



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

February 2019
Volume 21, Issue 2



Club Meeting
Thursday, February 21
[Northwest Recreation Center](#)
6:00 Fly Tying and Social Hour
7:00 Nick Streit will make a presentation on
planning fly fishing trips to New Mexico and
Southern Colorado

Joe Andrezik with salmon caught
while fishing at
[EPIC Angling Adventures, Safari Camp](#)
in Alaska



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club

President's Message **Shawn Riggs**

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I read this past week that the Natural Resources Management Act had passed the Senate with bipartisan support: 92-8. It should pass the House this month and the White House is expected to sign the bill into law soon afterwards. This is a monumental deal for our country and the men and women who enjoy the great outdoors. The Act contains provisions that will positively affect every single state in our nation. Some of its provisions include expanding National Parks and Wilderness Areas by over a million acres, improving fish and wildlife habitat across the country, increasing access to public lands for anglers and hunters, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act which will protect such iconic rivers as the Yellowstone, North Umpqua and Elk Rivers. The Rivers Act will ensure that the vital spawning sites of various fish species will be protected by designating more than 250 miles of new wild and scenic rivers.

One of the most important pieces of the bill is that it will permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This will ensure that there are funds to conserve irreplaceable lands and improve recreation opportunities throughout the nation into the foreseeable future at no cost to the taxpayer through oil and gas drilling revenues it receives. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has had great success and broad support from many stakeholders including landowners, lawmakers, conservation organizations, and government officials and will no doubt continue to do tremendous work.

This will be one of the most significant pieces of conservation legislation created in years and brings to mind some of the sweeping conservation policies that our 26th President Theodore Roosevelt championed for in the early 1900s. Roosevelt created five national parks, preserved 234 million acres of wilderness and was a true environmentalist. I have always been a huge fan of Theodore Roosevelt with his bigger than life persona and though he had his flaws, his passion as a wilderness warrior cannot be denied.

The Natural Resources Management Act may not be perfect but overwhelmingly it should be considered a win for the conservation of America. Rejoice my fellow anglers that even in these uncertain times with past and looming govern-

ment shutdowns and stalemates over building a wall along our southern border, that those who represent us in Washington have come together and done something that we can all agree is long overdue and we should be proud of this accomplishment.

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." I have always been fond of this thoughtful quote about the environment. As a parent of three children who mean the world to me, I am always wondering about what sort of planet I am leaving them and what our Earth will look like to their children and their children's children. I think about what steps I can take to ensure that they get to live on a clean and sustainable planet and enjoy its beautiful and awe-inspiring places along with the creatures that inhabit them. I believe that this legislation is a step in the right direction but we definitely have a long way to go and should stay the course when it comes to protecting our natural resources for generations to come.

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

1/1/2019 to 1/31/2019

Begin Bal. Checking \$17,583.33*

Income:

Total Income \$0.00

Disbursements:

Earthlink \$127.29

Chris Jackson \$150.00

Total Disbursements \$277.29

Net (\$277.29)

Unencumbered: \$8,880.69

Encumbered Funds:

