

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 2005

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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
4TH TUESDAY, 6:30PM

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Milt's First Colorado Fishing Report

Since our arrival on 30 July Lynn and I have been fishing several times in different areas. The first day trip was to Rocky Mountain National Park(RMNP), which is about an hour away. Lynn managed to catch several fish, and I caught at least a dozen greenback cutthroat, mostly on the Crackle Back. I also caught another 10 or so, some brookies, rainbow, brown and cutbow. RMNP is pretty crowded on the weekend, but the weekdays are very pleasant. There is a host of wildlife for viewing, elk, deer, Rocky Mountain Big Horned Sheep to name a few.

The next trip was to Horsetooth Reservoir in my brother-in-law's pontoon boat. We caught a handful of Small-mouth bass on guess what fly...the Clowser Minnow. When cruising out of the harbor in the morning a week ago, we saw a Rocky Mountain Goat male and female on the buttes at the harbor entrance.

Then three days ago Lynn and I went camping in the back of the Avalanche in North Park. The main purpose of the trip was to see a moose. That has been one of Lynn's goals, so this was her birthday present. Where we camped is about 2-3 hours from our house, through a winding, but beautiful mountain road over Cameron Pass and down into Routt National Forest. There we set camp, ate dinner, and no sooner got to sleep then we were awakened by wolves howling. I was glad I was not in a tent!

Well, after the night of listening to wolves we got up and drove to Walden, had a great lunch, with superb home-made blueberry pie, and then saw a golden eagle perched on the fencepost beside the highway. After that we drove around in Colorado State Forest, and back in the four wheel drive roads we spotted a moose cow and her calf about 50 yards away. Lynn was in ecstasy. After that we decided to return home. Of course there just happened to be a nice little high mountain reservoir on the way home that was home to lots of grayling. Lynn took a nap with Maggie our blond lab, and I went fishing for grayling. In about an hour I caught a dozen fish, mostly 8-11 inches in size. They would hit the fly readily, but soon grew tired of the same old fly, so I had to change it a few times. They seemed to like the Parachute Adams the best, with the Crackle Back and the Griffith's Gnat at second and third runner up. Grayling are an interesting fish, purplish silvery with a long dorsal fin, and put up quite a fight for such a small fish. I quit early, as the water was pretty cold for just blue jeans under the waders.

Today, I went fishing on the Big Thompson river, about 30 minutes from my door to on the water. I got a late start due to taking pictures of the fox in the green space behind our house, so I didn't get on the water until about noon. This river is much tougher fishing, as it gets a lot of pressure, and is catch and release only. So, the trout are pickier, and spooky. However, I managed to catch about 6-8 cutbow, rainbow and brookies, mostly on BWO. The brookies were small, but the other fish were 12-14 inches and had some weight to them. I had to leave before dusk, which I am told by locals, is the best time to fish, when they are much less picky and hit just about anything that resembles a mayfly.

So, as I sit and watch the sun go down behind the mountains, and feel the cool night air brush against my face I finish this first Colorado fishing report. I hope all is well with everyone in Pensacola. I still watch the Tropical Update on the Weather Channel at least once a day. I pray that you continue to be spared in the next two months. In the next month we will be going to Yellowstone. I'll drop you a note after that trip. Tight lines, and happy times....Milt

Minutes of the Meeting of August 2, 2005. Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida. President Jerry Aldridge presiding

General Meeting: Called to order at 7:00 pm. Previous meeting was July 5th, brief minutes were read and approved. Guest George Bennet introduced himself. He is interested getting back into fly fishing, and he wants to learn about saltwater fly fishing.

Old Business: Don Lupone gave the Treasurer's Report. Balance was still \$ 3157.41. Report was approved. Jerry asked each of the committees for a report, most had nothing to report, however were a few. **Conservation** -Skeet reported on conservation and indicated that CCA had started the process of trying to force NOAA to reduce shrimp by-catch of juvenile red snapper if federal waters off MS and LA. **Fishing Trips-** Art reported that there are no plans yet for the next club fishing trip but that we would have one this fall. **Program-** Russ said that next month we would have a program on the local striper program and where to catch them—You don't want to miss this one.

