



Austin Fly Fishers

A member club of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers
September 2015
Volume 17, Issue 9



Club Meeting
Thursday, September 17
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying Demos
6:00 Casting Clinic
7:00 Skills Showcase Meeting
Club members and a few folks from other clubs will
be sharing various fly fishing-related tips and tech-
niques

Dave Bush with 117 lb yellowfin tuna
caught while vacationing in Cabo San
Lucas, Mexico

Officers:

President

Jim Gray

Texasjimgray@yahoo.com

Vice President

Matt Bennett

m.bennett151@gmail.com

Treasurer

Shawn Riggs 512-656-7670

shawn.p.riggs@gmail.com

Secretary

Phil Dopson

Phil@PhilDopson.com

Conservation

Ed Parsons 512-413-3895

Eparsons@Tstar.net

Education

Carroll Hall 512-470-5564

carrayhall@aol.com

Merchandise

Vern Harris 512-863-4792

harris.vern@gmail.com

Membership

Jon Creed 512-203-7056

Membership@AustinFlyFishers.com

Newsletter

Nils Pearson 512-565-7647

NPearson@austin.rr.com

Outings

Dave Bush 512-694-1323

aff.outings@me.com

SKIFF

Dave Hill

flyfisher149@gmail.com

Manuel Pena 423-8898

mtexas@aol.com

Webmaster

Brandon Rabke

brabke@texas.net

Directors at Large

Doug Kierklewski

flyfsh@hotmail.com

Jeff Hoelter

JHoelter@verizon.net

President's Message by Jim Gray

It's been a very busy few months for me. I've been on the road for the past 6 weeks, including trips to California, Oregon, Florida and two trips to Australia. Whenever I'm traveling on business or a "non-fishing" vacation, I will try and get in a little fishing.

With internet access and a trip to a local fly shop, it's not difficult to find places to fish. The biggest impediment to fly fishing during these trips is carrying all the extra gear. Airline luggage restrictions aren't helping. Fortunately, I'm finding Tenkara to be a perfect substitution for all the kit I would normally carry.

The minimalistic approach afforded by Tenkara lets you easily bring along a small rod tube, line, leader and a few flies. I found a small tackle pouch that I can wear around my neck that holds everything I need and takes up almost no space.

The benefits of Tenkara on small streams is well known, but I'm finding Tenkara perfect for fishing the canals of South Florida for exotic species like Mayan Cichlids and Peacock Bass. Tenkara has limitations. You won't be making really long casts, and it's very difficult to land big fish on some of the lighter rods with light tippet; but if you match your fly size to your rod, you can target fish that are the perfect size. Since you can't guarantee that only small fish will hit your fly, you need to follow rod guidelines for tippet strength. It's better to break your tippet than your rod, and you will break the rod if you use heavy tippet.

On a previous trip to Florida, I became frustrated after breaking off several nice peacocks. I bumped up my tippet until I was double the recommended strength. On the next fish, I broke three sections of the rod which ended fishing for the trip. I've learned my lesson, and I'm happy to catch smaller fish and break off an occasional large fish.

If you have the luxury of carrying more gear, by all means, take your fly rod.



Mayan Cichlid and Peacock Bass

Dave Bush, our outings officer, did just that on a family vacation, and you can see the amazing results on the newsletter cover.

Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

8/1/2015 - 8/31/2015

Beginning Bal. Checking \$10,098.49

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$389.10
Auctions	\$235.00
Merchandise	\$10.00
SKIFF	<u>\$1,300.00</u>
Total Income	\$1,934.10

Disbursements:

Nils Pearson – Reimb.	\$40.00
Bob Maindelle	\$1,530.00
Dues	<u>\$270.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$1,840.00

Net \$94.10

Ending Balance-Checking \$10,192.59

*Casting for Recovery Deposit	\$1,085.38
SKIFF Total Donations	\$22,592.94
SKIFF Total Disbursements	\$18,667.57
SKIFF Balance on Hand	\$3,925.37

September Meeting

In lieu of a monthly speaker, we will be doing our annual Skills Showcase meeting where club members and a few folks from other clubs will be sharing various fly fishing-related tips and techniques. We'll have several tables set up for fly tying, gear, knot tying, and more, with casting going on outside. This should be a great social meeting to catch up with fellow club members, swap fish stories, and gather a few helpful techniques for your next trip.