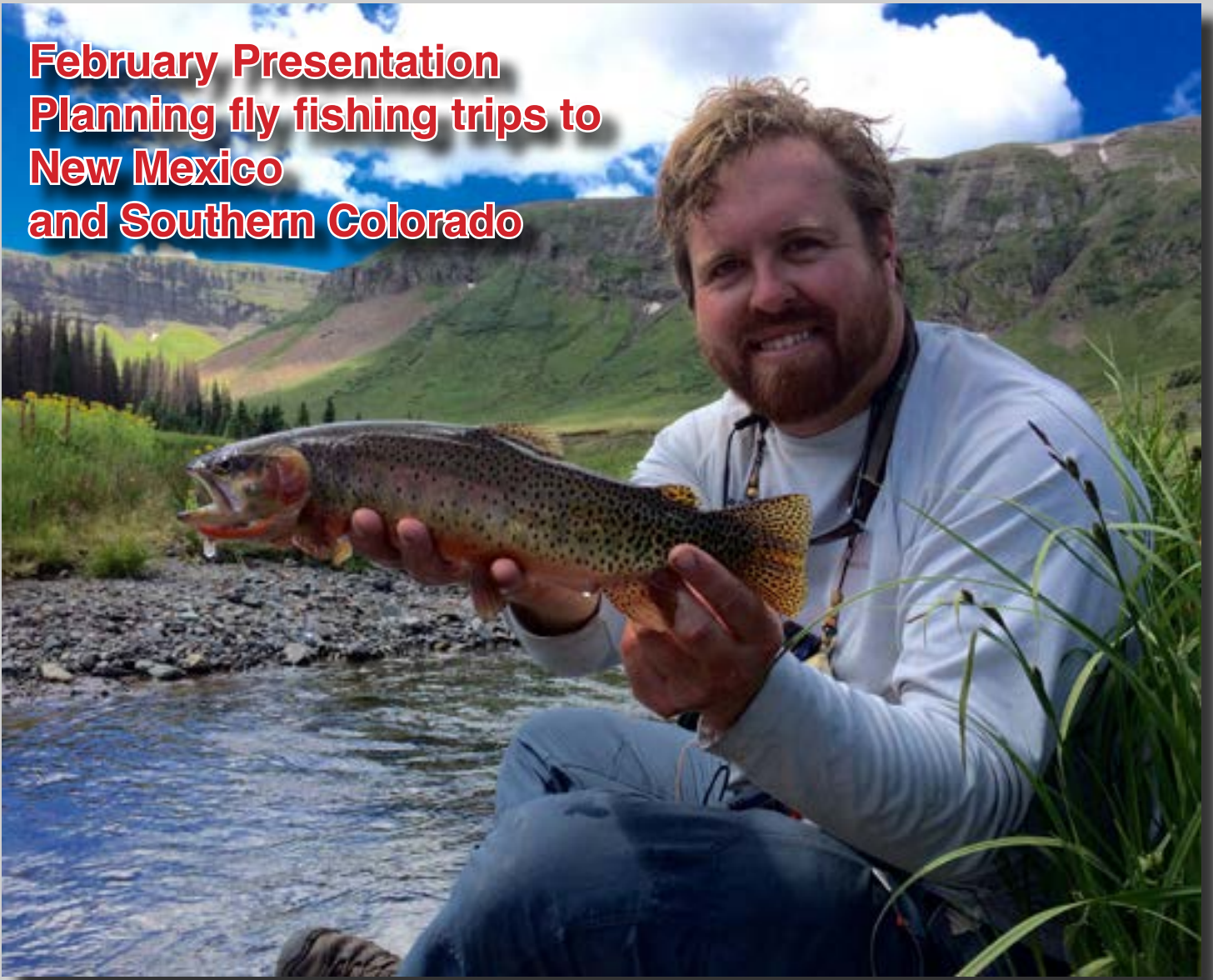
Casting for Recovery \$1,047.52*

SKIFF \$7,377.83

Ending Bal-Checking \$17,306.04*

**Includes \$3,063.18 received on Jan 2 from Paypal

February Presentation Planning fly fishing trips to New Mexico and Southern Colorado



Nick Streit was born into somewhat of a fly fishing dynasty. His father, Taylor started guiding anglers in Northern New Mexico in the late 70's and has literally wrote the book on fly fishing New Mexico. His Uncle Jackson, likewise, owns and operates The Mountain Angler in Breckenridge, Co and has authored the book Fly Fishing Colorado.

Getting into the family business at an early age, Nick was guiding fisherman before he was old enough to drive them to the river, and by the age of 17, Nick was a member of the U.S. fly fishing team that took second place in the World Championships in Wales. After college, Nick followed his father's footsteps to such fly fishing destinations as the Bahamas and Argentina. He also ventured out on his own for a brief stint guiding in Alaska. But the call of his home-waters could not be denied, and in 2004 Nick, along with his wife Chrissy, opened the [Taos Fly Shop](#) (in the same location his father had the store in the 80's). The shop has grown from its humble beginnings and is now Northern NM's premier Fly Shop. In 2012, Nick- along with longtime friend and fellow guide Ivan Valdez, purchased The [Reel Life](#), a fly shop and guide service in Santa Fe.

Nick now spends the majority of his time running his two businesses, guiding and instructing classes. In the winter, he hosts group trips to Argentina. Nick also enjoys photography and his work has been featured in publications such as Southwest Fly Fishing and New Mexico Magazine.

