butt. With the convex or shiny side of the feather facing you, tie the striped stem or quill area to the near side of the hook just in front of the body herl. Cut away any excess quill butt. In about Five-and-a-half wraps, palmer the front hackle forward to a point one hook eye distance back from the hook eye. Tie off and cut away the excess feather. Build a small neatly tapered **thread head**. **Whip finish or half-hitch** the final thread wraps. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of head cement to the thread head.

From the Membership Committee.... Art deTonnancourt

We've had a busy and productive year as a committee. Starting last winter strongly endorsing our president's initiative for wearing name tags, (committee member Joe Higgins initiated custom made tags), and ending our year now with our appeal for all members to renew their 2010 membership. Between last winter and now we had time to revitalize new member packets, maintain a running master directory on new members, and even had a committee N.C. fishing retreat in Oct to reflect on our membership survey results.

Please all welcome the following three new (December) members at your first opportunity: **Joseph Byers, Mike Rowan, and Jeff Deuschle**. Joseph and Mike also are the first new members to register for our Fly Fishing School that is scheduled to run for 8 weeks at our club house starting in March. Additionally, Joseph, Mike and Jeff have all volunteered to be part of our club clinic food committee (along with 10 other new and veteran members).

Please remember to mail a check for your **2011 dues** to our treasurer, Larry Sisney, 700 College BLVD H-106, Pensacola, FL 32504, or bring it to our January 4th business meeting. (Any member who has joined on or after October 1, 2010 are considered paid up for 2011.) Dues renewals are \$30.00 (payable to FFNF).
Membership Committee: Art deTonnancourt, Bob Holton, George Bennett, Joe Higgins, David Burton

Around the Bay.... and Further Away



Thanks to **Milt Mays** for these great pictures from out west.

But Milt, what kind of trout is that in the big picture. Could that be the elusive Colorado goldenback cutthroat?

Say it isn't so Milt, say it isn't so! A **carp**?



Forage Fly.... Tom Regina

The Forage Fly, designed by Mike Smith combines the unique features of a Fish-Skull™ head, a Frantic Tail™ and a crosscut rabbit strip to create an authentic baitfish imitation that is as versatile as it is realistic. Mike designed the Forage Fly to target river species, such as trout and smallmouth bass. This fly has also proven to be equally effective for catching a broad range of other fresh and saltwater fishes.

Mike says, "While some anglers may have a tendency to overwork the fly by fishing it in short, fast strips much like they might other weighted streamers, the secret is to make long, deliberate strips... Because of the subtle tail motion, the most effective presentation is created by mending the line while sight fishing the fly as it gradually descends in the water column and setting the hook abruptly when it disappears."

If you follow the tying instructions below and pay particular attention to the dimensions of the fly, the amount of materials to use, and the proper placement of the materials you will find the Forage Fly to be a quick and easy tie that you can master even with the first tie.

Tying Materials

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Hook: | Fresh water - Gamakatsu B10S size 1 or Mustad C52SBLN size 1 Saltwater - Mustad S71S SS size 1 or Mustad C71S size 1 |
| SS | size 1 |
| Thread: | 3/0 or 6/0, color to match tail |
| Tail: | Frantic Tail* |
| Adhesive: | Super glue |
| Body: | Crosscut rabbit strip, color to match tail |
| Head: | Fish-Skull*, color to complement tail |
| Lip dam: | 6/0 red thread |
| Eyes: | 3D stick-on eyes of appropriate color |



Tying Instructions



1. **Lay down a thread base.** Mount the hook in the vise. Select a thread the same color as the tail. Using a jam knot start the thread on the hook one hook-eye width back from the hook eye. In neat touching turns wrap a thread base back to a position directly above the mid point between the hook point and barb. In close, evenly spaced spiral turns take the thread forward to a position two hook-eye widths back from the hook eye.

2. **Position the tail.** Before proceeding with step 2, study the step 2 photograph. The position of the tail on the hook is critical to the appearance and action of the fly. Notice the back tip of the tail bottom flap is in line with the back of the hook and the tail parallel with the hook shank. Take the thread forward or back as necessary to tie in just the front tip of the tail.



