

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 2008

THE FLYFISHERS OF
NORTHWEST FLORIDA
PO BOX 1041
PENSACOLA, FL 32591
www.flyfishpensacola.
com

PRESIDENT

Karen Brand
(850) 516-1852
kbrand@santarosamri.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Joe Higgins
(850) 458-2533
jhigpcola@aol.com

SECRETARY

Jerry Giles
(850) 994-9946, FlyFisher-
man1942@aol.com

TREASURER

Larry Sisney
(850) 474-1433
lsisney@cox.net

NEWSLETTER

Jerry Aldridge
(850) 478-9255
jamayfly@yahoo.com

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

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President's MessageKaren Brand

Westward Ho! John and I will be heading west for our annual fishing trip so you will not be seeing us the month of September. We will be adding some new fishing destinations to our trip and now that I have my Blackberry phone I hope to be able to send Jerry a few pictures for the newsletter! With the heavy snowpack last winter most of the rivers in WY, UT and NM seem to have lots of water and reports are they are fishing well.

Since I will probably not be back in time to write a Presidents Report for the October newsletter I wanted to mention several activities that we have planned for the next 2 months. The September meetings include the General Membership meeting Sept 2, Bull Session, Sept 11 and the Saturday Clinic on Sept 20th. The Panhandle Fly Fishers have also invited our club members to a special program on fishing for Peacock Bass that will be given in Destin on Sept 4 at 7 PM. To get more information on the program you can e-mail club president Don Chattin at broglin@aol.com or call Bill at 850-651-3474.

October is a busy month for the club and we have made some changes to the normal schedule so please mark your calendars. The General Membership Meeting is Oct 7 and the Fall Seafood Picnic is Sunday, Oct 12 at Shoreline Park. The October Clinic will be Saturday, Oct 18 but it will be held at the Navy Docks on the Blackwater River in Santa Rosa County. Art deTonnancourt will be coordinating the event and it will be a combination fishing trip, casting activities, coffee and donuts for breakfast and lunch at noon. As the date gets closer, Art will be sending out driving directions and the schedule for the morning. The Navy Docks does have a boat ramp and also offers boats for rent. The river is a beautiful place to fish, boat or kayak so please put the date on your calendar and makes plans to attend. See you all in October!....Karen Brand

General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, August 5th, President Karen Brand, presiding

President Karen Brand called the board meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

The first discussion was for our October plans for the club. The fall picnic will be held at Shoreline Park on the 12th. The Thursday 9th., Flies and Lies session will be cancelled and consolidated with the planned trip to Blackwater River for fishing and cook-out on the 18th. Art DeTonnancourt is the coordinator for that trip.

Skeets Lores moved that the president's shirt customarily given at the end of the year, be presented at the beginning of that term. The board approved unanimously. There was also discussion of the idea of having a club shirt designed for those interested.

John Brand suggested that we consider purchasing the equipment for presentation of power point programs. He will look into the required expenditure.

At the general membership meeting, at about 7:00 P.M., Larry Sisney presented the Treasurer's Report. He stated that the dues for 2008 membership in the Fly Fisher's Federation had been paid. The report was accepted by the members. The minutes of the July meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

John Brand announced that the fly casting accuracy items he made for the club are completed and ready for our casting clinics and competition.

Jerry Aldridge gave a very informative and enthralling presentation on the outer coverings of domestic fowl (yard birds). Thanks Jerry, for the great addition of info. to the members store of valuable tying and feather selection expertise.



Bob Willice Fishing Report

I was fishing for reds this week in the bay beneath schools of menhaden when this funny looking red invited himself to dinner. The king was a real smoker and weighed 22 pounds. I had to chase him down. Needless to say it made my day. The amazing thing was I caught it without wire. The hook was perfectly placed in the corner of his mouth where his teeth couldn't reach the line.

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton



Cool water temperatures in the gulf continued throughout August and eliminated our king mackerel, false albacore, jack crevalle and tarpon fishing. The ladyfish, however, weren't fazed by the cooler temps and provided explosive topwater strikes for my fly casters. Here's a shot of Todd Opsel, Madison, WI, with a typical catch taken August 27. There were also some bluefish and Spanish mackerel in the mix, with a few of the blues in the 4 pound range. Our most productive "big fish" action was on sharks close to shore. We hooked a few on both poppers and weighted streamer flies but never got one to the boat.

Just in the past two days the Spanish mackerel have been thick east of the pass and about a half mile offshore. These are the biggest fish we've found in the gulf all year, with some fish pushing 5 pounds. They are pickier than normal, and we had to use #6 gummy minnows yesterday. Earlier in the month we found them around Town Point. This is Jeff Morris from Atlanta with a mean looking catch on August 9.



For those of you tiring of catching ladyfish, bluefish and Spanish, there's a light at the end of the tunnel. Today we landed the first and second pompano in three months. We found the fish close to the pass in the Big Lagoon. Two days ago we saw five pompano while anchored on a sandbar close to the Ft McRee steel jetty. I have my fingers crossed for an early fall run in all the usual spots around the pass. Here's today's photo that proves beyond question that there was a pompano landed on August 30. Too bad it was on spinning gear....Capt Baz

ps: I'm also attaching a shot from yesterday of the all time boat record ladyfish. This fish weighed 4 pounds on the bogagrip...not quite in the baby tarpon range but pretty darn close!



