

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
JULY 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

Appalachians Smallmouths and Trout Fishing

Tom Regina



The fly fishing for smallmouth bass, rainbow, and brown trout in the Southern Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee was mighty fine; as fine as any western trip I have experienced... no, not as

fine - finer. In three days of fishing, I caught and released well over 100 fish. Some small, some larger, and a few larger yet. This trip, one could say, started in October 2008. I make an annual trip to Maine in October to fish for landlocked salmon and brook trout from the East Outlet, Kennebec River, in the Moosehead Lake Region near Greenville, ME. On my return from Maine last year I had scheduled a float trip on the New River in Virginia with Judson Conway, owner of Elk Creek Outfitters located in Boone, NC. The night before the New River float, I called Judson to make final arrangements. Judson said, "We have had two cold days and nights and the water in the New River has cooled and put the smallies' off the bite. I could take your money and do the float but you probably won't catch any bronzesbacks". Most guides would have made the float and said, "You should have been here yesterday/last week", and pocketed the money. Because of Judson's' honesty and attitude I rescheduled the trip for June 2009.

I was to leave Pensacola on Friday June 5 and drive to Atlanta and on to Independence, VA on the 7th. 2:30 PM, June 4, email from Judson "New River Warning. The New is muddied up and likely will not clear for 7 to 10 days - if the rains keep away". However, Judson has another plan. We can float the Nolichucky and Toe Rivers in North Carolina, the Holston, South Holston, or the Watauga River in Tennessee. I am on my way and will end up fishing the Nolichucky, Toe, and Watauga Rivers.

Continued page 3



General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, June 2, 2009, President Larry Goodman, presiding

Because of the annual club auction President Larry Goodman called the meeting to order early at 6:50 pm. Thirty members and guests were in attendance. Larry Sisney introduced new member Dave Parsons. Kathy Gallagher and Harry Huelsbeck were introduced as guests who were interested in becoming members. The Minutes of the May 5, 2009 board and business meeting as published in the June 2009 newsletter were approved. The May 2009 treasury report was read and approved. Larry Goodman announced that he will proceed to purchase name badges for club members. The spring clinic that had been postponed to June because of rain was moved to October 17, 2009. Karen Brand announced the 2010 Southeastern Conclave will be held in Unicoi State Park and Bob Clouser will be one of the attractions. The meeting was adjourned and the club auction followed....Bob Willice Secretary

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

The July Bull Session will be held Thursday July 9 at 6:30 PM. I will lead us in tying Lee Wulff's signature fly, the Royal Wulff. Bring your fly tying tools and tie along with other club members and guests. If you are not into fly tying then come to the bull session and just shoot the bull and join in for some good hearted jawing, bragging, and lying.

The July Casting and Tying Clinic will be held Saturday July 18 from 9:00 AM until about 1:00 PM. Starting at 9:00 AM I will lead us in tying the Y2K Bug.

The materials list and tying instructions for the Royal Wulff and the Y2K Bug are included in this newsletter. Your club will provide all materials needed to tie both flies. If you have them, bring your fly tying tools. If you need, your club has tools for both you and your guest. Speaking of guests, please do bring a guest or more.

John Brand will conduct the casting clinic on Saturday July 18. John can teach you basic fly casting or help you improve your more advanced casting skills. Bring your long rod or use one of your club's sticks.

Russ Shields and Jerry Giles will fix us a mighty fine lunch at the Saturday clinic. On the menu will be fried mullet and catfish with baked beans, coleslaw, and dinner rolls. Because of the cost of providing the free lunch and them wanting to make sure everyone gets there fill without wasteful leftovers, Russ and Jerry ask that you let them know if you will join them for lunch. Contact Russ or Jerry at rkshields@bellsouth.net or flyfisherman1942@att.net. If you don't want to tie flies; don't want to take advantage of the casting instruction; at least join us for lunch.