New Business: Bill Locker reported that he is interested in getting up a trip to Arkansas this fall.

Program: Jerry Aldridge gave a program on getting into tying flies for trout fishing (freshwater). He suggested choosing a few basic flies to start with before buying materials. He showed us several basic flies for top water, several nymphs and wet flies and how to fish them. He outlined the basic starting materials that one would need and suggested starting with two half rooster capes, one brown and one grizzley. Several people suggested that this would make a good lesson for the PJC class.

Fishing Reports: Numerous reports of specs in the sound, Bill reported catching trout blues and ladyfish in the bay and said he caught specks, reds and blues in St Joe. Geroge reported catching a black drum in LA. Travis reported seeing tarpon from Pensacola Beach pier. Jerry Aldrich reported catching lots of specks.

Door Prizes: Prizes including flies and tying supplies were raffled.

Meeting Adjourned: Emile Lores, Secretary

President's MessageJerry Aldridge

Is 94 degrees this year hotter than 94 degrees in past years or does something happen to your internal thermostat as you get a little older? At any rate, it has been hot, hot, hot! The inshore fishing is still good though with plenty of speckled trout around wherever you can find good seagrass in 2-10 feet of water. Topwater flies (poppers, sliders, gurglers) bring fish to the surface, sometimes explosively, especially early. A little later, clouser minnows and gotchas in earthtones (tan, brown, olive) are the ticket.

Don't miss the business meeting September 6th. **Chris Hickey**, a biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, will be the speaker. His subject will be "The Painted Bream". This unique bream is found only in the Dead Lakes area of the Chipola River drainage.

Travis Akins will chair the Nominating Committee once again this year, so don't be surprised if he asks you in the near future to consider standing for election to one of our club offices. Elections will be held at the November business meeting with results to be announced at our annual banquet in December. Six positions will be filled, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and two at-large Directors. Some incumbents will probably agree to serve again if elected but one position will be vacant for sure - the office of President. I will continue to publish our newsletter so somebody else can be president. Nominations at the November meeting can come from the Nominating Committee or from any regular member. Our "Angler of the Year" will also be chosen by secret ballot in November.

Shrimp and fish will be the fare at our picnic October 9th at Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze. The cleanup work is mostly done, the weather should be cooler and the fish should still be biting so don't miss this shindig. The Pensacola Yacht Club will host our annual banquet on December 1st with fine food, presentation of 2006 Officers and 2005 Angler of the Year, and great door and raffle prizes. Look for more details in next month's newsletter.

Andy Housand would like to remind all members, especially newcomers, that he is able to buy quality fly tying materials at a 20% or so discount off retail price. Better yet, he doesn't mind ordering for club members so give him a holler at housltc@cox.net or 433-6887. Hooks are an especially good value. Speaking of good value, **Academy Sports** on Davis Highway has a \$39.99 entry level tying kit that is super - tools, instructional video tape, hooks, tying materials for several different flies, etc. A child, grandchild or adult beginner would benefit.

Baz Yelverton, member and area guide is on the "guide program" with Temple Fork Outfitters. Baz says the Temple Fork rep would like to speak to the group sometime in the fall. He said he would bring twenty or so rods for everybody to cast and have a drawing at the end for a free rod. I know some members have TFO rods, but they might not have the new TiCr and the TiCr+ series. Let's do it!

Tom Regina needs "a few used, old, nasty, beat up, dirty, fleece lined leather fly wallets and/or fleece fly patches". Reach him at 458-2978 or reginat@gulf.net.? Tom also passes along this tying tip. Are you having trouble tying parachute type flies? Then take a look at "Posting Up" in the fall 2005 issue of "American Angler" magazine. The article by Scott Sanchez is very good and will help you tie some nice flies such as the ever fish catching Parachute Adams. Scott gives some great tips not only on building wing posts but also some tips to quicken the tying process without trapping hackle in the thread wraps. May all your drifts be drag free....Jerry Aldridge

FISHING OUTING.... We will combine a fishing trip with the fall picnic that is scheduled for Sunday, October 9th. Plan to be at Shoreline Park around sunrise for coffee & doughnuts, area briefing and to sort out boat sharing arrangements. We will fish until around noon and then regroup for fish tales, fellowship and great food. More specific information to follow later. Please contact **Art deTonnancourt**, fishing trip chairperson, with any suggestions to make this trip more fun. 492-3833 or artdetonnancourt1@cox.net.

