

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
MARCH 2007

THE FLYFISHERS OF
NORTHWEST FLORIDA
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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

BOARD MEETING
1ST TUESDAY, 6:15PM

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March Fly Tying and Casting at the club....At the March 8 bull session starting at 6:30 PM Jerry Aldridge will show us some tips and techniques for fly tying with CDC duck butt feathers. On Saturday March 17 starting at 9:00 AM Tom Regina will teach us to tie soft-hackle wet flies. Your club will provide all the materials for both the bull session and the Saturday clinic. If you have a vise and tools please bring them. If not the club will furnish them. Bring a guest or two. They are always welcome and we have a vise and tools for them also.

John Brand will be on hand at the Saturday March 17 clinic to teach fly casting and to help us hone our casting skills and techniques. Bring your own flinging stick or use our club rods. Bring your bride and the little folks. Bring a guest and introduce them to fly casting. John has lots of patience and will be happy to teach them how to fling a fly.

At the Saturday clinic stew burners Russ Shields and Jerry Giles will fix you a hardy lunch of hot dogs, and not just any old hot dog, but very special dogs that only Russ and Jerry will have. Big and little peoples beverages will be available - and it's all free. Russ and Jerry put on great feeds so don't miss out. And do bring a guest..

President's MessageKaren Brand

March Madness is here and no I am not talking about Basketball! March is a busy month for the club, with lots of activities planned. The General Membership meeting is Tuesday, March 6. We will not have an invited speaker but we will be discussing and making final plans for the "Spring Fly Fishing Clinic" March 17th.

Wednesday March 7 is the first night of the PJC Fly Fishing Class and we are hoping for a good turn out. Tom Regina has lined up the fly tying instructors and John Brand will be coordinating the casting, but we still need volunteers who are willing to help students during the fly tying and casting sessions. (Remember we will not have class Wednesday March 21 because PJC is closed for Spring Break.)

Thursday, March 7 is the Bull Session so we actually have 3 nights of club activities that week. The "Spring Fly Fishing Clinic" will replace our usual Saturday Clinic on March. It is open to the public but I am also encouraging all members to attend. Representatives from Temple Fork Rods, Bass Pro Shops and Gulf Breeze Tackle will be on hand so this is our opportunity to cast a variety of different fly rods. If you have not volunteered already and are interested in helping out at the Clinic please attend the meeting on March 6th.

Other important dates this spring; Club Auction May 1, which is also out regularly scheduled general membership meeting; Spring Picnic May 27th.

The web site is almost finished, check it out at www.flyfishpensacola.com! See you all in March! Karen Brand, President

General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, February 6, 2007, President Karen Brand, presiding

President Brand called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The minutes of the January business meeting were read and approved.

Larry Sisney, club treasurer, presented the report for February, which outlined the proposed income for 2007, and the actual income and expenditures thus far. No significant changes were recommended, and the report was approved by the membership.

Jay Williams announced that a donation could be made in the name of our deceased member Andy Housand to the "Fisher House Foundation". The foundation buys and deeds to the government houses which provide a no fee temporary residence for families of veterans in military and VA medical centers. The homes are owned by the U.S. Government and Veterans Affairs are responsible for their operation. Jay's proposal was submitted as a motion, seconded, and approved by the membership.

The date for the club auction was set for Tuesday, May 1st. The dates proposed for this years club picnics were May 6th, with the 20th, as second choice, and October 14th, with the 21st, as second choice. After confirmation, these specific dates will be announced.

Karen announced that Guy Tillotson of Temple Fork Outfitters had confirmed for presenting at our "Spring Fly Fishing Clinic", on March 17th. All members are encouraged to attend, bring guests, and participate in this well publicized club event.

In regard to a previous business meeting discussion, it was decided that the "Programs Chair", function under the vice-president's job, need not be changed in the by-laws to be assigned to another person. The vice-president may ask for assistance in performing that duty as desired. It was decided that there was not a need to form a separate committee for programs. After proper motion, the meeting was adjourned.