As always, you are encouraged to bring guests to all club functions. If you or your guest need fly rods or fly tying tools your club is ready to provide them for use during the clinics and guests are more than welcome to partake in our free food and drink.

PROGRAM JULY 7TH BUSINESS MEETING

TOM REGINA WILL SHOW PHOTOS AND TELL US MORE ABOUT HIS APPALACHIAN FISHING TRIP (FRONT PAGE ARTICLE). DON'T MISS IT!

SPECIAL AUCTION ITEM JULY 7TH BUSINESS MEETING

CAPTAIN BAZ YELVERTON DONATED A FISHING TRIP AGAIN THIS YEAR... BUT SOMEHOW THE TRIP DID NOT GET OFFERED AT OUR REGULAR AUCTION IN JUNE! IF YOU HAVE DREAMED OF SIGHT FISHING FOR POMPANO OR FALSE ALBACORE OR THE REDFISH OF A LIFE TIME, YOU SHOULD BID ON THIS TRIP WITH BAZ. THE BIDDING WILL BE SPIRITED.

P.S. THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED AND BID AND AUCTIONEERED. WE TOOK IN ABOUT \$1700.

Appalachians Smallmouths and Trout Fishing.... Tom Regina



The North Toe River heads up (headwaters) east of Minneapolis, NC, near Newland, NC. The North Toe flows south through a mountainous area then turns west entering the Toe Valley. Below the junction with the South Toe River, it gets considerably wider and becomes known as the Toe River. From the Toe's confluence with the Cane River near the community of Hunt-dale, NC, the Nolichucky River is born. The North Toe, Toe, and Nolichucky Rivers form a boundary between Yancey and Mitchell Counties, NC. The Nolichucky River eventually enters Unicoi County, TN.

On days one and three, with Elk Creek Outfitters guide Drew Scharns at the oars of the most comfortable inflatable I have ever fished from we drifted down the Toe and Nolichucky in North Carolina. The raft has no casting braces or ridged inside frames, the seats are mounted high on a ridged top frame so one can cast and fish all day from a sitting position. The 8-mile float took us over slow water, fast water and through many rapids, adding to the thrill of the fly fishing adventure. During each day's float, I caught lots of smallmouth bass, some spotted and rock bass, and several types of sunfish or *brim*. The smallmouth bass ranged in size from about 10 inches to 19 inches. Spotted and rock bass were smaller, ranging 7 to 10 inches and the brim smaller at about 3 to 6 inches. All the fish were taken with a surface popper. The largest and all but two bronzebacks were taken tight to the bank, as were the spotted and rock bass and the brim. On day one, I caught well over 20 fish and on day three more than 50 thanks to the expert tutelage of Drew.



Tucked away in the northeast corner of Tennessee is the Watauga River. According to Judson Conway, and others, the Watauga is one of the southeast's "Best kept secrets". The Watauga heads up on the slopes of Grandfather Mountain in Watauga County, North Carolina. The river then flows across the Tennessee state line at Johnson County. The word "Watauga" comes from the Cherokee and is believed to mean "the land beyond". However some interpret Watauga to mean "beautiful water" or "beautiful river". It is a beautiful river.



My second day of fishing in the Southern Appalachian Mountains found Drew and me in a drift boat floating the Watauga River in Tennessee. At the boat launch, a heavy layer of early morning fog obscured the beauty of the river. Bending low you could see under the thick fog layer. Standing on a seat in the boat you could see over the fog. We started fishing in the fog, but within minutes the fog had lifted and the exquisiteness of the Watauga River scenery was exposed. The characteristics of the Watauga are similar to the Toe and Nolichucky; slow water, fast water, and rapids. However, the water is cold and clear - unlike the warmer stained water of the Toe and "Chucky".



