

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
JANUARY 2007

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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

President's Report....Karen Brand 2

PJC Flyfishing Class....Tom Regina 2

Dan Green Photos 2



Saturday Fly Tying
Nymphs with Tom Regina 3

The Teal Baetis Nymph
Tom Regina 4



Fishing Reports
Capt Baz Yelverton 5
Capt Bob Quarles



Rocky Mountain High....Milt Mays 6



Mark Essert Photos 7

Tri-Lobal Flies....Jerry Aldridge 7



Calendar 8

Jerry Aldridge has found some new material to play with called tri-lobal hackle and a similar material, polar chenille. Come tie variations on old favorites with the new material at the January 11 bull session. On Saturday January 20 starting at 9:00 AM Tom Regina will teach us to tie the Teal Baetis Nymph. Your club will provide all the materials. If you have a vise and tools please bring them. If not the club will furnish them. And do bring a guest or two. We have a vise and tools for them also.

John Brand will be on hand at the Saturday January 20 clinic to help us hone our casting skills and techniques. Bring your own flinging stick or use our club rods. Bring your bride and rug rats or a guest. John has lots of patience and will be happy to teach them how to fling a fly.

At the Saturday clinic, Russ Shields and Jerry Giles will fix you a mighty fine lunch of seafood gumbo. Adult and little peoples beverages will be available - and it's all free. Russ and Jerry put on mighty fine feeds so don't miss out. And do bring a guest or two.

President's MessageKaren Brand

Happy New Year, I think that 2007 will be a great one! The Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida has quite a few programs and activities already planned for the first part of the year, thanks to the efforts of several of our members.

PLEASE NOTE, the **January** General Membership meeting will be held in January 9, at 7 PM, we have pushed the meeting back a week because of the New Year holiday. Russ Shields, Program Chair, has invited Dane Law from *SOUTHEASTERN ANGLERS* to present a program on fishing the waters in Eastern Tennessee. Many of us already fish Western NC around the Bryson City/Dillsboro area so maybe we should take a closer look at what Tennessee has to offer. The base of operation for Southeastern Anglers is in Reliance, TN in the southeastern corner of TN, only about 100+ miles from Bryson City. They guide on the Holston, Clinch, Hiwassee, Toccoa and Tellico Rivers and if you go to their web site at www.southeasternanglers.com they have some impressive photos featuring their "20 Inch Club"! Join us on January 9th and learn more about fishing the waters of Eastern Tennessee!!

2007 Membership Dues are \$30 for membership renewal and \$35 for new members. Larry Sisney, Club Treasurer has also agreed to serve as Membership Chair. He will be collecting dues during the club meetings in January and February.

The **February** General Membership meeting on Tuesday, February 6th will feature representatives from the newly formed Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) Gulf Coast Council. This new Council includes clubs from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the Panhandle of Florida. They have invited the Fly Fishers of NW Florida to become part of their new council and they will present a short program on the advantages that our club would find in being a part of that new council. It should be an informative meeting and should help the club in making the decision of whether to stay with the Southeast Council or move to the Gulf Coast Council.

The Fly Fishers of NW Florida's "**Spring Fly Fishing Clinic**" will be held on Saturday, March 17th. Guy Tillotson reps for Temple Fork Rods and he will be showcasing their line of fresh and saltwater rods. Members Baz Yelverton, Travis Akins and Russ Shields helped us coordinate a great event last year and they will be asking for volunteers to help make this Spring Clinic bigger and better! Volunteers are needed for tying and casting demonstrations, cooking and publicity. We will need everyone's help to spread the word within the community so we have a good turnout. I will announce an organizational meeting after the first of the year so if you would like to help please attend.

PJC Class March 7 - May 2, 2007 Tom Regina has graciously offered to coordinate the PJC Class again this year. He will be asking for volunteers to help with tying and casting so please put those dates on your calendar. The club will be doing some advertising for the class this year and we hope to have a good turnout.

