

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
JULY 2008

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

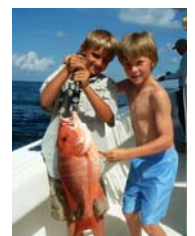
Meetings at Miraflores Park
17th Avenue between
Belmont and LaRua

BUSINESS MEETING
1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM

BULL SESSION
2ND THURSDAY, 6:30
PM

CASTING & TYING
CLINIC
3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM

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President's MessageKaren Brand

Summer Activities

July 1 is the General Membership Meeting and we have a guest speaker, Capt Rick Harris. Rick is a charter boat captain and guides on the local waters but he is also the head of Emergency Management for Santa Rosa County. Please join us Tuesday and welcome Rick Harris.

Bill Oyster

OYSTER FINE BAMBOO RODS

July 19, 2008

9-12:00

Bill Oyster is one of the finest of the new generation bamboo rod makers. His custom bamboo fly rods are works of art featuring full coverage hand engraving. Bill will be presenting a program on bamboo rods, he will also be bringing rods for members to cast and sharing information on his bamboo rod building classes. Please join us at 9 on Saturday, July 19 for this special Clinic.

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

At the Thursday July 10 Bull Session starting at 6:30 PM, we will tie a caterpillar imitation. The caterpillar recipe is included in this newsletter. This fly is not difficult to tie and has only four easy to use materials besides the hook. All fly tying materials are provided by your club. If you have them, bring your vise and tools... or use the club's vises and tools.

For those of you who have a greater interest in improving your casting skills and techniques than in playing with fake caterpillars, John Brand will be on hand to help you achieve your goals. Bring your fly rod or use one of the club's sticks.

John and Karen Brand have invited a very special guest couple to be with us at our Saturday July 19 clinic starting at 9:00 PM. - Bill and Shannen Oyster, owners of "Oyster Fine Bamboo Fly Rods". Bill (Rod maker to Presidents) and Shannen will tell us about bamboo fly rods... history, collecting, casting, fishing, building, and more. You may even get to cast some of Bill's world famous hand crafted bamboo fly rods.

Because of the interest many club members have expressed in anticipation of the Oyster's visit, we will skip fly tying at the July Saturday clinic. Fear not however, Russ and Jerry will still take time to feed us. Rumor has it they will fix several crockpots full of the highest standard, superior quality, seafood gumbo available this side of heaven. Big people and little people beverages will also be available. And it's all free. So bring a guest... or more. Guests are always welcome.

New at the Library.... Bill Parrish

New material in the library.... "Le Shack a very Special fishing place" By Jim C. Chapralis. A very interesting and easy reading book of trout fishing lore and tactics on small streams of the upper midwest. Reference book #86.... Bill

Club Auction Results....Art deTonnancourt

June 3rd was indeed a good night for our club. Over 50 people came to the auction and all the generously donated items and services were sold, giving the club an income of \$2,262. According to the treasurer's existing files, this establishes a new record for amount taken in for any of our past auctions. The auction likely is going to be the single highest source of income for the club this year....more than from our dues!

Many thanks to all of you who donated items and services for the event. The highest single "sale" was the professional guided fishing trip donated by our professional guide, Captain Basil (Baz) Yelverton. The highest bidder was Bob Willice (who along with Klaus) paid \$360. A special thanks to the three of you for making this "record". And, of course, thanks to all of you who attended and bid (and spent) the \$2,262.

These results could only have been accomplished in a club with high morale, generosity, and cooperation. It's a great club with great people and all of us who participate in these functions feel this camaraderie. Last but not least, Terry McCormick, Bob Willice and I had fun doing the auctioneering and hope that the attendees also enjoyed the three act "performance".

