



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

November 2021
Volume 23, Issue 11



Warren Wolf -the man who brought
Reel Recovery to Texas
photo taken at the June 2007 Retreat
Basalt, CO on the Frying Pan River
Article on Page 6

Our Thursday, November 18th Meeting will be held at the
Northwest Recreation Center 2913 Northland Dr, Austin

General meeting begins at 6:00 pm

Persons attending must wear masks and will have temperatures checked

Chris Johnson will present Tenkara for Texas Trout at 7:00 pm



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club

President's Message by David Bush

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To contact officers:
Info@AustinFlyFishers.com

I'm pleased to report that we will once again be able to meet at the Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive (one block east of Mopac on 2222), starting with this month's meeting on Thursday, November 18. We will start to gather at 6:00 pm, and our speaker will get started at 7:00 pm. We're able to once again meet in person because the City of Austin recently updated their policy with regard to use of the facility. My understanding is that temperature screenings will be done at the door and masks must be worn indoors until the mayor revokes these remaining requirements. In any case, it's good to be able to use the facility again so I hope y'all will be able to make it.

For our first indoor meeting back together, we will have a silent auction for a really nice fly rod and reel that was donated to the club for the benefit of our SKIFF program. The rod is an 8-weight 4-piece Orvis TLS-Power Matrix in a deep green color with black hardware and the reel is an Orvis Battenkill Large Arbor IV in black with an Orvis WF-8-F Bonefish Wonderline Advantage fly line. This combo looks great, is in like-new condition, and does not appear to have ever been used. It's a great set-up for inshore saltwater, and would also be ideal for throwing big flies to largemouth bass and stripers in freshwater. The rod comes with the original Orvis rod tube and the reel includes a matching Orvis case, both of which are in perfect condition. The original cost of this gear was around \$800, but some lucky attendee is likely to take it home for significantly less than that amount.

I live adjacent to a large, mostly undeveloped, city park. This past week, a gentleman was walking his dogs in the park close to my house and was attacked by a swarm of bees. Tragically, he died before he could escape. First responders couldn't even get to him for a couple of hours because of the aggressive bees. I mention this terrible event because all of us spend a lot of time outdoors, often in isolated areas where large hives may exist. In addition, some people may be particularly allergic to the sting of bees and wasps that could send them into anaphylactic shock. I know I am very allergic due to past serious reactions to a single sting so I shudder to think what might happen if I got stung repeatedly. Fortunately, there is first aid treatment available that can offset the

effects of the venom. The treatment is called epinephrine, commonly available in the form of an EpiPen, which a victim can readily self-administer in an emergency. I don't have one to carry with me in my first aid kit, but I will be talking to my doctor about an EpiPen prescription soon. You may want to consider doing the same.

As I mentioned last month, my term as president will be coming to an end this year. I'm glad to report that a couple of members have offered to take leadership roles after last month's call to serve, but we still need a few more volunteers. If you are interested in helping the club with some of your time and effort, please get in touch with me as soon as possible to discuss any role that might interest you. You can reach me at davebush@mac.com.

Thanks and tight lines!
Dave

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

10/1/2021 to 10/31/2021

Begin Bal. Checking \$21,210.46
Income:

No income \$00.00
Total Income \$00.00

Disbursements

ACH Debit \$00.00
Total Disbursements \$00.00

Net \$00.00

Unencumbered: \$12,388.11

Encumbered Funds:
Casting for Recovery \$2,365.52
SKIFF \$6,456.83

Ending Adj Bal-Checking \$21,210.46*

*I have now been able to get monthly statements for both Sept and Oct from PNC but still not identified the purpose of the ACH charge in Sept.

November Speaker – Chris Johnson

Thursday, November 18 at 7:00 pm
Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland Dr, Austin, TX 78757

Topic: Tenkara for Texas Trout:

Learn how to fish simply for trout in Texas! Chris Johnson is an avid tenkara angler and Tenkara USA guide. Chris will walk you through the right rods, lines, and tenkara gear that you will need to fish the Guadalupe River and other trout tailwaters with ease!

You will also learn how to rig for success and select the right types of water for tenkara on our Texas tailwater! Chris will also discuss fly selection, tippet types, how to properly fight large fish, and other tips that will give you an edge on the water this season.



SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle



Dear Friends of S.K.I.F.F.,
I was pleased to conduct two SKIFF trips this past October.

Adams – Sink Trip

On Saturday, October 9th, I fished Lake Belton for this season's ninth SKIFF program fishing trip. Joining me were Logan Sinks of Belton, and Drake Adams of Killeen. The two friends are both 15 years of age.