West Virginia Sojourn... Bill Locher



Val and I took a trip to our property in WV this past week and while there I took advantage of some leisure time to fish in one of the local lakes. On Thursday I got up early (about 0600) and went to Wal-Mart to get my 3 day permit. After getting my permit and some coffee I headed to Charles Fork Lake, about 8 to 10 minutes from town, to do a bit of Bream fishing. I had taken one of my kayaks and was looking forward to some time on the lake, no matter how crowded it was. I actually got on the water about 0830. I decided to paddle to the upper end and the fish my way back. As determined as I was to get to the other end of the lake,

I still stopped a few times on the way (I could hear the fish calling my name) and managed to catch fish at every stop. It didn't take long to reach the upper landing, even with the numerous stops along the way as the lake is only about 80 acres and so, takes only about 30 minutes of relaxed paddling. Along the way I passed 3 other boats, all of which contained Bass fisherman, none of which had ever seen anyone fly fishing, much less doing it out of a kayak. I stopped to talk to all of them and all were quite pleasant. Shortly after I started back toward the truck, the wind came up and sort of complicated things a little. This had the effect of chasing the other boaters off the lake, leaving me to my own private, 80 acre pond. I guess the wind was caused by a storm front that was moving through and lasted no more than 45 minutes and really never stopped me from fishing anyway. After the wind calmed down it was very pleasant and a light breeze headed me in the direction I wanted to go. It was wonderful being on the lake all by myself, the wind at my back and the fish biting! The only thing I had to worry about was getting home in time for dinner, at about 1630. Well I made it back after releasing 3 Crappie and 119 Bream. I was only an hour and a half late for supper and for some reason the only one smiling.

I didn't fish again till Sunday morning and actually got a late start at that. I was back at the same lake by 1100 and used the same routine, paddle to the upper end and let the breeze blow me back to the truck. I made sure to be home in time for dinner as we were taking Val's dad out to eat. I only fished till 1400 and still got 1 Crappie and 63 Bream for my trouble. Not bad for a hot summer day.



Kyle Finkle on Utah's Green River with his first rainbow and brown trout on a fly. Kyle and some reprobate (could it be Dad?) looking for the Sundance Kid.



Trout Candy... Kevin Cohenour

HOOK	Long shank stainless steel, size 1 to 8
THREAD	Monocord or flat nylon, color optional (I like red or pink)
WEIGHT	Lead eyes
TAIL	Brown & white bucktail or synthetic hair, krystal flash
BODY	Chartreuse ice chenille, pink ice chenille



1. Slightly bend the hook shank, at about the 1/3 point, to bring the eye slightly closer to the point. Secure hook in vise. Start thread and wind back to the bend at the 1/3 point.

2. Place lead eyes at the bend made in step 1 and secure using diagonal "X" wraps. Wrap thread horizontally around the eyes to securely fasten. If desired, add a drop of super glue to the wraps. Wind thread back to bend.



3. Place a small amount of brown bucktail/synthetic hair (no more than a fat matchstick size bundle on a size 1 hook) so it extends about a hook shank's length past the bend. A little longer is fine. Secure and wind thread back to the bend. Place 10-12 strands of krystal flash (slightly longer than the bucktail) on top of the brown. Secure and wind thread back to the bend. Place a small amount of white bucktail/synthetic hair on top of the krystal flash. Secure and wind thread back to the bend.

4. Secure the chartreuse ice chenille at the bend. Wind thread to just behind the lead eyes. Coat the shank with cement. Closely wrap the chenille, stroking the fibers back between each wrap. Wrap to just behind the eyes, leaving room for one wrap of pink behind the eyes. Secure and cut excess.