I look forward to seeing all of you next year! Karen Brand, President



Photos from former member Dan Green "hoping to get active again with my 7 year old son Daniel after we complete reconstruction of our Ivan destroyed home."



Photos shot weekend after Thanksgiving at Dulac Charters Lodge in Louisiana.

Daniel caught his first three Redfish on fly as well as a Black Drum on fly.



Dan says "I think I've got him fired up about it now".

Pensacola Junior College Fly Fishing Class 2007

Again this year the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida in conjunction with PJC will teach a fly fishing class. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 PM at the PJC Pensacola campus, building 17 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 Capt. Baz Yelverton. However other club members are needed to serve as proctors for casting, knot tying, and fly tying instruction. Two volunteers are needed to transport the fly rods/reels and fly tying equipment to and from each class session. An additional volunteer is needed to contact media organizations and distribute flyers to local sporting goods stores with class and registration information. To volunteer contact Tom Regina, 458-2978 and/or tomregina@bellsouth.net. For members willing to serve as proctors - see you in class.

Saturday Fly Tying....Nymphs with Tom Regina

Nymph: According to Webster's Collegiate Dictionary a nymph is "any of various immature insects; esp: a larva of an insect (as a grasshopper, true bug, or mayfly) with incomplete metamorphosis that differs from the imago esp. in size and in its incompletely developed wings and genitalia". For fly anglers this definition is too narrow because we want to "nymph" with other life forms also. To suit our own wants and needs the definition of nymph needs to be expanded. For us a more complete meaning of nymph can be found in the book "Nymphing Strategies" by Larry Tullis, ISBN 1-58574-266, published by The Lyons Press. In his fine book Larry tells us a nymph refers to any subsurface, nymph-like imitation or any fly imitation that is "nymphed". Larry further goes on to define nymphs as subsurface insects and their imitations plus other free-floating, subsurface foods and imitations, such as scuds, sow bugs, aquatic worms, fish eggs, snails, flesh (as in decaying salmon), and leeches. Larry also suggests the use of soft hackle wet flies as nymphs. Thus Larry has given us the definition of nymph that we want. I will add to Larry's list one other category - that being sunken and/or drowned adult terrestrial insects such as ants, beetles, wasps, and bees, etc.

Throughout 2006 we concerned ourselves with tying streamers at our Saturday fly tying clinics. For 2007 we will stay subsurface and concentrate our efforts on tying nymphs at the Saturday clinics. (We will tie a variety of other flies at the Thursday bull sessions). Some of the nymphs we will tie will be quick and easy, others a bit more involved and complex. None however will be beyond the ability of a novice fly dresser. From time to time new materials, tying techniques, and tips will be introduced.

During our nymph tying series reference will be made to the various parts of nymphs. The language used is common *fly speak* and well understood by fly dressers. While not all nymphs contain all the parts to be mentioned, many do. Listed here are elements of a nymph as if it were being tied, starting at the back of the hook and working forward.

Tag - Many nymphs have a tag wrapped on at the back of the hook. A tag is a narrow band usually made of Mylar tinsel, wire, floss, or nylon scratch thread.

Tail - Nymph tails are tied on at the back of the hook but in front of any tag. Hackle fibers are common tailing material. Other tail material includes peacock sword fibers, duck flank feathers, golden pheasant natural tippet feathers, goose and turkey biots, hair and fur, wool yarn, and strand synthetics.

Underbody - Underbodies are used to shape the body. Many materials can be used to build underbodies. Thread, lead free wire, and yarn are just a few.

Rib - As with other types of flies, nymph ribs serve to give the fly a segmented appearance and to make fragile bodies more durable. Nymph ribs can be tied using thread, tinsel, wire, vinyl strand, and other single strand materials.

Body - Nymph bodies are made from Mylar tinsel, floss, thread, nylon scratch thread, wool yarn, chenille, feather herl, biots, dubbing, wire, glass beads, and latex or plastic.