An excellent representation from the organizers of a Gulf Coast Council of the Fly Fishers Federation presented the evening program. Their main spokesman was Glen "Catch" Cormier, President of the "Red Stick", Baton Rouge Club, and President of the Gulf Coast Council. Also present: Buzzy Burns, Pres. Gulfport-Ocean Springs club, and Sid Smith of Gulfport, Miss. They have great plans for forming an FFF recognized council separate from the Southeast Council, to which we now belong. They already have enough Gulf Coast club's members to make their council viable. Their reasoning for joining them makes good sense and will be discussed at length by our club. Respectfully submitted: Jerry Giles

Partridge & Red Soft Hackle... Tom Regina

Is a soft-hackle wet fly a nymph? In some circles, in particular within the old school of traditional fly anglers, it is not a nymph. But for them anything other than a dry fly is not a fly but an abomination of fly angling sport. Others may place soft-hackle wets in a class by themselves; not a nymph, not a dry, not a streamer, etc., but a soft-hackle wet. However, because we often fish soft-hackle wets by “nymphing” and following our definition of a nymph given in the January 2007 issue of “Flies and Lies” we will answer yes - a soft-hackle wet is a nymph, or a soft-hackle nymph. So put your soft-hackle wets in your nymph fly box.

The most important part of a soft-hackle wet fly dressing is the hackle. The body or abdomen, and the thorax are secondary. The abdomen is wound of two layers of working thread over which is wound a layer of floss of the same color as the thread. The body serves as an undercolor to the hackle that undulates in the water, opening and closing over the body as the currents work the hackle. The purpose of the thorax is not to attract trout but to prop up the hackle at about a 90-degree angle to the hook shank.

The hackle should be sparse - about one and a half and not more than two turns around the hook. To get the hackle sparse enough it may be best to strip away feather barbs from one side of the feather stem or quill. The most common feathers used for soft-hackle wet flies are Hungarian partridge. These feathers have a unique glistening quality that adds life like appearance to the fly. Packages of loose Hungarian partridge feathers and whole skins are readily available at most fly shops and from catalogue orders. Other soft-hackles can be obtained from grouse, woodcock, and starling. Hen chicken necks and saddles are another good source of soft-hackle. However cock chicken feathers are too inflexible or stiff for effective wet fly soft-hackle.

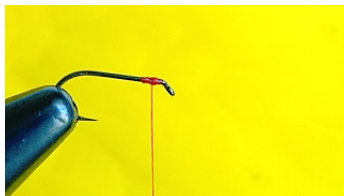
For further information on soft-hackle wet flies I recommend the book “*Wet Flies - Tying and Fishing Soft-Hackles, Winged and Wingless Wets, and Fuzzy Nymphs*” by Dave Hughes. ISBN 0-8117-1868-9.

Materials

| | |
|--------|--|
| Hook | Mustad 3906B, size 12 |
| Thread | 6/0 red |
| Body | Red floss over working thread |
| Thorax | Hare's Ear Plus #7 Tan dubbing and dubbing wax |
| Hackle | Hungarian partridge |



Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook and secure it in the vise. Using a jam knot start the thread just behind and abutting the hook eye. To lock in the thread to the hook shank, wind it back about three-sixteenth inch than forward to the hook eye.



2. Select a partridge feather with barb lengths equal to the hook length. Strip away the fuzz at the bottom of the feather stem leaving only well marked barbs. Hold the feather tip between your right-hand thumb and index finger (*You Southpaws figure it out.*) with the concave side toward you and strip away the barbs on the top half of the stem. Flatten the bare stem by running your thumbnail down the feather stem from the base of the barbs back one quarter inch. Flattening the bare stem helps keep the stem from braking when wrapped around the hook. Tie the stem to the top of the hook one sixteenth-inch behind the hook eye with the concave side toward you and the tip of the feather extending over the hook eye.



3. Take about 10 to 15 tight touching turns of thread toward the hook bend to bind the hackle stem to the top of the hook shank. Cut away the excess stem butt and continue the tight touching thread wraps to a point directly over the tip of the hook point.



4. At the thread hang point, directly over the tip of the hook point, tie-in about a twelve inch piece of floss to the top of the hook shank with the short floss butt extending over the hook eye. In touching turns wrap the working thread forward to the hackle tie-in point one sixteenth-inch back from the hook eye.

Partridge & Red Soft Hackle.... Tom Regina (continued)



5. In slightly overlapping turns wrap the floss forward to the thread hang point. Using the working thread tie off the floss and cut away the floss tag ends.



6. Apply a sparse amount of dubbing wax to about one inch of the working thread adjacent to the hook shank. Apply a small amount of dubbing, in an elongated skein to the waxed portion of the thread. Twist only the top and bottom of the dubbing skein to the thread leaving the center of the skein loose. The loose center of the dubbing skein will adhere to the waxed thread when the thorax is wrapped.