3. **Fold the top flap.** Fold the top flap of the tail over the top of the hook to the backside of the hook and tail. Be sure to keep the tail parallel to the hook shank. Bind the folded top flap and front of the tail securely in place on the hook with tight thread wraps back to the fork of the tail and bottom flap forming a relatively long neatly tapered cone. Do not crowd the hook eye or over wrap the bottom flap at this time. Note the tail is still in the right starting position i.e. the bottom flap rear tip is in line with the back of the hook and the tail is parallel to the hook shank. Take the thread forward to the tail tip tie-in position.

4. **Finish tying on the tail.** Fold the bottom flap up and tie it down at the front. Notice that the fly is parallel with the hook shank. Hold the materials tightly together and wrap back steadily towards the tail. Wrap back and forth to form a neat, tight cone. The thread wraps must end in the position shown i.e. halfway between the point and the barb of the hook. Make sure the flaps on both sides are straight and in line with the hook shank. Tie all the material in tightly as shown and form a neat cone shape using multiple thread wraps.



Forage Fly.... Tom Regina (continued)



5. **Glue the flaps in place.** Put a small amount of super glue on the inside of each flap and stick them to the sides of the tail. Gently pinch and squeeze them together. Gluing the flaps to the tail gives the fly a bit more stiffness resulting in a more natural swimming action.



6. **Tie in the body.** Select about a 4-inch length of crosscut rabbit strip. The amount of this 4-inch strip to be wrapped is about the same length as the fly from the eye to the back of the tail. Try not to use more than this **because too much** may inhibit the natural movement of the rabbit fur in the water. In this case... "less is more". The tips of the fur on the rabbit strip should only extend back slightly past the flaps on the tail. First measure and position the fur tips, then tie in the rabbit strip. It is important to do this because the length of the rabbit fur often varies between rabbit hides. Doing it this way ensures that the fly always has the right length

and body proportions. 7. **Wrap the body.** Apply a small amount of super glue all around the cone only in front of the tied in rabbit strip. This will make the fly more durable. Wrap the rabbit strip forward with tight side-by-side wraps to form the body. Do not overlap the wraps. Only use side-by-side wraps, otherwise the body will be too "fat". You will only need about 3 or 4 wraps or about 2 3/4 to 3 inches of the 4-inch rabbit strip. Tie off the rabbit strip and cut the excess rabbit strip. Build a relatively large bulbous thread head that covers the tag end of the rabbit strip. Do not crowd the hook eye. When finished, this thread head should allow the Fish-Skull to fit snugly over it. When you have a snug fit, half hitch or whip finish the thread and cut it away.



8. **Attach the head.** Select an appropriate color Fish-Skull head. Apply a small amount of super glue all around the thread head. Fit the Fish-Skull head, keel down, over the hook eye and thread head, seating it firmly into position. Build a neat tapered lip dam of red thread between the Fish-Skull head and the hook eye. This locks the Fish-Skull firmly in place. Half-hitch or whip finish the red thread and cut it away. Apply a small amount of head cement or super glue to the lip dam. Turn the fly on its side, put a very small amount of super glue in the middle of each eye socket, and apply the 3D eyes.

* Frantic Tails and Fish-Skulls are available from Flymen Fishing Co., 10612-D Providence Rd., #549, Charlotte, North Carolina, 28277, 1-704-846-2634, www.flymenfishingcompany.org

KAREN & JOHN BRAND

PRESENT A SLIDE SHOW AND ENTERTAINING REPORTEE

ON THEIR 2009 WESTERN TRIP

JANUARY 4, 2011, 7 PM

FLY FISHERS

OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**PO BOX 1041
 PENSACOLA, FL 32591**



JANUARY 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | Business Meeting 7 PM | | | | | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| | | | Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM | | Clinic - Casting, tying, gourmet lunch 9 AM | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23/ 30 | 24/ 31 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |