

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
OCTOBER 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

Fishing Report... Captain Bob Quarles

I apologize for not posting more pics and more frequently, but it has been a difficult summer for me. My family situation and jobs have kept me very busy and the weather was pretty difficult in August as well.. I will spare you all the bad weather pics, but we managed some great days in between the storm cells and the unpredictable weather...I really don't like August fishing....too hot.

Here is my new client from South Africa....Peter Fiske.. we had a banner day as I introduced him to Pensacola Fly-fishing...he was blown away with the variety of fish we caught and the new cage on the bow... Nice ladyfish on fly.... Spanish on Fly.... too fun!



Here some pics from my travel to Key West and the Dry Tortugas on a live aboard dive boat...this was a joint project for the EPA and The Nature Conservancy. We were blessed with good weather and were able to complete two major projects in 6 arduous days of diving..I had about twelve hours of time underwater and got some great pics of turtles, lobster, fish and of course..coral....which is why we were there... to conduct research on stony coral.

Sunset in the Tortugas... looking towards Loggerhead Key!



All dressed up to go to work with my underwater paper.

Afternoon sun....Julia from Russia was camping at Ft. Jefferson....she brought me some good luck.



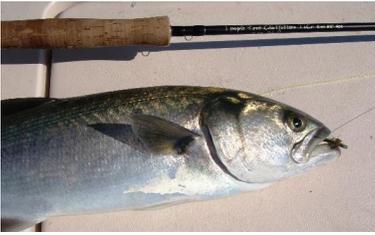
The only afternoon we got off early--- (5 PM)I caught this tortugas tarpon...late afternoon sun makes this fish appear to be shining.. the Silver King! Same fish a few seconds earlier as i was trying to land him..... a pic worth sharing....

The live aboard dive boat in the background.. check out the droplets from the jumping tarpon....

Anyway - now I am home and ready to fish. I dropped the boat in this Friday and Sunday to check the scene...let me tell you this to all my local friends and

Fishing Report... Captain Bob Quarles (continued)

clients...now is the time to fish! there are more species of fish here and more bait .. the water is still warm and the weather is stabilizing.. October is my favorite month to fish!



Anybody want to go go catch four pound bluefish on the grass flats??.. they are awesome on a three ounce six weight fly rod....

Kings were on fire Friday..... caught five like this on my redfish Cabo 30 with fifteen lb. braid.....these Cabo's are worth every penny.

Sunday is family day for Ben and I and we always have a good time on the water.. now he is sightfishing .. I can't get him out of the cage! Look at that smile. End of the day.. we went to our swimming hole so I could clean the fish.. Life is Good! I hope you enjoyed the pictures and the report..see you on the water.



BTW.. the local chapter of the CCA is having there banquet on Oct. 29th.. email me if you need tickets.. I plan to attend... it's a lot of fun. ...Captain Bob

General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, September 1, 2009, President Larry Goodman, presiding

President Larry Goodman called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Seventeen members were present. James Magnuson and Ed Winfield were introduced as new members. The minutes of the August 4, 2009 business meeting as published in the September 2009 newsletter were approved. The treasury report for August 2009 was discussed and approved. Due to the increased popularity of the club fly tying sessions the amount originally budgeted for tying materials was found to be insufficient and the club voted to increase the amount originally budgeted by an additional \$200. Larry Sisney was given a well deserved round of applause for the excellent job he has done as club treasurer.

Larry Goodman announced that he had consulted with Jerry Giles and Russ Shields about the purchase of a pedestal fan for our meeting room and because this years hot weather is about finished it was felt that this decision could be put off until a latter date. Larry announced that a coalition consisting of Temple Fork Outfitters, Sierra Club, Fly Fishing Federation, and Trout Unlimited had donated five new 5 wt fly rods, reels and lines to our club to be used at the PJC classes, Boy Scout Camp and the Saturday Clinics for teaching youth the basics of fly casting. He also announced that John Brand has put together some excellent proofs of the club business cards and will present them to the membership at the next business meeting.

The club voted to cancel our September 19 clinic so that those who wanted to support the WET AND WILD FESTIVAL at Big Lagoon State Park would be free to do so. No food will be cooked by our club on that day. Capt Harry Huelsbeck volunteered to coordinate the event and he and Jerry Aldridge will demonstrate fly tying. Other club members present at the event will demonstrate fly casting. Art deTonnancourt volunteered to obtain signage for the event and the club approved an amount of \$50 to cover his expenses.