Gills - Some nymphs have gills that are very noticeable to both the angler and the fish. Soft webby feather tufts, afterfeathers, ostrich herl, dubbing, and yarn materials are common items for imitating gills.

Legs - Legs can help imitate and enhance the appearance of subsurface flies. When a flexible material is used for legs it gives the nymph imitation lifelike movement. Nymph legs can be imitated with many fly tying materials such as feather barbs, round rubber strand materials, hair and fur, and dubbing

Wing Case - As a nymph matures and the enclosed wings develop the wing case becomes darker and more pronounced. Wing cases are imitated with whole feathers, feather segments, and synthetic sheet materials such as latex, plastic, and tinsel flash.

Wings - On nymph flies, long wings that lay along the top of the body are called down wings and imitate the wings on sunken adult insects. When short wings are tied on the top or sides of nymph imitations they represent the wings of emerging insects and may be referred to as wing buds. Many materials can be used to make wings. Biots and other feather or feather parts, synthetic sheeting, tinsel, and yarns work well as does some animal hair and fur.

Collar - Hackle wound at the front of the fly is used to form a collar also called a face or facing, or front hackle. Hackle can also be used to hackle the body of some nymph imitations.

Throat - A throat is sometimes tied on the bottom of the hook behind the head. A nymph imitation throat should be short and extend back over the belly about one forth the length of the hook shank. Feather barbs make good throats.

Eyes - Eyes for nymph imitations can be made from pre-formed or molded monofilament or plastic, glass or metal beads, bead chain, dumbbell or stick-on eyes, and coneheads. Eyes are used to give nymph patterns a realistic appearance, especially dragonfly and damselfly nymphs.

Bead Heads - Beads, both metal and glass and coneheads can be used to add weight and sparkle to your nymph patterns.

Antennae - The antennae that some nymphs display are imitated with biots, feather stems or quills, horse tail hair, moose mane hair and synthetics such as Microfibetts and monofilament that can be colored with permanent marker pens.

Jim Schollmeyer's book "Nymph Fly-Tying Techniques", ISBN number 1-57188-266-9, published by Frank Amato Publishing, Inc., is a exceptional resource covering nymph fly tying procedures and contains many nymph pat-

Saturday Fly Tying....Nymphs with Tom Regina (continued)

terns with color photos and step-by-step tying instructions. For an in-depth study and information on fishing with nymph imitations I highly recommend the book by Larry Tullis mentioned earlier and the book by Rich Osthoff, "Active Nymphing, Aggressive Strategies for Casting, Rigging, and Moving Nymphs", ISBN 978-0-8117-3255-0, published by Stackpole Books. Your club library also has extensive reference material - books, VCR tapes, and DVDs for tying and angling with nymph imitations. You may also want to counsel with club member Art deTonnancourt about fishing with nymphs. Art is an accomplished and talented nymph angler.

Nymph Ties with Tom Regina...The Teal Baetis Nymph

The Teal Baetis Nymph imitation represents a blue wing olive (BWO) nymph. The original fly was tied by Scott Sanchez and is fully described in his book "A New Generation of Trout Flies", ISBN 0-9746427-4-6, published by Wild River Press. The nymph we will tie is an adaptation from the original.

Materials

Hook	Mustad C49S, size 14
Weight	Olive green size 11/0 glass bead
Thread	UNI-Thread 8/0, tan
Tail	Teal flank feather barbs
Abdomen	Teal flank feather barbs
Rib	Fine silver wire
Thorax	Spirit River Depth Advantage dark olive dubbing
Collar	Natural Hungarian partridge feather



Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook and put a bead on the hook. Place the hook in the vise. Tie the thread to the hook shank directly in back of the bead and lay down a thread base back to the point on the hook shank directly over the hook barb. Tie in a length of silver rib wire by wrapping the thread forward and back over the wire tag end. Cut away the excess wire tag end.