Appalachians Smallmouths and Trout Fishing... Tom Regina

The Watauga supports a vast number of rainbow and brown trout with the smaller trout holding in slow deep water, which we passed over in favor of the generally larger wild fish. My first fish was a 16-inch bow. Then more rainbows in the 10 to 14-inch range, and some smaller browns, 7 to 10-inches. My last fish was a healthy and strong 20 inch rainbow on 6X tippet. Drew has to get on the oars and chase the fish down. Another mighty fine day of fly fishing in Tennessee with more than 20 trout brought to hand and released... but who is counting and measuring? Not me. It must be Drew.



My new strategy... more fishing for bronzebucks. More trout fishing too. In fact, I plan a return next year in May to the Toe, Watauga, and Nolichucky and other rivers with Elk Creek Outfitters. Perhaps I will get to Virginia's New River... finally.

As you probably conclude from the forgoing I had a mighty fine time fishing with Elk Creek Outfitters (ECO) and highly recommend them. ECO offers float trips, wilderness walk/wade trips, overnight trips, and fly fishing schools. ECO even offers guided float trips for musky. That's right Muskeg-lunge... native to parts of Tennessee and North Carolina. For more information and rates and dates Contact Judson Conway at Elk Creek Outfitters, 828-264-6497 or email to info@ecoflyfishing.com or Judson@ecoflyfishing.com. Also check out the web site at www.ecoflyfishing.com.

Around the Bay... and Further Away



Bill Locher on the Toccoa River in northern Georgia with his new cane rod and a football with fins

From Milt Mays in Colorado....Hope all is well there. I miss the salt water fishing, but not the humidity and hurricanes. Things are beginning to heat up here after a very wet June. All the reservoirs are full and just about every river is unfishable due to heavy runoff. In the past the tailwaters have been a pretty safe bet, but this year they have even increased almost every one of them. I tried the Frying Pan River last week. Unfortunately they doubled the flows from 325cfs to 650cfs three days before I got there. So, I didn't get the great dry fly fishing the Pan is famous for. I did hook the biggest rainbow I have ever seen at the Toilet Bowl Hole, just at the dam outlet. I had 4x on and was able to pull him up enough to see the full size of him. Must have been easily a yard long and, like all the fish in that first mile, very thick from eating mysis shrimp. He looked the size of some of the big redfish I used to catch in February there in Pensacola. I estimated about 20 lbs. But, after that little teaser he decided to get back into the 600+ cfs current and flipped his tail and broke me off. I caught a couple of 16 inch browns before him and they were as fat as footballs and so firm and muscled that I barely got them in. Next time I go with a bigger net and a buddy to net them and put on 2x.

I was wondering if anyone is coming out to the FFF National conclave held here in Loveland at the end of July? If so, let me know. Perhaps we can get together.

Also, I'm curious about the Yellowstone trip this year. Lynn and I were thinking about somewhere around 13-19 Sept being in Madison and then Slough Creek. If anyone is coming out, it'd be good to see you and maybe do some fishing or have a beer or whatever. Hope the fish are biting and all goes smoothly without any...you know...don't really want to say the H word....Milt Mays

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton

Ladyfish, Spanish mackerel, bluefish and trout provided most of the fly rod action in June. Our most productive spots in the gulf were the "draw" from Battery Langdon to the Fire Tower and both Pickens and McRee Points. As always, the points were most productive for ladyfish and bluefish a couple hours after the tide turned out. On calm days the USS Massachusetts was dependable for big Spanish mackerel, and my clients enjoyed throwing flies at all the spadefish and barracuda that float around just below the surface. The closest we came to hooking a barracuda was when one cut a fat Spanish mackerel in half. We had zero takes on the spadefish although rumor has it that Jerry Aldridge has a fly they like. I've been dropping all the way down to a 5wt for the above species, and it's been a hoot. Of course a good reel with 150 yards of backing is important, and you have to be careful not to "high stick" a big fish.

Speckled trout fishing on all the usual grass beds has been good. Most of the fish are smaller, but they eagerly take poppers just after daylight and Clouser minnows throughout the day. There are some "keepers" in the mix, and I've heard reports of some big fish being caught (although not by my clients). Try the deeper water spots on the south side of the Gulf Breeze peninsula and the channel markers by Santa Rosa Shores.