Following a drawing for door prizes the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. Bob Willice, secretary

Mutant Shrimp... Jerry Aldridge



A few years back several vendors started carrying a synthetic hackle variously called tri-lobal hackle, krystal hackle, polar chenille and other names. The material was designed to wrap around the hook shank the same way as natural hackle with a braided core like chenille plus fibers on just one side of the core. Naturally I had to try it out. The first one that I tried for speckled trout had a marabou tail with copper flash in the tail and a hackled body/collar wrapped with UV polar chenille made by Wapsi. Speckled trout liked it just fine especially in winter in deeper, murkier water. Later I used various tail materials like zonker strips, rubber hackle and even curly plastic tails.

Then one day I was browsing through the fly bins at the Bass Pro Shop in Spanish Fort when I came across a very similar fly with a couple of clever variations, a tail with four squirrel zonker strips and several striped rubber strips tied in behind the eyes. I borrowed those ideas, added a bit of orange and silver holographic flashabou to come up with the current version. I would give credit to the Bass Pro fly tyer and use his name for the fly but can remember neither. Everything has to have a catchy name so "Mutant Shrimp" it is. Speckled trout and large-mouth bass take it with zest.

MATERIALS

HOOK	Mustad 34007, sizes 2-6
THREAD	3/0 black or orange
EYES	3/16 Real Eyes Plus, black/red
TAIL	Four 1.5" pine squirrel zonker strips, crawdad orange, 4-6 doubled strands holographic flashabou, orange/silver
BODY	UV Polar Chenille, rusty copper, 6"
LEGS	Sili Legs, barred orange/black, two 4" strips



TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Bend barb down and place hook in vise. Jam knot thread on behind hook eye and lay thread base to bend. Select one of the zonker strips. Tie in at bend with leather facing up and about 1/4" of the strip forward of bend. Cover that 1/4" with thread wraps and return thread to bend.



2. Tie in second strip on top first with leather facing down. Tie in third strip in like manner with leather facing either side of shank. Tie in last strip on opposite side of shank with leather facing shank. Trim excess hair.



3. Select 4-6 strands of flashabou, double around tying thread and tie in back to zonker strips with flash extending to rear. Trim flash at least 1/2" longer than squirrel strips.



4. Tie in 6" strip of polar chenille at bend with hackle extending to the rear. Wrap thread forward in loose wraps to point about 1/4" behind hook eye. Tie in Real Eyes there and secure firmly with series of figure eight wraps. Leave thread behind eyes.

Mutant Shrimp.... Jerry Aldridge (continued)



5. Wrap polar chenille forward with firm, adjacent turns. With your "off" hand keep stroking the fibers to the rear making sure none get trapped under tying thread. Also make sure bare side of chenille always faces hook shank. Continue wrapping until you reach eyes. Secure chenille there with a half hitch but do not cut off excess. Select one of the sili legs, double around thread and tie in at side of shank with both halves extending to the rear. Tie in second sili leg the same way on other side of shank. Take 2-4 additional wraps of polar chenille to cover previous thread wraps behind eyes. Move tying thread under the hook to just in front of eyes. Build neat thread and cover with head cement or epoxy. Trim sili legs to same length as flashabou.

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

At the October 8 Bull Session Jerry Aldridge will lead us in tying a new fly partly of his design and partly borrowed from Bass Pro Shop. For lack of a catchy name, Jerry dubbed the fly the "Mutant Shrimp". It uses several materials and tying techniques which may be new to some of us. Fly tying starts at 6:30 PM. bring your fly tying tools and tie along with other club members and guests.

The October Casting and Tying Clinic will be held Saturday October 17 from 9:00 AM until about 1:00 PM. Starting at 9:00 AM Jerry will again lead the tying session. This time Jerry will teach us how to tie the "Stealth Bomber" a top water fly.

The materials list and tying instructions for the Mutant Shrimp and Stealth Bomber are included in this newsletter. Your club and Jerry 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. Both flies have caught speckled trout and bass.