Logan's dad, U.S. Army Master Sergeant David Sinks, is currently deployed to Camp Humphries in South Korea. He has served for approximately 17 years and is in the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) field. Drake's step-father, Sergeant First Class Richard Rodriguez, is an Apache attack helicopter mechanic. He has served for 21 years and was most recently deployed to South Korea, as well.

Our primary means of catching that morning was to find fish holding tight to bottom, Spot-Lock on them, work MAL Heavy Lures (white tail, silver blade) vertically up off bottom to about the top of the lower third of the water column, then drop them back while all the time viewing Garmin LiveScope to gauge fish response, and to know when to reel and when not to reel.

The boys got the hang of this quickly, were willing to be coached to smooth out some of the "rookie mistakes" they made with their presentations, and their result benefited handsomely. They wound up catching and releasing 136 fish.



The Shoellhorns – A Gold Star Family

A family's receipt of a "Gold Star" is an honor no family desires. A Gold Star Family is the immediate family member(s) of a fallen service member who died while serving in a time of conflict.

Today, I fished with Britton Shoellhorn and his wife, Hollie (both disabled veterans), their foster son, Zach, and their adopted daughter, Jayden. Jayden's father, Sergeant First Class William K. Lacey, died while on active duty in 2014; her mother, Sergeant First Class Melissa Wojcik, died while on active duty in 2017; then, her first adoptive father, Sergeant First Class Jason Wojcik, also died while on active duty in 2017.

On this trip, I arrayed my four anglers abreast of one another on the starboard side of the boat, with two anglers on each of the two Garmin LiveScope units networked into a single transducer covering an elliptically-shaped area directly below each of them. Each could see his/her lure rise and fall 100% of the time, so each knew when fish were nearby and could respond accordingly.

One of the challenges today was to help keep everyone from reeling their fish in too far. Doing so greatly increases the odds of losing a fish right at boatside. Each improved on this such that, by the end of the trip, we were losing far fewer fish at the boat before they were swung overboard.

Zach was obsessed with our fish count. At the start of the trip I told everyone I'd keep them updated with every tenth fish we landed. That satisfied 8-year-old Zach up to around fish number 60. After that, I believe he asked, "What number fish was that?" after every single fish!

We caught lots of fish, had lots of fun, and even got Jayden to reconsider her reluctance to trying "new things".

By the time 10:45 a.m. had rolled around, we'd landed 205 fish.

Of the 205 fish landed, 191 were white bass, with 1 largemouth bass, 1 smallmouth bass, 1 freshwater drum, and 11 juvenile hybrid striped bass in the mix.

As always, I appreciate each one of you who have contributed to make this program possible.

-Bob Maindelle

Texas Chapter of Reel Recovery Serves 500th Man

by Michael Emerson

Texas Chapter of Reel Recovery was blessed to serve the 500th man to experience our free fly-fishing program for men living with cancer at our 43rd Texas Retreat on October 14-16, 2021 at Camp Allen in Navasota, TX.

The Texas Chapter journey began fifteen years ago in 2007 when Warren Wolf heard about a free fishing trip for men with cancer. (Warren had recovered into remission from stage IV melanoma after major surgery) He told his life partner Debbie McKinney and close friend Tom Misdeldt about the trip and they told him to "Go for it". He called to apply and the woman answering asked "who do you want to nominate?" "Me", Warren responded. There was a pause and the woman said their program was Casting for Recovery, for women with breast cancer. She gave Warren the contact for Reel Recovery. He filled out the application and was accepted to attend the June 2007 Basalt, CO. retreat. Warren drove his old truck to the retreat by himself. He was so impressed with his retreat experience that he told the Executive Director, Stan Golub, who was helping run the retreat, that his mission was to start a Texas Chapter. Before heading home, Warren called both Debbie and Tom and shared his plan.

Immediately upon his return, he was nonstop talking about the program with Debbie & Tom, its value and how "We" needed to bring it to Texas. Warren was determined to have the first Texas Retreat in 2008. They began the many tasks involved to start a new Chapter and hold the first retreat. Funding, finding a retreat venue on or close to water with lodging & meal service, recruit volunteers (to be staff trained to run the retreat or be fishing buddies helping each participant with fly-fishing), and of course recruit participants to attend.