7. Make several wraps of the dubbing skein just behind the hackle tie-in point. This thorax dubbing knob should be somewhat loose with lots of dubbing fibers sticking out in all directions. Do not pluck or cut away any stray dubbing fibers unless they are longer than the hackle barbs. The working thread should now be hanging at the front of the thorax but in back of the hackle tie-in point.

8. Make a single turn of hackle just behind the hook eye, leaving a small amount of room between the eye and the hackle tie-in point for a small neat thread head. Make a second turn of hackle just behind and adjacent to the first. The hackle barbs should stand out away from the hook shank at about a 90-degree angle with a slight bow toward the rear. While holding the hackle tip, work about three turns of working thread through the hackle barbs down to the hackle stem to lock it to the hook shank. These locking thread wraps should be taken in back of, not in front of, the hackle wraps. Cut away the excess hackle tip near this tie-down point. Take three or four turns of thread through the hackle forward to the hook eye. Weave or wobble the thread back and forth through the hackle as you make these turns so as not to matt down any of the hackle barbs. Form a small neat thread head. Half-hitch or whip finish the thread head. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of head cement without getting cement on the hackle fibers.



Pensacola Junior College Fly Fishing Class 2007

Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 PM at the PJC Pensacola campus, building 17, room 1740 beginning March 7, 2007 and ending May 2, 2007 with the exception of March 21 - 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 Travis Akins, Jerry Aldridge, John Brand, Karen Brand, Bruce Vail, and Captains Baz Yelverton and Bob Quarles. However other club members are needed to serve as proctors for casting, knot tying, and fly tying instruction. If you will be helping John Brand with the casting instruction please contact John at 626-0642 or 516-1833 or jbrand@santarosamri.com to obtain a copy of John's "Casting Instruction Outline". John has put together this instruction outline to be followed by all casting instructors so our casting instruction is standardized and we are all teaching the same thing. Bill Parrish has volunteered to transport the fly rods/reels and Klaus Gohrbandt has volunteered to transport the fly tying equipment to and from each class session.

Fishing Report... Captain Bob Quarles



January and February have been rough and cold, so I had to cancel a lot of fishing trips, but when we got out there, the fishing was great. In two back to back trips in late January we caught over 20 - 25 bull

reds on each trip, I figured we pulled in around 1,000 lbs of reds in two days, my anglers were worn out and so was I, you gotta love it....

In between the calm days, I managed to go on four duck hunting trips in four different states with friends.

It was awesome! I plan to do a lot more duck hunting in 2007. Annual Father and Son duck hunting trip to Louisiana....Dad had a great time! Mallards and a drake Pintail with Duck Owens.....the guy can call them in and cleans up my bad shooting.



Fishing Report... Captain Baz Yelverton



The hot ticket at the moment is sight fishing for bull redfish along the shoreline in the gulf. The fish are cruising along the bottom in 4-6 feet of water which makes them hard to see. Plus, they're spooky. You'll need to anchor the boat and wait for them to come to you, or you can drift using the motor as little as possible to maintain the proper distance from shore. My favorite tactic is using the push pole to hold the boat quietly in the current. The fish are big and beautiful as you'll see in the attached photo of Jim Little, Los Angeles. Jim landed this twenty-five pounder on Feb 22 after a long fight on 8wt outfit.

There's not much other activity in the gulf presently, but that should change in the next few weeks. As the water temperature rises we'll be seeing more slot-sized reds in the surf, plus the pompano will arrive next month. Last year Temple Fork's Guy Tillotson landed the first pompano on fly March 17.

The inside flats have been pretty darn sterile lately. Yesterday afternoon the inside water temp was up to 62 degrees. This is plenty warm for the reds, sheepshead and big trout, but it just hasn't started to happen yet. Maybe they're still up in the bayous and rivers. Who knows; that's why they call it fishing... Capt Baz

Colorado Report....Milt Mays

I've included a few pictures of fish and weather. As you've probably heard, we've had almost a record winter this year with 63 or more consecutive days of snow on the ground. Usually it will snow 4-6 inches, look pretty, and melt off within a week. But, we had about 2 feet just before Christmas and cold weather since then, not allowing much melting, and a lot of smaller storms afterwards. So, last week was the first time we saw our lawn since 21 Dec. Global warming...right!

I usually fish about 3 times per week, but with this winter I'm lucky if I got out once...per week. The water temp on the Big Thompson has been very cold, even in the tailwater section, at 32 degrees for a couple of weeks. Even with that, by the afternoon, it warmed up to 35 and the bows started hitting dry fly midges.