5. Secure the pink ice chenille behind the eyes. Wind thread forward to just behind hook eye. Coat eyes and head with cement. Make 1 wrap of chenille behind the eyes, then a figure 8 wrap over the eyes. Closely wrap chenille to just behind the hook eye, again stroking fibers back between wraps. Secure and trim excess. Form a head, whip finish and cement.

September Quick Ties.... The Crackleback.... Original Recipe by Ed Story

Hook	Dry Fly 1X Long, Dai-Riki #300 Size 12 was the original hook used by Ed.
Thread	Black 6/0 or 8/0
Body	Pale morning dun turkey round
Shellback	3 strands of peacock herl
Hackle	Dark Furnace or Brown



1. Place hook in vise and lay thread base from the eye to bend. Select a size 12 hackle and tie in at the bend with the hackle's dark side facing toward you. Measure the hackle with a gauge or gape of the hook (barb length 1 ½ times gape width).



2. Place 3 strands of peacock herl on top hook shank with at least an inch extending rearward from the hook. Tie in the herl along the full length of the shank leaving a little room for the head of the fly. Return tying thread to bend. Cut a full length of turkey round approximately ¼ inch in diameter and tie in by the points along the full length of the shank starting at the bend.



3. Wrap the turkey round forward in firm, slightly overlapping turns to form the body of the fly. Tie the round in just behind the eye and trim the excess. Some tyers like to use Hackle pliers to wrap the turkey round; others prefer to wrap with on hand and use the other to keep the round from unraveling. Apply a light coat of head cement to the turkey round body, this makes the body much more durable.

4. Bring the peacock herl forward along the top shank of the hook and tie in just behind the eye. Palmer the hackle forward with 5 or 6 turns and tie in behind the eye. Trim the excess, build a small head, whip finish and coat lightly with head cement.



EDITOR'S NOTE: The Crackleback Queen (Karen Brand) wrote this recipe based on Feathercraft Owner Ed Story's original. CQ and her fishing buddies have caught trout on this fly from the Smokies to the Rockies to the Sierras and lots of places in between. CQ says to fish it as a dry fly until the end of the drift, then pull it under, strip it back and hang on for the strike! You might also try skittering it or fishing it as a nymph or wet fly. Under the water or on top, dead drift or dragging—it is deadly!

Hooking Up, Part 1, or How a Hook is Made.... Tom Regina

Fly fishing hook manufacturing today is primarily a mechanized and in most cases fully automated process. The hook making process begins with high carbon steel wire. Once the proper diameter wire has been selected for the size and style of a particular hook, it is cut to the length required for the finished hook. The next step is to [point] the wire. In the past the point was hand filed. Today the point is usually cut on the diagonal to form the point or the point is formed on a grinding machine.

After pointing, the hook barb is formed by slicing into the wire at an acute angle and raising a small sliver or burr to create the barb. This cut must be accurately controlled because too deep a cut will reduce the hook strength.

The next step is [shaping] the hook or forming the bend. Each hook is bent in a die that matches the design, shape, and size of a particular hook. The die configuration determines the type or shape of the bend. For example, Aberdeen, Sproat, Perfect, and Limerick, etc.

The term used to describe the process of forming metal is [forging]. In hook making, forging refers to the flattening of the round wire. After pointing and shaping the hook is forged or flattened on both sides. Starting at a point behind the barb and extending throughout the bend the wire is flattened in a press. This forging process increases the straight line pull strength of the hook. Forging may include much or all of the hook shank especially heavy wire saltwater hooks.

The last step in forming the hook is forming the eye. This step involves holding the hook stationary and bending the eye end of the wire around a form or metal peg of the correct diameter. This may seem simple enough, and for large hooks it may well be simple, however when considering very small fly fishing hooks the peg used to form the eye may be as small in diameter as 3X or 4X or smaller tippet material. After the eye is formed the hook eye is bent up or down for a [turned up] or [turned down] eye if the hook is not to be a straight eye hook.