2. For the tail and abdomen select a good quality teal flank feather with long barbs. Pull about a 1 inch section of the feather barbs perpendicular to the feather stem or quill to align the barb tips. Keeping the tips aligned, pull the barbs down parallel to the feather stem to remove them from the stem. With several tight overlapping thread wraps tie in the teal barbs to the top of the hook at the point directly above the hook barb so the tail extends back over the hook bend a distance equal to the hook shank length. *DO NOT cut away the feather barb butts as they will be used to form the abdomen.* Lift the barb butts out of the way and in spiral turns wrap the thread forward to about 1/16 inch in back of the bead.



3. To make the abdomen, use hackle pliers or other suitable tool to slightly twist the barb butts and wrap them forward in touching turns to the thread hang point. Tie off the abdomen with two or three tight overlapping thread wraps. Cut away the excess barb lengths. Counter wrap the rib wire forward in 5 or 6 evenly spaced spiral turns to the thread hang point. Tie off the wire and cut away the butt. Dub a small thorax that will cover the forward ends of the abdomen and wire.



4. In front of the thorax but in back of the bead tie in a partridge hackle feather by its tip. Hackle the feather between the thorax and bead one and a half turns to form a sparse collar. Tie off and cut away the excess feather stem and barbs. Half hitch or whip finish and cut away the thread. Apply a small amount of head cement to the finished thread wraps using caution not to get cement on the collar fibers.

Fishing Report... Captain Bob Quarles



A friend invited me on his boat for my birthday trip. This red was tailing for me and sucked in a clouser minnow in a foot of water, it was a sight I'll never forget. Thanks Steve for putting me on the fish, it's nice to be on the bow every now and then..In 5 days of fishing we caught 40 reds on fly.

Here's Richard Montgomery from Leland Outfitters down to do some research and development on some new rods... and pompano on fly.



Thanksgiving Day with my Dad and my son. Ben caught this fish all by himself, made the cast ---worked the lure--- hooked the fish and fought him to the boat, it was so cool.

The day after Thanksgiving, we crushed them. These two brothers know how to fish and they book me every year for the day after Thanksgiving. They fight all day long over whose is bigger, it is hilarious. I think the final tally was 26, all released to make more redfish for us. These fish are so strong and healthy, pictures don't capture the colors....Capt Bob

Capt. Bob Quarles 850 501-1530. www.blueheronguideservice.com



Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton

Your best bet for finding schools of bull reds on the surface these days is out in the gulf to the west of Pensacola Pass. Just catch a sunny day with a light north wind, and look for the birds. We found hundreds of fish yesterday in front of the Perdido Key condos. I had spin fishermen on board, but Capt Bob Quarles was there with a fly caster, and they were catching them on flies. I hope his photos make this issue.



There is a huge amount of both bay anchovies and menhaden in the bay, but we haven't found any quantity of redfish on the inside in a few weeks. I expect the fish and bait to converge around the pass during January and February. Jack Hagan from Portland, Oregon, landed the spot-covered redfish in the attached photo on December 1.

We've had pretty good success lately seeing slot-sized redfish, sheepshead and speckled trout on grass and sand flats in Santa Rosa Sound. I say "seeing" instead of "catching" because it's darn hard to get them to eat the fly. I think you either have to get out of the boat and wade for them or stake out and wait for the fish to come to you. A couple weeks ago we had so many redfish around the boat we couldn't move. They seemed to appear out of nowhere and were on to us from the get-go. There was just no chance of getting one to eat even though we had the right fly in the right place numerous times. A

few days later on December 19 Travis and I waded the same area and landed a nice 4 poundish trout on a bonefish slider. It's the latest I've ever seen a speckled trout caught on a grass bed in Santa Rosa Sound, and that's about 50 years of data. Let's attribute it to Global Warming, although the water's a chilly 60-61 degrees. If you want to find a flat that might be holding reds and trout watch for jumping mullet as they all like to hang out together.