The pictures I've included are of the day after the initial December snow, then several days ago when we had some blowing snow just before it warmed up. Also, there's a couple of rainbows caught in the last week, the smaller one measure out at 14 inches the larger about 16. Both were caught on deep nymphs. I had to take pics of them on the ice beside the river, but they were only there for about 15 seconds. Hi to all. Have a great March. I know I'm looking forward to some warmer weather....Milt PS. I'm going to the Green next week. Somebody has to do it!



Tidbits from Tom & Jerry G

Tom says....Save Some \$\$\$\$....As a member of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida you can receive a substantial discount off the retail price of fly fishing and tying equipment and materials from The Hook & Hackle Co. Orders have to be placed through Tom Regina. (Tom does not get a commission). Call Tom at 458-2978 or email him at tomregina@bellsouth.net to place an order.

Hook & Hackle catalogs can be ordered from Hook & Hackle, 607 Ann Street-Rear, Homestead, PA 15120, or toll free 1-800-552-8342, or www.hookhack.com

Tom says....Did You Know....Pacific salmon die after their spawning whereas Atlanta salmon return to their breeding place again year after year.

Tom says....Winter Fishing Tip....Keep your hands dry with latex gloves worn beneath your fingerless gloves or foldover mittens.

Jerry G quotes from the "Fallodon Papers", By the Earl of Fallodon, published in 1925.

"There is no need for those who have one form of this gift (being a fly-fisherman) to look askance at those who have another. But surely as life draws to a close no one can look back on days of recreation with more certain gratitude than he who has had the opportunity of fly-fishing and has been born with the gift of enjoying angling."

I have upgraded my GPS and have a Lowrance Globalmap 3000 for sale. It includes unit, cover, antenna, and local maps. Let me know if you know anyone who might be interested. Thanks....Fred Raby, 572-5355, fraby@cox.net

Tying with Cul de Canard....Jerry Aldridge

Flies tied with cul de canard feathers have become some of my favorites anytime very small mayflies, caddis or midges are bringing trout up to sip on emergers or adults., especially on slow-moving, clear water. At first, I fished the size 20 and smaller CDC flies as a dropper behind a larger an more visible dry fly, with the thought that the larger fly would serve as the easier to see "strike Indicator". But a strange thing happened - the CDC fly floated so well that it was oftentimes easier to see than the much larger dry fly, and even more important, the fish loved it. After that it was a "go to fly" anytime small bugs were hatching. Later we discovered that CDC flies were excellent with no hatch going on as attractor or prospecting flies.

So far, I have used CDC as trailing shuck, downwing or soft hackle material. CDC has many other uses but one has to start somewhere. At the Thursday night Bull Session we will tie a tan Caddis with CDC shuck and downwing and a dark dun wet fly with CDC as the soft hackle. Both have been top-notch performers everywhere we have used them. Present them as you would any other similar dry or wet fly with one exception; do not treat your CDC fly with the standard gel-type floatant! The gel will gum up the CDC and render the fly useless. Instead, treat your fly with a powder silicon such as "Shake-and-Float".



HOOK Dry fly, 12-26
BODY Tan antron
SHUCK Tan CDC
WING Tan CDC



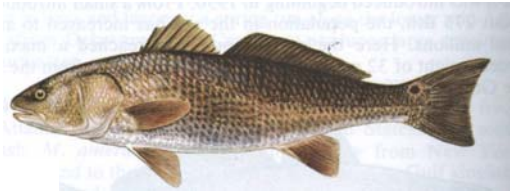
HOOK Dry fly, 12-26
BODY Dark dun antron
RIB Black crystal flash
HACKLE Dark dun CDC

Auction! Auction! Auction!

Circle the Date! Tuesday, May 1st, is the day starting at 7 PM sharp. Support our club by looking around the house and garage for your spare sporting gear that has value. Collect all your stuff in a box to be auctioned and bring it to the club as early as 4 PM that day.

Here is a chance for anyone to be able to buy some good fishing equipment, books, fly tying materials, fantastic fresh and salt water flies beautifully tied by our top fly tiers in the club.

Contact Art de Tonnancourt, Auction Chairman, should you need any additional information (artdetonnancourt1@cox.net or call him at 492-3833). Art is also looking for an assistant or two to help keep track of stuff and to spell him as the auctioneer.



MARCH 2007

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