One of the obvious sources for volunteers, maybe some participants and possible funding was local fly-fishing clubs. Warren and Tom made visits to area clubs to talk-up the program, retreat plans and lay the ground work for long term relationships. Warren visited area cancer clinics to recruit participants and small businesses that he felt would be receptive to the program and lend financial support. Fortunately, Reel Recovery National was able to help with a Grant from the John Wayne Cancer Foundation along with local support to fund the first retreat.

Warren and Debbie lived in Kerrville in 2007, so they visited potential retreat venues in the Hill Country. One was Joshua Creek Ranch and it fit the bill. The first Texas Retreat was set to be held in October, 2008! One of the first volunteers Warren approached was Rafael Torres. He was impressed with Rafael's application and asked him to help find retreat fishing buddies. Warren and the first retreat experience made such an impression on Rafael that he is now one of our Texas State Co-ordinators for the Hill Country Region.

There are several examples that define Warren's drive, enthusiasm, and the lasting impact Warren, Debbie and Tom had in representing Reel Recovery in their quest to build a strong Texas Chapter.

Warren knew the owner of Chimy's Cervceria in Fort Worth was an avid fly-fisherman and left him a Reel Recovery pamphlet with a note "want to be a fishing guide?". Kyle responded not only as a fishing buddy at the first retreat, but as a major promoter of the Texas Chapter. Chimy's sponsored the first Texas benefit in 2010 and has continued to play an integral part by being a staunch supporter of Reel Recovery.



1st Texas Retreat Held October, 2008 at Joshua Creek Ranch in Boerne, TX
Warren back row 2nd from L, Kyle back row 4th from L
Tom front row 1st from L, Rafael front row 3rd from L

Reel Recovery cont.

Chimy's has sponsored throughout the years, the major annual Texas fundraiser including catering the meals at these events.

Warren went to Temple Fork Outfitters (TFO) Dallas warehouse in 2008 to meet its founder, Rick Pope, and share the RR program, his personal retreat experience and ask for help with supplying flyrods for the first of many retreats. Rick shared his impression of Warren at this first meeting; "Full of life, passion and enthusiasm, he touched me with his kindness and generosity for those who endure the most difficult of times while battling cancer. I was honored to help and we began loaning outfits to programs in the infancy of RR".

Warren and Tom attended several of the Fort Worth Fly Fishing Club (FWFF) meetings. Warren would update us on his progress in planning his first retreat and asked club members to consider being volunteers and asked the Club to consider donations to support Reel Recovery. Warren also suggested that the club might be surprised of the likely candidates within the membership who would qualify to be a participant at a Retreat. Three of the club members attended the 2009 retreat as participants. Les Jackson and I became volunteers in 2009. Warren asked Les to round up fishing buddies for the 2009 retreat. The FWFF board voted to make a donation and has faithfully supported Reel Recovery ever since. There are now half a dozen clubs that regularly make donations, club members help as volunteers and they do have members that attend as participants.

In one of the National newsletters, the Executive Director of Reel Recovery, Stan Golub, stated: "Warren was such a positive ambassador for Reel Recovery, we added him to our Board of Directors in 2009".

In 2010 Warren was seeing a psychologist in Ft Worth as part of his cancer treatment regimen. His cancer had metastasized into his brain, and despite the difficulties of dealing with treatment and tumors he continued to work to build a solid foundation for the Texas Chapter and Reel Recovery. According to his Psychologist Marty, Warren kept circling back to Reel Recovery and how Texas needed its own Facilitator (Marty) to lead the Courageous Conversations for the participants. Warren wanted Texas to have a local therapist in order to dispense with travel expenses (Texas was having to pay to fly in an out-of-state facilitator) Dr. Marty became our Texas Facilitator in fall, 2011. We have since added two more facilitators, one for each of our three regions.

Warren influenced the formation of 3 additional State Chapters: Louisiana –Warren was invited by Rusty Dunn in 2010 to make a presentation about Reel Recovery to his Lafayette, LA Fly-Fishing Club. Warren was not feeling well from his treatments, but did not want to miss the chance of adding another Chapter and retreat for Reel Recovery. Tom offered to drive Warren to Lafayette so he would not miss this opportunity. Subsequently, the Louisiana Chapter was formed and Rusty

Dunn, one of the original Louisiana State Coordinators, held the first Louisiana Reel Recovery retreat in October, 2012. Rusty moved to Texas and is now one of our Texas State Co-ordinators for the SE Texas Region.

