

Around the Bay... and Further Away
Jerry Aldridge

The Southeastern Council Conclave at Gulf Shores, Alabama was a rousing success. Kevin Cohenour and David Lambert shared the SE Council "Man of the Year" award for their continuing work with youth programs. Karen Brand was chosen as "Woman of the Year" for the second time, this time for her tireless and highly successful efforts as Chair of Commercial exhibits for the conclave. Karen was also chosen (drafted?) to serve on the Board of Directors along with Larry Goodman who has served as a director for many years. Congratulations to Kevin, Karen and Larry.

Being a notorious fan of fine feathers, the highlights of the conclave for me were the programs and exhibits of Dr. Tom Whiting, owner of Whiting Farms, the largest producer of fine hackle for fly tying in the world. We look forward to touring Whiting Farms (and perhaps a side trip on local waters) during this summer's western trip. Our own Bill Evans and Debbie Brock of Reef Illusions also had a nice display of their wares including very fine marine art.

More recently, Mitch Abernethy, Travis Akins, John and Karen Brand, Larry Goodman and I headed for our second home in the Carolina Smokies for a fishing outing. The cabin we had rented for years was no longer available so we were breaking in a new one auspiciously titled "Whisper Creek". Mitch and I picked up the keys and Mitch headed for the cabin in his white Outback while I stopped for groceries. Armed with food and Tom Regina's directions, I too headed for our new home. Left at the Amoco station, first left uphill and first left (a hard turn) into the cabin's parking area just as Tom had said. The white Outback was already there also as expected. So I walked to the front door, pushed it open, took three strides in and hollered "Hey Mitch, anybody home?"

A gray-haired North Carolina lady with very frightened, angry eyes rose from her chair to confront me. Apologizing profusely, I backed quickly out the door. Every time I said "I'm sorry"

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Flies & Lies

MAY 2002

AUCTION !

**TUESDAY, MAY 7TH, 7 PM
MIRAFLORES PARK
CLUBHOUSE**

**RODS (several nice ones),
REELS, FLOAT TUBES,
VISES, LOTS OF FLIES,
TYING MATERIALS and
TACKLE
GALORE !**

**AUCTIONEER-TRAVIS
AKINS**

The auction is our only annual fund-raising event. Proceeds allow us to expand our library, buy tying materials to learn all those new flies, buy gourmet food for our clinic lunches, support the Scouts and finance the newsletter and directory. Come support your club and have a great time.

President's Report

Spring is here - we know because some of our members have gone missing - just like kids with spring fever skipping school. Jerry Aldridge, Travis Akins, John and Karen Brand, along with Larry Goodman and Mitch Abernethy

skipped out and went angling. They made there way to the mountain trout waters of western North Carolina. Art deTonnancourt and I, along with Don Lupone (our tight fistted treasurer), Terry McCormick (the bear), and Bill Parrish skipped out a week later to follow behind the first contingent. Tom Finkle did not make the trip with either group; therefore lots of big fish are still in the streams, rivers and creeks of western North Carolina. However, Tom did catch all the 18 inch land-locked salmon in Maine.

Welcome to Hank Greeson, Jim McGee and Russ Shields. Russ joins us from the PJC class. Speaking of the PJC class, Bruce Vail did a professional job teaching the PJC fly tying while Jerry and his band went fishing. Bruce is a teacher in Escambia County. A mighty fine teacher and fly tyer. Thanks Bruce.

Sunday, May 5, from 11 AM - till, is your club's annual spring picnic. The picnic will be at Shoreline Park, Gulf Breeze (thanks Harry). Do bring guests. Each person attending the picnic is asked to pay \$7 at the picnic (kids are free if they don't drink beer). Each Aparty@ is asked to bring a covered dish. Your club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and sausage with condiments. The club will also provide soft drinks and beer. David Bernard will bring the mustard. Andy & Cynthia Housand will bring a surprise. Want to go fishing before the picnic? Contact David (the mustard guy) at 453-0529 or bercreativ@aol.com

Remember the great time we had about year ago at a Saturday clinic when Leland Outfitters came all the way from San Francisco to show us the newest and best new rods, reels and tackle? Well anglers, Richard Montgomery and his crew from Leland Outfitters will be at our picnic. Richard and his gang will do a Abring-n-brag, show-n-tell, try-it-out@ of the new SLT Sage rods. They will also have some XP rods, the faster version of the SLT, and standard RPLXi rods. If that=s not enough to bring you to the picnic, Richard will also show us the new Tiboron rod from Powell. Still not convinced you need to be at the picnic? These guys will also bring the new Winston DL 4, LT and saltwater series XTR rods. (I hope my bride brings her checkbook).

Forget ebay. Instead come to the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida annual auction at 7 PM, 7 May, 2002. Get there early and check out all the great stuff. We are going to have us a BIG time. Bring lots of cash or checks. Remember, anything you spend, you spend on yourself to support your club. Travis Akins is our auctioneer. Don't let him get away with selling anything too cheap. If you have any items to donate for the auction contact Travis at 474-9691 or travisfly7@aol.com.