Fishing Report.... Captain Baz Yelverton



They go by many names: Fat Alberts, Bobos, Boneheads, Bonitos, Little Tunnies, and False Albacore, but whatever you call them the false albacore arrived early this year and they are ravenous. We landed the first fish on May 29 and since then have been catching them regularly. This is spawning time for the albies, and that means the really big fish are here. Last week we landed a 12 pounder! The fish are congregated about 2-3 miles offshore to the east of the "Three Barges". We are using 8 and 9wt outfits, floating lines, and 15# tippet. My "go to" fly is the #6 clear gummy minnow. Here is a shot of Bob Oaks, Elizabethton, TN, with the first fish of the summer season.



If the albies don't get your blood moving you can always move close to shore and sight fish for the schools of jack crevalle that are terrorizing baitfish along the beach. Patience and preparedness are the keys if you want to catch one of these bruts. I prefer a 12wt, but a 10wt will do...floating line, and 20-30# tippet. Your best bet is a big 2/0 or 3/0 popper. The fish are always moving faster than you'd expect, and you must get the fly in front of the school before the fish get too close to the boat. This is definitely not a game for sissies! Bob Gipson from Gulf Breeze landed the fish in the photo today on a 10wt Sage Xi2 and Ross Canyon reel. The fish was a monster weighing 26 pounds, and Bob fought it for 58 minutes. I was amazed he still had the strength to hold the fish for the photo. Must be nice to be young.

While you're waiting for the jacks to appear, you can use your 6wt to enjoy the steady stream of ladyfish coming down the beach. I tie a piece of 40# fluoro to my 20# tippet and use most any fly in the box as long as it's chartreuse. There are some Spanish mackerel coming down the beach also, but the big schools of Spanish are a mile or so offshore again down by the Three Barges.

My personal addiction, tarpon, arrived early this year as well. Most years the big tarpon migration starts around July 4, but this year we've been seeing lots of fish for the past two weeks. Amazingly we actually landed one close to the beach a little over a week ago and have the doggone picture to prove it. This little guy (~20 pounds) ate the big "Chug Bug" we were using with spinning tackle for jacks. If I had had a fly caster on the boat we could have easily caught this fish. It was your basic "hot" fish...lit up and hungry. I felt the tarpon was small enough to lift out of the water for a photo. Here's a thrilled 15 year old Phillip Aiken with the catch of the year (so far).



Finally, there are still some nice trout on the grass beds, and they may be closer to the beach than you think. Bob Oaks landed this fish on his last cast of a two day trip. It was late in the afternoon, and Bob was using a #4 tan/white Clouser. The trout measured 23" and weighed 4 pounds. She was a beautiful, healthy fish and put up a darn good fight. See you on the water. Capt Baz



Caterpillar... Tom Regina

Terrestrials, caterpillars among them, abound along most trout water from early summer through autumn and can be some of the best dry flies for prospecting during that time of year. Caterpillars end up in the water in the same way as most other terrestrials. That is to say they are blown onto the water from streamside vegetation.

Caterpillar imitations are fished in the same manner we discussed for fishing grasshoppers in the June 2008 "Flies & Lies" newsletter with the exception that anglers would do well to concentrate their efforts just along the stream bank, forgoing mid stream.

Tying Materials

Hook	Mustad 94831 size 8, 2XL, 2XF, dry fly
Thread	6/0 brown
Tail/Antenna	Peacock herl
Hackle	Brown rooster saddle
Body	White Larva Lace Sliced Dry Fly Foam colored yellow with a Prismacolor permanent marker
Rib:	Tying thread



Tying Instructions



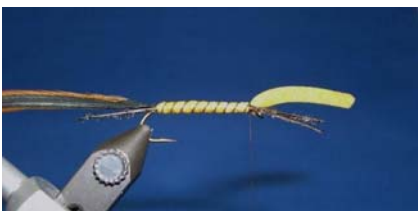
1. Debarb the hook and place it in the vise. In neat touching turns wrap a thread base over the hook shank from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb.

2. Tie in a section of peacock herl to each side of the hook shank. The herl should extend about ½-inch beyond both the front and rear of the hook to represent the caterpillar's tail and antenna. *Note: The tail and antenna are optional as they will likely be broken off after a few casts and the catching of a fish.*



3. Spiral wrap the thread to the rear of the hook shank. Tie the hackle feather to the rear side of the hook with the concave side facing you. Take the thread to the front of the hook to a point just in back of the antenna. Tie about a 3-inch strip of body foam to the top of the hook. Use several rearward spiral thread wraps to bind the foam strip to the top of the hook back to the tail.

