



Austin Fly Fishers

A member club of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers
February 2016
Volume 18, Issue 2



Club Meeting
Thursday, February 18
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying Demos by Mike Morphew
7:00 Jessica East will give a short presentation on the River
Access and Conservation Areas program of TPWD
7:20 Jeff Davis will make a presentation on fly fishing
the lower Colorado River

Nils Pearson and Carroll Ray Hall
Fly Fishing the Guadalupe with
Chris Johnson
Photo by Chris Johnson
<http://livingwatersflyfishing.com/>

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President's Message by Matt Bennett

It was 75 degrees today in mid-February with more pleasant weather in the forecast to come. I hope some of you have been able to take advantage of the great weather and do some fishing. I've heard reports of sporadic white bass activity on the San Gabriel and Yegua Creek, but feel like the bulk of the run might not happen until we get a decent rain event.

I spent three days late last month on the White River in northern Arkansas. While we didn't catch a ton of fish, we caught some nice brown trout in the two foot range. Look for some pictures and a report further down in the newsletter.

I'd like to make you all aware of another couple events coming up. As many of

you know, Troutfest was canceled this year. It's unfortunate as it is a great event, but, as with any club, they need new folks to step up and help take the reigns. I'm looking forward to seeing what they have planned for next year. In it's stead, Action Angler will be hosting Troutfestivus on the Guadalupe on February 20th. It looks to be more informal but still worth checking out - I'll be down there tying flies.

Another event coming up March 12 is TRWD Fly Fest in the DFW area. Mike Morphew and myself will be tying and presenting, and it looks like it will be a lot of fun. See <http://trwdflyfest.com/> for more information or feel free to talk to either of us about it.

Financial Reports

by Shawn Riggs

12/1/2015 - 12/31/2015

Beginning Bal. Checking \$9,007.08

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	92.31
Holiday Party Tickets	973.40
Chance Auction - CFR	733.95
Silent Auction - CFR	850.97
Club Donation	1000.00
SKIFF	<u>100.00</u>
Total Income	\$3750.63

Disbursements:

USPS - PO Box Rental	66.00
Dave Hill-desserts	136.96
Mimi's Café	<u>\$1,122.14</u>
Total Disbursements	\$1325.10

Net	2,425.53
Ending Balance-Checking	\$11,432.61

Casting for Recovery	\$2,670.30
SKIFF Total Donations	\$23,692.94
SKIFF Total Disbursements	\$20,307.57
SKIFF Balance on Hand	\$3,385.37

1/1/2016 - 1/31/2016

Beginning Bal. Checking \$11,432.31

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	171.21
Auction	205.00
Merchandise	<u>62.50</u>
Total Income	\$438.71

Disbursements:

Speaker Meal	20.00
Doug Kierklewski party supplies	51.99
Jeff Johnson, Speaker Expense	<u>350.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$421.99

Net	\$16.72
Ending Balance-Checking	\$11,449.33

Casting for Recovery	\$2,670.30
SKIFF Total Donations	\$23,692.94
SKIFF Total Disbursements	\$20,307.57
SKIFF Balance on Hand	\$3,385.37

February Speakers

Jessica East

Jessica East is the new Program Coordinator of the River Access and Conservation Areas (RACA) Program. This TPWD program is set up to be a partnership with private landowners, angling clubs, and other local community partners to expand river fishing opportunities. The program secures multi-year leased fishing access agreements on private lands that provide public access to bank, wade, and kayak fishing opportunities on Texas rivers. This program is particularly important in Texas because more than 95% of the land in our state is privately owned and public access to Texas rivers is limited. Jessica will discuss newly established leased access sites, volunteer opportunities for river cleanups and habitat improvement projects, and goals of the program.

Jeff Davis

Jeff Davis will present information on fly fishing the lower Colorado River. He is one Texas's most experienced freshwater fly fishing guides with over a decade and half of guiding on Texas Hill Country rivers. He began canoeing, kayaking and fishing the San Marcos, Guadalupe, Medina, Colorado and Llano rivers in the early 1980's. He has now spent most of his adult life exploring and fishing these waters. Jeff has 30 years of chasing multi-species of fish on the fly under his belt—from the rivers and lakes of the hill country and coastal flats of Texas to the pristine flats of Christmas Islands and all spots in between. When not guiding Jeff is a tested tournament angler and in high demand across Texas for his informative lectures on fly fishing for bass and his fly-tying demonstrations.