There were numerous reports in early-to-mid December from pier fishermen of false albacore running the shore, but unfortunately all the south winds kept me from checking it out. Capt Eddie Woodall found schools of albies 5-6 miles offshore a week or so ago, and hopefully they'll make their way toward the pass in the next few weeks. There's a chance the false albacore, bull redfish, menhaden and bay anchovies will all hit the pass at the same time...a Jupiter Effect caliber event that we haven't seen since 2002.

A final note: We'd be slamming the sheepshead if Travis would just get off his duff and tie up the right fly. We're thinking a small blue crab might be the ticket. With the best sheepshead fishing coming up in the next 2-3 months now's the time to solve the puzzle. Happy New Year! Capt Baz

Rocky Mountain High... Milt Mays

Since moving to Fort Collins 15 months ago I have really enjoyed the variety of fishing available, and the grandeur of the areas I call my home waters. It is good to be back in Colorado, where I grew up. I have been fishing probably 200+ days of the year, mostly on the Big Thompson River, Cache La Poudre River, and all the areas in Rocky Mountain National Park. I felt so blessed with this cornucopia of fishing opportunities, I started guiding last summer. What a treat to teach someone how to fly fish from the ground up and to have them catch fish on flies that I tied. And, it helps pay for the addiction! I've met some of the most interesting people--a nuclear physicist, medical school professor, genetic technicians--and of course, other fly fisherman, who have taught me a lot. I've also enjoyed fishing on some of the Blue Ribbon trout rivers, including the Blue, the Arkansas, the South Platte, and the North Platte. Even with that there are more rivers and waters to fish in Colorado alone that I probably won't get a chance to fish them all. But, I'm sure going to try.

I had the occasion to share some of the local waters with Travis and the Brands over the last summer and fall. Travis arrived on one of the busiest weekends of the year, Labor Day, and fished to a crowd of onlookers, but still caught some nice green back cutthroats in Rocky Mountain National Park.



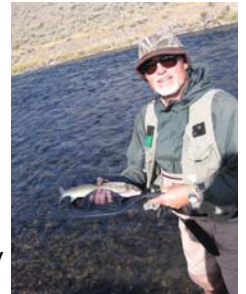
The Brands came last March, and again most recently in mid November, both times accompanied by some very cold weather and less than hospitable conditions. But, even with the lines freezing, they caught some nice fish--rainbows, cutbows, and browns--on the Big Thompson River. We also had some time to have a nice supper at the Cheesecake Factory. Kevin Cohenour and his new wife Marty met us there before they moved to Montrose, CO, four days later.



Exploring the western fishing has been wonderful, and it was a treat to meet up with Travis, Jerry, and the Brands on the Green River, and in Yellowstone. At the Green I enjoyed site-nymphing in the clear water to some very large fish, managing to land one 20" brown, on a #20 Little Green Machine--a home pattern that catches fish everywhere. That same morning I cast to some rising fish in about 12 inches of water and caught an 18 inch rainbow on a #18 parachute BWO.



Yellowstone was truly magnificent, a grand scale Rocky Mountain National Park, with so many large rivers to choose from that you could spend a lifetime learning just a few. Lynn and I were camping in a recently acquired pop-up tent, luxurious compared to last year when we camped in the back of our Chevy Avalanche. We were sure glad we had a heater, and two propane tanks, because a few days after we arrived the temperatures dropped and we got some snow. Those three days before the rest of the crew arrived I fished the Firehole and caught a lot of smaller rainbows. Then I hit the Madison and caught one large rainbow, measure out at 26 inches on a pink #18 San Juan worm, and several other browns and rainbows in the 18 inch range, some on large dry stone fly patterns. One day I was completely flabbergasted when a 20 inch Rocky Mountain White Fish took my dry fly!



