

Austin Fly Fishers

A member club of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers
October 2016
Volume 18, Issue 10



Club Meeting
Thursday, October 20
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying Demos by Mike Morpew
7:00 Scott Hamilton -Offshore Fly Fishing

Nils Pearson with redfish caught when
fishing with Capt. Fred Lynch
Photo by Ed Parsons

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President's Message Matt Bennett

We're quickly coming up on the end of the year, so I wanted to mention a few things.

We have a great program coming up this month with Captain Scott Hamilton. Captain Scott has been to the club before around two years ago, and will give a great presentation on Bluewater Fly Fishing off of the Florida Coast. Next month, we have noted author and guide Pat Dorsey presenting on the rivers that he fishes and guides in Colorado. Both of these should be great and a good way to cap off our presentations for the year.

Our annual holiday party is tentatively set for December 15th at Casa Chapa on Burnet. We've decided to try somewhere new this year and the

current plan is for a fajita buffet for around the same price as years past. Stay tuned for more information, but mark the date down now!

Lastly, we're always looking for new folks to both join the club and also step up into larger roles within the club. Most of our board members have been there for quite some time and it would be great to have some new perspective to go along with their experience. New club members are always welcome as well - so if you have a buddy who is interested in the sport, please take the time to invite them to a meeting. We have a few ideas for some additional outings and events that we will be putting into practice soon, so stay tuned!



Russ Bauer's Redfish

Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

9/1/2016 - 9/30/2016

Beginning Bal. Checking \$11,956.00

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$101.79
Auction	<u>\$225.00</u>
Total Income	\$326.79

Disbursements:

Speaker Expense	\$300.00
Refreshments	\$14.60
Website	\$411.17
SKIFF	<u>\$2,404.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$3,129.77

Net (\$2,802.98)

Unencumbered:

Unallocated Funds \$4,706.43

Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery	\$670.30
SKIFF	\$5,019.97

Ending Balance-Checking \$10,396.70

October Speaker

Scott Hamilton will be our speaker at our October Membership Meeting. Scott, a native of Summit, N.J., began fly fishing at the ripe age of eight years old and a lifelong addiction was born. Frequenting western Maine (his father's summer haunts) and west central Florida (his mother's home) exposed him to a host of angling opportunities to fuel this addiction. Scott's first foray into guiding was in 1979, taking clients after both native and stock trout in the White Mountain National Forest in western Maine. There was fine small mouth bass fishing also in the same area.

But the ocean was calling and soon Scott found himself in the Florida Keys. From 1981 through 1985, he chased Tarpon, Bonefish and Permit in the upper Keys, made jaunts over to the Flamingo area for Trout, Redfish and more Tarpon, and developed sinking line techniques for deep holding reef species such as snapper and grouper. Soon, offshore species caught Scott's attention and has held it captive until this day. So much so that offshore became the focus of his guiding and he went in search of a locale that would suit this need to battle the fastest and strongest of species. After extensive research, the south east coast of Florida presented itself. The very short run to the deep blue waters of the Gulf Stream (less than one mile), the very strong inshore and near beach fishery for when the ocean isn't cooperating presented Palm Beach as the pinnacle of fishing opportunities. In addition to his guiding service, Scott has written articles published in Fly Fishing in Salt Waters, Salt Water Fly Fishing, and Florida Sportsman. He has numerous original fly patterns and builds fly rods.

[Hamilton Fly Fishing Charters](#), Inc. was incorporated in 1992 and to this day is the only "Fly Only" charter service in the State of Florida.



Dave Hill and Manuel Pena -Men of the Year by Jeff Hoelter

Congratulations to Dave Hill and Manuel Pena who won the Man of the Year award at the IFFF Texas Council awards banquet last Saturday in Grapevine TX. Their acceptance speech included a description of the SKIFF program and what it means to the children of deployed military. It tugged at the heartstrings of those in attendance and it's not difficult to see why the program is so successful: These guys are good at what they're doing.

The Austin Fly Fishers supports and administers a program called, **SKIFF, "Soldiers Kids Involved in Fishing Fun"**. The SKIFF program makes it possible for the children of deployed or deceased soldiers in the Fort Hood, Killeen, Texas area, an opportunity to take a free professionally guided fishing trip.



SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

I thought I'd do a "photo montage" for you from the last 6 trips I've conducted over the summer and into this new school year. SKIFF exists to put the children of military men and women on the water while their military parent is separated from them due to deployment, training, schooling, or other duty requirements.

Thank you for making it such that when a call comes in from a hometown parent, I can say "YES" without having to give it a second thought! You guys are great!!