SKIFF Donation

On August 27th, The AFF received a \$1000 Skiff program donation from the Sun City Hunting & Fishing Club. The Sun Hunting and Fishing Club raises funds that benefit a number of youth oriented outdoors programs in the Georgetown area. Other recipients at the ceremony were the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Boys Club, and Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department.

The Austin Fly Fishers would like to thank the members of the Sun City Hunting & Fishing Club for their generous and enthusiastic support of the Skiff Program and other outdoor youth programs in the Georgetown area.



Sun City Hunting and Fishing Club President Jim Key presents \$1,000 check to Manuel and Dave for the SKIFF program.

Lydia Ann Fly Masters Tournament

The Lydia Ann Fly Masters Tournament will be held on October 3rd, 2015 in Aransas Pass, TX

The purpose of the LYDIA ANN FLY MASTERS tournament is to bring Fly Fishing anglers from all over the State of Texas, as well as other States, to compete for prizes, share in the enjoyment of fishing the flats, and have a good time; all the while never losing focus of the main reason for being there - to help support a wonderful charitable organization.

For more information go to

<http://www.lydiaannflymasters.com/>



Rainbows on the Hams Fork River

by Carroll Ray Hall

This past summer on the Hams Fork River, I caught what may well be the largest rainbow trout I will ever catch. The Hams Fork becomes a small, easily wadeable tailrace as it flows out of Lake Viva Naughton in far western Wyoming. It is located on a 28,000 acre ranch extracted around 1870 from a much larger mile-wide holding of the Texas Cattle Company that extended from Texas to Montana. It was used for moving cattle to greener pastures and railheads. The old ranch house pictured on the right is near the access to the section of the river I used in July.

The rainbows in this stretch are numerous and large. However, they are very selective feeders, sometimes changing completely from one target to another in an hour or so. I have neither the knowhow nor the flies to do this on my own, but was fortunate to be fishing with my friend, experienced guide and IFFF Master Casting Instructor, Dayle Mazzarella. To begin the day, Dayle used observations of what was happening in the air and on the surface plus a fine-mesh net to examine what was in the water. As the action slowed, he examined stomach contents to detect changes in what was actually being eaten. Without these observations and a fly box to match, I do not believe you would catch these fish.

Dayle also helped me significantly improve my fly fishing skills to meet two additional requirements. First, these fish demand absolutely drag free drift. Whether on the top or below the surface, it was frustrating to see fish ignore what I used to think was drag free drift. Dayle was very helpful in showing me techniques that would methodically cover the water and remain drag free.



Second, since the flies were as small as size 20 hooks requiring 5X tippet, the larger fish could easily be heavier than the 5 pound test of the line. Not only did you have to keep your rod at the optimum angle, you had to quickly move with the fish to keep them from breaking off. Then you add in a delicate balance of tolerance with sufficient pressure to gain control and land the fish.

Fortunately, my best fish came late on the third day after I had improved my

drag free drift and perhaps more importantly, my fish fighting skills.

There is nothing like landing a big fish to bring a big smile. The experience is made even more rewarding because of the additional challenges of fly selection, drag free drift, and fighting technique.

To see more about this and other fishing opportunities in western Wyoming, go to: <http://flyfishingwesternwyoming.com/>

Port O'Connor Report

by Brandon Rabke

The fishing was a little slow on the Port O'Connor outing this year. Unusually high tides made it difficult to spot fish, and so many of us wound up doing a lot more paddling than fishing. The high water was due, at least in part, to a large storm that blew through the area right before our trip began. We did have a nice turnout, however - nine people on Friday night, including POC newcomers: Jim Lincoln, Juan Shepherd, Doug and Riley Orr, and Charles Bush and his friend Laura.

On Saturday, most of the AFF group, including myself, kayaked and fished an area known as Mule Slough. We made use of a shuttle service to transport our boats and gear to this somewhat remote area on the eastern edge of Espiritu Santo Bay. Although the weather was nice and the paddling quite pleasant, the high water meant that not many tailing fish were seen. I eventually gave up looking for tails and just started casting to wakes. I had some success with this approach and for the day, I landed one keeper redfish and had hookups with another red and one trout. Kathi and Gary, instead of fishing Mule Slough, launched from Charlie's Bait Camp and explored the waters around West Dewberry Island. They had an enjoyable day on the water and Gary caught two nice reds on a fly.

