

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
DECEMBER 2004

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NORTHWEST FLORIDA
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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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Roaring Fork....Tom Regina**



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Christmas Party....Karen Brand

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**32 Inch Brown Trout
Tom Regina**



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Rocky Mountain High on the Roaring Fork... Tom Regina

The Roaring Fork River in West Central Colorado has its headwaters above the town of Aspen near Independence Pass. In the the "Forks" 70 miles of flow the river drops more in elevation than does the Mississippi River over its entire length. The river starts as a high meadow stream below Independence Pass in a marshy area dotted with beaver ponds. From its high meadow beginnings the river is a study of changing contrasts. As the Fork flows down the mountains it changes from a meandering meadow stream to a typical brawling Western freestone river. The upper parts of the river are thin and steep. Small rainbows, brook and cutthroat trout make up the fish population as the river moves along from cascade to plunge pool to cascade. Anglers on the upper river are few and the terrain encourages solitude. Solitude - but not quiet. The Fork gets its name because of the numerous boulders roiling the water. On the way to its confluence with the Colorado River at Glenwood Springs, the Fork flows through the town of Basalt where its confluence with the Fryingpan River is located. At this point, with October flows normally above 600 cfs. the Roaring Fork is *really* no longer a wadeable river and is best fished from a drift boat. From its confluence with the "Pan" the Fork varies in character from small pocket water to large runs and pools with 40 miles of Gold Medal designated water holding trout up to eight pounds.

In mid October Marsha and I flew to Denver - rented a car for the drive to Snowmass Village where we stayed in a condo which according to the brochure "Retains its early mountain charm" (It is the oldest place at Snowmass Village). I guess early mountain



charm for \$249 a week is what it is. The condo (*read motel*) was clean, served as a base for fishing and for Marsha not as much shopping as she would have liked. She made up for it in Boulder. And for the price we got to park the car 1000 yards from our second floor room and got to call the police to break up a bar fight so we would be well rested to fish and *shop* in the AM.

The fishing (and catching) on the Roaring Fork was mighty fine. I booked a guided float trip many weeks before Marsha and I flew out - told the Fryingpan Anglers Fly Shop/guide in Basalt to pick the water when I got there so they would put me on the best fishing available at the time. John Dobson, the guide, a talkative, friendly, professional fellow and I met at the Fryingpan Anglers Fly Shop at 9AM. In John's SUV we drove to the Colorado River at Glenwood Springs to start our day of fishing. However it had been raining the night before and the Colorado was a bit off color. John said the river would get more muddied as the day went on so decided to forgo the Colorado and move to the Roaring Fork that he said would be clear (and so it was).

Arriving at the Fork, John launched his boat about six miles upstream of Glenwood Springs. We floated down the Roaring Fork in rain, snow, sleet, hail and much wind. But we had us a BIG time catching a mix of many rainbows and brown trout in the 16" range with a Mountain White Fish thrown in now and again. The bows gave good battle doing arial displays then going deep, then back to the air many times only to be brought to hand and released. The browns also showed their stuff. The whites stayed down and had to be hauled up. A mighty fine trip.

Christmas Party.... Karen Brand

Christmas is right around the corner so make plans now to attend the FFNWF **Christmas Party December 1st (Wednesday) at the Pensacola Yacht Club**. The PYC survived Hurricane Ivan and their new chef will be preparing a great buffet for us. Social Hour is at 6:00 and dinner is at 7:00 in the Ballroom. Entrees include *Grilled Grouper with Lemon Caper Butter* and *Smoked Pork Loin with Creole Pineapple Salsa*, and will be served with assorted cheeses, green salad, rosemary roasted potatoes, green bean almandine, rolls with whipped honey butter, plus fruit and chocolate fondue for dipping.

Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased by calling Karen Brand, 516-1852; tickets must be purchased in advance. Jerry and Kevin are again in charge of putting together some great raffle items. Raffle tickets can be purchased in advance or at the party. Those interested in donating items for door prizes please contact Jerry, Kevin or Karen.