John Brand will conduct the casting clinic on Saturday October 17. John can teach you basic fly-casting or help you improve your 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.

Fishing Report....Dane Law, Southeastern Anglers



After eight months of mostly high and nonfishable water, we are now seeing some good flow rates on the Cumberland river. USACE has been keeping the level of Lake Cumberland constant for the dam repair work that is going on. So when we get a year like this where there is abundant rain, they will be releasing much more water and we will see more high flows in the tailwater. Now that we are entering Fall, we are seeing much better low flows. Fall is typically our dry season here so we expect mostly low water for the next few months.

Anytime you reduce lake levels and then generate at high levels, you have to be concerned about tailwater temperatures in our southeastern rivers. USACE operates real time temperature monitoring stations just below the dam and at Burkesville, KY which is about 30 miles below the dam. The temperature at the dam is currently 59°F and it is 62°F at Burkesville. These are actually better temperatures than we have seen in Burkesville since the cicada spectacle early in 2008.

Rocky had an opportunity to get on the river last week with a few adventurous clients. Photos included here are from those trips. Eric's big brown is 21.5", Glen's brown is 19", and Jim's rainbow is 18". I might add that some guides may have tried to stretch the fish in their high teens to 20 inchers, but not Rocky. The preferred rig was a hopper/dropper which has worked well for us the last few late summer/early fall seasons.

I am delighted to be able to put out a good fishing report from the Cumberland River. We especially love Fall here, and it looks like 2009 is going to be another good one. We are currently booking dates for September through December on the Cumberland River in south central Kentucky....Dane Law, 770-655-9210



Stealth Bomber... Original Recipe by Kent Edmonds

One of my favorite top water flies is the Dahlberg Diver, a deer hair fly with head sloped up from the hook eye to a diving collar. When stripped the Dahlberg fly dives under the water as much as several inches and then pops quickly back to the surface. All this action and noise attracts fish from near and far. Unfortunately, my attempts at spinning deer hair results in something a cat might cough up and the going price at a fly shop is 5-6 bucks, minimum. Being both inept and cheap, I started experimenting with sheet foam to develop a head that looked and acted like the Dahlberg Diver. After a few hours at the vise with scissors and foam, I came up with the fly in the first photo. It did not look much like the original but it dived and sputtered and the speckled trout loved it. Naturally, I was quite proud of my originality.



But then I started reading and googling. Tom Regina lent me his copy of "Tying Foam Flies" by Skip Morris. One of Skip's flies looked suspiciously like mine but how could he have copied mine since his book was written 16 years earlier? And I found dozens of recipes on the internet all with that familiar sloping face and diving collar. Even Cabela's and Feathercraft had the flies for sale. So much for my originality. One of the internet flies I found is the Stealth Bomber tied by Kent Edmonds, a full time flyfishing guide in LaGrange, Georgia, website www.flyfishga.com/stealth/htm. The recipe here is Kent's fly with a few variations.

MATERIALS

Hook	Mustad 34011, Size 4
Thread	White, then red, prefer Danville flat-waxed nylon, 3/0 will do
Tail	White marabou, tied full, topped with crystal flash, copper and root beer, 4-6 strands each, doubled, optionally a dyed grizzly hackle on each side of the marabou
Head	White 3mm foam in the shape and dimensions shown
Body	Ice chenille, medium clear or white
Legs	Tarantu-legs, medium black and white tipped with orange marker, two pairs each side



TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Place hook in vise. Attach thread and lay thread base from hook eye to bend finishing above barb. Select a full marabou plume and a second if required for a full tail. Position the marabou atop hook and tie in so tail is one hook in length. Wrap thread over butts of marabou forward to 1/4" or so behind eye. Return thread to rear. Select 4-6 strands root beer and copper crystal flash, double around tying thread and tie in atop marabou. Trim crystal flash 1/4-1/2" longer than marabou. Optionally, tie in a died (red, orange, purple, etc.) grizzly hackle on each side of marabou. Tie in 6" length of crystal chenille and bring thread forward to hook eye.

Stealth Bomber... Original Recipe by Kent Edmonds (continued)



2. Cut a piece of white 3mm foam in the shape shown. The long part is a hook gape wide and two hooks long. The triangle top is 3 hook gapes wide. My original had a circle instead of a triangle; the triangle is easier.