Nick has also done considerable volunteer work for conservation groups like Trout Unlimited and the Wildlife Federation. In recent years, Nick was the driving force behind the Red River Habitat improvement project, which raised nearly 1 million dollars for habitat restoration on the Lower Red River.

If not at work, Nick is usually camping, hunting or fishing in the woods somewhere with his wife Chrissy and their two children, Taylor and Christian.

Fly Fishing the Alaskan Peninsula

by Joe Andrezik

Last summer, Jay Lindholm and I visited Epic Angling and Adventures Safari Camp on the Alaskan Peninsula. We were on the Pacific side of the peninsula at about the level of the western margin of Kodiak Island. There were a total of nine fishers in our group. Our trip was the last week of August and by luck, the tide schedule was perfect for our fishing. The weather improved after our first day and was very conducive for our fishing. The silver salmon run had begun about a week before our arrival and was in full swing during our visit. We fished the estuary in front of camp in the mornings. Usually, the bite slowed between 1:00 and 3:00. We broke for lunch and a rest. Fishing would pick up again after dinner and evening fishing was again very good during the falling tide. But, one had to share the water with the bear (in the morning, they usually fished earlier than we and more inland). On a rotating basis, some of us would venture out with the guides to fish the rivers further inland. This is where we would catch many Dolly Varden as well as salmon.

On our last two days, we took helicopter flyouts to the adjacent eastern and western valleys to fish their rivers. Our last day, we fished rivers that had not been fished all season. Most of the fish had never seen a fly! The fishing was



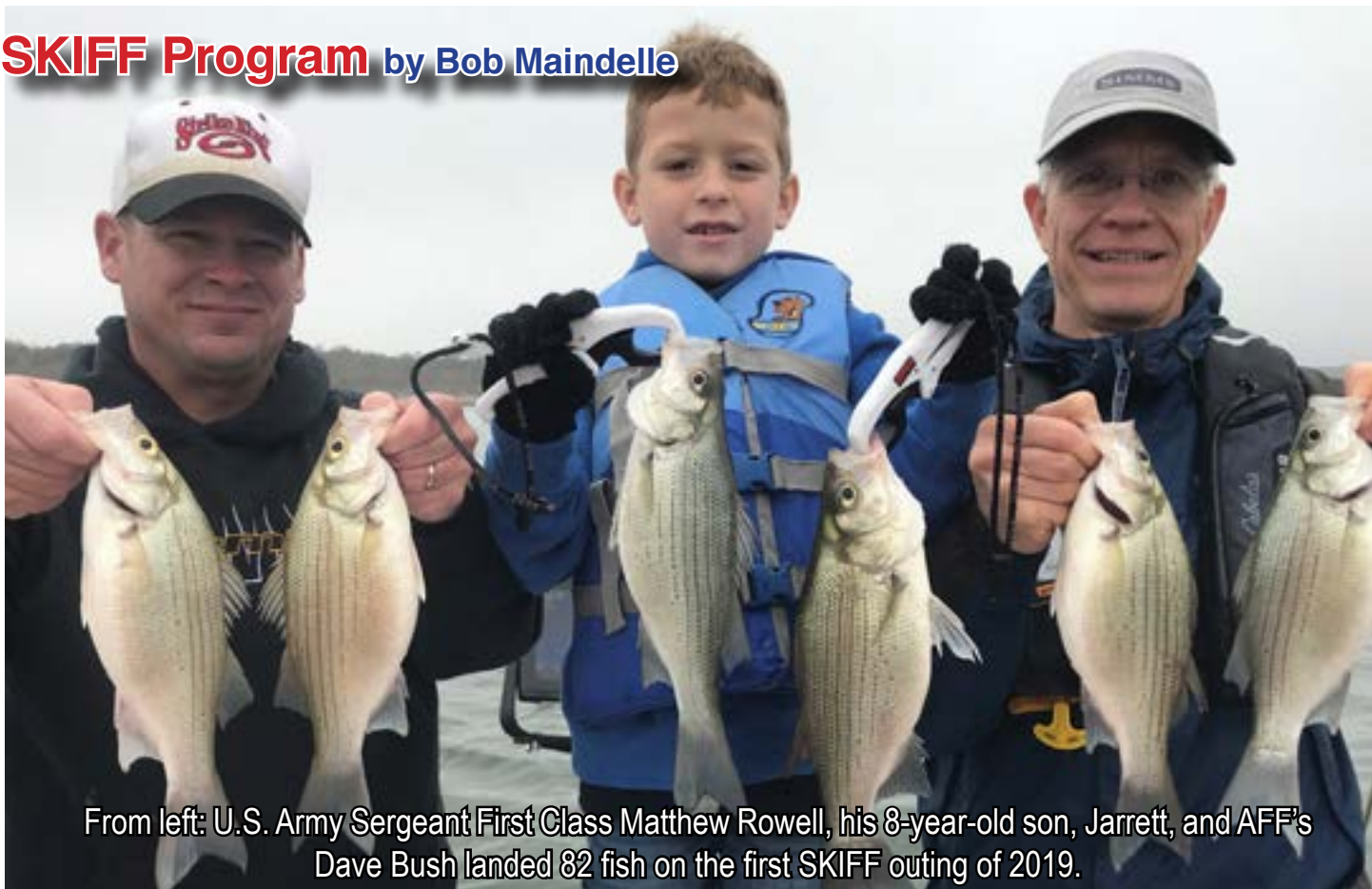
Alaska cont.