Once the Brands, Jerry and Travis arrived I shared a hike to the Slough Creek first meadow with the Brands, and we caught some nice cutthroats. In the clear slow pools they were mostly hitting very small dries, but just below some deep runs, I managed to catch a couple of 18 inchers on #8 hopper patterns. What a treat to see a big cutthroat come up and inhale a big hopper! I came back to camp that night and Lynn was ecstatic--she'd spent the day with several deer across the creek from camp site at Slough Creek, and visited briefly with a coyote who trotted through.



The next day the Brands and I hiked into the Lamar River, starting to fish where Slough Creek dumps in. It is a pocket water fishery on a grand scale, with boulders as large as cars. The Brands decided to move up river, wanting broader water, and I worked my way up hitting each hole. I was sure glad I did! On one large hole, I was using a large #8 stone fly dry, and a 20 inch cutthroat inhaled it, and gave me a great fight. Succeeding holes up river I landed several 16-18 inch bows, and cuts, all on a #12 parachute green drake pattern.



Rocky Mountain High (continued)



On the 20th, Lynn and I left for home, "wolf watching" that morning. Though we didn't see any wolves, we heard some howling just before a grizzly bounded out in front of the truck on the highway, huffing at us before he ran off. I believe that was the same grizzly that was chowing down on an elk carcass on the Lamar, just upstream from where Jerry had been fishing the day before. Jerry, being a born and bred mountain man, wasn't bothered by that at all. He just gave the bear a few of his fish and kept catching, as usual.

So, if any of you decide to come out west, please let me know. I hope to have some of my bedrooms back this summer, and, between guiding trips, I should be able to share a little of the fishing with you. For sure I will be going back to Yellowstone in the fall, probably for a little longer stay. Hope your drifts have just the right



Mark Essert's dad and brother sampling Pensacola bull red fishing. Caught "trolling choppy water in the pass."



Tri-Lobal Flies.... Jerry Aldridge

I just discovered a new material that is really versatile and fun and easy to tie with. It's called tri-lobal synthetic hackle, made from antron and packaged like chenille with long fibers on just one side of the central string, sort of like a hackle with the barbs stripped from one side. Polar chenille is a similar material. Applying it on the hook is just like palmering a feather hackle while stroking the fibers to the rear so they aren't trapped by the next turn.

The black fly is a variation on a fresh water Woolly Bugger with a size 8 Mustad 9674 streamer hook, marabou tail, palmered tri-lobal hackle, and brass 5/32" hourglass eyes.

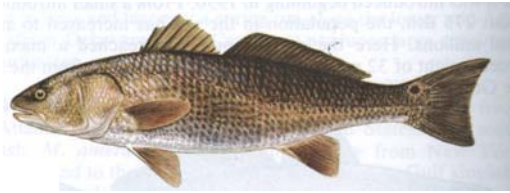
The tan and olive fly is patterned after a Clouser Minnow tied on a size 2 Mustad 34007 hook with 3/16" hour glass eyes. The tan belly is palmered tri-lobal hackle, stroked toward the top of hook, a copper flashabou lateral line and an olive yak hair back.

The orange and brown fly is a salt water Woolly Bugger with 34007 hook and hourglass eyes. The tail is orange marabou. Orange tri-lobal hackle is palmered to the hour glass eyes; one side of the orange hackle is then colored with a brown marker pen. If you have sharp eyes, you may have discovered that I accidentally colored the wrong side of the fly brown so that the dark side rides on the bottom when the fly is retrieved. The fish don't seem to care.

I have tried these flies and several other variations on the speckled trout and rat reds of Santa Rosa Sound and they work like a charm. It's too cold to try the on Smoky Mountain Trout so that report will have to wait.

Bring your tools to the Bull Session on January 11th - I will bring plenty of tri-lobal hackle and polar chenille in various colors and we will tie the fresh and salt water flies shown plus others limited only by your imagination.





JANUARY 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Business Meeting 7 PM		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	31			