On Sunday, after everybody else had left to go back home, I decided to check out Powderhorn Lake. This lake, essentially a shallow saltwater bay, lies just a short drive from the town of Port O'Connor. As you may recall, TPWD has recently acquired a large tract of land that borders the lake, and plans to eventually open it up to the public. I launched my kayak below a bridge that crosses the upper end of the lake



Port O'Connor Report Continued

and then I headed out in a generally westward direction. The water was a little off-color, due to the recent rains, so the conditions for fishing were not the best. Nevertheless, as I explored the lake, I found one shoreline that was chock-full of shrimp. Shrimp were literally jumping into my kayak as I paddled along. With all of that bait around, I wasn't surprised to see a few redfish in the area as well. I think that once the water clears up even more redfish will move in, attracted by all the bait, and the fishing should improve.

Interestingly, after I had returned to the bridge, I encountered another group of paddlers who had come up from the other end of the lake and were finishing their day at the same takeout point. I learned that they were all members of the San Antonio Bay Partnership, which is conservation group that monitors San Antonio Bay and other nearby waters of the Texas Coastal Bend. They offered me a cold drink and we visited for a while and then exchanged contact information. I've already received an invitation to join them, in early October, on a trip through Hog Bayou and the Guadalupe Delta. I'm seriously considering going. I would like to learn more what this group is all about, and I figure I also may discover a new place to fish while on some future outing to the Port O'Connor area.

From what I have already seen of Powderhorn Lake, I think it itself merits a return trip with my fly rod sometime. Mule Slough will still be my main focus when I visit the area again, however. It's a very nice place to kayak, containing great redfish habitat, and most of this sprawling expanse of shallow marine grass flats and mangrove bordered channels and coves, I've yet to explore. Hopefully, next time the tides will turn out to be a little bit more favorable for fly fishing for redfish.



SKIFF Program

by Bob Maindelle

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

On August 18th, I fished back-to-back SKIFF (Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun) program trips on Belton Lake with children from 3 Army families.

At 6:30am, I met up with Mrs. Terri Tift and her two children, 17 year old Deonte', and 9 year old Cameron. The boys' father, U.S. Army Sergeant Donald Tift, is currently assigned to Camp Casey, South Korea. He has served in the military for over 11 years. As Mrs. Tift left the boys in my care, I also welcomed along special guests Dave Hill and Manuel Pena, both of the Austin Fly Fishers — the non-profit organization which serves as the primary sponsor for the SKIFF program. The pair had arranged for a donation of tackle boxes from Cabela's in Buda, TX, and wanted to both hand-deliver these to me for distribution to kids on future trips, but also to personally present the first two boxes to Deonte' and Cameron.

As many of my morning trips on Belton have gone of late, we had a strong start, a strong finish, and a bit of a lull in the middle. We didn't have lines in the water more than 2-3 minutes before the boys were hooked up with hybrid striped bass that devoured our downrigged Pet Spoons. There was no topwater bite this morning as the moon phase has passed new and is now waxing toward full. For variety's sake we did a bit of shallow-water panfishing in the middle of the trip when the pelagic fish action died down. By trip's end we'd discovered numerous schools of small white bass feeding near the surface and once again broke out the downriggers to capitalize on these fish, catching singles and multiples using umbrella rigs. After pulling the boat out of the water, we proudly flew the Cabela's banner behind the boys as they received their new tackle boxes.

Fast forward 6 1/2 hours — at 5pm Mrs. Lisa Tomes and Mrs. Katrina Kent arrived at the boat ramp with kids in tow. This evening I would fish with Jacob



Kent, age 9, and Eli Tomes, age 7. Eli's mom, Lisa, also joined us. She was planning ahead to Eli's upcoming birthday and wanted to see how the trip was conducted with the possibility of doing a fishing birthday party for Eli in the future.

Jacob's father, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Brian Kent is serving at Camp Casey, South Korea. Eli's dad, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bryce Tomes is currently in the field. Upon his return, he'll head to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA, and upon his return from there, he'll head to Korea in the new year. CW2 Tomes has served for 17 years.