We've been doing well with smaller redfish on the inshore flats, but the bigger fish are hard to find. Pat Patterson of Pensacola landed the last nice fish on May 29. We were anchored on incoming water at Pickens Point having lunch when I noticed a brownish discoloration about 200' directly down current from us. We pulled anchor, drifted into range, and Pat dropped the tan/white Clouser minnow right on target. Here's a website-worthy photo of Pat with his first redfish on fly.

It's been a game of "cat and mouse" with the darn false albacore this month. They're here one day and gone the next. Other guides found them occasionally in June, but the only day I hit it right was last Monday, June 29, on a spin-fishing trip. There were numerous schools feeding on bay anchovies a half mile out from Battery Langdon. We landed six fish on Sidewinder spoons, and they were all large...in the 8# range. The next day I took a fly fisherman to the same area, and the fish were gone. Love those albies...

It's been similarly frustrating with jack crevalle. We've been seeing a few fish every day, but the big schools haven't been running the beach and we haven't landed one on fly since March. Finally, on June 25 Kevin Maxey from Atlanta and I were anchored just east of Pickens Point and a school of about twenty westbound fish came down the bar right at us. We were fishing incoming water, so the anchor and anchor line were the first things the fish saw, and it put them on guard. The fish milled around a little before passing cautiously twenty feet inside of the boat, and Kevin wisely waited for them to pass before casting the fly out in front of them. As he worked the big popper back into the current a big fish exploded on it, and headed for the pass. Five minutes later Kevin was deep into his backing, and I unclipped the anchor to follow the fish. After about fifteen minutes we were starting to make good progress when the line went slack. Kevin reeled in the fly, and the hook had broken. Once again Jack won; I'm still crying over that one.



The only other impressive fish from June was this fine gag grouper Frank Basehoar, Mechanicsburg, PA, landed on June 4. The fish was just under 22" and hammered a 2/0 white bunny strip Clouser. It's the boat record grouper on fly.

Now that July has arrived all eyes are on tarpon. We had a couple "Hail Mary" shots at a school of about thirty fish on June 23, and Capt Corey Maxwell reported seeing fish on June 30. But the big push of fish hasn't arrived yet. I'm eagerly expecting it to happen this coming week on the full moon flood tides. Plus, the false albacore should arrive for an extended stay, and we'll be back to normally fabulous July fly-fishing.

By the way, the king mackerel fishing has been red hot the last few days. It's a good time to throw big streamers on sinking lines around the buoys.

It's HOT out there boys and girls, so remember your big straw hats and drink plenty of water. If you don't have to "go" you're not drinking enough water.....

Capt Baz

Y2K Bug... Tom Regina

Google "Y2K Bug"... It is hard to find a reference to the Y2K Bug fly on-line. What you will find are hundreds of references to dooms day; the end of life as we know it; or the end of the world... as many predicted would happen on January 1, 2000. As it turned out the dooms day prediction reliability was zero. However the Y2K fly has great reliability as a trout catcher.

I was introduced to the Y2K Bug by bamboo fly rod maker W.S. (Bill) Oyster. Bill lives only a few yards from the Toccoa River in northwestern Georgia where he uses the Y2K with great success. I have also had wonderful days of catching many trout on the Tuckasegee River in the mountains of western North Carolina using the Y2K Bug.

I fish the Y2K with a quartering upstream cast, mending line as necessary to keep the fly bouncing along the river bottom with a drag free drift. At the end of the drift allow the fly to swing downstream. You will get many takes as the fly rises off the river bottom. I find it helpful to apply a sinking agent such as Loon's "Henry's Sinket Wetting Agent" to the Y2K. The hydrophilic (Having affinity for water.) properties of the sinket helps the fly break the surface tension and sink more rapidly.

