

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
MARCH 2010

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NORTHWEST FLORIDA
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NEWSLETTER

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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

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE...Art de Tonnancourt, Chair

The Membership Committee is now comprised of three members: Art deTonnancourt, (Chair), Bob Holton, and George Bennett.

Our committee met and discussed several issues including the publishing of the forthcoming Membership directory, membership renewal efforts as well as increasing the opportunities for more members to get involved in the functioning committees of the club.

As a result of our committee's work, the following motion was made at the February 2nd board of directors meeting: "Move that all committee chairs make a concerted effort to recruit at least two additional members to serve on their committees and to report back to the president and board at the March meeting the names of the new members." The discussion that followed included the following: Larger committees involve more of our general membership in specific tasks of the club thereby improving participation and morale. More than one person committees provide good continuity when vacancies occur. More people working together have better chance to stimulate new ideas and share the work. Multiple participants making decisions tends to make the decision process more democratic and can give the process more insights.

Our committee also reports that as of this writing, we have only 38 members who have paid their 2010 dues. Dues were due and payable in January and delinquent members are urged to send their \$30 dues check payable to Fly Fishers of NW Florida to our treasurer, Larry Sisney, at 700 College Blvd, H-106, Pensacola, FL 32504.

Joe Higgins has a source for name tags, ether white or gold background, \$7.00 each. He will be at the March meeting to take orders or email him at (jhigpcola@aol.com) to place an order.



From the V.P.At the Tuesday, March 2nd., business meeting, I will conduct a question and answer session about coordinating and planning trips to far off and fishy places. Hope to see you there!--**Jerry Giles**

General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, February 2, 2010, President Larry Goodman, presiding

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Larry Goodman. Nineteen club members including six board members were present. The minutes of the January 2010 business and board meeting as published in the February 2010 newsletter were approved. The treasury report for January 2010 was approved. The budget for 2010 prepared by Treasurer Larry Sisney was presented. Line items previously budgeted in 2009 that were deleted from the 2010 budget included picnic raffle donations, Tom's sale items, Holiday Inn refund, casting equipment, and new fly tying vises. The cost of the president's shirt was deleted as a line item and the cost of the shirt will be paid through line item administration expenses. With only a few other minor changes and no other major change the 2010 budget was approved.

The club approved Art deTonnancourt's motion that all committee chairs make a concerted effort to recruit at least two additional members to serve on their committees and report back to the president and the board at the March meeting.

No action was taken on the possibility of club participation in the Scouting festival to be held at the NWF Fairgrounds in April. It will be discussed again at the March meeting when the club has more information about it.

The annual club picnic was cancelled for the year 2010.

A discussion was held concerning whether it should be a requirement that all club members hold membership in either Trout Unlimited or the FFF . The discussion terminated for lack of a motion.

The club auction for 2010 will be held June 1, 2010.

Russ Shields asked the club to think about the possibility of the club forming a group to purchase bargain tackle items found throughout the year for the Christmas Party. The emphasis would be on decreasing quality from top of the line tackle to good quality tackle and by doing so increase the number of prizes in the Christmas Party raffle.

Club business cards were passed out to club members and the remainder will be stored with the library materials.

Fishing Trip Chairman Paul Lukkar has scheduled a club fly fishing trip to be held at Fort Pickens Saturday March 27, 2010.

Following a short raffle for door prizes the meeting was adjourned. Bob Willice secretary

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

At the March 11 Bull Session, starting at 6:30 PM, Jerry Aldridge will have the trout (freshwater) and inshore fly tying kits available for club members and guests to use for tying flies of their choice. The two kits contain the materials needed to tie a great variety of flies. Jerry will also be available to give instruction and tying tips. So come on out and tie the fly of your choice and sit around and lie to your fishing buddies. Whoa, stop the presses. Fly anglers don't lie... they tell tall tales. Sorry for the innuendo.

The March Casting and Tying Clinic will be held Saturday March 20 from 9:00 AM until about 1:00 PM. Starting at 9:00 AM Jerry Aldridge will teach us how to tie his Bomber Mouse, a top water fly guaranteed to lure those wiley brown trout and bass out of hiding. The materials list and tying instructions for the Mini Mouse are included in this newsletter. Your club will provide all materials needed. If you have them, bring your fly tying tools. If you need, your club has tools for both you and your guest.

John Brand will conduct the casting clinic on Saturday March 20. John can teach you basic fly-casting or help you improve your more advanced casting skills. If you have a particular casting technique you would like to learn or improve, John will be happy to help you learn or improve the procedure or skill needed. John will start the casting clinic at 9:00 AM. Bring your long rod or use one of your club's sticks. Many club members attend the monthly casting clinics and bring one or more of their fly rods to practice. Most are happy to let others try their rods.