We experienced a bit of a rarity this evening in that our evening catch outpaced our morning catch. Normally, the evening will produce approximately 70% of the morning's catch. As we launched, we'd only been motoring for a few minutes when we spotted surface action

erupting before us. Multiple schools of white bass were forcing shad to the surface and feeding upon them there. This "clue" helped us solve the location mystery early in the trip, and allowed us to maximize our time spent catching fish instead of searching for them. We boated 50 fish in our first 90 minutes and could have kept right on catching, but the novelty of the downrigging was wearing off, so, I thought a change of pace was in order. We went up shallow after panfish, and stayed up shallow until around 7:40p when I suspected larger fish, possibly including hybrid stripers, might move up in the water column and into shallower water where we could capitalize on that migration. Although the twilight bite wasn't as strong as I'd hoped, it did afford us a shot at white bass that were, on average, larger than those we'd found schooling in open water earlier in the evening.

The Fly Tyer's Corner

Photos and Recipe by Jack Lehman

Spey Shrimp

Everyone knows that you only need a few flies to catch anything and everything. Clousers, buggers and a few poppers will cover most situations and catch the most fish. Where's the fun in that? But I enjoy tying at least as much as I enjoy fishing and am constantly searching for new flies to entice fish AND improve my tying skills. Here is a spey style fly that has been modified to serve as a shrimp pattern for use on the coast for redfish and speckled trout. The fly is easily tied from readily available materials, and is designed to land softly and not spook wary fish. Even though it is light, it has a large volume and will create a sonic signature to help fish locate and attack it.

Spey flies were originally designed to catch salmon on the swing in British waters. The style and techniques are now spreading to the states and are used on northwest Pacific area rivers. The style of fly is elegant, relatively easy to tie, and easily fished. They are normally fished on the swing, but they can be cast and fished with a stripping motion to imitate a fleeing shrimp.

The traditional, original flies were often tied with rare and expensive materials, but as shown here, the flies can be tied using readily available materials. Hen schlappen for the spey hackles, mallard flank for the overwing, and ice dub for the silk floss used in bodies. I've used traditional salmon hooks here, but the flies can be tied on standard, 3-4X long hooks. The black finish on salmon hooks is known as 'japaned', and hooks that are japaned are at least resistant to salt water corrosion.

Mallard flank feathers (or any feather) often come with bent or twisted shafts. These are not automatically trashed; most of them can be saved. Soak a twisted or bent feather in warm to hot water and lay them out properly on some surface. The mallard flank works best if the feather has a slight curve to it, so I lay the feather out across a wine bottle to dry. Most will dry straight and can be used once dry. I've noticed that the mallard wing is the most fragile element of this fly, and it occasionally gets torn off. I try to prevent this by adding cement at the base

of the stem after it has been tied in place with a few thread wraps. But don't give up on the fly once the wing is gone; it will still catch its share of the fish.

The fly as pictured uses a full schlappen feather. You can give the fly a more sparse appearance by stripping the barbules off one side of the schlappen feather and wrapping the hackle with the feather barbules flowing back. Tie a few up each way. The fuller fly achieved by using the entire feather may prove to be more wind resistant and harder to cast, but in off color water, it may be easier for the fish to find.

I've added a small change to the fly as I saw it demonstrated. I've added antennae to help represent a shrimp. I've also tied this in a crawfish version, using three orange rubber strips to imitate the claws of a crawfish. Shrimp, like crawfish, crawl forward but swim backward. When startled, they dart back with their antennae and claws trailing behind. Imitating these are an important part of any representation of the natural.

The fly is tied very light, so that there will be no large splash when it hits the water to spook the quarry. Fish the fly by casting it near to active fish or to suspected holding locations and strip in in short jerky motions with slight pauses. This technique should allow you to maintain contact with the fly and to detect and react to a strike very quickly. As mentioned before, spey flies were designed to fish on the swing so if you find yourself facing moving water, such as in a gut emptying a flat, cast the fly up and across, make an upstream mend to allow the fly more time to sink, then only give the fly small twitches as the current grabs the fly line and drags the fly across the current. Once the fly has completed its swing, you can lift the fly and recast, or work the fly back toward you with strip, pause, strip action.