The Y2K Bug can be tied in hook sizes from about 18 to 10 and in various trout or salmon egg colors. We will tie the Y2K in a sizes 12 and 10 and in pink.

Tying Materials

Hook:	Musted C49S, size 12 and 10
Bead:	7/64-inch gold
Weight:	.015 lead free wire
Thread:	6/0 white or color to match Glo Bugs yarn
Body:	Pink Glo Bugs yarn



Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook. Place a bead on the hook and secure the hook in the vise. Cut about a 3-inch length of lead free wire from the spool. Make eight wraps of wire around the hook shank, between the bead and the hook bend.



2. The front wire wraps will go inside the bead countersunk hole. Move the bead back over the front wire wraps.



3. With your thumb nail or a suitable tool, from the back of the wire wraps, slide the wire and bead tight up against the hook eye. *Note: The lead free wire serves two purposes. One; it holds the bead in place tight against the hook eye and two; it adds weight to the fly which it turn helps keep the fly bouncing along the stream bottom.* Using a jam knot, start the thread directly in back of and adjacent to the rear wire wraps. In neat touching turns wrap a thread base back to a position directly above the hook point.



4. Wrap the thread forward forming a tapered thread ramp to the level of the wire wraps. Lay a single thread wrap in the space between each wire wrap with only a half thread wrap at the back of the bead.



5. Cut one 3-inch length of Glo Bugs yarn from the skein. Split the piece of cut yarn in half length-wise. *Note: After tying several Y2K Bugs you will be able to judge the correct amount of yarn needed.* Tie one piece of yarn, at its middle, to the top of the hook directly in back of and adjacent to the bead with two light overlapping thread wraps. When you pull straight up on the thread bobbin to tighten the tie-on thread wraps the yarn will tend to migrate to the far side of the hook. You may have to use your fingers to help move the yarn to the far side of the hook or keep it from migrating to far around the far side of the hook.



6. In the same manner tie the second piece of yarn to the near side of the hook with two tight overlapping thread wraps. With this piece of yarn however, start the tie-on close to the bottom of the hook shank. Again, as you tighten the thread the yarn will tend to migrate toward the near side of the hook and may require some manipulation with your fingers. Pinch the two pieces of yarn at the tie-on thread wraps and take two more tight overlapping thread wraps around both pieces of yarn and the hook being careful not to allow the yarn pieces to migrate away from the sides of the hook.

YZK Bug.... Tom Regina (continued)



7. Lift the four yarn "legs" up, forward, and out of the way and take several neat thread wraps around the hook shank back to a position directly above the hook point. Let the bobbin hang at this point. Separate the four yarn legs to form an X.

8. With your thumb, index, and middle fingers, fold the two front legs back while at the same time, and with the same fingers, grasp the two rear legs. Pull all four legs back and parallel to the hook shank. Pinch and stretch the yarn while taking several tight overlapping thread wraps around the yarn legs and hook at the thread hang point. Do not allow the yarn to migrate beyond the sides of the hook. Use an extended-reach whip-finish tool to tie off the thread with about four or five whip-finish wraps at the thread hang point. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of head cement to the whip-finish thread wraps being careful not to get cement on the yarn legs. Pull and stretch the four yarn legs straight back over the hook bend. With one clean scissor stroke, slightly beyond the back of the hook, cut away the excess yarn.



Fishing Report.... Captain Bob Quarles



Here you go, these are just some of the best pics from the month of June (one of my favorites to fish). Check out the variety of fish.. we have been routinely catching six or seven different species on each trip. After a very windy spring, June has been absolutely gorgeous and the fishing has been fantastic.

I will say that the newest addition for the boat has received rave reviews from my clients. At the urging and the assistance from a good friend, client and a member of our club, I have put a casting platform on the bow with an enclosed and cushioned cage... you step up into this thing and close the door behind you.... immediately you notice the cushioned rails and the increased visibility you are now enjoying.. then you start to cast and lean against it and you notice that you don't have to worry about falling out of the boat when it's rocking.. ahh.. now you can concentrate on casting and spotting fish instead of falling...all I can say is that it is awesome and I am extremely grateful to the club member who pushed and helped me with this.. it is really a nice addition to an already awesome fishing machine. The pictures and the smiles say it all.. I will just be quiet and let you peruse them.... Life is Good!