Did you get some of that Hobo Stew Jerry Giles served us for lunch at the casting and tying clinic in February? If not you missed some mighty fine fixn's. For the March 20 clinic, Jerry and Russ have promised something quite special for lunch. They wouldn't tell me what would be served. However, I did see Russ and Jerry at a local grocery store with a buggy loaded with Beanee Weenees, onions, bell peppers, and shredded cheese. I wouldn't be surprised if we get Ultimate Beanee Weenee Supreme Casserole.

If you do not want to tie flies or take advantage of the casting instruction, do still join us for a free lunch, adult beverages, and little peoples drinks.

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.

Bomber Mouse . . . Jerry Aldridge

The “Bomber Mouse” borrows heavily from the “Stealth Bomber” by Kent Edmonds and the “Gartside Gurgler” by Jack Gartside (recently deceased). It somewhat resembles a mouse and dives when stripped only to rise quickly to the surface when the strip is stopped. It works well on brown trout and bass.

MATERIALS

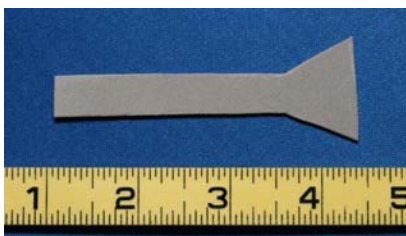
HOOK	4X long, straight eye streamer , Mustad 9674
THREAD	Danville flatwaxed nylon or 3/0, black or gray
TAIL	Pine squirrel zonker
BODY	Foam, gray 2 mm or 1/8”
HACKLE	Grizzly, webby with long barbs, hen or rooster
LEGS	Black or gray, round rubber
WHISKERS	Crystal flash, black
EYES	Decal or painted



TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Place hook in vise and lay thread base from eye to bend. Cut a zonker strip as long as the hook and tie in at the bend with fur up. Return thread to eye.



2. Cut foam strip as shown in photo. Tie foam in at eye. Be careful not to cut foam with thread. Hold foam securely with non-tying hand and wrap thread back to bend forming about ten segments while holding foam securely in place. Double wrapping at each segment will form a stronger body.



3. Tie in two hackles by the tip at the bend. Return thread to second segment behind eye. Wrap the first hackle forward along the segment lines while stroking the barbs to the rear with the off hand. Secure at second segment and trim excess. Wrap second hackle in same manner. Secure at same place and trim excess.



4. Wrap thread to just behind second body segment. Stroke hackle along body downward. A little moisture helps. Bring back section of foam forward along top of body and tie in with several wraps just behind second body segment. Trim foam even with top of body. Move tying thread to back of third body segment. Bring front foam to the rear and secure behind third body segment with several wraps. Finish with whip finish or 3-4 half hitches. If you want to tie the “full dress” version, proceed to next step. If not, cut thread, apply head cement, let it dry and go fishing!



5. Leave two strips of rubber joined together and cut a segment 1 1/2 hook lengths. Tie in below mouse head on near side as shown in photo. Repeat for legs on far side. Cut thread and re-attach behind hook eye. Cut 5-7 strands of crystal flash 1-2” long and tie in at center with a few figure 8 wraps. Whip finish, cut thread, apply head cement to exposed thread wraps and let dry. Attach a pair of eyes (Your choice—decal, painted, doll eyes, etc.) and go fishing!

Around the Bay....and Further Away

From Jerry Giles....I have been buying these hooks for tying, and thought I would share this with you. At Wal-Mart, in the fishing section, there has been a tray on the bottom shelf with hooks in small plastic containers. The box has a picture of crappie on top. The hooks are made in the USA, and come 20 to a box. The "Panfish" size 4, makes a great wooly-bugger hook as they have a good long shank. The size 8 makes for a good pheasant tail, or other nymph.
Price: 20 for .96 cents.

Travis Akins sent these pictures from Yellowstone. Can you guess which one is his favorite spot for cut-throat? Can you even find the water?



Club Fishing Day

Fish the jetties and coves from the Ft. Pickens Pier to the Ft. Pickens Point with the Flyfishers of Northwest Florida

What: Saturday Club Fishing Day
When: 3/27, Saturday
Where: Ft, Pickens Jetties
Time: 7am-12p noon

More information later. **Paul Lukkar**, 572-3006, flash729542@yahoo.com

I am a student at the University of Florida conducting marketing research on the inshore saltwater fishing community. You have been selected through my team's online research that indicates your possible participation and leadership of inshore saltwater fishing activities. We have created a short survey to hopefully better understand members of this sport. This market is extremely small so your response is highly valued to us.