MATERIALS –

Thread: 3/0 or 6/0 Tan or Brown

Tail: Marabou, Burnt Orange

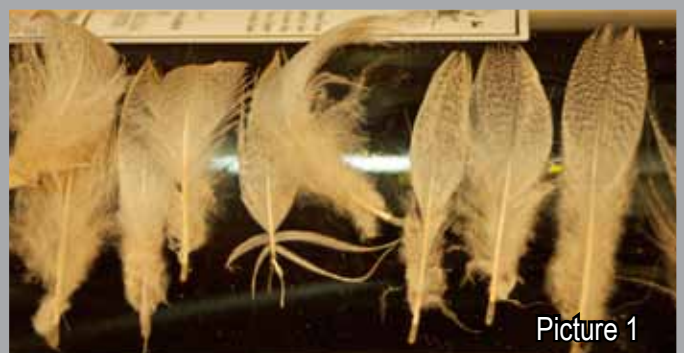
Antennae: Black or Brown Rubber Leg

Hackle: Tan Schlappen

Body: Rusty Brown Ice Dub

Wing: Natural or Brown Mallard Flank

Step 1: Mallard flank is not always perfect coming out of the package. Sometimes the feathers need a little preparation first. This can be achieved by soaking the feathers and laying them out straight to dry. I find that a wine bottle is about the perfect size and shape to prepare several feathers at once. The feather in the middle of the picture is one that needs straightening. The rest have been soaked in water and then laid out on the bottle and allowed to dry.



Picture 1

Step 2: A Salmon Fly Hook does not have a closed eye. You will need to close this eye before you can use the hook.



Step 3: The open eye is easily remedied by closing the eye with your thread. Start your thread just behind the eye and wrap back in close wraps until you have passed the leg of the eye. Continue with close wraps all the way back to the bend of the hook.



Step 4: Prepare a large bundle of the burnt orange marabou by stripping the fibers off the stem and aligning the tips together. Move your thread to the rear of the shank and tie in a tail about a half-inch long. Continue to wrap the excess marabou down along the hook shank to help build up a large base for the body. This will save you time and materials in creating the dubbed body later. Note this is actually meant to represent the head and egg sack of an adult shrimp.



Step 5: Tie in a single strand of the rubber leg material so that the two end stream way back behind the 'tail' of the fly. This will represent the antennae of a fleeing shrimp.



Step 6: Strip one side of the schlappen hackle if you want to tie a sparse version of the fly. The pictures shown are of a full bodied fly. Tie in the hackle feather by the tip. If you have a way, secure the length of the feather back out of your way while you execute the next steps.



Step 7: Create a fairly heavy dubbing rope for the underbody by twisting small amounts of the dubbing material around your thread.



Step 8: Dub a slightly tapered underbody, growing larger as you move forward. Add to your dubbing rope if you need to. Stop a small distance behind the hook eye to leave room for the finished head.



Steps 9: Palmer the hackle forward and tie it off just behind the eye. Try not to catch any feather barbules under the following wraps. Again, this is the full bodied version. You can create a sparser version by stripping off one side of the hackle before wrapping.



Step 10: Prepare a mallard flank feather by stripping off the fluff at the base of the hackle. Measure the hackle against the fly. The hackle, when tied in by the bare stem should extend back to the bend of the hook. If your feather is too long, strip a few more fibers off the stem.



Steps 11: Tie the mallard flank feather in at the front of the fly so that the stem will be covered by the thread head and the feather will extend back over the top of the fly. To increase durability, make just three or four wraps, adjust the position of the feather to your liking, and add a drop of your favorite head cement to the wraps. Continue to wrap your thread behind the eye to build up a small, cone-shaped thread head for the fly. Whip finish and cut off your excess thread. Add some more head cement to the head to ensure that the fly stays intact for as long as possible.



Mike's Tip

by Mike Morphew

Ever frustrated by those spools of tinsel and wire reeling off the spool on the tying table? Well here is an easy fix, also great for tippet spools as well. You can purchase these but why? When you can make these easily in a few minutes and for a fraction of the cost.

Here is what you will need:

A small hank of ¼ inch elastic tape

A small pack of large beads (I chose wood beads from that large-box store that begins with a "W").

A tube of super glue gel (gel is best as it does not ooze like the liquid)

Here is what you do:

Select your spool of thread, tinsel or tippet and wrap the elastic around it then stretch it a little to make a tight fit. Cut the elastic and then put a dab of super glue on each end take a bead and glue the elastic to the outside of the bead. Hold for a few seconds and there you have it! If all your thread spools are the same size you can use your first attempt as a template and cut as many as you need.



Photos from Club Members



Jack Boettcher and rainbow caught near
Walden, Colorado while fishing with guide
Scott Graham
www.northparkanglers.com

Photos from Club Members Continued

September 2nd and 3rd, Gary Heintschel and Kathi Harris fished the Provo River near Park City, Utah with guide Danny Josephson who we booked through Trout Bum 2. Danny had us nymph fishing with a bump rig. 13" Browns were the rule on the Provo, although Kathi had a Monster that got away after wrapping around her wading staff. We also both caught fish on small dry flies when surface activity was noted.