The FFNWF "Angler of the Year" will also be announced at the Christmas Party so let's put Hurricane Ivan behind us, count our blessings, and enjoy a great evening!!

For tickets contact me at 516-1852 or

CHRISTMAS PARTY RAFFLE

TICKETS.... \$5 APIECE OR 6 FOR \$25....ON SALE AT ALL NOVEMBER MEETINGS....SEE KAREN BRAND

PRIZES...8 WEIGHT ORVIS ROD, 9', 4 PIECE ROD WITH PRO GUIDE MID ARBOR REEL....5 WEIGHT ORVIS ROD, 9', 4 PIECE ROD WITH PRO GUIDE MID ARBOR REEL....RENZETTI TRAVELER VISE....ORVIS MASTER TYING TOOL SET

32" Brown Trout.... Tom Regina



The Nantahala River in the mountains of Western North Carolina was once again the site of a week of cold water mountain trout fishing for several members of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida. Myself, Art

deTonnancourt and Mitch Pippin, along with Hal Hudson and Bob Kent made the jaunt during the third week of November. Our intent had been to fish both the Nantahala and Tuckasegee Rivers. However with over 14 inches of rain in recent weeks both rivers had inordinately high water flows. The Tuck flow was so high and fast that common sense and safety ruled out wade fishing. The Nan, although high and fast was wadeable as long as caution was the watch word.

Fishing the Nan is normally very good with 20 plus fish days being the norm. However, this fall has seen a lot of water in the river and as a result the fish are not as concentrated in the pools, pockets and riffles as normal. In October and November the four miles of delayed harvest water from White Oak Creek to the powerhouse (the area we fished) received a stocking of 2640 each of rainbow and brook trout and 1320 brown trout. The fish were in the river in good numbers but somewhat off the bite. Some of the larger and deeper pools produced well, yielding six or eight and more fish in an hour or so before going cold.

Art, with my "expert" help made the heavy-

weight catch of the trip. I was dry fly fishing the middle of a deep pool and having a bit of luck. Art (the nymphing maniac) was at the tail of the same pool doing his thing. I spotted but

was unable to move the 32 inch Nantahala Behemoth Brookie to a dry fly. I called for Art to come catch the "big one". Art made his first cast - too close to the opposite bank. Second cast - not deep enough - add split shot. Third cast - on target. The fly (read egg) passed over the fish within an inch of his nose. In the clear, clean, cold water we saw the trout make a slow rising turn and mouth the fly. Art pulled the trigger and it was angler against fish. Angler won. When brought to hand, and before being released the vividly colored, hook-jawed monster was photographed and measured. A full 16 inches. No Art, not 32 inches. But a fat and heavy 16 inches. Not the biggest fish in the river but without a doubt one of the most colorful. With that text book catch we ended another day of mighty fine fly fishing in the beautiful, rugged mountains of western North Carolina and returned to Black Bear Lodge for supper of lasagne, good beer and bad wine.

* According to the natives of Western North Carolina, 32 inch trout are a common catch. Why everyone's wife, husband, brother, sister, cousin, son, daughter, and in-law has caught 32 inch trout on a regular basis.



President's MessageJay Williams

Fellow Anglers....This is written on Thanksgiving morning, and it is appropriate to give thanks for all that we have, especially for the blessing of having had life itself, so that we can appreciate the wonders of such, and of the universe itself, which thanks to the progress of our species' search for knowledge, we are able to satisfy our curiosity about nature and its environment, in an ever increasing manner.

We also give thanks for our many colleagues who give of their time, efforts and talents, thereby enriching the fly fishing experience of the rest of us. Just as important, we thank our families for supporting our love for this sport, and allowing us to pursue it with their blessings.