tremendous. We caught Silver, chum or pink salmon on about very third cast. Jay and I were the first in to these rivers and fishing was excellent near the landing site. We moved more inland to fish other streams and river branches as the new groups arrived. The other two groups stayed within 100 yards of the helipad because the fishing was superb.

The guides, camp and food were exceptional. As Jay and I reflected on our fishing success we affirmed that we were excellent skilled fishers. Then again, there were two fishers in our group who had not flyfished before and they were about as successful as we. Back to reality, we did confirm, that skills aside, this was the best week of fishing we had experienced in our lives. If you have the chance to visit Epic, I urge to do so. Put it on your bucket list!



SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle



From left: U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Matthew Rowell, his 8-year-old son, Jarrett, and AFF's Dave Bush landed 82 fish on the first SKIFF outing of 2019.

First trip of 2019 yields 82 fish

On a mild, foggy Saturday morning, February 2nd, AFF member Dave Bush and I welcomed aboard 8-year-old Jarrett Rowell for the first Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun (S.K.I.F.F.) trip of the 2019 season.

Jarrett had been patiently waiting for this trip since before Christmas, as foul weather forced two postponements. Jarrett's mom, Lesa Rowell, initially contacted me after hearing of the S.K.I.F.F. program from another mom at her church. There was a silver lining to Jarrett's cloud, however, in that on Sunday, January 27th, Jarrett's dad, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Matthew Rowell, redeployed to the United States from a split tour to Iraq and Kuwait as a field artilleryman.

The ambient temperature was about 55F as father and son stepped aboard my boat at 7:30am on Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, just west of Salado. The reservoir stood at 4.79 feet above full pool and was dropping fairly quickly, with a

24-hour fall of 0.61 feet as the Corps of Engineers released 3,180 cubic feet per second of water through the dam.

After a safety talk, adjusting equipment for my guests, and a word of prayer, we headed to the fishing grounds strictly relying upon GPS to navigate in the thick fog.

As we reached a main lake point, we deployed a pair of crankbaits to attempt some flat-line trolling for white bass. In about 30 minutes of effort we got only one strike which resulted in a missed fish.

I had warned everyone that our first hour would likely be slow, as it typically is with foggy, calm conditions. Around 8:20 am, our luck changed when the lightest of ESE winds began to ripple the surface. This kicked off the morning white bass feed. As white bass fed on threadfin shad from below, they drove bait toward the surface where ring-billed gulls dipped down to pick up dead and injured forage. The white birds were tough to spot in the fog, but we got to them and confirmed the presence of fish with sonar. The fish

were tight to the bottom, but were ready to feed.

We all dropped 3/8 oz. slabs of my own design, equipped with a Hazy Eye Stinger Hook, to the bottom and used a "smoking" retrieve to tempt these active fish. Young Jarrett went 5 for 5 on his first several attempts at the technique, each time landing a white bass between 12-13 inches. As we three adults also hooked fish, we passed them off to Jarrett to reel in if he wasn't already engaged with a fish of his own.