September 4th, Danny took us to the Strawberry River below Starvation Reservoir, a section referred to as the Oasis. I caught this 19" Brown fishing a hopper/dropper rig. The fish took the hopper.

In the afternoon at the Strawberry River, casting to a spot of rising surface hits, I connected with this 22" Brown on the same hopper. A long fight on my 5 weight eventually landed this native trout.



Photos from Club Members Continued



Photo from Jack Boettcher



Photo from Carroll Ray Hall

AFF Outings Update and Calendar 2015 by Dave Bush

September 19-23, Mustang Island State Park

We'll be camping at Mustang Island State Park near Corpus Christi in September during a new moon which is a favorable time to fish the area. The Park offers good camping amenities with excellent access to bay, surf, jetty, near-shore, and offshore fishing. If you'd rather not camp, plenty of rental properties are available nearby in Port Aransas or Corpus Christi at offseason rates. For non-fishing family members, there are plenty of activities available in Corpus. If you plan to attend this outing, please contact Nils Pearson at npearson@austin.rr.com so he can keep you informed on details of the trip as the date approaches.

October 3, Lydia Ann Fly Masters Tournament, Port Aransas

The annual Lydia Ann Fly Masters Tournament is once again being held in Port Aransas. The event supports Casting for Recovery and is the premiere fly fishing catch and release tournament on the Texas coast each year. For further information, see the website at www.lydiaannflymasters.com.

October 16-18, 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/.

October 17-25, South Padre Island

Our annual trek to South Texas is once again coming up in October. Yes, during a new moon for optimum tidal conditions. South Padre also 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. Like the Mustang Island 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. Watch the website for details as they emerge.

October 30-November 1, Lower Mountain Fork River, Broken Bow, OK

Once again, we'll be trout fishing the terrific Lower Mountain Fork tailwater fishery in southeast Oklahoma. Our host will be local guide Chris Johnson who fishes the river regularly. Chris is also inviting the San Gabriel and Fredericksburg clubs to join the outing, so we should have a good-sized group making the trip. Contact Chris at chris@livingwatersflyfishing.com if you have questions or plan to attend the outing so he can expect you in Broken Bow.

Date	AFF Event	Subject/Destination	Speaker/Event Host	Status
9/17	Meeting	Skills Sessions	Matt Bennett	Confirmed
9/19-9/23	Outing	Padre Island National Seashore	Nils Pearson	Confirmed
10/3	Special	Lydia Ann Fly Masters Tournament		Confirmed
10/15	Meeting			Confirmed
10/16-10/18	Special	Oktoberfisch		Confirmed
10/17-10/25	Outing	South Padre Island	Nils Pearson	Confirmed
10/30-11/1	Outing	Broken Bow	Chris Johnson	Confirmed
11/19	Meeting			Confirmed
12/17	Meeting	Holiday Party		Confirmed

Club Sponsors



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Laguna Madre Outfitters

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www.LagunaMadreOutfitters.Com

A photograph of a person in a white shirt and blue pants fishing in a shallow, grassy area. The background shows a clear blue sky and distant hills.

Living Waters Fly Fishing

309 West Main Street, Suite 110
Round Rock, Texas 78664

(512) 828-FISH — Fly Shop
(512) 507-7733 — Guide Service
Livingwatersflyfishing.com

Fly Shop

A photograph of the interior of a fly shop, showing shelves stocked with various fishing equipment and a person in the background.

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A photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a white shirt, a white visor, and sunglasses, smiling while holding a large, greenish-brown fish.

Kevin Stubbs
Expedition-Outfitters.net

Phone: 210-602-9284
email: kevinstu@msn.com

A photograph of a person in a green kayak on a river, with a person standing on the bank in the background. The river is surrounded by trees and hills.

Laguna Larga lodge is located in the province of Chubut, Argentina in the middle of Los Alerces National Park.