Our Christmas party next Wednesday evening, December 1st, will be an opportunity to express those thanks as we participate in the extraordinary fun that your Board and Party Committee have put together

for you.

You are a vital part of a dynamic club that offers you, for minimal cost and investment of time, the opportunity to pursue in great depth, the knowledge and manual ability to go from neophyte to advanced status in this, your chosen sport. If possible, bring your significant other, your kids, relatives and friends along to our various functions. Perhaps they will "turn on" to our sport as you have.

I want to let those of you who were victims of Hurrican Ivan know that we are sorry for your loss, and are waiting to have you back in our midst when that becomes possible.

January will see the club off and running strong; so come to the business meeting, where you can propose and vote for your new board members.

Many thanks for your friendship and support these past two years. Tight Lines....Jay

Team Tactics for Trout....Art de Tonnancourt



Just returning from another delightful week at the beautiful Black Bear Lodge at Bryson City are Tom Regina, Mitch Pippin, Hal Hudson, Bob Kent and me. We only fished the Nantahala as the

Tuckaseegee, the other river we usually fish, was flowing too much water for good and safe fishing.

Tom and I have been fishing partners for years now and occasionally we will join up and fish on some short beats of the Nan that would ordinarily be fished solo. An exciting time began when we decided to share the "Wooly Bugger Hole" for a short spell during this mid November day and Tom's keen observation and "hawk eyes" spotted this beautiful hook jawed Brook trout hovering over a background of a 3' diameter flat granite rock, waiting for food to drift by. I soon learned that Tom had been drifting a smorgasbord of flies down the feeding lane with Mr. Hookjaw



making an occasional turn to look at the menu only to to turn again and wait for something else.

Tom invited me to try my crystal flash orange egg pattern which I had been using

a short distance downstream with some success. With Tom's help in spotting our prey, I made two casts upstream of Mr. Hookmouth and the fly drifted too high above

him. Realizing that a little more split shot was called for, I added another split shot and on my third cast the trout made the classic turn and took the fly. I was glad to have 5x tippet and didn't have to play or to tire him much before we had him in my net. Tom scrambled to our nearby van for his camera as I kept him in the water with my net and you can see the results of this team play in the accompanying photo he took. Team fishing has its rewards and gratifying feelings not only for large species like Tarpon but also for usually solo experienced mountain trout fishing. All of the participants caught many fish those days plus thoroughly enjoyed the delightful mild weather, fantastic autumn scenery, great meals and great fellowship. All are looking forward to our next scheduled return trip in March '05.



December Quick Ties with Tom Regina....Mr. ED

HOOK Mustad C53S size 14
THREAD 8/0 black
ABDOMEN Single horse tail hair, black
THORAX Black dubbing
Breathers White goose biots



1. Crush the hook barb and mount the hook in the vise. Tie in the thread a distance of three hook eyes in back of the hook eye. In touching turns, to completely cover the hook shank, wrap the thread to the rear of the hook to a point opposite the hook barb. Tie in one six inch strand of horse tail hair to the top of the hook from the bend to the forward thread tie in point. Trim away the tag end of the horse hair. (Before tying on the horse tail hair, draw the strand between the pads of your thumb and index finger to feel for any nicks, barbs or flaws, any of which will cause the hair to brake while being wrapped on the hook. Discard any section of flawed hair. Use caution not to nick the hair on the hook point while wrapping.)

2. In touching turns, wrap the horse tail hair forward to the thread tie in position. Tie off the hair and clip away the excess.



3. Tie a white goose biot, by the tip, on each side of the hook as shown.

4. Cut away the biot tips and dub the thorax.



5. Separately, pull each biot breather forward. Tie off and cut away the excess biot. Build a neat thread head. Whip finish and cement the thread head. Also coat the horse tail hair abdomen with head cement to make it more durable.