On August 9th, Aidan Hooper and his older brother, William, took a toll on the hybrid as cloud cover brought the big ones to the surface and good casting sealed the deal. William and Aidan are the sons of US Army Staff Sergeant Cory Hale and his wife, Chastie Hale. SSG Hale is a field artilleryman currently deployed to South Korea.



SKIFF Cont.

18 Aug. - Maurice White Jr. keeps an eye on the competition as we headed up shallow and fished for sunfish at mid-morning for variety's sake. Maurice holds a bluegill sunfish while Kaitlyn Admiral holds a redear sunfish. Kaitlyn's dad, Kevin, serves as a US Army armor officer and is currently deployed to Afghanistan. Maurice's dad, Captain Maurice White Sr., is also an armor officer assigned to the planning section of the Third Armored



On Aug. 19th we caught sunfish galore under grey, cool skies using bobbers, small hooks and worms. From left: Layla Mahin, Charlie Eaton, Cheyenne Eaton, and Ryan Mahin Jr. The Mahin kids were in for a huge surprise... as we approached the courtesy dock, their dad was standing on the dock to greet them after arriving home from a lengthy National Training Center (NTC) rotation in Fort Irwin, California. The kids were not expecting him until later in the weekend. The Eaton's dad is deployed to South Korea.

SKIFF Cont.

29 August - Love Cross (white framed glasses) and Faith Cross (blue framed glasses) caught 49 fish on Lake Belton on 29 Aug. Their father is currently on deployed status to South Korea.



10 Sept. - left: Alexandria and Mrs. Melissa Chambers, middle: Daniel Chambers, right: Aaron Chambers. The kids' father is currently serving in his second enlistment and is deployed to South Korea.



SKIFF Cont.



17 Sept. - Kaden Burns landed this solid 3 1/8 pound largemouth (just shy of 17") all by himself on Stillhouse. The largemouth were working in "wolfpacks" attacking shad on the surface, thus giving away their locations. Kaden is a student at Memorial Christian Academy in Killeen, TX, and is from an "all-Army" family. His mom, Major Sheila Burns, is part of the Army's Judge Advocate General (JAG) corps, and his dad, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kelly Burns, is assigned to Army aviation. CW4 Burns is currently deployed and shuttles between Iraq and Kuwait in his assignment with a Grey Eagle unmanned aircraft unit.

Since 2009, the Skiff program has taken 339 kids fishing and caught and released 8,135 fish. With your help, the Austin Fly Fishers will be able to continue this wonderful program. Please consider making a generous contribution to this terrific program. Just so you know, every cent that is raised goes directly to paying for fishing trips. Unlike many charitable programs, there are no administrative costs that are paid for with these funds. Every dollar donated goes to pay for fishing trips.

I would like to support the program by sponsoring SKIFF kids. It costs \$75 to sponsor one child for a fishing trip.

To make a donation, send a check payable to Austin Fly Fishers. Mail your check to Austin Fly Fishers, SKIFF Program, P.O. Box 10504, Austin, TX 78766

Please include the following information with your check.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Email _____

Contact Phone Number _____

Mail to:

Questions? FlyFisher149@gmail.com mtexas@aol.com

North Padre Island by Nils Pearson

The Austin Fly Fishers had its annual North Padre Island outing Sept 20-24. Fortunately, there was no red tide or weed in the surf. On the downside, we faced some pretty strong winds camping on the beach at Mustang Island State Park. Seven of us including Ed, Cress, Brandon, Russ, Roy, and Andy made the annual trek.

On scheduled fishing trips long in advance, you can only hope that the weather and water conditions will be favorable to fishing for dates you set. Fortunately, the first couple of days were pretty good. After setting up camp on Tuesday, Sept. 20 Brandon, and I enjoyed a wonderful meal of marinated pork chops prepared by Ed. Wow, I need to learn how to brine. Unfortunately, that evening the temperature didn't drop below the high 80s and we had little to no breeze. That made for a rather sleepless night as we sweated in discomfort in our tents. Ed and I got up around 4:30 am to get ourselves together and meet up with Captain Fred Lynch for a day of fishing.

We met Capt. Fred at the Stripes on the corner of South Padre Island Drive and 361 and followed him down to the Bird Island Boat Basin. Our plan was to fish with Capt. Fred and after we returned, drive down the National Seashore in search of migrating fish in the surf. Before sunrise, we headed down the Inter-Coastal Waterway. Our hopes were high that we might be able to spot the schools of reds that Capt. Fred had been finding over the past couple of days.

The water was high in the bay and Fred had to spin his Hells Bay boat through many different areas in search of the tell-tale wakes that our prey creates when moving. After a while, Fred stopped the engine and hopped up onto the poling platform and pushed us along with his push pole. I was the first up and settled myself into the platform on the bow of the boat. After stripping off some line and taking some practice casts, I stripped about 40 feet of line into the basket attached to the lean-post on the platform.