- 2012–present: Senior guide with All Water Guides, Austin, TX
- 1998–2012: Head guide and owner of Davis Guide Service, Wimberley, TX

<http://allwaterguides.com/>



Streamer Lovfest 2016

by Matt Bennett

Last month, Winston Cundiff of All Water Guides and I headed up to Streamer Lovfest 2016 at Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher at the end of January. I was invited to tie at the event, so we had to make some time for a few days of fishing.

If you're never been to the White, it's a really cool place. It's a tailwater out of Bull Shoals in north central Arkansas, flowing through the town of Cotter. The flows fluctuate extremely widely, and with the lake swollen due to winter rains, the river was at 30,000 CFS when we fished it. If I'm not mistaken, that's the highest it's been in about 7-8 years.

It is extremely tough and somewhat dangerous fishing at these levels. You have to have a boat with a decent oarsman at the helm, and a jet drive works best to get upstream. Couple this with the fact that you're need to be throwing 6-10" flies with 300-350 grain sinking lines, and you have a recipe for certain disaster. Fortunately, we had no major issues and caught some nice fish to boot.

I'm already looking forward to heading back up in 2017 for the event, which draws some of the top streamer anglers and tyers in the country, but I'll likely make it back up a couple more times this year



Wilderness Safari Camp in Alaska by Captain Rus Schwausch

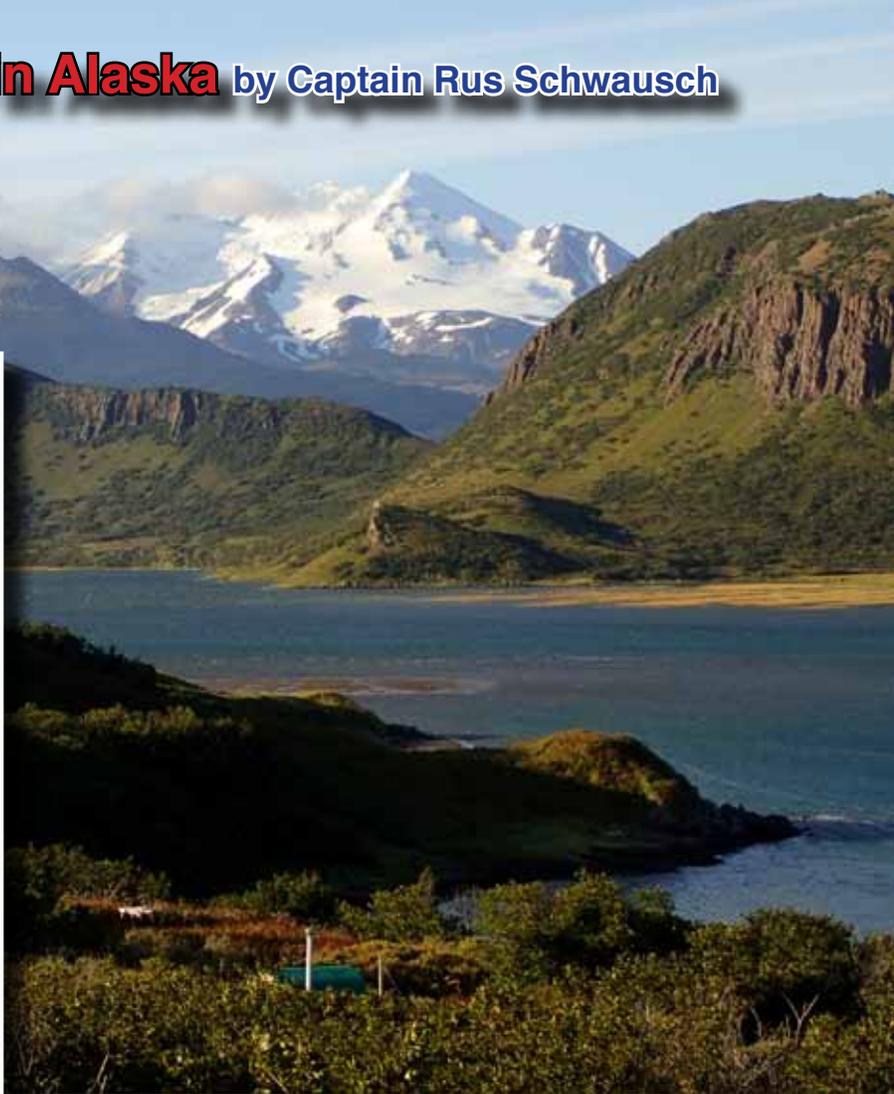
Last month, I presented a report on Rus Schwausch's Outpost camp. This month Rus is reporting on his Wilderness Safari Camp that is located on Alaska Peninsula on Nakalilok Bay and operates from mid-July through September. The following article comes from Rus's blog that reports on camp activities for the past summer.