Oklahoma –Shortly after the April 2011 Graham retreat Warren was put in hospice. Several of us made visits to see Warren and talk about Reel Recovery. We learned as much as we could from Warren about his dreams for the Texas Chapter. When I was told the end was near, I went to visit with Warren that very day. Warren had his usual smile and was very lucid. He said he had a couple of things he wanted to talk about. He told me to make sure when someone volunteered and had cancer but did not think they needed to go through the program to encourage them to go through the program first. Simply, it would help them deal with their cancer journey and make them a much better volunteer to have the program experience. I took that to heart and we still encourage volunteers who have experienced cancer to go through our program first. Everyone that has heeded Warren's advice is glad they did. The second thing on his mind was his bucket list item – get a Chapter started in Oklahoma! He had attended Oklahoma State and had wanted to start an Oklahoma Chapter. He asked that I see to it that it would happen. I promised I would. Warren was building Reel Recovery right to the end. Warren passed away several days later. Oklahoma held their first retreat in October, 2013.

Virginia – One of the Louisiana participants, Dr. Skip, (now a Louisiana State Coordinator) shared his participant experience at a Louisiana retreat with friends in Virginia, Steve & Vic, and urged them to consider starting a Virginia Chapter. They held their first retreat in May, 2015 .

Fortunately for Texas and Reel Recovery, Debbie took on the task of Texas State Coordinator and it was not long before Stan asked Debbie to become the second fulltime National staff member as Program Administrator.

She worked closely with all the State Coordinators planning retreats, managing retreat gear, communications with volunteers and participants and many other day-to-day activities. Debbie is currently the Program Director with added National responsibilities. Debbie's passion, enthusiasm and hard work in supporting Reel Recovery's Mission is a major factor in Reel Recovery's success.

I want to thank Stan, Debbie, Tom, Rick, Kyle, Marty, Rusty, Rafael and Les for sharing their memories of Warren's enthusiasm, passion, vision and determination in founding the Texas Chapter of Reel Recovery we are so blessed to enjoy. It has been a National Staff and Texas Team effort from the beginning – caring volunteers, supportive cancer clinics & hospitals, generous donors and the many friends who support the Texas Retreat program. Here's to the next 500 courageous men we are honored to serve beginning with six Texas retreats in 2022!

Club Sponsors

The following individuals who made presentations to our club in 2017/2019. Please follow the links to get more information on the services they provide. You won't be disappointed.

Marcus Rodriguez – <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 Fishing the lower Colorado River