Note: Normally materials are wrapped onto a hook by wrapping away from the fly dresser over the top of the hook. However to wrap the body foam strip for this caterpillar, wrap the foam toward the dresser over the top of the hook. If the foam strip were wrapped in the normal way the rib thread wraps and the hackle would fall between the turns of body foam and negate the rib or segmentation effect.



4. In neat touching turns, over the top of the hook toward the fly dresser, wrap the body foam strip forward to the antenna. While holding the foam strip tag end in place with your thread hand, wrap the "rib" thread forward in the normal manner with your material hand. Make about 8 to 10 evenly spaced spiral turns stopping at the front of the body. Tie off and cut away the foam tag end.

5. Spiral wrap the hackle forward directly over each of the rib thread turns. Tie off the hackle in back of and adjacent to the antenna. Cut away the excess hackle tag end. Build a small neat thread head over the foam and hackle tie off area. Whip finish or half hitch the thread head and cut away the thread. Apply a small amount of head cement to the thread head.



Fishing Report.... Captain Bob Quarles



All I can say is, you gotta get out there.. the fishing and the weather is super hot... We started off June with the opening of snapper season in Federal waters and I was invited to go along with longtime club member Dan Green on his 34 Venture. Dan has perfected this type of fishing and then getting the fish to take a fly, it's very cool. We brought along our boys and the fly rods for some light tackle snapper fishing.... the snapper are thick out there... we couldn't get any snapper on fly, because the amberjack kept grabbing the fly first.. it was awesome. Here is a pic of the boys with a nice snapper...



Lately, the flyfishing on the beach has been great for ladyfish (large ladies), bluefish and there are spanish everywhere.. even on the grass flats. The main attraction has been the bonita.. acres and acres of big fish are out there blowing bombs in the water when they take your fly..... they are picky and the cast and the presentation has to be just right, but the blistering runs they make is all you could ever ask for on a fly reel.

On top of that, there are big sharks, kings and jack crevalle mixed in as well... it's crazy.

Here are a couple of pics from some happy clients...



one more thing... I was lucky enough to catch a nice slot sized redfish on fly during the Bud Light tournament and win a little bit of money for the fly rod division daily bonus.. the interesting thing was the fly was caught on one of Vance Cook's creations, a redfish fly he showed me many, many years ago....Vance was a longtime member of our club and a great teacher....Catching that fish on Vance's fly made it that much more special.



Capt. Bob Quarles, 850 501-1530, 850 437-3169, www.blueheronguideservice.com

Excerpts from the FFF Club Wire, June '08

Tips From The Experts

By John Gordon – Taken from the Pikes Peak Flyfishers Club Newsletter

The single biggest piece of advice I can give is this: Downstream hook sets increase hook up ratio dramatically. This pulls the hook into the fishes mouth and not away. Always try to set the hook in a downstream manner.

My belief is the most common mistake nymph fly fishers make is failure to adjust their depth and weight. A lot of fly fishers will set up for the day and not adjust the weight or depth they are fishing.

They will change flies like crazy but not take depth and weight into consideration. As you move up or downstream, be aware of your surroundings. Make note of changes in the water depth, structure type, and current speeds. Lengthen or shorten your leader accordingly. Add or reduce weight to give you a proper drift. Always keep in mind that the speed of the water will be different at the surface compared to the deeper water you are fishing below.

Keep an eye on what the fish are doing and where in the water column they are holding. This will give you valuable information. When fishing midges in the early morning, you will be fishing Larva type patterns and the fish will usually be holding close to the bottom. When a hatch is starting you will see the fish move up in the water column and stage in the middle to the upper section. At this point you will want to be fishing midge pupa patterns, and when the fish are feeding in or near the surface film, emergers or dry flies.