Today most hooks are [chemically sharpened]. The hook is bathed in acid to dissolve tiny burrs and abrasions. Chemical sharpening also serves to clean the hook and produce a sharper point and barb, or spear.

The sharpened hook is then tempered by heating the hook then rapidly cooling it in a liquid. Tempering hardens the metal and increases its resistance to bending.

Fly fishing hooks most commonly have a bronze finish which is the result of **applying** one or more coats of amber colored lacquer to the hook surface. Other color finishes can be achieved by applying the desired pigmented lacquer. After each coat of lacquer the hook is baked in an oven. Gold and silver finishes are the result of electroplating rather than lacquering.

Keeping Epoxy in its Place.... Tom Regina

Epoxy is an excellent fly tying adhesive. I use it for finishing flashback nymphs, fly bodies and over bodies, gluing eyes on flies and coating thread heads for a hard, smooth, durable finish. Epoxy forms a very strong bond but is not particularly convenient to use. Epoxy has to be accurately measured and thoroughly mixed from two equal parts - a resin and a hardener. When a slow-curing epoxy is used for a fly body, over body, or to coat thread heads, the hook (fly) must be rotated continually until the epoxy has dried to keep it from dripping or sagging.

It seems no matter how careful I am when using epoxy, I get the stuff on parts of the fly where it just doesn't belong. It gets on the feathers, hair and flash, etc. where it shouldn't be. The other day I tied up two dozen "Black Ice" streamers. When applying the epoxy to the thread heads and moving the flies to the turner for rotation, some of the wispy marabou barbs, even with the ceiling fan off, got stuck to the epoxy. After the epoxy cured I was able to, somewhat, clean up the affected flies and re-epoxy the heads, but they just weren't what they should have been. (I hope Doc Birdwell is correct... the fish don't care.)

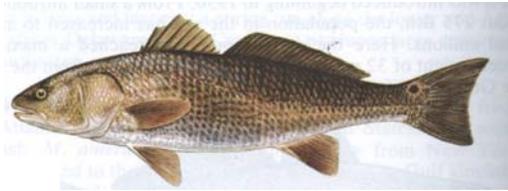
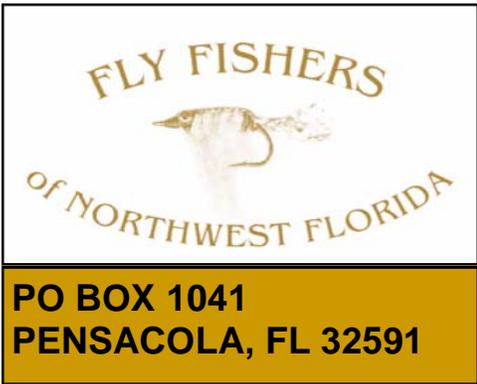
My next self imposed tie was twenty-four "Quebec Whore" streamers. The Quebec Whore was also to have an epoxy coated thread head. I didn't get any epoxy where it should not be. Before applying the epoxy, I trapped the body and wing materials at the hook mid point with several whip finish thread wraps around the materials and the hook. But now I had another problem - it wasn't easy getting the *#^* trapping thread off the fly. After several *contemplation beers* I figured I had the epoxy problem untangled.

OK, so now to the purpose of all this....**Keeping Epoxy in its Place.** Next I tied a bunch of "Guide Special" streamers and before coating the heads with epoxy....**NOW HERE IT COMES....**I slipped a rubber O-ring over the head and down to the mid point of each fly body. Volia, no epoxy where it didn't belong. To get the O-rings off the flies I just slid them down the hook and around the hook bend. Problem solved.

The O-rings I used were size #36, 5/16" O.D. x 3/16" I.D. x 1/16". Other size O-rings can be used depending on the size of the flies. I purchased the O-rings from the plumbing department at Lowe's. O-Rings can also be purchased from any Motion Industries, Inc. store or from a dealer specializing in bearings.

Seems my best thoughts come from a Bud bottle. Heck, I was drinking Bud when my bride proposed and my first *thought* was yes. That thirty-six year old thought was one of my best.





SEPTEMBER 2005

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		
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		