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



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE FIVE CLUB MEMBERS ?



Royal Wulff.... Tom Regina

The Royal Wulff is Lee Wulff's signature fly. Only the Adams is more popular as a searching dry fly. The Royal Wulff has three important attributes that make it an ideal dry fly searching pattern: It floats well, is easily seen by the angler from a long distance, and has the bugginess that attracts trout and other freshwater game fish.

Most Royal Wulff recipes specify the use of a standard dry fly hook, calf tail for the wings, and silk or nylon floss for the body. For this tying session we will deviate from the standard pattern and use a 2XL (extra long) hook, Polypropylene yarn for the wings, and Flex-Floss for the body. When I tie Royal Wulff's for my own use, I use a standard dry fly hook because I think it contributes to a more compact and attractive fly. The reason for using a 2XL hook for this tying session is because, until one becomes proficient tying the Royal Wulff, it is easier to learn how to tie it on a long shank hook ... and according to Tom Birdwell "The fish don't care." I do however use poly yarn and Flex-Floss for my Royal Wulffs. I find it quicker and easier to tie, separate, and control the wings with poly yarn than with calf tail. Flex-Floss, unlike silk or nylon floss, does not fray as it is wrapped, and it is easy to control body bulk and segmentation with Flex-Floss.

Tying Materials

Hook:	Tiemco 5212, 1XF, 2XL, size 12
Thread:	6/0 black
Wings:	White Antron yarn
Tail:	Natural moose mane
Butt:	Peacock herl
Body:	Red Flex-Floss
Shoulder:	Peacock herl
Hackle:	Brown rooster saddle



Tying Instructions



1. Using a jam knot, start the thread on the hook a bit less than one hook eye distance back from the hook eye. In neat touching turns wrap a thread base back to the middle of the hook shank. Return the thread forward to a position one-quarter hook shank distance back from the hook eye to establish the thread hang point. Cut about a two-inch length of Polypropylene yarn from the skein. Split this cut length of poly yarn into thirds lengthwise. Using tight figure eight thread wraps, tie the middle of a one-third piece of poly yarn to the top of and perpendicular to the hook shank at the thread hang point. Wrap a neat supporting thread base about 3/32-inch up each wing segment to cause the wings to stand up

about a 45 degree angle to the hook shank. *Note: For clarity and illustrative purposes the wings in each of the pictures have been cut to finished length. However you should not cut the wings to finished length until the hackle has been wrapped in order to ensure the wings are of proper length.* In neat touching thread wraps continue the thread base back to a point directly over the hook barb.



2. Cut 10 to 15 hairs from the base of the moose hide. Clean out the under hair. Even the tips in a hair stacker or by hand. Reduce the stacked clump of hair to about 6 or 8 well shaped hairs. Measure and tie the selected stacked hair to the top of the hook so the tail is about equal in length to the hook shank. Bind the butt end of the tail to the top of the hook shank with evenly spaced spiral thread wraps forward to the wings and cut away any excess butt ends. In several spiral wraps return the thread to the base of the tail.



3. At the base of the tail tie on two peacock herls after ruffling the feather barbs. Cut away any herl tag ends. Wrap a single herl to form a neat compact butt. *Note: Only one peacock herl will be used to form the butt. The second herl is tied on in case the first fragile herl breaks while being wrapped. The extra herl will be broken away if it is not needed.* Tie off and cut or break away the excess herl. Also break away the second herl if it is not needed. Take the thread forward to a point about 3/32-inch back from the wings. This will be the new thread hang point.