In regards to sight fishing keep the sun to your back. Wear a hat with a wide brim. Look ahead in the water as far as you can and then scan back to you, take a few steps and repeat. You will see more by being out of the water. Use a high vantage point from which to observe. Use shrubs, trees and rocks to break up your silhouette. Don't wear brightly colored clothing. Use a low profile to fish. Be cognizant of your shadow and movements. Don't look for the whole fish; learn to look for parts, movement or flash of a feeding fish. Look for movement of just the fins or tail, the triangle shape of the head, and for shadows on the river bottom. Be patient and methodical in your approach.

Be observant when fishing. Learn to locate and watch your flies in the drift and then observe the targeted fish. Look for gill flare, flash, white of the mouth, or any movement that would indicate a strike.

Excerpts from the FFF Club Wire, June '08 (continued)

Watch the water currents (fast, slow, eddies, etc.) and really think about which way you need to mend to get a good drift.

If fish are feeding on emergers try swinging your flies at the very end of your drift. This is done by slowly raising the rod tip to allow the flies to rise up through the water column.

THINK LIKE A FISH!

Essential Saltwater Flies by Ed Jaworowski

Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA, 2007

124 pages, Softbound, illustrated Color, suggested price \$21.95

reviewed by Bruce E. Harang

This is a lovely book dedicated to creating a box of flies for saltwater fly fishing anywhere there is saltwater fly fishing. What the author has done is create a smallish collection of saltwater flies which should provide at least a few suitable flies under any condition or location. The book opens with three chapters covering Innovation and Variation; Materials and Tools; and Techniques and Tips. Of these the third chapter directed to Techniques and Tips is particularly helpful to anyone wanting to tie saltwater flies. The final six chapters are each directed to a particular type of fly pattern class. Within each chapter each selected fly is illustrated and has step - by - step tying instructions including text and photos. These photographs are superb in every detail and very clearly show what is being discussed in the associated text. These are some of the finest saltwater fly pattern photographs in print today. The text is easy to read and to understand, very clear, concise, but with excellent attention to detail. The book finishes with a suggested reading list and an excellent fly pattern index. For the saltwater fly fisherman and saltwater fly tyer this book presents a well rounded collection of proven patterns to cover every saltwater angling situation. A must have for any saltwater fly tyer.

Fly Fisherman's Guide to Saltwater Prey by Aaron J. Adams, Ph.D.

Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA, 2008

206 pages, Softbound, illustrated Color, suggested price \$21.95

reviewed by Bruce E. Harang

This is an interesting reference volume documenting in color a large number of saltwater prey species suitable for imitation with a fly. Included are numerous well photographed species separated into six categories making referral easier. These six categories are crabs, shrimp, bottom associated prey fish, midwater prey fish, baitfish, and miscellaneous bottom prey. Each of these six categories are broken down into chapters, each chapter is devoted to a genus of the main category. The photographs are well done and do show a great amount of detail in form and color of each specimen. This gives the fly tyer an excellent reference from which to design fly patterns. At the end of each chapter the author also presents patterns suitable for use to create the impression or imitation of each type of prey. Overall, a good reference work for those saltwater anglers desiring to design and/or tie their own saltwater prey imitations.

This space reserved for your fish stories, photos and tall tales in general. No tall tale too tall to tell.... Editor

Legends and Masters... John Brand

As most of you know Karen and I are members of the Federation of Fly Fishers and we enjoy attending their organized functions whenever possible. In addition to spending time with old friends and making many new friends who are involved in the sport we love, we have always come away with tons of information on virtually every aspect of fly fishing. We have learned about great fishing destinations, not by reading a magazine article or watching a television show, but by personally speaking with other FFF members who have fished those waters and guides that ply their trade on those waters. We have been able to sit down right in front of some of the best and most innovative fly tyers in the world while we watched techniques, asked endless questions, and more often than not were rewarded with a gift of the fly we watched come into being. We have been privileged to see and handle many, custom, artistic, innovative, and one of a kind items pertaining to our sport, that we would not have been exposed to otherwise. For me, one of the tremendous benefits I have received has been meeting, spending time with, and especially casting with a "who's who" list of the legends of our sport. Lefty Kreh, Steve Rajeff, Dave Whitlock, Chico Fernandez, Nick Curcione, Bob Clouser, Jack Dennis, John Cave, and Dave Hughes are just some of the folks I have been fortunate enough to learn from. A rough comparison might be if Tiger Woods, Jack Nicolas, Arnold Palmer, and a few other legends of golf offered to meet you for a round of golf, share what they had learned over a lifetime, and throw in a few lessons for good measure.