DON=T LITTER. We can have our days on stream enhanced by the beauty of the surroundings. Litter, including tackle packages, beer cans, cigarette butts, etc., and leader and tippet material can ruin our enjoyment, let alone the damage and death litter can cause to fish and other wildlife. DON=T LITTER. Do as Art does. Carry plastic Alitter@ bags in your car and/or boat. Not only does Art use the bags for his trash, he also spends time picking up other folks trash. Perhaps we should all spend a minute or two each fishing day picking up litter left by some SLOB. We can=t get it all, but every little bit helps. Catch and release - Tom

The Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

PRESIDENT - Tom Regina
(850) 456-8808
reginam@pcola.gulf.net

VICE-PRESIDENT - Kevin Cohenour
(850) 455-6897
klcflies@yahoo.com

SECRETARY - Allan Heilig
(850) 932-5295
accave@hotmail.com

TREASURER - Don Lupone
(850) 477-9085
jodon01@msn.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AUCTION - Travis Akins

CONSERVATION - Terry McCormick

DIRECTORY - Jerry Aldridge

EDUCATION - Jerry Aldridge

FACILITIES - Art deTonnancourt

FFF REPRESENTATIVE - Larry Goodman

**FISHING TRIPS - David Bernard
Travis Akins**

LIBRARY - Kevin Cohenour

MEMBERSHIP - Karen Brand

**DIRECTORS AT LARGE - John Brand
Bill Locher**

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

BUSINESS MEETING - 1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM
BULL SESSION - 2ND THURSDAY, 6:30 PM
CLINIC - 3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM
**BOARD MEETING-4TH THURSDAY,
6:30PM**
FISHING TRIPS - AS SCHEDULED

Meetings at Miraflores Park, 17th
Avenue between Belmont and LaRua
St

Around the Bay...continued

the lady said "I certainly hope so" as she advanced towards me menacingly. Finally, I reached my Rodeo and left fast. This is one trip that I'm glad did not "start off with a bang" as the old cliché goes. Thanks for the great directions, Tom. Strange coincidence the identical Outbacks; I had not recognized their ubiquity.

The fishing was good, especially when it was cool and rainy, and in the mornings. It rained gently on and off for the first two days and everyone caught lots of fish on the Nantahala, brookies, browns and rainbows with most in the 10-13" range with some larger. Dry flies, wet flies, nymphs and streamers were all successful in varying degrees at one time or another. On day three and thereafter, the temperature was in the 80's with only the occasional rain drop. The fishing slowed a bit but was still very good.

During the trip, Karen and John fished the Davidson River with good success for the Davidson – it's a tough stream with clear water and wild, wary trout. Travis hiked back into the woods of Smoky Mountain National Park and fished Deep and Collins Creeks with mixed success although he did catch some wild, native brookies on Collins. With Travis, you can always tell how the fishing was by the way he starts his report. If the scenery was particularly glorious and the stream was gorgeous and his description of the wild flowers almost Zen-like, you know he didn't catch many fish but had a great time.

We all fished the Nantahala and the Tuckasegee and John, Karen, Travis and I fished the Little River on the Tennessee side of the Park. I could wax poetic about the Little with its pristine beauty and wild trout. We all caught a few with 3 or 4 a foot long or so but most were parr-marked beauties just a few months old. Bring your wading staff! The little River flat rocks with their patina of moss will send you down a slippery slope without warning.

Some of the trip's highlights in no particular

order follow.

Larry caught fish after fish on the Tuck until he ran out of the small, olive wooly buggers Karen had given him. The Tuck also fished well in the morning but only fair in the afternoon. Rising water released from the dams drove us out of the water around 5 PM.

Travis caught a 23-24" rainbow on the Nantahala.

Mitch caught two large browns from the bank while he waited for the rest of us to get out of the stream for lunch.

John again caught fish on cue for Karen's camera.

I caught a 3 to 4 pound brown on a prince nymph for Karen's camera (not on cue though).

Mitch's curried chicken with rice and chutney (I think Barbara may have had something to do with it).

John and Karen at the bottom of the Nantahala gorge where only a mountain goat could go catching lots and lots of fish.

I almost got drowned by an 18" rainbow. Actually, I was lost in meditation and let my dry fly drift within 5 feet or so where it got nailed by the rainbow who immediately came 2-3 ft out of the water. Startled, I teetered back, then forward into an underwater somersault in waist-deep water. I saved all my gear and the fish.

Travis' baked enchiladas from scratch. Karen's rib-sticking pasta. It was tough to maintain weight during this trip.

Larry and Karen identifying the wildflowers. The woods were alive with dogwood blooms, wild irises, rhododendrons, trees with bright new leaves and whippoorwills singing for mates.

If you have not yet journeyed to the Smokies for a day or two of fishing and surrounding yourself with natural beauty, do so as soon as you can. You will love it as I do. Do not get directions from Tom Regina.