Now the rest of this story is a bit of a blur for me. Capt. Fred spotted a school of large reds. I can recall that he began to push the boat toward an enormous wake that must have held 40+ reds. The fish were on our left side and Capt. Fred furiously poled the boat forward attempting to get ahead of the school. After about 15 minutes or so, we had gained on the school and all of a sudden they took a gentle right turn some 30 feet off the bow. I saw the silhouettes of at least 7 large reds in front of me. Without thinking, I made a short cast just ahead of the group and made a small strip. A red immediately picked up my fly and I squeezed the line between my fingers as it ran out of the stripping basket. My reel began to sing as the red continued to swim with his school. I guess that he simply didn't notice that he had been hooked. It wasn't until the red was probably 100 yards from us when I felt the first head shake. Because I was using my 8 wt rod and 16 lb tippet, I didn't want to put too much pressure on the fish for fear of breaking him off. I carefully palmed my reel but wasn't able to slow this freight train. After



North Padre Cont.

I hooked up, Capt Fred was down off the platform. When he noticed that I was getting pretty close to the end of my backing, he started up the outboard and began to follow the fish while I slowly retracted line.

I probably spend a good 40 minutes fighting this fish. Fortunately, when this big-boy got tired and came close, he headed directly to the side of the boat where Capt Fred was waiting with his net. The fish swam directly head-first into the net. With an assist from Ed, Capt Fred got this monster red into the boat. He was 42 inches long and 35 lbs –a personal best for me.

What a start to a fishing trip! For me, catching a trophy redfish in the morning of the first day of a fishing trip takes all of the pressure off. That is, any fish that I caught after this beauty would simply be a bonus. Ed and I continued to fish with Capt Fred and catch reds. Ed hooked up some good looking reds that on any other trip we would have happily photographed but we all seemed to feel a certain amount of disappointment these fish were not trophy-sized red. I guess we just got spoiled.

After we returned to the dock, we headed over to the Padre Island National Seashore shoreline. We drove south looking for migrating fish in the surf. Before long, we saw Brandon and Cress heading north in Brandon's vintage FJ. We all thought it would be a good idea to check out Yarbrough Pass, the crossing from the Gulf shoreline to the bay behind North Padre Island. After walking the first 40 yards of the road that cuts through the dunes, usually the most treacherous section to drive, we could see that this portion of the road was passable and the caliche road to the bay was dry but badly beat-up. Our plan was to head over this road on the following day to work the flats behind the pass.



Brandon

North Cont.

Early Thursday morning began with strong winds. For those of us who had deployed our rainflies on our tents, we remained dry through the storm. Unfortunately, Cress and Russ had not taken this precaution. They found themselves soggy from that early morning shower. Nonetheless, Cress and Ed headed out to fish with Capt. Fred while Brandon, Roy, Russ, and I headed to Yarborough Pass to fish the flats. Again, because the water was high in the bay, it was very difficult to find fish. We searched the backside to this section of North Padre Island in our kayaks. Roy had brought his "Flats Stalker". A flats skiff he had designed and built. Using the small Honda outboard, he went in search of redfish. After searching for an hour or so without success, Russ and I walked right up against the backside of the island where a small lake fed into the flat. It is here where Russ spotted a red and caught his first red on a fly. Pretty cool! I also hooked up a red, but didn't land him.

Thursday night, Andy and his wife met us at our campsite. He brought along his grill and prepared a meal that could have fed a small army. We spent the next hour feasting on hamburgers and talking about our exploits the previous days.

Friday began with a rain storm. Once the down-pour subsided, Ed decided that it was time to head home. Cress, Brandon, Russ, and I headed over to the small park on the bayside to launch our kayaks. As the previous days, the water was deep and spotting reds was very difficult. We all had an enjoyable paddle through the narrow waters but only Brandon was able to locate and catch any reds that day.

Friday night, Andy again provided us with our meal. This evening's dining was a meat-lovers feast. We had ribs, sausage, and steak. Saturday morning, Russ and Cress folded up their tents and headed back to Austin. Brandon and I went out with Captain Fred. The conditions were not good with the wind kicking up and clouds reflecting off the surface of the water making it impossible to see more than 15 feet in front of the boat. Nonetheless, Capt Fred put us onto fish. Yes, I blew every opportunity I got that day. However, I did get in one good cast over 50 feet to a giant red moving away from the boat. Somehow I got the fly in front of the fish and as I twitched it, he turned. Unfortunately, he simply looked and was not interested in my fly. After fishing with Capt Fred we headed back to our camp, packed and headed back to Austin.