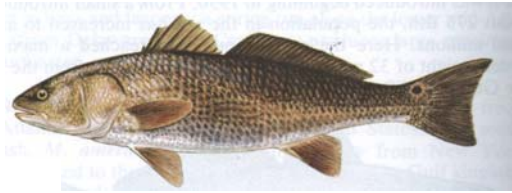
To carry through with this theme, Karen and I recently attended the South Eastern Conclave of the FFF at Calloway Gardens and this year was wonderful for us personally, but better yet it will have what I believe are some exciting benefits for the club in general.

First of all I was lucky enough to spend about two and a half hours casting with Steve Rajeff. Steve has so many consecutive casting championship titles that he has been referred to as the "Terminator of Tournament Casting" and "the greatest fly caster that has ever lived". The last time I checked, a partial list his unbelievable accomplishments included 34 **consecutive** U.S. All-Round Championship titles, 13 **consecutive** World Championship titles (only held every two years), and numerous world records. During my time with Steve he started talking about the relatively new "5wt Combination Accuracy and Distance" fly casting events that were being held all over the country. We could all use a great deal more practice and it turns out that this format is perfect for our club members to learn and practice real world skills, with real world fishing equipment, in a fun format. We can use this format strictly as a way to hone our skills or as a formally scored, but fun competition. The great thing is that everyone, no matter what their current level of casting skill can benefit from and enjoy this format. With an emphasis on developing accuracy, you don't have to be a 100 foot master blaster to have fun and be competitive. I hope to get board approval for the purchase of some materials I will need to set up the course and will be shooting to have things going within the next couple of Saturday clinics.



The other very exciting outcome of our attendance to the conclave is going to take place at our July 19th Saturday clinic. Bill Oyster and his wife Shannen have generously agreed to come and put on a free program that you won't want to miss. Bill and Shannen are the owners of Oyster Fine Bamboo Fly Rods in Gainesville Georgia (<http://www.oysterbamboo.com>) and they are truly wonderful people. Oyster Rods has been written up in a number of magazines, and been featured on several television shows. Bill was even commissioned by a former U.S. President and the Habitat for Humanity organization to build a special rod for a charity auction.

If I remember correctly that rod brought over \$113,000.00 at auction. In addition to building custom rods, Bill also offers bamboo rod building classes which are attended by students from around the world. At last count we have had at least six of our own club members who have signed up for his rod building classes next spring. Believe me, even if you never had any interest in cane rods you will learn from and enjoy his presentation. Bill will give a program on bamboo rods, touching subjects such as a brief history, collecting, casting, fishing, building, engraving, and more. You may even get to see Bill dispel the myth that bamboo rods are too delicate for serious fishing by throwing down one of his custom rods and then dancing all over it. (I would strongly advise against trying that on your favorite graphite rod unless you want to test out that manufacturer's warranty you paid so dearly for.) Beyond his building of some of the most beautiful and best casting cane rods I have ever come across, Bill also does his own, absolutely exquisite engraving for his higher end rods. Over and above Bill's presentation, Bill and Shannen will be bringing examples of rods, tools, materials, and even samples of Bill's engraving "in process". To top it all off they are also going to provide some of their rods for members to go out and cast during our clinic. Whether you have ever considered owning a cane rod or not you owe it to yourself to come see and handle these wonderful fishing tools that just happen to also be fine art. If you could make it to only one more meeting the rest of this year, this would be the one "can't miss" event.



JULY 2008

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