Boy Scout Camp

We are looking for volunteers who can spend 4 or 5 days teaching fly tying, casting, the Fishing Merit Badge and perhaps the brand new Fly Fishing Merit Badge. Dates are June 9-14, 16-21 or 23-28. For more information, call Vic Vickery, 478-3584.

I couldn't stand it any longer. I drove to camp to install a freeze alarm on my telephone due to the fact my pipes froze the week before. Fishing season opened on 1 April so I took my gear. As I drove north I couldn't help but notice just how wintery and blustery it still seemed. Damn cold is probably the way to put it! The lakes and ponds were all frozen very solid right to the shore as I passed them. Then north of them the river was still frozen until about five miles before camp. Hot Dog! Open water.



The next morning as I hurried out the door to warm my truck up I quickly decided to wait for the warmth of sunrise before venturing out into the 38 degree water! When I reached the River I was greeted by 1/4 inch of ice that extended out about 15 feet or so. As I cracked the ice little by little to create a hole to fish I notice my net was frozen solid from a quick wetting during my ice out process. After about 1 hour of fishing (that seemed like 6) I was wondering how long it would take to thaw my legs and feet. Then as I removed ice from my rod guides so the line could pass through I noticed how numb my hands were on top. It felt like 1/8 inch of frozen leather was on top of them. This is not good thought I, one more cast and I'll attempt to walk out of the Great Kennebec River shamefully fishless.

But it was not meant to be! As I slowly retrieved the little Black Ghost there was a vicious attack! As the fish raked my line across the edge of the ice extending out in the river, I had visions of cut line, or a snag ending with the same result. Not this time! Shortly after what seemed like an eternity, I landed a deep, beautiful 18 inch landlocked salmon. It took two scoops to get him aboard my frozen net, but he finally squirmed his way down into it. And so my long wait to cast had not only come to an end, but with a bonus! Who would believe that I, Tom Finkle only caught one fish? You may never hear me admit this again!

The Near 'Nuff Sculpin - A North Carolina Trout Slayer

by Kevin Cohenour

"Kevin, do you have a pattern sheet on that fly you gave me?" asked our own president, Tom Regina, after his March trip to North Carolina with Art DeTonnancourt. I had tied up some flies for Art and Tom for their trip to Arkansas and Missouri in February (I think Art and Tom are almost thawed out by now), which included a couple of Dave Whitlock's pattern the "Near Nuff Sculpin".

Tom, being a "gill netter" on this particular day, was using the *Beadhead Woolly Bugger* to good effect (by Travis Akin's definition a "gill netter" is anyone who isn't using dry flies). He found though that after a couple fish they seemed to get wise to a particular pattern, so he was changing colors frequently.

Eventually Tom got around to trying the olive *Near Nuff Sculpin* I had tied for him. He stated the results were incredible. The fish hungrily ate the pattern, it was durable, and with the lead eyes got down to the depth of the feeding fish.

The fly is tied to imitate a sculpin minnow, but effectively imitates a crayfish, a leech, or for that matter just something tasty to the fish. Whatever it is taken for, the key is that it is taken.

So, if you would like an easy to tie alternative to the "normal" *Woolly Bugger*, give the *Near Nuff Sculpin* a go. Try it, you'll like it. Tying directions are on page 5.

The Near 'Nuff Sculpin by Kevin Cohenour

Hook	4 XL Streamer hook, sizes 4 to 10
Thread	Olive or black 6/0
Eyes	Dumbbell eyes
Tail	Olive grizzly chickaboo
Body	Olive chenille
Rib	1 or 2 grizzly dyed olive saddle or cape hackle, fine monofilament



1. Secure hook in vise. Attach dumbbell eyes slightly behind hook eye. Wind thread to bend.

2. Attach chickaboo tail at bend extending 1 to 1 ½ hook shank lengths. Wind over feather stem to behind dumbbell eyes and cut excess. Return thread to bend.



3. Attach olive hackle at bend. Attach mono rib at bend. Attach olive chenille at bend. Wind chenille body to immediately behind dumbbell eyes. Secure chenille and cut excess.

4. Palmer saddle hackle to behind dumbbell eyes. Secure and cut excess. Wind mono rib forward through hackle to behind eyes. Secure and cut excess. Wind thread in front of eyes. Wind a tapered head, whip finish, cut, and cement. Trim saddle hackle on bottom of fly (the side opposite the hook point) short and flat to about ¼ inch.





FLY FISHERS
 OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1041
PENSACOLA, FL 32595



<i>S</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>
			1	2	3	4
Sunday, May 5 - Spring Picnic & Tackle Show, Leland Outfitters Shoreline Park, Gulf Breeze						
5	6	7 Business Meeting &	8	9 Bull Session 6:30 PM	10	11
7 PM, Tuesday, May 7- Annual Auction at Club House				Auctioneer - Travis Akins		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Clinic-Casting, tying, fish stories, gourmet lunch 9 AM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Board meeting 6:30 PM	29	30	31	