-Nils Pearson

2015 was the year of the pinks and silvers... we had the best silver salmon run in a decade or more, and without question, witnessed by far the largest pink salmon run we've ever seen. The chum salmon run was lighter than average, the dolly fishing was good in the middle to upper river, the bay fished better than 2014 for halibut, rockfish numbers were solid and consistent, and cod numbers were simply overwhelming.

Let's talk about the silver salmon first because it's been a few seasons since we've been able to report that the silver fishing was absolutely on fire. And, in late August and early September, we had the best beach fishing for silvers we've ever seen – and this is about as unique as it gets for salmon fly fishing in Alaska. Both the tidal flat near camp and the river fished exceptionally well for silvers, too – by mid September the river was absolutely full of them. It was as good, maybe even better at moments, than the "old days" in Nakalilok bay.

In our 2014 season summary we predicted a strong run of pink salmon in 2015, but we really had no idea how big the run would be. According to multiple sources 2015 was the second largest [commercial] pink harvest in Alaska... ever. The tidal flat and the lower to middle river was black with them throughout August and early September – a good problem to have, especially if you like high volume salmon fishing. We even observed pinks stacked up in tertiary streams so small you could literally step across the water and over the backs of salmon. The unsuspecting "consequence" of a huge run... the die-off was immense in September. You wouldn't believe the piles of dead fish unless you saw it with your own eyes (remember, all Pacific salmon die after spawning).



The Dolly Varden fishing was good in the middle river but really shined in the upper reaches of the valley. The lower river was literally too choked full of pink salmon to even get a good drift, so you had to walk up the river valley to find the best Dolly fishing. But for those willing to take a hike to Lion's Head, the fishing was superb.

It was nice to see better halibut fishing this season compared to last, but it was still below historic levels. Perhaps because the bay was choked full of cod, you couldn't even reach the halibut (or they just weren't there in normal numbers). On the flip side, once you found a school of cod you could catch them until you were bored (another good problem to have). Weather permitting, we caught black rockfish in big numbers around kelp beds in the bay – even with fly rod.

Overall the weather was good but windier than average throughout August and September. Mid to late September was colder than typical, and brought the most snow we've ever seen fall on the lower peaks and ridges scattered throughout the valley – most of it quickly melted at elevations under 3000'. We even had sleet/snow mix fall at camp in late September but it wasn't even close to cold enough for it to stick on the ground.

Like 2014, we started off the season with unusually low river and creek flows due to an early/warm spring and light winter snowpack. However, river flows somehow stayed good enough throughout the season to sustain healthy salmon runs. Occasional light rain showers helped with flows, plus we had one quick, heavy blast of rain (with some big wind) during the second week of September. But, yeah, we went fishing anyways...

Finally, we had a completely new river mouth this year – the lower river ran through the meadow near the sand dune in a way that we've never seen before. Only about 25% of the water flow followed historic river channels near the rocky bluffs of Harley Hill, 75% diverted at "the corner" and headed towards the sand dune area. Runoff gorged a narrow, deep channel through a couple hundred yards of meadow grass where a very small, shallow channel previously existed. Mother Nature is always in charge...

<http://www.epicanglingadventure.com/alaska-wilderness-safari/>



Beach fishing for chrome-bright, ocean-fresh salmon is ultra unique!