We fished three distinct locations over the 4 hour span of the trip, amassing a catch of 82 fish including approximately 4 drum, 1 blue catfish, and the balance consisting of white bass. One of these fish is a pending lake record ... but more on that when TPWD certifies the catch!!

As the trip concluded, we presented Jarrett with his own red tacklebox with an assortment of gear inside, a closed-faced rod and reel, and a red, logoed S.K.I.F.F. ballcap, all provided by Dave Hill and Manuel Pena.



Brandon Rabke fishing the Nueces River

Club Sponsors

The following individuals who made presentations to our club in 2017/2018. Please follow the links to get more information on the services they provide. You won't be disappointed.

Marcus Rodriquez – <http://livingwatersflyfishing.com/> Central Texas Guide

Capt. Billy Trimble – <http://trimbleflyfishing.com/> Fly Fishing Rockport/Texas Coastal Bend

Chris Johnson – <http://livingwatersflyfishing.com/> Living Waters Fly Shop and Central Texas Guide

Pat Dorsey – <http://www.bluequillangler.com/> Fly Fishing Colorado

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

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

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

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

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

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Capt. Billy Trimble
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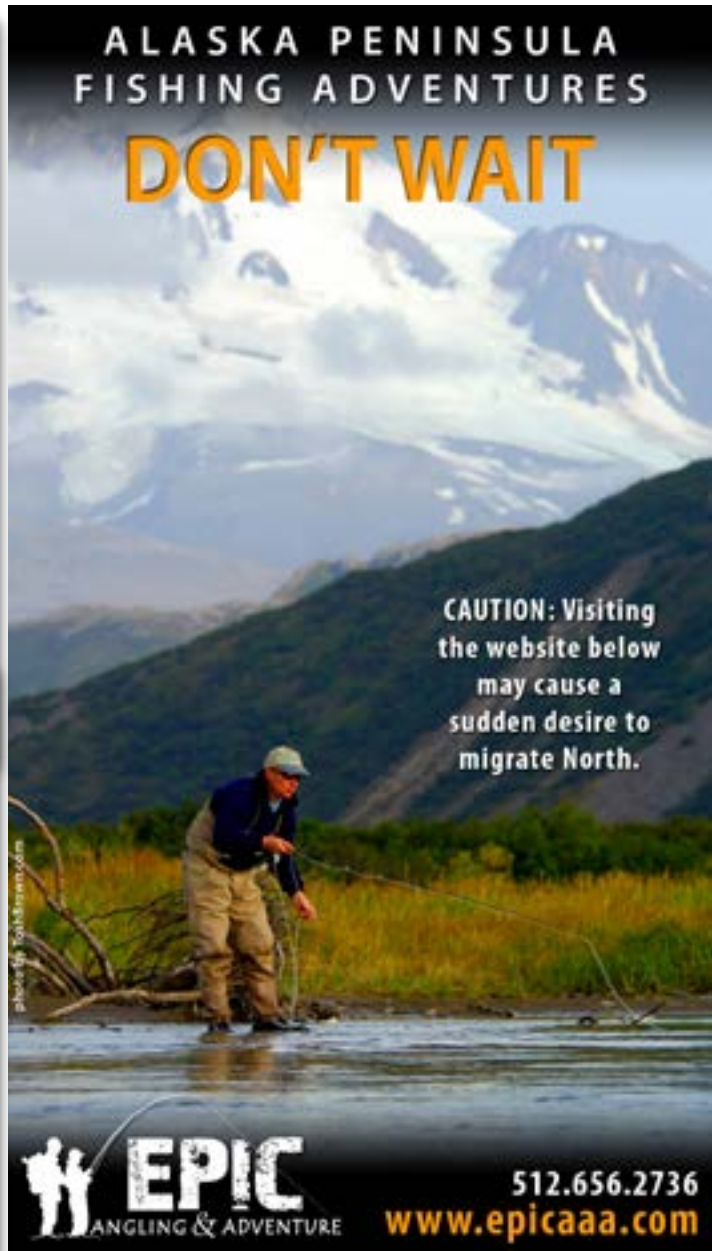
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