October Fishing Trip... Art de Tonnancourt, Event Coordinator

The club will combine our October clinic with a fishing trip at the navy fishing camp "Whiting Park". I have reserved a pavilion for October 18th and hope all of you will reserve that day for fishing both freshwater and saltwater species and fellowship at the park. The park is located less than a mile from the bridge crossing the Blackwater river in downtown Milton. We will all meet at 7:30 AM for coffee and doughnuts, followed by fishing and casting instructions. More details to come on driving directions, boat availability, program etc. in the October Flies and Lies.

Drowned Hopper... Tom Regina

September is well into hopper season on rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds in the southeast, especially on waters with bank-side tall grasses and other vegetation. Not all hoppers that fish eat will be floating on the water surface. As with other terrestrials, some hoppers will drown and sink below the surface where they become appealing to fish as a meal partly because the fish are more secure and safer from predators when feeding subsurface. Don't let the list of tying materials below prevent you from tying this drowned hopper. Though the list may seem extensive, the fly is a simple and quick tie. You may use a substitute for the olive dubbing and olive pheasant-tail. Use any suitable color nymph dubbing and natural color pheasant-tail barbs. So tie up a few drowned hoppers for your late summer piscatorial pursuits.

Tying Materials

Hook	Mustad 9672, streamer, 3XL, size 10
Bead	1/8-inch black tungsten
Thread	6/0 or 8/0 brown or black
Tail	Red hackle barbs
Rib	Brassie size copper wire
Abdomen	Wapsi olive Awesome Possum dubbing
Legs	Speckled brown soft hackle hen tips
Wing	Dyed-olive pheasant-tail barbs
Thorax	Wapsi olive Awesome Possum dubbing



Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook and put a bead on the hook. Fix the hook in the vise. In tight, touching turns wrap a neat thread base around the hook shank from directly in back of the bead to a point directly above the hook barb.



2. Strip about 6 to 10 red hackle barbs from a feather so the barb tips are aligned and even. Tie the tail on top of the hook shank at the thread hang point directly above the hook barb with the feather barb tips extending back from the tie on point about one hook shank length. Bind the butts of the tail to the top of the hook shank with several spiral thread wraps forward to the back of the bead. Cut away any excess butts.



3. Cut about a 6-inch length of wire from the spool and tie it onto the top on the hook shank at the front thread hang point directly in back of the bead. In tight, touching, neat turns, bind the wire to the top of the hook shank back to a point directly above the hook barb.



4. From the rear thread hang point, dub a tight, neat carrot-shaped abdomen (body) covering about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the hook shank. *The wide end of body will be at the front.*

Drowned Hopper... Tom Regina (continued)



5. Spiral wrap the wire forward in about 6 turns to form body segmentation and give durability to the dubbed body. Tie off the wire directly in front of the body and cut away the excess wire.



6. In the space between the front of the body and the bead, tie on one hen hackle tip to each side of the hook shank. *Do be sure to tie the hackle tips to the sides of the hook shank.*



7. Strip about 15 pheasant-tail barbs from a feather so the barb tips are aligned and even. Tie the clump of pheasant-tail barbs to the top of the hook shank between the front of the body and the bead to form a wing that extends over the body to a point even with the tail tip. *Don't be overly concerned with the shabby appearance of the wing. Think what you would look like after you drowned.*



8. Over the leg and wing tie on thread wraps, dub a thorax in the space between the front of the body and the bead. Directly in back of the bead tie off the thread with several half hitch or whip finish thread wraps. Because the thread is "tucked-in" between the thorax and bead, no head cement is required.

Casting & Tying at the Club... Tom Regina


At the Thursday September 11 Bull Session starting at 6:30 PM, Russ Shields will lead us in tying the Foxy Bone fly. This fly was originally developed by Angelo Peluso and was featured in the July/August issue of Eastern Fly Fishing. Russ is a talented fly dresser and a mighty fine instructor. You will enjoy tying this saltwater fly and it will be a welcome change from tying freshwater flies.



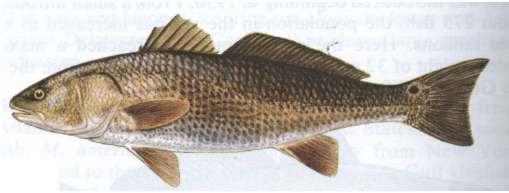
At the Saturday September 20 Casting and Tying Clinic starting at 9 AM, we will tie a Drowned Hopper as part of our ongoing series of terrestrial imitations. All fly tying materials are provided by your club for both tying sessions. If you have them, bring your vise and tools... or use the club's vises and tools.

For those of you who have a greater interest in improving your casting skills and techniques than in playing with fake bait, John Brand will be on hand at both clinics to help you achieve your goals. Bring your fly rod or use one of the club's sticks.

As usual, Russ and Jerry Giles will prepare us a mighty fine lunch Saturday. The menu this time will be BBQ pork spare ribs with fixins. Big people and little people beverages will also be available. And it's all free. So bring a guest... or more. Guests are always welcome.

FLY FISHERS

OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**PO BOX 1041
 PENSACOLA, FL 32591**



SEPTEMBER 2008

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
28	29	30				