SKIFF Program

by Bob Maindelle

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

On Monday morning, January 25th, the kids of the Killeen Independent School District had the day off as their teachers did some learning of their own on a professional development day. This freed up the schedule for the Garcia family of Killeen to come aboard for the 2016 season's first SKIFF (Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun) trip.

Accompanied by their mom, Amanda, were 14-year-old Isaiah, 8-year-old Aubrey, and 6-year-old Sophia. The children's father, U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Garcia, is currently in Egypt where he provides veterinary services to the military. The SKIFF program provides trips free-of-charge to children of the Ft. Hood community who are separated from their parents due to military duty, be it due to something as lengthy as a deployment, or something shorter, such as a temporary duty (TDY) assignment or attendance at a military school.

The weather was very mild for this time of year — 58F before sunrise — and it warmed up even more once the sun rose and the clouds cleared.

A mild cold front was due into the area later in the day, so, we were fortunate to have SW winds in advance of the front and the wind shift to the north that would accompany that front. The more strongly the wind blew this morning, the better the fishing got.

We found fish as shallow as 25 feet, and as deep as 37 feet, and we found fish both relating to bottom (which were settled in and feeding) and suspended (which were migrating slowly uplake in advance of the spawn. Accordingly, we alternated between jigging with slabs and downrigging to access fish in both locations.

Our first hour on the water was pretty quiet, the second hour spotty, the third hours saw building action, and the first



From left: Sophia, Amanda, Isaiah, and Aubrey Garcia — the family of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Garcia.

45 minutes of our final hour on the water brought the strongest bite of all.

By trip's end the kids had landed a grand total of 49 fish, including 48 white bass and a single largemouth bass.

The stateside Garcia's are hopeful their dad will return by spring break, but are cautious about getting their hopes up too soon.

A huge "thank you" to the Austin Fly Fishers and all the individuals and organizations who have given time, funds, and encouragement since May of 2009 to perpetuate the SKIFF program.

TALLY = 49 FISH, all caught and released

I would like to support the program by sponsoring SKIFF kids. It costs \$65 to sponsor one child for a fishing trip.

To make a donation using the internet, go to <http://austinflyfishers.com/skiff.html>

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

The Fly Tyer's Corner

Photos and Recipe by Jeff Hoelter

Cypert Minnow

The Cypert Minnow was one of the first, if not the first fly I ever learned to tie. Several years later I was thrilled to be sitting across the large round wooden table at the Austin Angler watching Charlie Cypert tie his famous namesake fly. It's difficult to imagine an easier pattern to tie but don't let the simplicity make you doubt its effectiveness. The Cypert Minnow, in its various sizes and colors can be used in warm water lakes and rivers, saltwater, really any situation a streamer is needed to imitate a baitfish. Many

anglers turn to a Cypert Minnow in pearl and white as their go-to fly for the white bass run.