Royal Wulff.... Tom Regina



4. At the thread hang point tie one end of a strand of Flex-Floss to the top of the hook shank with the running part of the floss strand overhanging the back of the hook. Bind the butt end of the floss to the top of the hook back to the herl butt. Cut away any floss tag. Return the thread to the thread hang point. Wrap the Flex-Floss forward to the thread hang point in overlapping or touching turns to form a neat segmented body. Tie off and cut away the excess floss. *Note: With a little practice you will quickly learn how much you can stretch Flex-Floss to build a neat body with proper bulk and segmentation. You will be surprised at how strong Flex-Floss is.*



5. At thread hang point, in front of the floss body, tie on two peacock herls for the shoulder. Treat them as were the butt herls.



6. Select an appropriate size hackle feather and strip away the fluffy barbs at the base of the quill. The stripped quill portion should be about 1/2-inch long. Orientate the feather with the convex side facing you, the running part of the hackle extending over the back of the hook, and the striped quill portion of the feather adjacent to the space between the shoulder and the wings, and at the side of the hook. The stripped portion of the quill should extend back so the first feather barbs are aligned with the back of the herl shoulder. With a few tight thread wraps, tie the butt or striped end of the feather to the hook shank in the space between the shoulder and wings. Take the thread forward by passing it under the

hook and wings. Tie the tip of the stripped feather quill butt to the front of the hook with a few tight turns of thread. Do not crowd the hook eye. Take four turns of hackle, one in front of the other, in the space between the shoulder and the wings. Pass the hackle feather under the hook and wings and take three turns of hackle, one in front of the other, in front of the wings. Do not crowd the hook eye. Tie off and cut away the excess hackle feather. Stroke and hold the hackle barbs back so as not to trap any barbs under the thread head. Build a neat thread head. Half-hitch or whip-finish the thread head. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of head cement to the thread head. Cut the wings to a length about 1/8-inch higher than the hackle.

Fishing Report.... Captain Harry Huelsbeck



Fishing early just as the sun rises over the grass flats in the sound, has been producing a good spec bite on topwater. The best producing fly has been an Olive over Silver Rainy's Bubblehead 2/0, followed close by crease flys of the same size and color. (Spec picture attached) Out front in the Gulf, schools of bluefish could easily be sight cast to cruising right up next to the beach. Just find the school ease in, and fire away. With a barbless hook, you can watch them race it down, hook one, give some slack, release, strip, and watch them race it down again hooking another. Ladyfish

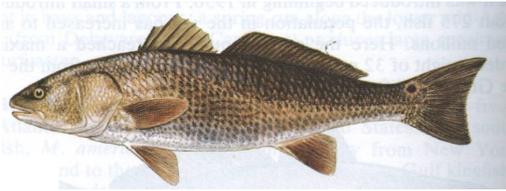
and hardtails have been taking blind casting along the beach front as well. Spotted some Jack Crevalles cruising the beach, but they were moving a little too quick for me to get a big stick out for them. The spanish were balling up schools of blood minnows on the shoals. Just find the bait ball, and you can see the Spanish swimming below. Cast a small surfcandy or clouser on the edge of the bait ball, and strip slowly. As the baitball drifts into the pass with the current, get ready for a bluefish blitz! Sight castable Pompano have been hard for me to find, still cracking the code. Found a few pods, but they have been spooky. Spotted a couple of tarpon, but they too were spooked easily and couldn't even get a cast in front of them. I've got a fresh batch of tarpon flys ready to try again. Sharks are all over, from the shoals up to putting their fins on the beach. They avoid the chum slick like the plaque, but have ran after a top water plug while trying to tease them in to take a fly on the 13+ wt rod, but spook off as they get close to the boat. (Another code I am trying to crack on these beasts) While blind casting along the beach front, I've also picked a couple of small rat cobias following rays.

L8, Capt. Harry

FLY FISHERS

of NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**PO BOX 1041
 PENSACOLA, FL 32591**



JULY 2009

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	29	30	31	