3. Place foam atop hook with small end of triangle just behind eye. Center the foam and pinch quite securely to prevent slipping as you wrap (readjust foam as necessary throughout tying process). Wrap 3-4 turns just behind eye, then 6-8 firm spiral turns back to the bend. The foam will have a segmented appearance. Now take the same number of turns forward in the tracks of the previous wraps stopping just behind eye.



4. Wrap ice chenille forward in the tracks of the thread wraps stopping at the eye. Secure chenille with 3-4 thread wraps and trim excess chenille. Return thread to center following tracks of ice chenille. Bring the tail foam piece forward to secure at the hook center. The foam forms a hump; the higher the hump, the more bubbles will form in the water when your bomber pops to the surface. You can experiment later; for now try to approximate the hump in the photo. Secure foam at center with 3-4 firm wraps and cut off excess.



5. Bring the triangle foam piece backward and secure with several firm wraps at hook center. Whip finish or take 3-4 half hitches all in the same place. Cut thread and remove fly from vise. Trim foam to form a roughly circular or oval collar as shown in the photo.



6. Remount fly in vise upside down. Tie in red thread atop white thread wraps. Tie in two pairs of legs each side as shown in photo. Remove fly from vise. Color the tips of each leg with orange marker. Apply head cement to all thread wraps.

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton

September was the typical transition-into-fall month. The Gulf of Mexico remained clear and beautiful east of Pensacola Pass, with the water west of the pass stained but fishable about half the time. The most exciting fishing has been for bluefish in excess of 5# in the area known as "Crane Cove" a couple miles to the west. On days with a shore break we've been anchoring outside the bar where we can watch for fish moving between us and the beach. The bigger blues have been in water that's 3-4' deep, and we've been using Clouser minnows to get the fly down to the fish. On calm days when we can pole inside the bar we're using poppers. You'll also get some shots at sharks hanging around the bluefish.

There are lots of ladyfish out there but not as many big ones as last year. We were catching fish up to 4# last year, but this year it's been hard to find a two pounder. I hope that improves in the next few days as I have a lady angler trying for a world record next week. A three pound fish would beat the 15# tippet class women's record the last time I looked.



The best inside action at the moment is on big Spanish mackerel on all your favorite grass flats. These are fat fish in the 3-5# range, and man do they hammer the fly. The fish in the photo measured 24" to the fork, weighed 4 1/2#, and took my client about 50 yards into the backing. We landed two fish that morning and got cut off by big fish three times. I've been using my favorite tan/white Clouser minnow and a two foot section of 40# fluoro bite tippet. Much of the water in the Intracoastal Waterway is tanin-stained at the moment, but that hasn't slowed down the Spanish.



There continue to be lots of trout on the grass and sand flats. On deeper flats be sure to let the fly sink down deep at first and then use snappy strips with big pauses between strips. Lots of times the take comes on the drop.



We were surprised and thrilled to land the first pompano of the fall season on a grass flat a few days ago. This fish ate a Clouser rigged for Spanish with 40# fluoro. We had an excellent fall pompano run on the grass flats a few years ago, but it didn't happen last year. Maybe it'll be hot again this October. One thing for sure, when the water clears up you're not going to be catching pompano on 40# tippet...

The missing piece continues to be the darn false albacore. I have high hopes that this cooler weather will bring them back close to shore. We ought to see some schools of jack crevalle moving down the beaches pretty soon, too.

With the road to Ft Pickens still open there will be plenty of outstanding fishing available to anybody willing to drive over there and wade out on a sand bar. That's where I'll be on days when I'm not working...Capt Baz

Around the Bay... and Further Away



From Karen Brand...We found out about a lake outside on Cody WY and we were told that we would have to work hard to catch anything less than 20". They were right and this was one of Tom's big fish. Mostly rainbows with a few browns. Having the drift boat made fishing easy. When the fish were rising the go-to fly was the crackleback, other times they would take streamers and the baby rainbow patterns worked well.

From Joe Higgins...Another beautiful Wyoming trout. Was it from the same lake, Joe?

FLY FISHERS

OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**PO BOX 1041
 PENSACOLA, FL 32591**



OCTOBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Business Meeting 7 PM		Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM		
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	30	31