If you do engage in inshore saltwater fishing, which includes fly-fishing and flats fishing, please help us out and take this 5-minute survey within the next 3 days! You can participate in the survey by clicking the link below.

https://ufljour.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_4NmoqphqvpS7hYw&SVID=Prod

If you are a member of a fishing club or organization or have fishing buddies, please pass this survey link along!

Thank you so much for your time, Chris McGraw

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Veluerton



February was an unusually challenging month with the fly rods. The freezing weather kept water temperatures in the bay and sound close to ten degrees below normal. This month's rain on top of the January deluge resulted in inland water clarity in the range of chocolate milk to iced tea. Redfish and big trout are still hanging out with the mullet on our favorite sand and grass flats, but they are very hard to see in the stained water. About the only good thing I can say is they can't see us either. Late in the day on February 1 we were just ten feet from the redfish in the first photo when Jon Benstead, Tuscaloosa, AL, reached out with his fly rod and dropped the fly a foot in front of it. The fish was lying on the bottom like a log, but it whirled into action and hammered the Green Weenie. If the water hadn't been so nasty that fish would've spooked when

the boat was thirty feet away. I'm pretty sure there are fewer fish on the flats now than there were about a month ago when we had a few days of warm "shirt-sleeve" weather, but there are enough to make it worthwhile...and warmer days and clean water are just around the corner. Right?



The Gulf has been equally challenging. It's been almost impossible to predict water clarity and the size of the shore break without simply driving over and taking a look. There have only been a few days with good conditions since my last report, and I've been out there for most of them. January 31 was such a day, and there were as many false albacore running the beach as I've ever seen. Here's a shot of Kevin Barnes, Athens, GA, with one of the fish we landed that day. The bizarre thing was the dolphin. There was one giant rogue dolphin taking the FA right off the doggone hook. Twice it cut the FA off behind the head and another time got a little too greedy and got the hook. Earlier it had eaten a fish we'd released. You would've thought four albies in the 6-7# range would've been enough, but this mammal was intent on eating everything we hooked. I've seen it

with ladyfish, bluefish, and of course red snapper but never before with false albacore. My clients were die hard catch-and-release conservationists and couldn't stand seeing the albies die, so we left. The next morning we were back looking for the albies, but they were gone and haven't been seen since.



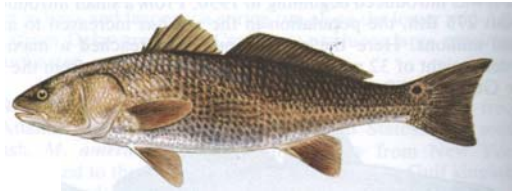
Sight-fishing for redfish along the edge of the Gulf has also been unpredictable. There's a serious tide line to the east where the bay and Gulf waters meet, and water temperature can vary ten degrees from one side of the line to the other. I think the redfish move in and out as the cold water moves east and west along the beach. One day there will be redfish all along the beach, and the next day they're nowhere to be found. We hit it right on February 17, and Bill Wason, Johnson City, TN, landed this beauty on his 8wt. We had maybe thirty individual redfish in our sights during the day, and Bill sat back patiently while his son threw jigs at them. Finally, Bill stood up and cast into a school of a dozen fish cruising 30 feet from the boat and landed his biggest redfish to date. Take a look at the shade of green in the water. This is the perfect color for redfishing...plenty

clear enough to see fish but just enough discoloration to put the fish at ease. I had another trip two days later and the conditions were absolutely stellar, but we didn't see a single fish along a stretch of beach where fifty fish had been two days earlier... Finally we found a large school of fish in the draw two hundred feet out from the inner bar. It was as if all the fish that had been cruising the beach found each other in one big school. Maybe a "love-in"? Who knows.

I think it's going to be a month before the inside flats get warm and clear, and the redfish and trout fishing really turns on...about a month later than usual. Of course all that can change if we get a week of 70 degree sunny weather. The water to the east in the Intracoastal Waterway may be in better shape already. I just haven't been up there to check it out.

In the Gulf, the redfishing should get better and better as we get into March, and by the end of the month we just might start seeing some migrating pompano. Last year we saw the first jack crevalle in March. I for one am looking forward to putting this cold, rainy winter behind us and moving into spring...

Capt Baz



MARCH 2010

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