PHEASANT UNDER GRASS....Kevin Cohenour

HOOK	Mustad 34007, size 2 to 6
THREAD	Brown size "G" or 3/0
WEEDGUARD	12 to 20 lb. Hard Mono
EYES	Medium or small black dumbbell
MOUTH	Krystal flash
CLAWS	Dyed orange grizzly hackle
LEGS	Smoke gray sili-legs with blue/black flakes
SHELL	Cream felt on belly and tan felt on top with 2 pheasant feathers on top



1. Make a bend in hook immediately behind eye, "bendback style".

2. Secure hook in vise. Attach thread at bend. Cut a piece of weed guard about four hook shanks long. Flatten one end and attach at the bend. Wrap over mono about half way down the bend. The long end should point down.



3. With the thread at the bend attach 8-10 strands of copper, gold, or orange krystal flash. Wrap over the krystal flash about 1/4 the way down the bend. Secure one orange hackle on each side of krystal flash, extending about 3/4" longer. Hackles should curve outward.

4. Cut a penny sized circular shape from the two pieces of felt, making a 3/8" tag on one end and a 1/8" tag on the other.



5. Secure cream felt at bend by long tag. The felt should point rearward.

Pheasant Under Grass... continued



6. Attach eyes at the bend using "X" wraps. Wind thread forward to behind hook eye. Pull felt forward so the long tag goes over and between the eyes of the dumbbell. Secure the 1/8" tag at the front. Turn fly over in vise.

7. Select two sili-legs. Cut in half to make four legs. Pinch the cream felt sides together below the hook shank and gently pull downward to create a gap. Insert bobbin threader between the felt and hook shank; insert four cut sili legs through bobbin threader eye and "thread" between felt and shank. Arrange two legs diagonally each direction. Cut tags off tan felt. Mix one-minute epoxy (three or five minute will work but just take longer to set) and quickly coat top of white felt/legs. Press the tan felt shell top in place and squeeze until the epoxy sets.



8. Strip the fuzz from two pheasant back feathers. The feather size should be about the same as the shell. Secure the stem of one feather at the front of the shell, angling over one side of the fly. Attach the 2nd feather angling the opposite direction.

9. Turn the fly over in the vise. Pull the weed guard forward and insert through the hook eye. Pull the tag end back and secure weed guard so there is about a 1/4" gap between the guard and the hook point. Whip head, cut thread and cement.

Business Meeting Minutes, 7 PM Nov 10, 2004, Jay Williams presiding

Quorum present. 17 attending.

Meeting chaired by Pres. Jay Williams

No guests or new members.

Upcoming, regularly scheduled meetings reviewed. Christmas party Wed., Dec.1, 2004

New Business:

Nominating Committee chairman Travis Akins announced proposed slate of Officers for 2005: Pres. Milt Mays; VP Russ Shields; Sec. David Benard; Treasurer Don Lupone.

New officers convene at first meeting in Jan. 2005 and select remainder of BOD. New president appoints committee chairmen. Immed. Past Pres.(per by laws) Jay Williams automatically assumes BOD position.

As there were no nominations from the floor, the new officers were voted in by acclamation, upon motion by Aldridge, seconded by deTonnancourt.

The nominating committee had no nominee for Angler of the Year, so the membership cast written, sealed, ballots, to be counted by K. Brand and Aldridge. Selectee will be announced at Christmas party as per tradition.

Party committee, K. Brand, Aldridge, and Cohenouer discussed the Christmas Party in detail, as to food, drink, location, prizes, ticket costs, etc. This will be duplicated in December's Flies and Lies, and by e-mail to the members, prior to December 1st. Respectfully submitted, Jay Williams



DECEMBER 2004

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4

Annual Banquet and Holiday Party—December 1st, Pensacola Yacht Club, 6 PM Social Hour, 7PM Dinner. Present 2005 Officers and Angler of the Year. Lots of great raffle prizes. See page 3.

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Clinic - Casting, tying gourmet lunch 9 AM

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30 31