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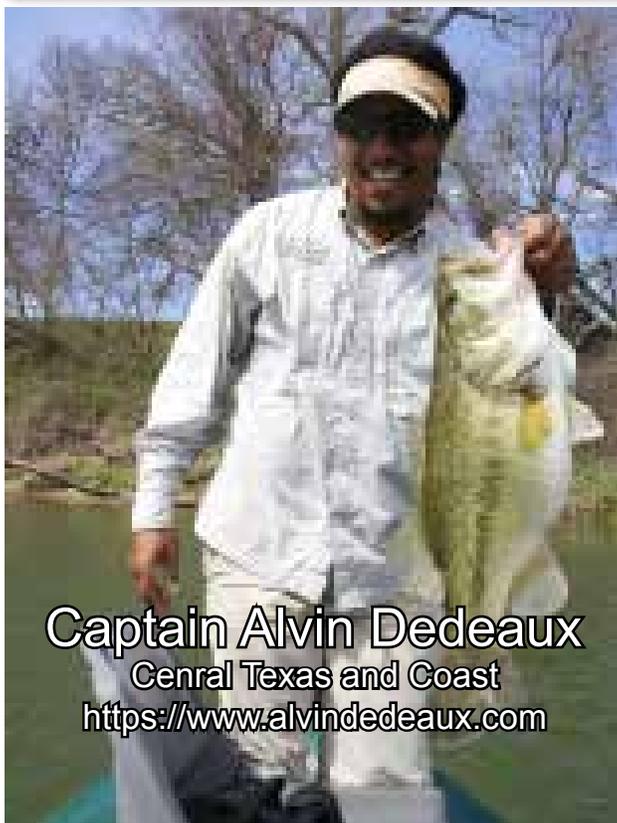
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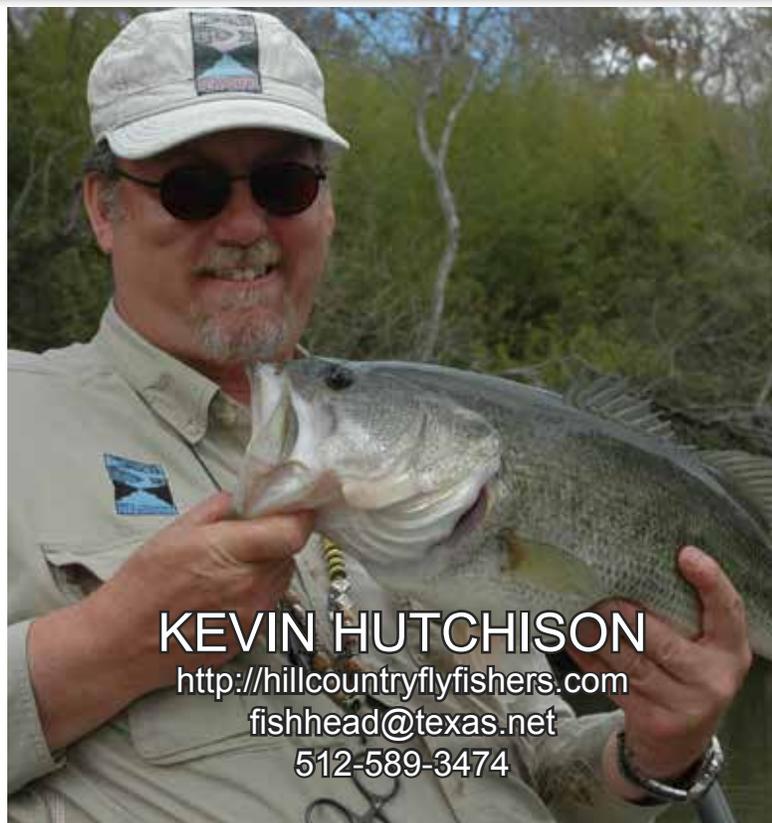
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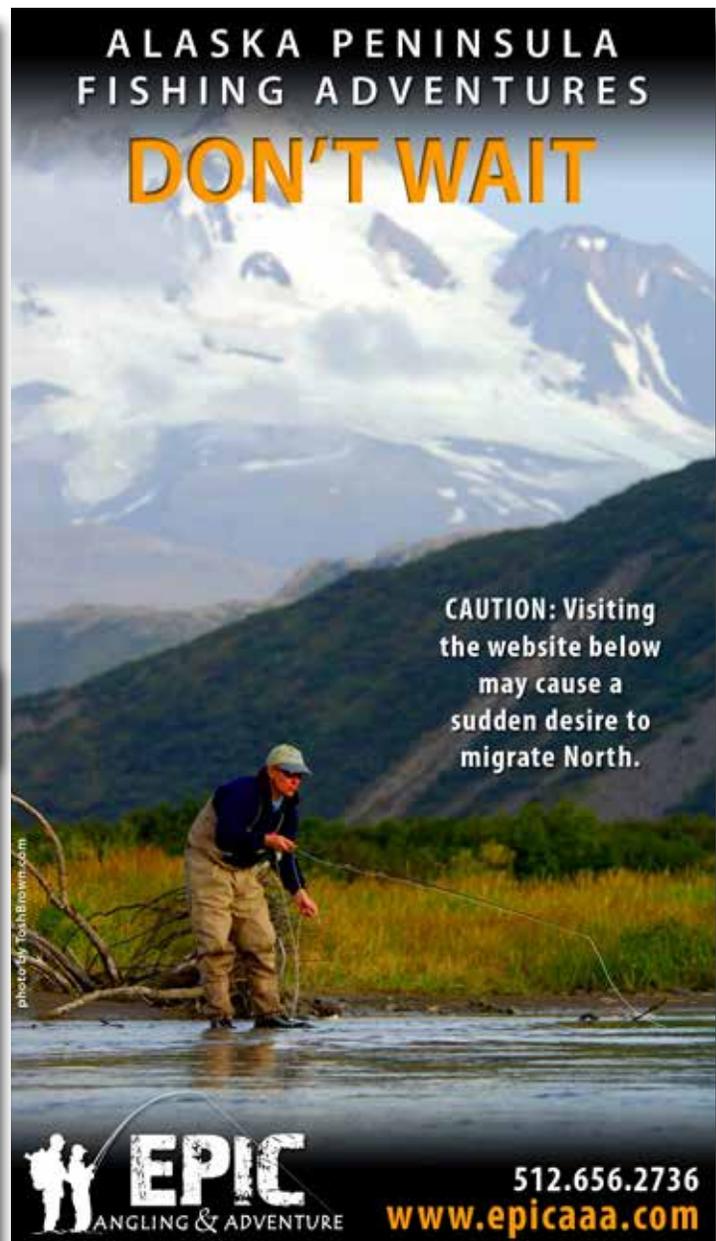
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