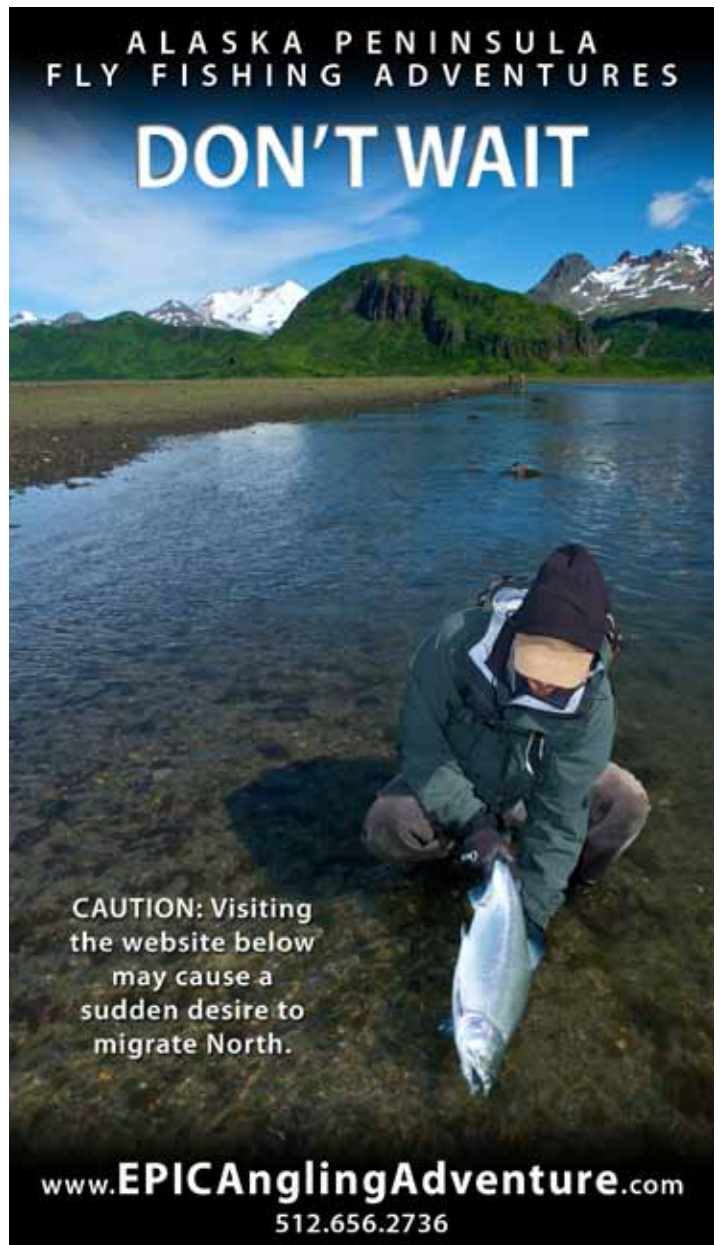
Estancia Alalaya is an incredible facility in the middle of a working 25,000 acre cattle ranch adjoining the High Parana River and the Paraguay border.



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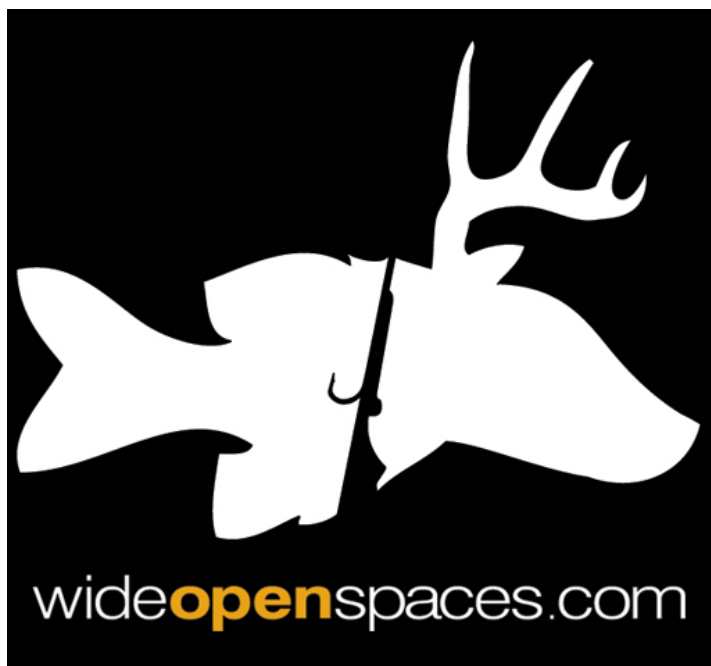
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Sunday: 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm



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