Roy Sanders



Cress, Capt. Fred, and Ed

The Fly Tyer's Corner

Recipe by Mike Morphew

Dry Fly Pheasant Tail

The Classic Dry Fly "The Pheasant Tail" is easy to tie and is a killer for trout in any river or stream. It has probably accounted for more surface takes than any other dry I have fished, it will be in my box for my trip to Broken Bow later this month.

Materials

Hook any fine wire dry fly hook sizes 10 through 20
Thread Danvilles 7/0 light brown Waxed
Tail Fibers of Rhode Island red hackle
Body A small clump of pheasant tail fibers
Rib gold or copper wire
Hackle Rhode Island red

Step 1: Make a thread base on the hook. then Tie in the wire rib and a small bunch of hackle fibers about the length of the hook shank



Step 4: Follow with the rib in a counter direction then the body to secure the fibers



Steps 2: Tie in hackle fibers



Step 5: Tie in the hackle directly where the body ends and wind at least 4 turns tie off and whip finish



Step 3: Tie in a small bunch of pheasant tail fibers by the tips and wind to an 1/8 inch behind the eye

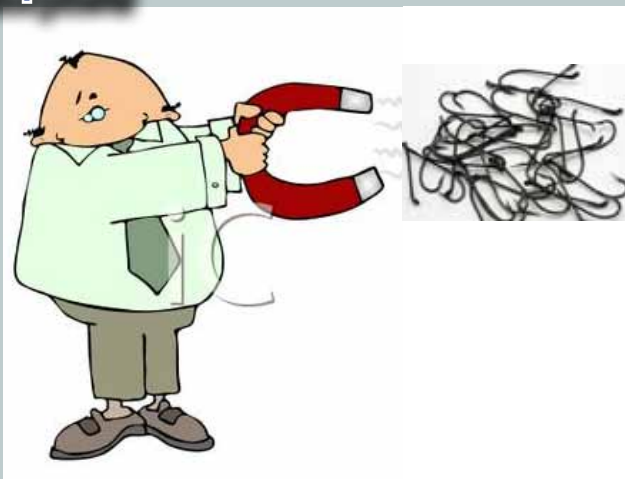


Steps 6: A small drop of Sally Hansens at the head finishes the fly.



Keep Your Tying Area Pet Friendly

Keep a large magnet next to your tying area. I once spilled a box of over 100 hooks on the floor. It was a simple matter to find them and pick them up. About once a week I run the magnet over the entire area around my tying bench, and it always amazes me how many hooks I find that I wasn't aware I dropped. A magnet has saved me countless dollars in vet bills for taking hooks out of my dog's feet.



AFF Outings by David Bush

October 14-16, Oktoberfisch, Junction

The annual Oktoberfisch gathering sponsored by the Fredericksburg Fly Fishers is once again being held on the South Llano River near Junction. This popular event draws fly fishers from across the state. Details are available at www.fredericksburgflyfishers.com/oktoberfisch/. Stay tuned for details of the club's plans for participation.

October 15-23, South Padre Island

Our annual trek to South Texas is once again coming up in October. South Padre offers a wide variety of fishing options from wading for redfish to fishing wrecks offshore. South Padre has a lot of rental options available at reasonable rates since it's the low season. Camping is also an option. Like the Corpus Christi trip, South Padre is also a very good destination for non-fishing significant others. While this outing is scheduled for an entire week, you're welcome to attend for as long as you like. Those planning to participate should email Nils Pearson at npearson@austin.rr.com. Details for gatherings, group fishing, and guide fishing opportunities will be shared with participants as the outing approaches.

Club Sponsors

The following individuals who made presentations to our club in 2015/2016. Please follow the links to get more information on the services they provide. You won't be disappointed.

Capt. Scott Hamilton – <http://www.flyfishingextremes.com/> Fly Fishing Florida's Atlantic Coast

Capt. Eric Glass – <http://www.captainericglass.com/> Fly Fishing South Padre Island

Kevin Stubbs – <http://www.expedition-outfitters.net/> Fly Fishing the Devils River

Kevin Hutchison – <http://hillcountryflyfishers.com/> Fly Fishing the Hill Country

Steve Soulé – <http://www.theshallowist.com/index.asp> Fly Fishing Galveston

Capt. Jeff Johnson – <http://www.flyfishrockport.com/> Fly Fishing Rockport

Jeff Davis – <http://allwaterguides.com/jeff-davis/> Fly Fishig the lower Colorado River

Jud Cole – <http://centraltexasflyfishing.com/> Central Texas and Colorado

Rus Schwausch – <http://www.epicanglingadventure.com/> Fly Fishing Southwest Alaska

Dan Cone – <http://www.castellguideservice.com/> Fly Fishing Central Texas

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Capt. Fred Lynch
Fly Fish Corpus Christi

<http://www.flyfishcorpus.com/>
(361) 533-4227



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