Materials

Hook: TMC 5263 or any 3xl standard or heavy hook sizes #10 to #6

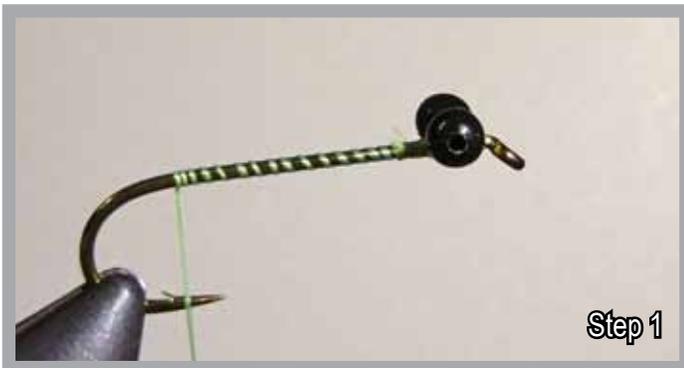
Thread: UTC 140

Eyes: Medium bead chain

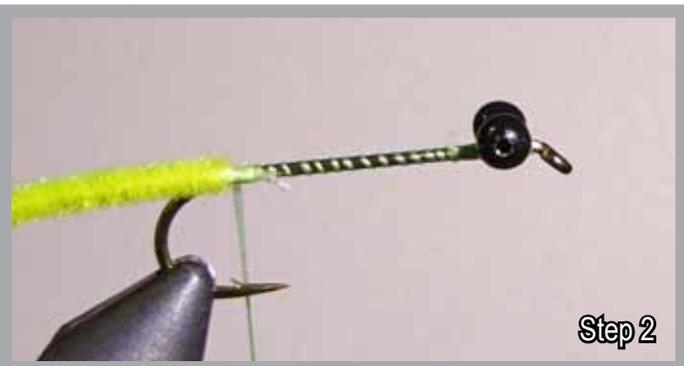
Body: Standard or medium Chenille or Ultra Chenille

Flash/Tail: Mylar Cord in pearl, gold or silver

Step 1: Start the thread. Tie in the beadchain just behind the eye of the hook. Wrap to the back of the hook so the thread hangs between the barb and the point. This is the tie-in point for the rest of the fly.



Step 2: Prepare a 4" length of chenille by stripping off about an 1/8" of the fuzz from one end exposing the inner core. Tie this in at the tie-in point.



Step 3: On the far side of the hook, wrap the chenille around the bead chain from the bottom, over the top and secure it again at the tie-in point.



Step 4: On the near side of the hook, run the chenille around the bead chain, this time over the top, down, and back to the tie-in point. Cut off the excess chenille. Now take a 3" piece of mylar cord and remove the inner core. Fold the tube in half to locate the center point and push this over the eye of the hook. Make sure it is centered on the bead chain.



Step 5: Fold the top and bottom of the mylar back and secure it at the tie-in point. Use half hitches or a whip finish. Clip the thread and apply a small amount of head cement to the thread wraps.



Fly Tyer's Corner Continued

Step 6: Use a bodkin to pick out the tail and to help distribute the mylar evenly around the hook.



Step 7: Just a few of the color combinations.



Mike's Tip by Mike Morpew

Two quick tying tips this month for you all.

Frustrated with gluing those eyes on your baitfish patterns and getting your fingers glued together with super glue? I have found a glue that is the best I have used and very easy to use. The product is called "Fletch-Tite and is used in the making of arrows after using this I have been able to place eyes without the sticky finger problem. I purchased mine at Academy for a few bucks.

My second tip of the month is a question I am often asked "how do I tell the weighted flies in my boxes from the un-weighted"?

Well I change the tying thread at the head of a weighted fly to chartreuse, it does not seem to make a difference to the fish catching and makes it easy for instant recognition at the waterside.



AFF Outings by David Bush

Colorado Bend State Park

The white bass run on the Colorado River above Lake Buchanan should start to pick up within the next few weeks and peak during March. The club has a group campsite reservation for three different time periods during the month and these will be used as needed depending on weather and water conditions.

The first block of time runs from Thursday, March 10, through Tuesday, March 15. The second block runs from Saturday, March 19, through Tuesday, March 22, and the last reservation runs from Thursday, March 24, through Tuesday, March 29. I will need a host or hosts for each of these reservations to help coordinate participants, gatherings, etc. If I don't have host coverage at least ten days before the beginning of a reservation, the reservation will be cancelled or modified. At least one of the hosts will need to be present at any given time during the reservation period. Be sure to see me at this week's meeting or email me to volunteer to host.

A maximum of 16 campers is allowed on our group campsite so once we have hosts we'll need to know who plans to attend so we don't exceed our limit on any given night. This campsite is very convenient since you'll be able to park adjacent to your tent. The site has picnic tables, a fire ring, running water nearby, and lantern holders. The fishing area on the river is a short walk away.

Pay close attention to the AFF website for updates in the event a change is made. We will do our best to make a change at least five days before the beginning of a reservation period.

Additional Outings

Please see me to host more outings this year. With plenty of water we have more opportunities than we've had in a few years so let's take advantage of it.

Club Sponsors

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

Kelly Galloup – <http://www.slideinn.com/> Fly Fishing the Madison River

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

Tim Cole – <http://www.austinreptileservice.net/> Information and presentations on snakes

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

Banning Collins – <http://www.classv.net/> Outdoor Marketing Services



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Sunday: 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm



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